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: November, 2025

To

The Addl. Chief Secretaries of Forests/Principal Secretary (Forests),
All States Governments and Union territory Administrations

Sub: Involvement of local Forest Department in the joint field verification at the time of land acquisition to ascertain the involvement of forest lands in the projects – reg.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the above-mentioned subject and to state that several infrastructure and development projects, including those pertaining to Railways and National Highways, are facing delays on account of inadequate information provided by the State Governments regarding the status of land at the time of its identification or acquisition. It has often been observed that land jointly identified by officials of the Revenue Department of the State Government and the project proponent are subsequently found to be forest land.

To address such issues and ensure clear identification of forest land during land acquisition, the Central Government hereby issues the following guidelines:

i. A copy of the notification, issued by the agency, department or organization responsible for land acquisition for any infrastructure or development project, shall also be shared with the local Forest Department having jurisdiction in the said area.
ii. Joint field verification during land acquisition shall include local Forest Department officials along with revenue officials, wherever felt necessary by the land acquiring Agency, to ascertain the presence of forest land, if any, and prevent subsequent delays due to its identification at a later stage.
iii. In case any type of forest land is identified in joint measurements or joint field surveys, process for its diversion through PARIVESH portal shall be initiated simultaneously by the Project Proponent following due procedure laid down in this regard.

In view of the above, State Governments and UT Administrations are requested to ensure strict compliance with the aforesaid guidelines.

This issues with the approval of Competent Authority.

Yours faithfully,

Digitally signed by
CHARAN JEET SINGH
Date: 13-11-2025
19:09:16

(Charan Jeet Singh)
Scientist 'E'

Copy to:

1. The Secretary, Ministry of Railways/RT&H/Power/Coal/Mines

2. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, All States Governments and Union territory Administrations
3. Dy Director General of Forests (Central), all Regional Offices of the MoEF&CC
4. Nodal Officers, dealing with the matters related to the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, all States Governments and Union territory Administrations
5. Director (Technical), NIC, MoEF&CC with a request to upload the Guidelines on PARIVESH.