

**MINUTES OF THE 186th MEETING OF THE STATE LEVEL EXPERT APPRAISAL
COMMITTEE (SEAC-1), KERALA HELD ON 14th & 15th NOVEMBER 2025, IN
THE CONFERENCE HALL, STATE ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT
AUTHORITY, KERALA**

The meeting commenced at 10.00 AM on 14.11.2025. Sri. Anirud Kumar Dharni IFS (Retd), Chairman, SEAC-1 Kerala, chaired the meeting. The Committee discussed the agenda items in detail and took the following decisions:

PHYSICAL FILES

Item No. 186.01 **Noting the Minutes of the 184th SEAC-1 meeting held on 13th October 2025.**

Confirmed the minutes.

Item No. 186.02 **Environmental Clearance issued to the Granite Building Stone Quarry Project of Sri. Eldho Kuruvilla, for an area of 8.7668 Ha at Re-Survey Nos. 283, 282/3-1, 282/3- 3pt in Mazhuvannoor Village & Block No. 28 Re Survey Nos. 284/1-2, 284/1-3, 284/2-2Pt., 284/2-3pt., 285/4, 283/2-5-2, 283/2-3-2, 282/1-3-1-2 in Arackappady Village, Kunnathunad Taluk, Ernakulam - Request for changes in CER activities. (SIA/KL/MIN/144152/2020, Old File No.1392/EC2/2019/SEIAA)
(New File No.2972/EC1/2024/SEIAA)**

The Committee noted that the Project Proponent, vide letter dated 02.07.2025, submitted a detailed proposal for reallocating a part of the already approved CER fund and requested SEIAA to grant a one-year extension for implementing the revised CER activities. The Committee deliberated on the request and noted that approved activities such as the revival of Cheenikuzhi Pond and recharging of 30 wells in Mazhuvannoor Gramapanchayat (totaling ₹12.5 lakhs), as well as the installation of solar lights, a solar plant on the grid, and recharge of 20 wells in Vengola Grama Panchayat (totaling ₹15.5 lakhs), had already been completed by the PP. Further, as part of the CER in the Mazhuvannoor Gramapanchayat, solar lighting had been installed by the panchayath as part of their plan and hence requested the fund to be allocated for an eco-friendly happiness park and plastic and paper collection booths. After a detailed discussion, the Committee decided to accept the revised CER proposal, allotting ₹10 lakhs for the eco-friendly happiness park in Ward-6 of Mazhuvannoor Gramapanchayat and ₹2 lakhs for the plastic and paper collection booths. The Committee also agreed to grant an additional one-year extension for implementing these activities and resolved to recommend the same to SEIAA.

Item No. 186.03

Rejection Order issued to the Granite Building Stone Quarry Project of Sri. E K Abdul Salam for an area of 0.9995 Ha at Survey No. 80/11-1, 80/11-2-2, 80/11-4-5-2, 80/12-2, 80/12-1, 80/12-2-2, 80/12-3, 80/12-1-2 in Manjalloor Village , Muvattupuzha Taluk, Ernakulam - Interim Order dated 18.09.2025 in WP(C) no.19541/2025 – Field Inspection Report Received – Ratification (SIA/KL/MIN/492582/2024)

The Committee noted that, in compliance with the Interim Order dated 18.09.2025 of the Hon'ble High Court in W.P.(C) No.19541/2025, the Field Inspection Report and the additional report prepared by the Sub-Committee of SEAC were forwarded to the Standing Counsel, and the action has been ratified by the Committee. The Committee decided to await further orders from the Hon'ble Court.

Item No. 186.04

Revalidation proceedings issued for the Building Stone Quarry Project of Sri. K. Sadanandan in Sy.No. 143/2, 143/4, 144/1, 144/2, 144/3, 146/1, 146/2, 146/3, 147/1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10, 148, 149/4 , 152/4, 152/5, 152/6, 152/7, 152/8, 152/9, 152/10, 152/11, 152/12, 152/13, 152/14, 152/15 at V-Kottayam Village, Konni Taluk, Pathanamthitta - Order dated 13.10.2023 in Appeal No 48 of 2022 (SZ) filed by Sri. Roy Thomas before the Hon'ble NGT, Judgment dated 21.02.2024 in WP(C) No.2976/2024 filed by Sri. K. Sadanandan & Judgment dated 05.02.2025 in WP(C) No.37484/2024 & WP(C) N0.33412/2024; Interim order dated 26.08.2025 in WP(C) No. 21398/2025 (File No. 200/SEIAA/EC4/86/2014)

The Committee noted that in its 148th meeting, SEIAA directed the Project Proponent to submit the approved revised mining plan incorporating a feasible production plan. Upon submission, SEAC is to assess the feasibility of mining operations based on the revised plan, considering the exclusion of assigned land within the project area. Further, as per the Authority's decision, KSPCB was intimated to provide the Environmental Damage Assessment Report vide letter dated 01.11.2025. The Committee examined the revised mining plan submitted by the Project Proponent vide letter dated 09.10.2025 and observed that there is an application for ToR before SEIAA from the same Project Proponent for an area of 4.8425 Ha at Block No. 31, Re-Sy No. 146/2, 3, 152/13, which falls within the existing EC area (SIA/KL/MIN/541804/2025). This was considered earlier in the 182nd EAC meeting, where the Committee decided to invite the Project Proponent for a presentation. Hence, the Committee decided to direct the Project Proponent to present the current proposal along with the ToR presentation for Proposal No. SIA/KL/MIN/541804/2025.

Item No. 186.05 **Complaint filed by Vellarada Action Council against M/s Travancore Ready Mix Pvt Ltd in Vellarada Village, Neyyatinkara Taluk, Thiruvananthapuram District, Kerala.**
(File No. 1842/EC1/2023/SEIAA)

The Committee noted that during its 172nd meeting, SEAC decided to seek a response from M/s Travancore Ready Mix Pvt Ltd regarding the complaint received. A subcommittee was entrusted to conduct the field inspection, considering the complaint and the letter from the Central Empowered Committee. The Sub-Committee conducted the field visit on 2.2.2025 and submitted the report. The field inspection report submitted by the Subcommittee of earlier SEAC was discussed in detail, and the Committee decided to forward the report to SEIAA for further action.

Item No. 186.06 **Rejection order issued to the Environmental Clearance for the Granite Building Stone Quarry Project of Sri. L Syju, M/s K. Lekshmanan Company Infrastructures & Industries Pvt. Ltd., for an area of 1.4754 Ha at Block No. 40, Re-Sy Nos. 28/4pt (Govt. Land), 28/8 and 28/3-1 (Pvt. Land) in Nilamel Village, Kottarakkara Taluk, Kollam.**
(SIA/KL/MIN/463911/2024)

The Committee examined the hearing note submitted by the Project Proponent vide letter dated 12.02.2025 and the email dated 07.10.2025 enclosing a letter dated 21.03.2025 of the District Collector, Kollam. It is noted that the explanation submitted by the Project Proponent was not satisfactory to re-examine the earlier decision taken by the Committee, as the project area is at the top of a hill, having a steep slope and houses at the lower portion of the hill. In addition, mining in such a steep slope with rainfall intensity of more than 200mm per day aggravates the site's risk. Considering all these and after detailed discussion, **the Committee decided to adhere to its earlier decision at the 169th SEAC meeting to reject the proposal, in accordance with the precautionary principle.**

PARIVESH FILES (Ver-1)

Item No.01 **Environmental Clearance for the Expansion of the existing residential Building Construction project (Condor Cyber Gardens) M/s Condor Builders Pvt. Ltd. at. Sy. Nos. 172/9, 156/12, 171/5, 171/15, 171/12, 171/14, 171/17, 171/19, 171/20, 171/7, 157/33-1, 157/9 -1, 170/11, 170/2, 170/21-1, 171/11, 171/13, 171/18, 171/16, 171/3, 171/4, 171/6-1, 176/11-1, 176/12, 176/12-1, 176/7-1, 171/1, 170/1, 170/1-2, 170/1-1, 172/6, 172/8, 172/8-1, 171/2, 169/13-2, 157/6, 157/5, 171/6-2, 156/20-0, 157/20-0, 171/9-1, 172/4-0, 172/7-0, 172/2 in Attipra Village, Thiruvananthapuram Taluk, Thiruvananthapuram.**
(SIA/KL/INFRA2/443950/2023, 2420/EC3/2023/SEIAA)

The Committee noted that the proposal was recommended for rejection in its 179th meeting due to a violation, as the Committee found that the additional documents sought in the 164th and 168th SEAC meetings were not acceptable as evidence to confirm that all existing built structures were developed before 12.07.2018. Additionally, Google imagery indicated construction continued beyond the Environmental Clearance expiry date. Subsequently, the Authority, in its 154th SEIAA meeting, observed that the Project Proponent had obtained prior Environmental Clearance for the construction of 1,00,876.64 m² but had constructed only 87,245.55 m² as per the application and referred the proposal back to SEAC to provide the Project Proponent an opportunity to present clarifications. **The Committee noted SEIAA's decision and resolved to hear the Project Proponent in its next meeting, with prior intimation to be given by the SEIAA Secretariat well in advance.**

Item No.02 **Environmental Clearance for Granite Building Stone Quarry project of M/s Jesus Granites Pvt. Ltd. for an area of 1.4781 Hectare at Survey No. 911/1-5, 916/3, 916/3-2, 916/3-3, 916/3-4 in Kallorkad Village, Muvattupzha Taluk, Ernakulam - ADS Received**
(SIA/KL/MIN/276958/2022, 2049/EC3/2022/SEIAA)

The Committee verified the Comprehensive Environmental Management Plan (EMP) submitted by the Project Proponent, along with the Memorandum of Understanding between M/s Jesus Granites Private Limited and Sri. Saji Abraham, the adjacent project owner, for its implementation. For the proposal of M/s Jesus Granites Pvt. Ltd., a budgetary provision of Rs. 42,30,000/- (capital cost) and Rs. 19,23,000/- (recurring cost) was committed. Similarly, Sri. Saji Abraham committed Rs. 63,30,000/- (capital cost) and Rs. 12,00,000/- (recurring cost), amounting to a total capital cost of Rs. 1,05,60,000/- and recurring cost of Rs. 31,23,000/- towards implementing the comprehensive EMP. The application was submitted in Form 2 and included the Mining Plan, Pre-Feasibility Report, EMP, and other documents sought by the Committee. The proposal was presented at the 134th SEAC meeting, and a field inspection was conducted by the Subcommittee on 26.06.2024. The total project cost is

Rs. 3,37,03,000/-, of which Rs. 61,53,000/- is allocated for the Environmental Management Plan. The lease area has elevations ranging from 62m to 80m above MSL, with quarrying operations restricted to 30m above MSL depth and depth to water table is 5m bgl at 40msl. As part of the Greenbelt and compensatory afforestation plan, 2850 saplings will be planted by the Project Proponent. The mine life, as per the approved mining plan, is 10 years.

The Committee found the submitted documents satisfactory and decided that further consideration shall proceed only after finalisation of the revised District Survey Report (DSR) prepared in accordance with MoEF&CC guidelines dated 25.07.2018.

Item No.03 Environmental Clearance for the Mining of Building Stone Quarry project of Sri. Saji Abraham for an area of 1.4718 Ha at Sy. Nos. 917/3B2-2, 917/3B, 917/3B-2, 917/3B1, 917/4-2-3, Kalloorkkad Village, Muvattupuzha Taluk, Ernakulam - ADS Received - Reg (SIA/KL/MIN/288750/2022, 2129/EC3/2022/SEIAA)

The Committee verified the Comprehensive Environmental Management Plan (EMP) submitted by the Project Proponent, along with the Memorandum of Understanding for implementation of the EMP between Sri. Saji Abraham and Sri. Jimmy Jose, Managing Director of M/s Jesus Granites Private Limited. According to the document submitted by M/s Jesus Granites Pvt. Ltd. under proposal No. SIA/KL/MIN/276958/2022, the company committed a capital cost of Rs. 42,30,000/- and recurring cost of Rs. 19,23,000/-. Sri. Saji Abraham committed a capital cost of Rs. 63,30,000/- and recurring cost of Rs. 12,00,000/-, making a total capital cost of Rs. 1,05,60,000/- and recurring cost of Rs. 31,23,000/- towards the comprehensive EMP implementation.

The application was submitted in Form 2 and included the Mining Plan, Pre-Feasibility Report, Comprehensive EMP, and other details as sought by the Committee. The proposal was presented in the 164th SEAC meeting, and a field inspection was conducted by the Subcommittee on 26.06.2024. The Project Proponent committed to planting 850 saplings as part of the greenbelt and compensatory afforestation plan. The total project cost is Rs. 5 crores, of which Rs. 75,30,000/- is allocated for the comprehensive EMP. The lease area has elevations ranging from 70 to 75 m above mean sea level, the maximum mining depth is 30 m AMSL, and depth to the water table is 5m bgl at 40msl. The proposed mine life is 5 years.

The Committee found the submitted documents satisfactory and decided that further consideration of the proposal shall proceed only after the finalisation of the revised District Survey Report (DSR), prepared according to the guidelines issued by MoEF&CC dated 25.07.2018.

Item No.04 **Environmental Clearance for Granite Building Stone Quarry of Sri. J. Madhusoodhanan for an area of 2.1449 Ha at Block No. 35, Re-Survey Nos. 352/7, 353/1, 353/2, 353/2-1, 353/3, 353/4, 353/8, 353/9, & 354/2 in Nedumangad Village, Nedumangad Taluk, Thiruvananthapuram, (SIA/KL/MIN/401155/2022, 2123/EC1/2022/SEIAA)**

The Committee noted the decision of the 157th SEIAA meeting, wherein the Authority approved the Project Proponent's request regarding the payment of the Environmental Damage Assessment report cost in instalments. The Authority decided to permit an initial payment of ₹21.52 lakh as the first instalment, with the remaining ₹50 lakh to be paid in four equal instalments before the commencement of mining operations. However, the Project Proponent, through a letter dated 09.10.2025, stated the intention to remit the total amount of Rs. 71,52,000 in six monthly instalments along with applicable interest. The PP has submitted all the documents, including the CCR from the IRO, MoEF&CC, Bangalore, during the appraisal of the proposal. A field inspection was conducted by the Subcommittee on 11.03.2023, and the proposal was presented in the 150th SEAC meeting. The total mineable reserve is 683641MT, and the proposed life of mine is 10 years as per the mine plan. The project cost is mentioned as Rs. 62,15,000/-. The field inspection has already been carried out, and the Committee heard the presentation in its 150th meeting. The elevation difference prior to the mining is 75m to 150m above MSL. The depth of mining is 80m above MSL. In this circumstance, **the Committee directed the Project Proponent to remit the first instalment of ₹21.52 lakh as initially decided and to submit proof of payment for further decision on the proposal in accordance with the revised DSR.**

Item No.05 **Environmental Clearance for the Granite Building Stone Quarry project of Sri. Jose M. K., Managing Partner, M/s. Christuraj Granites, for an area of 0.8189 Ha at Re. Survey No. 35/3,35/3-1,35/3-2 in Thalappulam Village, Meenachil Taluk, Kottayam. (SIA/KL/MIN/413729/2023, 2235/EC3/2023/SEIAA)**

The Committee noted the receipt of a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the District Level Crisis Management Group, Kottayam, dated 04.03.2025, and found it satisfactory. The Project Proponent submitted the application in Form 1 along with the Mining Plan, Pre-Feasibility Report, Environmental Management Plan (EMP), and other required details. A field inspection was conducted by the Subcommittee on 26.07.2023, and the proposal was presented in the 155th SEAC meeting. The total mineable reserve is 1,77,198 metric tonnes with an annual production capacity of 44,299 metric tonnes. The total project cost is Rs. 1 crore, out of which Rs. 20,46,250 is allocated for the EMP. The mine life is 4 years. The highest and lowest elevations within the lease area are 254 meters and 226 meters above mean sea level (MSL), respectively, while the maximum mining depth is 215 meters above MSL, and the depth to the water table is 13 bgl.

The Committee found that the documents submitted by the Project Proponent, satisfactory and decided that further consideration of the proposal shall be undertaken only after the finalisation of the revised DSR prepared in accordance with the guidelines issued by MoEF&CC dated 25.07.2018.

**Item No.06 Environmental Clearance for the Granite Building Stone Quarry Project of Sri. Raghulan Pillai, for an area of 1.9000 Ha at Re-Sy Nos. 354/1-305 & 354/1-305-236 Pt, in Karavalur Village, Punalur Taluk, Kollam District.
(SIA/KL/MIN/43381/2019, 1580/EC2/2019/SEIAA)**

As invited, the Project Proponent, Sri Raghulan Pillai, and the Consultant, Sri Cyriac Joseph of GLOBAL Environment & Mining Services LLP, were present. The consultant made a presentation outlining that the total project cost is Rs. 305 lakh. The depth to the water table in the project area was measured at 98 m AMSL. The general slope within the proposed area ranges from 18° to 34°. The Committee noted that the proposal was under consideration on 17.12.2019, and the field inspection was conducted on 22.11.2020, and the presentation was already done. Subsequently, additional documents were sought, and the PP failed to submit all the documents. In the meantime, there was a complaint with respect to revenue issues and Court cases also regarding revenue issues. The Committee noted that the entire project area falls in the hazard zone, with approximately 30% of the area in the High Hazard Zone, according to the Hazard Zonation Map (GSI) published by the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority. Since mining is prohibited in the High Hazard Zone, **the Committee recommended rejection of the proposal.**

**Item No.07 Re-appraisal of the Environmental Clearance for Granite Building Stone Quarry of Sri. Jayakumar T, Managing Partner, M/s BTL Rocks & Minerals for an area of 1.0379 Ha at Re-Survey Nos. 359/2- 1, 359/2-2, 360/5, 360/5-1,360/4-1,360/3-4,360/3-5,360/6-2, 360/6-1, 360/4-2 in Kulathummal Village, Kattakada Taluk, Trivandrum.
(SIA/KL/MIN/450543/2023, 2475/EC3/2023/SEIAA)**

The Committee reviewed the documents submitted by the Project Proponent as sought in the 170th SEAC meeting and found the following shortcomings in the submitted documents:

1. No specific reason was provided for conducting the mining without proper benches.
2. The clarifications and explanations regarding non-compliance with the conditions of the Certificate on Compliance Report (CCR) were inadequate.
3. The area and location designated for compensatory afforestation were vegetated.
4. Proof of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) implementation up to the year 2022 was not submitted.
5. Satellite imagery indicated mineral extraction beyond the lease area, necessitating

clarification, including the details of the demand notice and the penalties, if any, imposed by the Mining and Geology Department.

In light of these observations, the Committee **decided to invite the Project Proponent for a hearing with documents and details to clarify all the above concerns.**

Item No.08 Environmental Clearance for the Granite Building Stone Quarry of Sri. Anoop P.V., Managing Director, M/s. Rudra Stone and Crusher Private Limited for an area of 1.6896 Ha at Block No.30, Re-Survey Nos. 113/6, 113/7, 113/6-1 in Thekkada Village, Nedumangad Taluk, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
(SIA/KL/MIN/456003/2023, 2505/EC3/2024/SEIAA)

The Committee verified the additional documents submitted by the Project Proponent as per the decision of the 178th SEAC meeting and found them satisfactory. The Project Proponent had applied Form-1, along with the Mining Plan, Pre-Feasibility Report, Environmental Management Plan (EMP), and other details as requested by the Committee. The field inspection was conducted by the Subcommittee on 17.03.2024, and the proposal was presented in the 173rd SEAC meeting. The total project cost is Rs. 1.7 crore, of which Rs. 53,50,000 is allocated for the EMP. The proposed production capacity is about 4,91,255 metric tonnes. The expected mine life is 5 years. The highest elevation within the permit area is 195 meters above mean sea level (MSL), and the lowest is 110 meters above MSL. The depth to the water table is 8-9 m below the lower side ground level (100 m AMSL).

The Committee decided that further consideration of the proposal shall be undertaken only after the finalisation of the revised DSR prepared in accordance with the guidelines issued by MoEF&CC dated 25.07.2018.

Item No.09 Environmental Clearance for the Expansion of Technopark Phase III in Attipra Village, Thiruvananthapuram Taluk, Thiruvananthapuram.
(SIA/KL/MIS/52532/2019, 1555/EC1/2019/SEIAA)

As invited by the Committee in its 173rd SEAC meeting, the Assistant Vice President, Sri. Rahul Thampi, authorised by the Project Proponent, along with FAE Sri. Vinod Kumar and Sri. Chirag, were present. Sri. Vinod Kumar presented the proposal, noting that the project falls under Category B, 8(b) of the Schedule of EIA Notification 2006 (Township and Area Development). The Project Proponent addressed all shortcomings raised in the 159th SEAC meeting. Regarding rainwater harvesting, the proposal was revised from covering 4 acres (16,642 cubic meters) to 5.41 acres (26,446 cubic meters). Discrepancies related to wastewater generation and the sewage treatment plant were clarified by explaining that a common sewage treatment facility exists in the SEZ Zone, whereas lessees in Non-SEZ Zones must develop their own treatment facilities. Additional presentations covered comprehensive impact assessment on nearby communities, expected carbon footprint per

activity with mitigation measures as part of the Environmental Management Plan, revised stormwater management, solid waste management facilities, and socio-economic benefits.

The Committee observed that the Thettiyar River needs to be widened to accommodate discharge from the project area. Additionally, it was noted that the project area of M/s Dragonstone Reality Pvt. Ltd. is also included in the expanded area, and the same as not affirmed by the Project Proponent during the presentation. The Committee also noticed that the EC issued to M/s Dragonstone Reality Pvt. Ltd. is sub-judice. **In these circumstances, the Committee decided to seek clarification from the Project Proponent on these observations.**

Item No.10 Environmental Clearance for Development of proposed Outer Ring Road- Northern Ring: Navaikulam to Thekkada, Trivandrum (SIA/KL/INFRA1/437969/2023, 1933/EC1/2023/SEIAA)

The Committee discussed the detailed evaluation report prepared by the Subcommittee and observed that all 24 documents, along with the response to the complaints submitted by the Project Proponent, were found satisfactory. It was also noted that the Project Proponent, vide email dated 10.10.2025, confirmed that there has been no change in the original alignment as on 10.10.2025. The Committee noted that the EC for the Southern Ring was already issued by the Authority on 15.03.2023. The Committee further noted that the project presentation was made during the 155th SEAC meeting. Based on the discussions, **the Committee decided to recommend Environmental Clearance (EC) for a period of 10 years, subject to the following specific conditions in addition to the general conditions.**

1. Vide GO (MS) No. 39/2022/LSGD dated 25.2.2022, the Government of Kerala has introduced green rating and green building certification to buildings based on green standards. The guidelines published as part of the GO should be adhered to wherever applicable.
2. Provide safe and healthy basic facilities for construction workers as per the Building & Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996.
3. Sprinkling of water should be done frequently along the haul roads and construction sites using an appropriate technique.
4. Encapsulation of dust sources, erection of screen/barriers for crushers/hot mix plant, sprinkling of water mist spray, etc. should be adopted.
5. Stormwater drainage and its interconnection with the natural drainage of the locality should be ensured, and the adequacy should be monitored and corrections, if any, should be made as and when required. The details, along with geotagged photographs of monitoring and corrections made, if any, should be included in the HYCR.
6. Avenue plants and green belt should be developed with trees and herbs having high pollution sink potential, and geotagged photographs of the same should be included in the HYCR

7. Compensatory afforestation for the trees removed from the alignment and other areas involving the project should be carried out as per G.O. (Rt.) No.172/2010/F&WLD dated 21/04/2010 at the rate of 1:10 norms in public space available near the project location and in the lands of public institutions and industries.
8. Protocols/procedures for addressing the slope stability, landslips, rockfall etc. should be adopted strictly
9. A specific and appropriate management plan should be adopted for addressing the impact on water bodies and low-lying areas along the proposed project.

PARIVESH FILES (Ver-2)

PART-1

Item No.01 **Environmental Clearance for the Granite Building Stone Quarry Project of Sri. Binumon T. G., Managing Partner, M/s Megan Rocks, for an area of 1.3210 Ha at Block No. 9, Re- Sy No. 505/2 in Pazhavangadi Village, Ranni Taluk, Pathanamthitta District. (SIA/KL/MIN/476101/2024)**

The Committee scrutinized the additional documents submitted by the Project Proponent as per the 179th SEAC meeting and found them satisfactory. The project Proponent enclosed NOC dated 22.10.2024 from Executive Engineer, Kollam Irrigation Division and NOC dated 25.10.2024 from Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation, Pathanamthitta. The Project Proponent has submitted his response to the complaint of Sri. Shaji T.V. In addition, the Committee also went through the report of the Village Officer, Pazhavangadi which states that the allegation with regard to the land, which has been under private tax payment since before 1954 and is registered in the Land Register, BTR, and Thandapper Register in the name of Eliyamma and George of Thengumthottathil, is forest land, is baseless. Another allegation is that trees like Eetti (Indian Rosewood), Teak, and Maruthi (Arjun tree) were cut and removed illegally. No widespread cutting and removal of trees was observed. Moreover, there are no legal impediments to cutting and removing trees like Teak and Maruthi from this land, which has had a title deed since 1954. **In this circumstance, the Committee decided to direct the PP to provide the NOC from the concerned Divisional Forest Officer for the commencement of mining near the RF, Chettakkal RF, considering the complaint.**

Item No.02 **Environmental Clearance for the Granite Building Stone Quarry Project of Sri. Shibu Mathew, (M/s Rockfield Estates Private Limited), for an area of 3.9206 Ha at Block No. 40, Re-Survey 162/11, 162/12, 163/1, 163/2, 163/3, 163/8 of Pampady Village, Pampady Grama panchayat, Kottayam Taluk, Kottayam. (Proposal No. SIA/KL/MIN/470219/2024)**

The Committee scrutinised the additional documents, including the NOC from the Executive Engineer, Irrigation Division, Kottayam, dated 22.04.2025, submitted by the Project Proponent as per the 179th SEAC meeting and found them satisfactory, except the mine closure details of the nearby quarry. The Committee noted that as per the Cluster Certificate it is intimated that the adjacent quarry having an area, 3.9365 Ha comprised in Re sy no-163/5-1, 163/5-2, 163/5, 163/6-1, 163/6-2, 163/4-1, 163/4-2, 163/4-3, 163/4-4 located within 500 M this project was closed and the closure deed has been executed on 1/11/2023 as per order no-238/2023-24/DMG/1136/2023-M2 dated 17/09/23. In this circumstance, the **Committee decided to get the Certificate of Execution of the mine closure plan from the Mining and Geology Department by the PP. It was also decided to entrust Dr. V. B Vinayan to evaluate the ADS submitted by the PP.**

Item No.03 **Environmental Clearance for the Expansion of the existing Hospital cum Medical College project (Medical College, Nursing College, Multispecialty Hospital with Tertiary care Centre) of Sri. Joy. P. Jacob, Secretary, M/s The Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church at Sy. Nos. 129/6-2, 129/10, 129/11-2, 135/2, 135/3, 135/3-2, 135/4, 134/1-5, 134/1-6, 134/1-7, 135/5 in Aikarnad North Village and Sy. Nos. 24/1-2-9, 24/1-2-10, 24/5-1-2 in Aikarnad Grama Panchayat, Aikarnad South Village, Kunnathunad Taluk, Ernakulam. (SIA/KL/INFRA2/479309/2024)**

The Committee scrutinised the additional documents submitted by the Project Proponent as per the 179th SEAC meeting. The committee noted that the W.P (C) No. 23603/2025 has been filed by the Project Proponent before the Hon'ble Court, and the Hon'ble Court vide interim order dated 03.11.2025 directed that 'In view of the above, the 3rd respondent (SEIAA) shall apprise this Court of the impediment in considering Ext.P7 application pending before the 3rd respondent.' The committee observed that the Project Proponent has submitted an explanatory note clarifying why the EC is not necessary for the constructions before 2004. The clarification was not satisfactory to the Committee.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, in the landmark judgment of Vanashakti v. Union of India (W.P.(C) No. 50009/2023), delivered on May 16, 2025, declared the issuance of ex-post facto (retrospective) environmental clearances for buildings and projects as illegal and unconstitutional. The Hon'ble Court struck down the SoP for the Ex-post facto Clearance of the Ministry of Environment and the 2021 Office Memorandum that allowed such

clearances. **In this circumstance, the Committee decided to take further direction from the SEIAA to proceed with further appraisal.**

Item No.04 Application for Environmental Clearance for the Granite Building Stone Quarry Project of Sri. Sivankutty. K, for an area of 0.8344 Ha at Block No. 24, Re- Sy No. 428/10(pt), 428/12(pt), 428/13(pt), 428/14(pt), 428/14-2(pt), 428/16, 428/17, 428/18 & 428/19 in Ummannoor Village, Kottarakkara Taluk, Kollam District. (SIA/KL/MIN/485227/2024)

As invited, the Project Proponent, Sri. Sivan Kutty and the RQP Sri. VK Roy were present in the meeting. The RQP made the presentation and showed the drone video of the project area. All the additional documents submitted by the project proponent, including the NOC from the Executive Engineer, Irrigation Division Kollam, dated 21.07.2025 and the Comprehensive Environmental Management Plan, were verified by the Committee and found satisfactory. The Project Proponent had submitted the application in Form 1, along with the Mining Plan, Pre-Feasibility Report, Comprehensive Environmental Management Plan (EMP), and other details as sought by the Committee. The total project cost is Rs. 1.02 crore, of which Rs. 44,40,000 is allocated for the comprehensive EMP. The targeted production of mine will be 1,55,107.5 MT. The expected life of mine is estimated to be about 2 years. The highest elevation within the permit area is 108 meters above mean sea level (MSL), and the lowest is 96 meters above MSL. The ultimate mining depth has to be limited to 88m AMSL.

The Committee decided that further consideration of the proposal shall be undertaken only after the finalisation of the revised DSR prepared in accordance with the guidelines issued by MoEF&CC dated 25.07.2018.

Item No.05 Application for Environmental Clearance for the Granite Building Stone Quarry Project of Sri. Madhulal M G for an area of 0.8300 Ha at Block No. 52, Re-Sy. Nos. 387/5-2, 387/7-2, 387/7, 387/13 & 387/13-2 in Mancode Village, Kottarakkara Taluk, Kollam District. (SIA/KL/MIN/505526/2024)

As invited, authorised person by the Project Proponent, Sri. Asif Khan and the RQP Sri. VK Roy were present in the meeting. The RQP made the presentation and showed the drone video of the project area. The Committee verified the NOC from the Executive Engineer, Irrigation Division, Kollam dated 23.10.2024 and found it satisfactory. The Project Proponent had submitted the application in Form-1, along with the Mining Plan, Pre-Feasibility Report, Environmental Management Plan (EMP), and other details as sought by the Committee. The total project cost is Rs. 1.01 crore, of which Rs. 16,45,000 is allocated for the EMP. The targeted production of mine will be 1,15,500 MT. The expected life of mine is estimated to be about 2 years as per the mine plan. The highest elevation within the permit area is 205 meters above mean sea level (MSL), and the lowest is 180 meters above

MSL. The ultimate mining depth has to be limited to 175m AMSL as the water table comes up to 170m AMSL.

The Committee decided to entrust Dr. V. B Vinayan to evaluate the Additional Documents received.

Item No.06 Environmental Clearance for the Granite Building Stone Quarry Project of Sri. Joby George, M/s. Rocky Aggregates, for an area of 2.1774 Ha at, Re- Sy No. 56/4, 58/3, 59/1, 59/2 in Bharananganam Village, Meenachil Taluk, Kottayam. (SIA/KL/MIN/484455/2024)

The committee examined the additional documents submitted by the Project Proponent along with the response to the complaint and status of WP (C) No. 45882/2024 and WP (C) No. 45902/2025 before the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala. NOC from the irrigation Officer has not been submitted by the Project Proponent. It is noted that WP (C) No. 45882/2024 was disposed of by the Hon'ble Court vide judgment dated 09.01.2025. Response to the averments raised by the complainant is satisfactory. However, the committee noted that a recent complaint dated 26.10.2025 was received from Sri. V.A Mathew in which the complainant stated that the W.P(C) No. 2024 is still pending before the Hon'ble Court. He alleged that the property through which the access road passes is his own (Sy. No. 58/2) and no consent was given to the Project Proponent. Hence, **the committee decided to seek clarification from the Project Proponent on the access road and also the NOC from the Irrigation Officer. The Committee also decided to entrust Dr. V. B Vinayan for the evaluation of the ADS submitted by the PP.**

Item No.07 Environmental Clearance for the Granite Building Stone Quarry of M/s. Mallelil Industries Private Limited for an area of 0.9800 Ha. at Block No: 34, Sy. Nos: 196/1 in Iravon Village, Konni Taluk, Pathanamthitta. (SIA/KL/MIN/501513/2024)

As invited, authorised person by the Project Proponent, Sri. Asok Sreedhar and the consultant Sri. Cyriac Joseph were present in the meeting. The RQP made the presentation and showed the drone video of the project area. The committee verified the NOC from the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Pathanamthitta, dated 04.03.2025 and found it satisfactory. The Project Proponent had submitted the application in Form-1, along with the Mining Plan, Pre-Feasibility Report, Environmental Management Plan (EMP), and other details as sought by the Committee. The total project cost is Rs. 318.84 Lakh, of which Rs. 71,73,000 is allocated for the EMP. The targeted production of mine will be 2,25,190 MT. The expected life of mine is estimated to be about 3 years. The highest elevation within the permit area is 88 meters above mean sea level (MSL), and the lowest is 64 m above MSL. As part of afforestation and green belt development, 900 saplings shall be planted by the Project Proponent. The Committee is of the opinion that the CER is to be revised by constructing the Anganwadi, instead of donating the land.

The Committee decided that further consideration of the proposal shall be undertaken only after the finalisation of the revised DSR prepared in accordance with the guidelines issued by MoEF&CC dated 25.07.2018.

**Item No.08 Environmental Clearance for the Residential cum Commercial Building Construction Project of M/s Sanferrero Premium Living LLP, with a total built-up area of 58,312 sq.m at Sy. Nos. 222/4, 222/5, 222/6, 223/1, 223/2, 223/4-1, 223/4-2, 223/5, 223/7, 223/7-1, 224/2, 221/4-1, 223/5-1, 223/4, 223/3, 223/3-1, 223/4-8, 224/3, 224/9-1, 224/4-1, in Akalakunnam Village & Grama Panchayat, Kottayam Taluk & District.
(SIA/KL/INFRA2/497569/2024)**

As invited, the authorised person on behalf of the Project Proponent, Sri. Raiwin Chandy and the Consultant, Sri. Jomon were present. The consultant made the presentation. The total plot area is 2.6597 ha. (26,597 sqm). The project is in and around an abandoned quarry project. The total built-up area is 58,312 sqm. The FAR is @1.40. Total project cost is Rs. 102 Crores. The proposed project consists of 119 Apartments, 1 Villa, 4 semi-detached row houses, a Commercial area, a Restaurant / Food court (80 seats), a Conference Hall (122 seats), clubhouse and Scuba with supporting infrastructure facilities. The quantity of soil to be excavated is given by 10,495 cu.m and a portion of the same shall be used in the project site for various purposes. The existing abandoned quarry pond, with an area of 1.64 ha. will be retained as part of the proposed development of the site. Ordinary Earth (O.E.) with a total quantity of 3,140 cu.m. will be sourced for internal road construction, building levelling & landscape purposes from the external mine site (Aruvikkuzhi ward) located within 10 km from the site. The proposed STP Capacity is 140 KLD with MBBR technology and in-built anoxic treatment. It is proposed that the construction site will be isolated from the existing water body (pond) through a protection wall with an appropriate height all around the water body. The basement floors will be provided with effective waterproofing measures to prevent seepage. There is no construction below the groundwater table; all excavated soil/earth will be consumed within the site.

After due discussion, the Committee decided to direct the Project Proponent to submit the following details/clarifications as additional documents.

1. Geotechnical report for the foundation of the building, considering the past blasting history of the quarry area and the fractures that may have occurred, if any, and also considering that the overburden thickness is only up to 0.6 m
2. Management Plan for the quarry pit, especially the water quality, considering the same is envisaged for scuba diving purposes, wherein the drainage from the project area is also routed to it.

Item No.09 **Environmental Clearance for the proposed Granite Building Stone Quarry Project of Sri. Aneesh Peter for an area of 0.9936 Ha at Survey No.711/1-2-6, 714/1, 711/1-2-12, 711/1-2-4-2, 714/1-5-2, 714/1-5, 714/1-4 in Neriamangalam Village, Kothamangalam Taluk, Ernakulam – Presentation.**
(SIA/KL/MIN/504004/2024)

As invited, the Project Proponent, Sri. Aneesh Peter and the RQP Sri. Balaraman were present. The RQP made the presentation along with the drone video of the area. The committee verified the additional documents submitted by the Project Proponent as per the 177th SEAC meeting. The Committee observed that the NOC from the irrigation Department has not been submitted. The Secretary, Kavalangad Grama Panchayath, vide certificate dated 13.02.2025, certified that the adjacent buildings within 50m were demolished. The PP submitted the photographs as proof. The Committee accepted the clarification regarding the CCR that the adjacent quarry was functional long before without EC, and hence CCR could not be obtained from the IRO, MoEF&CC, Bangalore. The project area is 6km away from the nearest wildlife sanctuary, and hence the committee decided to seek the following documents from the project proponent.

1. Letter from Wildlife warden specifying the distance of the proposed/approved ESZ around the PA, and the distance of the project from the boundary of the Protected Area.
2. NOC from the concerned DFO clarifying whether the project area is within the Reserve Forest.
3. A plan for a culvert to be constructed across the access road near the project area to allow smooth flow of the stream seen on the northern side of the area.

Item No.10 **Environmental Clearance for the proposed Granite Building Stone Quarry Project of Sri. T.P Sajad, Managing Partner, M/s P P Associates for an area of 0.7530 Ha at Block no: 12, Re-Survey Nos. 110/7,110/8 in Vengoor Village, Kunnathunad Taluk, Ernakulam.**
(SIA/KL/MIN/500685/2024)

As invited, the Project Proponent, Sri. T.P Sajad and the RQP Sri. C. Balaraman were present in the meeting. The RQP made the presentation and showed the drone video of the project area. The Committee verified all the additional documents submitted by the Project Proponent and found them satisfactory except the NOC from the Irrigation department, as only the receipt of the application for NOC was submitted. The Project Proponent had submitted the application in Form-1, along with the Mining Plan, Pre-Feasibility Report, Environmental Management Plan (EMP), and other details as sought by the Committee. The total project cost is Rs. 80,00,000/-, of which Rs. 12,25,000 is allocated for the EMP. The targeted production of mine will be 1,50,955 MT. The expected life of mine estimated is to be about 2 years. The highest elevation within the permit area is 64 meters above mean sea

level (MSL), and the lowest is 44 meters above MSL. The ultimate mining depth proposed is 30m AMSL.

The Committee decided that further consideration of the proposal shall be undertaken only after the finalisation of the revised DSR prepared in accordance with the guidelines issued by MoEF&CC dated 25.07.2018, subject to the receipt of the NOC from the Irrigation Department.

Item No.11 Environmental Clearance for the proposed Granite Building Stone Quarry Project of Sri. Murali K K for an area of 0.9989 Ha at Sy.No. 726/1-44, 726/1-44, 726/1-45-2, 726/1-45 in Kalloorkad Village, Muvattupuzha Taluk, Ernakulam. (SIA/KL/MIN/493751/2024)

As invited, the Project Proponent, Sri. Sri. Murali K K and the RQP Sri. C. Balaraman were present in the meeting. The RQP made the presentation and showed the drone video of the project area. The Committee verified all the additional documents submitted by the Project Proponent and found them satisfactory, except the NOC from the Irrigation department, as only the receipt of the application for NOC was submitted. The Project Proponent had submitted the application in Form-1, along with the Mining Plan, Pre-Feasibility Report, Environmental Management Plan (EMP), and other details as sought by the Committee. The total project cost is Rs. 1,00,00,000/-, of which Rs. 24,63,350 is allocated for the EMP. The targeted production of mine will be 1,78,633 MT. The expected life of mine estimated is 2 years. The highest elevation within the permit area is 124 meters above mean sea level (MSL), and the lowest is 78 meters above MSL. The ultimate mining depth is 65m AMSL. In these circumstances, the Committee decided to ask the Project Proponent to submit the following details.

The Committee decided that further consideration of the proposal shall be undertaken only after the finalisation of the revised DSR prepared in accordance with the guidelines issued by MoEF&CC dated 25.07.2018, subject to the receipt of the NOC from Irrigation Department.

Item No.12 Environmental Clearance for the proposed Granite Building Stone Quarry Project of Sri. K T Paul, Managing Director, M/s Pavan Quarry & Aggregates Pvt. Ltd for an area of 0.7789 Ha at Block no: 16, ReSurveyNo. 252/2 in Rayamangalam Village, Kunnathunad Taluk, Ernakulam. (SIA/KL/MIN/499331/2024)

As invited, the Project Proponent, Sri. K T Paul and the RQP Sri. C. Balaraman were present in the meeting. The RQP made the presentation and showed the drone video of the project area. The Committee verified all the additional documents submitted by the Project Proponent and found them satisfactory, except the NOC from the Irrigation department, as only the application receipt was submitted. The Project Proponent had applied in Form-1,

along with the Mining Plan, Pre-Feasibility Report, Environmental Management Plan (EMP), and other details as sought by the Committee. The total project cost is Rs. 80,00,000/-, of which Rs. 18,60,900 is allocated for the EMP. The targeted production of mine will be 2,02,658 MT. The expected life of mine estimated is about 2 years. The highest elevation within the permit area is 66 meters above mean sea level (MSL), and the lowest is 52 meters above MSL. The ultimate mining depth is 25m AMSL. **In these circumstances, the Committee decided to ask the Project Proponent to submit the following details.**

1. NOC from the Irrigation Department in compliance with Section 40(2) of the Kerala Irrigation and Water Conservation Act, 2003, as ordered by the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala in WP(C) No. 30737 of 2022 and 4655 of 2024 dated 19.04.2024.
2. Mine closure plan is to be implemented in the adjacent quarry owned by the same Project Proponent and submit the certificate of closure from the Mining and Geology Department for the same.

Item No.13 Environmental Clearance for the proposed Granite Building Stone Quarry Project of Smt. Sumaya Ibrahim for an area of 1.9483 Ha at Survey Nos: 467/1A/43/30 (subdivided 467/1A/43/30, 467/1A/43/30/60) in Pindimana Village, Kothamangalam Taluk, Ernakulam. (SIA/KL/MIN/498567/2024)

As invited, the authorised person by the Project Proponent, Sri. Ibrahimkutty T.K and the RQP Sri. C. Balaraman were present in the meeting. The RQP made the presentation and showed the drone video of the project area. The Committee verified all the additional documents submitted by the Project Proponent, including the NOC from the Executive Engineer, Irrigation Division, Ernakulam. The Project Proponent had submitted the application in Form-1, along with the Mining Plan, Pre-Feasibility Report, Environmental Management Plan (EMP), and other details as sought by the Committee. The total project cost is Rs. 2,00,00,000/-, of which Rs. 29,40,000/- is allocated for the EMP. The targeted production of mine will be 5,41,748 MT. The expected life of mine is estimated to be about 5 years. The highest elevation within the permit area is 94 meters above mean sea level (MSL), and the lowest is 72 meters above MSL. The ultimate mining depth is 40m AMSL. The depth to the water table is 10m RL from 37m RL surface. The Committee observed that on the eastern side, the buffer has been revised, keeping the shed 52.0 m away from the mine area. The Thattekkad bird sanctuary is found at a distance of 3.7 Km from the project boundary. In these circumstances, **the Committee decided to direct the Project Proponent to submit a letter from the Wildlife warden specifying the distance of the proposed/approved ESZ around the PA, and the distance of the project from the boundary of the Protected Area. The Committee also decided to entrust the subcommittee, which consists of D. A N Manhoran and Dr. V.B Vinayan, for the field inspection.**

Item No.14 **Environmental Clearance for the Granite Building Stone Quarry Project of Sri. Shinoy Paul, Managing Partner, M/s. Manna Granites for an area of 1.9201 Ha at Sy Nos. 879/2-9, 879/2-10, 879/2-11, 879/2-12, 881/1-1-2, 881/1-1-3, 881/1-1-4 & 881/1-3-2 in Memuri Village, Muvattupuzha Taluk, Ernakulam – Presentation.**
(SIA/KL/MIN/492202/2024)

As invited, the Project Proponent, Sri. Shinoy Paul and the Consultant, Sri. Cyriac Joseph was present in the meeting. The consultant made the presentation and showed the drone video of the project area. The Committee verified all the additional documents submitted by the Project Proponent, including the NOC from the Executive Engineer, MVIP Division No. 3, Muvattupuzha, dated 25.08.2025 and found them satisfactory. The Project Proponent had submitted the application in Form-1, along with the Mining Plan, Pre-Feasibility Report, Environmental Management Plan (EMP), and other details as sought by the Committee. The total project cost is Rs. 983.2 Lakh, of which Rs. 208 Lakh is allocated for the EMP. The targeted production of mine will be 5,12,826 MT. The expected life of mine is estimated to be about 5 years. The highest elevation within the permit area is 84 meters above mean sea level (MSL), and the lowest is 54 meters above MSL. The ultimate mining depth is 25m AMSL. The groundwater level in the area ranges from 18-21 m. 1500 saplings shall be planted as part of the greenbelt and afforestation plan.

After discussion, the committee decided to entrust the subcommittee consisting of D. A N Manhoran and Dr. V.B Vinayan for the field inspection.

Item No.15 **Environment Clearance for the Granite Building stone Quarry project of M/s New Shanio Metal Crusher Unit Pvt Ltd for an area of 0.9877 Ha in Sy. Nos. 193/5, 193/6, 193/7, 193/9-1, 160/6, 192/5, 193/8-1 at Thottappuzhessery Village, Thiruvalla Taluk, Pathanamthitta**
(SIA/KL/MIN/493112/2024)

As invited, the authorised representative of the Project Proponent, Sri. Byju Varghese, and the RQP, Sri. Jayachandra Panicker, were present before the Committee. The RQP made a presentation on the proposal and exhibited drone footage of the project area.

The Committee observed that the project area is situated on an isolated residual hill with a maximum elevation of about 177 m above mean sea level (AMSL), as per Google Earth data, which has been subjected to extensive illegal and unscientific quarrying in the past. The present proposal is located on the flank of this hill, abutting an abandoned quarry pit of approximately 30 - 40 m depth. While the application indicates an elevation range of 145 - 110 m AMSL, Google Earth imagery indicates an elevation range of about 154 -127 m AMSL, yielding an average ground slope of roughly 50% (i.e., greater than 26°) along the hill flank. The Committee noted that the upper half of the residual hill has already been substantially mined out without adherence to sustainable mining practice, leaving behind steep to near-vertical rock faces exceeding 40 m in height. The proposed activity is, therefore,

not an isolated intervention but an incremental disturbance superimposed on an already destabilised landform with significantly altered geomorphology.

The Committee further noted that the hill slope has undergone substantial disturbance from previous unscientific quarrying, resulting in steep, near-vertical exposed rock faces and an abandoned, water-filled pit at the hilltop. In this context, further mining on a flank having an average slope of about 50%, in immediate proximity to a 30 - 40 m deep pit, renders the terrain highly sensitive to toe-cutting, blasting and vibration, with a concomitant increase in the risk of slope failure, rock falls and debris movement downslope. The Committee assessed that the proposed operations are likely to generate significant cumulative impacts on slope stability, surface and subsurface hydrology, drainage, and on dust, noise and vibration levels. Extraction below steep, previously unscientifically mined benches on the upper reaches of the hill appreciably enhances the probability of slope failure, rockfall and debris flow, particularly under the prevailing intense monsoon rainfall regime, in a highly undulating terrain with sharp elevation differences that can accelerate runoff, erosion and siltation towards downslope habitations, roads and other receptors.

In addition, the Committee noted that in the adjacent quarry of the same Project Proponent (File No. 75/SEIAA/KL/170/2013), violations have been recorded, including over-extraction of minerals beyond the validity period of the Environmental Clearance (EC). SEIAA has already resolved to undertake environmental damage assessment in respect of those violations, and the said process is presently underway. This history evidences non-compliance with EC conditions on the part of the Project Proponent. In these circumstances, and in the absence of credible closure and reclamation of the earlier workings, there is no reliable demonstration that the remnant hill mass is structurally stable or capable of supporting ecological recovery. The existing irregular topography and steep slopes further heighten the risk of soil erosion and instability in the event of renewed extraction.

Having regard to the above geomorphic and geotechnical setting, namely, the isolated hillock, steep average flank slope, location on the hill slope, and the presence of a deep, abandoned quarry pit at the crown, the Committee is of the view that further quarrying cannot be regarded as compatible with scientific mining principles, long-term slope stability or environmental safeguards. In light of the serious uncertainties regarding terrain stability and cumulative environmental impacts, the Committee is duty-bound to apply the Precautionary Principle as embodied in Section 20 of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010. **Accordingly, considering all relevant technical, geological and environmental aspects, the Committee concluded that the proposal is environmentally unsafe and decided to recommend rejection of the project in the larger public interest.**

Item No.16 **Environmental Clearance for the proposed Laterite Building Stone Quarry Project of Sri. Aman Aji Paul for an area of 0.3884 Ha at Block No.26, ReSurvey No.39/6 in Edakattuvayal Village, Kanayannur Taluk, Ernakulam – Presentation**
(SIA/KL/MIN/522735/2025)

As invited, Sri. Aman Aji Paul, the Project Proponent and his RQP AG Korah were present in the meeting. The RQP made the presentation and showed the drone video of the project area. The Committee verified the documents submitted by the Project Proponent and found them satisfactory. The Project Proponent had submitted the application in Form 2, along with the Mining Plan, Pre-Feasibility Report, Environmental Management Plan (EMP), and other details. The total project cost is Rs. 3 Lakh of which Rs. 1 Lakh is allocated for the EMP. The targeted production of mine will be 19420 MT. The expected life of mine estimated is to be about 2 years. The highest elevation within the permit area is 53.2 meters above mean sea level (MSL), and the lowest is 49.7 meters above MSL. The ultimate mining depth is 2m.

The Committee decided that further consideration of the proposal shall be undertaken only after the finalisation of the revised DSR prepared in accordance with the guidelines issued by MoEF&CC dated 25.07.2018.

Item No.17 **Environmental Clearance for the Laterite Building Stone Quarry Project of Sri. Mathew C. M., for an area of 0.6287 Ha at Block No. 22, Re-Survey No. 605/2 of Mulakkulam Village, Vaikom Taluk, Kottayam**
(SIA/KL/MIN/426637/2023)

As invited, Sri. Mathew C.M, the Project Proponent and the RQP Sri. C. Balaraman were present in the meeting. The RQP made the presentation and showed the drone video of the project area. The Committee verified the documents submitted by the Project Proponent. The Project Proponent had submitted the application in Form 1, along with the Mining Plan, Pre-Feasibility Report, Environmental Management Plan (EMP), and other details. The total project cost is Rs. 30 Lakh of which Rs. 9.5 Lakh is allocated for the EMP. The targeted production of mine will be 50560 MT. The expected life of mine estimated is to be about 2 years. The highest elevation within the permit area is 67 meters above mean sea level (MSL), and the lowest is 64 meters above MSL. The ultimate mining depth is 60m AMSL, and the water table is at 56 m AMSL. Upon verification of the Google imagery and the drone video, it is seen that the proposed area is thickly vegetated. In this circumstance, **the committee decided to entrust the subcommittee consisting of D. A N Manhoran and Dr. V.B Vinayan for the field inspection.**

Item No.18 **Environmental Clearance for the proposed Ordinary Earth Mining Project of Sri. E M Paulose for an area of 0.6019 Ha at Block No.49, ReSurvey No.s 280/12, 280/13, 280/4 in Aikkaranadu South Village, Kunnathunad Taluk, Ernakulam – Presentation.**
(SIA/KL/MIN/518299/2025)

As invited, the authorised person by the Project Proponent, Sri. Althaf and the RQP Sri. C. Balaraman were present in the meeting. The RQP made the presentation and showed the drone video of the project area. The Committee verified the documents submitted by the Project Proponent and found them satisfactory. The Project Proponent had submitted the application in Form 1, along with the Mining Plan, Pre-Feasibility Report, Environmental Management Plan (EMP), and other details. The total project cost is Rs. 15 Lakh of which Rs. 4 Lakh is allocated for the EMP. The targeted production of mine will be 30148 MT. The expected life of mine estimated is to be about 1 year. The highest elevation within the permit area is 80 meters above mean sea level (MSL), and the lowest is 74 meters above MSL. The ultimate mining depth is 60m AMSL, and the water table is at 72 m AMSL.

The Committee decided that further consideration of the proposal shall be undertaken only after the finalisation of the revised DSR prepared in accordance with the guidelines issued by MoEF&CC dated 25.07.2018.

Item No.19 **Environmental Clearance for the Granite Building Stone Quarry Project of Sri. Bhaskaran A.P, M/s. WINFIELD GRANITES LLP for an area of 3.7062 Ha at Survey No. 465/1, 464/2, 464 & 465/2-1 at Vellilappally Village of Meenachil Taluk, Kottayam.**
(SIA/KL/MIN/506416/2024)

The Committee examined the proposal and discussed it in detail. As per the application, the project cost is Rs 2,94,00,000/-. As per the approved mining plan dated 08.10.2024, the mineable reserve is 10,50,450 MT for a mine life of 5 years. The elevation of the proposed area varies between 220m AMSL to 160m AMSL. As per the Cluster Certificate dated 26.10.2024, there are no quarries within 500 m of the proposed project area. The Water table is found at a depth of 10-12m below ground level (135-133m above MSL). The nearest house (H/o. Jomon Joseph) is located at a distance of 53.8m from the project boundary. Based on the discussion, **the Committee decided on a field inspection and entrusted the Sub-Committee consisting of Dr. Ansari J. and Dr. V.B Vinayan for a field inspection and report.**

Item No.20 Environmental Clearance for the Granite Building Stone Quarry Project of Sri. Sojan Mathai for an area of 2.6231 Ha at 555/1A-3, 554/3-2-4, 554/3-3-5-2, 554/2-1 in Pindimana Village, Kothamangalam Taluk, Ernakulam. (SIA/KL/MIN/482606/2024)

As invited, the Sri. Sojan Mathai, Project Proponent and the RQP Sri. C. Balaraman were present in the meeting. The consultant made the presentation and showed the drone video of the project area. The Committee verified all the additional documents submitted by the Project Proponent and noted that NOC from the Irrigation Department is yet to be submitted. The total mineable reserve is 9,06,225 MT with an annual production of 2,00,000 MT. The life of Mine is 5 years. The Project cost is 2.80 Crores. The highest elevation of the proposed area is 65m AMSL, and the 48m AMSL. The distance to the medium hazard zone from the proposed site is 3.24 Km and the distance to the high hazard zone is 7.4km. The Project Proponent had submitted the application in Form-1, along with the Mining Plan, Pre-Feasibility Report, Environmental Management Plan (EMP), and other details as sought by the Committee. Based on the discussion the Committee decided the following:

- 1. Entrust the subcommittee consists of Dr A. N Manoharan and Dr. V. B Vinayan the field inspection and report.**
- 2. Project Proponent should submit a letter from the Wildlife Warden specifying the distance of the proposed/approved ESZ around the PA, and the distance of the project from the boundary of the Protected Area.**

Item No.21 Environmental Clearance for the proposed Granite Building Stone Quarry of Sri. Jayesh Thomas for an area of 0.8087 Ha, at ReSurvey Nos. 317/10, 317/11, 317/3, 317/12, 315/6-1, 317/4, 317/2, 315/5 in Vadasserikkara Village, Ranni Taluk, Pathanamthitta (SIA/KL/MIN/506573/2024)

The Committee examined the proposal and discussed it in detail. and the Consultant, Sri. Damodharan were present, and the consultant made the presentation. The Committee noted that the project area is in Vadasserykkara Village, which falls within an Eco-Sensitive Area (ESA) village as per the draft ESA Notification, where mining activities are prohibited in accordance with the directions dated 13.11.2013. The Committee also recalled that, following the major landslide at Vellarimala in July 2024, which occurred in another ESA village, and in anticipation of the final ESA notification, the Authority had already decided to defer all mining proposals in ESA villages until the final notification regarding ESA is issued. **In these circumstances, the Committee decided to recommend rejection of the proposal.**

Item No.22 **Environmental Clearance for the Granite Building Stone Quarry Project of Sri. Jismon A.B, M/s JS BLUEMETALS LLP. for an area of 1.9841 Ha at Block No. 23, Re-Survey Nos. 346/2pt, 346/3pt & 346/4pt at Vellilappilly Village of Meenachil Taluk, Kottayam. (SIA/KL/MIN/508513/2024)**

The Committee examined the proposal and discussed it in detail. As per the application, the project cost is Rs. 1,63,50,000/-. The elevation of the proposed area varies from 122m AMSL to 72m AMSL. The Mineable Reserves is estimated as 4,44,580 MT for a mine life of 5 years. The overburden thickness is 2m. As per the Cluster certificate dated 26.11.2024, there are two quarrying permits and an abandoned quarry pit within 500m of the proposed site. As per the PFR, the depth to the water table is found at a depth of 10-12m (53-55m above MSL). The Nearest house (H/o. Sabu Shreedharan) is located at a distance of 103 m from the lease boundary. In these circumstances, **the Committee decided to conduct a field inspection and entrusted the Sub-Committee consisting of Dr. Ansari J. and Dr. Rajendraprasad for the field inspection and report.**

Item No.23 **Environmental Clearance for the Granite Building Stone Quarry Project of Sri. Antony S. Alukkal, M/s. Bell Mount Granite Aggregates Private Limited, for an area of 3.6127 Ha at Block No. 20, Re-Survey Nos. 131/5, 131/11, 132/3, 132/3-1, 133/4-2, 133/7-1 & 139/3, in Manimala Village, Kanjirappally Taluk, Kottayam.**

The Committee examined the proposal and discussed it in detail. As per the application, the project cost is given as 1026.10 Lakhs. As per the Mining Plan dated 30.08.2024, the mineable reserve is estimated as 13,22,647.50 T for a mine life of 6 years. The ultimate mining depth is proposed at 115m above MSL. The elevation of the proposed area varies between 160m AMSL to 115m AMSL. The Cluster Certificate dated 17.09.2024, states that no operational quarries were found within a 500m radius. The Committee noticed that the application was submitted Form 2, and the documents, such as CER proposal as per the guideline published on the SEIAA website and the waste management details were not properly submitted. **In these circumstances, the Committee decided to recommend rejecting the application.**

Item No.24 **Environmental Clearance for the Granite Building Stone Quarry Project of Sri. S. Sanal Kumar for an area of 0.9558 Ha at Re-Survey Nos. 212/6-3, 326/3-1 & 326/3-6 at Vilappil Village, Kattakkada Taluk, Thiruvananthapuram District. (SIA/KL/MIN/516500/2025)**

The Committee examined the application and discussed it in detail. As per the application, the project cost is Rs 1,04,00,000/-. The elevation of the area varies between

102m AMSL to 147m AMSL. As per the Approved Mining Plan, the total mineable reserve is reported as 1,65,117.5 MT. The proposed life of mine is 3 years. Based on discussion, the Committee decided to entrust **Dr. Rajendraprasad to evaluate the documents submitted by the Project Proponent.**

Item No.25 **Environmental Clearance for the proposed building stone quarry of Sri. R Sreedharan Nair, Managing Director, M/s Malleilil Industries Private Limited, for an area of 1.6100 Ha at Survey No. 615/52-26, 615/52-6, 615/130, 615/54-7-29, 615/54-1-32-1, 615/54-28, 615/61, 615/1-128, 615/54-4-2, 615/54-4-1, 615/54-1-43-1, 615/54-16, 615/54-3-22, 615/54-3-2, 615/53-1-8-2-4, 615/53-1-8-2, 615/47-4, 615/47-3, 615/53-1-8-2-2, 615/54-1-219-1, 615/47-10 in Konni Thazham Village, Konni Taluk, Pathanamthitta
(SIA/KL/MIN/517689/2025)**

The Committee examined the proposal and discussed it in detail. As per the application, the project cost is 2 crore. As per the Mining Plan, the mineable reserve is 4,73,335 MT for a mine life of 5 years. The elevation of the area varies between 120m AMSL to 77.6m AMSL. The ultimate pit proposed is 80 m AMSL. As per the Cluster Certificate dated 22.11.2024, certify that no working quarry is situated within 500 m. radius. As per the Google imagery, there is a quarry proposal found within a 500m radius. Based on the discussion, the Committee decided to direct the Project Proponent to submit clarification regarding the adjacent quarry and mined out area, which was working in 2022, as per google imagery. **The Committee also decided to conduct field inspection and entrusted the Sub-Committee consisting of Dr. Ansari J. and Dr. Rajendraprasad for the field inspection and report.**

Item No.26 **Environmental Clearance for the Granite Building Stone Quarry Project of Sri. M. T. Thomas, Managing Partner, M/s Thomson Granites, for an area of 4.0590 Ha at Block No. 06, Re-Survey Nos. 28/1-3, 28/1-5, 28/1-6, 28/1-7, 28/1-8, 29/2, 29/2-1, 29/2-3, 29/4, 29/5, 29/5-1, 29/6, 29/6-1, 29/6-2, 29/7, 29/8, 29/8-1, 29/9, 29/9-1, 29/9-2, 29/11 in Edakkunnam Village, Kanjirappally Taluk, Kottayam.
(SIA/KL/MIN/517996/2025)**

The Committee examined the proposal and discussed it in detail. As per the application, the expected project cost is provided as 4.1 crores. The elevation of the area varies between 234m to 106m AMSL. As per the Approved mining plan, the Mineable Reserves is 16,83,748 MT for a mine life of 8 years. The proposed area falls within the Moderate Hazard zone. As per the Cluster certificate dated 02.12.2024, there are no quarries within 500 meters of the aforementioned quarry. As per the PFR, the nearest house is located outside the 100m of the mine boundary. Based on discussion the **Committee decided to**

conduct field inspection and entrusted the Sub-Committee consisting of Dr. Ansari J. and Dr. Rajendraprasad for field verification and report. The Sub-committee shall verify the proximity to temple and 3 nearby school and get clarification on the same from the PP.

Item No.27 Application for Environmental Clearance for the Granite Building Stone Quarry Project of Sri. Gurudeeksha L, M/s. Chaprayil Granites Pvt. Ltd., for an area of 4.9500 Ha at Block No. 39, Re-Sy Nos. 173/4-7, 173/4-16, 176/1, 176/1-3, 177/1, 177/1-2, 177/1-3, 177/1-4, 177/1-5, 177/1-6, 177/1-7, 177/3, 177/5, 177/6, 177/6-2, 178/3, 178/3-2, 178/4 & 178/5 in Chadayamangalam Village, Kottarakkara Taluk, Kollam. (SIA/KL/MIN/460718/2024)

The Committee noted that in the 151st SEIAA meeting, the Authority decided to post the case back to SEAC after getting the clarification from the Soil Conservation Department, for re-examination and suggested corrective measures if required. Later, the project proponent vide letter dated 19.02.2025 has requested to change the name of the project proponent from Sri. Gurudeeksha L. to Smt. Greeshma K. is stepping down from his role.

Further, the District Soil Conservation Officer, Kollam, vide letter dated 18.02.2025, has submitted a report on Kalladathanni Watershed Development Scheme and the impacts of mining in the proposed area. As per the report, Kalladathanni Watershed development scheme was implemented in the majority of the area of the project, and it is clear that the project proponent has received funds under this scheme. It is reported that the proposed mining area is comparatively high and hilly in nature, and hence the contour value is high in this area. It is also reported that any disturbances in the upper reaches can affect soil erosion, runoff, water infiltration, ground recharge and land use and therefore cause significant impacts on schemes implemented by the Government to conserve soil and water.

Meantime, two more complaints have been received from Sri. Nazeer E.K. vide letter dated 04.11.2025 and Sri. Abdul Pami vide letter dated 02.11.2025.

Now, The Director, District Soil Conservation Officer (DSCO) forwarded a letter dated 12.11.2025 on the basis of request of Managing Director, M/s Chaprayil Granites, to modify the earlier letter dated 18.02.2025 issued by District Soil Conservation Officer regarding the proposed quarry. In the request, the Project Proponent stated that in the case of M/s NAT industries, the District Soil Conservation Officer, Kollam suggested additional measures concerning Kalladathanni watershed development scheme to prevent soil erosion and conserve water. It is also stated that when the same district soil conservation department give favourable findings in one project and a different report for other project (M/s Chaprayil Granites) which are present adjacent to each other, is contrary to the law and circumstances and hence requested to modify the findings in the earlier report. In these circumstances, the DSCO intimated that they have submitted the Project Completion Certificate to the Government, regarding Kalladathanni Watershed Development and also requested that to suggest remedial measures to prevent soil erosion and to conserve water by reexamining the reports.

In this circumstance, the Committee decided to defer the proposal for hearing the Project Proponent.

PARIVESH FILES (Ver-2)

PART-2

Item No.01 Environmental Clearance for the Granite Building Stone Quarry Project of Sri. Sabu Varghese, Managing Partner, M/s. S.S Granites for an area of 4.3046 Ha at Survey No. 441/4-1, 441/5, 455/6A, 457/3-1, 457/4-2, 457/4-3, 457/5, 459/2A3 & 459/2B2 in Palakkuzha Village, Muvattupuzha Taluk, Ernakulam. (Reappraisal of EC issued by DEIAA. File No. SIA/KL/MIN/482846/2024

The Committee noted that the proposal was recommended for rejection by the 179th SEAC meeting due to the non-submission of all required additional documents as sought by the previous SEAC meeting. However, the 155th SEIAA meeting observed that the Project Proponent had submitted the additional documents vide letter dated 22.01.2025, but due to a technical glitch in the PARIVESH portal, these documents were not displayed in the Proposal History/Timeline or in the ADS slot, preventing SEAC from verifying them. Consequently, the Authority referred the proposal back to SEAC for reappraisal, directing the Project Proponent to upload the presentation in the PARIVESH portal.

Upon scrutiny of the additional documents, the Committee noted that the revised Corporate Environment Responsibility (CER) plan includes activities at Government Ayurveda Hospital, Kavumbhagam; Government Hospital, Palakuzha; Government UP School, Aroor; and Veterinary Hospital, North Palakuzha. However, the Biodiversity Report was submitted without an authorised signatory. The greenbelt and afforestation plan proposes planting a total of 1,000 saplings, with 500 already planted. The project area elevation varies between 170 m and 110 m AMSL, with the lowest working level at 110 m AMSL, and the average water table at 100 m AMSL. As per the cluster certificate dated 20.03.2024, no working quarries exist within a 500 m radius. The Project Proponent has not submitted the NOC from the Irrigation Department, but provided a drone video of the project site and surrounding areas within a 500 m radius.

In these circumstances, the Committee decided to entrust a subcommittee comprising Dr. A.N. Manoharan and Dr. V.B. Vinayan to conduct a field inspection and submit a report. Presentation of the project proposal shall be conducted in a subsequent meeting if deemed necessary.

Item No.02 **Application for Environmental Clearance for the Granite Building Stone Quarry project of Sri. Syju Lekshman for an area of 4.998 ha at Block no. 41, Re-Sy Nos. 322/2-2-1, 322/1, 322/6, 323/3, 324/6, 324/9-2, 324/6-3, 324/5-2, 324/3-2, 324/3-3, 324/4 (Private land), 325/1, 322/3, 323/2, 323/6, 323/7 & 324/3 (Govt. land) in Chadayamangalam Village, Kottarakkara Taluk, Kollam District.**
(SIA/KL/MIN/469043/2024)

The Committee has examined the proposal through multiple SEAC meetings (167th, 169th, 170th, 175th, 178th, and 182nd), conducted a comprehensive field inspection, reviewed public hearing inputs from 270+ participants, and evaluated additional documents submitted by the project proponent in response to Committee directives. The mineable reserve is given as 17,32,138 MT with a mine life of 12 years. The project cost is 9.12 Crores. The depth to the water table is given by 8m below ground level at 70m AMSL. The Public hearing was conducted on 06.03.2024. The nearest house is at 68 m from the project boundary. The maximum slope of the surrounding area, as per the slope stability study, is reported as 27°. The estimated quantity of topsoil is 55,168 T, and overburden is 51,501 T. The Committee noted the existence of 3 quarries within a 500m radius of the project area in an isolated residual hill, altogether having an area of more than 13 Ha.

Operational Quarry: M/s. Shah Quarry (S. Shaji) – 3.4310 ha

Proposed Quarry: M/s. Shah Quarry (K. J. Thomaskutty) – 4.8894 ha
(SIA/KL/MIN/468799/2024)

Proposed Quarry: Mr. Syju Lekshman – 4.998 ha (under review)

The Committee observed that the operation of one existing quarry plus two additional proposed quarries on the same hillock will effectively remove the entire hill mass over time, representing a transformative landscape alteration with profound and irreversible environmental consequences. The Committee ascertained that multiple quarries in one small physiographic unit cause accelerated land degradation, slope destabilisation, loss of soil cover, and conversion of the area into unproductive wasteland. The cumulative impact assessment reveals that individual project mitigations are wholly inadequate when considered against the magnitude of total geological and hydrological disruption. In addition to the 31 registered complaints in the public hearing regarding the establishment and functioning of the quarries.

The Committee examined the hydrogeological study and found it critically inadequate. The assessment fails to consider (1) seasonal rainfall variations and groundwater table fluctuations; (2) does not incorporate recommendations into EMP; (3) field inspection revealed drying wells on the southern side attributable to existing quarry operations; (4) the proposed water management plan (post-mining implementation only) is insufficient for ongoing groundwater recharge protection.

Slope stability study had the shortcomings such as (1) restricted to project site only; surrounding areas excluded from analysis, (2) large boulders and rock outcrops present in NE, N, NW directions not studied, (3) steep surrounding slopes (maximum 27°) with soil thickness up to 2m inadequately characterized, (4) soil profile classification and soil type analysis missing for surrounding regions, (5) revised Landslide Susceptibility Study lacks

clarity on whether surrounding areas and comprehensive parameters (slope, soil thickness, KSDMA mapping, rainfall characteristics) have been considered.

The biodiversity assessment has (1) been restricted to the project site only, despite the EIA study covering a 10 km impact zone, (2) assessment of the surrounding impact zone is essential for proper compensatory afforestation planning, and (3) inadequate baseline data preclude identification of species-specific conservation requirements.

The Committee also remains deeply concerned about the OB dump location not being finalised, conflicting proposals (downslope vs. north side of old quarry). Historical evidence demonstrates the project proponent's failure to maintain OB from the existing quarry, causing ongoing community and stream damage.

The Committee noted that the initial EMP submitted is fundamentally unsatisfactory. Even the revised EMP lacks a detailed cumulative impact assessment considering all three cluster quarries, despite cluster-related impacts being a major environmental concern. Besides, the EMP budget has incorrectly included road construction expenditure as a mitigation component, which should instead be accounted for under project development costs. Furthermore, the revised EMP does not integrate mitigation measures across the cluster in a coherent manner, leading to fragmented and ineffective environmental safeguards.

During the evaluation, the Committee noted that the proposed mining site is an isolated residual hill surrounded by a high density of households within 100–150 m along the foothills, making the locality extremely sensitive to quarry-induced impacts. The Committee expresses concern over the significant loss of natural vegetation, coupled with the absence of adequate compensatory ecological measures, which is expected to have long-term adverse impacts on livelihoods dependent on local water resources and ecosystem services. It was further observed that the community well on the southern side has already dried, evidently influenced by ongoing quarry operations in the vicinity, and further groundwater depletion is strongly anticipated if additional quarrying proceeds. With multiple quarries operating in close proximity, the local hydrology and critical recharge zones are likely to be severely affected, posing a direct threat to community water security. The Committee also anticipates potential contamination of surface water bodies and first-order streams on the southeastern side, given the fragile terrain and existing disturbance patterns. Importantly, the proposed site lies within a critical water catchment zone of the Midland Hills, which serves as the primary source for multiple streams and community wells. Any large-scale landscape modification due to mining will substantially reduce natural water percolation and aquifer recharge, further exacerbating water scarcity. The Committee also finds the proposed water management plan inadequate, as it focuses only on post-mining interventions and fails to address operational-phase risks essential for safeguarding the hydrological balance of the region. Moreover, risks associated with fly rock, boulder displacement and instability of large boulders within the buffer region cannot be ruled out, especially considering the steep slopes and disturbed geomorphology.

The Committee also noticed that the project proponent proposed highly irregular lease geometry, which is generally not conducive to safe and scientific open-cast mining, especially for hard rock/quarry operations using mechanised equipment. It is also suspected that the effective narrow working width does not permit simultaneous placement of a safe production bench, catch bench and haul road while maintaining recommended overall slope

angles and equipment operating envelopes, leading to heightened risk of slope failure, rock fall and accidents.

In these circumstances, the SEAC has decided to recommend rejection of the project proposal based on the following reasons.

1. **Cumulative Impact Exceeds Environmental Carrying Capacity:** Combined cluster quarrying will completely remove the midland hill, resulting in irreversible landscape transformation that violates principles of sustainable development and environmental conservation.
2. **Irreversible Impact on Hydrological Resources:** The site constitutes an essential recharge and water source area. Removal of the hill mass and vegetation also alters the local micro-climate and reduces groundwater recharge potential, with long-term implications for wells and water availability for the foothill community. Existing evidence of well drying, combined with the absence of protective measures, creates an unacceptable risk to community water security.
3. **Risk on Slope Stability and Boulder Management:** Surrounding steep slopes (up to 27°), large boulders, and high population density (habitations 68m-130m away) create a significant hazard without a comprehensive risk assessment. The presence of large boulders and extensive blasting on multiple flanks can induce local over-steepening, rock falls and small landslides, particularly under intense rainfall conditions. Moreover, the OB dump management on the slope remains inadequately planned.
4. **Pit Geometry and Working Width:** The surface geological plan show several “pinched” segments where the effective mining width (after the 7.5 m statutory buffer on either side) reduces to a narrow corridor, with benches, haul road and safety berms all confined within approximately 26 - 28 m. In these stretches, the development and production plans still propose multiple benches but do not demonstrate where a safe internal haul road and catch benches can be laid out without encroaching into the buffer zone or over-steepening overall slopes.
5. **Safety, Access and Stability:** In the narrow parts of Block A and Block B, the sections effectively convert benches into a steep, near-continuous face, which is inconsistent with scientific mining principles requiring adequate bench width for drilling, blasting, loading and safe access.
6. **Public Concerns:** Substantive concerns raised by 270+ community members, regarding water depletion, health impacts, safety hazards, and pollution.
7. **Deficient Environmental Management Plan:** EMP is generic, inadequately budgeted, and fails to address site-specific impacts. Road construction cost incorrectly included in EMP budget. Comprehensive cluster-level EMP remains unsatisfactory despite multiple SEAC directives.
8. **Cumulative Air and Noise Pollution Concerns:** Silicate content unassayed; particulate matter mitigation inadequate for 270+ residents and school proximity. Cluster quarrying and crushing on a single hill generate high cumulative dust and noise levels, leading to deterioration of local air quality, respiratory and other health problems, and severe noise nuisance for nearby residents. Studies from Indian quarry clusters report increased particulate matter deposition on houses and vegetation, reduced visibility, and chronic exposure of villagers to noise above recommended

limits, especially where settlements are located within a few hundred metres.

9. **Historical Performance Concerns:** Existing functioning quarry demonstrates poor OB management and ongoing stream damage, indicating the vulnerability of the insufficient environmental compliance capability.
10. **Precautionary Principle Application:** Given the environmental fragility of an isolated residual midland hill ecosystem, cumulative cluster impacts, inadequate mitigation certainty, and irreversible consequences, the Precautionary Principle mandates rejection absent comprehensive environmental assurance.

Item No.03 Environmental Clearance for the proposed Granite Building Stone Quarry of Sri. Swaroop Rajan, Managing Director, M/s True Stone Private Limited for an area of 0.9998 Ha at Survey No.s 328/1A-Q-48-20, 328/1A-Q-49-21 in Kottapadi Village, Kothamangalam Taluk, Ernakulam. (SIA/KL/MIN/518137/2025)

The Committee examined the proposal and discussed it in detail. As per the application, the project cost is 1.3 crores. The nearest built structure is located at 30.1m from the proposed site. The Thattakkad bird sanctuary is located at a distance of 7.2 Km from the proposed site. As per the Mining Plan dated, the total mineable reserve is 2,13,000 MT for a mine life of 3 years. The elevation of the proposed area varies between 84m AMSL to 71m AMSL. The soil thickness of the area is given as 2m. **Based discussion, the Committee decided to direct the Project Proponent to furnish a valid certificate issued by the Wildlife Warden of the respective Protected Area along with the EC application. The certificate must clearly state that the project area does not fall within the proposed ESZ or within 1 km of the Protected Area boundary and must specify the exact distance of the project site from the Protected Area boundary.**

Item No.04 Environmental Clearance for the Granite Building Stone Quarry Project of Sri. Abdul Karim for an area of 1.5370 Ha at block no. 29, re-survey nos: 364/2, 364/3, 364/4, 364/6, 364/8 of Manickal Village, Nedumangad Taluk, Thiruvananthapuram. (SIA/KL/MIN/519475/2025)

The Committee examined the application and discussed it in detail. As per Form 1 the project cost is 2 crore. The total mineable reserve is 4,67,360 MT for a period of 5 years. The elevation of the proposed area varies between 200m AMSL and 170m AMSL. The distance to nearest building is found at a distance of 132m from the proposed site. The depth to water table is reported as 15m below MSL at 147 m AMSL. As per the Cluster Certificate dated 23.02.2023, there are 2 lease-expired quarries, viz. Quarry of VKL Infrastructure Facilities for an area of 4.3211 Ha and Quarry of M/s V K L Projects India Pvt Ltd for an area of 4.0394 Ha found within 500m radius. But as per the Google imagery, a quarry proposal owned by M/s Al-Falah Metal Crusher (SIA/KL/MIN/465522/2024) was rejected due to the

Cluster Condition based on the Cluster Certificate dated 21.02.2024. **The Committee noticed that in WP(C) 32379/2023 filed by the Project Proponent, the Hon'ble Court vide judgement dated 06.01.2025 directed the respondents to finalise Ext. P4 application of the petitioner for Environmental Clearance and dispose of the same without insisting on the petitioner to apply for Terms of Reference or conducting the Environment Impact Assessment Study within two months. On receipt of a copy of this judgment, the Authority in the 152nd meeting decided to file an appeal to stay the operation of the Judgment dated 06.01.2025, and it is learned that the appeal is already filed before the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala. Based on the circumstances, the Committee decided to await the status of the appeal before the Hon'ble Court for further action.**

**Item No.05 Application for Environmental Clearance for the Granite Building Stone Quarry project of Sri. Binu S, for an area of 2.6084 Ha at Block no. 01, Re-Sy Nos. 496/8, 467/5, 467/1, 467/2, 468/6, 468/7, 468/10 & 468/11 in Pattazhi vadakkekara village, Pathanapuram Taluk, Kollam.
(SIA/KL/MIN/516038/2024)**

The Committee examined the proposal and discussed it in detail. As per the application, project cost is Rs. 1,70,50,000/-. The nearest house is located at a distance of 56m from the project boundary. The elevation of the area varies between 90m AMSL to 65m AMSL. The mining plan dated 29.11.2024; the mineable reserve is estimated as 9,43,475 MT for a mine life of is 5 years. The depth to the water table is 8m below ground level at 37m AMSL. The project proponent obtained NOC from the Irrigation Department, Kollam vide No. D2-QNOC/4076/EEI/KLM/2024 dated 20.11.2024, for conducting mining activities by controlled blasting method. The Cluster Certificate dated 29.11.2024, states that no working quarry in operation within a 500-meter radius of the quarry project. **Based on the discussion, the Committee decided to conduct field inspection and entrusted the Sub-Committee consisting of Dr. Ansari J. and Dr. Rajendraprasad for field inspection and report.**

**Item No.06 Environmental Clearance for the proposed Granite Building Stone quarry of Smt. C Beenakmari for an area of 4.7730 Ha at Block No. 32, Re-Survey No. 288/1, , in Koodal Village, Konni Taluk, Pathanamthitta
(SIA/KL/MIN/520035/2025)**

The Committee examined the proposal and discussed it in detail. The ToR for conducting the EIA study was issued vide letter No. SIA/KL/MIN/451712/2023, 2451/EC2/2023/SEIAA dated 29.01.2024. As per the EIA report, the project cost is Rs. 3,65,62,049/-. The Public hearing for the project was conducted on 29.11.2024. The elevation of the area varies between 250m AMSL to 167.617 m AMSL. The groundwater data measured from the nearest wells vary from 5.1m to 7.5m below ground level. As per the approved mining plan dated 29.09.2023, the total mineable quantity which was available in

the original landform before the extraction of 80,914.5 MT of granite building stone was 32,89,225.75 MT. The land survey shows that a quantity of 8,914.5 MT of granite building stone is partly mined out from the mining area, and 2,41,675 MT of granite building stone is partly mined out from outside of the mining lease area. The remaining mineable reserve of 32,08,311.25 MT, in which 14,00,000 MT of granite building stone has been planned for extraction for the next 7 years and hence arrived at an annual production of 2,00,000 MT/Year. The remaining quantity of 18,08,311.25 MT of granite building stone will be left for future mining activity for a further period of 9 years. Therefore, the life of mine will be 16 years. The total area of the Cluster is 14.5031, comprised of the following quarry proposals.

1. The existing two quarries of M/s. Mavanal Granites Pvt Ltd with an extend of 5.2377 ha (Mavanal-1: 4.0469 ha + Mavanal-2: 1.1908 ha)
2. Existing quarry of M/s. Vajra Rock Mining Industries for an area of 4.4924 ha.
3. A quarry situated adjacent to the southern side of the proposed project, ie; M/s. Crescent Particles Pvt Ltd (1.82 ha).

The Committee also noticed that, the PP had submitted a DD dated, 07.04.2015 for an amount of 1 lakh for processing the earlier application (file no. 706/SEIAA/KL/5783/2014), which was rejected. Based on the discussion the Committee decided to entrust the Sub-Committee consisting of Dr. Ansari J. and Dr. Rajendraprasad for evaluation of EIA report, field inspection and report. The Committee also directed the PP to submit the Chalan receipt for the processing fee remitted for the current application via email to enable further action on the proposal.

**Item No.07 Reappraisal of Environmental Clearance issued by DEIAA, Ernakulam for the Granite Building Stone Quarry of Sri. K.J Poulouse for an area of 1.5565 Ha at Survey Nos. 143/1, 143/2, 142/3-2 in Maneed Village, Muvattupuzha Taluk, Ernakulam.
(SIA/KL/MIN/512716/2025)**

The application has been submitted in Form 2. As per the revised mining plan dated 19.06.2024, the balance mineable reserve is 63982 MT. The elevation of the project area varies between 75 – 50m AMSL. As per the order dated 24.05.2024, a demand notice has been raised due to the illegal extraction beyond the boundaries of the mine lease, by the Mining and Geology Department for an amount of Rs. 78,89,955/- for which the Project Proponent has agreed to pay the amount in three instalments. **In these circumstances, the Committee decided to direct the Project Proponent to submit the drone video of the location, highlighting the project area covering a 500m radius. The Drone video shall clearly depict the actual lease area and the over-extracted area.**

Item No.08 **Environmental Clearance for the Granite Building Stone Quarry Project of Sri. Joy.K.O, Director, M/s Pampakuda Aggregates Pvt.Ltd for an area of 0.9994 Ha at Survey No. 645/4-A1-4, 645/4-A-2-3, 645/4-A-1-3, 645/4-B-3-2, 645/4-A-2-4, 645/4-B-1-2, 645/4-B-2-2 in Onakkoor Village, Muvattupuzha Taluk, Ernakulam – Evaluation of ADS Received. (SIA/KL/MIN/462429/2024)**

The committee examined the additional details submitted by the project proponent as sought in the 175th SEAC meeting and found them satisfactory. As part of the compensatory afforestation plan, 621 plants shall be planted. The application is in Form 1. As per the application, the project cost is Rs. 1 Crore, out of which Rs. 24.50 lakh is earmarked for the implementation of the Environment Management Plan. The mineable reserve is 2,05,265 MT for a mine life of 2 years. The elevation of the proposed site varies between 192 AMSL to 144 AMSL. The depth to the water table is given as depth of 7m below ground level from 99 m AMSL. The nearest house is located at 204.3 m from the proposed site. The PP obtained NOC from the irrigation department, Muvattupuzha vide order dated 20.11.2024 with 9 conditions. As per the Cluster Certificate dated 19.01.2024, there are no working quarries within a 500m radius of the proposed area. In the case of OB dump, a Gabion wall with benches at 2m intervals is to be constructed. Also, the protective measures for the Overburden dump by installing geotextiles and establishing vetiver plantations to ensure slope stabilisation, prevent soil erosion, and minimise environmental impacts.

The Committee decided that further consideration of the proposal shall be undertaken only after the finalisation of the revised DSR prepared in accordance with the guidelines issued by MoEF&CC dated 25.07.2018.

Item No.09 **Request for amendment in the Environmental Clearance issued to the Common Biomedical Waste Treatment Facility by IMAGE-IMA at Block No 26, Re. Sy No 340/1/19, 340/1/20, in KINFRA Park Enadimangalam Village, Adoor Taluk, Pathanamthitta (SIA/KL/INFRA2/531070/2025)**

The Committee noted that the Project Proponent applied for an amendment to the Environmental Clearance. The Proponent pointed out that the project cost mentioned on page 3 of 13 is incorrectly stated as Rs. 23.4 crores instead of Rs. 24.84 crores. As per clause (21) of the specific conditions, the Corporate Environment Responsibility (CER) Plan should be implemented during the first two years and maintained throughout the EC period. The Proponent clarified that the CER commitment pertains solely to the construction of a training centre and did not include maintenance of the building for 8 years, hence requested an amendment accordingly.

Further, clause (37) requires that at least 20% of the energy demand shall be met from solar power; however, the Proponent stated that this is unfeasible for operational equipment like incinerators and shredders and proposed solar energy use only for general

lighting and fans. **The Committee deliberated and decided to seek an expert agency assessment on the potential for maximum solar energy harnessing within the project area, considering rooftop and available spaces.** All other amendment requests will be reviewed after receipt of additional details from the Proponent.

**Item No.10 Application for Extension of validity of EC issued for the Granite Building Stone Quarry of Sri. C. Krishna Pillai for an area of 0.9705 Ha at Block No - 27, Re-Survey Nos. 283/1pt, 283/2pt, 283/4, 296/3pt in Ezhumattoor Village, Mallapally Taluk.
(SIA/KL/MIN/554719/2025)**

The Project Proponent applied for extension of Environmental Clearance validity via the PARIVESH portal in Form-6. The Proponent stated that the initial quarrying permit was granted on 17.11.2022 for one year, valid until 16.11.2023, but operations were suspended by SEIAA's stop memo dated 03.05.2023. The suspension was revoked on 17.02.2024, with a subsequent one-year quarry permit issued on 10.05.2024. Mining operations ceased after this tenure, and third-year operations have not yet commenced. Given these circumstances, **the Committee decided to recommend extending the Environmental Clearance validity for one more year from the date of execution of a valid mining lease issued by the Department of Mining and Geology,** subject to adherence to all Specific and General Conditions stipulated in the original EC.

**Item No.11 ToR application for the Granite Building stone quarry of Sri. Surendran G for an area of 0.8213 ha at Re-Survey Nos 261/13, 262/11-3, 268/1-2, 268/6, 268/7, 261/15 Block No.38 of Anavoor Village, Neyyatrunkara Taluk. Thiruvananthapuram.
(SIA/KL/MIN/506291/2025)**

The Committee examined the ToR application and discussed it in detail. As per the cluster certificate, there are five quarries within the 500 m premises of the proposed quarry. The total area of the cluster is 9.9736 ha, which is greater than 5 ha; thus, inviting the cluster condition. As per the PFR the mineral reserves proposed is 1,28,400 MT. The life of mine is given as 3 years. The elevation of the area varies between 130m AMSL to 102m AMSL. The total project cost is given as 96.3 lakhs. The project area does not belong in High/Medium Hazard Zone. Based on the discussion, **the Committee decided to recommend the Standard ToR under Category 1 (a) Mining of Minerals**

Item No.12 ToR Application for the Granite Building Stone Quarry of M/s. Elanji Rocks Private Limited for an area of 13.0100 Ha at Block No. 1, Survey Nos. 414/2-3, 414/2-7, 414/2-11, 418/4-A-3, 418/4A, 418/4-A-4, 418/4-A-5, 418/4A-2, 418/4-A-7, 418/4-A-6, 418/4B, 418/4-B-2, 418/4-B-3, 419/1-A, 419/1-A-3, 419/1-A-2, 419/1- B-5, 419/1-B-3, 419/1-B-2, 419/1-B-4, 419/1B-4, 419/2-A-3, 419/2-A2, 419/2B, 419/2-B-2, 419/3-3, 421/1-B-2-2-2, 421/1B-5-2, 421/2-A7, 421/2-A-4, 421/2-A-3, 421/2-A-5, 421/2-A-6, 421/2-A, 421/2B-3, 421/2-B-5, 421/2-B-4, 421/2-B-2, 421/3-3, 422/1-A-4, 422/1-B, 422/2- 2-3, 422/2-9, 422/2-7, 422/2-12, 422/2-15, 422/2-14, 422/2-11, 422/2-10, 422/2-13, 422/2, 422/4-A-3, 422/4-A-1, 422/4-B-3 & 422/4-B-1 in Elanji Village, Muvattupuzha Taluk, Ernakulam.
(SIA/KL/MIN/557138/2025)

The Committee examined the ToR application and discussed it in detail. As per the PFR, the mineral reserves proposed is 96,32,012.5 MT . The life of mine is given as 29 years. The elevation of the area varies between 170m AMSL to 40m AMSL. The total project cost is given as 1886.02 lakhs. Based on the discussion, **the Committee decided to recommend Standard ToR under Category 1 (a) Mining of Minerals.**

Item No.13 Validity Extension for the of Environmental clearance issued for the proposed china clay mining project in for an area of 2.4953 ha Sy. Nos. 427/1, 1-1, 1-2, 2, 4 & 5 at Melthonnakal Village, Trivandrum Taluk, Trivandrum District, Kerala by Sri. Chandrasekaran for M/s EICL limited. (SIA/KL/MIN/557042/2025)
(Old File No. No.2111/EC3/2025/SEIAA)

The Committee noted that the Environmental clearance was issued for the proposed china clay mining project in Sy. Nos. 427/1, 427/ 1-1, 427/1-2, 427/2, 427/4 & 427/5 at Melthonnakal Village, Thiruvananthapuram Taluk, Thiruvananthapuram District, Kerala by Sri. Chandrasekaran, M/s EICL Limited, vide proceedings No. 940/SEIAA/EC1/4098/2015 dated 16.10.2019. The validity of EC expired on 15.10.2020.

Further the SEIAA in its 112th Meeting 14th, 15th& 16th September 2021 Considered the letter of PP dated 14.12.2020 for extension of Environmental Clearance and observed that the SEAC has already recommended issuing EC for 5 years, out of which 2 years will be covered by 15.10.2021. Authority decided to extend the EC period for the balance period of 3 years to cover the recommendation by SEAC, and the extension beyond this period will be considered after a field inspection by SEAC to confirm the compliance of EC conditions.

Subsequently, the EC was extended for a further period of 3years from 15/10/2021 up to 14/10/2025, including Covid relaxation.

The Project Proponent has now submitted an application under Form-6 for extension of EC validity. Based on the Scheme of Mining, the reserve for the 2026-2029 period is estimated at 3,22,097.4 MT. The Committee discussed the proposal in detail and entrusted a

Sub-Committee consisting of **Dr. Ansari J. and Dr. Rajendraprasad to conduct a field inspection and submit a compliance report.**

Item No.14 **Application for Environmental Clearance for the Granite Building Stone Quarry project of Sri. K J Thomaskutty, M/s Shah Quarry for an area of 4.8894 ha at Block no. 41, Re-Sy Nos. 320/1, 320/1-2, 320/1-3, 320/1-4, 320/1-5, 320/1-2-2, 320/2-3, 320/2-4, 320/2-5, 320/2-6, 320/2-8, 320/2-10, 322/2-2, 322/2-3, 322/5, 326/2-2, 325/3, 324/5-1, 324/7, 324/5-1-2, 318/1-6, 320/3, 321/15, 321/28, 321/16, 322/7, 322/4 & 318/1-2 in Chadayamangalam Village, Kottarakkara Taluk, Kollam District.**
(SIA/KL/MIN/468799/2024)

The Committee has examined the proposal through multiple SEAC meetings, conducted a comprehensive field inspection, reviewed public hearing inputs from 270+ participants, and evaluated additional documents submitted by the proponent in response to Committee directives. The total mineable reserve is reported as 24,43,670 MT for a mine life of 12 years. The total project cost is given as 7.79 Crores. The public hearing of the project was conducted on 05.03.2024. The Field inspection was conducted on 06.07.2024. The depth to the water table is given by 4.5 m below ground level. The average elevation of the project site is 123 m AMSL, ranging from 97 to 141 m AMSL. Based on the landslide susceptibility map, 41,224 m² area of the proposed site falls in a low susceptible area, and rest of the area falls in a non-susceptible area. The average slope of the project site is 12° with a maximum slope of 26°.

The Committee noted the existence of 3 quarries within a 500m radius of the project area in an isolated residual hill, altogether having an area of more than 13 Ha.

1. **Operational Quarry:** M/s. Shah Quarry (S. Shaji) – 3.4310 ha
2. **Proposed Quarry:** M/s. Shah Quarry (K. J. Thomaskutty) – 4.8894 ha (SIA/KL/MIN/468799/2024)
3. **Proposed Quarry:** Mr. Syju Lekshman – 4.998 ha (under review)

The Committee observed that the operation of one existing quarry plus two additional proposed quarries on the same hillock will effectively remove the entire hill mass over time, representing a transformative landscape alteration with profound and irreversible environmental consequences. The Committee ascertained that multiple quarries in one small physiographic unit cause accelerated land degradation, slope destabilisation, loss of soil cover, and conversion of the area into unproductive wasteland. The cumulative impact assessment reveals that individual project mitigations are wholly inadequate when considered against the magnitude of total geological and hydrological disruption. In addition to the 31 registered complaints in the public hearing regarding the establishment and functioning of the quarries.

The Committee examined the hydrogeological study and found it critically inadequate. The assessment fails to consider (1) seasonal rainfall variations and groundwater table fluctuations; (2) does not incorporate recommendations into EMP; (3) field inspection revealed drying wells on the southern side attributable to existing quarry operations; (4) the proposed water management plan (post-mining implementation only) is insufficient for ongoing groundwater recharge protection.

Slope stability study had the shortcomings such as (1) restricted to project site only; surrounding areas excluded from analysis, (2) large boulders and rock outcrops present in NE, N, NW directions not studied, (3) steep surrounding slopes (maximum 26°) with soil thickness up to 2m inadequately characterized, (4) soil profile classification and soil type analysis missing for surrounding regions, (5) revised Landslide Susceptibility Study lacks clarity on whether surrounding areas and comprehensive parameters (slope, soil thickness, KSDMA mapping, rainfall characteristics) have been considered.

The biodiversity assessment has (1) been restricted to the project site only, despite the EIA study covering a 10 km impact zone, (2) assessment of the surrounding impact zone is essential for proper compensatory afforestation planning, and (3) inadequate baseline data preclude identification of species-specific conservation requirements.

The Committee noted that the initial EMP submitted is fundamentally unsatisfactory. Even the revised EMP lacks a detailed cumulative impact assessment considering all three cluster quarries, despite cluster-related impacts being a major environmental concern. Besides, the EMP budget has incorrectly included road construction expenditure as a mitigation component, which should instead be accounted for under project development costs. Furthermore, the revised EMP does not integrate mitigation measures across the cluster in a coherent manner, leading to fragmented and ineffective environmental safeguards.

During the evaluation, the Committee noted that the proposed mining site is an isolated residual hill surrounded by a high density of households within 100–150 m along the foothills, making the locality extremely sensitive to quarry-induced impacts. The Committee expresses concern over the significant loss of natural vegetation, coupled with the absence of adequate compensatory ecological measures, which is expected to have long-term adverse impacts on livelihoods dependent on local water resources and ecosystem services. It was further observed that the community well on the southern side has already dried, evidently influenced by ongoing quarry operations in the vicinity, and further groundwater depletion is strongly anticipated if additional quarrying proceeds. With multiple quarries operating in close proximity, the local hydrology and critical recharge zones are likely to be severely affected, posing a direct threat to community water security. The Committee also anticipates potential contamination of surface water bodies and first-order streams on the southeastern side, given the fragile terrain and existing disturbance patterns. Importantly, the proposed site lies within a critical water catchment zone of the Midland Hills, which serves as the primary source for multiple streams and community wells. Any large-scale landscape modification due to mining will substantially reduce natural water percolation and aquifer recharge, further

exacerbating water scarcity. The Committee also finds the proposed water management plan inadequate, as it focuses only on post-mining interventions and fails to address operational-phase risks essential for safeguarding the hydrological balance of the region. Moreover, risks associated with fly rock, boulder displacement and instability of large boulders within the buffer region cannot be ruled out, especially considering the steep slopes and disturbed geomorphology.

The originally proposed dump yard is positioned directly above the residential settlement located downslope, where the combination of steep gradients, loose lateritic material, and high monsoonal rainfall significantly elevates the likelihood of mass movement and fly-debris hazards, posing a direct threat to life and property. The alternative dumping location suggested on the northern side lies within a natural drainage and stream catchment area; placement of OB in this zone will obstruct surface runoff pathways, induce siltation, and increase hydrostatic pressure within the slope, thereby triggering downstream flooding during heavy rainfall events and thereby leads a high-risk situation for the local community and environment.

In these circumstances, the SEAC has decided to recommend rejection of the project proposal based on the following reasons;

- 1. Cumulative Impact Exceeds Environmental Carrying Capacity:** Combined cluster quarrying will completely remove the midland hill, resulting in irreversible landscape transformation that violates principles of sustainable development and environmental conservation.
- 2. Irreversible Impact on Hydrological Resources:** The site constitutes an essential recharge and water source area. Removal of the hill mass and vegetation also alters the local micro-climate and reduces groundwater recharge potential, with long-term implications for wells and water availability for the foothill community. Existing evidence of well drying, combined with the absence of protective measures, creates an unacceptable risk to community water security.
- 3. Risk on Slope Stability and Boulder Management:** Surrounding steep slopes (up to 26°), large boulders, and high population density (habitations 68m-130m away) create a significant hazard without a comprehensive risk assessment. The presence of large boulders and extensive blasting on multiple flanks can induce local over-steepening, rock falls and small landslides, particularly under intense rainfall conditions. Moreover, the OB dump management on the slope remains inadequately planned.
- 4. Public Concerns:** Substantive concerns raised by 270+ community members, regarding water depletion, health impacts, safety hazards, and pollution.
- 5. Deficient Environmental Management Plan:** EMP is generic, inadequately budgeted, and fails to address site-specific impacts. Road construction cost incorrectly included in EMP budget. Comprehensive cluster-level EMP remains unsatisfactory despite multiple SEAC directives.
- 6. Cumulative Air and Noise Pollution Concerns:** Silicate content unassayed; particulate matter mitigation inadequate for 270+ residents and school proximity. Cluster quarrying and crushing on a single hill generate high cumulative dust and

noise levels, leading to deterioration of local air quality, respiratory and other health problems, and severe noise nuisance for nearby residents. Studies from Indian quarry clusters report increased particulate matter deposition on houses and vegetation, reduced visibility, and chronic exposure of villagers to noise above recommended limits, especially where settlements are located within a few hundred metres.

7. **Historical Performance Concerns:** Existing functioning quarry demonstrates poor OB management and ongoing stream damage, indicating the vulnerability of the insufficient environmental compliance capability.
8. **Precautionary Principle Application:** Given environmental fragility of an isolated residual midland hill ecosystem, cumulative cluster impacts, inadequate mitigation certainty, and irreversible consequences, the Precautionary Principle mandates rejection absent comprehensive environmental assurance. **On a holistic appraisal, the overall cumulative impact due to the projects in the cluster is Severe and hence environmentally unsafe.**

Item No.15 **Application for Environmental Clearance for Building Stone Quarry Project of Sri. Ajay Sundaresh, Managing Partner, M/s Darshan Granites, for an area of 7.8705 Ha at Block No. 18, Re-Sy Nos. 13/2, 13/3, 18/2, 18/3, 40/1-1, 40/1-2, 40/4, 40/4-2, 40/6, 41/1-1, 41/1-2, 41/2, 41/3, 41/4, 41/5 (Patta land - 6.1918 Ha.), 18/1, 41/6 (Govt. land - 1.6787 Ha), in Chakkuvarakkal Village, Kottarakkara Taluk, Kollam. (SIA/KL/MIN/469843/2024)**

The Committee verified the additional documents submitted by the Project Proponent as sought by the 175th SEAC meeting and found them satisfactory. The Project Proponent had applied Form-1, along with the Mining Plan, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Pre-Feasibility Report (PFR), Environmental Management Plan (EMP), and other requisite details as directed by the Committee. The public hearing for the project was conducted on 21.07.2022, and the field inspection was carried out on 16.11.2024. The total project cost is estimated at Rs. 13.115 Crores. The mineable reserve and targeted production are 55,99,746 MT, with an expected mine life of approximately 14 years. The highest elevation within the permit area is 200 meters above mean sea level (MSL), and the lowest point is 120 meters above MSL. As part of the mitigation and environmental conservation efforts, the Project Proponent has committed to planting 12,210 saplings under afforestation and green belt development initiatives.

The Committee decided that further consideration of the proposal shall be undertaken only after the finalisation of the revised DSR prepared in accordance with the guidelines issued by MoEF&CC dated 25.07.2018.

Item No.16 Environmental Clearance for the Granite Building Stone Quarry of Sri. Jaison Jacob, Managing Director, M/s. VJJ Infrastructure Private Limited. for an area of 0.9965 Ha. at Block No. 30, Re-Sy. No. 429/1 in Kadanad Village, Meenachil Taluk, Kottayam Field inspection report (SIA/KL/MIN/474394/2024)

The Committee discussed the field inspection report in detail and noted that the proposed permit area lies on the flank of a hill slope descending towards the southeast with a general slope ranging from 10° to 17°. The site is a virgin land covered with moderate-density natural vegetation, with an elevation between 235m and 260m above MSL. The project area falls within a moderate hazard zone. Earlier, the Expert Committee had appraised the project using outputs from a Drone-based LiDAR survey, including contour maps with 1m intervals, DEM, slope and ortho maps, which confirmed that the site is located on a ridge at the eastern end of the hill, with elevations ranging from 240m to 522m AMSL. Such landforms are important for conserving the regional microclimate. A previous quarry proposal on the same hill owned by Neeloor Aggregates Pvt Ltd. (SIA/KL/MIN/435475/2023) was rejected in October 2024 due to the fragile terrain and environmental concerns. The Committee reaffirmed that the entire project area falls under a moderate hazard zone with houses and infrastructure developed on both hill slopes and valleys, increasing environmental fragility.

Therefore, the Committee decided to adhere to its earlier decision to reject the proposal, invoking the Precautionary Principle to prevent irreversible environmental impacts.

Item No.17 Environmental Clearance for the proposed Granite Building Stone Quarry Project of Sri. P.J Jose for an area of 2.7057 Ha at 492/4/1, 574/1A/9/9/19, 574/1A/9/9/20, 574/1A/11/11/6 in Pindimana Village, Kothamangalam Taluk, Ernakulam – Field Inspection Report – Received – Reg. (SIA/KL/MIN/502028/2024)

The Committee reviewed the field inspection report and verified the submitted documents including the NOC from KSEB and the letter from the Wildlife Warden, Wildlife Division, Idukki, dated 13.10.2025. However, the Committee noted that the certificate provided by the Project Proponent does not specify the distance from the proposed draft Ecologically Sensitive Zone (ESZ) boundary of the Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary. **Consequently, the Project Proponent shall furnish a valid certificate issued by the Wildlife Warden of the respective Protected Area along with the EC application. The certificate must clearly state that the project area does not fall within the proposed ESZ or within 1 km of the**

Protected Area boundary and must specify the exact distance of the project site from the Protected Area boundary.

The meeting concluded at 5.30 pm with a vote of thanks to the Chair

**Sd/-
Sri. Anirud Kumar Dharni IFS (Rtd)
Chairman, SEAC -1**

**Sd/-
Sri. Suneel Pamidi IFS,
Secretary, SEAC- 1**

List of Participants

| Sl.No. | Name | 14.11.2025 | 15.11.2025 |
|---------------|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. | Sri. Anirud Kumar Dharni IFS (Rtd) (Chairman) | ✓ | ✓ |
| 2. | Dr. Ansari Jamal U. | ✓ | ✓ |
| 3. | Dr. M Rajaendraprasad | ✓ | ✓ |
| 4. | Dr. A. N. Manoharan | ✓ | ✓ |
| 5. | Dr. V. B. Vinayan | ✓ | ✓ |
| 6. | Sri. Suneel Pamidi, IFS (Secretary) | ✓ | ✓ |