

Site inspection report in respect to proposal for non-forestry use of 76.17 ha Reserved Forest land under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam (VSSA), 1980, located in villages Malharpeth, Sonaichiwadi, Marulhaveli and Girewadi, Taluka Patan, District Satara for rehabilitation of Village Kolane, Taluka Patan, District Satara from the Chandoli National Park area of the Sahyadri Tiger Reserve. (Online Proposal No.FP/MH/REHAB/149807/2021).

Name of the Inspecting Officer: Shri Vijay Sahebrao Kanthale, Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central), Regional Office (RO), Nagpur

Date of Inspection: 3rd July 2025.

Officials present from the State Forest Department:

- (i) Shri Rajesh Nalawade, Range Forest Officer (Territorial), Patan
- (ii) Shri Arshad Mulani, Range Forest Officer (Wildlife), Helwak
- (iii) Shri Santosh Yadav, Forest Guard, Malharpeth
- (iv) Shri Megharaj Nawale, Forest Guard, Bahule

1. Legal status of the forest land proposed for diversion:

Legal status of the proposed forest is as follows:

Name of the Village	Range	Gat No.	Reserved Forest (ha)
Malhapeth	Patan	811	7.86
Girewadi	Patan	101/1	3.11
Marulhaveli	Patan	1067, 1566	13.20
Sonaichiwadi	Patan	226	52.00
Total			76.17

No non forest land involved in the proposal.

2. Item-wise break-up details of the forest land proposed for diversion.

The User Agency has furnished component wise break up of forest as follows:

Sl No.	Component	Forest Area (ha)
1	Area required for agriculture	65.60
2	Area required for houses	2.60
3	Gaothan	5.26
4	Unsuitable land	2.71
Total		76.17

During the site inspection, it was informed that 2.71 hectares of forest land demarcated as "unsuitable land" will be utilized for the development of community infrastructure. Gaothan (village) area 5.26 hectares must be used for village activities only.

3. Whether proposal involves any construction of buildings (including residential) or not. If yes, details thereof:

Yes, an area of 2.60 hectares of forest land is proposed for the construction of houses for 48 Project-Affected Persons (PAPs) from Kolane village of the Sahyadri Tiger Reserve (STR). The proposal necessarily involves the construction of residential buildings along with other essential community infrastructure.

4. Total cost of the project at present rates:

The estimated cost of the project is reported Rs.18.00 Cr.

5. Wildlife: The concerned Forest Officials reported the presence of wildlife species such as Gaur, Panther, Mouse Deer, Wild Boar, and Peacock etc in the surrounding area. However, no wildlife was sighted within the proposed area during the inspection.

Whether forest area proposed for diversion is important from wildlife point of view or not:

The forest area proposed for diversion is not expected to have any significant impact from a wildlife perspective.

6. Vegetation:

The vegetation density has been reported as Eco Class-III with canopy density is 0.3, which is found to be correct.

(a) Total number of trees to be felled:

The project involves the felling of a total of 13,779 trees. The girth-wise abstract is as follows:

Girth Class (cm)	0-30	31-60	61-90	91-120	121-150	>150	Total
No. of trees	5310	7456	863	109	31	10	13779

Important species: Teak, Ain, Khair, Gliricidia, Nilgiri, Dhavada, Sisu etc.

(b) Effect of removal of trees on the general ecosystem in the area:

Most of the trees in the proposed area have a girth of less than 60 cm (12,766 in number); however, their removal will inevitably have an impact on the general ecosystem of the area.

7. Background Note on the proposal

Sahyadri Tiger Reserve (STR) is the first Tiger Reserve in Western Maharashtra and the fourth in the State. It spans an area of 1165.57 sq. kms, encompassing two protected areas: Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary (WLS) and Chandoli National Park (NP), along with their adjoining areas. STR is situated

in the Sahyadri Ranges of the Western Ghats of Maharashtra. Declared a Tiger Reserve on 05-01-2010, it represents the northernmost tiger habitat in the Western Ghats.

The STR is highly significant for conservation due to its unparalleled biodiversity and endemism of flora and fauna species. Consequently, it forms part of a recognised Biodiversity Hotspot. Moreover, it is one of the World Heritage Sites from the Western Ghats, as declared by UNESCO. Koyna WLS has been designated as an "Important Bird Area" by Birdlife International, and the forest near Navja village is declared a "Medicinal Plant Conservation Area" by FRLHT, Bangalore. These areas feature rich evergreen, semi-evergreen, and moist deciduous forests.

The area is spread across four districts: Satara (Mahabaleshwar, Medha, Satara, and Patan Tahsils), Sangli (Shirala Tahsil), Kolhapur (Shahuwadi Tahsil), and Ratnagiri (Sangameshwar, Khed Tahsils).

Protected Areas in STR

Name of Protected Area	Core Area (Sq. Km)	Buffer Area (Sq. Km)	Total Area (Sq. Km)
Chandoli National Park	313.84	3.83	317.67
Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary	286.28	123.27	423.55
Area Outside PA	-	424.34	424.34
STR Total Area	600.12	565.45	1165.57

Details of Rehabilitation of Kolane Village:

The Collector, Satara, prepared a Sankalan Register for 79 project-affected persons (PAPs) from Kolane Village, comprising 76 landholders and 3 landless individuals.

- Seven PAPs consented to Option-I, involving a ₹10 lakh package.
- The remaining 72 PAPs consented to Option-II, which involves a land-to-land and Gaonthan (village site) rehabilitation package.

The 72 PAPs opting for Option-II are divided into two groups:

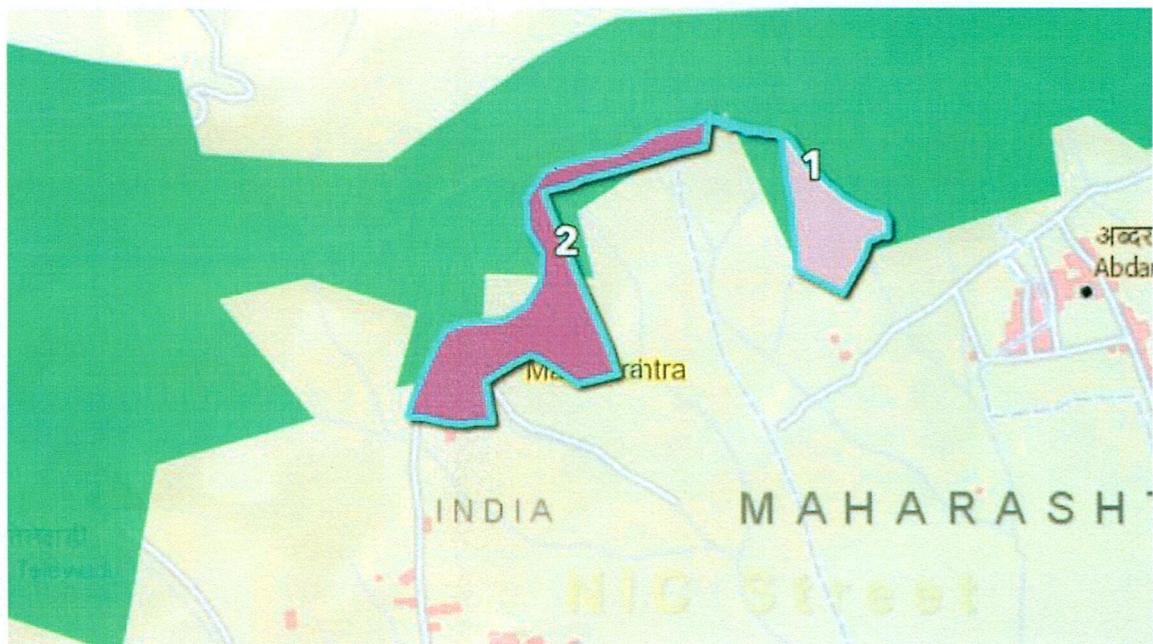
1. **First Group (24 PAPs):** 24 PAPs are willing to relocate in district Sangli & a separate online proposal submitted vide proposal No.FP/MH/REHAB/499126/2024, which is at present accepted in PSC-I.

2. **Second Group (48 PAPs):** 48 PAPs are accorded their consent to relocate in district Satra and selected four patches of forest land in Patan Tahsil, District Satara: 07.86 ha of Gat no. 811 in Village Malharpeth, 52.00 ha of Gat no. 226 in Village Sonaichiwadi, 10.49 ha of Gat no. 1067 and 2.71 ha of Gat no. 1566 in Village Marul Haveli, and 3.11 ha of Gat no. 101/1 in Village Girewadi under the present proposal.

Therefore, the proposal for the diversion of 76.17 ha. of Reserved Forest land from Gat no. 811 of Malharpeth, Gat no. 226 of Sonaichiwadi, Gat no. 1067 and 1566 of Marul Haveli, and Gat no. 101/1 of Girewadi, Taluka Patan, Satara Forest Division, has been submitted.

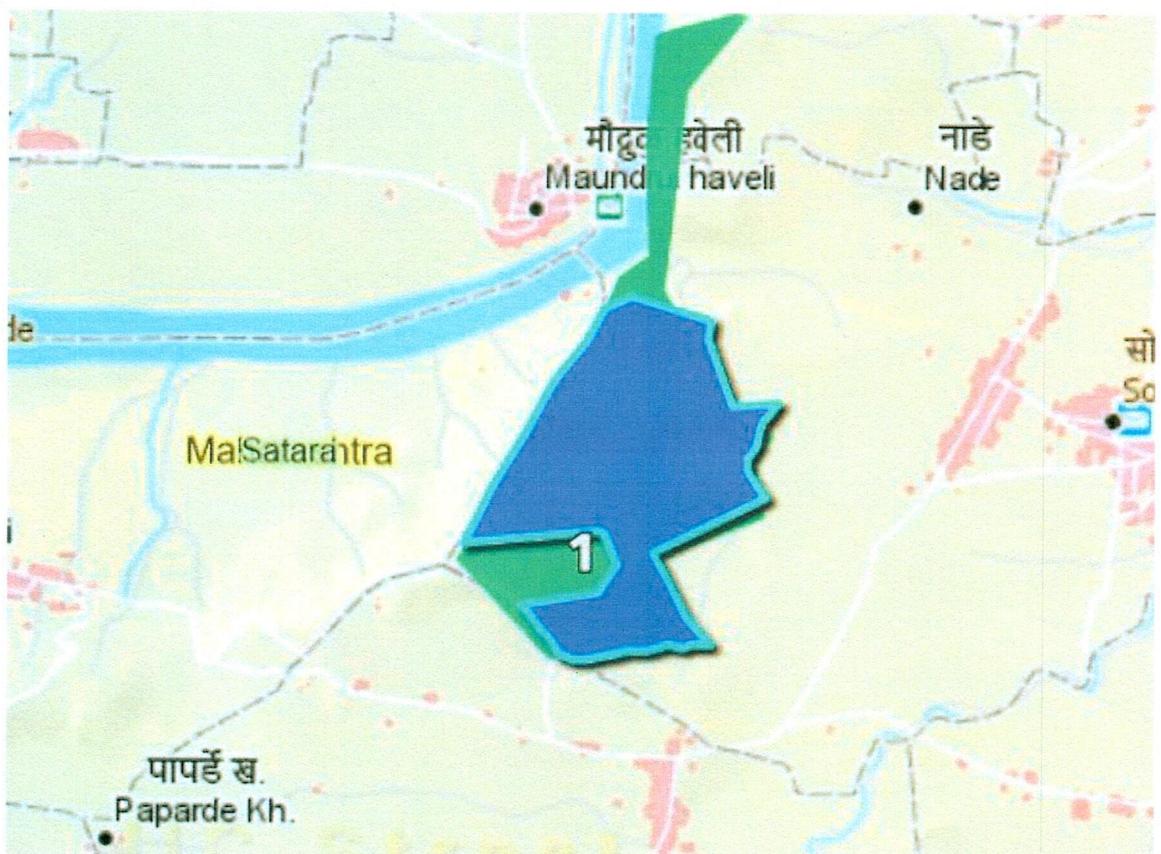
Location of the proposed sites are as follows:

i) **Village- Malharpeth, Area 7.86 (left side), Village- Girewadi, Area 3.11 ha (right side):**



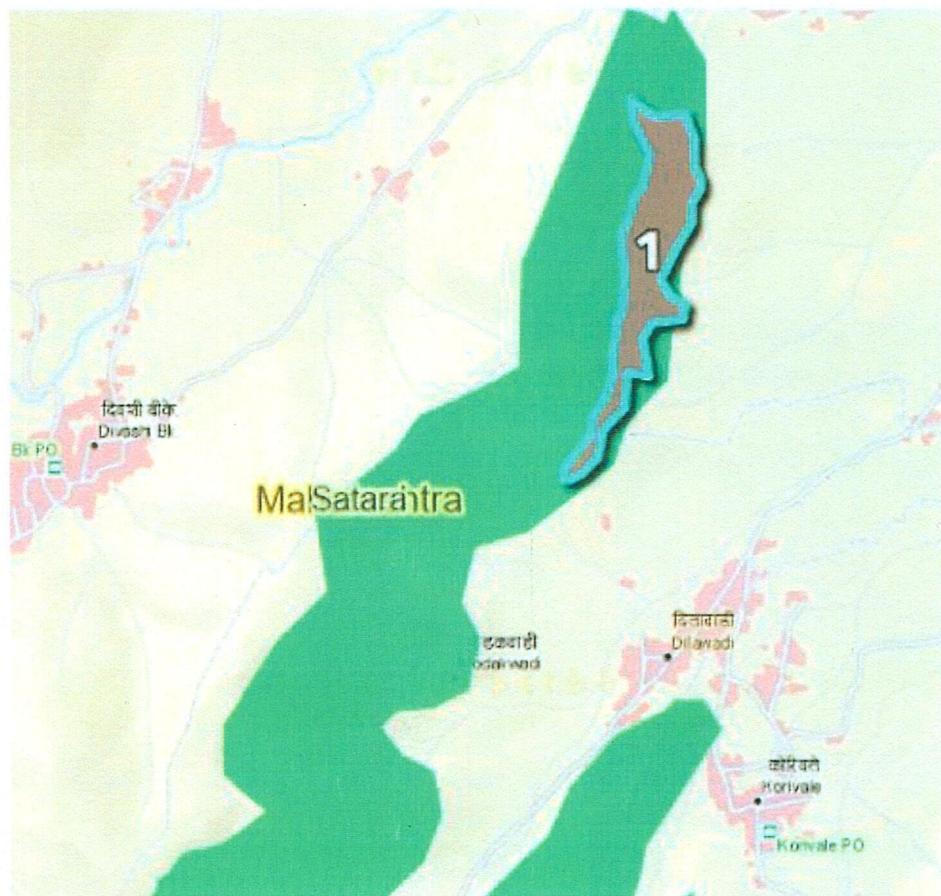
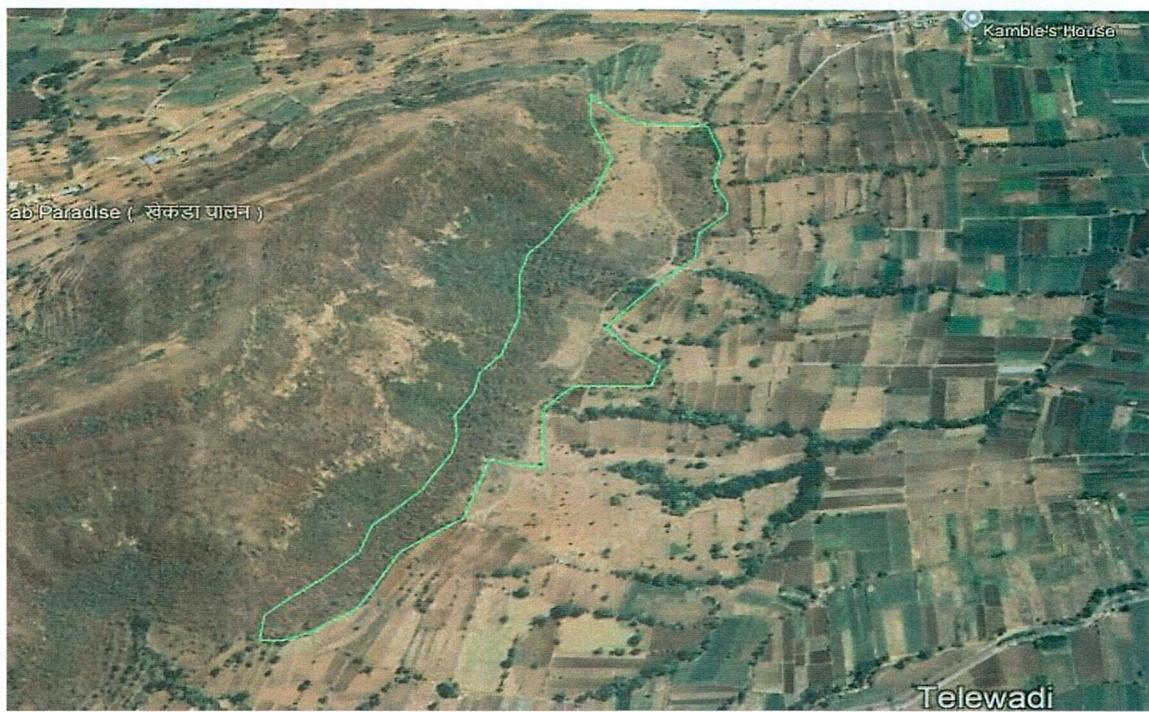
Location of the proposed forest area in respect to notified RF

ii) Village- Sonaichiwadi, Area 52.0 ha:



Location of the proposed forest area in respect to notified RF

iii) Village- Marul Haveli, Area 13.2 ha:



Location of the proposed forest area in respect to notified RF

8. Compensatory afforestation: Not Applicable as per the para 12.9(h) of the consolidated guidelines issued under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

(a) Whether land for compensatory afforestation is suitable from plantation and management point of view or not:

Not Applicable

(b) Whether land for compensatory afforestation is free from encroachment/other encumbrances:

Not Applicable.

(c) Whether land for compensatory afforestation is important from Religious/Archaeological point of view:

Not Applicable.

(d) Land identified for raising compensatory afforestation is in how many patches, whether patches are compact or not:

Not Applicable.

(e) Total financial outlay:

Not Applicable.

9. Whether proposal involves violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 or not. If yes, a detailed report on violation including action taken against the concerned officials:

The proposal does not involve violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

10. Whether proposal involves rehabilitation of displaced persons. If yes, whether rehabilitation plan has been prepared by the State Government or not:

Not Applicable.

11. Reclamation Plan:

Not Applicable.

12. Details on catchment and command area under the project:

Not Applicable.

Catchment area treatment plan to prevent siltation of reservoir:

Not Applicable

13. Cost Benefit Ratio:

Not submitted.

14. Recommendations of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/State Government:

The Forest Department, Government of Maharashtra has recommended the proposal for disforestation of area 76.17 ha Reserved Forest of village Malharpeth, Sonaichiwadi, Marulhaveli & Girewadi, Taluk Patan for rehabilitation of village Kolane, Taluk Patan, District Satara from Chandoli National Park of Sahyadri Tiger Reserve.

15. Dy. Director General of Forests (Central) shall give detailed comments on whether there are any alternative routes/alignment for locating the project on the non-forest land:

Attached separately.

16. Utility of the project:

The rehabilitation of Kolane village will result in the addition of a total of 88.36 hectares of land to Chandoli National Park under the Sahyadri Tiger Reserve. Relocation of the village from the core area of the Tiger Reserve will eliminate human disturbance within the core zone, thereby strengthening wildlife conservation efforts. Furthermore, the residents of the core area currently face significant hardships and are deprived of basic civic amenities, including transport facilities. These issues will be effectively addressed through the relocation of the village outside the core area.

17. (a) Whether land being diverted has any socio-cultural/ religious value:

No such features were reported within the proposed forest land.

(b) Whether any sacred grove or very old growth trees/forests exist in the areas proposed for diversion:

Not reported.

(c) Whether the land under diversion forms part of any unique eco-system:

Not reported.

18. Situation with respect to any Protected Area:

The forest area proposed for diversion does not form part of any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Elephant Corridors, Tiger Reserve etc. It was also reported

that the proposed forest area does not come under eco-sensitive zone of any protected area.

19. Any other information relating to the project:

- i) Based on the spatial overlay analysis of the KML data, the proposed site is located approximately 20–30 km away from the boundary of the Sahyadri Tiger Reserve. The proposed patches do not fall within high-value wildlife corridors or core high-risk fragmentation zones. Instead, they are situated along the fringe of the Reserved Forest, representing peripheral forest land rather than critical habitat connectivity areas.



- ii) As per the Google Earth Imagery and field observations during the site inspection, the proposed rehabilitation area has adequate connectivity in terms of road networks and electricity supply.
- iii) It was informed that upon completion of the rehabilitation of Kolane village, an area of 237.195 hectares of non-forest land will be made available to the Forest Department, and 248.454 hectares of forest land will be freed from human occupation under Chandoli National Park of the Sahyadri Tiger Reserve.
- iv) It is informed that following plantation work has been carried out in the past over on forest land which is proposed for rehabilitation:

Village	Gat No.	Plantation Area (ha)	Plantation Year	Scheme
Malharpeth	811	5.00	2018-19	DPDC
Girewadi	101/1	2.00	2017-18	State Plan
Marulhaveli	1067, 1566	10.00	2019-20	DPDC
Sonaichiwadi	226	25.00	2011-12	DPDC
Total		42.00		

v) During the site visit, it was informed that 76.17 ha of Reserved Forest has been identified at three separate patches rather than a single contiguous patch due to agricultural suitability considerations. The three patches were found suitable for the following reasons:

- Terrain is completely levelled
- Located near water canal
- Having better soil depth
- Having better road connectivity
- Better employment chances due to vicinity of Karad City

vi) During the site visit, it was observed that the concerned Collector has already conducted enquiries into the rights and concessions of the inhabitants and has ascertained the willingness of the people for relocation from Chandoli National Park, in accordance with the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and the Maharashtra Land Revenue Code, 1966. It was further informed that some villages have already been relocated by the Irrigation Department and the Forest Department, while certain villages are currently under enquiry and others are yet to be relocated by the Forest Department.

Recommendation of the Site Inspecting Officer:

Considering the fact that the project will result in the elimination of human disturbance from the core zone of the Sahyadri Tiger Reserve, significantly strengthen wildlife conservation and restore substantial areas of forest and non-forest land for management by the Forest Department, the proposal for diversion of 76.17 hectares of Reserved Forest land located in villages Malharpeth, Sonaichiwadi, Marulhaveli and Girewadi, Taluka Patan, District Satara for rehabilitation of Kolane village, Taluka Patan, District Satara from the Chandoli National Park area of the Sahyadri Tiger Reserve may be considered, subject to the following specific conditions:

- i. The State Government shall ensure that the altered boundary of the forest area, subsequent to the approval of this proposal, is properly demarcated and boundary pillars are installed and fenced at prior to handing over the site to the beneficiaries.
- ii. As the State Government submitted several such rehabilitation proposals to the GoI in the PARIVESH portal it shall ensure that strict compliance with Paragraph 12.8(g) of the Consolidated Guidelines and Clarifications issued under the VSSA, 1980.
- iii. The State Government shall ensure that the 84.12 hectares of forest area vacated by the 48 Project-Affected Persons (PAPs) of Kolane village is rendered completely inviolate with no families remaining within the area for further relocation. The area made available as inviolate consequent to the relocation of Kolane village shall be exclusively utilized for wildlife conservation purposes. The State Government shall

also take effective measures to ensure that the relocated villagers do not re-enter or resettle in the vacated area.

iv. The State Government shall ensure that the land vacated within the Sahyadri Tiger Reserve as a result of the relocation of Kolane village is developed and managed strictly in accordance with the approved Wildlife Management Plan and the guidelines issued by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).

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(Shri Vijay Sahebrao Kanthale)
AIGF (Central)
Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Nagpur

Attachments

Field Photos



CERTIFICATE

Non Availability of non forest land – Certificate of Collector

This is to certify that no suitable alternate non forest land (Gairan, Revenue) is available for rehabilitation of Village Deur (46.06 H-R) Vele (191.04 H-R) of Javali Tahasil and Male (227.90 H-R) Kolane (103.00 H-R) Patharpunj (182.00 H-R) of Patan Tahasil. Total 750.00 H-R non forest land is required for rehabilitation of above five villages which is not available in any command area of irrigation projects in Satara district.

Place : Satara
Date : 18/02/2022.




(Shekhar Singh)
COLLECTOR SATARA

Copy to - Deputy Conservator of Forest, Satara Forest Division, Satara.

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FORESTS
(CENTRAL) FOR PROPOSAL NO.FP/MH/REHAB/149807/2021**

The proposal seeks diversion of 76.17 ha of Reserved Forest land located in villages Malharpeth, Sonaichiwadi, Marulhaveli and Girewadi, Taluka Patan, District Satara, for non-forestry use for the rehabilitation of Village Kolane, Taluka Patan, District Satara, from the Chandoli National Park area of the Sahyadri Tiger Reserve.

Shri Vijay Sahebrao Kanthale, AIGF (C), Regional Office, Nagpur, MoEF&CC, conducted the site inspection on 03-07-2025. I agree with the observations recorded in the Site Inspection Report (SIR).

Based on the recommendation of the State Government and considering its significant contribution to wildlife conservation in the Sahyadri Tiger Reserve, the proposal is recommended, subject to the following conditions:

- i) The State Government shall ensure that the altered boundary of the forest area, subsequent to approval of this proposal, is properly demarcated, with boundary pillars installed and the area duly fenced before handing over the site to the beneficiaries.
- ii) As the State Government has submitted several such rehabilitation proposals to the Government of India through the PARIVESH portal, it shall ensure strict compliance with Paragraph 12.8(g) of the Consolidated Guidelines and Clarifications issued under the VSSA, 1980.
- iii) The State Government shall ensure that the 84.12 ha of forest area vacated by the 48 Project-Affected Persons (PAPs) of Kolane village is rendered completely inviolate, with no families remaining within the area for further relocation. The area made available as inviolate consequent to the relocation of Kolane village shall be used exclusively for wildlife conservation purposes. The State Government shall also take effective measures to ensure that the relocated villagers do not re-enter or resettle in the vacated area.
- iv) The State Government shall ensure that the land vacated within the Sahyadri Tiger Reserve as a result of the relocation of Kolane village is developed and managed strictly in accordance with the approved Wildlife Management Plan and the guidelines issued by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).

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Dy. Director General of Forests (Central)