File No: 8-22/2022-FC (E-187584)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)
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Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road
New Delhi- 110003
Dated: 16-02-2026

To
The Principal Secretary (Forests)
Government of Maharashtra
Mumbai.

Subject: 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 63.091 ha forest land at Village -Kagal, Taluka-Kagal, District Kolhapur for rehabilitation of Village Nivale in Chandoli Wildlife Sanctuary, Maharashtra State (Online No. FP/MH/REHAB/121398/2021) - regarding.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Maharashtra's letter dated 08.12.2025 on the above mentioned subject and to say that the proposal was examined the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) and the comments of NTCA in the matter is as follows:

i. *In pursuant to clarification from the Hon'ble Supreme Court based on the Central Empowered Committee's report, NTCA had directed that voluntary rehabilitation on forest land must prioritize degraded/unrecoverable forest areas and include change of legal status to revenue land. The present proposal, involving dense forest patches, appears inconsistent with the spirit of the said directions.*
ii. *Further, the proposal involves felling of 34,705 trees over 63 ha. Further other relocation proposals for villages are under consideration in the same landscape, cumulatively leading to felling of nearly 1,15,000 trees and raising concerns of habitat fragmentation and landscape-level impacts.*
iii. *While voluntary relocation from core areas is supported, diversion of such forest land requires comprehensive justification, cumulative impact assessment, and exploration of less damaging alternatives before consideration. Moreover , the said village has already seen relocated from the critical tiger reserve once and its not desirable to undertake village relocation of an already relocated village .*
iv. *Accordingly, the proposal is not recommended.*

4. The above comments may be examined by the State Government for further necessary action.

Yours faithfully,

Digitally signed by
Raja Ram Singh
Date: 16-02-2026
18:46:42

Sd/-
(Raja Ram Singh)
Deputy Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:-

1. PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest, Government of Maharashtra, Mumbai.
2. DDGF (Central), MoEF&CC's Regional Office, at Nagpur.
3. APCCF–cum-Nodal Officer, Government of Maharashtra, Mumbai.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi for uploading.