

No.G-20/53/2025-EFCC  
**GOVERNMENT OF MIZORAM**  
**ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS & CLIMATE CHANGE DEPARTMENT**

Dated Aizawl the 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2026.

To

The Scientist E,  
Forest Conservation Division,  
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change,  
Govt. of India,  
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan Jorbagh Road, New Delhi – 110 003.  
Email : [c.jsingh@gov.in](mailto:c.jsingh@gov.in)

**Subject: Proposal for diversion of 63.441 ha Reserved Forest land for construction of National Institute of Technology under the Aizawl District of Mizoram State (Online Proposal No. FP/MZ/SCH/148602/2021)- reg.**

**Ref. : i) In-principal Approval letter F.No.8-02/2022-FC dt.07.06.2023.  
ii) MoEF&CC letter No.8-02/2022-FC dt.24.11.2025 (Annexure-I).**

Sir,

With reference to MoEF&CC's letter dt.04.11.2025 cited above, I am directed to furnish herewith requisite information seeking your kind consideration for grant of Final Approval in respect of construction of NIT Campus at Lengpui :

**(i) Normal Compensatory Afforestation :**

The In-principle Approval for diversion of 63.441 ha of reserve forest land for construction of National Institute of Technology in Aizawl District in Mizoram was issued on 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2023 (Annexure-II) wherein condition (ii) regarding compensatory afforestation prescribes below :

*“The CA has been proposed over identified non-forest land (NFL) over an area of 64.25 ha. Since 53 ha NFL identified for CA is medium dense forest (MDF) over and cannot accommodate 1000 plants/ha, therefore balance seedlings shall be planted over degraded forest land (DFL) for which DFL shall be identified in Mamit forest division or elsewhere in other districts/divisions on the State. The details of the DFL along with site suitability certificate approved CA scheme and KML files of the said area shall be submitted prior to stage-II approval”*

The Planting of balance seedlings in degraded forest land was in accordance with 2.8 of Part B (Compensatory Afforestation) of the Handbook of guidelines issued by MoEF&CC vide letter dt.29.03.2019 (Annexure-III) which was prevailing before the new Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) rules came into effect on December 2023. Accordingly, in compliance of the IPA conditions, 53 ha of degraded forest land were

identified in Darlawn forest division and the cost has been deposited in the CAMPA account.

In the MoEF & CC letter dated 24.11.2025, conditions of improvement of the existing crop has been prescribed as per 13(i) of the new Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) rules, 2023 which are different from the conditions in the earlier rules. The State Government may comply with only one set of rules either premodification rules or the existing rules. The State Government has already complied with the condition of the CA imposed in the IPA which is-as per provisions of the prevalent rules (before rules Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan Rules, 2023 came into being).

In light of the above, I am directed to request your kind consideration that the compliance of the CA as per conditions of the IPA dated 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2023 may be accepted and scheme for plantation enrichment as per the new rules may not be insisted upon.

**(ii) Penal Compensatory Afforestation:**

As per the condition (iv) of the in principle. approval, 5 times of penal NPV over the entire area proposed for violation (63.441 ha) was imposed on the user agency. MoEF & CC accepting the recommendations of the Sub-Committee vide letter dated 01.11.2024 (Annexun(IV)) conveyed the amended penal provisions which prescribes the penal CA as below :

*"Penal CA shall be levied over five times of 17.209 ha of DFL. Alternatively; the State government may pledge equal amount of NFL with vegetation cover of more than 0.4 canopy density. This would bring more area under the notified forest area network, thereby more area under scientific forest management."*

As per the alternative condition for penal CA, the State Government had already transferred and mutated 86 ha of NFL to the forest department. The following is further submitted in this regard :

(i) The Ministry had amended the penal provisions as waving of the penal provisions was requested by the State Government considering the financial burden of the State. The State Government had therefore complied with the alternative condition for penal CA and had transferred 86 ha of Non Forest Land of required canopy density so that' the financial burden of carrying out CA in 86 ha of degraded forest land is reduced.

(ii) The Sub-committee had recommended the following in its report dated 09.10.2024 (**Annexure V**).

*"Providing NFL with dense canopy density towards prescribed CA (along with exemption from paying cost of raising CA) is an environmentally positive action which should always be encouraged, notwithstanding the provisions of FC rules as applicable."*

Though NIT, Mizoram is a project of the Central Government, the State Government has the responsibility of making the land available for the NIT campus. The State Government has already paid an amount of **₹1,03,916,471/-** (*Rupees Ten Crore Thirty-Nine*

*Lakh / Sixteen Thousand Four Hundred and Seventy One only*) as compensatory levies inspite of the financial position of the State to expedite the construction of NIT in Mizoram.

Considering that the State Government has already transferred 86 ha of non-forest land with dense canopy density in accordance with the alternative condition to avoid additional financial burden, and has further deposited compensatory levies amounting to **₹10,39,16,471/-** (*Rupees Ten Crore Thirty-Nine Lakh Sixteen Thousand Four Hundred and Seventy-One only*), I am further directed to request your kind consideration for granting final approval to the project without insisting upon the condition of improvement of the existing crop, as communicated vide letter dated 24.11.2025.

Enclo : As stated.

Yours faithfully,

Digitally signed by

Vanlalruata Pautu

Date: 14-01-2026

14:24:44

**(VANLALRUATA PAUTU)**

Under Secretary to the Govt. of Mizoram,  
Environment, Forests & Climate Change Department.

**Memo No. G-20/53/2025-EFCC : Dated Aizawl the 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2026.**

*Copy to :*

1. P.S. to the Principal Secretary, Environment, Forests & Climate Change Department for kind information.
2. P.P.S. to the Commissioner & Secretary, Higher & Technical Education Department for kind information.
3. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Mizoram for kind information.
4. Registrar, NIT for kind information.

Under Secretary to the Govt. of Mizoram,  
Environment, Forests & Climate Change Department.  
email : [efccsectt@gmail.com](mailto:efccsectt@gmail.com)

**F.No. 8-02/2022-FC**  
**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**  
**(Forest Conservation Division)**

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Indira Paryavaran Bhawan  
 Aliganj, Jor bagh Road  
 New Delhi- 110003  
**Dated:24-11-2025**

To

**The Secretary (Forests),**  
 Department of Environment, Forest & Climate Change,  
 Government of Mizoram.

**Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in f/o Department of Higher and Technical Education, Government of Mizoram for non-forestry use of 63.441 ha Reserved forest land for construction of National Institute of Technology in Aizawl District in the State of Mizoram (Online Proposal No FP/MZ/SCH/148602/2021)- regarding.**

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to refer to Government of Mizoram letter No. G-20/53/2025-EFCC dated 14.10.2025 which was uploaded online on 24.10.2025 forwarding reply to information sought by the Ministry on 22.09.2025. After examination of reply submitted by the State Government with regards to requirement of enrichment scheme in respect of 53 ha and 86 ha of non-forest lands, the following is observed:

Analysis of canopy density of 53 ha and 86 ha of non-forest lands, reveals that an area of 27 ha falls under the Open Forest category, while 124 ha falls under the MDF category. To ensure progressive improvement where the area classified as MDF transitions to the VDF category, and the area under Open Forest advances to MDF and subsequently to VDF, it is desirable that the State submit a scheme for plantation enrichment in accordance with the provisions of the second proviso to Rule 13(1) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023.

Accordingly, I am directed to request the State Government to submit a scheme for the improvement of the existing crop in respect of 53 ha of normal CA land and 86 ha of penal CA land and cost of the same may be deposited into the account of CAMP for further consider of the proposal for Stage-II approval.

Digitally signed by  
**CHARAN JEET SINGH**  
 Date: 24-11-2025  
 14:17:23

Yours faithfully

Sd/-  
**Charan Jeet Singh)**

*PCCF/K.D.*  
*P.S.H.*  
*COC/H/O*

650.6

25.11.25

Scientist 'E'

**Copy to: -**

1. The PCCF & HoFF, Government of Mizoram.
2. The Nodal Officer, Government of Mizoram.
3. The DDGF (C) Regional Office, Shillong, MoEF&CC.
4. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi for uploading.
5. The User Agency.

Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change,  
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj  
New Delhi - 110003  
Dated: 7th June, 2023

To,  
The Principal Secretary (Forests)  
Government of Mizoram,  
Aizawl.

Subject: Proposal for diversion of 63.441 ha Reserved forest land for the construction of National Institute of Technology under the Aizawl District of Mizoram State. (Online Proposal No. FP/MZ/SCH/148602/2021).

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Mizoram's letter No G/20015/61/2018-FST dated 03.02.2022 on the subject mentioned above seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (ii) of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and to say that the proposal has been examined by the Advisory Committee constituted by the Central Government under Section 3 of the aforesaid Act.

After careful examination of the proposal of the State Government and on the basis of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, and its acceptance by the competent authority in this Ministry, **In-principle/ Stage-I approval** of the Central Government is hereby accorded for diversion of 63.441 ha Reserved forest land for the construction of National Institute of Technology under the Aizawl District of Mizoram State subject to fulfillment of the following conditions:

- i. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged.
- ii. Compensatory Afforestation:

- a. The Compensatory Afforestation (CA) has been proposed over identified non-forest land (NFL) over an area of 64.25 ha. Since 53 ha NFL identified for CA is medium Dense Forest (MDF) and cannot accommodate 1000 plants/ha, therefore balance seedlings shall be planted over degraded forest land (DFL) for which the DFL shall be identified in Mamit Forest Division or elsewhere in other districts/divisions in the State. The details of the DFL along with the site suitability certificate, approved CA scheme and KML files of the said area shall be submitted prior to Stage-II approval.
- b. The cost of compensatory afforestation at the prevailing wage rates as per compensatory afforestation scheme and the cost of survey, demarcation and erection of permanent pillars, if required on the CA land, shall be deposited in advance with the Forest Department by the user agency. The CA will be maintained for 10 years. The scheme may include afforestation of indigenous species with appropriate provision for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for subsequent years.

P/B OF PCCF-

Receipt No. 2429

Date: 8.6.23

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To file in the file of the Principal Secretary (Forests) Government of Mizoram, Aizawl.

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- c. The non-forest land identified for CA shall be transferred and mutated in favour of the State Forest Department and subsequently notified by the State Government as RF under Section -4 or PF under Section-29 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 or under the relevant Section(s) of the local Forest Act before Stage-II approval. A copy of the final Notification shall be submitted along with the compliance of Stage-I approval.
- d. The KML files of diverted area and the CA areas shall be uploaded on the e-Green watch portal with all requisite details prior to Stage II approval.
- iii. The User Agency shall transfer the funds towards the cost of Net Present Value (NPV) of the forest land being diverted under this proposal from the User Agency in accordance with the MoEF&GC's guidelines dated 6.01.2022 read with guidelines dated 19.01.2022.
- iv. The user agency shall deposit penal NPV which will be 5 times of the NPV for the area under violation (63.441 ha) and now proposed to be diverted.
- v. The penal Compensatory Afforestation over degraded forest land (DFL) five times of the forest area under violation (63.441 ha) and now proposed to be diverted shall be raised at the cost of the user agency.
- vi. The KML file submitted by the State Govt. does not match with the ground situation/broken up area visible in the satellite imagery. The state Government shall revisit and submit the correct KML file keeping in view the field situation.
- ✓ vii. The 18 ha area proposed to be developed as Green zone shall not be used for any construction activity in the future.
- viii. As far as possible, the construction should be done using eco-friendly materials and the campus be developed as a green campus to the best extent possible in order to maintain the micro-climate of the area.
- ix. The cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department.
- x. All the funds received from the user agency under the project shall be transferred/deposited in the account of National Authority only through e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>). Amount deposited through other modes will not be accepted as compliance of the Stage-I clearance.
- xi. The complete compliance of the FRA, 2006 shall be ensured by the State Government.
- xii. The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required.
- xiii. The compliance report shall be uploaded on e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>).
- xiv. At the time of payment of the Net Present Value (NPV) at the present rate, the user agency shall furnish an undertaking to pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.
- xv. The user agency shall explore the possibility of translocation 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.
- xvi. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal. Thus, the State Govt. ensure that the forest land shall be used exclusively for the purpose of National Institute of Technology as per the plan approved from the competent authority. No commercial activity shall be allowed on forest land.
- xvii. The state Government will ensure complete compliance of Forest Rights Act 2006.
- xviii. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land and the User Agency shall

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- provide fuels preferably alternate fuels to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas.
- xix. No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused.
  - xx. The User Agency shall submit the annual self-compliance report in respect of the above-stated conditions to the State Government, concerned Regional Office and to this Ministry by the end of March every year regularly.
  - xxi. Any other condition that the concerned Integrated Regional Office of this Ministry may stipulate, with prior approval of competent authority, in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife.
  - xxii. The user agency shall comply all the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Hon'ble Court Order (s) and NGT Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.
  - xxiii. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed in para 1.21 of Chapter 1 of the Handbook of comprehensive guidelines of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 as issued by this Ministry's letter No. 5-2/2017-FC dated 28.03.2019.

After receipt of compliance report on fulfillment of the conditions mentioned above, the proposal shall be considered for final approval under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Transfer of forest land shall not be affected till final approval is granted by the Central Government in this regard.

Yours faithfully,

(Sunest Bhardwaj)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Mizoram, Aizawl.
2. The Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, Shillong.
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), O/o PCCF, Forest Department, Government of Mizoram, Aizawl.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell of FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi.

F. No. 5-2/2017- FC  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, forests and Climate Change  
(FC Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Aliganj, Jor Bag Road,  
New Delhi - 110003.

Dated: 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2019

To,  
The Principal Secretary/Secretary (Forests),  
All State/UT Governments.

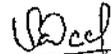
Sub: Handbook of guidelines for effective and transparent implementation of the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Sir,

In supersession of all guidelines issued in the past, a handbook of guidelines is issued for effective and transparent implementation of the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. All the provisions enshrined in these guidelines will be applicable from 8<sup>th</sup> March 2019 onwards. The copy of comprehensive guidelines is available on Ministry's website: [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in).

This issue with the approval of competent authority.

Yours faithfully,

  
(Sandeep/Sharma)

Assistant Inspector General of Forest (FC)

Copy to:

1. Prime Minister's Office, New Delhi.
2. Secretary, Ministry of Mines/Coal/Steel/MoRTH/MoPNG/MHA/MoP/MoTA, Government of India, New Delhi.
3. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, all State/UT Governments.
4. Nodal Officer (FCA), all State/UT Governments.
5. All Regional Offices, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), GoI, New Delhi.
6. Joint Secretary in-charge, Impact Assessment Division, MoEF&CC, GoI, New Delhi.
7. All IGF/ DIGF/AIGF in MoEF&CC, GoI, New Delhi.
8. Sr. Director (Technical), NIC, MoEF&CC with a request to place a copy of the letter on website of this Ministry.
9. PPS to Secretary (EF&CC)/DGF&SS/ADGF(FC)/ADGF(Wildlife), MoEF&CC, New Delhi.
10. Guard File.

  
(Sandeep Sharma)

Assistant Inspector General of Forest (FC)

o/c  
11/3/19

*Jyoti Saldanha*

**Handbook of**

**Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980**

**and**

**Forest Conservation Rules, 2003**

**(Guidelines & Clarifications)**



**Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
Government of India**

**2019**

at each Regional Offices of the MoEF&CC will be constituted:

- (a) The Head of Regional Office - Chairman
- (b) Representatives of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)- Member,
- (c) Representatives of the FSI-member
- (d) The Nodal Officers (FCA) of States/UTs under each Regional Offices of MoEF&CC-Members

The committee will review the progress in creation of land bank for CA in the States/UTs falling under jurisdiction of the Regional Offices and submit annual report or as and when required to the MoEF&CC.

#### 2.8. Elements of Schemes for Compensatory Afforestation:

- (i) CA over Non-Forest Land (NFL): Number of plants to be planted over Non-Forest Land identified for CA, shall be at least 1000 plants per hectare.

If the requisite number of plants @ 1000/ha cannot be planted on the non-forest land identified for taking up CA, then the balance number of the plants will be planted in degraded forest land as per the provisions of working plans. The State Government will intimate to the MoEF&CC the names of the R.F./P.F. in which the balance seedlings will be planted. The User Agency will deposit the cost of planting (including maintenance for ten years).

- (ii) Scheme for CA: The scheme for CA, to be submitted/uploaded at the time of applying for diversion of forest land for non-forest purpose, should be site specific, and include the following details: -
  - a) Details of non-forest or degraded forest land, along with land kism (NF land) forest type, crown density, etc. (degraded forest) identified for raising CA.
  - b) Map showing the proposed NF/degraded forest area for CA and that of the nearby forest area and map of degraded forest land proposed.
  - c) Geo-referenced digital maps of CA (Polygon map with DGPS coordinates).
  - d) KML file of CA site in polygon shape to be uploaded online.
  - e) Detailed work schedule including year wise operations including saplings to be planted along with soil & moisture conservation, regeneration cleaning, silvicultural and other activities as prescribed in the working plan, species to be planted, including maintenance for 10 years and annual total costs in conformity with cost norms of the State/UT.
  - f) Agency responsible for afforestation.
  - g) Details of proposed monitoring mechanism, including infrastructural facility, if any required by the State/UT Govt.
  - h) Technical and administrative approvals from the competent authority.
  - i) The cumulative achievement of the State/UT Governments in respect of compensatory afforestation.

Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
(Forest Conservation Division)

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Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Jor Bagh Road, Allganj  
New Delhi: 110003,  
Dated: 01-11-2024

To,

The Secretary (Forests),  
Department of Environment, Forest and Climate Change,  
Government of Mizoram,

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in f/o Department of Higher and Technical Education, Government of Mizoram for non-forestry use of 63.441 ha Reserved forest land for construction of National Institute of Technology in Aizawl District in the State of Mizoram (Online Proposal No FP/MZ/SCH/148602/2021) regarding-

Sir/ Madam,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Mizoram's letter No. G.20015/61/2018-FST/555-556 dated 28.05.2024 on the above-mentioned subject seeking prior approval of Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. In this regard it is informed that the matter was discussed in the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 14.10.2024. The detailed minutes of the said AC meeting are uploaded at [parivesh.nic.in](http://parivesh.nic.in).

Based on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee and approval of the same by the competent authority of the MoEF&CC, the Central Government hereby amend the penal provisions stipulated in the in-principle approval dated 7.06.2023, as given under:

- i. The quantum of penalty may not be reduced, however, same should be rationalized in the most pragmatic way, without compromising the conservation principles.
- ii. Penal NPV shall be levied, at the rate of five times of NPV over actual area under violation, i.e. 17.209 ha. However, the actual amount to be levied would be 20% of the amount calculated, the project being a Government entity, as per the extant provision, NPV shall be levied.
- iii. Penal CA shall be levied over five times of 17.209 ha of DFL. Alternatively, the State Government may pledge equal amount of NFL with vegetation cover of more than 0.4 canopy density. This would bring more area under the notified forest area network, thereby more area under scientific forest management.
- iv. The Government of Mizoram shall demarcate all the forest land in State to avoid similar complications in future. A time-bound action plan should be made, which will be submitted to MoEF&CC.

P/B OF PCCF

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The penal provisions stipulated in the in-principle approval dated 7.06.2023 stands amended to the extent as mentioned above. The State Govt. is requested to submit compliance of in-principle approval dated accordingly.

This issues with the approval of the competent authority.

Signed by

Yours faithfully,

Charan Jeet Singh

Date: 04-11-2024 10:31:08

Sd-

(Charan Jeet Singh)

Scientist 'E'

Copy to: -

1. The Secretary, Ministry of Education, Department of Higher Education, Government of India, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
2. The PCCF & HoFF, Govt. of Mizoram.
3. The Nodal Officer, Government of Mizoram.
4. The DDGF (G) Regional Office, Shillong, MoEF&CC.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi for uploading.
6. The User Agency.

Inspection report of the Sub-committee of Advisory Committee of MoEF&CC, on visit to the area proposed for diversion of 63.441 ha of Riverine Reserve Forest for establishment of National Institute of Technology (NIT) in Mamit District of Mizoram State

A. In pursuance of the decision taken during the meeting of Advisory Committee (AC) held on 27<sup>th</sup> of August 2024, a site inspection was conducted by the Sub-Committee of the AC, comprising of Shri Manoj Pant (Member, AC), Shri Anjan Kumar Mohanty (Member, AC and ADG, FC) and Shri Shrawan Kumar Verma (DIG & RO, Gandhinagar), during 02-03 October, 2024; of the site proposed for establishment of NIT in Mamit District of Mizoram. The online Proposal No. is FP/MZ/SCH/148602/2021 and the user agency is Department of Higher and Technical Education, Government of Mizoram.

The list of officials present during site inspection is as below:

1. Department of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of Mizoram
  - i. Shri N. C. Saravanan IFS, Nodal Officer (ECA)
  - ii. Shri Lalnunsanga Khawlhing IFS, Conservator of Forest (Northern Circle)
  - iii. Shri. C. Lalrinmuana, MFS, Divisional Forest Officer, Mamit Forest Division
  - iv. Shri. Bryan Zorintluanga, MFS, Divisional Forest Officer (Protection Division)
2. Department of Higher and Technical Education, Govt. of Mizoram
  - i. Shri Hmangaihzuala, MSS, Joint Secretary
  - ii. Dr. Saimawia, Assistant Professor, Govt. Zirtiri Residential Science College.
3. National Institute of Technology, Mizoram
  - i. Prof. Ajmal Koya Pulikkal, Registrar in-charge, NIT Mizoram
  - ii. Dr. H. Lalhmingsanga, Dean (P&D), NIT Mizoram
  - iii. Dr. Ricky Lalthazuala, Associate Dean (P&D), NIT Mizoram
  - iv. Mr. Hasan Mohammed Sarwar, Executive Engineer (Civil), NIT Mizoram
  - v. Dr. Lalhruaitluangi, Asst. Registrar, NIT Mizoram

All the information as produced hereinafter is a convergence of information gathered from the field during the visit, discussions held during and after the site inspection, perusal of available documents and relevant data from Government sources.

**B. Brief background:**

1. The proposal is for diversion of 63.441 ha of forest land for establishment of NIT in Aizawl District of Mizoram state. The proposal has been accorded Stage-I approval under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 (referred to as FCA hereinafter) vide Ministry's letter dated 07.06.2023 (Annexure-I), subject to certain conditions, including the following three specific conditions:
  - i. The Compensatory Afforestation (CA) has been proposed over identified nonforest land (NFL) over an area of 64.25 ha. Since 53 ha NFL identified for CA is Medium Dense Forest (MDF) and cannot accommodate 1000 plants/ha, therefore balance seedlings shall be planted over degraded forest land (DFL) for which the DFL shall be identified in

*[Handwritten signature]*

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09/10/2024

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- ii. The user agency shall deposit penal NPV which will be 5 times of the NPV for the area under violation (63,441 ha) and now proposed to be diverted.
- iii. The Penal Compensatory Afforestation over degraded forest land (DFL), five times of the forest area under violation (63,441 ha) and now proposed to be diverted shall be raised at the cost of the user agency.

2. The above Penal NPV and Penal CA (PCA) were imposed by Central Government (following the recommendation of the AC made in its meeting held on 18.05.2023), since some non-forestry work had started in the proposed diversion area, without obtaining prior approval of Central Government in violation of the provisions of FCA.

3. Subsequently, Government of Mizoram requested vide their letter dt: 06.05.2024, for consideration of the request submitted by its Higher & Technical Education Deptt. regarding reduction or waiving of the charges associated with Penal CA, Penal NPV and Boundary pillars in relation to the instant proposal.

4. The matter was taken up as an agenda item in the AC meeting held on 27.08.2024. AC decided to constitute a sub-committee to visit the site and submit report with specific recommendation on the request of the State Government regarding relaxation in levying Penal NPV, PCA and Boundary Pillars as prescribed in the Stage-I approval issued by Ministry.

**C. Chronology of events/activities in brief:**

Sl. No.	Date	Event/Activity
1	2009	NIT Mizoram was set up (along with 10 other NITs in different parts of country) to meet the demand for technical and scientific education and to ensure every state in India has its own NIT.
2	2011	The NIT started its academic activities in rented buildings in Aizawl.
3	Oct 2012 and Sept 2013	Govt. of Mizoram allotted 164 Acres at Lengpui near Lengpui Airport, Aizawl. Again the State Govt. allotted additional 84 Acres at Lengpui which made the total land claimed to be given for NIT Mizoram as 248 Acres.
4	Feb. 2015	After re-demarcation Land Allotment Certificate was allotted to Secretary, Higher and Technical Education, Govt. of Mizoram for establishment of permanent campus of NIT Mizoram measuring 190.35 Acres.
5	Feb 2015 to	Non-forestry work started and done in form of construction of boundary wall, peripheral road, drain

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	October 2016	along the road and some levelling in the central area (revealed from satellite data)
6	31.08.2017	DFO, Mamit Forest Division, issued "Stay Order Notice" to NIT Mizoram, stating that any work at the permanent campus was an encroachment Notified Riverine Reserved Forest.
7	21.10.2021	The instant proposal for diversion of 63.441 ha, was uploaded by the User Agency in PARIVESH Portal
8	25.01.2022	Proposal Received at State Nodal officer
9	03.02.2022	Proposal Received at MOEF&CC
10		Regional Office, Shillong, MoEFCC made a Site Visit and submitted report to MoEFCC (in pursuance of a recommendation of AC in its meeting held on 13.06.2022)
11	07.06.2023	Stage-I/In-principle approval was accorded by MoEFCC
12	06.05.2024	Govt. of Mizoram wrote to MoEFCC for consideration of the request of its Higher & Technical Education Deptt. on reduction or waiving of the charges imposed towards PCA, Penal NPV and Boundary pillars.
13	27.08.2024	AC in its meeting decided to send a Sub-committee to visit the area under diversion and submit report
14	17.09.2024	Ministry issued letter for the Sub-committee of AC to visit the proposed area and submit report along with specific recommendation on the request of the State Government for relaxation in levying Penal NPV, PCA and Boundary Pillars as prescribed in the Stage-I approval issued by Ministry.

**D. Some additional information (most of the information under this section is obtained from available records):**

1. Details of the forest land proposed for diversion: A total of 63.441 ha of reserved forest land located in Lengpui village of Mamit District and falling within Mamit Forest Division, has been proposed for diversion. The project also involves 0.809 ha of non-forest land.

2. Area of different components to be constructed as per the Master plan of the project:

Sl. No.	Item/Component Area	Area in ha
1.	Built-up space	25.00
2.	Peripheral Road (already constructed)	2.70
3.	Internal Roads	7.30
4.	Green Zones (out of construction)	9.00
5.	Green Zone (to be developed later)	9.00

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6.	Playground/Garden	10.441
	Total Forest land to be diverted	63.441

3. Total Cost of Project at Present Rates: - Rs. 669. 75 Cr

4. Wildlife: The presence of wildlife in and around the forest land proposed for diversion is nominal. No endangered fauna is found. Only few species such as wild pigs, squirrels, jungle cats, rodents, reptiles and birds are found, as informed by the forest officials who were present during the site visit.

5. Vegetation: Density 0.2 Eco Class-I.

6. Nos of the trees to be felled girth wise:

- i. 0-30 cm girth: 4144 no.
- ii. 31-60 cm girth: 5569 no.
- iii. 61-90 cm girth: 3003 no.
- iv. 91-120 cm girth: 1033 no.
- v. 121-150 cm girth: 367 no.
- vi. > 150 cm girth: 106 no.
- vii. Total no. of trees: 14222 no.

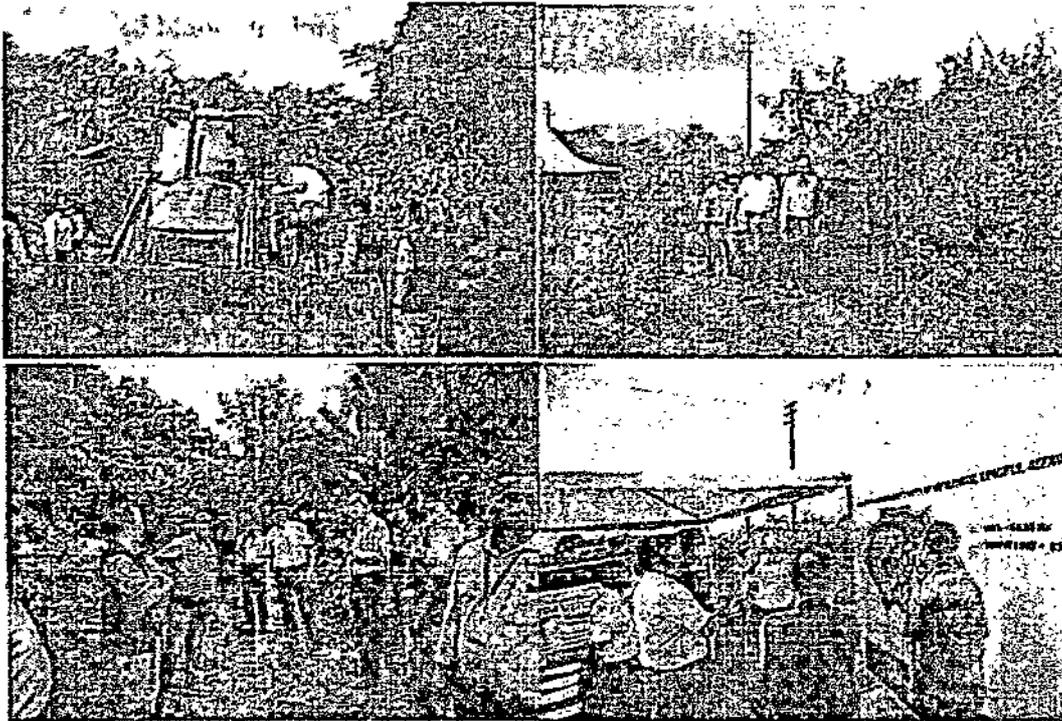
Major species in the enumeration list include, Tectona grandis, Gmelina arborea, Albizzia procera, Ficus religiosa, Emblica officinalis, Bombax ceiba, Castanopsis Tribuloides etc.

7. Out of the total number of 14222 trees enumerated, 3070 trees are reported to have been felled.

E. Observations during site visit: The Sub-committee visited the area proposed for diversion, on 02.10.2024 and observed the following:

- a. Fencing has been completed with the construction of boundary wall around the whole area.
- b. A peripheral road of about four metre width made of concrete material has been made in the proposed area.
- c. A drain has also been made alongside the peripheral road.
- d. In the centre of area, vegetation has been cleared over an elongated shape area and same was found levelled for construction of some proposed components. Area of this was calculated later analysing satellite imageries.
- e. Except the boundary wall, peripheral road and drain, no construction has taken place. It was informed by the Nodal Officer that the work was completely stopped soon after it was informed that the area falls with Riverine Reserved Forest.
- f. The vegetation outside the boundary wall was by and large open forest of miscellaneous species and bamboo.

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F. **Interaction with Officials of the State Government and NIT:** A detailed discussion was held with the officials of State Forest Department, State H&TE Department and NIT, on 03.10.2024. The discussion session was specifically scheduled, to understand peripheral issues, which might not have captured well in the field visit or in all the documents referred by the committee, but have some bearing on the instant proposal. The salient points/issues which were submitted before the committee/revealed are:

- a. For decades the state witnessed acute civil unrest till in 1986, when a peace accord was signed and thereafter efforts were made to bring normalcy. In fact foundations for development processes including core forest administration matters got initiated after that. This is one of the areas, where the state is lagging behind most other states, particularly in the matter of consolidation of land records in respect of forest lands. There are many areas where boundary demarcation of forest lands has not been made or completed.
- b. The state has about 84.53% of its total geographical area under forest cover and about 35.48% of the total area is under Recorded Forest Area (REA).
- c. The trees which have been felled and most of the enumerated trees, are part of a social forestry plantation of 2001-02, which was taken up in the area proposed for diversion.
- d. The area was allotted by the State Government for establishment of NIT campus and some construction work was made there, without any knowledge that the same area is part of a reserved forest. However, the moment it was brought to the notice by the forest department, work was immediately stopped and the state Government applied for diversion of the area under FCA-1980.
- e. Since 2011, the NIT has been functioning in rented accommodations in Aizawl city, which is costing about Rs 10 crore per annum. Now since Government of

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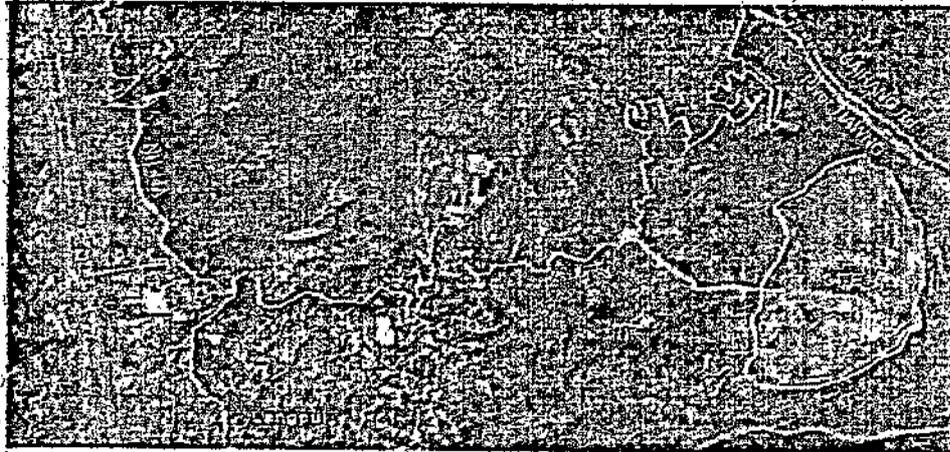
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India has already agreed for the campus in-principle, it should be taken up in a most considerate manner to resolve the issue, and allow the institute come up at the earliest.

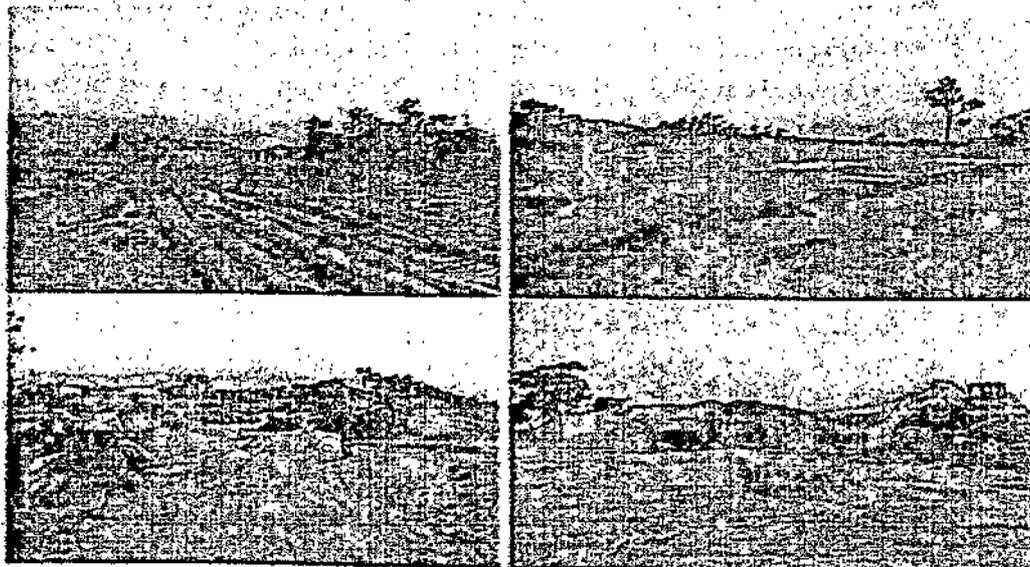
G. DSS report: The DSS cell of the MoEFCC was requested to make an analysis of the area proposed for diversion, to obtain some specific information. The following information was obtained:

1. The non-forestry work was started in the month of February 2015.
2. From the time series satellite data, it is revealed that an total area of 17.209 ha was calculated to be under non-forestry activity as of January 2017. (The Sub-Committee considered this figure as the actual area under violation.)

H. Project Location Map and Photograph



Site information:  
• Heavily encroached site consisting of deep valleys and ridges sloping towards the nearby Tinung River, with a difference of 150m between the highest & the lowest levels.  
• Predominantly bamboo base along with dense trees are scattered throughout the site.  
• Access to the site is at a single point on the west side which is approx. 4.5 km from Lunglei Airport.



Site in the Year 2015

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Legend	
W	Main Building Block
A1	Administrative Block
A2	Library
A3	Computer Center
A4	Laboratory Resource Center
A5	Academics
A6	Guest House
A7	Faculty Office
A8	Student Center
A9	Faculty Office
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**MASTER PLAN**

Views and recommendations of the Committee: Based on the observations made above, discussions held during and after the site visit and examining available information, the members of the Sub-committee deliberated all the issues mentioned above and the mandate given to it.

1. The Sub-committee specifically took note of the following, before making any recommendation:
  - i. The instant project proposal is for a Government educational institute, which is a non-profit entity.
  - ii. From the sequence of events as explained earlier, it does not appear that there was any intention of violating any provision of the FCA 1980.
  - iii. The State Government maintains a high percentage of forest cover, which is in fact the highest amongst all the states of the country.
  - iv. There are significant areas under non-forest category, which have good forest cover.
  - v. The actual area which was brought under non-forestry activity is 17.209 ha. The Penal NPV and PCA should be calculated based on this figure.
  - vi. As of now, the Penal NPV has been imposed five times of the NPV for the area under violation and PCA over degraded forest land (DFL), five times of the forest area under violation, which in the opinion of the sub-committee is apparently on the higher side.
  - vii. Providing NEL with dense canopy density towards prescribed CA (along with exemption from paying cost of raising CA) is an environmentally positive action which should always be encouraged, notwithstanding the provisions

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of FC Rules as applicable. In fact, realising its significance, in the new Rules provision has been made wherein, if NFL with vegetation cover of 0.4 or more canopy density is provided as CA land, same will be exempted from making payment for raising CA. This is also in tune with the spirit of Accredited Compensatory Afforestation (ACA) provision made in the same new Rules.

2. Considering all above discussions and observations made specifically in sub-para-1 above, it is recommended that:

i. The quantum of penalty may not be reduced, however, same should be rationalised in the most pragmatic way, without compromising the conservation principles.

ii. Penal NPV should be levied, at the rate of five times of NPV over actual area under violation, i.e. 17,209 ha. However, the actual amount to be levied would be 20% of the amount calculated, the project being a Government entity, as per the extant provision.

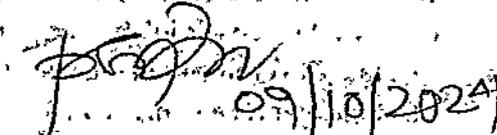
iii. PCA shall be levied over five times of 17,209 ha of DFL. Alternatively, the State Government may pledge equal amount of NFL with vegetation cover of more than 0.4 canopy density. This would bring more area under the notified forest area network, thereby more area under scientific forest management.

iv. The Government of Mizoram shall demarcate all the forest land in State to avoid similar complications in future. A time-bound action plan should be

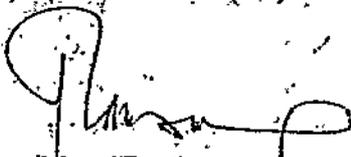
made, which will be submitted to MoEFCC.

  
(Shrawan Kumar Verma)

RO, Gandhinagar, MoEFCC

  
(AK Mohanty)

ADG (FC) and Member (AC)

  
(Manoj Pant)

Member (AC)

