

Full title of the project: Diversion of 1 Acre of forest land for development of Mahakassapa Pilgrimage Facilitation Centre at Gurpa, Gaya District.

FORM- 'A'

Form for seeking prior approval under section 2 of the proposals
by the Governments and other authorities

PART- 1

(to be filled up by user agency)

I Project details:	
(i) Short narrative of the proposal and project/scheme for which the forest land is required.	<p>Asian Buddhist Cultural Centre (ABCC, See Annexure-I for ABCC and its bye-laws), a Buddhist NGO based in Bodhgaya proposes to develop 'Mahākassapa Pilgrimage Facilitation Centre' in 1 Acre of forest land at the base of the Gurpā Hill (known as Gurupāda and Kukutapādagiri in ancient Buddhist literature).</p> <p>Gurpā Hill is deeply associated with the Venerable Mahākassapa (See Annexure-II for brief history of Mahākassapa), the third most prominent disciple of the Buddha (6th BCE) and patriarch of Chan Buddhism (Zen Buddhism in Japan, See Annexure-III). According to ancient Buddhist literatures, Mahākassapa took his final <i>Samādhi</i> at Gurupāda. Mahākassapa is very revered in Buddhist world because he led the <i>Sangha</i> after the <i>Mahāparinirvāna</i> (great demise) of the Buddha and he also convened first Buddhist Council at Rajgir. According to the Buddhist tradition, Mātreyā, the Future Buddha will first arrive at Gurpā Hill and receive the robes of the Gautama Buddha from Mahākassapa before commencing for his teachings to the World.</p> <p>For more than 1500 years (6th BCE to 10th CE) this place was a very important pilgrimage place for followers of Buddha. In ancient times the Buddhist pilgrims from China, Korea, Japan, Mongolia, Tibet, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, and Korea etc. paid their pilgrimage at Gurupāda. We find mention about Gurupāda in travel accounts of Buddhist pilgrims from China like Faxian (Fahien, 5th CE), Xuanzang (Hieun Tsang, 7th CE) and I-tsing (7th CE).</p> <p>Buddhism came to its ebb in Indian subcontinent in around 13th CE. Buddhist sacred places like Mahabodhi Temple, Nalanda, Sarnatha, Kushinagara etc. became ruins. Translation of travel accounts Faxian and Xuanzang in 19th CE led to identification and revitalization of many sacred Buddhist sites like Bodhgaya, Sarnatha, Kushinagara,</p>

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		Sravasti, Lumbini etc. Accounts of Xuanzang led to the identification of Gurpā Hill with Gurupāda hills of Buddhist period (See Annexure IV for Identification of Gurpā Hill as Gurupāda).
(ii)	Map showing the required forest land, boundary of adjoining forest on a 1:50,000 scale map.	1 Acre, Plot no 622, Cadastral no- KathotiyaKewal 633 MaujjaKathotiyaKewal Plate no-2 Toposheet no 72H6 (issued by Survey of India)
(iii)	Cost of the project:	Approx. Rs, 200, 00,000 (Rs. Two Hundred Lacs only)
(iv)	Justification for locating the project in forest area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gurpā Hill in ancient times was a very prominent International Buddhist Pilgrimage place. The tradition of Buddhist pilgrimage was lost in the beginning of 2nd Millennia CE. The pilgrimage at many Buddhist sacred places like Bodhgaya, Sravasti, Nalanda, Rajgir etc. including Gurpā is now reviving. Gurpā Hill now receives more than 7000 international visitors annually, mainly from China, Korea, Taiwan, Japan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Myanmar, Indonesia, Malaysia, USA and European countries. The ancient Stupa to mark <i>Samādhi</i> of Mahākassapa and ancient Footprints of Mahakassap are the object of veneration for the pilgrims and are situated on the top of the Hill. There are more than 2000 steep steps to climb to the top. It takes more than two hours for pilgrims to climb-up to the top. Gurpā Hill is situated 70 kms from Gaya, 80 kms from Bihar Sharif, and 60kms from Nawadha which are headquarter of three neighboring Districts. Gurpā Hill is 11 kms from State Highway 70 that connects Gaya and Rajauli. The climb to the top of the Gurpā Hill is very steep and is risky for the old pilgrims. The place has no basic medical facility in case of some emergency. Besides providing basic amenities like wash room and basic medical facilities the 'Mahākassapa Pilgrimage Facilitation Centre' aims to develop as Chan-style meditation center for the followers of Chan/ Zen Buddhism.
(v)	Cost-benefit analysis (to be enclosed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gurupāda was a very important pilgrimage place for followers of Buddha and especially for the followers of the Chan Buddhism in China, Japan and Korea. China replicated Gurupāda in 14th century and started developing and promoting Jizu Shan (Cocksfoot Mountain) situated in Yunan Province of China as true Gurupāda. Presently, people in these countries believe Jizushan as the true Mahākassapa<i>Samādhi</i> place. Development of 'Mahākassapa Pilgrimage Facilitation Centre' at Gurpā will help revive Buddhist legacy of India. (See Annexure-V Replication of

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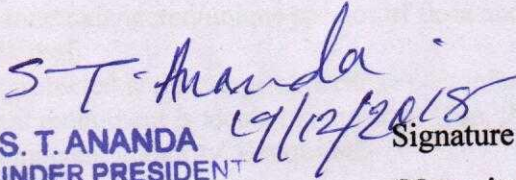
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		<p>Gurpada in China)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mahākassapa is highly revered in all the Buddhist countries. Revitalisation of Gurpā Hill by creating 'Mahākassapa Pilgrimage Facilitation Centre' will also be a good move to promote Buddhist diplomacy with many Asian countries that are Buddhists.
(vi)	Employment likely to be generated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of this place has huge potential for creating employment for the local population. Gurpā Hill receives more than 7000 international visitors each year. This number will sky rocket once we have facilities created at the place. • There are millions of Buddhists in China, Korea, Japan, Malaysia, Taiwan, Indonesia, Singapore, Hongkong who follow Chan/ Zen Buddhism. 'Mahākassapa Pilgrimage Facilitation Centre' at Gurpā hill will become a major attraction for all the followers of Chan/Zen tradition of Buddhism.
2	Purpose-wise break-up of the total land required:	<p>Total land – 43535 sqft (One Acre) Built up area- 8650 sqft Landscape area- 30885 sqft Parking area- 4000 sqft</p> <p>Matreya(Buddha) - Mahakassapa Temple for ceremonial prayer – 1800sqft A Chan-style meditation center for 200 people- 5000 Sqft Dormitory for Monks and Nuns- 1800sqft Kitchen & Dining for 200 – 5000sq ft (ground floor) Washroom- 900 sqft (ground floor)</p>
3	Details of displacement of people due to the project, if any: i. Number of families. ii. Number of Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled tribe families iii. Rehabilitation plan. (to be enclosed)	NA
4	Whether clearance under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 required? (Yes/No).	
5	Undertaking to bear the cost of raising and maintenance of compensatory afforestation	Attached

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	and/or penal compensatory afforestation as well as cost for protection and regeneration of Safety Zone, etc. as per the scheme prepared by the State Government (undertaking to be enclosed).	
6	Details of certificates/documents enclosed as required under the instructions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annexure-I -Bye-laws of ABCC & brief bio data of Venerable Ananda • Annexure-II - brief history of Mahākassapa • Annexure-III -Chan/Zen Buddhism in China and Japan • Annexure IV for Identification of Gurpā Hill as Gurupāda • Annexure-V- Replication of Gurupada in China • Map of Gurpa, the proposed site • Undertaking to bear the cost of raising and maintenance of compensatory afforestation


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Signature

(Name in Block letters)

Designation

Address (of User Agency)

Date:-

Place:-

State serial No. of Proposal

(To be filled up by the Nodal Officer with date of receipt)