

**MINUTES OF THE FIELD VISIT ON CONSTRUCTION OF APPROACH ROAD TO
BHUBAN HILLS UNDER BARAK RF, CACHAR FOREST DIVISION, SILCHAR
ON 29TH NOV, 2022**

Officers present:

Enclosed as Annexure-I

In the morning of 29th November, 2022, at the Circuit House, Silchar, the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Assam instructed the PCCF & HoFF Assam, the CCF SAC & the DFO Cachar Division in presence of the Deputy Commissioner Cachar that the matter of approach to the top of Bhuban Hill has to be settled by taking either of the following two approaches:

Approach 1: Diversion of the area under FC Act and afforestation in an equivalent area elsewhere, in which case, the road as well as the ROW of the road shall be under the control of the PWD; the Forest department shall have no control over the road as it will be a public road.

Approach 2 : The entire land to be under the control of the Forest Department by way that the road to be developed by PWD on behalf of the Forest Department. In that case the entire control of the road and ROW shall continue to be with the Forest Department.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister directed that either of the two solutions to be finalised by today and to be briefed to him by the evening hours.

Following the directions of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Sri M.K. Yadava, IFS PCCF & HoFF Assam, Sri P.Sivakumar, CCF SAC, Sri Tejas Mariswamy, IFS, DFO, Cachar Silchar, Sri Samir Baidya, DCF, REWP, Assam along with other officials visited the site and took stock of the situation and it was noticed that the local people have an inkling that a PWD road will be constructed here and have already started constructing pakka and kaccha sheds/shops in the area on the sides of the present kaccha road leading to the Bhuban hill.

All such works were stopped on the spot and the occupants were told to remove the structures forthwith. Further, it was seen that areas surrounding the proposed road already seen to have marks of human presence such as lopping, jhumming, pan jhum etc.

After drilling into the entire solution for long-term forest protection and access to the Bhuban Hill, the following decisions were arrived at:

1. The road is a dead end and does not create a thoroughfare and does not connect to any other public road.
2. Further, that if the area is diverted, the road along with the ROW would become non forest and stopping establishments coming up along the ROW will not be possible as the area shall go out of the control of Forest Department. As already seen on the ground, the human activities such as construction of shops. Sheds, houses, dwelling units and other activities such as Jhum, Pan Jhum, lopping and felling of tress would



increased in near future and it would not be possible to stop these as the ROW areas would not be in control of the Department.

3. The Forest Department itself needs quick access to the area and easy movement of patrolling parties and Forest Forces for protection purposes. Further, if the area is retained under the control of Forest Department, the access control would be exercised by the Forest Department and any unauthorised constructions etc can be easily evicted and protection of the said area would enhance. And the pristine nature of the forest of the evergreen forest occurring in the area can be maintained. Further, the entry and the exit would be regulated by the Forest Department.
4. Since the Forest Department does not have adequate fund or the expertise to construct such a road with sharp gradient, the Department may take assistance from PWD to construct the road, including funding from the available resources of PWD; while the PWD would not be having any rights on the land other than maintenance & upkeep of the said road.

In view of the above, it was decided that the road construction would be taken up departmentally through the PWD from the resources available with the PWD. The Forest Department will have full control of the road as it will be a departmental road with right of PWD to maintain it at regular interval. The DFO, Cachar Division, Silchar is hereby directed to take up the matter with local PWD authorities and the Deputy Commissioner, Cachar for early action in the regard as decided above.



(M.K. Yadav IFS),
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
& Head of Forest Force, Assam,
Panjabari, Guwahati-37

Memo No. HoFF/Camp/SLC/2022

Dated 29th November, 2022

Copy to

- 1) The PPS to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Assam for favour of kind information and necessary action.
- 2) The PS to the Hon'ble Minister, Environment & Forest Department, Govt of Assam for favour of kind information and necessary action.
- 3) The Addl. Chief Secretary, Environment & Forest, Govt. of Assam for favour of kind information and necessary action.
- 4) The Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (T), Lower Assam Zone, Indira Nagar, Basistha, Guwahati-29 for information & necessary action.
- 5) The Chief Conservator of Forests Southern Assam Circle, Silchar for information & necessary action.
- 6) The Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal) FC Act, Assam for information & necessary action.
- 7) The Chief Engineer, PWD Roads, Chandmari, Guwahati, Assam 781003.

- 8) The Deputy Commissioner, Cachar, Silchar for information & necessary action.
- 9) The Divisional Forest Officer, Cachar Division, Silchar for information & necessary action.



(M.K. Yadava, IFS),
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
& Head of Forest Force, Assam,
Panjabari, Guwahati-37