



भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
 पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST &
 CLIMATE CHANGE**
 क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, **REGIONAL OFFICE**
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BY SPEED POST

F.No.4-KRC1507/2025-BAN

Date **As per the signature**

To

The Additional Chief Secretary to Government of Karnataka,
 Forest, Ecology & Environment Department,
 M.S. Building, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi,
 Bangalore – 560 001.

Subject: Diversion of 9.5474 ha of forest land in Hirekandavadi village, Sy.No.107 and Thanigehalli village, Sy.No.35, Beedurga Hobli, Holalkere Taluk and Dinadadahalli village, Sy.No.18, Hireguntanuru Hobli, Chitradurga Taluk and District for establishment of approach road, loading area and conveyor pipeline for iron ore mine ML No.2677 in favour of M/s. Vedanta Ltd, Chitradurga. (Online Proposal No. FP/KA/MIN/51389/2020) -reg.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Government's letters no. FEE 20 FFM 2023 (e) dated 03/02/2025 and 05/05/2026 seeking prior approval under Section '2(1)' of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 for the above mentioned subject proposal. In this regard, it is to inform that the proposal was considered in the Regional Empowered Committee (REC) meeting held on 27/05/2026.

2. REC after detailed deliberations decided to deferred the proposal due to the absence of the Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Karnataka, or his authorized representative, which hindered clarification of several issues raised by the Committee members. The REC was of the view that the State Government and the User Agency should first re-examine whether the earlier proposal involving diversion of 7.798 ha of forest land for establishment of a Conveyor Belt System to Mining Lease (ML) No. 2667, for which In-Principle (Stage-I) approval had already been accorded by MoEF&CC, New Delhi vide letter No. 8-81/1992-FC (Vol.) dated 15.10.2019, can now be implemented. The Committee noted that the said proposal was not executed due to its overlap with the non-working mine of M/s Janthakal Enterprises and that the said mine has subsequently been allotted to the same User Agency.

3. The REC further directed that, in the event of the earlier approved proposal for diversion of 7.798 ha of forest land not been implementable due to administrative, legal, or technical constraints, the State Government and the User Agency shall submit the following clarifications and information in respect of the instant proposal for diversion of 9.5474 ha of forest land in Hirekandavadi Village (Sy. No. 107), Thanigehalli Village (Sy. No. 35), Beedurga Hobli, Holalkere Taluk, and Dinadahalli Village (Sy. No. 18), Hireguntanuru Hobli, Chitradurga Taluk and District, for establishment of an approach road, loading area, and conveyor pipeline for Iron Ore Mine ML No. 2677 in favour of M/s Vedanta Ltd., Chitradurga:-

- i. The State Government shall justify why the proposed conveyor pipeline alignment has not been planned along the existing road network, which appears to possess suitable gradients and may potentially minimize disturbance to forest land.
- ii. The State Government shall re-examine the proposal and ensure that all project components, including approach roads if any for maintenance, conveyor support towers, and any other ancillary facilities associated with the conveyor pipeline, are adequately reflected in the proposal. A revised KML file incorporating all project components shall be submitted.
- iii. The State Government/User Agency shall submit a detailed justification for proposing a loading area of such a large extent and explain why the facility cannot be accommodated within the mining lease area. The loading area shall be reduced to the minimum extent feasible and, shall be, accommodated within the mining lease area.
- iv. Details of the safety zone pertaining to the mining lease shall be submitted. The State Government shall also clarify whether, in the event of locating the loading area outside the mining lease area, the safety zone would require re-demarcation and, if so, the manner in which the same would be undertaken.
- v. The State Government shall clarify the necessity of the proposed approach road measuring 0.133 ha located in close proximity to the existing road. The User Agency and the Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Karnataka, shall jointly examine the requirement and submit a detailed justification for the said component.
- vi. The User Agency shall submit the KML files and authenticated boundary details of the non-working mine of M/s Janthakal Enterprises, indicating the area of overlap with the earlier proposal for diversion of 7.798 ha of forest land for establishment of the Conveyor Belt System to ML No. 2667.
- vii. Since the DCF, in Part-II of Form-A, has indicated the possibility of open dumps sliding into adjoining forest areas, the State Forest Department and the User Agency shall submit a detailed stabilization plan indicating the preventive measures proposed to address the risk of dump sliding and soil

erosion.

- viii. The DCF shall submit a revised tree enumeration list indicating the scientific names, species-wise details of all trees proposed to be felled.
- ix. The State Forest Department shall furnish details of the surrounding land-use pattern, ecological significance of the site, wildlife movement in the area, and a scientific justification for maintaining the identified NFL as grassland, along with the views of the concerned wildlife authorities, if any.
- x. The DCF, Chamarajanagara, shall submit a revised Site Suitability Certificate indicating the canopy density of the identified 9.972 ha of Non-Forest Land (NFL) in Maddur Village, Agara Hobli, Yelandur Taluk, Chamarajanagara District and the proposed measures for maintaining and improving the area as grassland for wild animals.
- xi. The State Government shall submit a Non-Encumbrance Certificate in respect of the identified 9.972 ha of NFL proposed for Compensatory Afforestation in Maddur Village, Agara Hobli, Yelandur Taluk, Chamarajanagara District.
- xii. The State Government/User Agency shall provide the latest status of the proposal submitted for withdrawal of the earlier proposal involving diversion of 7.798 ha of forest land for establishment of the Conveyor Belt System to ML No. 2667.
- xiii. The State Government/User Agency shall furnish the latest status of the proposal submitted to MoEF&CC, New Delhi, regarding the change of name from Sesa Sterlite Limited to Vedanta Limited. Further, in view of the submission made by the User Agency that its present name is M/s Vedanta Iron and Steel Limited consequent upon a demerger, the State Government shall offer its comments on the legal validity of processing the instant proposal, which has been submitted in the name of M/s Vedanta Ltd., and clarify the status of the User Agency with respect to the proposal.
- xiv. The User Agency shall submit the detailed layout plan, engineering drawings, and cross-sections of all proposed project components, including the conveyor pipeline, loading area, approach road, and associated infrastructure.

In view of above, the State Government is requested to submit the above-mentioned information/clarification/documents as desired by REC for further consideration of the proposal.

Yours sincerely,

(Yasodha K)

Deputy Inspector General of Forests (Central)

Copy to:-

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Forests Department, Govt. of Karnataka, Aranya Bhavan, 18th Cross, Malleswaram, Bangalore – 560 003.

2. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (FC) /Nodal Officer (FCA), Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Forests Department, Govt. of Karnataka, Aranya Bhavan, 18th Cross, Malleswaram, Bangalore – 560 003.
3. M/s. Vedanta Ltd, Meghalahalli office Complex, Bheemasamudra post, Chitradurga. (E-mail: meghna.ghosh@vedanta.co.in)