

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj
New Delhi: 1100 03,
Dated:04-09-2025

To
The Additional Chief Secretary (Forests)
Forest, Ecology & Environment Department,
Government of Karnataka,
Bengaluru

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section of 2 (1) (v) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 48.20 hectare of forest land (37.45 ha for mining and allied activities in the mining lease area and 10.75 ha for approach road outside the mining lease area of erstwhile lessee of Sri. Sarangapani Mudaliar) in Section-4 of Janeeru Block and Thirtharapura Reserved Forest in Sy No. 11 (Part) and 12 (Part) Gollarahalli Village for Mining and allied activities and in Sy. No. 11, 12, 10 and 08 Gollarahalli Village, Sy No. 64 Hosahalli Village, Sy. No. 49 and 48 Kodihalli Village, Sy No. 34 and 33 Tonalapura Village and Sy No. 55 Lakmenahalli Village for Approach Road to the mining lease area in favour of M/s Mineral Enterprises Private Limited, Bengaluru- Reg. (Online Proposal No. FP/KA/MIN/154749/2022)

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Karnataka's letter FEE 31 FFM 2025 (e) dated 06.08.2025 on above mentioned subject proposal, seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. After the examination of the proposal of the State Government, the following information is required to be submitted by the State Govt. for further necessary action in the matter:

- i. The proposal has been submitted by the State Govt. through PARIVESH 1.0 portal. The same may be processed as per the guidelines issued by the Ministry vide letter dated 25.01.2024. The State Govt. is requested to provide / upload a copy of the PSC meeting.
- ii. The State Govt. is requested to provide the lease history in respect of the mining lease which was originally granted to Sri. Sarangapani Mudaliyar in 1950's for Iron Ore mining lease (ML No.1234) over an extent of 2427 acres (i.e., 982.19 hectares) along with KML file.
- iii. As reported by the State Govt., in 1999 on account of prior termination / surrender of the said mining Lease ML 1234, the Government of Karnataka on 15.06.1999 offered for re-grant a portion of the original leased area (i.e., measuring 1275 acres (515.98 Ha)) to various parties through a public advertisement on 15.09.1999. In this regard the State Govt. is requested to provide the details of the land offered to the several mining companies.
- iv. Based on the decision of the Hon'ble High Court, the above area was re-granted by the Government of Karnataka on 23.01.2003 to the following:

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Sl. No.	Mining Lease
1.	Sri Praveen Chandra
2.	M/s. Milan Minerals Enterprises (P) Ltd
3.	Sri R.N.Ashok
4.	M/s. Banashankari Mining Corporation
5.	Sri M Babanna

In this regard the State Govt. shall provide the present status of these mines along with KML files and other relevant details.

- v. As per the proposal the Government of Karnataka recommended the grant of mining lease over an area of 466.21 Hectares (1152 Acres) as below:
 - a. M/s. Goa Minerals.
 - b. Smt. Prema Chanappa.
 - c. M/s. Kudremukh Iron Ore Co.
 - d. M/s. Dhruvadesh Metasteels (P) Ltd

In this regard the State Govt. shall provide the present status of these mines along with KML files and other relevant details.
- vi. The proposed area for diversion is 48.2 ha and as per the part-I, no non-forest land is involved. However, the old mining plan for 72.16 ha has been submitted. The State Govt. is requested to provide the revised approved mining plan and revised land use plan accordingly.
- vii. The State Govt. has proposed 10.75 ha area only for road and the block has been allotted to four other lessees. The State Govt. shall provide the comments on whether the road is proposed for use in instant mine only or by the other lessees as well.
- viii. The State Govt. shall justify for opening of new mining as per the Para 7.8 of the consolidated guidelines dated 29.12.2023.
- ix. The equivalent non-forest land has been proposed for CA. However, as per the CA site suitability certificate the DFO has stated that 5.15 ha is having good vegetation and 11.0 ha of DFL has been proposed for plantation. In this regard the State Govt. shall provide the comments as per the Rules 13 of VSES Rules 2023.
- x. As per the proposal, the proposed area for diversion is located within Eco Sensitive Zone (ESZ) of Bukkapatna Chinkara Wildlife Sanctuary. Therefore, comments /recommendations of the CWLW shall be provided.
- xi. After the DSS analysis it has been observed that the CA land patches of 3.21 ha (Village- Gowdahalli) and 1.94 ha (Village-Madduru) is less than 5.0 and not adjacent to the nearest forest boundary. In this regard the State Govt. shall explore the alternate CA land over 5 ha or contiguous to the nearest forest boundary. If it is not possible, the CA scheme shall be provided with 20 years maintenance.
- xii. As per the DSS analysis, cultivation land and road is visible in the proposed approach road. The State Govt. shall certify that there is no violation of the Adhiniyam.
- xiii. KML file of the DFL for carrying out compensatory plantation shall be

uploaded.

- xiv. The CA scheme along with all requisite details have not been uploaded in the Part-II of DFO. The same needs to be uploaded.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

(S. Sundar)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. PCCF (HoFF), Government of Karnataka, Bengaluru.
2. DDGF (C) Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bengaluru-
3. APCCF cum Nodal Officer (VSESA), 1980, Forest Department, Government of Karnataka, Bengaluru.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.