

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST DEPARTMENT
JANATA BHAWAN, DISPUR, GUWAHATI-6

eCF No.233926/316

Dated Dispur, the December, 2023

To : The Deputy Inspector General of Forests (C),
Government of India,
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change,
Sub office, Guwahati,
4th Floor, Housefed Building,
G.S Road, Rukminigaon, Guwahati-781022

Sub : (i) Proposal for diversion of 5.11 ha of forest land for
operation of Bheleguri Stone Mahal in Doboka Reserved Forest under
Nagaon Division in favour of Md. Kamal Ahmed-reg.

(ii) Proposal for diversion of 5.42 ha of forest land for
operation of Lankajuri Stone Mahal in Doboka Reserved Forest under
Nagaon Division in favour of Imdad Ali.

(iii) Proposal for diversion of 5.12 ha of forest land for
operation of Beldenga Stone Mahal in Doboka Reserved Forest under
Nagaon Division in favour of Sri Bishnu Ram Bordoloi.

Ref : Government of India letter F.No. 3-AS C/131/2022/GHY/4838-
39 dated 14.11.2023.

Sir,

In inviting reference to your letter on the subject cited
above, I am directed to enclose herewith a copy of the letter
No.FG.27/FCA/Proposal/Bheluguri S.Q/Nagaon Divn. dated 21.12.2023,
along with its enclosures, received from the Chief Conservator of
Forests & Nodal Officer (FC Act), Assam, O/o the PCCF & HoFF, Assam,
which is self explanatory, for favour of your kind information and
necessary action.

Enclo : As stated above.

Yours faithfully,

Signed by

Neera Daulagupu

Date: 22-12-2023 15:44:42

Secretary to the Govt. of Assam
Environment and Forest Department

Memo eCF No.233926/316-A Dated Dispur, the December, 2023

Copy to:-

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Assam,
Panjabari, Guwahati-37.

e-signed

Secretary to the Govt. of Assam
Environment and Forest Department

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS AND
HEAD OF FOREST FORCE, ASSAM
ARANYA BHAWAN, PANJABARI, GUWAHATI-37

Email: adlpccf.nodal@gmail.com

No. FG.27/FCA/Proposal/Bheluguri S.Q/Nagaon Divn.

Dated 21.12.2023

To,

The Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam,
Environment and Forest Department, Dispur, Guwahati-6.

Sub:

(i) Proposal for diversion of 5.11 Ha. of forest land for operation of Bheleuguri Stone Mahal in Doboka Reserved Forest under Nagaon Division in favour of Md. Kamal.

(ii) Proposal for diversion of 5.42 Ha. of forest land for operation of Lankaijuri Stone Mahal in Doboka Reserved Forest under Nagaon Division in favour of Imdad Ali.

(iii) Proposal for diversion of 5.12 Ha. of forest land for operation of Beldenga Stone Mahal in Doboka Reserved Forest under Nagaon Division in favour of Sri Bishnu Ram Bordoloi.

Ref:

Government of India letter No. 3-AS C/131/2022/GHY/4838-39 dated 14.11.2023.

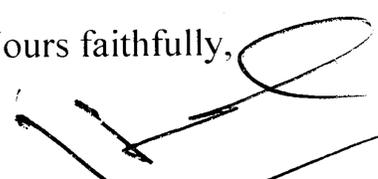
Sir,

With reference to the letter cited above, I am enclosing herewith the Comprehensive Impact study on the landscape due to mining activities of 3 MCA's i.e. Bheleuguri Stone Mahal, Lankaijuri Stone Mahal & Beldenga Stone Mahal in Doboka Reserved Forest under Nagaon Division duly submitted by the DFO, Nagaon Division.

The above-mentioned information may kindly be sent to the Government of India, MoEF & CC, Sub Office, Guwahati (Under Regional Office, Shillong), Guwahati accordingly.

Encl: As stated above.

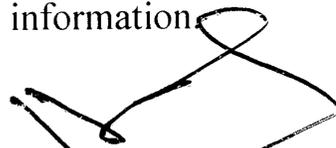
Yours faithfully,


(Dr. C Muthukumaravel, IFS)
Chief Conservator of Forests &
Nodal Officer (FC Act), Assam

O/o the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and
Head of Forest Force, Assam

Copy to:

1. The Deputy Director General of Forest (Central), Sub office, Guwahati (Under Regional office, Shillong), Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, 4th Floor, Housefed Building, G.S Road, Rukminigaon, Guwahati-781022 for kind information
2. The Chief Conservator of Forests, Northern Assam Circle, Tezpur for information.
3. The Divisional Forest Officer, Nagaon Division, Nagaon for information.


Chief Conservator of Forests &
Nodal Officer (FC Act), Assam
O/o the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and
Head of Forest Force, Assam

o/c



GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS, ASSAM

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER: NAGAON DIVISION NAGAON

Phone & Fax No. 03672-233610

Email ID- dfonagaont@gmail.com.

Letter No. FNGT/A./74(Part-1)/Bheleguri Stone Mahal/2023/4069-71 Dated- 18/12/2023

To,

The Chief Conservator of Forests &
Nodal Officer (FC Act), Assam
O/o the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and
Head of Forest Force, Assam.

Subject: (i) Proposal for diversion of 5.11 Ha. of forest land for operation of Bheleguri Stone Mahal in Doboka Reserve Forest under Nagaon Division in favour of Md. Kamal.
(ii) Proposal for diversion of 5.42 Ha. of forest land for operation of Lankaijuri Stone Mahal in Doboka Reserve Forest under Nagaon Division in favour of Imdad Ali.
(iii) Proposal for diversion of 5.12 Ha. of forest land for operation of Beldenga Stone Mahal in Doboka Reserve Forest under Nagaon Division in favour of Sri Bishnu Ram Bordoloi.

Reference: 1. Your Office letter no.FG.27/FCA/Proposal/Bheluguri S.Q/Nagaon Divn, dtd: 16/11/2023.
2. Government of India letter No.3-AS C/131/2022/GHY/4838-39 dated 14.11.2023.

Sir,

With reference to the subject cited above, I have the honour to submit herewith the necessary information related to the Proposal for diversion of 3 MCA's i.e. **Bheleguri Stone Mahal, Lankaijuri Stone Mahal and Beldenga Stone Mahal** in Doboka Reserve Forest under Nagaon Division. The Comprehensive Impact study on the landscape due to mining activities in Doboka Reserve Forest (Annexure I) submitted by Internal Committee constituted under this division has been attached for your kind reference and necessary onward submission. Further, it is to mention that the mitigation measures in view of the identified impacts have also been included in the study, the implementation of which will ensure responsible resource extraction from Doboka Reserve Forest Area.

This is for favour of your kind information and necessary action.

Enclosed: As stated above.

Yours faithfully,


Divisional Forest Officer,
Nagaon Division, Nagaon.

Copy to

1. The Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, (T) Upper Assam Zone, Jorhat-1 for favour of his kind information and necessary action.
2. The Chief Conservator of Forests, Northern Assam Circle, Tezpur for favour of his kind information and necessary action.


Divisional Forest Officer,
Nagaon Division, Nagaon.



GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS, ASSAM

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER: NAGAON DIVISION NAGAON

Phone & Fax No. 03672-233610

Email ID- dfonagaont@gmail.com.

O. O. No. 178

Dated- 08/12/2023

ORDER

Committee for assessment of cumulative impact study of proposed Mining activities under Daboka Reserve Forest i.e 3 MCAs namely (i) Bheluguri Stone Mahal, (ii) Beldenga Stone Mahal and (iii) Lankajuri Stone Mahal comprising following members is hereby created.

1	Sri Dipankar Deb, Asstt. Conservator of Forests under Nagaon Division, Nagaon	Chairman
2	Kalyani Malakar, AFS, I/C Nagaon Range, Nagaon	Member
3	Sri Debabrat Khanikar, FR, I/C Kathiatoli Range, Kathiatoli	Member Secretary
4	Sri Mukuta Barman, Fr-I, I/C Modertoli Beat, Modertoli	Member

The following is mandate of the committee

1. To observe all environmental, social, biodiversity related cumulative impact on overall landscape due to concerned mahal areas.
2. To suggest measures for mitigation of the possible impact.

Yours report shall reach this Office as early as possible.


Divisional Forest Officer,
Nagaon Division, Nagaon

Memo No. FNGT/B/74 (Part-I)/Bheluguri Stone Mahal/2023/8288-8292 Dated- 08/12/2023
Copy to:-

1. O. O. Book.
2. Sri Dipankar Deb, Asstt. Conservator of Forests under Nagaon Division, Nagaon for information and necessary action.
3. Kalyani Malakar, AFS, I/C Nagaon Range, Nagaon for information and necessary action.
4. Sri Debabrat Khanikar, FR, I/C Kathiatoli Range, Kathiatoli for information and necessary action.
5. Sri Mukuta Barman, Fr-I, I/C Modertoli Beat, Modertoli for information and necessary action.

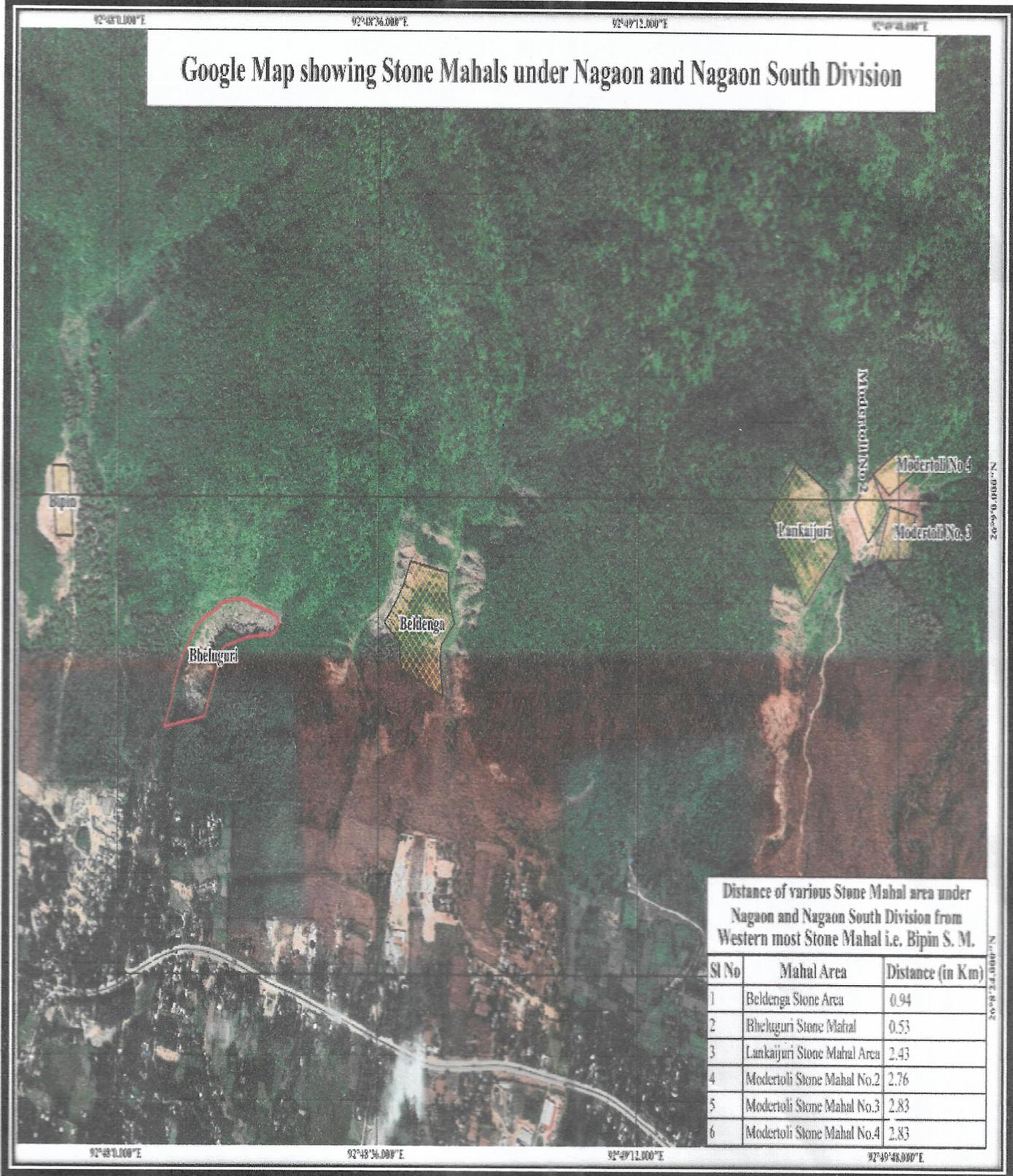

Divisional Forest Officer,
Nagaon Division, Nagaon

Cumulative Impact Study for diversion proposal of Bheluguri, Lankaijuri and Beldenga Stone Mahal Area: Submitted by Internal Committee constituted under Nagaon Division, Nagaon.

The entire project area of 15.65 Ha of Bheluguri, Lankaijuri and Beldenga Stone Mahal is forest land of Doboka R.F., and it with degraded forest with grass & shrubs. Nearest habitation is about 0.5 Km from the proposed area. The drainage pattern comprises of small streams carrying rainwater during rainy season. Presently, there are 3 numbers of approved Mining Areas and 3 numbers of under process proposals, the details of which are given in the table below.

Name of the Mining Area	Approximate distance from the Western-most Stone Mahal. i.e. Bipin Stone Mahal. (in Kms)	Remarks
Bipin Stone Mahal	0	Received from MoEF & CC vide letter No. 3-AS B 034/2017-SHI/3037-38 dtd. 03/12/2018 for 1.0 hectare in Doboka RF for 5 (five) years and annual quantity of 10,000 m ³ . (FC period already over)
Bheluguri Stone Mahal	0.53	Under proposed area
Beldenga Stone Mahal	0.94	Under proposed area
Lankaijuri Stone Mahal	2.43	Under proposed area
Modertoli Stone Mahal No. 2	2.76	Received from MoEF & CC vide letter No. 3-AS B 027/2017-SHI-3237-38 dtd. 17/12/2018 for 1.0 hectare in Doboka RF for 5 (five) years and annual quantity of 10,000 m ³ . (FC period already over)
Modertoli Stone Mahal No. 3	2.83	Received from MoEF & CC vide letter No. 3-AS B 016/2012-SHI/3881-82 dtd. 25/03/2013 for 1.0 hectare in Doboka RF for 5 (five) years and annual quantity of 10,000 m ³ . (Not operational now)
Modertoli Stone Mahal No. 4	2.83	Received from MoEF & CC vide letter No. 3-AS B 028/2017-SHI-3235-36 dtd. 17/12/2018 for 1.0 hectare in Doboka RF for 5 (five) years and annual quantity of 10,000 m ³ . (FC period already over)

Google Map showing Stone Mahals under Nagaon and Nagaon South Division



Distance of various Stone Mahal area under Nagaon and Nagaon South Division from Western most Stone Mahal i.e. Bipin S. M.

Sl No	Mahal Area	Distance (in Km)
1	Beldenga Stone Area	0.94
2	Bheluguri Stone Mahal	0.53
3	Lankajuri Stone Mahal Area	2.43
4	Modertoli Stone Mahal No.2	2.76
5	Modertoli Stone Mahal No.3	2.83
6	Modertoli Stone Mahal No.4	2.83

Cumulative Impact on the landscape due to Stone mining/Stone Mahals

(Ref: Environment Management Plan of all 3 New Mahals namely: Bheluguri, Lankaijuri and Beldenga Stone Mahal Area)

This study delves into the cumulative impact of stone mining on the landscape of Doboka Reserve Forest under Nagaon Forest Division. The assessment encompasses environmental, forest & wildlife, and economic dimensions, highlighting the need for sustainable practices. Moreover, the study proposes mitigation measures to address the identified impacts and promote responsible stone mining in the region. All 3 areas i.e. Bheluguri, Lankaijuri and Beldenga are in the foothills of Doboka RF which is mostly open degraded forest. Nearby forest area is also predominantly Teak plantation which is monoculture, therefore limited scope of loss of Biodiversity if mining is allowed there.

➤ **Probable impact on the Landscape/ecosystem due to pollution and hazards associated with stone mining.**

Certain probable impact on the landscape which can occur due to unregulated and unethical mining practices can be highlighted as follows:

- **Environmental Impact:**

- a. **Deforestation and Habitat Loss:** The expansion of mining operations might result in the clearance of forested areas, which may lead to habitat loss for flora and fauna.
- b. **Soil Erosion and Water Quality:** Mining activities contribute to impacting the quality of water bodies in the region. Sedimentation in rivers and streams lead to long-term ecological repercussions.
- c. **Air and Noise Pollution:** Dust emissions from mining activities and the use of heavy machineries, DG sets etc. contribute to air and noise pollution. Additionally, the constant noise generated can disturb the faunal population and negatively affect the well-being of nearby communities.
- d. **Vibrations due to blasting:** Possible mild vibrations generated during blasting due to the use of explosives can disturb the faunal population.

➤ **Measures to mitigate pollution and prevent any potential impact on the landscape:**

- Implementation of a strict reforestation plan to compensate for the cleared areas, focusing on native species to restore biodiversity will be enforced to combat deforestation. (*Funding through Mines & Minerals Development, Restoration and Rehabilitation fund will be pursued for reforestation plan by forest department with permission of higher authority*)
- **Comprehensive Man-animal conflict Plan:** Already proposed from this office (*Fundings shall be given by User Agency*) which will enable frontline staff to smoothly handle man-animal conflict issues, especially human-elephant conflict issues which are seasonal in nature.
- Regular water quality monitoring should be conducted to ensure non-infiltration of pollutants in the ground water and in the nearby water bodies, if any. (*Need to be complied by User Agency*)

- Possible impact on water bodies due to the domestic waste water generated from the mining is to be mitigated by sending the waste water to septic tanks and soak pit. **However, as reported by User Agency in the submitted Mining Plan and Environmental Management Plan the proposed quarrying activities will not affect the ground water as the depth of ground water is around 20m bgl. (Need to becomplied by User Agency)**
 - For mitigating air and noise pollution- water sprinkling will be done for dust suppression using water tankers on dump yards and workers will be equipped with proper dust masks. Also, the DG sets will be provided with required stack height for proper emission dispersion. For high noise bearing equipment noise barriers, silencers and acoustic enclosures will be incorporated. (Need to be complied by User Agency)
 - To control the impact of vibrations, use of low explosives with less quantity is advisable so that the vibrations generated are within the permissible limits. (Need to be complied by User Agency)
- **Lack of Discernible Impact on the landscape (No adverse impact on the landscape and biodiversity):**

The cumulative findings indicate that there will be no substantial impact on the landscape levels of the Doboka RF as a result of mining activities.

- **Minimal habitat disruption:** The clearing of land for stone mining / quarrying will be carried out with minimal disturbance to the natural habitats of plant and animal species. A significant reason for the lack of impact on the biodiversity is the careful consideration given to site selection. These areas have been chosen to minimize disruption to existing ecosystems. All the mining areas are in the foothills of Doboka RF which is mostly open degraded forest. The nearby forest area is predominantly Teak plantation which is monoculture, therefore limited scope of loss of Biodiversity if mining is allowed there. Minimum number of trees i.e. only 2 trees being felled in whole of projects as per the submitted Forest Diversion proposal from this office.
- **Protected habitats:**All landscape for proposed mining activities in Doboka RF is being located faraway from any core wildlife habitats. This has reduced the likelihood of direct contact or disruption to the fauna. Human-elephant conflict issues will be handled effectively by Comprehensive Man-Animal Conflict Mitigation Plan earlier submitted from this division. There is very limited movement of elephants observed in concerned area and with proper implementation of mitigation plan, conflict issues will be effectively handled in total.
- **Limited air pollution:** Emissions from machinery and vehicles used in these activities have been well within permissible limits, with no significant adverse effects on local plant life.
- **Minimal pollution and hazards due to the environmental regulations:** Stringent environmental regulations and guidelines enforced by the MoEF&CC, State Forest Department, Pollution Control Board etc. will contribute to minimizing potential damage to flora.

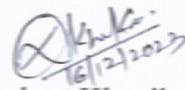
Thus, the stone mining activities in the Doboka Reserve Forest area will be conducted with a strong commitment to sustainable and responsible practices. The implementation of advanced technologies, environmental conservation initiatives, and community engagement strategies

will ensure that there is no negative impact on the landscape. This approach will set an example for the integration of economic development and environmental preservation, showcasing the potential for responsible resource extraction in sensitive ecosystems. Continued adherence to these principles is crucial for maintaining the ecological integrity of the Doboka Reserve Forest while supporting the local economy.

Submitted by:



(Sri Dipankar Deb, AFS)
Asstt. Conservator of Forests,
Nagaon Division, Nagaon



(Sri Debabrat Khanikor, AFS)
Range Forest Officer,
Kathiatoli Range, Kathiatoli



(Kalyani Malakar, AFS)
Range Forest Officer,
Nagaon Range, Nagaon



(Sri Mukuta Barman, Fr.- I)
I/c Modertoli Beat, Modertoli

Countersigned



১৬/১২/২০২৩
জন সন্মতল প্রাধিকাৰী
নগাঁও বন সংমণ্ডল
Provisional Forest Officer
Nagaon Division