

**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**  
**(Forest Conservation Division)**

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

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, letter No. FLD-2322/CR-73/F-10 dated 08.08.2022 on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and to say that the proposal was examined by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 16.04.2025. The minutes of the meeting of the AC may kindly be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). After going through the facts of the proposal, the Committee **deferred** the proposal and sought clarification/information on the following for further consideration in the matter:

- i. There is no valid and cogent reason or justification given for the retrospective implementation of the guidelines issued in 2019 for a village which has already been relocated in the year 1999. Moreover, the said guidelines have been issued on the basis of an order of Hon'ble Supreme Court. The State shall give clarification in this regard.
- ii. The basis for the change in requirement of land from 16 ha (as initially mentioned) to 63.091 ha in the current proposal is not justifiable.
- iii. The details about other similar cases in the state where the villages have already been relocated from various Protected areas and now additional forest land is required/proposed to be given shall be provided.
- iv. The area proposed for diversion is actually the Compensatory Afforestation area of the Patagaon irrigation project. Keeping in view the proposed activity which is not site specific in nature, the use of compensatory afforestation area is not justifiable.
- v. The State shall submit the certified copies of the documents, MoUs, allotment orders vide which the village Nivale was relocated/rehabilitated in the year 1999. The documentary evidence indicating the details of the families

rehabilitated and the compensation given to the people shall also be submitted. Accordingly, it is requested to furnish the above mentioned information to this Ministry for further consideration of the proposal.

Accordingly, it is requested to furnish the above-mentioned information to this Ministry for further consideration of the proposal.

Yours sincerely,

Digitally signed by  
SUNEET BHARDWAJ  
Date: 30-04-2025  
16:31:46

(Suneet Bhardwaj)  
**Assistant Inspector General of Forests**

**Copy to:**

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