

APPLICATION TO GET DOCUMENTS UNDER SECTION 6 OF RTI ACT

2005

APPLICATION NO :- 14/2022

DATE:- 30/11/2022

To

The Central Public Information Officer

WILD LIFE INSTITUTE OF INDIA

CHANDRABANI DEHRADUN(UTTARAKHAND)

248001

- (1). Full name of Applicant :- Shri Pradyumna Sudhakar Chaoji
- (2). Address :- 37, Tirupati Lay Out, Somalwada, Nagpur 440025 mobile no 9323692814
- (3). Subject of information :- Various reports
- (4) Time Period :- 3/11/2021 to 26/11/2022
- (5) information/documents sought for:-
 - (a) a copy of revised mitigation report submitted to you by group general manager Dr. Tembhurney (MRIDC) to PCCF (Wild) as per TOI Nagpur news(attached a copy of same)
 - (b) a copy of your survey done in Eastern Vidarbha Landscape comprising of six districts. as per TOI Nagpur news(attached a copy of same)

(6) Information required **by post**

(7) Purpose to seek information:- FOR PERSONAL USE AS MY FARM IS ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF UMRED-KARANDLA FOREST. My farm is in core area. My lake is also being acquired by MRIDC for their broadguage conversion, wild life free movents will be affected.

DATE:- 30/11/2022

PLACE:- NAGPUR


SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT

Enclosed:- as above

The MRIDC is executing the work to upgrade 106km narrow gauge track to a broad gauge between Itwari and Nagbhid.

The issue of mitigation has come on track now with MRIDC, a joint venture of the state government and ministry of railways, submitting the final plan to the PCCF (wildlife). The structures will be situated between Mangli-Tempa, Bhiwapur-Karegaon, Kotgaon-Nagbhid, and Karegaon-Thana.

Talking to TOI, MRIDC group general manager (GGM) DR Tembhurney said, "We have recently submitted the final plan to the PCCF (wildlife) office. It is as per the recommendation of the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun."

Tembhurney said there will be seven structures in three corridor segments between Umred and Nagbhid in 3.550km stretch. Each structure will be between 300-900 metres.

"The estimated cost of the project was Rs1,400 crore, but now it may escalate to Rs1,700 crore. We will be spending over Rs100 crore on wildlife mitigation structures. Till now, 45% of work on the project has been completed," said Tembhurney.

"Apart from the seven mitigation structures, there will be at least 12 existing bridges which will be an integral part of these wildlife mitigation measures and can be used by wild animals," he said.

PCCF (wildlife) Maheep Gupta confirmed that the MRIDC has submitted the mitigation plan. "We will scrutinize it and get it examined from Nagpur and Chandrapur forest circles. The structures are in three corridor patches as suggested by the WII. The proposal will be put before the next state wildlife board (SWBL) meeting."

ARTICLES



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As reported by TOI, the broad gauge project was delayed due to the reluctance of MRIDC officials to take up mitigation measures. While preparing the detailed project report (DPR) for the Rs1,400-crore project, no provision was made for wildlife mitigation measures despite the linear project cutting across functional tiger corridor of Umred-Karhandla-Paoni Wildlife Sanctuary, Bramhapuri and Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR).

However, after the TOI report, the issue was raised by then environment minister Aaditya Thackeray in the 17th SBWL meeting and it was decided that the work on the project would go ahead only after mitigation measures are announced.

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WILD ANIMALS FACE 'HIGH RISK' OF ELECTROCUTION IN 1.3K VILLAGES

WII Survey Finds 37,000km Forest-Agri Land Boundary In Eastern Vid

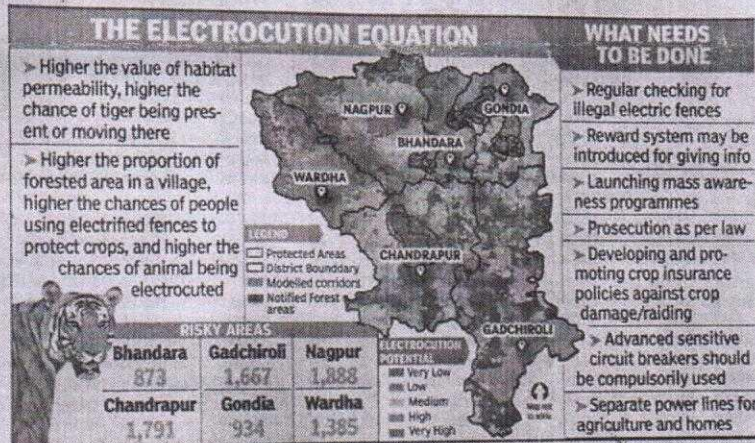
Vijay Pinjarkar
@timesgroup.com

Nagpur: The Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun, has identified 8,538 villages in Eastern Vidarbha Landscape (EVL), comprising six districts, where electrocution poses risk to tigers.

On Tuesday, the WII released a detailed report identifying 121 villages in 'very high risk zone', 1,184 in 'high risk zone', and 2,404 in 'medium risk zone'. Over 4,829 villages have been identified in 'low' and 'very low' risk category.

"The objective of the report is to identify potential villages for effective mitigation, and raise awareness about the issue. Illegal electric fencing by farmers to protect their crops is widespread, and will have devastating effect on long-term conservation of tigers in India. Based on this report, we will prepare a road map now," said PCCF (wildlife) AK Misra.

The EVL encompasses an area of about 50,000 sq km covering Bhandara, Chandrapur, Gadchiroli, Gondia, Nagpur and Wardha dis-



tricts. It houses human population of over 1.17 crore people, and at the same time has forest cover of about 20,000 sq km. The distance over which forest and agriculture edge meets is 37,000km, indicating the risk potential.

"This patch of forest is very important as it harbours a population of about 150-200 tigers, and forms the connecting link between the central and southern Indian tiger popula-

tions," the WII report states. As reported by TOI, during the last one year, since November 3, 2016, at least 7 tigers have died due to electrocution in EVL landscape.

The state constituted a 4-member working group with WII as one of the members. WII was told to publish a detailed report on vulnerable villages for joint monitoring purpose by MSEDCL and the forest department.

The 106-page report was released on Tuesday, identifying these villages.

MSEDCL regional director Bhalchandra Khandait said even before waiting for the report, action has started against erring farmers in the last five days.

"I agree that the number of villages is huge but we will try to do our best. First focus is on the most vulnerable villages near PAs. We are affix-

ing posters for awareness at some places, and also seizing electric wires. Farmers have been warned that if they are found electrifying fences next time, power supply will be snapped," Khandait said.

WII tiger scientist Bilal Habib says, "Electrocution will affect gene pool if not stopped. Mostly, our PAs are dominated by old males and young ones tend to move out in search of territories. If they get killed, we will remain with old tigers, which will lead to age skew," said Habib.

Bilal said such mortalities result from criss-crossing linear infrastructure in forested areas, like roads, railways and power lines. Risk to wildlife from power lines takes on a different proportion when farmers, desperate to protect their crops from being raided by wild animals, illegally electrify the fences around their fields.

To identify the vulnerable villages, WII obtained land use satellite imagery data from National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), and data for village boundaries from the Survey of India.

Concor offers new facility for refrigerated containers

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Nagpur: The Container Corporation of India Limited (CONCOR) has started a plug-in facility at its inland container depot (ICD) at Ajni. With this, both importers and exporters can maintain temperature of containers carrying perishable items while their goods remain at the ICD to complete formalities.

Haidram Foods Interna-

MSEDCL, forest dept start jt patrolling

Mazhar Ali/TNN

Chandrapur: MSEDCL officials have begun joint patrolling in fringe forest areas with the forest department to curb the rising incidents of deaths of tigers and other wild animals due to electrocution.

The power distribution company has already warned the farmers of snapping power supply if they are found electrifying the fences.

Altogether seven tigers have died within year due to electrocution. Three of the

ed farm fencing in Chandrapur district.

Forest secretary Vikas Kharge held a meeting with regional director of MSEDCL, Bhalchandra Khandait, after death of a ti-

TIGER DEATHS

ger due to electrocution at Aambadi in Chimur range. Khandait recently visited Chandrapur and issued six-point directives to officers to curb incidents of wildlife deaths due to electrocution.

Complying with Khandait's directives, a team of MSEDCL joined the patrol-

ling team of the forest department during the day as well as night exercise. Sub-division engineer rank officers in Mul, Chandrapur, Chimur, Rajura, Pombhurna, Bramhapuri, Wrota and Gadchiroli are taking part in the patrolling.

These officers have taken up a separate inspection drive to check farm fences in the fringe forest area.

Sub-divisional offices of MSEDCL here have also taken up the task of drawing a single line diagram of the low and high tension power supply lines passing through the forest area. These di-

agrams along with GPS mapping of the supply lines will be provided to local forest officers for patrolling and vigilance.

Every sub-division has also been directed to take action against using agriculture connection or hooking the supply line to electrify farm fences under Electricity Act, 2003, immediately repair any broken supply wire in the forest area and stop supply through such lines. MSEDCL officials have been told to spread awareness among the farmers about taking up solar fencing to prevent crop damage.