

To,  
The Deputy Conservator of Forest,  
Ballari Division, Ballari.

Date: 02.03.2026

Respected Sir,

Sub: Diversion of 4.035 Ha of forest land for Approach Road to ML. No. 0016 in Hulikunte Village, in Swamymalai (SM) Block, near Sandur South Range, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District in favor of M/s. Kirloskar Ferrous Industries Limited, Bevinahalli-Reg., (Proposal No. FP/KA/MIN/143973/2021).

Ref: 1. Letter. No. M1/MNG/Kirloskar/ROAD/2021-22(5.4476 Ha) dated. 14.11.2025. from DCF Ballari.  
2. DCF Letter dated 18.12.2025.

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With respect to the subject cited above, the proposal pertains to the diversion of 4.035 ha of forest land in Swamymalai (SM) Block, near Hulikunte Village, Sandur South Range, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District, for the purpose of providing an approach road to Mining Lease No. 0016 of M/s Kirloskar Ferrous Industries Limited.

In this regard, the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ballari, vide reference cited above, has raised an Essential Details Sought (EDS) on 18.12.2025, directing re-examination of the proposed road alignment and revision of the proposal in accordance with the instructions conveyed during the field inspection conducted on 09.10.2025 by the Chief Conservator of Forests and the Technical Assistant to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Forest Conservation), Bengaluru.

In compliance with the above directions, the following facts are respectfully submitted for kind consideration:

1. The existing approach road towards Ranjithpura (3.862 ha) passes through forest and revenue land that originally formed part of the erstwhile 'C' Category mining lease of M/s BMM. As M/s BMM has established a manufacturing facility on the adjoining revenue land, which commences immediately after the forest stretch, we have very restricted access to the said road citing plant safety and operational concerns. Since the present mining lease is an auctioned block granted for a period of 50 years, a separate and independent approach road without dependency on the erstwhile 'C' Category lessee is essential.
2. From the inception of the project, we being the lessee have consistently requested a dedicated approach road and the same was duly applied for and recommended by the State Government to the Integrated Regional Office (IRO), Bengaluru, for grant of Stage-I Forest Clearance.

3. While Forest Clearance was obtained for the lease area of 24.47 ha and to facilitate commencement of mining operations, we were advised to temporarily use the existing approach road (3.862 ha) under Temporary Working Permission (TWP). Presently, we have obtained Stage II Forest Clearance for the existing approach road of 3.862Ha towards Ranjithpura. However, the same said road will be surrendered to Forest department once the Approach Road towards Nandihalli is granted/ Approved.
4. We have entered into an agreement with M/s KIOCL for use of the road towards the Nandihalli side, and the required No Objection Certificate (NOC) has already been obtained. Further, a re-diversion proposal for an extent of 1.389 ha has been duly submitted through the PARIVESH portal.
5. As per the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 562 of 2009, mining lessees are encouraged to utilize rail-based transportation systems, such as railway sidings, conveyors, wagon loaders, etc., to minimize road congestion and environmental impacts. In line with these directions, the proposed approach road provides critical connectivity between the mine and the nearest railway siding at Nandihalli (Hulikunte Village).
  - i. The railway siding at Nandihalli is owned by M/s JSW, which presently operates a closed pipe conveyor system to transport material to its Tornagallu Integrated Steel Plant. As this infrastructure is not fully utilized, it offers an opportunity for shared use, fully consistent with the spirit of the Hon'ble Supreme Court's directions.
  - ii. Additionally, maintaining operational flexibility through both road and rail transportation is essential to meet raw material requirements of our Koppal and Hiriyyur plants.
6. The proposed road alignment does not pass through any villages and provides direct access to the Nandihalli railway siding. In contrast, the existing approach road (3.862 ha) towards Ranjithpura would require movement through the BMM plant premises and several habitations such as Narsinghpura/Narasapura, Ranjithpura, and Mudakalpet, thereby resulting in higher social, safety, and environmental impacts.
7. Similarly, in the event of road transportation, the proposed alignment towards Nandihalli involves passage through only one village (Laxmipura) before reaching the Sandur Bypass Road. Conversely, use of the existing road (3.862Ha) would necessitate truck movement through Mudakalpet, Ranjithpura, Narasapura, NMDC Donimalai, and Bhujanganagar, significantly increasing traffic load, safety risks, and public inconvenience.
8. As suggested by the inspection team during the site visit on 09.10.2025, connecting the existing 3.862Ha approach road to NMDC road, which connects to Kumarswamy mine of NMDC, bypassing the BMM plant was explored. However,

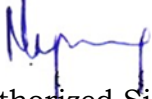
a 300–400-meter private land stretch through NMDC land post-forest area poses an issue. Truck movement over the NMDC road is restricted.

9. The other options like routing via Nandihalli village or via Nandihalli University were also assessed but found unviable due to narrow village roads, safety concerns and the likelihood of objections from the concerned authorities and potential University objections.
10. All possible options have been explored and road towards Nandihalli Railway siding looks more feasible and viable considering the lease period of 50 years. We have considered this road after through survey work (old existing roads- which is unused for years now) with less tree felling.

In view of the above facts, technical justification, and alignment with the directives of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, it is most respectfully requested that the proposal for diversion of 4.035 ha of forest land for the approach road towards the Nandihalli side may kindly be reconsidered and processed favorably for grant of Forest Clearance.

Thanking You,

For Kirloskar Ferrous Industries Limited,



Authorized Signatory.

