



सत्यमेव जयते

भारतसरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पर्यावरण ,वनएवंजलवायुपरिवर्तनमंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS &
CLIMATE CHANGE

क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय / Regional Office

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F.No. 4-TNB115/2023-CHN/ 723

Date 9th 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 0.193 ha for Laying of underground OFC along Cumbam-Cumuli NH road from Lower camp to Kumuli through Suranganar RF in Theni Division, Theni District, in favour of Jio Digital Fibre, Pvt. Ltd., Chennai-Reg.

Madam,

Please refer to the State Government's letter 19218/FR.10/2022-3 dated 15.11.2023 and online proposal No. FP/TN/OFC/116522/2020, 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 07.12.2023. The State Government vide Letter No. 19218/FR.10/2022-5 dated 02.05.2025 (uploaded in PARIVESH Portal on 06.05.2025) 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 0.193 ha for Laying of underground OFC along Cumbam-Cumuli NH road from Lower camp to Kumuli through Suranganar RF in Theni Division, Theni District, in favour of Jio Digital Fibre, Pvt. Ltd., Chennai subject to the following conditions:-

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

- (ii) The State Forest Department shall carryout CA over an extent of 0.40 ha of DFL area identified in the Suranganur RF for an amount of Rs.6,21,091/-, which was already realized from the User Agency;
- (iii) 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.
- (iv) **User Agency shall comply to all the conditions laid by SC of NBWL vide GoI, MoEFCC (WL Dn), F. No. WL-6/207/2023-WL, dt: 23.01.2024 in Agenda item No.76.3.20 of minutes.**
- (v) The maximum size of the trench shall not exceed 2.00 m depth, 6.44 km length and 0.30 m width. The forest land shall be restored to its original state after laying the same;
- (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 by the User Agency;
- (xi) 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;
- (xii) The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceed 0.193 ha and the forest area diverted shall not be used for any purpose other than those shown in the diversion proposal;

- (xiii) No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work.
- (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) **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.**
- (xvi) Any other conditions that the Central Government or DDG, 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;
- (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 rules/guidelines issued under FCA, 1980;

Digitally signed by
KARTHIKEYAN KARUPPIAH
Date: 09-05-2025
15:46:19

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 Dr.RadhakrishnanSalaiMylapore Chennai, Tamil Nadu-600004.
balsamy.thirunagalingam@ril.com
5. Guard file.

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