



भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS & CLIMATE CHANGE
Regional Office, Ground Floor, East Wing,
New Secretariat Building Civil Lines, Nagpur - 440001.
apccfcentral-ngp-mef@gov.in



F. No.: FC-II/MH-156/2021-NGP/ 14830

Date: 11.11.2025

To,

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Revenue and Forest Department,
Hutatma Rajguru Chowk
Madam Cama Marg, Mantralaya, Mumbai - 400032.

Sub: Diversion of 9.1321 ha of forest land in favour of Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation Limited for construction of Panvel-Karjat suburban corridor project (Double Railway Line) in Raigad district in the state of Maharashtra-Final approval-regarding.

Sir,

The undersigned is directed to refer to the Government of Maharashtra's letter no. FLD-1320/C.R.53/F-10 dated 10.03.2021 on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 of **Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980**. After careful examination of the proposal of the State Government, **'in-principle'** approval was accorded by the Central Government vide its letter of even number dated 30.05.2022. The Addl. PCCF and Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Maharashtra, vide his letter no. Desk-17/Nodal/Thane/ID-12768(70)/1112/2022-23 dated 02.08.2022 and letter no. Desk-17/FCA-S2/PID-43265/Thane/1672/2024-25 dated 16.10.2025 submitted compliance report and requested to grant final approval to the proposal.

After careful consideration of the proposal and compliance report, I am directed to convey the Central Government's **'final approval'** under Section- 2 of the **Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980** for diversion of **9.1321 ha** of forest land in favour of Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation Limited for construction of Panvel-Karjat suburban corridor project (Double Railway Line) in Raigad district in the state of Maharashtra subject to the fulfilment of the following conditions:

- i. Legal status of the forest land shall remain unchanged;
- ii. The boundary of the diverted forest land shall be suitably demarcated on ground by the **State Forest Department at the cost of the User Agency;**
- iii. Compensatory afforestation shall be taken up by the Forest

Department over **20.00 ha** degraded forest land in Compt. No. 647 at Village- Aaptvne, Taluka- Sudhagad, District- Raigad from the amount which has already been realized from the User Agency. As far as possible, a mixture of local indigenous species along with 10% RET species of Raigad District shall be planted and monoculture of any species may be avoided. Atleast four water bodies shall be constructed in the form of tank/ stop dams etc if the same are not available in the area or in nearby vicinity;

- iv. Additional amount of the NPV of the diverted forest land, if any, becoming due after finalization of the same by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on receipt of the report from the Expert Committee, shall be charged by the State Government from the User Agency;
- v. User agency shall restrict the felling of trees to minimum number in the diverted forest land and the trees shall be felled under the strict supervision of the State Forest Department and the cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department;
- vi. **The State Forest Department shall implement a site specific 10 years Wildlife Management Plan as proposed from the amount which has already been realized from the User Agency;**
- vii. The authorities from Morbe Dam Authority and User Agency shall frequently conduct the safety audits and for any adverse impact on dam in future the Dam Authorities and User Agency shall be directly liable;
- viii. **User Agency in consultation with State Forest Department shall construct underpasses at same places as are in existing line with wider openings and interconnected guided bio fences for smooth movement of wildlife. For purpose of dimensions of all such under passes the manual of Wildlife Institute of India entitled "Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts of Linear Infrastructure on Wildlife, published in 2016" shall be consulted;**
- ix. The State Government, Maharashtra/ Nodal Officer (FCA), Maharashtra shall ensure settlement of rights under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (No. 2 of 2007) before issuing an order for handing over of forest land to the User Agency as per Rule;
- x. Speed regulating signage will be erected along the railway line at regular intervals in the Protected Areas/ Forest Areas;
- xi. User Agency shall obtain Environmental Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if applicable;
- xii. The avenue plantation of tall plants in both side of railway line shall be done by the State Forest Department from the amount



- which has already been realized from the User Agency.
- xiii. To improve the Forest/ Tree cover and to reduce pollution in the State, as mandated in National Forest Policy, 1988 and Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986 respectively, with involvement of Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMC's) DCF from the amount which has already been realized from the User Agency, shall raise at least 25,000 seedlings of forestry species along with bamboo, fruit bearing, medicinal, ornamental and indigenous/local for 10 years. At least 50% of seedlings shall be planted in the vicinity of project area and remaining 50% of seedlings shall be distributed among villagers as per choice of villagers. The concerned JFMC's shall maintain record of plantation/ seedling distribution to villagers;
 - xiv. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of Central Government;
 - xv. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land;
 - xvi. Sufficient firewood, preferably the alternate fuel, shall be provided by the User Agency to the labourer after purchasing the same from the State Forest Department or the Forest Development Corporation or any other legal source of alternate fuel;
 - xvii. No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work;
 - xviii. The period of diversion under this approval shall be co-terminus with the period of lease to be granted in favour of the user agency or the project life, whichever is less;
 - xix. The Forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal and **diverted forest area shall not exceed 9.1321 ha;**
 - xx. The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agencies, department or person without prior approval of Govt. of India;
 - xxi. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of **Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam 1980** and action would be taken as per the provision of **Adhiniyam** and rules/guidelines issued there under;
 - xxii. Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife;

This order issues with the approval with Competent Authority, Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Nagpur.

Yours faithfully,



Vijay Sahebrao Kanthale
AIGF (Central)

Copy to:

- i. The IGF (RoHQ), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jorbagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi- 110003
- ii. The PCCF (HoFF), Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur.
- iii. The Addl. PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur.
- iv. User Agency.
- v. Guard file.



Vijay Sahebrao Kanthale
AIGF (Central)