

**MINUTES OF THE 200th SEAC-1 (SOUTH ZONE) MEETING HELD ON 16th AND 17th
MARCH 2026 IN THE CONFERENCE HALL, STATE ENVIRONMENT IMPACT
ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY, KERALA.**

PARIVESH FILES (Ver-1)

- Item No. 1** **Application for ToR for the China Clay (Minor Mineral) Mining Project of M/s EICL Limited in Survey Nos. 177, 178, 179, 180, 241, 242, 181/21, 181/10, 182/3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 17, 183, 184, 240/2, 12, 13, 14, 229/14-1 (existing mine lease area of 14.5129 ha) and Survey Nos. 196/7, 10-5, 10, 10-2, 10-3, 245/1, 1-2, 1-3, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 16, 17 (proposed mine lease area of 1.0910 ha) in Veiloor Village, Thiruvananthapuram Taluk, Thiruvananthapuram – Judgement dated 16.04.2024 in No.11630/2022 and WM No. 111030/2022 filed before the Hon’ble High court of Madras (SIA/KL/MIN/67030/2021, 1926/EC1/2021/SEIAA)**

The proposal involves a China Clay mining project with a production capacity of 1,10,000 MTA and a project life of 30 years. The case has a long administrative and legal history, including a prior rejection by SEIAA in its 88th meeting due to irregularities and violations of the EIA Notification 2006. A Joint Committee constituted by the Hon’ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) in O.A. No. 41/2017 assessed interim environmental damages at ₹12,24,32,014. While previous recommendations for ToR were withdrawn due to the non-disclosure of pending court cases, the Hon’ble High Court of Kerala, in its judgment dated March 27, 2025, directed SEIAA to consider the application in accordance with the 2006 Notification and relevant Office Memorandums (OMs) after hearing the Project Proponent and the Janasakthi Action Council. The Committee evaluated the proposal in light of the Office Memorandum (OM) dated January 20, 2026, issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC). This directive, issued following the Hon’ble Supreme Court's order dated November 18, 2025, specifically mandates that all violation cases pending under the provisions of the July 7, 2021, OM as of January 2, 2024, may be processed. The Committee verified that the ToR application for M/s EICL was indeed pending with the SEAC as of the January 2, 2024, cutoff date, thereby making it eligible for further appraisal and decision-making under the current legal framework.

The Committee took note of the hearing conducted during the 158th SEIAA meeting where the Project Proponent (PP) and the complainants were heard. The complainants raised serious concerns regarding the environmental, hydrological, and public health impacts of past mining activities, while the PP stated that a penalty of more than ₹1 crore had already been remitted for earlier violations and requested consideration on merits. The SEAC observed that while the Hon'ble Supreme Court had previously restrained the ex-post facto EC process, the latest MoEF&CC guidelines and the specific directions of the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala necessitate a formal appraisal that incorporates remediation for the total assessed damage.

After detailed scrutiny of the project history, the assessment by the NGT-mandated committee, and the enabling provisions of the MoEF&CC OM dated January 20, 2026, the Committee decided:

- **To recommend the issuance of Violation Terms of Reference (ToR) for the mining project covering the total area of 15.6039 Ha.**
- **To mandate the submission of a comprehensive Remediation Plan and a Natural and Community Resource Augmentation Plan as part of the EIA study.**
- **To require an action plan for the remediation of the total environmental damage assessed by the Joint Committee, amounting to ₹12,24,32,014.**
- **To include a specific study on the impacts of all abandoned quarries within the impact zone as an additional ToR requirement.**
- **To conduct a mandatory Public Hearing for the project to address the local grievances and health concerns raised by the Janasakthi Action Council.**