



भारत सरकार / Government of India

पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय / Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change

क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, भुवनेश्वर / Regional Office, Bhubaneswar

ए/३, चंद्रसेखरपुर / A/3, Chandrasekharpur

भुवनेश्वर - ७५१ ०२३ / Bhubaneswar - 751 023



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No.5-ORA626/2024-BHU / 124

Dated: 18th February, 2026

To

The Addl. Chief Secretary,
Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department,
Government of Odisha,
Bhubaneswar - 751 001

Sub:- Final (Stage-II) approval of Central Government under Section 2(1)(ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for non-forestry use of 452.705 ha of forest land (47.362 ha in Jeypore Forest Division + 405.343 ha in Malkangiri Forest Division) for construction of Jeypore-Malkangiri New BG Railway line of East Coast Railway coming under Koraput and Malkangiri Districts by Dy. Chief Engineer, East Coast Railway, Koraput.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to State Govt. letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0001-2024-483/FE&CC dated 06.01.2024, wherein prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change for non-forestry use of 452.705 ha of forest land (47.362 ha in Jeypore Forest Division + 405.343 ha in Malkangiri Forest Division) for construction of Jeypore-Malkangiri New BG Railway line of East Coast Railway coming under Koraput and Malkangiri Districts by Dy. Chief Engineer, East Coast Railway, Koraput, was sought in accordance with Section-2 (1)(ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. After due consideration of the proposal by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change and on the basis of decision of Regional Empowered Committee meeting held on 27.02.2024, the **in-principle** approval for non-forestry use of the said forest land was accorded by Ministry vide this office letter of even number dated 14.03.2024 and 09.09.2025, subject to fulfillment of certain conditions. The State Government has furnished the compliance report in respect of the conditions stipulated in the in-principle approval and has requested to grant final approval of the proposal.

2. In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Odisha vide their letter No.2892/9F (RAIL)-416/2023 dated 09.02.2026 and submission of the compliance report by the State Govt. in *Parivesh* web portal on 12.02.2026, **Stage-II/final** approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change is hereby granted under Section 2 (1)(ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for non-forestry use of 452.705 ha of forest land (47.362 ha in Jeypore Forest Division + 405.343 ha in Malkangiri Forest Division) for construction of Jeypore-Malkangiri New BG Railway line of East Coast Railway coming under Koraput and Malkangiri Districts by Dy. Chief Engineer, East Coast Railway, Koraput, subject to the fulfillment of the following conditions:-

- 1) The State Govt. shall ensure that the legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged.

- 2) The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.
- 3) The State Govt. shall ensure the compliance on FRA, 2006 as per Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules and guidelines issued from time to time before handing over of the diverted forest land to user agency.
- 4) The State Govt. should ensure that the non-forest land over 463.247 ha proposed for CA shall be notified as PF under Section 29 of the IFA, 1927 or local forest Act before handing over of the diverted forest land to the user agency and after notification of such non forest land, the Nodal Officer, Odisha shall upload a copy of said Notification on the PARIVESH portal.
- 5) The State Govt. shall ensure that the KML files of the area to be diverted, CA and Addl. CA areas shall be uploaded on the e-Green watch portal with all requisite details before handing over of the diverted forest land to the user agency.
- 6) The State Govt. shall ensure that the boundary of the diverted forest land shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, distance from pillar to pillar and GPS co-ordinates.
- 7) The State Govt. shall ensure that the State Forest Department will raise compensatory afforestation over 463.247 ha non forest land identified in village Wallanpalli (247.330 ha), Udayagiri (147.908 ha) under Motu Tahasil, in village Undrukonda (17.360 ha) under Kalimela Tahasil and village Pakhnaguda (50.649 ha) under Malkangiri Tahsil of Malkangiri Forest Division within two years from the date of Stage-II Clearance and maintained thereafter by the State Forest Department as per approved plan/scheme and maintained thereafter, at the cost of user agency.
- 8) The State Govt. shall ensure that the State Forest Department will raise additional compensatory afforestation over 762.00 ha of degraded forest land identified in Ranginiguda PRF and Bandhaguda PRF (299.00 ha) under Chitrakonda Range; Chitapari RF, Mahadevpur RF and Matunkonda PRF (177.00 ha) under Balimela Range; Malavaram RF and Tendikonda RF (139.00 ha) under Motu Range; Sarangapalli RF (47.00 ha) under Mathili Range; and Yangulkonda RF, Pulimetla PRF and Kalimela RF (100.00 ha) under Kalimela Range of Malkangiri Forest Division within two years from the date of Stage-II Clearance and maintained thereafter by the State Forest Department as per approved plan/scheme and maintained thereafter, at the cost of user agency.
- 9) The species to be planted in the CA and Addl. CA schemes shall be of native species of the area. At least 18 month old seedlings should be planted. Intensive monitoring of the plantation needs to be done and documented using Geo tagging so that the increase of canopy density and survival and growth of plantation can be evaluated at regular intervals.
- 10) The State Govt. shall ensure that the State Forest Department shall implement the Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan duly approved by Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha at the project cost.
- 11) The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency should ensure provision of at least one underpass at every kilometer for safe crossing of wild animals/small mammals and to avoid fragmentation of habitat.
- 12) The State Govt. shall ensure that the trees present inside the outer boundary may be spared from felling by which 10 to 20% trees can be saved.

- 13) The user agency shall explore the possibility of successful transplantation of maximum number of trees identified to be felled and shall ensure that any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department. Further, in and around the proposed area, *Dalbergia latifolia* were abundantly present in the past and their number has been drastically reduced, so *Dalbergia latifolia* trees should be transplanted.
- 14) The State Govt. and User Agency shall ensure that speed regulating signage will be erected along the railway line at regular intervals in Protected Areas/Forest Areas.
- 15) The State Govt. shall ensure controlled speed limit, if the trains passing through the forest portion to enable the trains drivers to react to the sudden appearance of the wild animals on the track. As and when required speed of train shall be regulated in consultation with CWLWL of the State Govt.
- 16) The State Govt. and the User Agency shall ensure that the designing of new culverts/bridges, if any, over the natural streams/ rivers/canals should be done in such a manner that it does not hamper the natural course of water, does not give rise to water-logging, so that it does not hamper movement of wild animals.
- 17) The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency will provide retaining walls, breast wall and drainage as per requirement to make the slope stable.
- 18) The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency will undertake comprehensive soil conservation measures in the area being diverted at the project cost in consultation with the State Forest Department.
- 19) The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall take up plantation on either side of alignment of the track at its own cost in consultation with the DFO.
- 20) The user agency shall obtain Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if applicable.
- 21) The State Govt. shall ensure that no labour camp shall be established on the forest land and the user agency shall provide fuels preferably alternate fuels to the labourers and staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas.
- 22) The State Govt. shall ensure that no additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for any activity related to the project work.
- 23) The State Govt. and user agency shall ensure that while executing works, the user agency shall not fell any tree or damage forest growth in the surrounding forest area in any manner.
- 24) The State Govt. and user agency shall ensure that earth or any material shall neither be brought from nor the debris resulting during construction be disposed of in the adjoining forest area by the user agency.
- 25) The State Govt. and user agency shall ensure that the layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.
- 26) The State Govt. shall ensure that the forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal and under no circumstances be transferred to any other user agency, department or person without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.

- 27) The State Govt. shall ensure that no damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused.
- 28) The State Govt. shall ensure that the DFO concerned will monitor and take necessary mitigative measures to ensure that there is no adverse impact on the forests in surrounding area.
- 29) The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall submit annual self monitoring report on compliance of stipulated conditions to the Nodal Officer (FCA) of the State and Integrated Regional Office of this Ministry by the end of March every year regularly.
- 30) The State Govt. shall ensure that any other conditions that the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change may impose from time to time in the interest of afforestation, conservation, and management of flora and fauna in the area, which shall be complied by the user agency.
- 31) The State Govt. and user agency shall ensure compliance to provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, NGT Order (s) & Hon'ble Court Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.
- 32) Any other direction issued by the Ministry as a result of Hon'ble Supreme Court order will have bearing on this approval.
- 33) Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed in Para 1.16 of Consolidated Guidelines and Clarification issued under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 vide Ministry's letter dated 29.12.2023.

Yours faithfully,

Digitally signed by
Sujoy Dutta

Date: 18-02-2026

15:23:03

(Sujoy Dutta)

Assistant Commissioner (Forestry)

Copy to:-

1. The Chief Executive Officer, National Authority CAMPA, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, 3rd Floor, Supreme Court Metro Station Building, New Delhi-110 001.
2. The Inspector General of Forests (ROHQ), Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi - 110 003.
3. The Addl. PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Forest Department, Govt. of Odisha, Aranya Bhawan, Chandrasekharapur, Bhubaneswar-751023.
4. The Divisional Forest Officer, Jeypore/Malkangiri Forest Division, Jeypore/Malkangiri, Odisha.
5. The Dy. Chief Engineer (Construction), East Coast Railway, Koraput, Odisha