

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

## GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

ಪ್ರಧಾನ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ

(ಅರಣ್ಯ ಪಡೆ ಮುಖ್ಯಸ್ಥರು) ರವರ ಕಚೇರಿ

Office of the  
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
(Head of Forest Force)

ಅರಣ್ಯ ಭವನ, 18ನೇ ಅಡ್ಡರಸ್ತೆ

ಮಲ್ಲೇಶ್ವರಂ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560 003

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E-office File No. KFD/HOFF/A52K(GFL)/13/2022-FC

E-744539

Date 27-05-2025

To,

The Additional Chief Secretary to Government  
Forest, Ecology and Environment Department  
M.S. Building, Bengaluru – 560 001

Sir,

**Sub:** Diversion of 2.353501 Ha (*revised from 2.67759 ha*) of forest land in Honnavar, Bhatkal & Kumta Taluk, Uttara Kannada District (Honnavar Forest Division) for laying of OFC within the existing RoW in favour of JIO Digital Fiber Private Limited, Bengaluru  
**Proposal No. FP/KA/OFC/154060/2022**

- Ref:**
1. Online proposal [FORM-A PART-I] dated 21-07-2022 of Jio Digital Fiber Private Limited, Bengaluru and uploading of acknowledgement on 11-08-2022 for having delivered hard copies of proposal to the jurisdictional Deputy Conservator of Forests and Deputy Commissioner
  2. This office online communication dated 17-08-2022 to Deputy Conservator of Forests, Karwar Division for further processing of proposal, even number letter dated 23-12-2022 [EDS Query]
  3. Online submission of PART-II on 16-11-2022 by Deputy Conservator of Forests, Honnavar Division [Letter No. B2/GFL/FC/CR-17/2020-21 dated 08-11-2022] and 09-04-2025 [EDS Reply]
  4. Online submission of PART-III on 29-11-2022 by Conservator of Forests, Kanara Circle [Letter No. B2/GFL/Jio OFC/CR-30/2022-23/3179 dated 28-11-2022] and 11-04-2025 [EDS Reply]

1. Jio Digital Fiber Private Limited, No.51, RMZ Icon, Palace Cross Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru [USER AGENCY] vide Ref (1) has submitted a proposal through FC web portal seeking approval under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for Diversion of 2.353501 Ha of forest land in Honnavar, Bhatkal & Kumta Taluk, Uttara Kannada District (Honnavar Forest Division) for laying of OFC within the existing RoW. The same was accepted by Nodal Officer (FCA) on 30-07-2022 for further processing. After uploading of the acknowledgement online by User Agency on 10-08-2022 for having delivered the hard

copies of proposal to the jurisdictional Deputy Conservator of Forests and Deputy Commissioner, an online communication was made on 17-08-2022 by Nodal Officer vide Ref (2) to the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Honnavar Division to process the proposal under FC Act and to submit the specific opinion through PART-II of the proposal.

**2. DCF, Honnavar Report:** The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Honnavar Division has inspected the project site and vide Ref (3) has submitted the Site Inspection Report along with details of the site in PART-II of the proposal to the Conservator of Forests, Kanara Circle. Main features of the forest land proposed for diversion as per the DCF, Honnavar Division are as follows.

- a. The proposed OFC is passing within the ROW of road.
- b. The forest land proposed for diversion is in general landscape of Eco-class I (Tropical Wet Evergreen Forests/ Tropical Semi Evergreen Forests/ Topical Moist Deciduous Forests) with 0.1 Canopy Density (Open Forest).
- c. As per Item 4(ii) of PART-II, there are no trees to be felled on the forest land proposed for diversion.
- d. The forest land proposed for diversion does not form part of any National Park/ Wildlife Sanctuary/ Biosphere Reserve/ Tiger Reserve/ Elephant Corridor but the part of the forest area forms the Wildlife Migration Corridor.
- e. There are no Protected/ Archaeological/ Heritage Sites/ Defence establishments located in the proposed area.
- f. The forest area proposed for diversion is the bare minimum and unavoidable.
- g. There is no violation reported under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.


**3. CF, Kanara Circle Report:** The Conservator of Forests, Kanara Circle has inspected the proposed area personally and has vide Ref (4) has submitted Site Inspection Report in PART-III online. Agreeing with the recommendation made by the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Honnavar Division, the Conservator of Forests, Kanara Circle has also recommended the proposal.

Under the above circumstances and agreeing with recommendations of the field officers, it is requested to consider the proposal for according in-principle (Stage-I) approval under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 2.3535011 Ha (revised from 2.67759 ha) of forest land in Honnavar, Bhatkal & Kumta Taluk, Uttara Kannada District (Honnavar Forest Division) for laying of OFC within the existing RoW in favour of JIO Digital Fiber Private Limited, Bengaluru for a period of Twenty (20) years subject to the conditions appended in Annexure 'A'.

As per Para 9 sub rule 15 of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 provides the proposal involving forest land of up to five hectares, shall after their examination at the level of Divisional Forest Officer be forwarded by him directly to the Nodal Officer and the Nodal Officer shall forward such proposals to the State

Government or Union territory Administration along with his recommendations. Accordingly, this proposal has been recommended by the PCCF (FC) & Nodal Officer (FCA) for further action in the matter

Yours Faithfully

  
(Brijesh Kumar, IFS)

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
(Forest Conservation) and Nodal Officer (FCA)

27/5/2025

**Copy to the:**

1. Conservator of Forests, Kanara Circle Sirsi for information.
2. Deputy Conservator of Forests, Honnavar Division for information.
3. Deputy General Manager, Jio Digital Fiber Private Limited, No.51, RMZ Icon, Palace Cross Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru for information



**ANNEXURE 'A'**

1. The legal status of forest land shall remain unchanged and it shall continue to be the forest land.
2. The User Agency shall pay the applicable Net Present Value (NPV), Compensatory Afforestation (CA) charges, cost of extraction of trees (if required in future), land lease rent and any other levies as per the conditions of approval.
3. The User Agency shall demarcate the lease area in the manner specified at the time of approval at its own cost.
4. The User Agency shall provide the signages of appropriate size and kind all along the road within forest limits for creating awareness about forest, Wildlife and Environment issues among general public and the road users at project cost in consultation with the jurisdictional Deputy Conservator of Forests/ Conservator of Forests/ Conservator of Forests.
5. The lessee shall not sub-lease, mortgage & hypothecate the forest area.
6. The leased out area should be used for the purpose for which it is granted. In case, the land is not used for the stipulated purpose within two years or when it is no longer needed for the stipulated purpose, the area would stand resumed to the Forest Department.
7. The application for renewal of the lease in the prescribed form and manner shall be submitted at least six months prior to the expiry of forest lease. In case, no renewal is sought, the Lessee shall hand over the lease.
8. No residential or commercial buildings shall be permitted in the forest area proposed for diversion.
9. No crushing / breaking of stones or labour camp shall be allowed inside forest area and all waste / debris generated shall be scientifically disposed off outside the forest area.
10. Any damage to forest area because of implementation of the project shall be compensated by the Lessee. The extent of damage shall be assessed by the jurisdictional Deputy Conservator of Forests/ Conservator of Forests/ Conservator of Forests.
11. The Lessee shall ensure that no avoidable harm is caused to the fauna and flora in and around the proposed area.
12. No change in Land Use Plan shall be done unless prior approval of Government of India under FC Act is obtained.
13. In case, any violation of the provisions of the Karnataka Forest Act, 1963 & Rules, 1969 or other relevant Acts/Rules is reported during the lease period, the lease will be liable for forfeiture under Section 82 of Karnataka Forest Act, 1963. The Conservator of Forests and/or Deputy Conservator of Forests concerned are authorized to take necessary action in this regard.
14. The approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is subject to any other clearances necessary under the prevailing statutes.
15. The User Agency shall also abide by other conditions those may be imposed by the Government of India, Government of Karnataka and Principal Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force) before or after the approval.

 27/5/2025

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
(Forest Conservation) and Nodal Officer (FCA)

**PART – III**

(To be filled in by the Nodal Officer or Principal Conservator of Forests or Head of Forest Department)

<p>Detailed opinion &amp; specific recommendation of the State Forest Department for acceptance or otherwise of the proposal with remarks.</p> <p><i>(While giving opinion, the adverse comments made by concerned Conservator of Forests or Deputy Conservator of Forests should be categorically reviewed and critically commented upon.)</i></p>	<p><b>Recommended for diversion of 2.3535011 Ha (revised from 2.67759 ha) of forest land in Honnavar, Bhatkal &amp; Kumta Taluk, Uttara Kannada District (Honnavar Forest Division) for laying of OFC within the existing RoW in favour of JIO Digital Fiber Private Limited, Bengaluru for a period of Twenty (20) years subject to the conditions appended in Annexure 'A'.</b></p> <p><b>Proposal No. FP/KA/OFC/154060/2022</b></p>
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Signature:

Digitally signed by

Brijesh Kumar

Date: 27-05-2025

13:06:27

Name:

(Brijesh Kumar, IFS)

Designation:

**Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
(Forest Conservation) and Nodal Officer (FCA)**

N.D.O. No. /2025-26

Dated: 27/05/2025