

RECOMMENDATION OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FORESTS
(CENTRAL) FOR PROPOSAL NO.FP/OR/DISP/148081/2021

The proposal seeks the ex post facto approval for diversion of 23.714 ha of forest land for the construction of Pandit Raghunath Murmu Medical College and Hospital at Rangamatia under Baripada Forest Division, in Mayurbhanj District, Odisha.

Shri Sujoy Dutta, Assistant Commissioner (Forestry), Sub-Office Kolkata, Regional Office Bhubaneswar, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), conducted a site inspection on 05.12.2025. The observations recorded in the Site Inspection Report (SIR) have been examined and are concurred with.

Based on the recommendation of the State Government and considering the public utility nature of the project, the proposal is recommended for approval subject to the following conditions:

1. Penal Compensatory Afforestation shall be imposed by the Ministry for the violation over 23.714 ha of revenue forest land, in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Ministry vide Letter No. FC-11/126/2024-FC dated 21.01.2026.
2. The State Government shall initiate necessary action in respect of any violations of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, in accordance with Sections 3A and 3B of the Act, and Paragraph 1.16(i)(a) and (b) of the Consolidated Guidelines issued under the allied rules.
3. The Compensatory Afforestation (CA) site shall be made free from all encroachments prior to the commencement of plantation activities. The site shall also be adequately fenced to ensure protection of the plantation and to prevent any unauthorized access or future encroachments.

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(Dr. S. Senthil Kumar)

Dy. Director General of Forests (Central)

Site inspection report in respect of the proposal for ex-post-facto approval for diversion of 23.714 ha of forest land for construction of Pandit Raghunath Murmu Medical College and Hospital in Rangamatia, under Baripada Forest Division in Mayurbhanj district of Odisha. (Online Proposal No.FP/OR/DISP/148081 /2021).

Name of the Inspecting Officer: Sujoy Dutta, Assistant Commissioner (F), Sub Office at Kolkata, Regional Office Bhubaneswar, MoEF&CC

Date of Inspection: 5th December 2025.

Officials present from the State Forest Department:

- (i) Sk.Meherban Ali, ACF, Baripada Forest Division

Officials present from the User Agency:

- (i) Prof (Dr.). Prativa Panda, Dean & Principal, Pandit Raghunath Murmu Medical College and Hospital, Rangamatia

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

Legal status of the proposed forest is as follows:

| Name of the Tahasil | Revenue Forest (ha) | | Total Forest (ha) |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| | Hal Record | Sabik | |
| Sankhabhanga | - | 0.989 | 0.989 |
| Rangamatia | 0.223 | 22.502 | 22.725 |
| Total | 0.223 | 23.491 | 23.714 |

Total 23.714 ha Revenue Forest 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 & Non-forest land as follows:

| Sl No. | Component | Forest Area (ha) |
|--------|----------------------|------------------|
| 1 | Administrative Block | 0.241 |
| 2 | Departmental Block | 0.2317 |
| 3 | Auditorium Hall | 0.1774 |
| 4 | Autopsy Block | 0.0648 |
| 5 | Security Cabin | 0.0175 |
| 6 | Service Building | 0.0296 |
| 7 | Animal House | 0.0206 |
| 8 | Gymnasium | 0.0102 |
| 9 | Boys Hostel | 0.1109 |
| 10 | Girls Hostel | 0.0625 |
| 11 | Interns Hostel | 0.0567 |

| | | |
|--------------|----------------------------------|---------------|
| 12 | Resident Doctors Hostel | 0.0808 |
| 13 | Teaching Staff Qtr (4R) | 0.0728 |
| 14 | Teaching Staff Qtr (3R) | 0.0516 |
| 15 | Non teaching Staff Qtr (2R) | 0.0527 |
| 16 | Teaching Hospital (650 Bedded) | 1.012 |
| 17 | Mortuary Block | 0.133 |
| 18 | ESS Block | 0.102 |
| 19 | Nurse Hostel | 0.046937 |
| 20 | NTS (1 BHK Unit) | 0.055333 |
| 21 | New Girls Hostel | 0.145449 |
| 22 | New Multiutility Block | 0.063094 |
| 23 | Play Field | 0.737105 |
| 24 | Parking Pocket | 1.83474 |
| 25 | Approach Road to Teaching Hostel | 1.602555 |
| 26 | Ahara Centre | 0.09 |
| 27 | Attendants Rest Shed | 0.109832 |
| 28 | Oxygen Plant | 0.125 |
| 29 | Green Area | 10.708655 |
| 30 | Future Extension | 1.158935 |
| 31 | Internal Road | 3.65071 |
| 32 | Private vehicle parking pocket | 0.515064 |
| 33 | Campus Medicine Store Complex | 0.342791 |
| Total | | 23.714 |

No non-forest land involved in the project.

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

Yes, most of the project components pertain to the construction of buildings, which constitute essential infrastructure for the functioning of the Medical College and Hospital. Residential components such as hostels and staff quarters have already been constructed within the proposed forest area, and these also form integral and essential parts of the Medical College and Hospital project.

4. Total cost of the project at present rates:

The estimated cost of the project is reported Rs.243.77 Cr.

5. Wildlife: During the site visit, no direct presence of wildlife was observed within the proposed project area, which is already demarcated by a medium-height boundary wall. However, as reported by the concerned forest officials and local sources, fauna such as mongoose, snakes, lizards and monkeys are known to occur in the proposed forest area.

Further, movement of elephants has been reported in the nearest Jamsore Reserved Forest, located at an approximate distance of 0.5 km from the project site.

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

At present, the proposed forest area does not form part of any known habitat of important wildlife species and is not contiguous with any notified forest or forest-like patch.

6. Vegetation:

The vegetation density has been reported as Eco-value Class-I with a canopy density of 0.3; however, the same appears to be higher than the existing vegetation density observed at the site.

(a) Total number of trees to be felled:

As reported, 353 numbers of trees were jointly enumerated by the Forest Department, Revenue authorities, and the User Agency. Since the construction activity has already been completed, no tree felling is proposed at present.

Important species: Teak, Acacia, Mahaneem, Baula etc.

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

At present it does not arise.

7. Background Note on the proposal

The Principal Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of Odisha had intended to establish a new Government Medical College and requested the District Collectorate Office in the year 2013 to identify the land within the premises of District Headquarter Hospital and in case of non-availability, within 10 Km radius of District Headquarter Hospital to cater the health need of the people. Accordingly, Tahasildar, Baripada had allotted a land of 21.02 acre at Rangamatla vide letter dated 30.10.2014 for the proposed Medical College. The Commissioner-cum-Secretary of Health & Family Welfare Department, Odisha vide DO letter dated 17.11.2014 had requested to hand over the identified land to H & FW Department, Odisha as the Chief Engineer (Building) had already floated tender for construction of New College and the construction work to commence from January 2015.

The sabik kism of the proposed land was jungle in the Sabik Settlement RoR and in the Hal RoR which was published on 29.03.1986, the kism was Asu/ Bagayat.

The alienation case record 02/2014 was initiated by the Tahasildar, Baripada on the basis of the circular issued by Revenue & Disaster Management Department, Odisha vide letter dated 23.11.2013, which clarifies that "If RoR prepared under the statute does not recognize land as

forest, the same may be treated as non-forest land. So long the entry of Hal RoR as non-forest land stands good, the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 will not be applicable to those lands.” At the time of submission of alienation case record to RDC(CD), Cuttack the revised guidelines was issued by the Chief Secretary vide letter dated 12.02.2015 in which it was clarified that the status of land classified as Forest as on 25.10.1980 is to be diverted for non-forest use following due procedure.

The Principal Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department vide letter dated 22.12.2015 addressed to Collector, Mayurbhanj, requested that *this new Medical College being a flagship programme of State Government, the Hon’ble Chief Minister wants timely completion to address the long standing shortage of Doctor in the State. Construction of New Medical College is going on full swing and scheduled for completion by February 2017. He further requested to ensure availability of Ac 20.00 dec of land closed to construction site to accommodate keeping in view of the future expansion of the Medical College.*

In line of the instruction issued mentioned above, additional Ac 37.54 dec land was identified in Mouza Rangamatia and Sankhabhanga for New Medical College and accordingly, diversion proposal for Ac 58.562 dec (23.714 ha) forest land was filed by the Dean & Principal, PRM Medical College Rangamatia.

The proposed area was treated as non-forest as per Hal Record of Rights and whole area has been in use since 20th March 2015. But, now the status of the land stands as Forest Kissam as on 25.10.1980 and required to be diverted for non-forestry use. Accordingly, the proposal is submitted for regularization of the proposed forest land and ex-post facto approval for diversion of the said land.

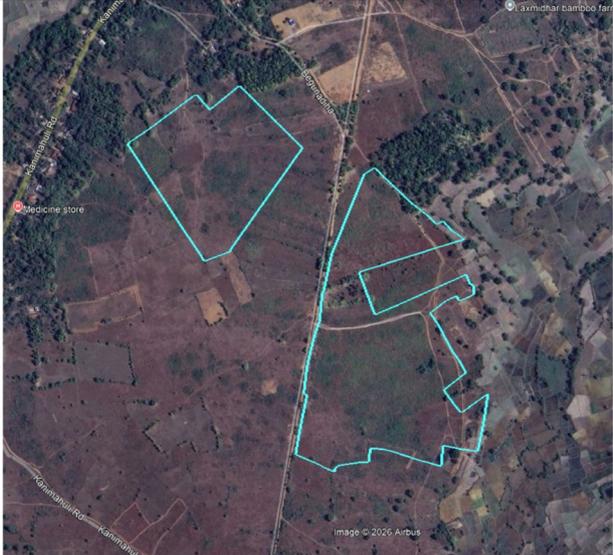
8. Compensatory afforestation: For the diversion of 23.714 ha of forest land, 48.59 ha revenue forest land (double in extent) has been identified in seven patches under Baripada Forest Division for compensatory afforestation. The details of identified CA land are given below:

| Sl No. | Mouza Name | Khata No. | Plot No. | Proposed Area (ha) | Kissam |
|--------------|-------------|-----------|----------|--------------------|---------------|
| 1 | Kadakothea | 94 | 8 | 7.167 | Gramya Jungle |
| 2 | Pathara | 193 | 1168 | 10.866 | Jungle-I |
| 3 | Purunapani | 56 | 149 | 5.075 | Jungle-II |
| 4 | Beguniadiha | 240 | 859 | 6.273 | Jungle |
| 5 | Beguniadiha | 243 | 1255 | 12.574 | Gramya Jungle |
| 6 | Daludihi | 92 | 561 | 6.641 | Jungle |
| Total | | | | 48.710 | |

The proposed CA Scheme includes Artificial Regeneration (AR) plantation @ 1600 seedlings per ha. The CA scheme also includes provision of SMC activities, solar fencing, watering with 10 years maintenance.

As per the DSS analysis, the proposed CA land is categorized as follows:

| Sl No | Village Name | Area as per kml (ha) | Forest Cover | | Observation |
|-------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------|------------|--|
| | | | O F | Non-forest | |
| 1 | Kadakothea | 7.167 | 0 | 7 |  <p>Two adjacent patches, separated by a village road, have been identified for Compensatory Afforestation (CA). The proposed CA area is also adjacent to the Protected Forest (PF). Some seasonal agricultural activity and pagdandi (footpath) have been observed within the proposed CA land. However, the land is otherwise suitable, and may be accepted for undertaking Compensatory Afforestation (CA).</p> |
| 2 | Pathara & Purunapani | 15.941 | 0 | 16 |  <p>Two adjacent patches separated by a village road have been identified for Compensatory Afforestation (CA). The identified CA area is sparsely vegetated.</p> |

| | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|------------|---|---------------------|---|
| | | | | | Some habitation is observed in a portion of the northern side of the right-side patch. The remaining portion of the land is encroachment-free and may be considered suitable and accepted for Compensatory Afforestation (CA). |
| 3 | Beguniadih a | 18.84 7 | 0 | 19 |  <p>Two adjacent patches of 6.273 ha and 12.574 ha, located at an approximate distance of 130 m from each other, have been identified for Compensatory Afforestation (CA). The identified patches are not adjacent to any recorded forest land. The area is found to be encroachment-free. A non-metalled village road is observed passing through the right-side patch; however, it does not connect any major villages. In view of the above observations, the identified CA land may be accepted for undertaking Compensatory Afforestation.</p> |
| 4 | Daludihi | 6.641 | | 6, Scru b - 1 |  |

| | | | | | |
|--|--|--------------|----------|-----------|--|
| | | | | | The proposed CA land is located near the border of West Bengal and is contiguous to the Recorded Forest of West Bengal. Some vegetation has been observed in the eastern portion of the area. Considering its proximity to the existing forest and the presence of vegetation, the land may be considered suitable and accepted for Compensatory Afforestation (CA). |
| | | Total | 1 | 58 | |
| | | | 6 | | |

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

The proposed revenue forest lands have been found suitable for undertaking AR (Artificial Regeneration) plantation at a density of 1600 seedlings per hectare. The identified patches are dominated by existing bushy vegetation. The area comprises plain terrain with good soil depth, which is conducive for plantation activities.

The identified CA area can be effectively managed as forest with proper fencing and regular monitoring.

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

In a small portion of the identified CA areas in Purunapani, some huts of local villagers have been observed. In addition, seasonal agricultural activity has been noticed in certain parts of the proposed CA land. The concerned Forest Officials informed that such seasonal activities will be discontinued and the vegetation will be cleared at the time of plantation.



Encroachments in Purunapani

It was further informed that against the diversion of 23.714 ha of forest land, 48.596 ha of revenue forest land has been proposed for Compensatory Afforestation (CA), which is more than 1.16 ha to the double extent of the proposed forest diversion area. Even after excluding the encroached portion, the remaining identified CA land is sufficient to meet the requirement of double the area of the proposed forest land diversion.

(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:

The land identified for raising Compensatory Afforestation (CA) is distributed across seven patches located within four compact sites.

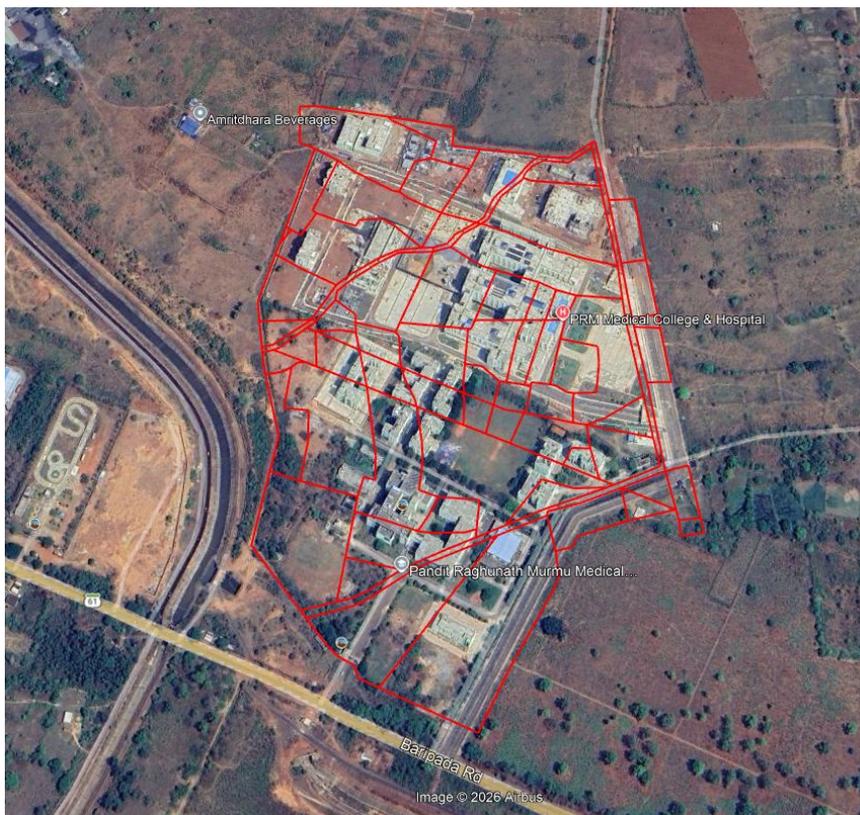
(e) Total financial outlay:

Total financial outlay of the approved proposed CA Scheme is Rs.8,10,05,400/-.

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:

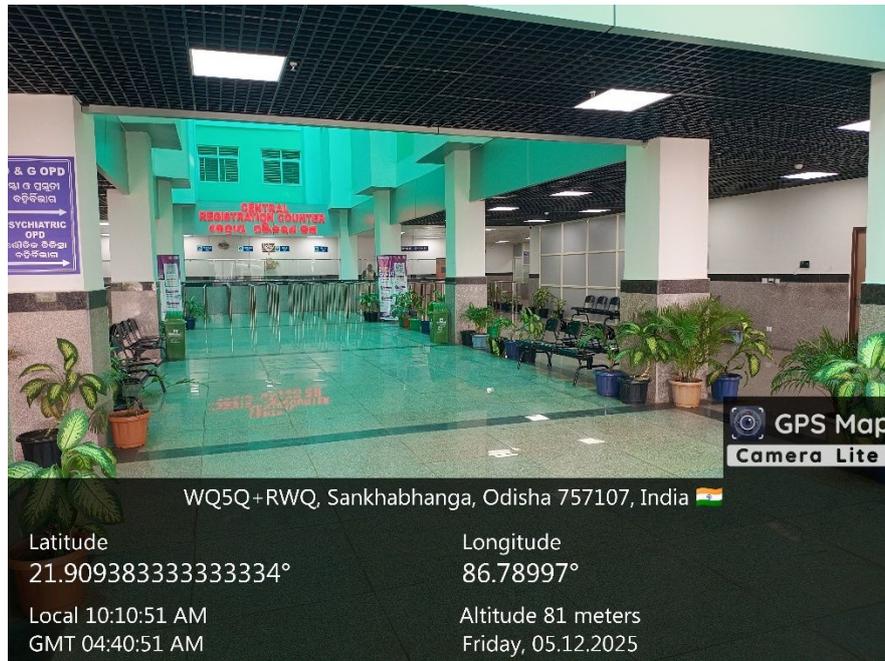
Yes, the construction of all the components of Medical College and Hospital has been already completed involving total 23.714 ha forest land. The User

Agency has used the forest land for non-forest purpose since 20.03.2015 and same has been confirmed by the time series imagery of Google Earth. The entire area protected by the boundary wall.



Google Earth Image of the proposed forest area





Pictures of the PRM Medical College & Hospital

It was informed that Show Cause Notices has been issued to the following persons:

- i) Shri Deganta Routary, OAS-I (SB), Ex-Tahasildar, Baripada vide letter No.3335/Rev dated 21.12.2023.
- ii) Shri Biskeshan Dehuri, OAS-I (SB), Ex-Sub-Collector, Baripada vide letter No.3332/Rev dated 21.12.2023.

Reply of the Show Cause Notice by the concerned also furnished by the State Forest Department.

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:

The Cost Benefit Ratio is reported 1:8.665.

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

The Forest Department, Government of Odisha has recommended the proposal for diversion of 23.714 ha of forest land for construction of Pandit Raghunath Murmu Medical College and Hospital in the district of Mayurbhanj under Baripada Forest Division.

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 establishment of the new Medical College and Hospital at Rangamatia will facilitate the training of medical students and provide healthcare facilities to a large section of the public in the surrounding area. Additionally, the establishment of the Medical College and Hospital will generate permanent/regular employment for 385 persons and temporary employment for approximately 3,72,500 persons.

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:

- The Medical College is presently in operation with an intake capacity of approximately 125 students per year. However, the hospital attached to the newly established PRM Medical College & Hospital is not yet

operational. At present, the Medical College is attached to the District Hospital, Baripada, which is located at an approximate distance of 7 km from the newly established campus, and the medical students are providing their academic and clinical services at the District Hospital. It is informed that the District Hospital is facing a shortage of space, which is affecting its capacity to adequately accommodate medical services and associated academic activities.

- It has been informed that the newly constructed hospital building, with a capacity of 650 beds, is currently lying idle. All the costly medical instruments have been installed but remain unused, and their warranty periods are likely to expire soon without any utilization. The Emergency Unit, Outpatient Department (OPD), and Inpatient Department (IPD) are fully furnished and ready to provide medical services. However, due to the non-issuance of certain statutory clearances such as Fire Safety, Hazard Safety, and Operational approvals, the hospital has not yet been made functional.

It is further informed that the issuance of these clearances is contingent upon obtaining the proposed Forest Clearance.

- It has been informed that a Medical College and Hospital are required to be located together within a single campus for the purpose of imparting medical education and providing healthcare services. Establishment of such a facility requires a large contiguous area to accommodate all necessary infrastructure and associated facilities. The selected location should also have good communication connectivity and preferably be situated near an urban centre to meet the basic needs of both the users and the general public.

In this regard, the proposed site fulfils these requirements, as it is located in close proximity to Baripada Municipality and is well connected, being situated alongside State Highway-61 (SH-61).

- Since the proposal is not site-specific, the User Agency has informed that three alternative sites were examined, but they were not found suitable for the construction of PRM Medical College & Hospital. However, it has not been clarified whether these alternative sites are located on forest land or non-forest land.
- The State Government informed that the User Agency has obtained the Environmental Clearance for the project on dated 6.08.2020.

Recommendation of the Site Inspecting Officer:

Considering the public utility of the proposal in large scale, the proposal for ex-post facto approval for diversion of 23.714 ha of revenue forest land for construction of Pandit Raghunath Murmu Medical College and Hospital

under Baripada Forest Division may be considered subject to the following specific conditions:

- i. Penal compensatory afforestation shall impose by the Ministry for violation over 23.714 ha revenue forest land as per the guidelines issued by the Ministry vide Letter No.FC-11/126/2024-FC dated 21.01.2026.
- ii. The State Government shall initiate necessary action in respect of any violations of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, in accordance with Sections 3A and 3B of the Act, and paragraph 1.16(i)(a) and (b) of the Consolidated Guidelines issued under the allied rules.
- iii. The Compensatory Afforestation (CA) site shall be made free from all encroachments prior to the commencement of any plantation activities. The site must be adequately fenced to ensure its protection and to prevent any unauthorized access or future encroachments.

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