

STATE LEVEL EXPERT APPRAISAL COMMITTEE (SEAC), BIHAR

2nd Floor, BELTRON Bhawan, Shastri Nagar, Patna – 800023.

Ref. No. - 89.

Patna Dated: - 13/03/2025.

MINUTES OF 03rd MEETING OF STATE LEVEL EXPERT APPRAISAL COMMITTEE (SEAC), BIHAR CONSTITUTED VIDE S.O. 5192 (E) DATED 02.12.2024 OF MoEF&CC, NEW DELHI

VENUE: SEIAA Office

DATE: 11th March, 2025.

Minutes/Proceeding of the Meeting

- 1. Opening Remarks of the Chairman:** In light of the newly constituted. The SEAC vide Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India notification S.O.- 5192 (E) dated 02.12.2024 the Chairman and Members extended a warm welcome to each other. Thereafter, the meeting was started as per the agenda adopted for the meeting.
- 2. Confirmations of Minutes of 02nd Meeting (02/2025) vide Ref. No.- 65, dated:- 28.02.2025 of State Expert Appraisal Committee held on 20th February, 2025.** The State Expert Appraisal Committee, hereinafter referred to as SEAC, was informed that no representation has been received regarding projects considered in the meeting held on 20th February, 2025. The minutes of the said SEAC meeting was confirmed by the Committee.
- 3. Consideration of Proposals:** The SEAC considered the proposals received as per the agenda adopted for the 03rd meeting (03/2025) vide Ref. No.- 75, dated- 04.03.2025 the key points of the deliberations held were as follows.
- 4. With regard to the proposals submitted for the Real-estate, Industry, Sand Mining Project, etc.**

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AGENDA ITEM NO. 01

Sand Mining Project on Falgu River at Gaya Falgu Block No. – 05 Sand Ghat of District – Gaya, (File No.- SIA/1(a)/2414/2023), Online Proposal No.:- SIA/BR/MIN/445369/2023).

Proponent:- M/s Sri Rajendra Singh.

Environment Consultant:-M/s Cognizance Research India Private Limited.

Application along with filled up 'Form – I, Pre-feasibility report in the prescribed format and scrutiny fee was submitted to the SEIAA, Bihar on 26.05.2023 for obtaining Terms of Reference (ToR). The SEIAA, Bihar issued system generated ToR vide SIA/1(a)/2414/2023, dated 01.06.2023 and public hearing for the proposed project was conducted by Bihar State Pollution Control Board on 08.08.2023. Online Final EIA report was submitted by Project Proponent in the prescribed format to the SEIAA, Bihar on 22.09.2023 for obtaining Environmental Clearance (EC).

The sand ghat under the proposal has been mentioned in the District Survey Report approved by the SEIAA, Bihar vide letter no. 258, dated 23.05.2022.

At the earlier meeting of the committee held on 08.11.2023, the SEAC, Bihar decided to keep the screening of proposal on hold and refer the matter to the Mines and Geology Deptt. Govt. of Bihar for its opinion regarding the issues raised in the public consultation.

Reply received from Deptt. of Mines and Geology Govt. of Bihar vide its letter No. 911/M, Dated 17.02.2025 and District Magistrate, Gaya vide its letter no. 2920 Dated 14.10.2024, it is stated that recommendation for again public consultation of the said project. Therefore the Committee accepts the recommendation of the District Magistrate, Gaya and direct to Bihar State Pollution Control Board, Patna conduct again public consultation.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 02

Sand Mining Project on Mahananda & Kankai River at Kishanganj Unit – 03 Sand Ghat of District – Kishanganj, (File No. - SIA/1(a)/2447/2023, Online Proposal No.:- SIA/BR/MIN/432531/2023).

Proponent:- M/s Geeta Enterprises.

Environment Consultant:-M/s P & M Solution.

Application along with filled up 'Form – I, Pre-feasibility report in the prescribed format with scrutiny fee was submitted to the SEIAA, Bihar on 28.06.2023 for obtaining Terms of Reference (ToR).

The sand ghat under the proposal has been mentioned in the District Survey Report approved by the SEIAA, Bihar vide letter no. 242, dated 23.05.2022.

The SEIAA, Bihar write letters vide letter no. 210, dated 07.07.2023, letter no. 222, dated 10.05.2024 and letter no. 447, dated 26.07.2024 to MoEF&CC regarding clarification of the proposed project is situated within 500 meters Indo Nepal international boundary.

At the earlier meeting held on 20.02.2025, the Committee had decided to defer the proposal for the next meeting for consideration.

The Project Proponent along with their environmental consultant M/s P & M Solution, made a presentation on the key parameters and salient features of the project. On the basis of Google Earth, the Committee found that the said sand ghat is situated at about 10 m from the Indo- Nepal border. Therefore, the Committee decided to request SEIAA, Bihar to seek information from the Mines and Geology Department, Government of Bihar regarding their locations with respect to the no-man's- land viz. whether they are inside or outside the no-man's-land.

Based on the discussion, the Committee found their presentation and proposal satisfactory and acceptable, hence the Committee decided to recommend the proposal for grant the Terms of Reference as per standard Terms of Reference conditions recommended by the MoEF&CC, Govt. of India as Annexure –A along with additional specific conditions mentioned below:-

1. Submit a report based on cumulative assessment of increase in air pollutants due to increase in traffic load in view of proposed mining activities on all the roads located within aerial distance of 10 km using suitable air model.
2. If the proposed mining lease has overlapping areas with previously allotted mining lease or already working or worked out mining lease, the same should be clearly shown and details about quantity of sand extracted from overlapped area should be furnished duly certified by the District Mining Officer.
3. The satellite imageries (high resolution) of last three years for summer, rainy and winter seasons of proposed mining lease shall be submitted.
4. Submit a map on appropriate scale to show extraction paths to be used outside the mining lease boundary to approach major public roads (Rural/District road or State/National Highway). Alternative route shall be explored if extraction path is passing through dense population/ human settlements. Also submit cumulative traffic management plan for cluster sand mining proposal.

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5. Submit a map of the area falling within 2.5 km radius from boundary of mining lease showing all man-made public utility features such as bridge/public civil structure (including water intake points), culverts etc. and highways, and a table showing distance of the above mentioned man-made features from the mining lease boundary to facilitate decision making pertaining to relevant rules / Guidelines.
6. Submit a report of the cumulative EIA/EMP study for the cluster sand mining blocks of the proposed mining site.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 03

Sand Mining Project on Budhi Kankai, Meechi & Mahananda River at Kishanganj Unit – 04 Sand Ghat of District – Kishanganj, (File No. - SIA/1(a)/2448/2023, Online Proposal No.:- SIA/BR/MIN/432655/2023).

Proponent:- M/s Jay Shiv Shakti Enterprises.

Environment Consultant:-M/s P & M Solution.

Application along with filled up 'Form – I, Pre-feasibility report in the prescribed format with scrutiny fee was submitted to the SEIAA, Bihar on 28.06.2023 for obtaining Terms of Reference (ToR).

The sand ghat under the proposal has been mentioned in the District Survey Report approved by the SEIAA, Bihar vide letter no. 242, dated 23.05.2022.

The SEIAA, Bihar write letters vide letter no. 210, dated 07.07.2023, letter no. 222, dated 10.05.2024 and letter no. 447, dated 26.07.2024 to MoEF&CC regarding clarification of the proposed project is situated within 500 meters Indo Nepal international boundary.

At the earlier meeting held on 20.02.2025, the Committee had decided to defer the proposal for the next meeting for consideration.

The Project Proponent along with their environmental consultant M/s P & M Solution, made a presentation on the key parameters and salient features of the project. On the basis of Google Earth, the Committee found that the said sand ghat is situated at about 220 m from the Indo- Nepal border. Therefore, the Committee decided to request SEIAA, Bihar to seek information from the Mines and Geology Department, Government of Bihar regarding their locations with respect to the no-man's- land viz. whether they are inside or outside the no-man's-land.

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Based on the discussion, the Committee found their presentation and proposal satisfactory and acceptable, hence the Committee decided to recommend the proposal for grant the Terms of Reference as per standard Terms of Reference conditions recommended by the MoEF&CC, Govt. of India as Annexure –A along with additional specific conditions mentioned below:-

1. Submit a report based on cumulative assessment of increase in air pollutants due to increase in traffic load in view of proposed mining activities on all the roads located within aerial distance of 10 km using suitable air model.
2. If the proposed mining lease has overlapping areas with previously allotted mining lease or already working or worked out mining lease, the same should be clearly shown and details about quantity of sand extracted from overlapped area should be furnished duly certified by the District Mining Officer.
3. The satellite imageries (high resolution) of last three years for summer, rainy and winter seasons of proposed mining lease shall be submitted.
4. Submit a map on appropriate scale to show extraction paths to be used outside the mining lease boundary to approach major public roads (Rural/District road or State/National Highway). Alternative route shall be explored if extraction path is passing through dense population/ human settlements. Also submit cumulative traffic management plan for cluster sand mining proposal.
5. Submit a map of the area falling within 2.5 km radius from boundary of mining lease showing all man-made public utility features such as bridge/public civil structure (including water intake points), culverts etc. and highways, and a table showing distance of the above mentioned man-made features from the mining lease boundary to facilitate decision making pertaining to relevant rules / Guidelines.
6. Submit a report of the cumulative EIA/EMP study for the cluster sand mining blocks of the proposed mining site.



LIST OF PARTICIPANTS IN 03rd MEETING OF THE SEAC, BIHAR HELD ON 11th MARCH, 2025.

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Attended on 11.03.2025
1.	Shri Arvinder Singh, IFS	Chairman	Present
2.	Shri Lalan Prasad Singh, IFS(R)	Member	Present
3.	Shri Swami NathJayaswal	Member	Present
4.	Dr. Vinita Prasad	Member	Present
5.	Dr. Md. Nazim	Member	Present
6.	Prof. Naveen Kumar Nishchal	Member	Present
7.	Shri Mokhtarul Haque, BFS	Member	Present
8.	Shri Neeraj Narayan, IFS	Member Secretary	Present

Signature(s) of the Members Present

Sd/-
(Lalan Prasad Singh, IFS(R))
Member, SEAC


Sd/-
(Dr. Md. Nazim)
Member, SEAC

Sd/-
(Swami NathJayaswal)
Member, SEAC

Sd/-
(Dr. Vinita Prasad)
Member, SEAC

Sd/-
(Mokhtarul Haque, BFS)
Member, SEAC

Sd/-
(Prof. Naveen Kumar Nishchal)
Member, SEAC


(Neeraj Narayan, IFS)
Member Secretary


(Arvinder Singh, IFS)
Chairman

Copy to:-

Member Secretary, SEIAA, Bihar
for information and necessary action.

Annexure –A (Sand Mining Projects – ToR)

A. Statutory compliance

1. Year-wise production details since 1994 should be given, clearly stating the highest production achieved in any one year prior to 1994. It may also be categorically informed whether there had been any increase in production after the EIA Notification 1994 came into force, w.r.t. the highest production achieved prior to 1994.
2. A copy of the document in support of the fact that the Proponent is the rightful lessee of the mine should be given.
3. All documents including approved mine plan, EIA and Public Hearing should be compatible with one another in terms of the mine lease area, production levels, waste generation and its management, mining technology etc. and should be in the name of the lessee.
4. All corner coordinates of the mine lease area, superimposed on a High Resolution Imagery/ toposheet, topographic sheet, geomorphology and geology of the area should be provided. Such an Imagery of the proposed area should clearly show the land use and other ecological features of the study area (core and buffer zone).
5. Information should be provided in Survey of India Toposheet in 1:50,000 scale indicating geological map of the area, geomorphology of land forms of the area, existing minerals and mining history of the area, important water bodies, streams and rivers and soil characteristics.
6. Details about the land proposed for mining activities should be given with information as to whether mining conforms to the land use policy of the State; land diversion for mining should have approval from State land use board or the concerned authority.
7. It should be clearly stated whether the proponent Company has a well laid down Environment Policy approved by its Board of Directors? If so, it may be spelt out in the EIA Report with description of the prescribed operating process/procedures to bring into focus any infringement/deviation/ violation

(B)



of the environmental or forest norms/ conditions? The hierarchical system or administrative order of the Company to deal with the environmental issues and for ensuring compliance with the EC conditions may also be given. The system of reporting of non-compliances / violations of environmental norms to the Board of Directors of the Company and/or shareholders or stakeholders at large, may also be detailed in the EIA Report.

8. Issues relating to Mine Safety, including subsidence study in case of underground mining and slope study in case of open cast mining, blasting study etc. should be detailed. The proposed safeguard measures in each case should also be provided.
9. The study area will comprise of 10 km zone around the mine lease from lease periphery and the data contained in the EIA such as waste generation etc. should be for the life of the mine / lease period.
10. Land use of the study area delineating forest area, agricultural land, grazing land, wildlife sanctuary, national park, migratory routes of fauna, water bodies, human settlements and other ecological features should be indicated. Land use plan of the mine lease area should be prepared to encompass preoperational, operational and post operational phases and submitted. Impact, if any, of change of land use should be given.
11. Details of the land for any Over Burden Dumps outside the mine lease, such as extent of land area, distance from mine lease, its land use, R&R issues, if any, should be given.
12. A Certificate from the Competent Authority in the State Forest Department should be provided, confirming the involvement of forest land, if any, in the project area. In the event of any contrary claim by the Project Proponent regarding the status of forests, the site may be inspected by the State Forest Department along with the Regional Office of the Ministry and SEIAA, Bihar to ascertain the status of forests, based on which, the Certificate in this regard as mentioned above be issued. In all such cases, it would be desirable for representative of the State Forest Department to assist the State Expert Appraisal Committees.

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13. Status of forestry clearance for the broken up area and virgin forestland involved in the Project including deposition of net present value (NPV) and compensatory afforestation (CA) should be indicated. A copy of the forestry clearance should also be furnished.
14. Implementation status of recognition of forest rights under the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 should be indicated.
15. The vegetation in the RF / PF areas in the study area, with necessary details, should be given.
16. A study shall be got done to ascertain the impact of the Mining Project on wildlife of the study area and details furnished. Impact of the project on the wildlife in the surrounding and any other protected area and accordingly, detailed mitigative measures required, should be worked out with cost implications and submitted.
17. Location of National Parks, Sanctuaries, Biosphere Reserves, Wildlife Corridors, Ramsar site Tiger/ Elephant Reserves/(existing as well as proposed), if any, within 10 km of the mine lease should be clearly indicated, supported by a location map duly authenticated by Chief Wildlife Warden. Necessary clearance, as may be applicable to such projects due to proximity of the ecologically sensitive areas as mentioned above, should be obtained from the Standing Committee of National Board of Wildlife and copy furnished.
18. A detailed biological study of the study area [core zone and buffer zone (10 km radius of the periphery of the mine lease)] shall be carried out. Details of flora and fauna, endangered, endemic and RET Species duly authenticated, separately for core and buffer zone should be furnished based on such primary field survey, clearly indicating the Schedule of the fauna present. In case of any scheduled- I fauna found in the study area, the necessary plan alongwith budgetary provisions for their conservation should be prepared in consultation with State Forest and Wildlife Department and details furnished. Necessary

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allocation of funds for implementing the same should be made as part of the project cost.

19. Proximity to Areas declared as Critically Polluted or the Project areas likely to come under the Aravali Range, (attracting court restrictions for mining operations), should also be indicated and where so required, clearance certifications from the prescribed Authorities, such as the SPCB or State Mining Dept. Should be secured and furnished to the effect that the proposed mining activities could be considered.
20. R&R Plan/compensation details for the Project Affected People (PAP) should be furnished. While preparing the R&R Plan, the relevant State/National Rehabilitation & Resettlement Policy should be kept in view. In respect of SCs /STs and other weaker sections of the society in the study area, a need based sample survey, family-wise, should be undertaken to assess their requirements, and action programmes prepared and submitted accordingly, integrating the sectoral programmes of line departments of the State Government. It may be clearly brought out whether the village(s) located in the mine lease area will be shifted or not. The issues relating to shifting of village(s) including their R&R and socio-economic aspects should be discussed in the Report.
21. One season (non-monsoon) [i.e. March-May (Summer Season); October-December (post monsoon season) ; December-February (winter season)] primary baseline data on ambient air quality as per CPCB Notification of 2009, water quality, noise level, soil and flora and fauna shall be collected and the AAQ and other data so compiled presented date-wise in the EIA and EMP Report. Site- specific meteorological data should also be collected. The location of the monitoring stations should be such as to represent whole of the study area and justified keeping in view the pre-dominant downwind direction and location of sensitive receptors. There should be at least one monitoring station within 500 m of the mine lease in the pre-dominant downwind direction. The mineralogical composition of PM10, particularly for free silica, should be given.

(B)



22. Air quality modeling should be carried out for prediction of impact of the project on the air quality of the area. It should also take into account the impact of movement of vehicles for transportation of mineral. The details of the model used and input parameters used for modeling should be provided. The air quality contours may be shown on a location map clearly indicating the location of the site, location of sensitive receptors, if any, and the habitation. The wind roses showing pre-dominant wind direction may also be indicated on the map.
23. The water requirement for the Project, its availability and source should be furnished. A detailed water balance should also be provided. Fresh water requirement for the Project should be indicated.
24. Necessary clearance from the Competent Authority for drawl of requisite quantity of water for the Project should be provided.
25. Description of water conservation measures proposed to be adopted in the Project should be given. Details of rainwater harvesting proposed in the Project, if any, should be provided.
26. Impact of the Project on the water quality, both surface and groundwater, should be assessed and necessary safeguard measures, if any required, should be provided.
27. Based on actual monitored data, it may clearly be shown whether working will intersect groundwater. Necessary data and documentation in this regard may be provided. In case the working will intersect groundwater table, a detailed Hydro Geological Study should be undertaken and Report furnished. The Report inter-alia, shall include details of the aquifers present and impact of mining activities on these aquifers. Necessary permission from Central Ground Water Authority for working below ground water and for pumping of ground water should also be obtained and copy furnished.
28. Details of any stream, seasonal or otherwise, passing through the lease area and modification / diversion proposed, if any, and the impact of the same on the hydrology should be brought out.

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29. Information on site elevation, working depth, groundwater table etc. Should be provided both in AMSL and bgl. A schematic diagram may also be provided for the same.
30. A time bound Progressive Greenbelt Development Plan shall be prepared in a tabular form (indicating the linear and quantitative coverage, plant species and time frame) and submitted, keeping in mind, the same will have to be executed up front on commencement of the Project. Phase-wise plan of plantation and compensatory afforestation should be charted clearly indicating the area to be covered under plantation and the species to be planted. The details of plantation already done should be given. The plant species selected for green belt should have greater ecological value and should be of good utility value to the local population with emphasis on local and native species and the species which are tolerant to pollution.
31. Impact on local transport infrastructure due to the Project should be indicated. Projected increase in truck traffic as a result of the Project in the present road network (including those outside the Project area) should be worked out, indicating whether it is capable of handling the incremental load. Arrangement for improving the infrastructure, if contemplated (including action to be taken by other agencies such as State Government) should be covered. Project Proponent shall conduct Impact of Transportation study as per Indian Road Congress Guidelines.
32. Details of the onsite shelter and facilities to be provided to the mine workers should be included in the EIA Report.
33. Conceptual post mining land use and Reclamation and Restoration of mined out areas (with plans and with adequate number of sections) should be given in the EIA report.
34. Occupational Health impacts of the Project should be anticipated and the proposed preventive measures spelt out in detail. Details of pre-placement medical examination and periodical medical examination schedules should be incorporated in the EMP. The project specific occupational health mitigation measures with required facilities proposed in the mining area may be detailed.

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35. Public health implications of the Project and related activities for the population in the impact zone should be systematically evaluated and the proposed remedial measures should be detailed along with budgetary allocations.
36. Measures of socio economic significance and influence to the local community proposed to be provided by the Project Proponent should be indicated. As far as possible, quantitative dimensions may be given with time frames for implementation.
37. Detailed environmental management plan (EMP) to mitigate the environmental impacts which, should inter-alia include the impacts of change of land use, loss of agricultural and grazing land, if any, occupational health impacts besides other impacts specific to the proposed Project.
38. Public Hearing points raised and commitment of the Project Proponent on the same along with time bound Action Plan with budgetary provisions to implement the same should be provided and also incorporated in the final EIA/EMP Report of the Project.
39. Details of litigation pending against the project, if any, with direction /order passed by any Court of Law against the Project should be given.
40. The cost of the Project (capital cost and recurring cost) as well as the cost towards implementation of EMP should be clearly spelt out.
41. A Disaster management Plan shall be prepared and included in the EIA/EMP Report.
42. Benefits of the Project if the Project is implemented should be spelt out. The benefits of the Project shall clearly indicate environmental, social, economic, employment potential, etc.
43. Besides the above, the below mentioned general points are also to be followed:-
 - a) All documents to be properly referenced with index and continuous page numbering.

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- b) Where data are presented in the Report especially in Tables, the period in which the data were collected and the sources should be indicated.
- c) Project Proponent shall enclose all the analysis/testing reports of water, air, soil, noise etc. using the MoEF&CC/NABL accredited laboratories. All the original analysis/testing reports should be available during appraisal of the Project.
- d) Where the documents provided are in a language other than English, an English translation should be provided.
- e) The Questionnaire for environmental appraisal of mining projects as devised earlier by the Ministry or SEIAA, Bihar shall also be filled and submitted.
- f) While preparing the EIA report, the instructions for the Proponents and instructions for the Consultants issued by MoEF vide O.M. No. J-11013/41/2006-IA.II(I) dated 4th August, 2009, which are available on the website of this Ministry, should be followed.
- g) Changes, if any made in the basic scope and project parameters (as submitted in Form-I and the PFR for securing the TOR) should be brought to the attention of SEIAA, Bihar with reasons for such changes and permission should be sought, as the TOR may also have to be altered. Post Public Hearing changes in structure and content of the draft EIA/EMP (other than modifications arising out of the P.H. process) will entail conducting the PH again with the revised documentation.
- h) As per the circular no. J-11011/618/2010-IA.II(I) dated 30.5.2012, certified report of the status of compliance of the conditions stipulated in the environment clearance for the existing operations of the project, should be obtained from the SEIAA, Bihar, as may be applicable.
- i) The EIA report should also include
 - i. surface plan of the area indicating contours of main topographic features, drainage and mining area,
 - ii. geological maps and sections and
 - iii. sections of the mine pit and external dumps, if any, clearly showing the land features of the adjoining area.

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