



भारत सरकार  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
पर्यावरण ,वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS &  
CLIMATE CHANGE



क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय / Regional Office  
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F.No.4-TNB114/2023-CHN/ 722

Date; 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2025

To

The Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of Tamil Nadu,  
Environment, Climate Change & Forests Department,  
Secretariat, Fort St. George, Chennai - 600 009

**Subject: Diversion of 0.19 ha of forest land for laying of underground OFC along Theni Mallapuram route in Saptur RF in Srivilliputhur Wildlife Division, Madurai District in favour of Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd., Chennai - Reg.**

Madam/Sir,

Please refer to the State Government's letter 4801/FR.10/2023-2 dated 30.10.2023 and online proposal No. FP/TN/Others/23908/2017, seeking prior approval of the Government of India in accordance with Section '2' of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for the above-mentioned project. The project was accorded In-principle approval (Stage-I) by the Central Government vide this office letter of even No. dated 24.11.2023. The State Government vide Letter No. 4801/FR.10/2023-4 dated 30.04.2025 (uploaded in PARIVESH Portal on 02.05.2025) have reported compliance to the conditions stipulated in the In-principle approval.

After careful consideration of the compliance report submitted by the State Government, I am directed to convey the Central Government's Final Approval (Stage-II) under Section '2' of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of **0.19 ha** of forest land for laying of underground OFC along Theni Mallapuram route in Saptur RF in Srivilliputhur Wildlife Division, Madurai District in favour of Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd., Chennai, **for a period of 20 years**, subject to the following conditions: -

- (i) Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;



- (ii) Additional amount of the Net Present Value (NPV) of the diverted forest land if any, becoming due after revision of the same by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in future, shall be charged by the State Government from the User Agency. The User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to this effect;
- (iii) The State Forest Department shall carryout planting of 100 nos of seedlings in the degraded forest area for an amount of Rs. 1,50,880/-, which was already realized from the User Agency;
- (iv) Approved CA Scheme and CA area shall not be changed without the prior approval of Govt. of India. The work of CA shall start within two years of issue of final order of diversion as per provision Rule 14(2) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023.
- (v) The wildlife mitigation plan shall be implemented for an amount of Rs. 6,50,000/-, which was already realized from the User Agency;
- (vi) The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government;
- (vii) No labour camp shall be established on the forest land.
- (viii) Disturbance shall be kept minimal by creating labour camps outside the forest area as far as possible and it will be the responsibility of the User Agency to ensure that the machinery, labourers & staff engaged in execution of work shall not destruct nearby forest flora & fauna;
- (ix) Sufficient firewood, preferably the alternate fuel, shall be provided by the User Agency to the labourer after purchasing the same from the State Forest Department or the Forest Development Corporation or any other legal source of alternate fuel.
- (x) **No tree felling shall be carried out in the diverted forest area;**
- (xi) **The State Government shall ensure prior approval of the competent authority under Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972**

**and shall implement recommendations and mitigation measures, if any at the cost of the User Agency;**

- (xii) The forest land proposed for diversion shall under no circumstances be transferred or sublet to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government;
- (xiii) The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceed **0.19 ha** and the forest area diverted shall not be used for any purpose other than those shown in the diversion proposal;
- (xiv) User Agency and the State Government shall ensure compliance to provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project;
- (xv) Any other conditions that the Central Government or DDG(Central) of the Regional Office, Chennai may impose from time to time in the interest of afforestation, conservation and management of flora and fauna in the area, shall be complied by the User Agency;
- (xvi) **The User Agency shall provide CA in NFL area for compensatory afforestation in lieu of the forest area diverted, if applicable, based on the final outcome in the WP No.1164/2023, which is currently pending before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. The State Forest Department shall ensure that an undertaking from the user agency is obtained in this regard.**
- (xvii) In the event of failure to comply with any of the above conditions the user agency is liable for penal action as per the provisions of rules /guidelines made under FCA, 1980;

Digitally signed by  
KARTHIKEYAN KARUPPIAH  
Date: 09-05-2025  
15:41:47

Yours faithfully,

**(K.Karthikeyan)**  
Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central)

Copy to:-



1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Forest Department, Guindy-Velachery Main Road, Guindy, Chennai - 32
2. The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/Nodal Officer (FCA), Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Forest Department, Guindy-Velachery Main Road, Guindy, Chennai - 32
3. IGF, ROHQ, MoEF&CC, New Delhi -110003 for information please
4. M/s Reliance JioInfocomm Limited, No.89 DrRadhakrishnanSalaiMylapore Chennai, Tamil Nadu-600004. [balsamy.thirunagalingam@ril.com](mailto:balsamy.thirunagalingam@ril.com)
5. Guard file.

**Sd/-**  
**(K.Karthikeyan)**  
Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central)