

**Specific Recommendation of Divisional Forest Officer, Nandyal WL**  
**Division for "diversion of forest land between Diguvametta and Gajulapalli**  
**stations for doubling and electrification of Guntur-Guntakal Railway track"**

As per the observations during the site inspection, the area requirement for the proposed diversion project "doubling and electrification of Guntur – Guntakal Railway track" seems to be minimum requirement and essential for the project. Since the project involves doubling of existing railway line (broad gauge), the location for the proposed diversion is selected by user agency besides the existing railway track only. Hence the project is site specific in nature in light of alternatives to be considered.

Further, the proposed diversion area of 21.53 ha. in Nandyal Wildlife Division falls in Eco Sensitive Zone (ESZ) of Gundla Brahmeswaram Wildlife Sanctuary (GBM) and is also included in Tiger Corridor between Nagarjunasagar Srisailem Tiger Reserve (NSTR), the largest tiger reserve of country and the Sri Venkateswara National Park (SVNP) in Sesachalam hills. Thus the area is having significant and unique importance from the wildlife and biodiversity conservation point of view. Wildlife present in the area includes endangered Tiger (*Panthera tigris*) along with other carnivores Leopards, (*Panthera pardus*), Wild dogs (*Cuon alpinus*) etc., herbivores, reptiles, insects and butterflies. Tigers (*Panthera tigris*) have been recorded in recent times all along the corridor and there is a separate resident and breeding population of tigers in the area. In light of this, the impact of the proposed diversion in mid-to long term on flora and fauna especially wildlife has to be studied. In the past too due to existing railway track, there have been mortalities of Tigers and Leopards among others, due to train accidents. These accidental casualties are undeniable loss and must be avoided in the light of efforts put in by government towards conservation and maintaining ecological balance.

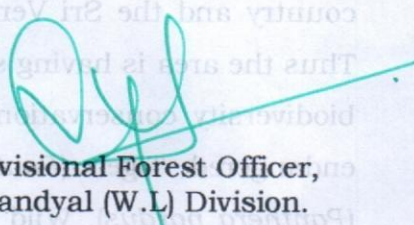
In terms of flora, the project is going to involve tree felling the details of which are attached in annexures to Part-II. To mitigate the impact of the projects following recommendation are provided:-

- i) Reduction in train speed to avoid casualties
- ii) Developing early warning systems
- iii) User agency to sponsor and support a mid to long term study towards the impact of the proposed project on flora and fauna of the area by an expert team (WII / NTCA etc.,) and incorporate the mitigation measures suggested by the team if any.



On the other side, it is a fact that the train frequency and traffic on the existing single line is high and there is a need of decongestion. It is also a fact that train / railways as a mode of transport is one of the most environment friendly mode and is comparatively cheaper also. These advantages are significant and cannot be neglected in the sense of overall environment conservation and social development of nation. Moreover, the project is site specific and already a railway line exist. Hence selected site for doubling is justified in the light of alternatives. Hence the project give substantial benefit to both public and environment.

In this regard, the demand of user agency for the said area for 21.53 ha. for diversion of forest land between Diguvametta and Gajulapalli stations for doubling and electrification of Guntur-Guntakal Railway track is **recommended** subject to inclusion of mitigation measures recommended above, to reduce the impact of project over pristine forests and wildlife of Nandyal Wildlife Division.



Divisional Forest Officer,  
Nandyal (W.L) Division.