

1. Project Details

(i)	Short narrative of the proposal and project / scheme for which the forest land is required.	<p>Kolhapur, located in south-west Maharashtra State on the banks of river Panchganga, the land of magnificent temples, and the religious pride of Maharashtra. It is the town of goddess Mahalakshmi and with its archeological & cultural heritage, magnificent temples, monuments, forts, lakes, gardens, international Go- carting track, Hill resorts/Amusement park and multiplexes has a potential to be developed as one of the leading tourist destinations in India. Kolhapur is the second highest per capita income city, called the "sugar bowl of India", world famous for Kolhapuri Chappals, having the maximum amount of Mercedes cars, agricultural yield per hectare, spinning mills and education centers. The city is also emerging as a new destination for IT sector. With fast developing banking sector, 5 star Industrial areas and SEZ's, big Industrial Houses like Kirloskars, Raymonds, Vardhamans have setup their production facilities & many more national and international companies are in line.</p> <p>Kolhapur has a very potent Education system and with its 2 international schools, is very capable of catering to the demand of skilled workforces by the fast developing industrial hub worldwide. The multi-crore investments in the hospitality sector have got the hotel industry rallying for boost in tourism in Kolhapur, but delay in development of Airport infrastructure may hinder the tourism sector's growth over the coming years. The development in national and international connectivity of Kolhapur will bring a boon to the tourist footfall in Kolhapur.</p> <p>The existing Kolhapur Airport has been in existence since 1939 and operated by MIDC for 15 years till handing over to AAI. Airports Authority of India has taken over Kolhapur Airport from MIDC on 31.08.2013. As per decisions provided in GR, AAI has taken over 551.03 acres (corrected to 549.25 acres) of additional land (acquired by MIDC for Airport development) along with 183.32 acres of original land and 16.21 acres of state govt. land for expansion and Development of Kolhapur Airport</p>
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		<p>and for extending existing runway length from 1370 m to 2290 m. The airstrip shall cater to movement of aircrafts of the type A-320, including night landing facilities, taxi ways, refueling facilities etc. as per requirements envisaged in GR.</p> <p>The Forest land Gat No. 337/1 area 1.82Hect. and Gat No. 338/1 area 9.11 Hect. (Total - 10.93 Hect.) from the Village Mushingi, Tal- Karveer is located in the near vicinity of the proposed extended runway and is also very crucial from Security and Safety point of view of Aircrafts and Passengers. As per the letter received from AGM-LM-WR, AAI, in reference to the meeting held with Secretary, Tribal Development dept. at Mantralaya on dt. 27.05.2015, total 10.93 Hect. of Forest land is required for aviation related activities.</p> <p>Most recently, many airline operators have also contacted Airports Authority of India for starting scheduled flights. With the development and expansion of Kolhapur Airport, economic growth through development of Kolhapur District in terms of increased Employment, Tourism, Agriculture, Re-recreational, eco-tourism, Industrial, Export-Import, Sports like wrestling, traditional art and culture, Heritage sectors is expected.</p>
(ii)	Justification for locating the project in forest area.	<p>For the expansion and various facilities to the Kolhapur Airport, land from the village 1. Gokul Shirgaon, 2. Ujalaiwadi, 3. Sarnobatwadi, 4. Tamgaon, & 5. Mudshingi, Tal: Karveer have been acquired. Possession of the Private land has already been taken by the AAI and the Forest Land Gat No. 337/1 & 338/1 from the village Mushingi is in between the acquired private land which is most essential for the Airport expansion.</p> <p>The forest land is falling in the basic strip of runway and proposed parallel Taxiway. Also to expand the Airstrip, and for security and safety of Runway, it is essential that the Forest Land of 10.93 hect. area is to be made available to AAI. Provision of isolation bay at the Airports is to be provided for safety and security of the passengers and aircraft which is to be provided in the existing forest land.</p>

