

INSPECTION REPORT OF N. RAJESH IFS, DFO RANNI FOR THE PROPOSED SITES OF PAMPA POLICE STATION

The proposal is for construction of a permanent Police station at Pampa to ensure effective law enforcement, crowd management and pilgrim safety during Sabarimala pilgrim season. The user agency submits that the current arrangements are insufficient to meet the demands of peak season operations.

Site Selection Process

To minimize ecological impact and ensure feasibility, three locations were examined jointly and site assessment is summarized below.

I. Site A – CHALAKKAYAM (Rejected)

- GPS co ordinates: N 9° 23' 14.26812'' E 77° 4' 39.09''
- Terrain: Slightly steep, prone to erosion
- Vegetation: Moderate dense and involve felling of trees like *Grewia tilifolia*, *Lannea coromandelica*, *Elaeocarpus serratus*, *Macaranga peltate*, *Bombax ceiba*, *Terminalia bellirica*, *Diptocarpus bordiloni* etc.
- Infrastructure: Lack of electricity, labour accommodation, water availability etc.
- Environmental Risk: Soil instability; if soil structure is disturbed the area is prone to land slips.

II. Site B – BASE AREA AT HILLTOP (Rejected)

- GPS coordinates: N 9° 24' 48.672'' E 77° 3' 59.42844''
- Vegetation: Sparse but ecologically sensitive due to proximity to Pampa river
- Other concerns: Though basic facilities are available, the site is closer to Pampa river where risk of flooding and landslides cannot be ruled out.
- The area is adjacent to areas earmarked for other diversion proposals (rope way terminal and rescue bridge) making land availability and stability uncertain.

III. Site C - OPPOSITE TO PAMPA KSRTC STATION (Selected)

- Location (GPS): N 9° 24' 21.90564'' E 77° 4' 10.0326''
- Terrain: Plain, stable ground with least number of trees to be felled.
- Infrastructure - Readily accessible with nearness to road and power supply.
- Environmental Impact- Minimal; no wildlife conflict or vegetation clearance.

- Proximity to Eco sensitive Zone- Lies within 1 K M of aerial distance of Periyar Tiger Reserve. No tree felling displacement of fauna or fragmentation of forest habitat is involved in this case

Land Availability for CA

The user agency is committed to providing suitable non-forest land for CA. It may be noted that land parcels, are available within the jurisdiction and control of District Police Chief's office complex as well as to the rear side of Pathanamthitta Police station Complex, which can be assessed for suitability.

Recommendation

This is a Public utility project of critical importance for safety and administration in a sensitive pilgrim zone. Considering the negligible ecological impact, absence of tree removal and, availability of compensatory afforestation options, the proposal is recommended for approval under Forest Conservation Act, 1980.



Divisional Forest Officer
Ranni Forest Division