

**Minutes of the 71<sup>st</sup> meeting of the State Level Expert Appraisal Committee, West Bengal (2023-2026) held on May 21, 2025 at 14:00 hr at the Conference Room, Paribesh Bhawan, Bidhannagar.**

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The 71<sup>st</sup> meeting of the State Level Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC), West Bengal (2023-2026) was held on Wednesday the 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2025 at 14:00 hr at the Conference Room, Paribesh Bhawan, Bidhannagar. The following members participated:

1)	Jagdish Prasad Meena, IAS	Secretary, SEAC	Present
2)	Prof. Anirban Gupta	Chairman, SEAC	Present
3)	Prof. Pradip Sikdar	Member, SEAC	Present
4)	Prof. Sampa Chakrabarti	Member, SEAC	Present
5)	Prof. Indranath Sinha	Member, SEAC	Present
6)	Prof. Aniruddha Mukhopadhyay	Member, SEAC	Present
7)	Shri Shubhendu Bandyopadhyay	Member, SEAC	Present

**1) Reconsideration Proposals :-**

**1.1) Terms of Reference :**

**1.1.1) Mining of Minerals:**

- I. **Proposed River Bed Sand Mining over an area of 4.74 ha (11.71 acres) on the River Gheesh at Plot No.- 1, 2, 3, 4 & 79, 80, 103, JL. No.- 20, 12, Mouza-Oodlabari & Uttar Fulbari, P.S. & Block - Mal, Dist - Jalpaiguri, West Bengal.**

<b>Proposal No.</b>	<b>SIA/WB/MIN/74654/2022</b>
<b>Project Proponent -</b>	<b>Md. Afajuddin Sarkar.</b>
<b>Environmental Consultant -</b>	<b>M/s. Ambiental Global Private Limited.</b>

***Activities:***

- This is a proposal for riverbed sand mining on the Sand Block 2017\_DMJWB\_202 over an area of 4.74 ha (11.71 acres) on the River Gheesh at Plot No.- 1, 2, 3, 4 & 79, 80, 103, JL. No.- 20, 12, Mouza-Oodlabari & Uttar Fulbari, P.S. & Block - Mal, Dist- Jalpaiguri, West Bengal.
- As required under the West Bengal Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 2016, the PP got a composite 'Mining Plan with Progressive Mine Closure Plan' prepared for riverbed sand mining at the site by an RQP.
- The PP has uploaded the pre-feasibility report for the proposed project.
- The PP **has not uploaded the copy of valid Lol.**
- The PP **has not uploaded cluster certificate** from the competent authority.
- **The validity of the Mining Plan with Progressive Mine Closure Plan has expired.**

**Salient Features of the project:**

- Salient features of the proposed project as submitted by the PP is as below –

Name of the project	Sand Block - 2017_DMJWB_202
Project proponent	Md. Afajuddin Sarkar.
Location of the project	Plot No.- 1, 2, 3, 4 & 79, 80, 103, JL. No.- 20, 12, Mouza-Oodlabari & Uttar Fulbari, P.S. & Block - Mal, Dist - Jalpaiguri, West Bengal.
Project Area	4.74 Hectare
Name of the river	Gheesh River
DSR potential zone code	JP_ML_TS_21
Proposed area for green belt/plantation	1.56 Hectare
No. of saplings proposed	3900
Amount for plantation	Rs. 0.35 lakhs
Total Project Cost	Rs. 739.22 Lakh
Amount for need-based activities	Rs. 14.78 Lakh

**Chronology of Events:**

- The PP applied in prescribed format for ToR and uploaded the application in the PARIVESH portal on 31.03.2022.
- The PP was called for the ToR presentation in the 68<sup>th</sup> SEAC meeting held on 01.03.2023 and the PP presented their proposal in this meeting.
- Based on the submission and presentation made by the PP, the committee observed that the plot area for the proposed project (geo-coordinates) as reported in the approved Mining cum Progressive Mine Closure Plan **falls within the potential mining zone** recorded in the approved District Survey Report (DSR) of Jalpaiguri district. But since the PP has not submitted requisite mandatory documents, therefore, the SEAC recommended that the following submission / clarifications should be uploaded in the PARIVESH portal by the project proponent for further consideration :-
  - Cluster certificate from the competent authority should be submitted.
  - Original Lol along with all subsequent letters of validity-extension from the competent authority should be submitted.
  - Taking into consideration the replenishment rates reported in the approved DSR for Jalpaiguri, both geological and mining reserves for second year (of production) onwards may be re-estimated and the annual production levels may be modified accordingly.
  - A properly revised Mining cum Progressive Mine Closure Plan, duly approved by the competent authority must be submitted. There should not be any mismatch of data in the Lol and the Mining Plan.
  - Means of access and egress between the embankment and the sand quarry may be clearly earmarked. The Project Proponent must commit that no hard toping or paving of any haulage route within the riverbed will be attempted.
  - A plan on management and handling of sand during the period of intermediate stock piling should be submitted.

- 7) A Progressive Greenbelt Plan may be prepared. The project being a riverbed project afforestation/ vegetation should be attempted alongside the village roads or other public land. This may be done with prior approval of the local self governing bodies. If no public land is available for the purpose the Project Proponent shall arrange for land with his personal means. To enhance success/ survival rate the plantation shall be attempted during the first two years of the project life and the plantation so done shall be taken care of during the rest of the project life.
  - 8) A need-based EMP may be prepared in accordance with the MoEF&CC Office Memorandum vide F. No. 22-65/2017.IA.III dated 30.09.2020. Record of communications made in this regard with the identified/ intended beneficiaries (schools/ institutions etc) may also be uploaded.
  - 9) A study report on base flow level measured at 5 points with date and supporting photographs may be submitted. It should be committed that mining will be done at least 1m above the base flow level. Accordingly, if required, the excavation plan may also be revised.
- The project proponent uploaded their reply in PARIVESH Portal on 21.01.2025 **along with the revised Mining Plan dated 30.12.2024, cluster certificate, valid Lol**, which was considered in the 61<sup>st</sup> meeting SEAC, WB (2023-2026) held on 29.01.2025.
  - **The project is falling within the DSR potential zone code JP\_ML\_TS\_21.**
  - The PP has uploaded cluster certificate from the competent authority. **The sand block is forming cluster with adjacent 1 (one) no. of sand block of 2017\_DMJWB\_202.**
  - The production details as mentioned in the Mining Plan is given below :-

Geological Resource of the sand mine

Year	Total Area (Ha)	Total Area (M2)	Thickness (M)	Replenishment Rate (%)	GR For Sand (M3)	GR For Pebbles/Gravel (M3)	GR For Boulder (M3)	Total Geological Reserve (m3)
1 <sup>st</sup>	4.74	47400	3.00	100	99540.00	28440.00	14220.00	142200.00
2 <sup>nd</sup>	4.74	47400	3.00	79	78636.60	22467.60	11233.80	112338.00
3 <sup>rd</sup>	4.74	47400	3.00	79	78636.60	22467.60	11233.80	112338.00
4 <sup>th</sup>	4.74	47400	3.00	79	78636.60	22467.60	11233.80	112338.00
5 <sup>th</sup>	4.74	47400	3.00	79	78636.60	22467.60	11233.80	112338.00
Total geological reserve (Cu.M)					414086.40	118310.40	59155.20	591552.00

Mineable reserves are estimated as below:

Year	Total Area (Ha)	Total Area (M2)	Thickness (M)	Replenishment Rate (%)	MR For Sand (M3)	MR For Pebbles/Gravel (M3)	MR For Boulder (M3)	Total Mineable Reserve (m3)
1 <sup>st</sup>	3.85	38500	3.00	100	80850.00	23100.00	11550.00	115500.00
2 <sup>nd</sup>	3.85	38500	2.37	79	63871.00	18249.00	9124.50	91245.00
3 <sup>rd</sup>	3.85	38500	2.37	79	63871.00	18249.00	9124.50	91245.00
4 <sup>th</sup>	3.85	38500	2.37	79	63871.00	18249.00	9124.50	91245.00
5 <sup>th</sup>	3.85	38500	2.37	79	63871.00	18249.00	9124.50	91245.00
Total Mineable Reserve (Cu.M)					288288.00	96096.00	48048.00	480480.00

- The SEAC scrutinized the documents submitted by the PP in the 61<sup>st</sup> meeting of SEAC, WB (2023-2026) held on 29.01.2025. After careful consideration and detailed deliberation, the committee made the following observations :
  - 1) The Lol for the project was valid till 31.07.2024. Valid Lol should be submitted.
  - 2) The PP has not uploaded the report on the base flow study conducted. The PP is requested to submit the report and the depth of mining to be conducted.
  - 3) The project cost should include the auction bid value, estimated royalty to be paid, cost of any infrastructure built like office space, stockyard, etc. The calculation/documents to estimate the project cost should be submitted. The planned expenditure for components like need-based activities may be derived based on the project cost.
  - 4) A need-based EMP may be prepared in accordance with the MoEF&CC Office Memorandum vide F. No. 22-65/2017.IA.III dated 30.09.2020. Record of communications made in this regard with the identified/ intended beneficiaries (schools/ institutions etc) may also be uploaded. Evidence of the activities should be provided by photographs with geo-coordinates. The activities should be completed within the first two years of the project life and submitted in a table format showing the proposed expenditure under individual heads separately for two years.
  - 5) Porcha / RoR for the plot area 4.74 ha.

The SEAC recommended that the above documents may be submitted in the PARIVESH portal for further consideration of the application.

- The project proponent uploaded their reply in PARIVESH Portal on 27.02.2025, which has considered in the 64<sup>th</sup> meeting of SEAC, WB (2023-2026) held on 05.03.2025.
- The SEAC scrutinized the documents submitted by the PP in the 64<sup>th</sup> meeting of SEAC, WB (2023-2026) held on 05.03.2025.

Therefore, the SEAC **recommended that the PP should submit valid Lol for the project.**

- The project proponent uploaded their reply in PARIVESH Portal on 13.05.2025 **along with the valid Lol**, which has considered in the 71<sup>st</sup> meeting of SEAC, WB (2023-2026) held on 21.05.2025.

#### **SEAC Observations and Recommendations:**

- The SEAC scrutinized the documents submitted by the PP in the 71<sup>st</sup> meeting of SEAC, WB (2023-2026) held on 21.05.2025.
- Therefore, the SEAC **recommended** issuance of **Standard Terms of Reference** for EIA preparation for the project. The following additional conditions shall also be imposed :-
  - 1) The potential impact study in the EIA should be done considering the cumulative effect of all the mines in the cluster situation, if any.
  - 2) Surface and ground water hydrology should be included in the EIA report.
  - 3) Drone videography of the entire project area explicitly showing the entire project site along with the existing tree plantation/green belt. Minimum 2 minute video to be submitted.

- 4) Photographs of the site mentioning the geo-coordinates.
- 5) Standard practice of management of the intermediate storage area should be submitted.
- 6) Means of access and egress between the embankment and the sand quarry may be clearly earmarked. The Project Proponent must commit that no hard toping or paving of any haulage route within the riverbed will be attempted.
- 7) A plan on the management and handling of sand during the period of intermediate stockpiling should be submitted.
- 8) The PP has to do tree plantation in an area equivalent to 33% of the lease area @2500 trees / ha within first two years from the starting of the mining operation. A Progressive Greenbelt Plan may be prepared. The project area being entirely on the riverbed, afforestation/ vegetation should be attempted alongside the village roads or other public land. This may be done with prior approval of the local self-governing bodies. If no public land is available for the purpose the Project Proponent shall arrange for land with his personal means. To enhance success/ survival rate the plantation shall be attempted during the first two years of the project life and the plantation so done shall be taken care of during the rest of the project life. Species of the plant selected should be self-sustaining in that particular region. Spatial year wise progressive plantation programme to be submitted.
- 9) Plan showing spatial year wise distribution of the proposed greenbelt has to be submitted along-with supporting documents of administrative approval/s.
- 10) EIA should also include detailed study of the baseline condition and impact on aquatic flora and fauna.
- 11) The project cost may include the auction bid value, estimated royalty to be paid, cost of any infrastructure built like office space, stockyard, etc. The calculation/documents to estimate the project cost should be submitted. The planned expenditure for components like need-based activities may be derived based on the project cost.
- 12) A need-based EMP may be prepared in accordance with the MoEF&CC Office Memorandum vide F. No. 22-65/2017.IA.III dated 30.09.2020. Record of communications made in this regard with the identified/ intended beneficiaries (schools/ institutions etc) may also be uploaded. Evidence of the activities should be provided by photographs with geo-coordinates. The activities should be completed within the first two years of the project life and submitted in a table format showing the proposed expenditure under individual heads separately for two years.
- 13) A study report on base flow level measured at 5 points with date and supporting photographs should be submitted. It should be committed that mining will be done at least 1m above the base flow level. Accordingly, if required, the excavation plan may also be revised.
- 14) Management plan including the final closure plan of haul road to be submitted.
- 15) Study and protection plan of the aquatic life available both during the mining and non-mining seasons should be provided.

**The PP shall, – while applying for environmental clearance, upload in the PARIVESH portal, the EIA/EMP report along with the documents/ submissions/ clarifications sought above.**

All the documents should be duly signed both by the project proponent and the environmental consultant.

## 1.2) Environmental Clearance :

- I. **Proposed river bed sand mining project over an area of 4.80 ha (11.86 Acres) on the Chel River at Mouza- Odlabari, Paschim Damdim, RS Plot No.- 1183 (Part), 13 (Part), 16, 17 (All Part), J.L. No.-20, 39, P.S.& Block - Mal, Dist-Jalpaiguri, West Bengal.**

<b>Proposal No.</b>	<b>SIA/WB/MIN/264679/2022</b>
<b>Project Proponent -</b>	<b>Shri Utpal Paul.</b>
<b>Environmental Consultant -</b>	<b>M/s. Ambiental Global Private Limited.</b>

### **Activities:**

- This is a proposal for riverbed sand mining of 2016\_DMJWB\_101 Sand Block over an extent of 4.80 ha (11.86 Acres) on the Chel River at Mouza- Odlabari, Paschim Damdim, RS Plot No.- 1183 (Part), 13 (Part), 16, 17 (All Part), J.L. No.-20, 39, P.S.& Block - Mal, Dist-Jalpaiguri, West Bengal.
- As required under the West Bengal Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 2016, the PP got a composite 'Mining Plan with Progressive Mine Closure Plan' for riverbed sand mining at the site prepared by an RQP. The Plan has been approved by the State Government on 30.03.2017 and the approved plan has been uploaded at the PARIVESH portal by the PP.
- The PP has uploaded the pre-feasibility report for the proposed project.
- The PP **has not uploaded the copy of valid Lol.**
- The PP **has not uploaded cluster certificate** from the competent authority.
- The PP has informed that there is no court case pending against the project.
- **The PP has not submitted the requisite EC processing fees** as required under Notification No 924/T-II-1/021/2022 dated 23.05.2022 issued by Department of Environment, Government of West Bengal.

### **Chronology of Events:**

- The PP applied in prescribed format for Environmental Clearance and uploaded the application in the PARIVESH portal on 31.01.2023.
- The PP was called for the EC presentation in the 68<sup>th</sup> SEAC meeting held on 01.03.2023 and the PP presented their proposal in this meeting.
- Based on the presentation made by the PP, the committee observed that the plot area for the proposed project (geo-coordinates) as reported in the approved Mining cum Progressive Mine Closure Plan **falls within the potential mining zone** recorded in the approved District Survey Report (DSR) of Jalpaiguri district. Therefore, the SEAC recommended that the following submission / clarifications should be uploaded in the PARIVESH portal by the project proponent for further consideration :-
  - 1) Cluster certificate from the competent authority should be submitted.

- 2) Taking into consideration the replenishment rates reported in the approved DSR for Jalpaiguri, both geological and mining reserves for second year (of production) onwards may be re-estimated and the annual production levels may be modified accordingly.
  - 3) A properly revised Mining cum Progressive Mine Closure Plan, duly approved by the competent authority must be submitted.
  - 4) Means of access and egress between the embankment and the sand quarry may be clearly earmarked. The Project Proponent must commit that no hard toping or paving of any haulage route within the riverbed will be attempted.
  - 5) A plan on management and handling of sand during the period of intermediate stock piling should be submitted.
  - 6) A Progressive Greenbelt Plan may be prepared. The project being a riverbed project afforestation/ vegetation should be attempted alongside the village roads or other public land. This may be done with prior approval of the local self governing bodies. If no public land is available for the purpose the Project Proponent shall arrange for land with his personal means. To enhance success/ survival rate the plantation shall be attempted during the first two years of the project life and the plantation so done shall be taken care of during the rest of the project life.
  - 7) A need-based EMP may be prepared in accordance with the MoEF&CC Office Memorandum F. No. 22-65/2017.IA.III dated 30.09.2020. Record of communications made in this regard with the identified/ intended beneficiaries (schools/ institutions etc) may also be uploaded.
  - 8) A study report on base flow level measured at 5 points with date and supporting photographs may be submitted. It should be committed that mining will be done at least 1m above the base flow level. Accordingly, if required, the excavation plan may also be revised.
  - 9) The PP shall deposit one time processing fee as required under Notification No 924/T-II-1/021/2022 dated 23.05.2022 issued by Department of Environment, Government of West Bengal and upload the paid challan in the PARIVESH Portal.
- The project proponent uploaded their reply in PARIVESH Portal on 21.01.2025 **along with the revised Mining Plan dated 30.12.2024, cluster certificate, valid Lol**, which was considered in the 61<sup>st</sup> meeting SEAC, WB (2023-2026) held on 29.01.2025.
  - **The project is falling within the DSR potential zone code JP\_ML\_CH\_07.**
  - The PP has uploaded cluster certificate from the competent authority. **The sand block is forming cluster with adjacent 1 (one) no. of sand block of 2016\_DMJWB\_101.**
  - The production details as mentioned in the revised Mining Plan dated 30.12.2024 is given below :-

Geological Resource of the sand mine

Year	Total Area (Ha)	Total Area (M2)	Thickness (M)	Replenishment Rate (%)	Gr For Sand (M3)	Gr For Pebbles/Gravel (M3)	Gr For Boulder (M3)	Total Geological Reserve (m3)
1 <sup>st</sup>	4.8	48000	2.0	100	67200.00	19200.00	9600.00	9600.00
2 <sup>nd</sup>	4.8	48000	2.0	80	53760.00	15360.00	7680.00	76800.00

3 <sup>rd</sup>	4.8	48000	2.0	80	53760.00	15360.00	7680.00	76800.00
4 <sup>th</sup>	4.8	48000	2.0	80	53760.00	15360.00	7680.00	76800.00
5 <sup>th</sup>	4.8	48000	2.0	80	53760.00	15360.00	7680.00	76800.00
Total geological reserve(Cu.M)					282240.00	80640.00	40320.00	403200.00

Mineable reserves are estimated as below:

Year	Total Area (Ha)	Total Area (M2)	Thickness (M)	Replenishment Rate (%)	MR For Sand(M3)	MR For Pebbles/Gravel (M3)	MR For Boulder (M3)	Total Mineable Reserve (m3)
1 <sup>st</sup>	4.07	40700	2.00	100	56980.00	16280.00	8140.00	81400.00
2 <sup>nd</sup>	4.07	40700	1.60	80	45584.00	13024.00	6512.00	65120.00
3 <sup>rd</sup>	4.07	40700	1.60	80	45584.00	13024.00	6512.00	65120.00
4 <sup>th</sup>	4.07	40700	1.60	80	45584.00	13024.00	6512.00	65120.00
5 <sup>th</sup>	4.07	40700	1.60	80	45584.00	13024.00	6512.00	65120.00
Total Minable Reserve(Cu.M)					239316.00	68376.00	34188.00	341880.00

- The SEAC scrutinized the documents submitted by the PP in the 61<sup>st</sup> meeting of SEAC, WB (2023-2026) held on 29.01.2025. After careful consideration and detailed deliberation, the committee made the following observations :
  - 1) Although the PP has applied for EC, however, the sand block is forming a cluster with the adjacent 1 (one) no. sand block of 2016\_DMJWB\_101. Therefore, PP should apply for ToR. The PP is requested to withdraw the present application and apply afresh for ToR.
  - 2) The Lol for the project was valid till 31.07.2024. Valid Lol should be submitted.
  - 3) The PP has not uploaded the report on the base flow study conducted. The PP is requested to submit the report and the depth of mining to be conducted.
  - 4) The project cost should include the auction bid value, estimated royalty to be paid, cost of any infrastructure built like office space, stockyard, etc. The calculation/documents to estimate the project cost should be submitted. The planned expenditure for components like need-based activities may be derived based on the project cost.
  - 5) A need-based EMP may be prepared in accordance with the MoEF&CC Office Memorandum vide F. No. 22-65/2017.IA.III dated 30.09.2020. Record of communications made in this regard with the identified/ intended beneficiaries (schools/ institutions etc) may also be uploaded. Evidence of the activities should be provided by photographs with geo-coordinates. The activities should be completed within the first two years of the project life and submitted in a table format showing the proposed expenditure under individual heads separately for two years.
  - 6) Porcha / RoR for the plot area 4.80 ha.

The SEAC recommended that the above documents may be submitted in the PARIVESH portal for further consideration of the application.

- The project proponent uploaded their reply in PARIVESH Portal on 09.05.2025, which was considered in the 71<sup>st</sup> meeting SEAC, WB (2023-2026) held on 21.05.2025.

#### **SEAC Observations and Recommendations:**



- Based on the submission and presentation made by the PP, the SEAC observed that the PP already applied in the **PARIVESH 2 (Proposal No. SIA/WB/MIN/525866/2025)** for the same project under ToR which has been considered in this meeting and ToR was recommended. Hence, **the SEAC recommended that the present proposal for EC may be forwarded to SEIAA for rejection.**

**Table-1 : List of the projects which were placed before the SEAC, WB (2023-2026) in the seventy first meeting held on 21.05.2025 and the Summary Decisions / Recommendations thereon:**

Sl. No.	Name of the unit and Project address	Summary Decision
1. Reconsideration proposals		
1.1) Terms of Reference		
1.1.1) Mining of Minerals		
I.	Md. Afajuddin Sarkar Proposed River Bed Sand Mining over an area of 4.74 ha on River Gheesh at Plot No.- 1,2,3,4 & 79,80,103, JL. No.- 20, 12, Mouza-Oodlabari, Uttar Phulbari, P.S- Mal, Dist- Jalpaiguri, West Bengal. (Proposal No. SIA/WB/MIN/74654/2022).	Recommended for Terms of Reference
1.2) Environmental Clearance		
I.	Shri Utpal Paul. Proposed river bed sand mining project over an area of 4.80 ha (11.86 Acres) on Chel River at Mouza- Odlabari, Paschim Damdim, RS Plot No.- 1183 (Part), 13, 16, 17 (All Part), J.L. No.-20, 39, P.S.- Mal, Dist-Jalpaiguri, West Bengal. (Proposal No. SIA/WB/MIN/264679/2022).	Rejected

There being no other agenda the Chair thanked the members present for their fruitful participation and deliberations. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Sd/-

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(Anirban Gupta)  
Chairman  
S E A C, West Bengal

Sd/-

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(Pradip Sikdar)  
Member  
S E A C, West Bengal

Sd/-

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(Sampa Chakrabarti)  
Member  
S E A C, West Bengal

Sd/-

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(Indranath Sinha)  
Member  
S E A C, West Bengal

Sd/-

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(Aniruddha Mukhopadhyay)  
Member  
S E A C, West Bengal

Sd/-

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(Shubhendu Bandyopadhyay)  
Member  
S E A C, West Bengal

Sd/-

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Jagdish Prasad Meena, IAS  
Secretary  
S E A C, West Bengal