

(Proposal No.: FP/BR/Other/6298/2022)

Beautification of Barari Ghat, Bhagalpur located at the edge of and at mid-length of Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary - Development of Riverfront and Electric Crematorium under the SMART CITY MISSION.

Specific comment with respect to section 29 /35 (6) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972

Under the proposed project to be undertaken in district Bhagalpur (erstwhile district Banka), a riverfront is to be developed under the ambitious Smart City Mission of the Government of India. Bhagalpur city is historically and culturally significant in as much as it is known as the Silk City and the ruins of 13th century Vikramshila University lie here. This riverfront is to be developed near the existing Barari Ghat in Bhagalpur which lies mid-way in the south between the two extremities of the 60 km. long Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary.

In this project, a riverfront is to be developed adjacent to the existing Barari Ghat in Bhagalpur and will have three ghat components and one electric crematorium, comprising of a total of 2.54 ha. area out of which 0.24 ha. would fall inside sanctuary and 2.30 ha. outside sanctuary in the default eco-sensitive zone. The edge of the ghats caressing the river at the banks will be protected by gabion structure, and would lie inside the sanctuary. Rest of the ghat portions and the riverfront, along with associated structures and landscape, will lie in the default eco-sensitive zone of the sanctuary.

Since, the project falls in Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary and its environs, the proposal is under consideration for wildlife clearance. The project proponent agency is Bhagalpur Smart City Ltd., Bhagalpur. No particular destruction of any wildlife is envisaged inside the sanctuary u/s section 29 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 under this project, as the project is least invasive and preventive measures shall be taken by the project proponent during construction as directed and additionally pre-construction, construction & post-construction phase mitigation measures shall be taken by the department also which shall be funded by the project proponent. Further, all necessary steps will be taken to ensure compliance of Section 29 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

The project may kindly be given approval.



[Signature]
01/3/2023
Adtl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
-cum-Chief Wildlife Warden, Bihar