

(PARIVESH 1.0)**Minutes of the Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC) meeting held on
24.03.2026****Agenda No. 23****Proposal No. FP/UK/SCH/40755/2019**

Subject: Proposal for Ex-post facto approval for diversion of 2.41 ha. Reserved Forest for Kendriya Vidyalaya School (KVS), Rishikesh in favour of Kendriya Vidyalaya Rishikesh, IDPL, Virbhadra, Rishikesh within the jurisdiction of Dehradun Forest Division, in Dehradun district of Uttarakhand (Online proposal No.- FP/UK/SCH/40755/2019)- regarding.

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 24.03.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DDG, Regional Office, Dehradun, and Nodal Officer, Government of Uttarakhand attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation on the proposal, noted the following:
 - i. Proposal involves *ex-post facto* approval of 2.41 ha of Reserved Forest for Kendriya Vidyalaya School (KVS), Rishikesh in favour of Kendriya Vidyalaya Rishikesh, IDPL, Virbhadra, Rishikesh within the jurisdiction of Dehradun Forest Division, in Dehradun district of Uttarakhand.
 - ii. As per component wise details submitted in the proposal, 2.41 ha is required for construction of School building & campus.
 - iii. Canopy density in the proposed area is reported to be 0.2 of Eco class I with no tree felling involved during implementation of the project.
 - iv. The proposed forest area is located at an approx. aerial distance of 1.81 km from Rajaji National Park.
 - v. No protected archaeological / heritage site / defence establishment or any other important monuments is located in the area has been reported. Certificate to this effect have been submitted by DFO concerned.
 - vi. Proposed forest area falls under Not-in High Conservation Value (HCV) Zone as per Decision Rule 1 and Decision Rule 2.

- vii. Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed over 5.00 ha degraded forest land in Laalpaani compartment no. 2, Rishikesh. CA scheme with 5 years of maintenance is provided. Site suitability certificate has been furnished by the concerned DFO.
- viii. The Committee was informed regarding background of the proposal as under:
- (a) A lease for 899.53 acres of Reserved Forest land was granted to IDPL for a period of 60 years, commencing from 1961, by the Government of Uttar Pradesh vide letter dated 12.12.1969.
 - (b) KV IDPL Rishikesh was established in the year 1978 to cater to the educational needs of wards of IDPL employees as a project school within IDPL campus.
 - (c) Due to financial and administrative constraints, IDPL initiated the process in 1996 to transfer the school to the Civil Sector under Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS).
 - (d) In 2001, due to unresolved issues regarding land transfer, the school was closed. Students were shifted to KV Raiwala.
 - (e) After intervention by parents, public representatives, and the Ministry of HRD, the school was reopened on 29.03.2003 as a Civil Sector KV in the IDPL campus.
 - (f) After expiry of the lease period on 27.11.2021, 500.81 acres of land has been taken back into the possession of the Forest Department.
 - (g) 105.392 acres of land was transferred from IDPL to another Department like PTCUL (Power Transmission Corporation of Uttarakhand Limited.) (65.28 acres), Post office (0.372 acres) and Koteshwar Rishikesh Transmission line (39.74 acres).
 - (h) Remaining 293.328 acres of land has not been resumed by the Forest Department.
 - (i) The Kendriya Vidyalaya, for which ex-post facto forest clearance has been applied, has been functioning since 1978 and is located on forest land that was earlier leased to IDPL.
 - (j) A case related to illegal encroachments in the area was filed in the Hon'ble High Court. Approximately, 747 persons/residents have filed 19 writ petitions before Hon'ble High Court against impugned eviction/demolition order dated 19.07.2023 of the State. Hon'ble High Court granted stay against eviction of the petitioners vide order dated 26.07.2023.
 - (k) Further, Hon'ble Supreme Court has taken suo motu cognizance of the matter in SLP (Crl.) No. 21058/2025, titled Anita Kandwal vs State of Uttarakhand & Others. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order dated 22.12.2025 directed that:

All private individuals are restrained from alienating the land, encumber it or create any third-party rights. It goes without saying that no construction activity shall be allowed to take place either. The vacant land (other than the residential houses) shall be taken into possession by the Forest Department and the Collector concerned. A compliance report, to this effect, be submitted to this Court before the next date of hearing. The matter was listed on 05.01.2026.

Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order dated 05.01.2026 ordered that:

- i. Prima facie, the material on record suggests consistent and persistent negligence on the part of the executive authorities, bordering on collusion and connivance with land grabbers. Every officer entrusted with executive responsibility seems liable for this ongoing dereliction of duty. In these circumstances, we deem it necessary to call for complete particulars of the total extent of land involved and the number of persons presently stated to be in occupation thereof.*
 - ii. If need be, a deeper probe will be ordered to find out the whereabouts and identification of the occupiers of the land to determine whether they have been enjoying tacit protection and support from the authorities, who were expected to look after the public properties.*
 - iii. Let a comprehensive counter affidavit be filed within two weeks, giving full details, including the site plan, the approximate details of the construction raised and the nature of such construction.*
 - iv. The matter was listed on 20.02.2026.*
 - ix. The Nodal Officer informed the Committee that the land parcel granted on lease to IDPL is also part of the said land of 2866 acres of land under the consideration in the SLP.
 - x. The Committee opined that since the land proposed for approval is part of the valid lease granted to IDPL by the State Government which has expired in 2021 and now the extant proposal is for ex-post facto approval for the 2.41 ha of land already used for the construction of Kendriya Vidyalaya. Therefore, land proposed for construction of Kendriya Vidyalaya does not fall under the encroachment.
 - xi. The DDGF (C), Regional Office, Dehradun has recommended the proposal for consideration in the Advisory Committee for ex-post approval as per the extant Rules and Guidelines issued under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation recommended the proposal for grant of '*in-principle*' approval for ex-post facto approval of 2.41 ha of Reserved Forest for Kendriya Vidyalaya School (KVS), Rishikesh in favour of Kendriya Vidyalaya Rishikesh, IDPL, Virbhadra, Rishikesh within the jurisdiction of Dehradun Forest Division, in Dehradun district of Uttarakhand subject to the general, standard and following additional condition:

- i. The approval accorded by the Ministry is subject to the final decision to be passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in SLP (CrI.) No. 21058/2025, titled Anita Kandwal vs State of Uttarakhand & Others. The user agency shall abide to the said order.
- ii. The State Government shall ensure that directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter vide order dated 22.12.2015 and 5.01.2026 are complied with and no activity in contravention to the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court shall be undertaken.
- iii. Compensatory Afforestation scheme with 10 years of maintenance shall be submitted along with the compliance of the in-principle approval.
- iv. In accordance with the provisions of para 1.16 of the Consolidated Guidelines, the State Government shall realize the penal NPV for the forest area used in violation of the Adhinyam by the user agency which shall be five time the NPV of forest land used in violation plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand and till the deposit is made by the user agency into the account of CAMPA.
- v. The Ministry has issued guidelines dated 21.01.2026 prescribing penal compensatory afforestation in cases where forest land has been used in violation of the provisions of the Adhinyam. Accordingly, the State Government shall ensure compliance with the said guidelines and identify land towards penal compensatory afforestation in lieu of forest land used in the violation of the Adhinyam along with supporting documents such as the KML file, Compensatory Afforestation scheme, suitability certificate, etc. The compensatory levies corresponding to the penal CA shall be deposited in the account of the State CAMPA, and the same shall be duly intimated to the Ministry.
- vi. Penal compensatory afforestation proposed by the State Government shall be verified by Regional Office, Dehradun and report shall be sent to the Ministry for examination along with CA details during submission of compliance report of Stage- I approval.

Agenda No. 24

File No. 8B/UCP/09/140/2021/FC

Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 for non-forestry use of 0.99 ha (Original area 2.00 ha) of Revenue Forest land in favour of Govt. Polytechnic Chopta for Construction of Government Polytechnic Chopta in Rudraprayag District in the State of Uttarakhand (Proposal No. FP/UK/Others/44711/2020)- regarding.

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 24.03.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DDG, Regional Office, Dehradun, and Nodal Officer, Government of Uttarakhand attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation on the proposal, noted the following:
 - i. Proposal involves diversion of 0.99 ha of Revenue Forest land in favour of Govt. Polytechnic Chopta for Construction of Government Polytechnic Chopta in Rudraprayag District in the State of Uttarakhand.
 - ii. As per component wise details submitted in the proposal, 0.3517 ha is required for construction of building- 1, 0.0758 ha is required for construction of building- 2 and 0.5625 is required for other area (garden, playground, internal roads & surplus area), totaling to 0.99 ha.
 - iii. Canopy density in the proposed area is reported to be 0.3 of Eco class V with 20 tree felling involved during implementation of the project.
 - iv. Proposal does not fall within 10 km radius of the boundary of any PAs. No protected archaeological / heritage site / defence establishment or any other important monuments is located in the area has been reported. Certificates to this effect have been submitted by DFO concerned.
 - v. Proposed forest area falls under Not-in High Conservation Value (HCV) Zone as per Decision Rule 1 and Decision Rule 2.
 - vi. Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed over 2.00 ha of Revenue forest land (Civil Soyam Land) in Khasra No. 243, Village- Gorna, District- Rudraprayag. CA scheme with 10 years of maintenance is provided. Site suitability certificate has been furnished by the concerned DFO.
 - vii. DFO, Rudraprayag has mentioned in Part- II that violation over an area of 0.111 ha. has been done by Project Manager of U P Rajkiya Nirman Nigam Ltd Nirman Unit Dehradun. The proposed site was inspected by DFO on 06.11.2015. It is mentioned in inspection report that construction has been proposed on four Khasra - 3308, 3319, 4059 & 4158 and out of these four Khasra user agency has started work on Khasra No 4158 related to foundation and pillar erection. For this notice has been issued to User Agency and they have stopped the work. No further construction activity was found at the site.
 - viii. An area of 0.111 ha has been used in violation of the Adhiniyam by the user agency and the construction was started in 2015 and completed up

to plinth level by erecting pillars and laying of foundation. Currently, the work has been stopped by the State Forest Department.

- ix. DDGF (C), Regional Office, Dehradun has recommended the proposal highlighting the violations and suggestions to consider the proposal as per the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and its Rules, 2023.
 - x. The Committee observed that, being a non-site-specific activity, such proposals are ordinarily not considered for approval by the Central Government under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. However, the Nodal Officer informed the Committee that the land proposed for diversion is civil soyam land and that no suitable non-forest land is available for construction of the facility. Accordingly, the proposal has been conceived on revenue forest land in public interest to cater to the professional education needs of the area.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation recommended the proposal for grant of '*in-principle*' approval for diversion of 0.99 ha of Revenue Forest land in favour of Govt. Polytechnic Chopta for Construction of Government Polytechnic Chopta in Rudraprayag District in the State of Uttarakhand subject to the general, standard and following additional conditions:
- i. Action under section 3A/3B of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 against the erring officials shall be initiated by State Government and a status report on the same shall be submitted along with the compliance of the in-principle approval.
 - ii. In accordance with the provisions of para 1.16 of the Consolidated Guidelines, the State Government shall realize the penal NPV for the forest area used in violation of the Adhiniyam by the user agency which shall be five times the NPV of forest land used in violation, plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand and till the deposit is made by the user agency into the account of CAMPA.
 - iii. The Ministry has issued guidelines dated 21.01.2026 prescribing penal compensatory afforestation in cases where forest land has been used in violation of the provisions of the Adhiniyam. Accordingly, the State Government shall ensure compliance with the said guidelines and identify land towards penal compensatory afforestation in lieu of forest land used in the violation of the Adhiniyam along with supporting documents such as the KML file, Compensatory Afforestation scheme, suitability certificate, etc. The compensatory levies corresponding to the penal CA shall be deposited in the account of the State CAMPA, and the same shall be duly intimated to the Ministry.
 - iv. Penal compensatory afforestation proposed by the State Government shall be verified by Regional Office, Dehradun and report shall be sent to

the Ministry for examination along with CA details during submission of compliance report of Stage- I approval.

Agenda No. 28

File. No. 8-36/2010-FC

Subject: Modification of the conditions of Stage- I approvals dated 23.01.2013 read with letter dated 26.02.2013 (for 567 ha) and 07.11.2013 (for 211.23 ha under Section 2 (iii)) regarding the change of CA land from non-forest land to degraded forest land, transferred from M/s Rohne Coal Company Private Limited to M/s NMDC- regarding.

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 24.03.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DDGF, Regional Office, Ranchi and Nodal Officer, Government of Jharkhand attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 and other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation on the proposal, noted the following:
 - (1) The Ministry of Coal (MoC) vide allotment order dated 18.06.2021 allotted Rohne coal mine to M/s NMDC.
 - (2) As per the request of MoC vide letter dt. 20.09.2021, MoEF&CC transferred the Stage- I approval dated 23.01.2013 read with the letter dated 26.02.2013 (for 567 ha), 07.11.2013 (for 211.23 ha under section 2 (iii)) and dated 24.01.2014 (for 11.65 ha of forest land falling in the safety zone) granted under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 for non-forestry use of 789.88 ha for Rohne Opencast Coal Mining Project in District Hazaribagh (Jharkhand) from erstwhile user agency i.e. M/s Rohne Coal Company Private Limited to M/s NMDC on 18.11.2021 *inter-alia* specifying following condition:

"The new user agency shall abide by all the conditions on which the forest land was leased to the original user agency."
 - (3) The Ministry have granted following approvals in favour of M/s Rohne Coal Company Private Limited for diversion of 789.88 ha:
 - a. The Stage-I approval for non-forestry use of 567 ha of forest land out of 778.23 ha under section 2 (1) (ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 was granted vide Ministry letter dated 23.01.2013 read with letter dated 26.02.2013.

- b. The Stage-I approval under Section 2 (1) (iii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 for the balance area of 211.23 ha for assignment of forest land on leases was granted vide Ministry letter dated 7.11.2013.
 - c. The Stage-I approval under section 2(1) (ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 for diversion of 11.65 ha of forest land falling in the safety zone area was granted vide Ministry letter dated 24.01.2014.
- (4) The Ministry of Coal (MoC) vide allotment order dated 18.06.2021 allotted Rohne Coal Mine to NMDC. As per the request of MoC vide letter dated. 20.09.2021, MoEF&CC transferred Stage- I approvals from erstwhile user agency i.e. M/s Rohne Coal Company Private Limited to M/s NMDC on 18.11.2021.
- (5) Since the original user agency (M/s Rohne Coal Company Pvt. Ltd) was private company, compensatory afforestation was proposed over non-forest land.
- (6) Government of Jharkhand vide letter No. Van Bhumi-100/2009-492 dt. 16.02.2026 submitted compliance of conditions stipulated in Stage- I approval dated 23.01.2013 read with letter dated 26.02.2013 (567 ha), 07.11.2013, 24.01.2014 (11.65 ha) and 18.11.2021 for transfer of earlier Stage- I approvals from erstwhile user agency i.e. M/s Rohne Coal Company Private Limited to M/s NMDC informing that as per Ministry's guidelines dt. 17.12.2024 CA is being done over double in extent of land being diverted i.e. CA is being carried over 1579.80 ha.
- (7) The DDGF (C), Regional Office, Ranchi has informed in site inspection report that against the required 1,580 ha of CA land, the State Government has identified 1,707.17 ha of degraded forest land. However, approximately 450 ha comprises relatively dense vegetation and is unsuitable for plantation under CA. Accordingly, about 1,257 ha is considered suitable, resulting in a shortfall of approximately 330 ha.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), RO, Ranchi and Nodal Officer, Government of Jharkhand and after going through the facts of the proposal, the Committee decided to '**defer**' the proposal with the following observations:
- i. The State Government shall identify new degraded forest area against the shortfall of approximately 330 ha and shall submit the revised CA details including CA scheme, site suitability certificate and KML files.

Agenda No. 29

F. No. File No. 8-06/2019-FC

Subject: Proposal for diversion of 162.45 ha of forest land in Indaram RF, Mancherial Range of Mancherial Forest Division in Mancherial District for grant of Mining Lease for Srirampur Open Cast-II Expansion Project in Jaipur Mandal, Mancherial District in favour of M/s Singareni Collieries Company Limited, Srirampur Area Mancherial District. - reg.

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 24.03.2026. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The DDG, Regional Office, Chennai, and Nodal Officer, Government of Telangana attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation on the proposal, noted the following:
 - (i) The extant proposal is related to change in Location of degraded forest land for raising of Compensator Afforestation to an extent of 50 ha in Compartment No.676,810,67,698 in Mancherial Range, Mancherial District, Telangana State in respect of aforementioned subject proposal.
 - (ii) The Government of Telangana, Environment, Forest, Science and Technology (For.I) Department, vide their letter No.460/For.I (1)/2019 dated 13.02.2019 submitted the above mentioned proposal to obtain prior approval of Central Government, in accordance with Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
 - (iii) Based on the recommendations of Advisory Committee in its meeting dated 27th January, 2021 and with approval of the competent Authority. MoEF&CC, New Delhi vide its letter dated 12.03.2021 had accorded the in principal approval for the above proposal.
 - (iv) Subsequently, upon submission of the compliance report by the State Government vide its letter dated 16th/08/2022. Ministry accorded the final approval on 21.12.2023 subject to one of the following conditions with regard to raising of Compensatory Afforestation;

The Compensatory afforestation shall be taken up by the Forest Department over 324.9 ha. degraded forest land (Compartment no./ Khasra No.691,693,69,687,688,689,690, Adilabad District) at the cost of the User Agency. As far as practicable a mixture of local indigenous species will be planted and monoculture of a species has to be avoided. In case it is not possible to plant required number of saplings in the area identified for CA, the balance saplings will be planted in any other forests as per prescriptions of approved working plan with provision for ten years on subsequent maintenance”.
 - (v) The Government of Telangana vide its letter dated 09.10.2025 has submitted proposal for change of location CA land of Degraded forest land in respect

of 50 ha of degraded forest land citing the fact that during the intervening period the natural vegetation has come up in the area.

- (vi) The Ministry, after examination of the proposal, sought further information on changed CA sites and updated status of the compliance of conditions stipulated in the approval.
 - (vii) The State Government vide its letter dated 18/12/2025 submitted the reply on clarification sought by the Ministry. The State Government informed that the Annual plan of Operations under CAMPA Scheme for the year 2025-26 under CA-CAMPA Scheme and approved advance operations in DFL for an area of 204.9 Ha of which 50 Ha is SMM Plantation and 154.90 Ha is Gap Planting.
 - (viii) The State Government submitted the information inter-alia informing the following:
 - (a) Out of the earlier allotted CA in DFL Land of 324.90 Ha, afforestation of 120 ha was taken-up during the year 2024-25 leaving a balance area of 50.00 Ha, which is now proposed for afforestation at changed site.
 - (b) Earlier proposed 50 Ha site has attained good vegetation growth due to natural re-generation. Thus alternate DFL of 50 Ha is selected in four sites in Mancherial Range for afforestation of 55550 plants Nos.
 - (c) Compliance of conditions stipulated in FC approval has been submitted reporting satisfactory compliance of conditions stipulated in the FC approval.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation accepted the proposal of State Government for change in location of CA land over degraded forest land of 50 ha as proposed by the State Government in various Ranges of Mancherial Range, Macherial Forest Division.

(Confirmed through E-mail)

Dr. K R Sree Harsha
(non-official Member)

(Confirmed through E-mail)

Shri Nityanand Srivastava
(non-official Member)

(Confirmed through E-mail)

Dr. Mehraj AS
Deputy Commissioner (NRM)
(Member)

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Shri Manoj Pant
(non-official Member)

(Confirmed on file)

Shri Santosh Tiwari
Additional Director General of Forests (FC)
(Member)

(Confirmed through E-mail)

Shri Ramesh Kumar Pandey
Additional Director General of Forests (WL)
(Member)

(Confirmed on file)

Shri R. Raghu Prasad

Inspector General of Forests
(Member Secretary)

(Approved)

Shri Sushil Kumar Awasthi
(Director General of Forests and Special Secretary)
(Chairperson)