

File No.: 8-08/2025-FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bag Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi – 110003
Dated: As per E-sign

To,

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Jharkhand,
Ranchi.

Subject: Proposal for seeking Ex-post facto approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 133.69 Ha Forest land in Muraidih Colliery having Leasehold area of 717.71 Ha for Opencast and Underground Coal Mining Project of M/s Bharat Coking Coal Limited under Dhanbad District of Jharkhand State (Online Proposal No: FP/JH/MIN/44804/2020).

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to Government of Jharkhand letter No. VAN Bhumi-25/2025-3188 dated 02.09.2025 on the above mentioned subject. The proposal has been examined in the Ministry and the following shortfalls have been observed :-

1. The user agency in the instant proposal has reported that the forest land is required for Muraidih-Phularitand (Part) Colliery whereas the State Govt. in their covering letter has stated that the proposal is for Muraidih Colliery. The factually correct details in this regard shall be submitted along with documentary evidence.
2. The details regarding the validity of the entire mining lease, along with a comprehensive chronology of all approvals from the inception of the lease till date, and the corresponding supporting documents, shall be submitted.
3. The detail of the forest land already diverted within the entire Muraidih Colliery and the status of compliance of the conditions stipulated in the past approvals is required to be submitted. The State Govt. in this regard shall submit the status of compliance of the stipulated conditions duly verified by the Regional office, Ranchi of this Ministry.
4. The Environmental Clearance (EC) for the lease area of 2025.75 ha was earlier accorded by the Government of India on 6th February, 2013. The said EC is subject to the outcome of the Writ Petition filed by M/s Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) in response to the closure orders issued by the Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board. The State has now reported that a total of 717.71 ha of land is required for the present project. Keeping this in

view, the following details shall be submitted for further examination and record:

(a) The updated status of the court case referred to in the Environmental Clearance, including its current status before the Hon'ble Jharkhand High Court, along with interim or final orders passed, if any.

(b) A detailed justification for the variation in the lease area—from 2025.75 ha (as per the EC) to 717.71 ha (as currently reported)—supported by relevant documentary evidence.

(c) Details of the mined-out areas and the forest areas reclaimed and handed over by the User Agency within the instant mining lease area.

5. Examination of the Mining plan revealed the following;
 - a. In the copy of approval of the mining plan, the stamp papers have been uploaded. Therefore, copy of the approval letter of the mining plan shall be submitted.
 - b. The land use details at the end of mine life have not been given in the Progressive mine closure plan. The State Govt. shall submit the same.
 - c. Details of coal evacuation plan and how the requirement of electricity and water will be met needs submission and the involvement of additional forest land, if any, shall also be intimated.
6. The Satellite imagery shows the presence of Khudia Nadi adjacent to the forest land proposed for diversion. The copy of NoC/comments from the Water Resource Department, Govt. of Jharkhand in this regard shall be submitted along with the details of proposed mitigation measures.
7. The State Govt. in Part-II of the Proposal reported that the violation of Van Adhiniyam, 1980 has been carried out over an 47.62ha forest land and the period of violation has been reported as 5 years. The action taken report in this regard along with steps taken to prevent the violation shall be submitted by the State Government.
8. The State Govt. recommended the proposal with a condition of imposition of site specific wildlife management plan. The comments of the CWLW, Govt. of Jharkhand shall be submitted in this regard.
9. In the proposal there is a reference to a Criminal Misc. Petition No.4532 of 2001 filed before the Hon'ble High Court, Ranchi, Jharkhand. A detailed report in this regard shall be submitted along with the present status of court case.
10. As per Part-II of the application form the violation has been reported over 47.62 ha forest land, whereas CF, Bokaro circle in his report has mentioned that, earlier over burden of mining was dumped over the forest land. The User Agency has shown this in the submitted maps. According to the report submitted by the User Agency OB Dumping was done over 34.38 ha. forest land and 74.72 ha Jungle-Jhari land. After 1980 OB Dumping has been done over 11.27 ha. forest land and after 1996 OB Dumping was done over 31.35 ha. of Jungle-Jhari land. A detailed clarification in this regard shall be

submitted along with documentary evidence.

11. It has been reported that the proposed mine is to be worked through using Open-cast and under-ground mining technology. However, the 3-D Subsidence prediction report for the under-ground mining method has not been submitted/ uploaded on PARIVESH. The same shall be submitted.
12. As per the DSS analysis (report enclosed), the following shortfalls have been observed:
 - a. The KML files/ Maps indicating different components of the project, including those proposed to be undertaken on non-forest land shall be submitted/ uploaded.
 - b. Satellite imagery shows the presence of Mined out area, Agricultural lands, Settlement, Construction of new Road and some forest areas wherein mining activity is going on. This needs justification.
 - c. On examination of KML file of the mining lease boundary through the Decision Support System (DSS), it has been observed that the total notified forest land (Reserved Forest/Protected Forest) within the project boundary of 717.71 ha is 59.91 ha. However, the State Government, in the instant proposal, has reported the extent of notified forest land (RF/PF) within the lease/project area as 46.17 ha. The entire extent of forest land falling within the project area shall be duly included in the proposal.
 - d. A total of 57 patches have been proposed for Compensatory Afforestation (CA). It has been observed that some of the proposed CA sites are affected by encroachment, while some patches are less than 5 ha in area. The State Government shall ensure that the CA areas identified are suitable for plantation activities and are free from all encumbrances. The revised details of the CA sites shall be updated accordingly in Part-II of the PARIVESH portal, along with the relevant maps, CA scheme, KML files, and other supporting documents.

The State Government is requested to submit the requisite information as above for further consideration of the proposal.

Yours faithfully,

Digitally signed by
SUNEET BHARDWAJ
Date: 08-10-2025
09:38:38

(Suneet Bhardwaj)
Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest, Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi;
2. The Dy. DGF (Central), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Ranchi;
3. The Nodal Officer, Department of Forest, Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi;
4. User Agency;
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.

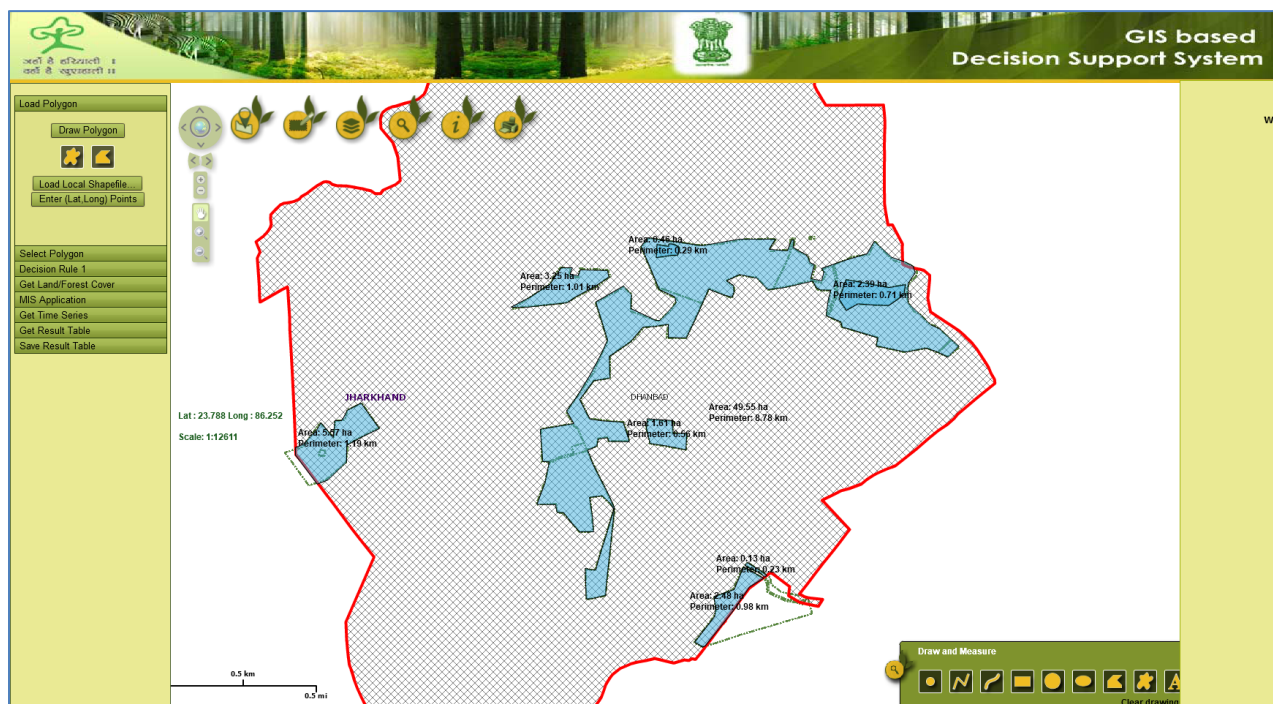
Proposal: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 133.69 Ha Forest land in Muraidih Colliery having Leasehold area of 717.71 Ha for Opencast and Underground Coal Mining Project of M/s Bharat Coking Coal Limited under Dhanbad District of Jharkhand State (Online Proposal No: FP/JH/MIN/44804/2020).

Summary of DSS Analysis Report:

I. In Case of Land proposed for Diversion:

1. Proposed forest area for diversion falls under Dhanbad district of Jharkhand State.
2. Calculated area of Shape file/ KML file of Forest land proposed for diversion is found 133.388 ha (GIS software calculated).
3. As per the DSS, the proposed forest land for diversion is not located within 10 Km distance to any Wildlife Sanctuary, National Park, Tiger Reserve and Tiger corridor. The nearest wildlife sanctuary namely Topchanchi is located at a distance of 12.29 Km from the proposed forest land for diversion.
4. High resolution satellite imagery shows the presence of Mined out area, Agricultural lands, Settlement, Construction of new Road and some forest areas wherein mining activity is going on.
5. The Satellite imagery shows the presence of Khudia Nadi in adjacent to the forest land proposed for diversion.
6. The instant proposal falls under Not In high conservation zone value as per DSS Rule 2. However, In High Conservation Zone as per DSS Rule-I due to presence of Khudia Nadi in adjacent to the forest land proposed for diversion. The final result would be Not In High Conservation Zone.
7. The map/ KML file showing the component wise requirement of the proposed forest land as well as Non-Forest land has not been uploaded on PARIVESH.
8. The user agency has uploaded the KML file of Mining lease boundary and the total project area through its KML file is found 717.711 ha. Further, as per the forest compartment boundary available on PARIVESH, total notified forest land (RF/PF) within the project boundary is found 59.91 ha whereas the State Govt in the instant proposal reported that the total Notified forest (RF/PF) land within the lease/ Project area is 46.17 ha. Hence, less Notified forest land has been applied for diversion.

DSS map showing the presence of Notified forest land (RF/PF) in the Project area:



9. **Forest Cover in the instant project:** 5 ha is Open Forest land and 129 ha as Non Forest or Non-wooded (land devoid of tree cover) in terms of forest classes (as per the ISFR 2021) based on the interpretation of satellite data period 2019.
10. **Forest Types details:** Non-Forest: 133 ha

II. In Case of Compensatory Afforestation Land:

1. Compensatory afforestation (CA) has been proposed over Forest land, twice in extent to the Forest land proposed for diversion.
2. KML file calculated area of the proposed forest land for CA is found 267.317 ha instead of 270.44 ha as reported by the State Govt. in Part-II of the PARIVESH portal.
3. CA has been proposed in total 57 patches falling in Twenty three (23) Villages of Dhanbad District of Jharkhand State wherein many CA patches have been found isolated and less than 5 ha in size but owing to the fact that these CA patches are forest land, the Para 2.2 (xi) of Chapter-2 given in the Consolidated Handbook of Guidelines and clarification under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 may not be applicable in the case.
4. The list of villages wherein the CA patches have been found isolated and less than 5 ha in size is as under;

S. no	District	Name of PF/RF	Range	Compartment No
1	Dhanbad	Pargho	Topchanchi	287, 314, 1, 55
2	Dhanbad	Bantor	Topchanchi	7, 35
3	Dhanbad	Sapanpur	Topchanchi	186, 189, 185, 137
4	Dhanbad	Baryatand	Tundi	2, 70
5	Dhanbad	Nawatand	Tundi	2321, 2337, 2339
6	Dhanbad	Fatehpur	Tundi	3P,1077P,54P
7	Dhanbad	Machiyara	Tundi	212
8	Dhanbad	Banpura	Topchanchi	59,14
9	Dhanbad	Gethibera	Tundi	1, 320, 322, 1243, 1245, 1288
10	Dhanbad	Sundarpahari	Tundi	6, 335, 306
11	Dhanbad	Chururia	Tundi	1802, 1796, 1793, 1803
12	Dhanbad	Kurkutand	Tundi	1082, 113, 386, 430P
13	Dhanbad	Madhopur	Tundi	202, 898, 880
14	Dhanbad	Udaipur	Topchanchi	1321, 1341
15	Dhanbad	Uperankura	Topchanchi	696, 61, 170, 130, 553
16	Dhanbad	Kharmo	Topchanchi	59, 302, 102
17	Dhanbad	Jaipur	Topchanchi	74, 142

5. In terms of standards followed in ISFR 2021 (interpretation of satellite data period 2019) regarding density classes is given in Table-1 below:

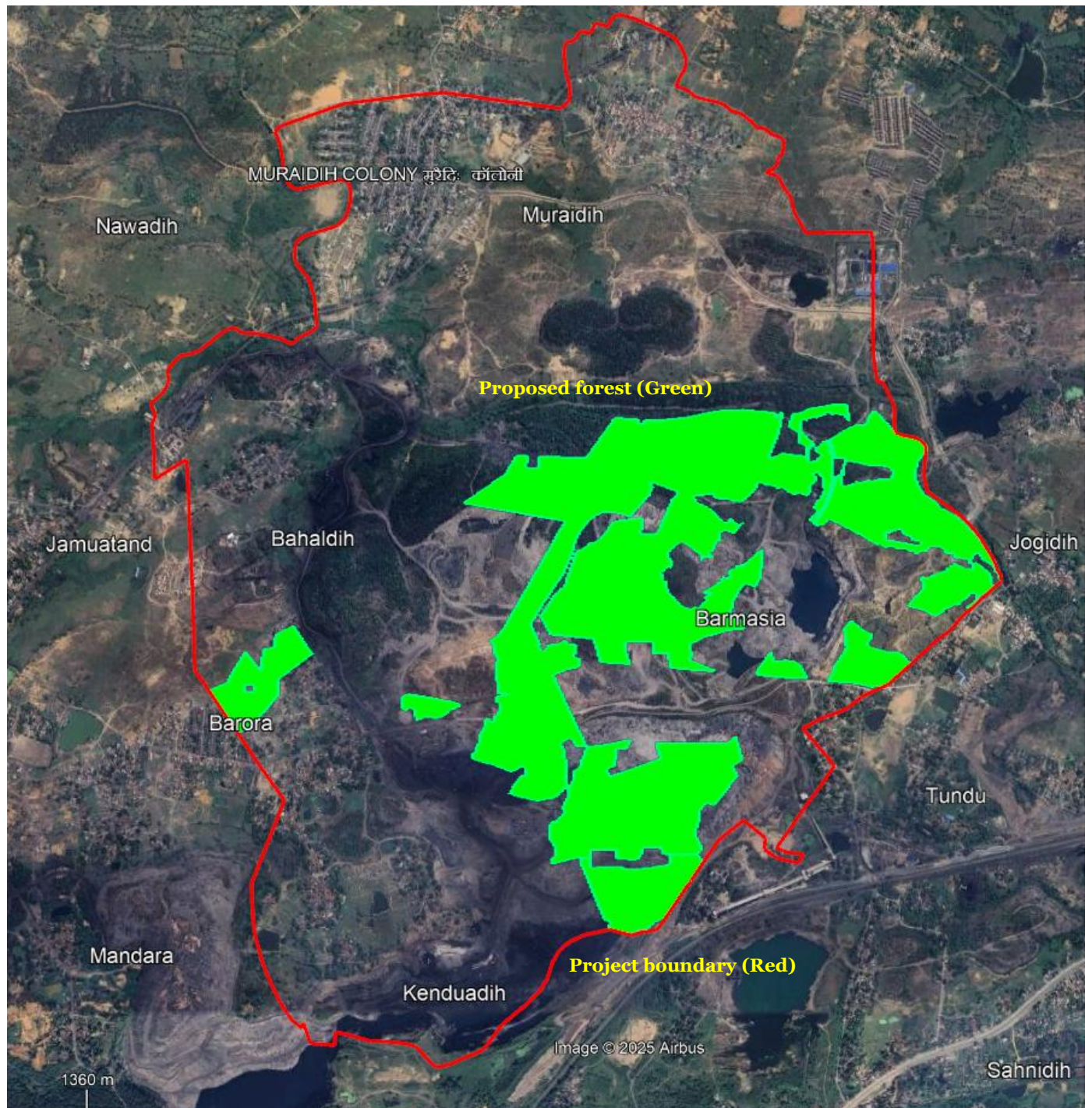
Table No.1

S.no	District	Name of PF/RF	Range	Compartment No	State Govt Area (Ha)	KML Area (Ha)	VDF	MDF	OF	Scrub	NF
1	Dhanbad	Chalkari	Topchanchi	1, 3	20	20.005	0	0	20	0	0
2	Dhanbad	Panchrukhi	Topchanchi	776	20.23	20.252	0	15	4	0	1
3	Dhanbad	Pargho	Topchanchi	287, 314, 1, 55	21.21	21.242	0	0	12	0	9
4	Dhanbad	Bantor	Topchanchi	7, 35	12.06	12.059	0	0	1	0	11
5	Dhanbad	Sapanpur	Topchanchi	186, 189, 185, 137	17.82	17.866	0	0	0	0	18
6	Dhanbad	Targa	Topchanchi	1676, 1352, 1411	25	25.003	0	0	10	4	10
7	Dhanbad	Baryatand	Tundi	2, 70	9.75	9.753	0	0	0	0	10
8	Dhanbad	Nawatand	Tundi	2321, 2337, 2339	4.41	4.412	0	0	0	0	4
9	Dhanbad	Fatehpur	Tundi	3P,1077P,54P	3	2.784	0	0	0	0	3
10	Dhanbad	Machiyara	Tundi	212	2.38	2.511	0	0	0	1	2
11	Dhanbad	Banpura	Topchanchi	59,14	2.43	2.431	0	0	0	0	2
12	Dhanbad	Gethibera	Tundi	1, 320, 322, 1243, 1245, 1288	13.83	13.833	0	0	0	1	13
13	Dhanbad	Sundarpahari	Tundi	6, 335, 306	14.09	14.093	0	0	0	0	14
14	Dhanbad	Daldali	Tundi	1477	11.91	11.915	0	0	0	0	12
15	Dhanbad	Chururia	Tundi	1802, 1796, 1793, 1803	5.52	5.524	0	0	0	0	6
16	Dhanbad	Kurkutand	Tundi	1082, 113, 386, 430P	20	20.048	0	0	5	0	15
17	Dhanbad	Madhopur	Tundi	202, 898, 880	8.24	4.339	0	0	0	0	4
18	Dhanbad	Udaipur	Topchanchi	1321, 1341	20	21.079	0	6	5	6	4
19	Dhanbad	Uperankura	Topchanchi	696, 61, 170, 130, 553	12	10.812	0	0	0	0	11
20	Dhanbad	Kharmo	Topchanchi	59, 302, 102	6.18	6.951	0	0	1	0	7
21	Dhanbad	Jaipur	Topchanchi	74, 142	2.21	2.231	0	0	0	0	2
22	Dhanbad	Pandugri	Tundi	169P	8.75	8.753	0	0	0	0	9
23	Dhanbad	Durgadih	Tundi	117	9.42	9.419	0	0	4	0	5
Total					270.44	267.317	0	21	62	12	172

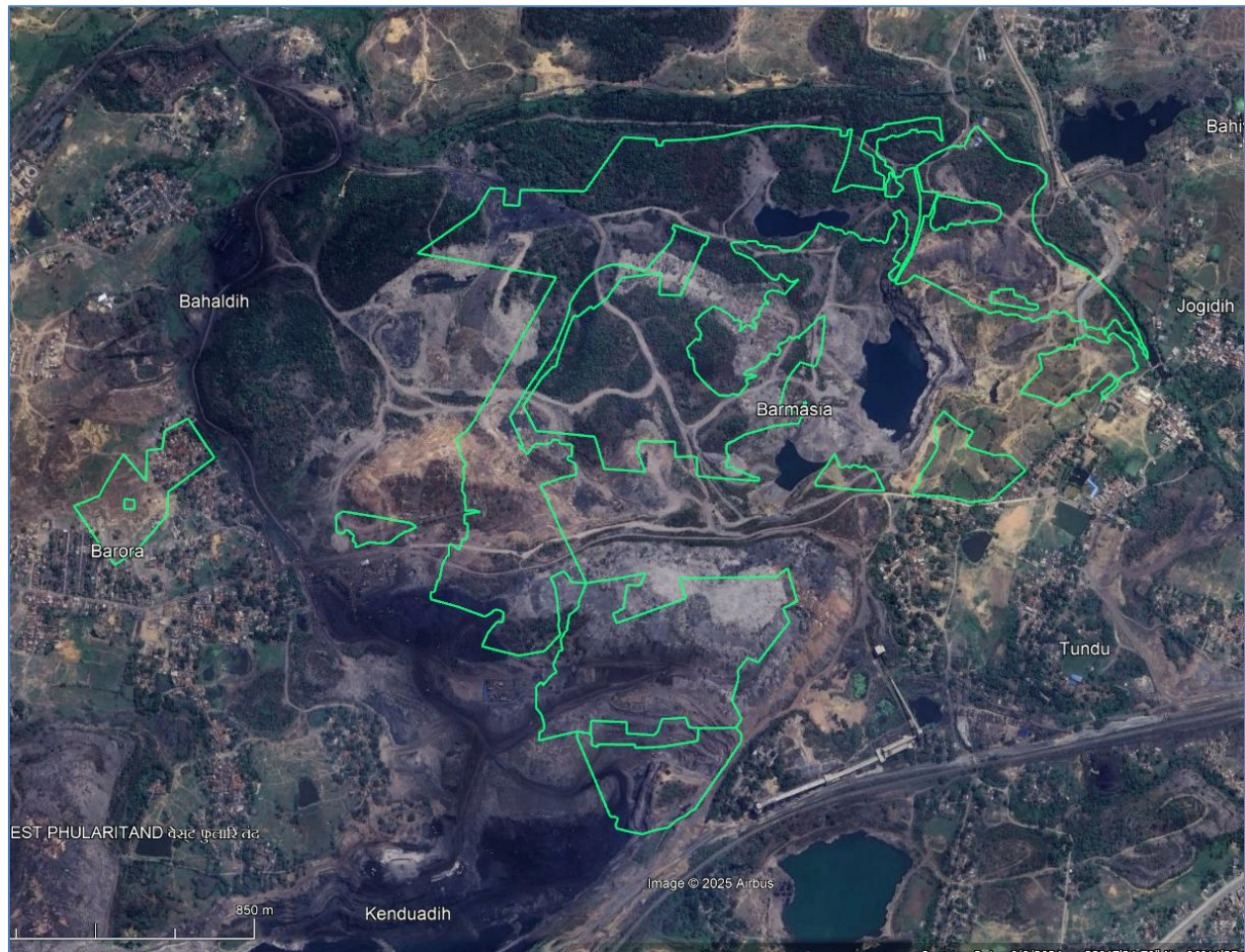
6. **Forest Cover in CA land:** 21 ha is Moderately Dense Forest, 62 ha is Open Forest, 12 ha is Scrub and 172 ha is Non Forest (Non-wooded) in terms of forest classes (as per the ISFR 2021) based on the interpretation of satellite data period 2019.
7. The Google imagery shows that, some of the proposed CA sites are having encroachment in form of Agriculture land, Settlements, Non-Forestry activity and Plantation work carried out recently. The details of those CA patches are as under:

S.No	Village Name	Remarks based on Google imagery
1	Bantor	Non-Forestry activity is visible
2	TARGA	Residential plotting going on nearby the site
3	JAIPUR	Presence of Settlements and Agriculture land
4	Fatehpur	Non-Forestry activity is visible
5	Kharmo	Presence of Agriculture land
6	Sundarpahari & Chururia	Plantation work carried out recently
7	Madhopur	Presence of Agriculture land
	Pandungri:	Plantation work carried out recently

Google imagery showing the proposed forest land for diversion:

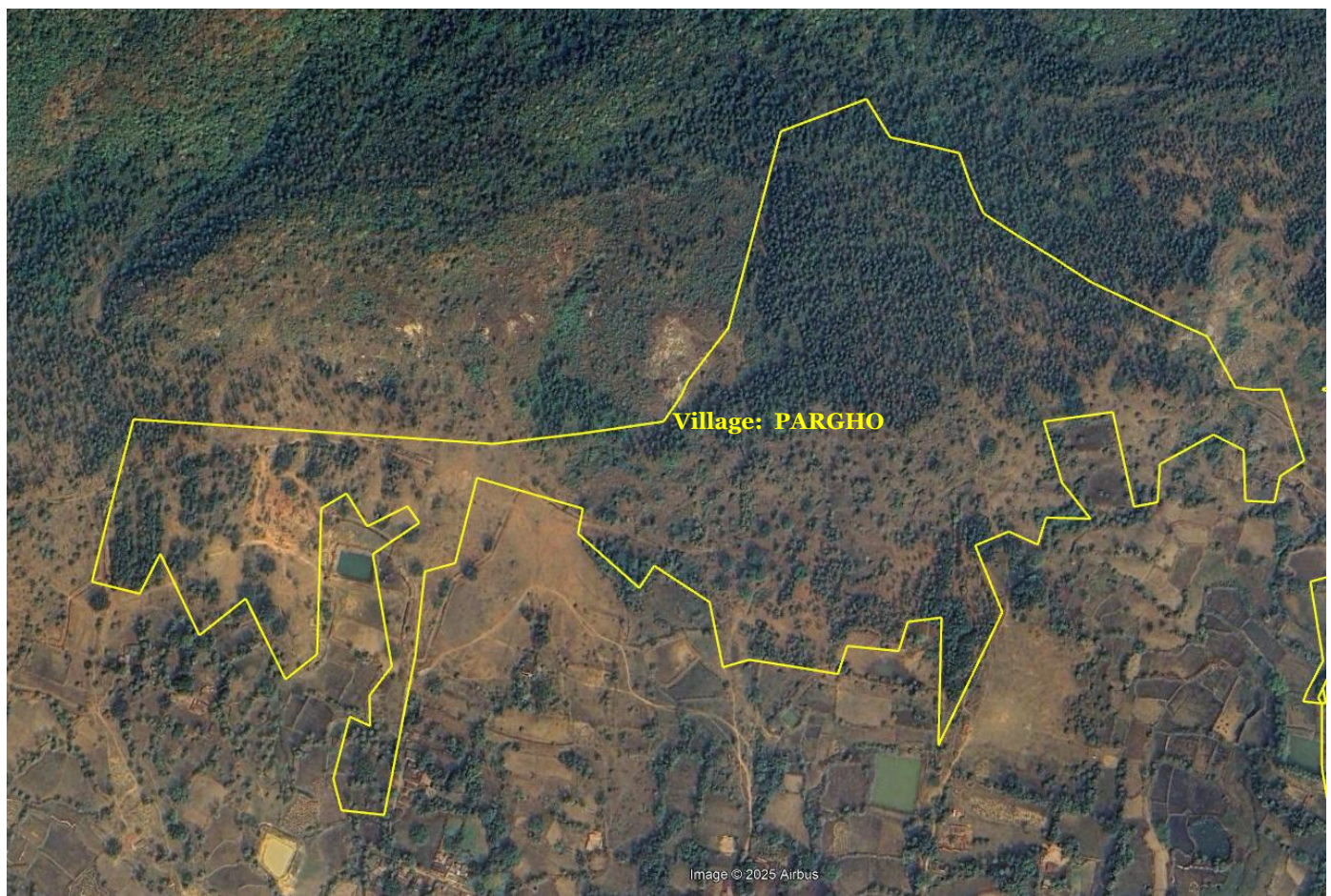
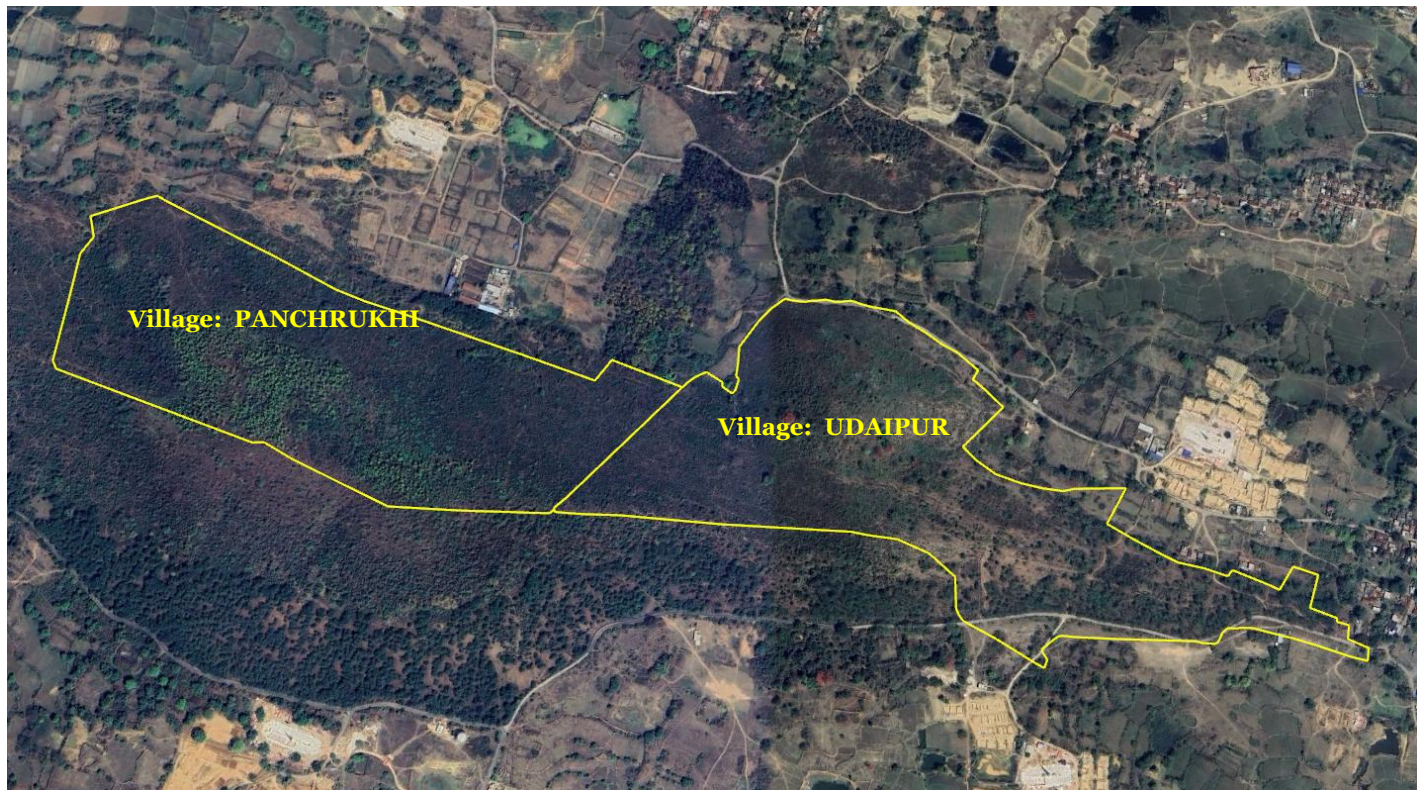


Google imagery showing the proposed forest land for diversion:

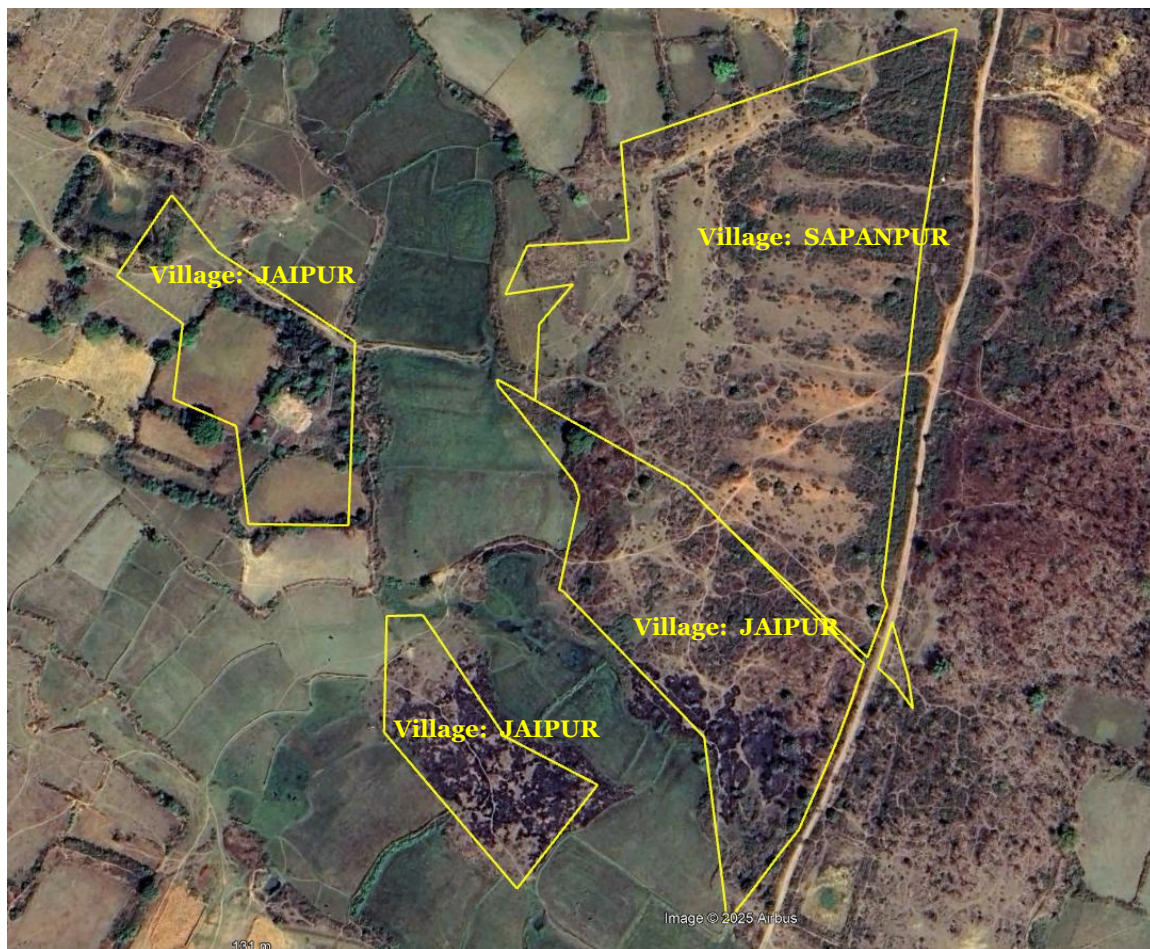


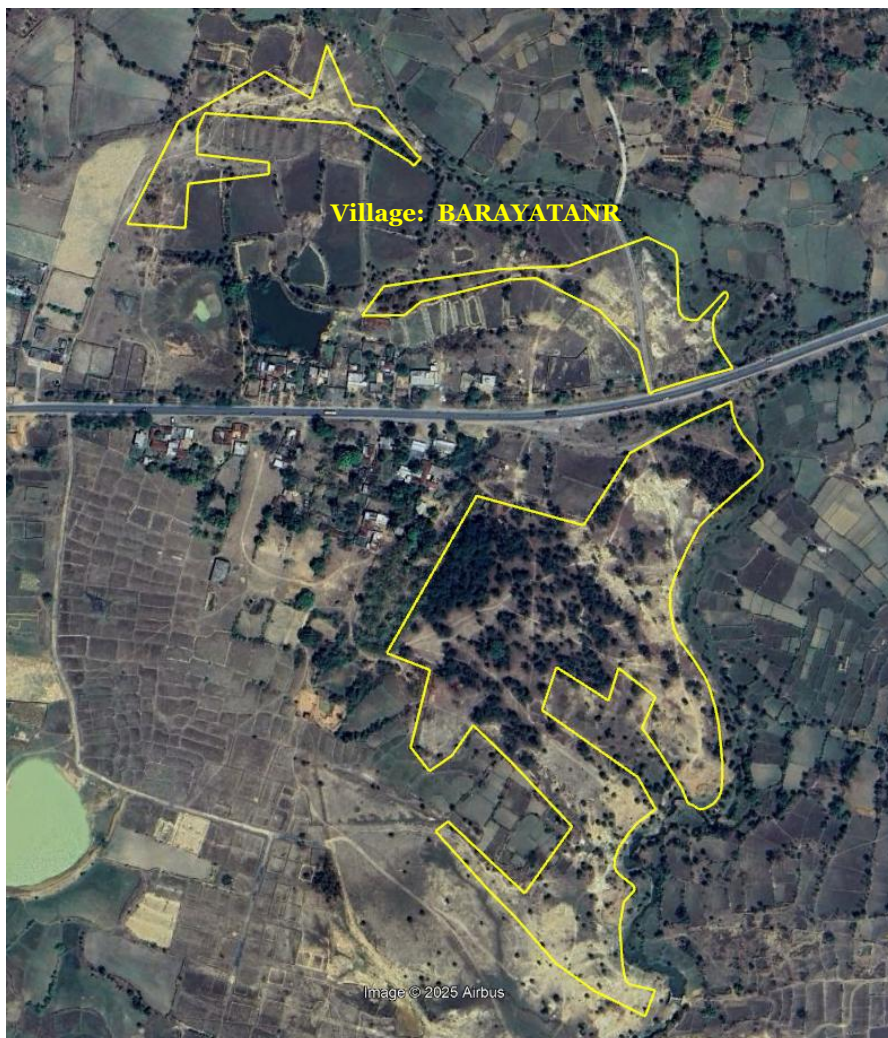
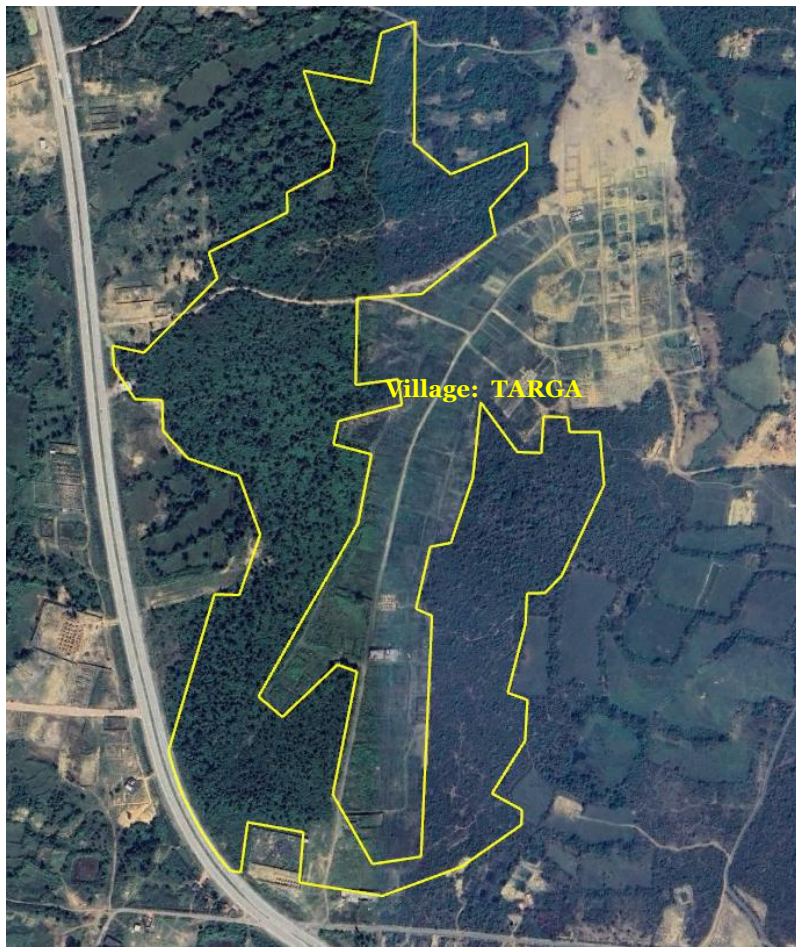
Google imagery showing the Forest land for CA:



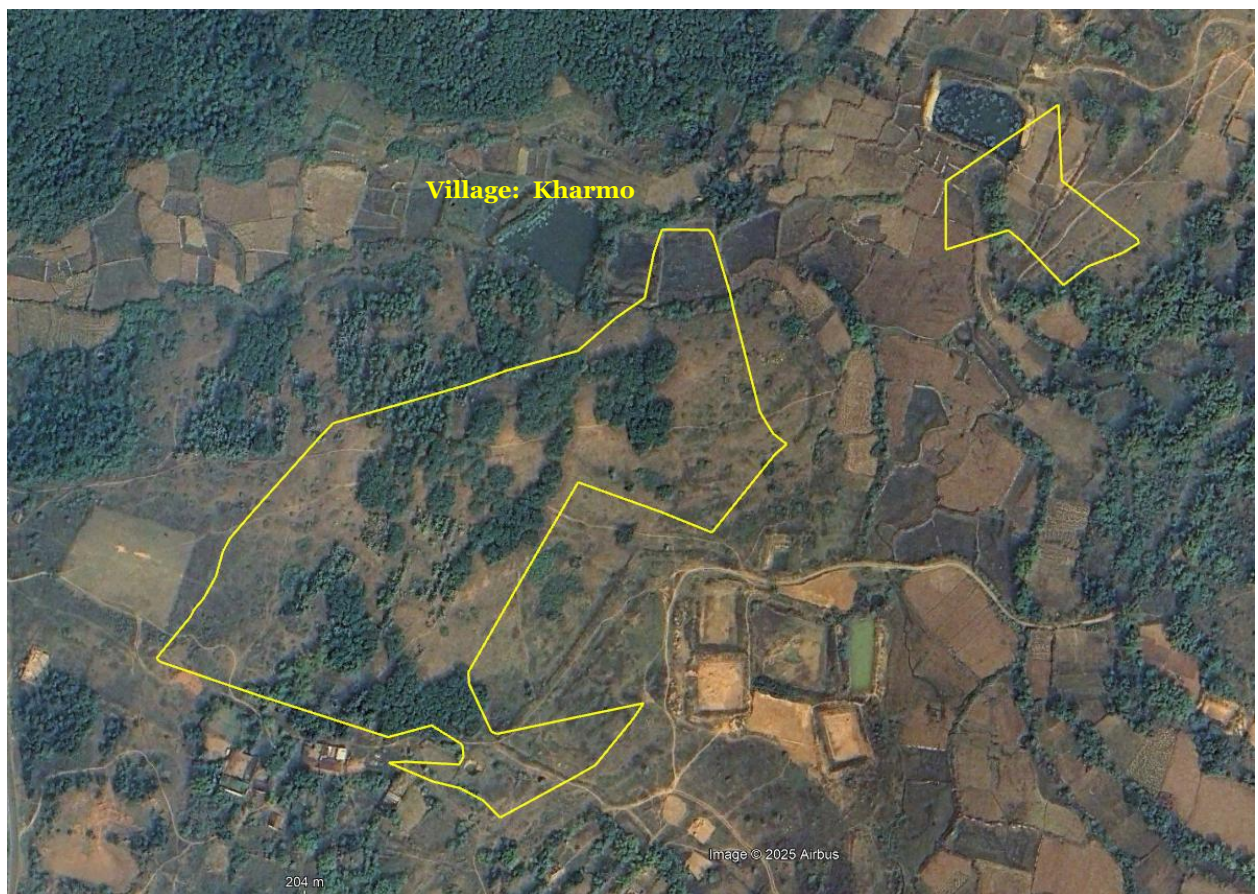


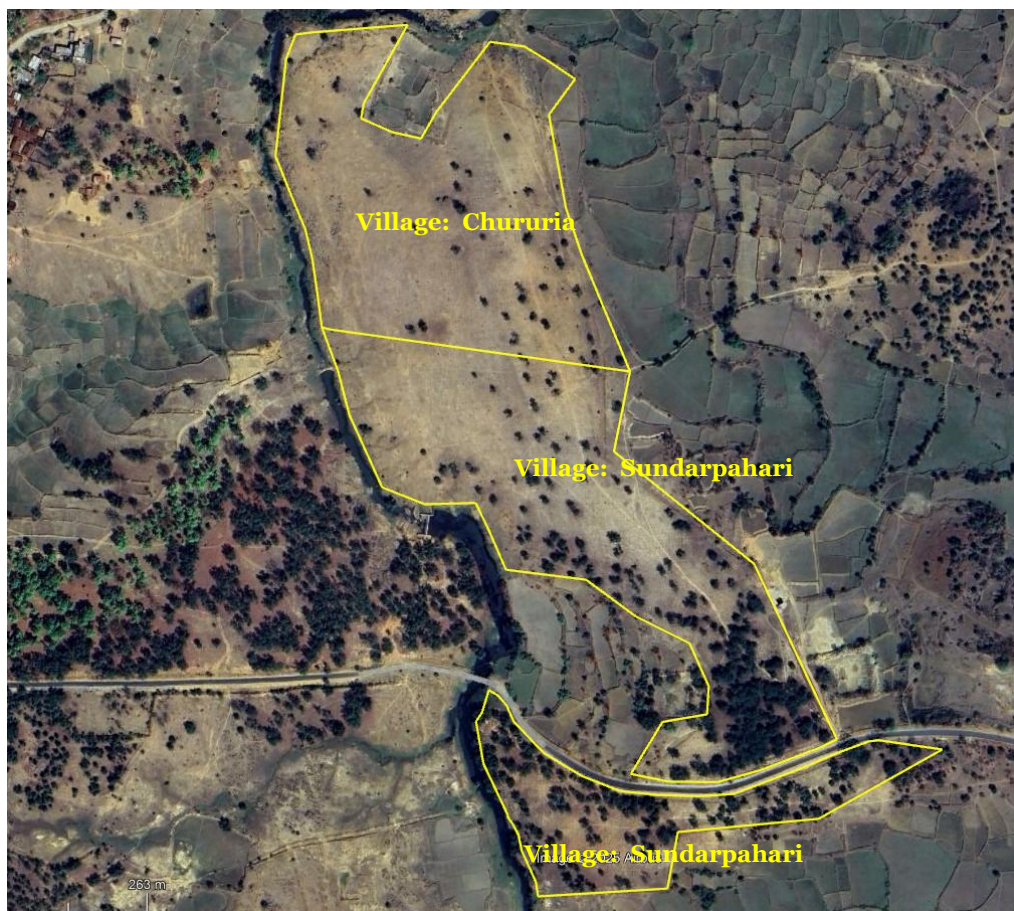




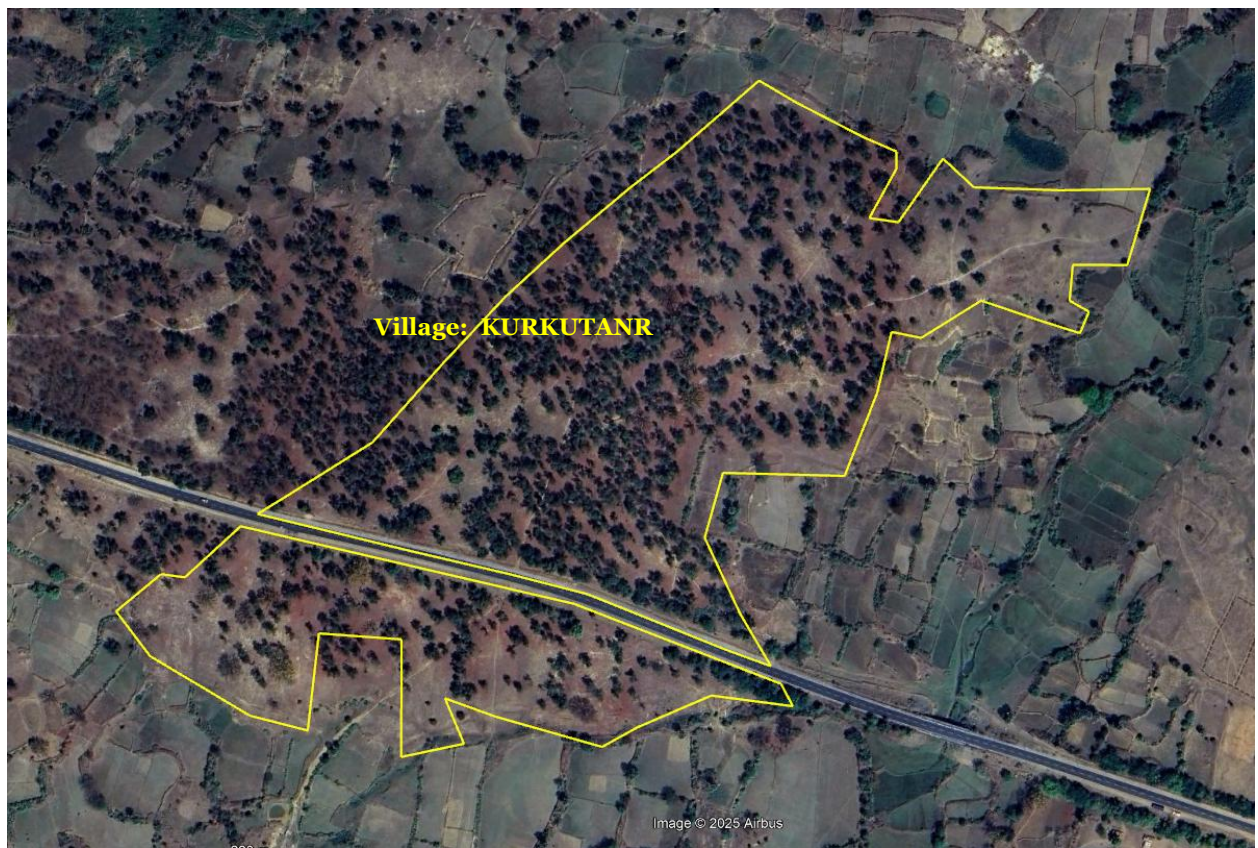




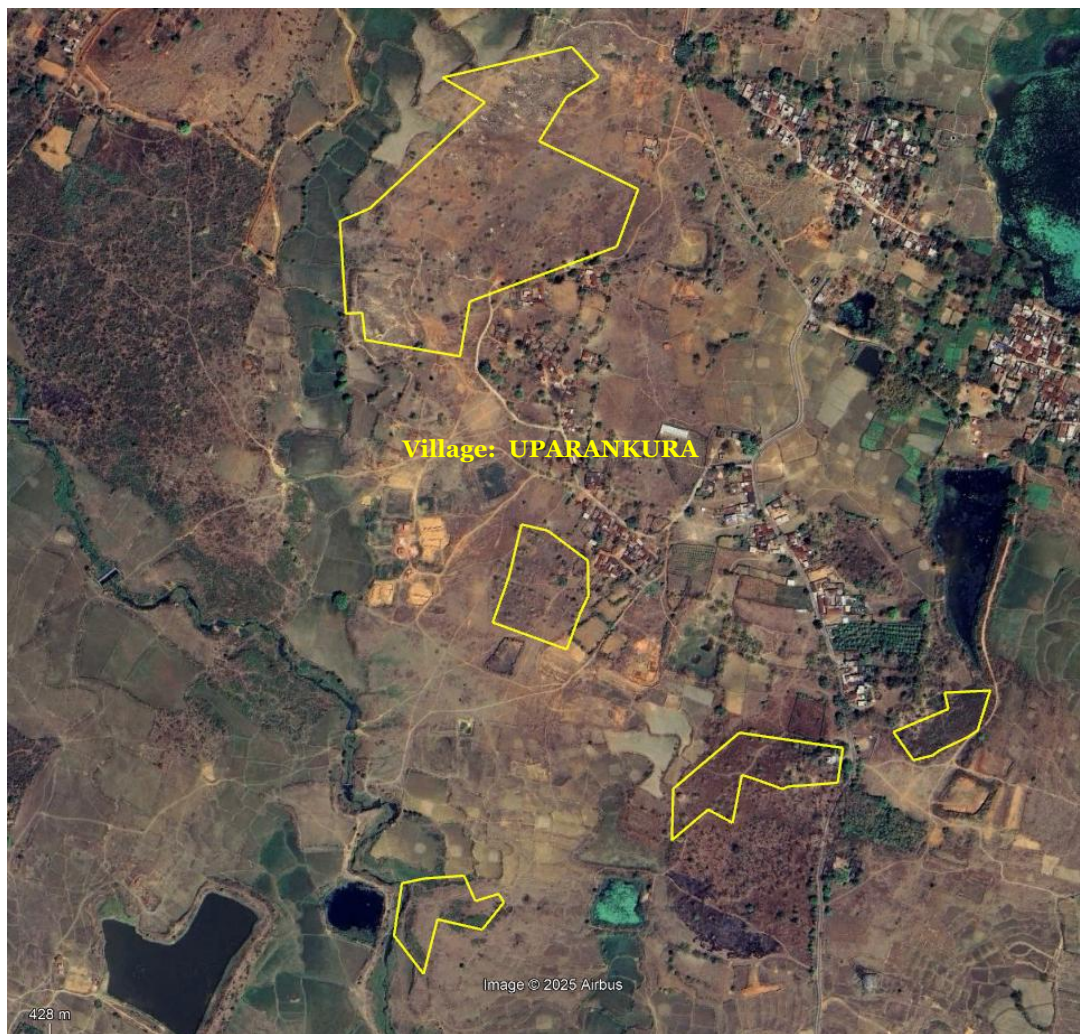


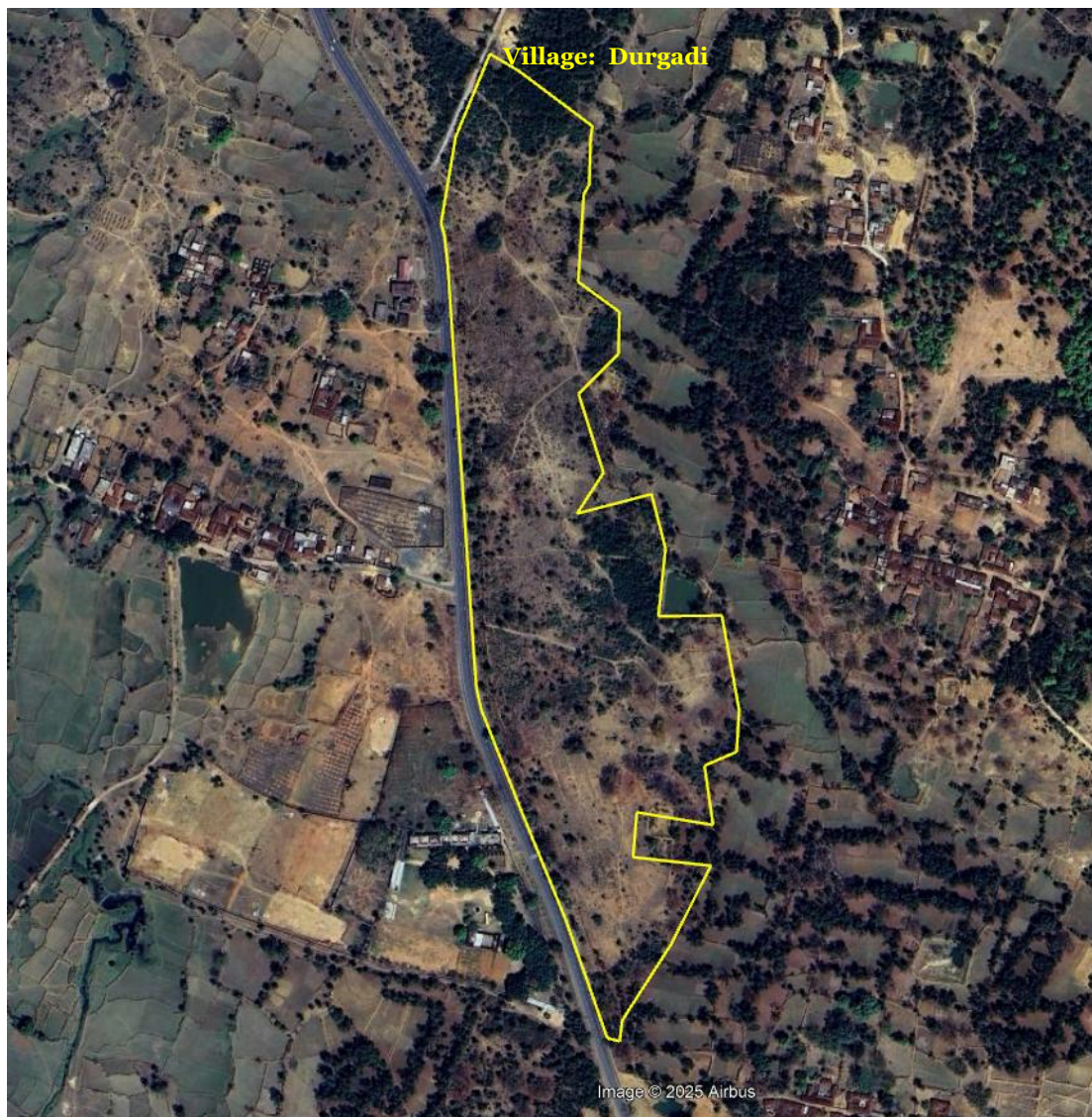












Decision Support System (DSS):

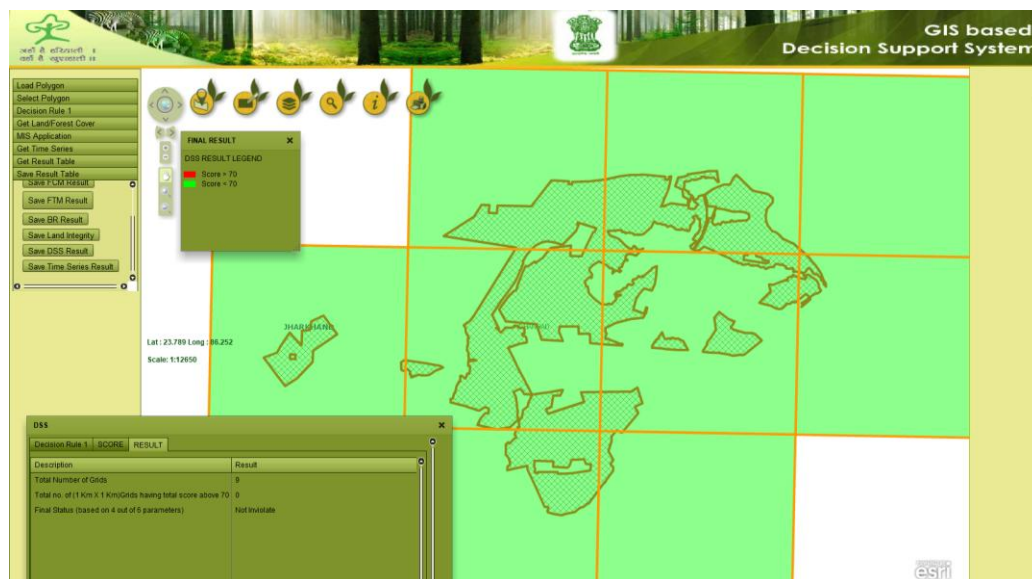
Decision Rule no. 1:

Whether forms part of:

- I. Hydrological Layer:
 - a. Major River: **Khudia Nadi (1st Order)**
 - b. Wetland (Area more than 10 ha.): **N/A**
 - c. Water bodies (irrigation/Hydropower/water storage): **N/A**
- II. Very Dense Forest patch (>1 sq km): **N/A**
- III. Remnant Forest Type: **N/A**
- IV. Protected area/Tiger Reserves/Tiger corridors: **N/A**
- V. Wild life Species: **N/A**

Decision Rule no.2: Without 50% Rule:

DESCRIPTION	RESULT
Total Number of Grids	9
Total no. of (1 Km X 1 Km)Grids having total score above 70	0
Final Status (based on 4 out of 6 parameters)	Not-In High Conservation Zone



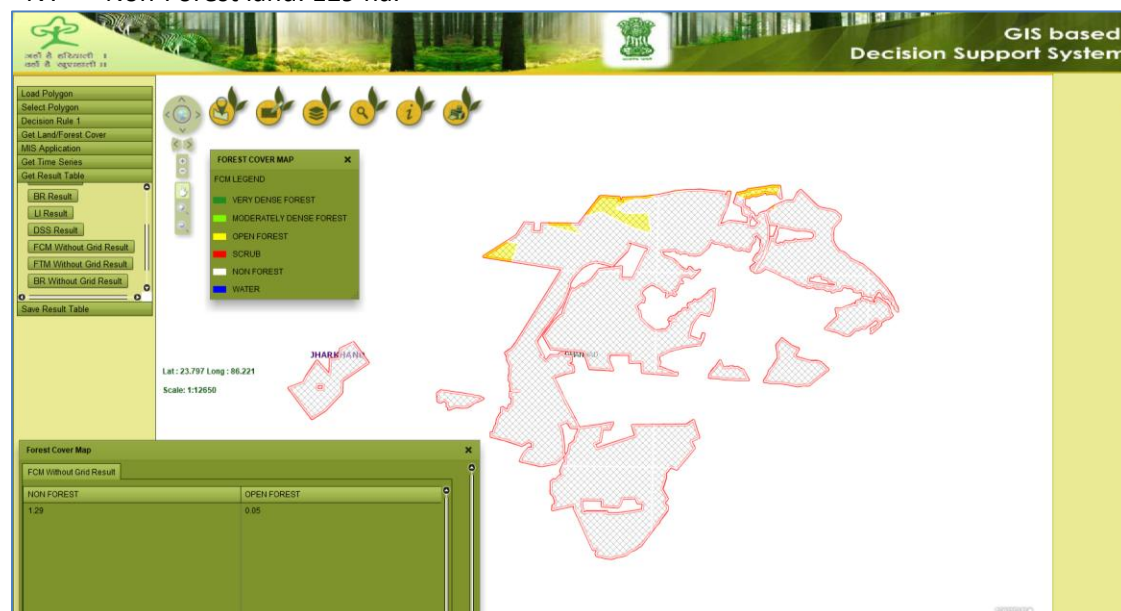
GRIDID	SCOREFCM	SCOREFTM	SCOREBR	SCORELANDSCAPE	AGGREGATESCORE
1627358	13.71	0	36.71	15.89	16.58
1627359	5.13	0	32.69	17.35	13.79
1629587	0.33	0	13.38	11.62	6.33
1629588	0.58	0	46.97	13.13	15.17
1627360	0	0	3.09	17.58	5.17
1629589	0	0	8.51	15.56	6.02
1629590	0	0	0	16.19	4.05
1631816	0	0	20.38	11.97	8.09
1631817	0	0	3.47	13.6	4.27

Final Result: Not-In High Conservation Zone (Based on Decision Rule 2)

Forest Cover Map:

In terms of standards followed in ISFR 2021 (interpretation of satellite data period 2019) regarding density classes:

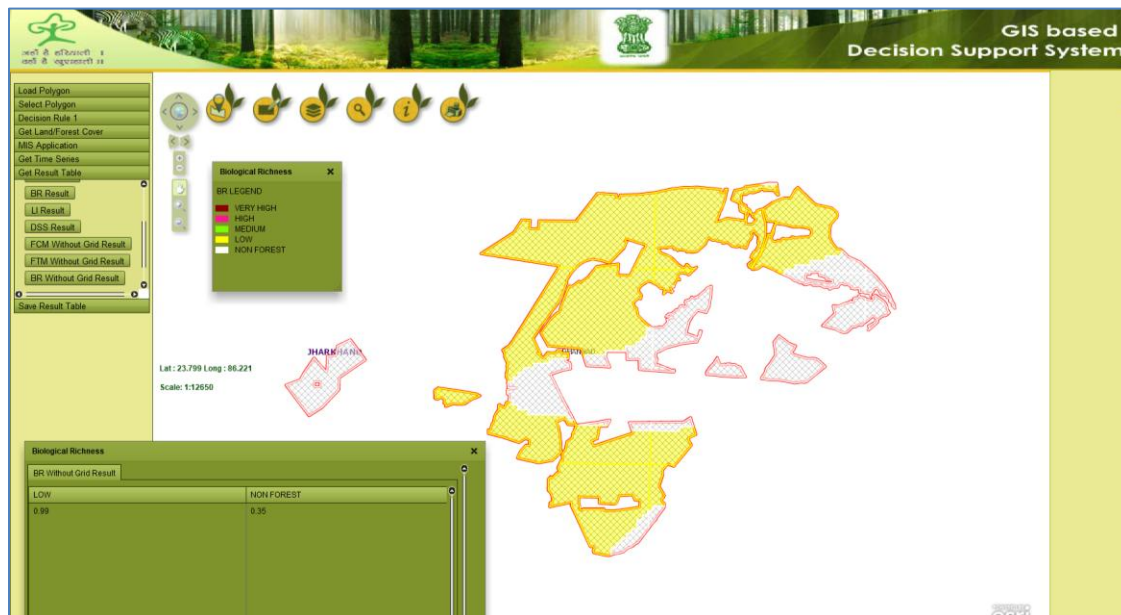
- I. Very Dense Forest (Canopy density 70% & above): 0.00 ha.
- II. Moderately dense Forest (canopy density 40-70%): 0.00 ha.
- III. Open Forest (canopy density 10-40%): 5 ha.
- IV. Non-Forest land: 129 ha.



Forest Type Map: Non-Forest: 133 ha



Biological Richness: Low: 99 ha and Non-forest: 35 ha



Submitted please

Prashant Tiwari
Sr.T.A., DSS Cell (FC)
24.09.2025