Site Inspection Report by Regional Office, Ranchi for proposal No. FP/JH/MIN/48598/2020

The Head Office (HO) of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India, has received an online forest diversion proposal on PARIVESH 1.0 bearing Proposal No. FP/JH/MIN/48598/2020, seeking diversion of 564.9 hectares of forest land in Latehar District / Forest Division, Jharkhand, for the development of the Rajbar E&D Coal Mine in the Auranga Coalfields by M/s Tenughat Vidyut Nigam Ltd. (TVNL), a Government of Jharkhand undertaking engaged in power generation.

The Head Office, vide its letter dated 31.01.2026, requested this Regional Office to conduct a site inspection of the area proposed for diversion, as well as the area identified for Compensatory Afforestation, and to submit the Site Inspection Report (SIR) as mandated under Rule 10(4) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023.

Accordingly, the team led by the Deputy Inspector General of Forests (DIGF) of the Regional Office, Ranchi, undertook site inspection visits for preparation of the present Site Inspection Report (SIR).

Date of Inspection:
9-12/03/2026 for identified CA area
13–14/03/2026 for proposed diversion area

Name of Inspecting Officer:

- Sri Shashi Shankar, DIGF for diversion area;
- Sri Anand Prakash, Technical Officer for CA area

Name of State Officials present during the site inspection:

- Sri Pravesh Agarwal IFS, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Latehar Forest Division and his team.

Name of User Agency representatives present during the site inspection:

- Sri Rajesh Ranjan, Superintending Engineer, (TVNL),
- Sri V. Chandrabhan (General Manager) and their team

Salient features of the proposal:

M/s Tenughat Vidyut Nigam Ltd. (TVNL), a Government of Jharkhand undertaking, is engaged in power generation. It operates a 2 × 210 MW Thermal Power Plant at Lalpania, Bokaro, which is proposed to be upgraded to 2 × 660 MW in the near future.

The development of the Rajbar E&D Coal Mine is intended to supplement the additional coal requirement of the aforesaid power plant, located at an approximate distance of 160 km, and is therefore meant for captive end use.

The coal block was allotted to TVNL vide Letter/Order No. 103/19/2015/NA dated 30.06.2015 issued by the Ministry of Coal, Government of India.

The Rajbar Coal Block forms part of the larger Auranga Coalfield and is situated in Latehar district of central Jharkhand, a coal-bearing district.

The total extent of land as per coal block allocation is 1,487 ha. However, the Mining Plan, including the Mine Closure Plan, has been approved for 1,351 ha. Accordingly, for all purposes related to the TVNL Rajbar E&D Coal Mine Project, the lease area is considered as 1,351 ha.

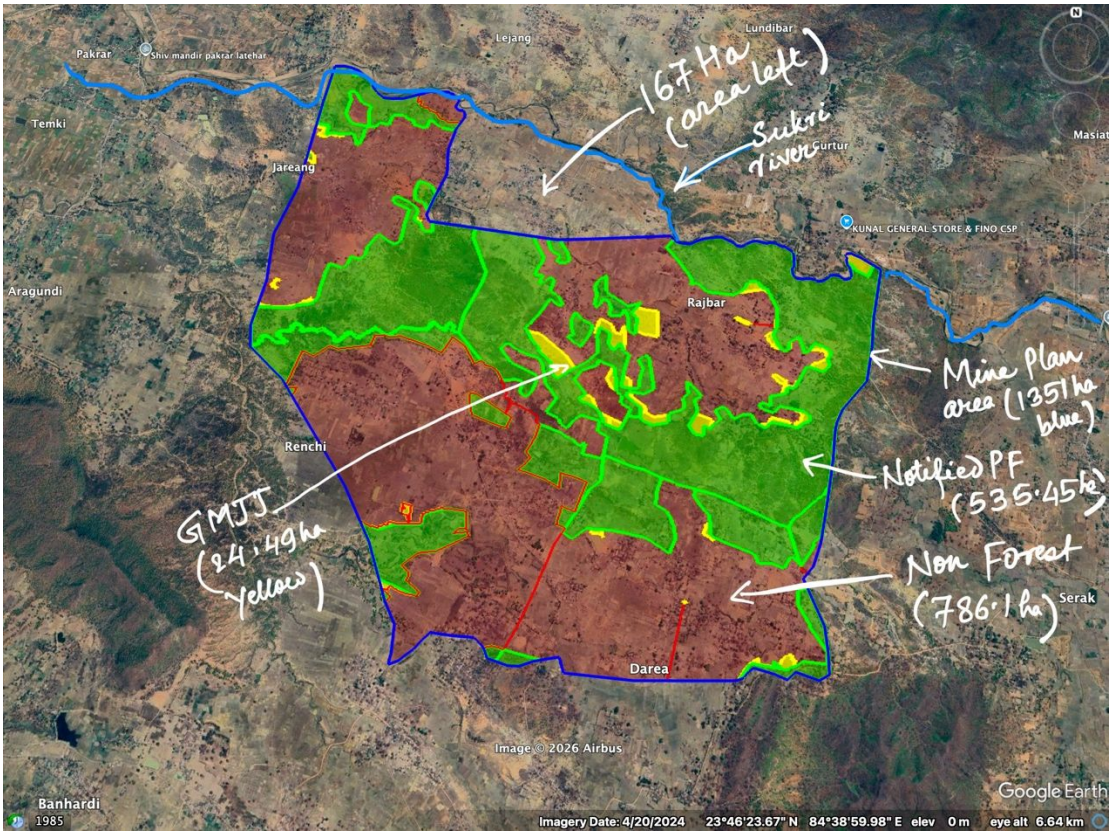
The user agency informed that 17 ha of land falls within the bed of the Sukri River and, being an ecologically fragile area, has not been considered for mining. Further, approximately 150 ha of land in Rajbar village contains a reserve of only 7.85 MT of highly metamorphosed coal of inferior quality. In view of the dense habitation over this area, mining activity therein has been considered highly unviable. Accordingly, the user agency has excluded the aforesaid 167 ha from the total allocated area of 1,487 ha and has prepared the project plan for the remaining 1,351 ha only.

The total lease area of 1,351 ha comprises 786.1 ha of non-forest land and 564.9 ha of forest land, spread across six villages, namely Lejang, Rajbar, Serak, Darea, Renchi and Jerang, involving two forest ranges, viz. Chandwa and Latehar, under the Latehar Forest Division.

The net geological reserve of the block is estimated at 706.03 MT, distributed across nine seams, of which two seams belong to the Raniganj Formation and seven seams to the Barakar Formation. Of these, two seams of the Raniganj Formation and five seams of the Barakar Formation, totalling seven seams, are proposed to be excavated through opencast mining. The remaining two seams of the Barakar Formation, located at depths exceeding 500 metres, are proposed to be exploited through underground mining.

The total mineable reserve is estimated at approximately 442 MT, of which 15–20 per cent is envisaged to be extracted through underground mining, proposed to commence after 8–9 years from the start of opencast mining operations.

The mine lease boundary, forest and non-forest areas within the lease, village boundaries, and the Sukri River are shown in the following illustrative satellite imagery: -



1. Legal Status:

As per the approved Mining Plan, the total area involved in the Rajbar E&D Coal Mine Project is 1,351 ha, comprising 786.1 ha of non-forest land and 564.9 ha of forest land.

The total forest land involved in the proposal comprises 535.45 ha of Notified Protected Forest and 29.45 ha of Jungle-Jhari (GMJJ) land under the jurisdiction of the State Forest Department and the State Revenue Department, respectively.

The detailed village-wise description of all categories of land involved is presented in the table below: -

S.No.	Village	Thana No.	Circle	Raiyti	GM Khas	GM Aam	Total GM	Forest (Notified)	GMJJ	Total Forest	Total in Ha.
1	Lejang	191	Balumath	3.13	4.03	0.00	**4.03**	0.00	0.00	**0.00**	**7.16**
2	Rajbar	195	Balumath	161.69	34.29	3.26	**37.55**	274.34	24.13	**298.47**	**497.71**
3	Serak	246	Chandwa	0.41	0.84	0.01	**0.85**	7.17	0.00	**7.17**	**8.43**
4	Darea	247	Chandwa	113.65	49.53	9.92	**59.45**	55.55	1.66	**57.20**	**230.31**
5	Renchi	248	Chandwa	177.19	67.47	13.98	**81.45**	64.35	1.51	**65.86**	**324.50**
6	Jerang	351	Latehar	86.09	55.35	5.25	**60.60**	134.04	2.15	**136.20**	**282.89**
TOTAL - In Hectare				**542.16**	211.52	32.42	**243.94**	535.45	29.45	**564.90**	**1351.00**

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

The item wise break up of forest as well as non-forest areas involved in this mining proposal is shown in the following table:

S.No.	Uses	Forest (Ha)	Non-Forest (Ha)	Total Area (Ha)
1	Excavation Area	520.36	741.64	1262.00
2	Road	4.88	6.12	11.00
3	Garland Drain	2.21	2.09	4.30
4	Embankment	5.98	3.52	9.50
5	E.T.P., Magazine & Sedimentation Tank	2.8	0	2.80
6	CHP with Coal Storage area	12.7	0	12.70
7	Safety Zone	6.84	6.43	13.27
8	Green Belting Area	4.16	11.47	15.63
9	Electrical Substation	0	2	2.00
10	Work Shop	0	2.9	2.90
11	Store	0	1.9	1.90
12	Office	0	1.9	1.90
13	Township	3.97	6.13	10.10
14	Undisturbed	1	0	1.00
Total Area - In Hectare		**564.90**	**786.10**	**1351.00**

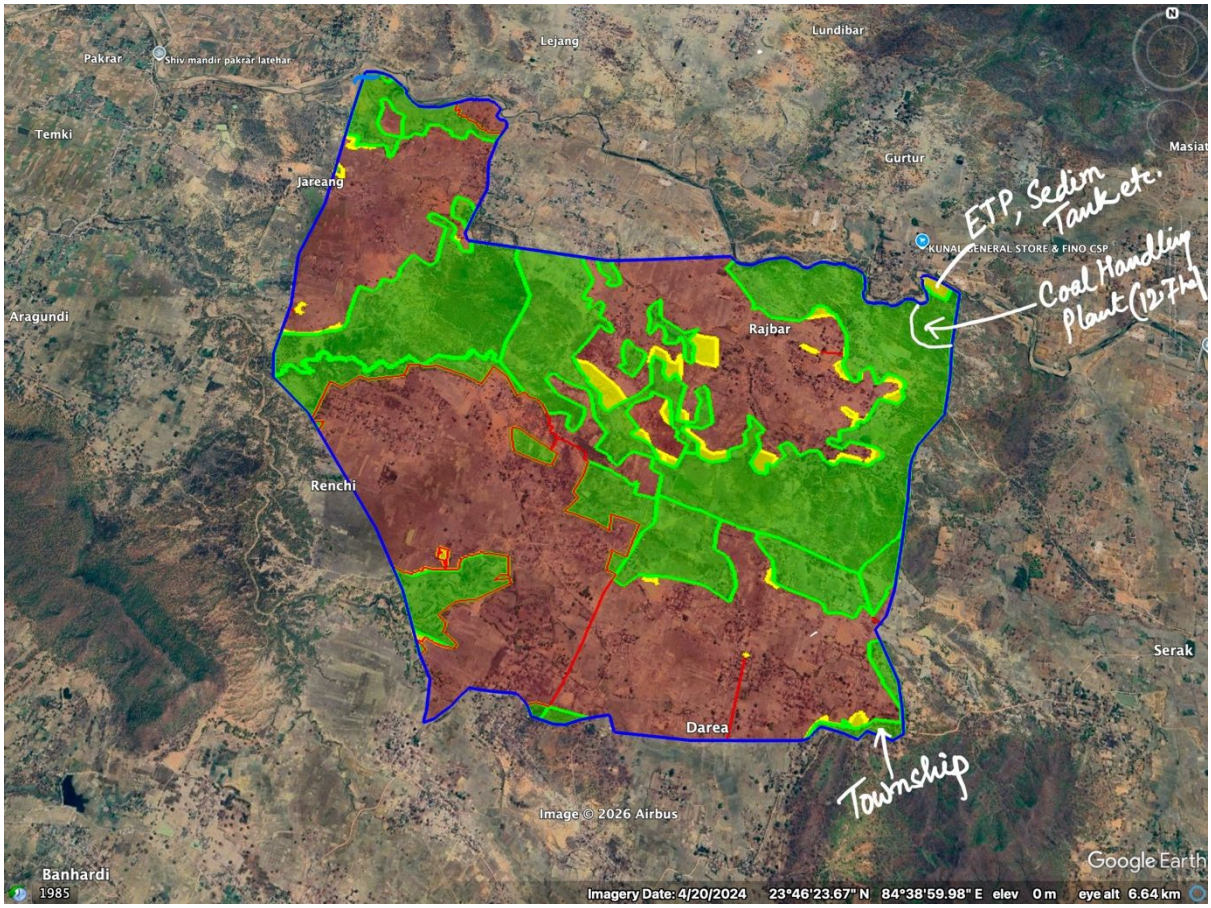
It is evident from the above table that, out of the total involved forest area of 564.9 ha, nearly 92.1 per cent is proposed for the excavation area for coal mining, which is a site-specific activity.

The inspecting team sought clarification from the representative of the user agency regarding the fact that, although 1,262 ha out of the total 1,351 ha lease area would be subjected to excavation, which is expected to generate a substantial quantity of overburden, considering the stripping ratio of 4.2 and the extensive vertical distribution of coal seams, no land appears to have been specifically earmarked for overburden (OB) dumping.

In response, the user agency informed that no additional land has been proposed for dumping of overburden, as almost the entire lease area is coal-bearing in nature and the overburden dump is proposed to be managed internally on a temporary basis. During the initial phase, the generated overburden would be dumped on adjacent coal-bearing areas designated as temporary dump yards. From the fifth year onwards, backfilling of the stored overburden would commence.

As per the approved plan, both temporary and internal dumping would continue for a period of 23 years. Thereafter, dumping would be confined only to the excavated areas for the purpose of backfilling and reclamation up to the 39th year, which is the envisaged life of the opencast mine.

Further, the inspecting team sought clarification regarding the proposal for establishment of the Coal Handling Plant (CHP), a non-site-specific ancillary activity, over 12.7 ha of forest land, and the township over 3.97 ha of forest land, as depicted in the satellite imagery below: -



The user agency informed that almost the entire area within the lease is coal-bearing, except for 31 ha, which is either non-coal-bearing or contains highly metamorphosed coal having no economic or calorific value.

The Coal Handling Plant (CHP), proposed at the north-eastern extremity of the lease boundary near the Sukri River, is planned over such non-coal-bearing forest area situated within the lease boundary. The user agency further informed the visiting team that the CHP would be crucial for the project, as it would facilitate coal evacuation through conveyor systems up to the railway siding at Chetar, located at an approximate distance of 14 km.

However, no information was furnished by the user agency regarding any additional requirement of forest land for the proposed conveyor system.

Similarly, a part of the proposed township falls within forest land along the southern boundary of the lease area. The user agency further informed the visiting team that all ancillary infrastructure, such as the substation, workshop, store, office and township, is primarily planned over non-forest land. However, a portion of the township has extended into the adjoining forest area, necessitating diversion of 3.97 ha of forest land in addition to 14 ha of non-forest land.

Accordingly, the user agency submitted that only the bare minimum and unavoidable ancillary activities have been proposed over forest land.

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

Yes, the construction of the Coal Handling Plant (CHP) is proposed over forest land. Similarly, a part of the township, which is primarily planned over non-forest land, is also proposed to be constructed over 3.97 ha of forest land.

The detailed justification furnished by the user agency for locating these constructions over forest land has already been provided in the item-wise break-up section above.

4. Total cost of the project at present rate:

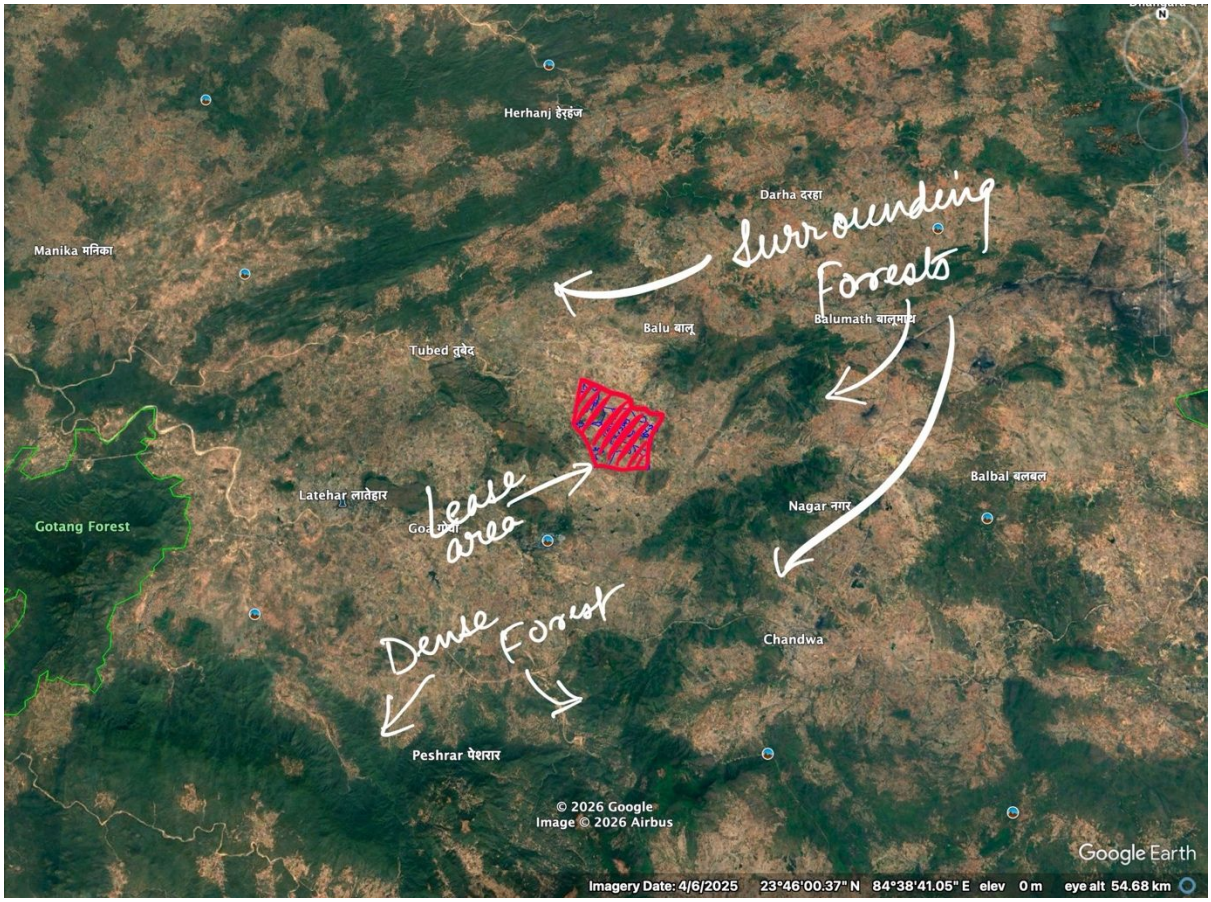
The total cost of the project as mentioned in the part-I of online application is 419.57 Crore INR. The user agency informed the visiting team that the same may be considered at present rate too.

5. Wildlife:

The forest area involved in the proposal is characterised by significant vegetation, with predominance of sal, undulating topography, and the presence of first- and second-order seasonal streams.

Several earthen ponds are also located within the forest area falling inside the lease.

Further, the site is almost entirely surrounded on all sides by dense and extensive forest areas, as depicted in the imagery below.



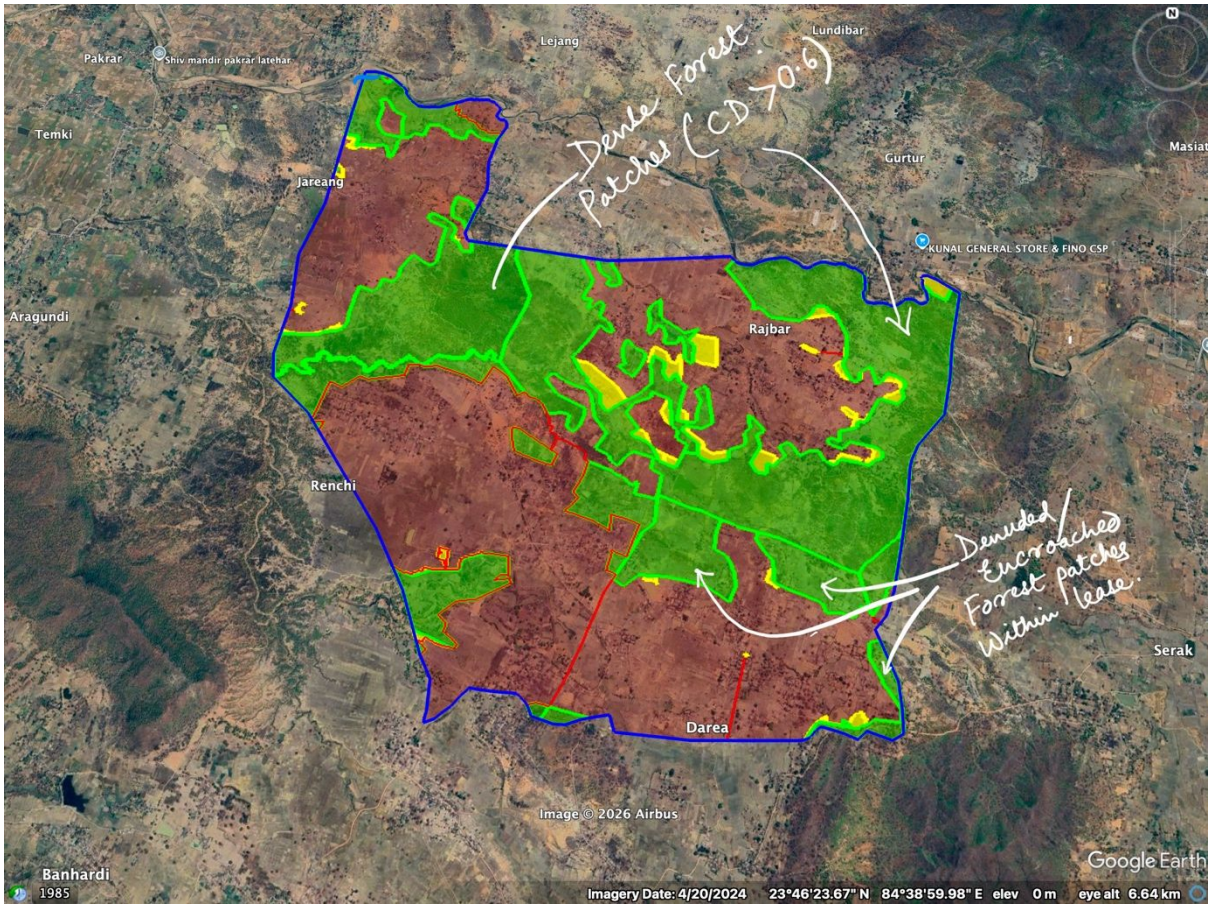
The dense forest areas shown above constitute permanent habitat for wild elephants, in addition to several other prominent wildlife species.

The forest area falling within the lease is also used as a movement corridor by wild elephants while traversing from one forest area to another. Further, owing to the availability of perennial water sources, several wildlife species such as wild boar, hyena, wild cat, jackal and barking deer are known to inhabit and thrive in the area.

Therefore, a site-specific Wildlife Management Plan shall be in place throughout the life of the mine so as to minimise the impact of mining activities on wildlife to the extent possible.

6. Vegetation:

The forest area involved in this proposal has varying vegetative density. Forests in eastern and central part of the lease have fairly dense vegetation whereas northern parts have denuded forest patches. Ocularly estimated vegetation density is presented in the imagery below.



The forest majorly belongs to Dry Deciduous type with Sal as predominant tree species. Dense patches of Sal in the undulating forests with intervening seasonal stream courses characterize the area. Such patches have good soil depth, considerably high surface and subsurface humus and thick ground litter facilitating satisfactory Sal regeneration. Several soil-moisture conservation structures were found present within forest area who contribute positively towards vegetative enrichment of the area.

Further, the forest area was found to be affected by encroachment and lopping/pollarding/felling of trees/poles.

The DFO present during the site inspection informed that few FRA certificate issuance and local community's extreme dependence on forests have contributed towards forest encroachment & tree felling. He directed the local staff to be more vigilant for forest protection.

a. Total no. of trees to be felled:

It was informed that approximately 70,000 trees, including about 50,000 sal trees, are likely to be affected by the project. Considering the vast extent of the area and the density of the existing vegetation, the reported number appears to be on the lower side.

The Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) informed that the estimate has been arrived at on the basis of sample counting rather than complete enumeration, and that the exact number of trees to be felled may be ascertained only at the time of felling. The inspecting team,

therefore, requested that complete enumeration be carried out so as to provide clear and reliable data for judicious appraisal of the proposal.

Khair, palas, sidha, mahua, etc. are other prominent tree species present in the area.

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

The removal of trees is perceived to have a highly detrimental effect on the general ecosystem. Such removal would result in the loss of habitat for diverse wildlife, including elephants and other wild species, as well as avian fauna. It would also aggravate the loss of surface and subsurface soil, thereby leading to degradation of edaphic biodiversity.

Further, the water retention capacity of the region and the associated percolation are also anticipated to reduce, which may lead to loss of soil moisture and a lowering of the groundwater table in the area, thereby adversely affecting the water budgeting of the surrounding habitations.

The removal of trees may give rise to several other tangible and intangible adverse effects; therefore, compensatory afforestation against the contemplated tree felling becomes a necessity.

7. Background Note on the proposal:

As provided earlier.

8. Compensatory Afforestation (CA):

CA plantation is proposed over 1145.42 hectares of Degraded Forest Land (DFL) (against 564.90 Ha of proposed for diversion of forest land) within the Garhwa and Bhawnathpur Forest Ranges under Garhwa North Forest Division of Garhwa district. The entire CA land is spread across twenty-five (25) sites/locations/polygon, comprising twenty (20) villages.

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

Most of the Compensatory Afforestation (CA) patches are covered with jhari/bushes, grass, and van tulsi, except for certain small rocky patches and scattered trees that are suitable for plantation.

The CA land area, as estimated using DSS, is 1,146.875 ha (software calculated). The forest cover analysis of the CA area reveals that the corresponding areas falling under Moderately Dense Forest (MDF), Open Forest, Scrub, Non-Forest, and Water are 5.00 ha, 36.00 ha, 76.00 ha, 1,028.00 ha, and 1.00 ha, respectively. Therefore, the suitable area available for plantation is 1,140.00 ha.

The proposed area for forest diversion is 564.90 ha. As the CA land is classified as Degraded Forest Land (DFL), the total area required for compensatory afforestation is 1,129.80 ha.

Based on detailed DSS analysis and geospatial observations, the suitable area identified for plantation is 1,140.00 ha, which is considered adequate for the purpose.

The detailed forest cover information of the CA land is as follows:

Forest cover information of the CA land (Area in Ha.)

Name of the CA land	Not Suitable for plantation			Suitable for plantation			Total area (Ha.)
	Water	VDF (Tree Cover: >70%)	MDF (Tree Cover: 40 - 70%)	OPEN FOREST (Tree Cover: 10 - 40%)	SCRUB (Tree Cover: <10%)	NON FOREST (Tree Cover: 0%)	
Khuretiya	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	125.00	125.00
Bahiarkhurd	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.00	12.00
Adar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	37.00	37.00
Rajbandhwa 1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	114.00	114.00
Rajbandhwa 2	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	63.00	63.00
Tenar 1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.00	25.00
Tenar 2	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	16.00	16.00
Okhargada	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	37.00	37.00
Kalyanpur & Chama	1.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	20.00	68.00	91.00
Garuasoti	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	22.00	25.00	47.00
Baghauta	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.00	0.00	54.00	59.00
Jikabukcham 1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	26.00	26.00
Jikabukcham 2	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	48.00	49.00
Pipra	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	24.00	24.00
Torelwa	0.00	0.00	4.00	27.00	0.00	10.00	41.00
Koinda	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	19.00	19.00
Baligarh 1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.00	6.00
Baligarh 2	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.00	8.00
Amarkhash 1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.00	11.00

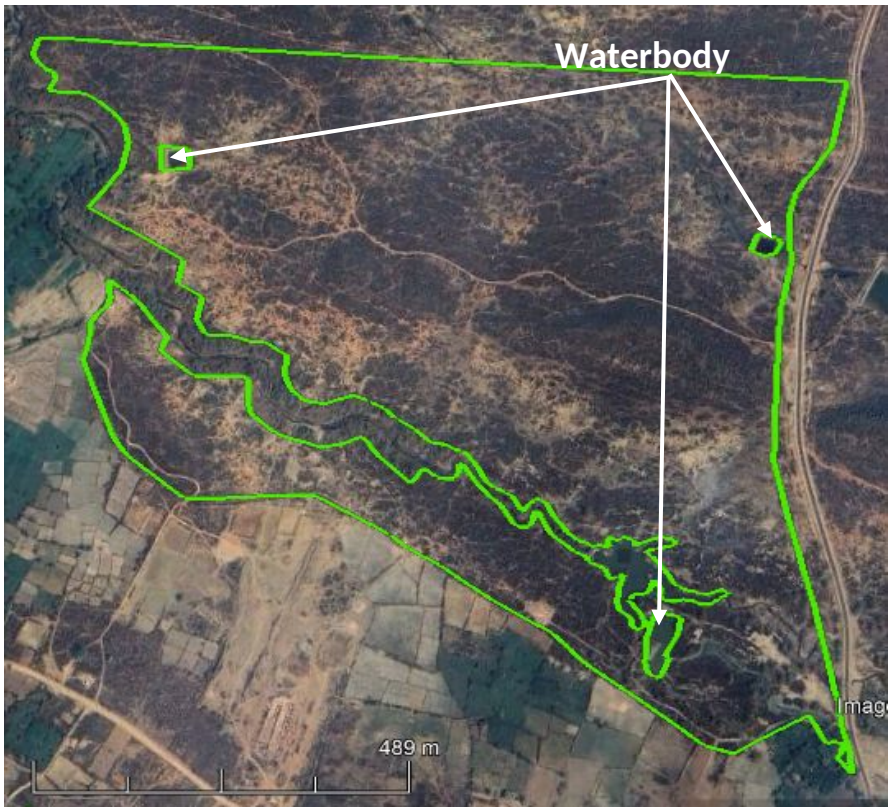
Amarkhash 2	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.00	6.00
Nawadih	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	108.00	109.00
Harigawan	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	33.00	33.00
Chatanian 1	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	57.00	58.00
Chatanian 2	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	68.00	68.00
Pachadumar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	34.00	28.00	62.00
Total area (Ha.)	**1.00**	**0.00**	**5.00**	**36.00**	**76.00**	**1028.00**	**1146.00**
	6.00			**1140.00**			

Due to variations in projection and resolution of the image data, there is a slight difference between the area calculated by the software (710.612 ha) and the area determined by DSS (708.00 ha).

Since most CA locations are on hilly and sloping terrain, the water supply plan should prioritize gravity-fed systems like elevated tanks and contour-based irrigation to prevent soil erosion and enhance water retention.

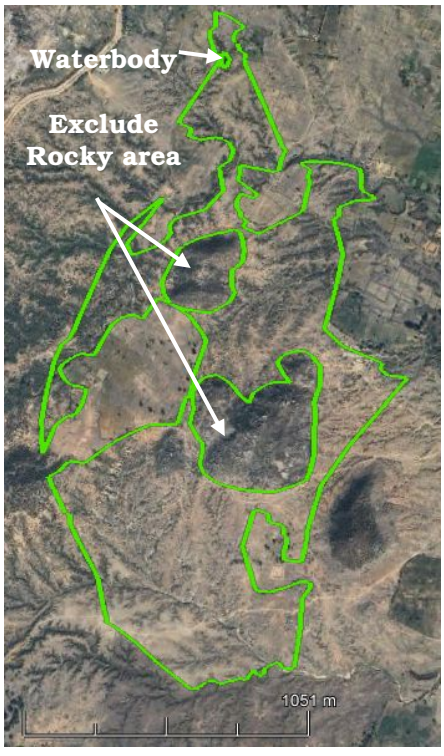
(b) Whether land for compensatory afforestation is free from encroachment/ other encumbrances:

Yes. During the site visit, no encroachments, such as agricultural land or kachha/pakka structures, were observed on any parts of the proposed CA. However, very small natural water storage areas were noted in the Baghauta and Khuretiya CA land. Already, those small water bodies were not included in the KML, or removed from it. Additionally, geospatial analysis of satellite images confirmed the presence of seasonal water on the applied CA land in Rajbandhwa 1.

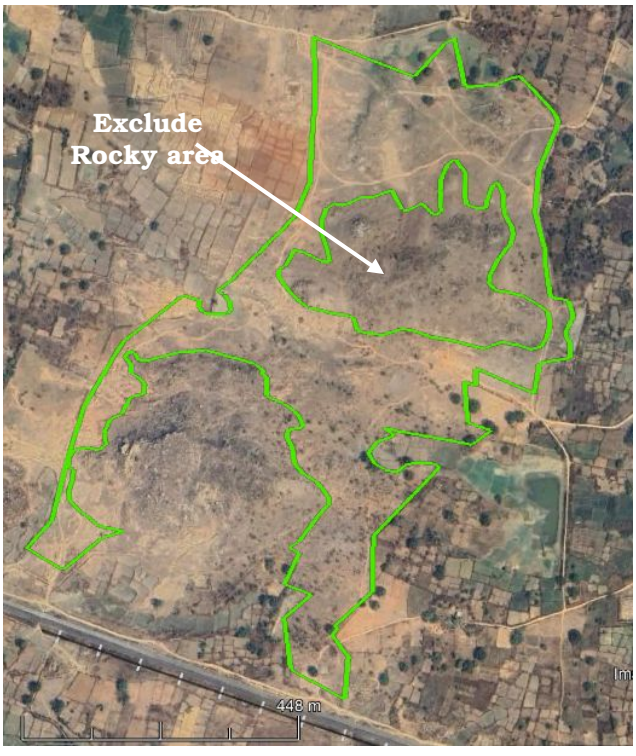


Baghauta

The rocky and unsuitable areas for plantation have already been excluded from the submitted CA KML of Khuretiya, Tenar 1, and Torelwa.



Khuretiya



Tenar 1

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

The CA land is not important from Religious/Archaeological point of view.

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

The entire CA land is spread across twenty (20) villages/sites/locations, comprising twenty-five (25) patches. There are no CA polygons or patches with an area of less than 5 hectares. Geometric details of the CA are presented in the table below.

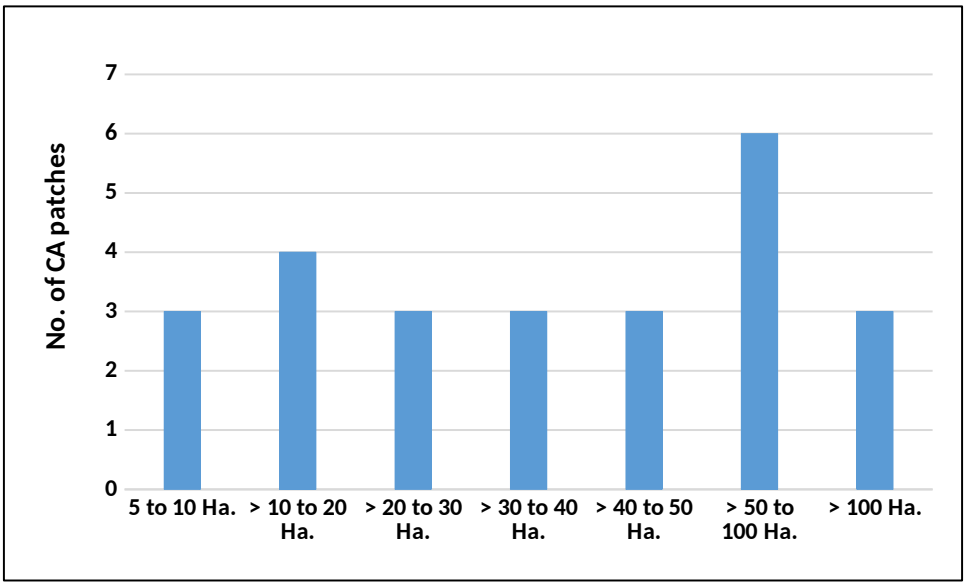
Sl. No.	Name of the CA Land	Area (Ha.)	Sl. No.	Name of the CA Land	Area (Ha.)
1	Khuretiya	125.3	14	Pipra	23.934
2	Bahiarkhurd	12.091	15	Torelwa	41.43
3	Adar	36.814	16	Koinda	18.99
4	Rajbandhwa 1	113.794	17	Baligarh 1	6.375
5	Rajbandhwa 2	63.324	18	Baligarh 2	8.475
6	Tenar 1	25.087	19	Amarkhash 1	10.883
7	Tenar 2	15.609	20	Amarkhash 2	5.509
8	Okhargada	37.001	21	Nawadih	109.348
9	Kalyanpur & Chama	90.414	22	Harigawan	32.939
10	Garuasoti	46.464	23	Chatanian 1	58.285
11	Baghauta	59.877	24	Chatanian 2	68.495
12	Jikabukcham 1	25.705	25	Pachadumar	61.481
13	Jikabukcham 2	49.254			

The minimum average area is approximately 6.786 Ha (for the 5-10 Ha category), and the maximum average area is approximately 116.147 Ha (for the >100 Ha category).

The table below provides detailed information regarding the number, area, and average size of patches within each category. The data indicates that there are a total of 25 patches categorized by their size in hectares. Smaller patches in the 5-10 Ha range consist of 3 patches covering a total of 20.358 Ha, with an average size of approximately 6.786 Ha. The larger 50-100 Ha patches are more numerous, with 6 patches totaling 401.876 Ha and an average of 66.979 Ha per patch. The largest patches, those exceeding 100 Ha, include 3 patches with a combined area of 348.441 Ha and an average size of 116.147 Ha.

Area in Ha.	No. of CA patches	Total area (Ha.)	Average area of a CA patch
5 to 10 Ha.	3	20.358	6.786
> 10 to 20 Ha.	4	57.572	14.393
> 20 to 30 Ha.	3	74.725	24.908
> 30 to 40 Ha.	3	106.754	35.585
> 40 to 50 Ha.	3	137.147	45.716
> 50 to 100 Ha.	6	401.876	66.979

> 100 Ha.	3	348.441	116.147



(e) Total financial outlay:

₹: 1,29,46,16,781.00 (from CA scheme details of 2025).

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

No, the user agency has yet not started any project related work on the forest land involved in the proposal. Therefore the proposal does not involve violation of any forest related regulation.

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

Yes, the proposal pertains to coal mining (both open cast & underground) requiring surface right over 1351 ha land involved in it. 786.1 ha of the total land is non-forest of which around 542.16 ha belong to private landholders/raiyats. There are few right holders on involved forest land too. All these people/families are going to be affected from the proposal related project and hence require rehabilitation and resettlement as per Jharkhand Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013 (JRFCTLARR Act, 2013) / JRFCTLARR Rules, 2015.

The user agency has already started the plan preparation by conducting the PRA exercises in the involved six villages and have identified 1524 households that may be affected by the project. User agency informed that proper rehabilitation would be done as per the Act/rules provision. The inspecting team insisted that DFO should take active part in all R&R meetings to ensure that forest dwellers getting affected by the project are adequately resettled and no fresh forest land is encroached consequent to displacement due to upcoming mining project.

11. Reclamation Plan

The Mine Plan of Rajbar E & D Coal Mine was approved by MoC on 13.3.2019. This approved Mine Plan includes Mine Closure Plan too. As per the approved Mine Plan the total mine life is of 48 yrs with 10 MTPA average production capacity.

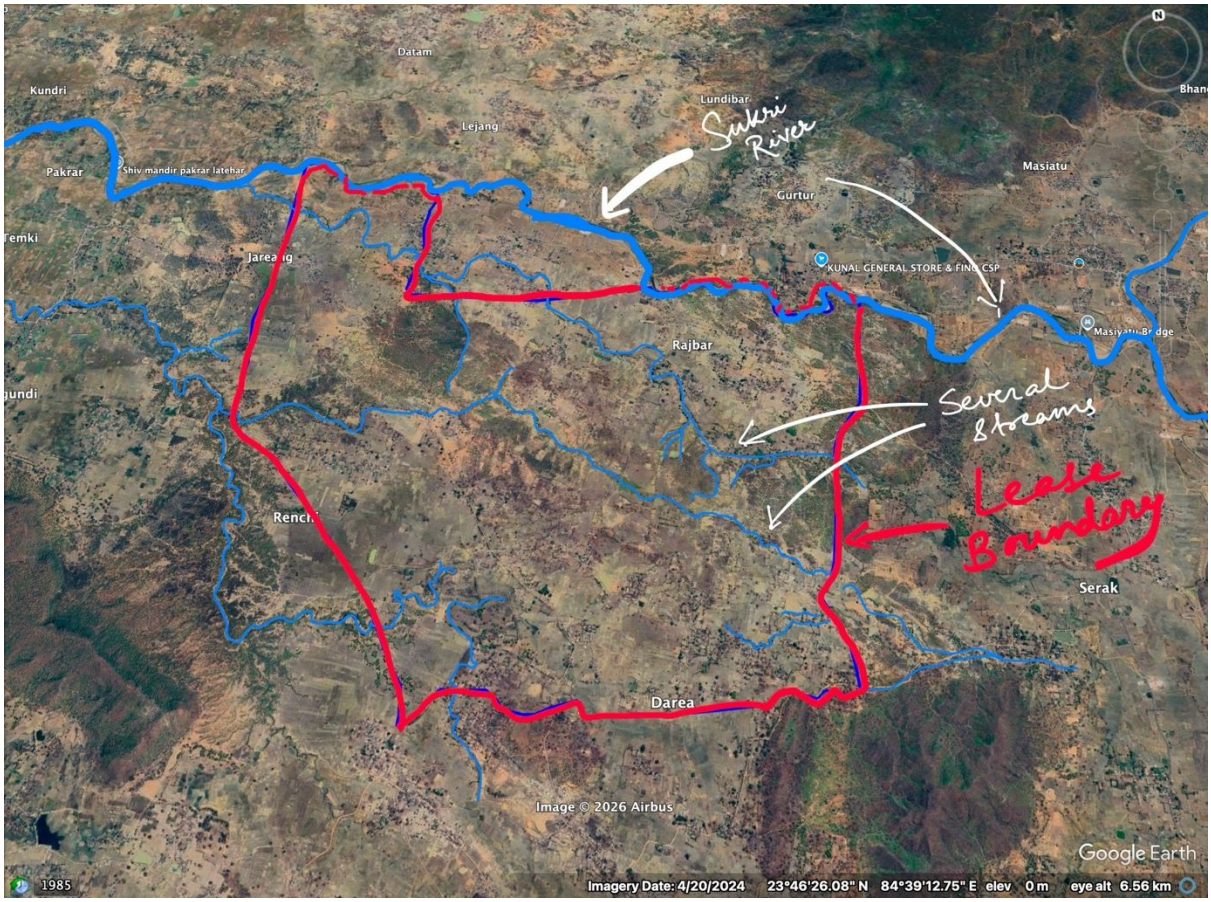
As per the Mine Closure Plan, the reclamation process would start during active mine life itself. However final mine closure activities are planned for next 3 years after cessation of coal winning.

According to existing mine closure plan, 464.9 ha of forest land getting diverted would be reclaimed as 330.76 ha of plantation area and 133.19 ha of waterbody (in leftover pit/void).

There is no mention of temporal schedule of forest land surrendering back to forest department in the present closure plan.

12. Details of Catchment & Command area under the project:

As highlighted earlier, the forest area involved in the proposal is characterized by presence of numerous first & second order streams that eventually merge with the Sukri river flowing near (north to) the lease area. The prominent streams are highlighted in the illustrative imagery below:



User agency informed that surface hydrological study is being done by IIT Roorkee and based on its recommendation streams would be garland drained out of excavation area.

They have also got the ground water studied and corresponding comprehensive hydrological report is available.

13. Cost benefit ratio:

The cost-benefit analysis for diversion of forest land in respect of the proposal has been carried out by the user agency. The total cost of the forest land involved, as calculated by the user agency, is ₹768.86 crore, whereas the total benefits likely to accrue from implementation of the proposal are estimated at ₹36,433.82 crore. Accordingly, the cost-benefit ratio for the proposal works out to 1:47.39

14. Recommendation of Principal Chief Conservator of Forest/State Government:

As provided in the online application.

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

Provided separately, attached herewith.

16. Utility of the Project:

The proposal is for Coal-Mining and hence important for augmenting & strengthening the energy security of the nation.

17. (a) whether land being diverted has any socio-cultural/religious value: During site inspection no such importance was informed.

(b)whether any sacred grove or very old growth trees/forest exist in the areas proposed for diversion:. Good Sal forest is involved in this diversion proposal.

(c) whether the land under diversions forms part of any unique eco-system: As highlighted in para 5 above.

18. Situation with respect to any Protected Area:

No Protected Area is situated within a 10 km radius of the proposed project area. The forest personnel present during the meeting informed the visiting team that the nearest Protected Area is Betla National Park, located at an approximate distance of 50 km from the site. It was further informed that various other mines have already been approved and are operational in the vicinity of the project site.

19. Any other information relating to the project:

Nothing in particular.

20. Recommendation of inspecting officer:

The proposal, being a coal mining project, is site-specific and aims to augment the energy needs of the nation in general and the State of Jharkhand in particular. Therefore, the proposal submitted by the State Government may be considered for recommendation, subject to the following conditions:

1. The non-site-specific ancillary activities of the proposal, such as the township (3.97 ha) and CHP (12.70 ha), shall be shifted to non-forest land within or outside the lease area, preferably in its adjacent vicinity.

2. A site-specific Wildlife Management Plan shall be prepared and implemented throughout the life of the project to ensure that the impact of mining activities on wildlife is minimised to the extent possible. The entire cost of preparation and implementation of such plan shall be borne by the project proponent.

3. Since the soil in the proposed forest area has adequate depth and humus content, the project proponent shall implement proper topsoil management practices to ensure that the stored topsoil is utilised during mine closure and the forest reclamation process.

4. Translocation of at least 1,000 eligible trees shall be undertaken under the guidance of the concerned Divisional Forest Officer (DFO). In addition, collection and transplantation of at least 5,000 newly regenerated sal saplings shall be carried out at the project cost to augment traditional forestry practices.

5. The DFO shall be made an integral part of, and shall be actively involved in, all Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) related meetings at the district and State-level committees to ensure that forest rights holders are adequately compensated and that no fresh encroachment on forest land takes place due to inadequate provisions for the oustees affected by implementation of the project.

6. A revised mine closure plan shall be prepared with a clear temporal schedule for surrender of forest land back to the Forest Department. Further, the proposal for leaving about 150 ha of forest land as void for creation of a water body shall be re-examined in consultation with the State Forest Department. Such water bodies may instead be created in reclaimed non-forest areas.

7. A comprehensive Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) Plan shall be implemented by the user agency through the State Forest Department to ensure that the previous works executed by the Department in the forest area proposed for diversion are adequately compensated and that the water budgeting of the Sukri River is not compromised.

8. All conditions imposed by the State authorities while forwarding the proposal to the Central Government shall be complied with in letter and spirit.

The Site Inspection Report is hereby submitted for further necessary action.

Shashi Shankar
DIGF, RO Ranchi

RECOMMENDATION OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FORESTS (CENTRAL) FOR PROPOSAL NO. FP/JH/MIN/48598/2020

The proposal pertains to the diversion of 564.90 hectares of forest land for the development of the Rajbar E&D Coal Mine and associated ancillary activities in the Auranga Coalfields, Latehar Forest Division/District, Jharkhand, by M/s Tenughat Vidyut Nigam Ltd. (TVNL).

A site inspection of the proposed area was carried out by Sh. Shashi Shankar, Deputy Inspector General of Forests (DIGF), along with the team from the Regional Office, Ranchi, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), during 09–14 March 2026.

I concur with the observations and findings recorded in the Site Inspection Report (SIR). In view of the recommendation of the State Government, the proposal for diversion of 564.90 hectares of forest land is recommended for consideration under the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, subject to the following specific conditions, in addition to the standard conditions applicable to similar projects:

1. The User Agency shall undertake fencing, protection measures, and afforestation within the designated 7.5-metre safety zone along the outer boundary of the mining lease within the stipulated timeline.
2. All non-site-specific ancillary facilities, including the township and Coal Handling Plant (CHP), shall be shifted to non-forest land, preferably in the adjoining area within or outside the lease.
3. Proper and scientific topsoil management shall be ensured so that the preserved topsoil is effectively reused during mine reclamation, closure, and afforestation.
4. The overburden (OB) dump shall be maintained with a properly constructed footwall and managed in accordance with environmental norms and best practices.

5. The mining lease boundary shall be demarcated by 4-foot-high RCC pillars at suitable intervals, as per approved norms, with unique numbering, direction bearings, and inter-pillar distances. Compliance shall be monitored by the State Government.

6. Adequate measures shall be implemented for the control of dust, noise, surface runoff, drainage, and sedimentation to prevent environmental degradation and contamination of nearby water bodies.

7. A site-specific Wildlife Management Plan shall be prepared and implemented for the entire project period at the cost of the project proponent.

8. Tree felling shall be carried out in a phased manner under the supervision of the State Forest Department (SFD). The SFD shall explore the possibility of translocation of suitable trees at the cost of the User Agency, and an appropriate plan in this regard shall be prepared by the SFD in consultation with the User Agency.

9. The State Government and the User Agency shall explore the possibility of shifting the mine void and water body to non-forest land and revise the mining plan accordingly.

10. A comprehensive Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) Plan shall be implemented through the State Forest Department. The impact of the proposed activity on the flow of the Sukhi River and seasonal nallahs shall be studied by the User Agency through reputed institutions, and appropriate mitigation measures shall be implemented by the User Agency with the approval of the concerned authorities.

11. The User Agency shall submit a plan for concurrent and progressive reclamation, including a restoration schedule and timeline for surrender of forest land, as required under Standard Condition 2(1).

(Dr. S. Senthil Kumar)
Dy. Director General of Forests (C)
RO, Ranchi

Site Inspection Photographs

Field Photographs of CA site