

**GOVERNMENT OF KERALAM****Abstract**

Fisheries & Ports Department - Vizhinjam International Deep water Multipurpose Seaport Project - Constitution of the Rehabilitation Implementation Committee (RIC) and the Rehabilitation Implementation Committee–Appeal Committee (RIC-AC) replacing and subsuming of LIAC and LIAC Appeal Committee and approval of the Rehabilitation Implementation Guidelines for Utilisation of Funds earmarked for Environmental Management Plan (EMP) and Social Welfare Activities under the Environmental Clearance for Phase II, III and IV (Master Plan) Development of Vizhinjam International Seaport - Orders issued.

FISHERIES & PORTS (E) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(Rt)No.527/2026/F&P Dated,Thiruvananthapuram, 07-09-2026

Read: 1 G.O (Rt) No. 577/2015/F&PD dated 20.07.2015.

² Letter No. VISL/53/2026- GM1(E)/359 dated 19.07.2026 from Managing Director, Vizhinjam International Seaport Limited.

ORDER

The Vizhinjam International Seaport Project is envisaged as a 4 phase development project. Certain major obligations prescribed under specific conditions of the EC clearance are pending namely;

- Construction of a new fishing harbour.
- Upgradation/adoption of the existing fishing harbour.
- Establishment of a Seafood Park.
- Implementation of Environmental Management Plan (EMP).
- Fulfillment of Public Hearing commitments.
- Provision of livelihood compensation.

2. For Phase I, rehabilitation was managed through the Livelihood Impact Appraisal Committee (LIAC) and its Appeal Committee, constituted vide GO read as 1st above, which approved ₹114.52 crore in livelihood compensation for 2,936 beneficiaries from the fisheries sector.

3. However, with the port's expansion, project impacts are expected to extend beyond fishing communities to other sectors such as tourism, agriculture, transport, and local livelihoods. Around 900 applications from non-fishing sectors also remain pending.

4. To address these broader impacts, VISL vide letter read as 2nd above, proposes replacing LIAC with a Rehabilitation Implementation Committee (RIC), chaired by the Sub Collector, Thiruvananthapuram, and a Rehabilitation Implementation Committee Appeal Committee (RIC-AC), chaired by the District Collector. Overall, the proposal aims to establish a comprehensive, transparent, and accountable governance system to ensure timely implementation of all Environmental Clearance obligations alongside the development of Phases II–IV of the Vizhinjam International Seaport.

VISL requested approval for the following so as to enable timely and transparent implementation of the Environmental Clearance obligations concurrently with Phase II, III and IV (Master plan) constructions

- i. Constitution of the Rehabilitation Implementation Committee (RIC).
- ii. Constitution of the Rehabilitation Implementation Committee Appeal Committee (RIC-AC).
- iii. Constitution of the Social Welfare & EMP Implementation PMU.
- iv. Transfer of all powers currently exercised by LIAC and LIAC-AC to the new committees.
- v. Approval of the functions, powers and procedures of the new committees.
- vi. Approval of the " Rehabilitation Implementation Guidelines for Environmental Management Plan (EMP) and Social Welfare Activities under the Environmental Clearance for Phase II, III and IV (Master Plan) Development of Vizhinjam International Seaport ,"enclosed as Annexure -I, as the operational guidelines governing rehabilitation implementation , including constitution of the Social Welfare &EMP Implementation PMU described therein.
- vii. Expenditure from the Environmental Management Plan, Public Hearing

commitments and other rehabilitation - related funds prescribed under the Environmental Clearance shall be under taken strictly in accordance with the framework at Annexure -I and under the overall supervision of the RIC and RIC-AC , and that EMP expenditure by the Concessioaire shall be incurred only with the prior approval of the RIC-AC.

5. Government have examined the matter in detail and are pleased to constitute the **Rehabilitation Implementation Committee (RIC), Vizhinjam**, replacing and subsuming the functions of the existing LIAC and shall have an expanded mandate covering rehabilitation, livelihood restoration, EMP and Social Welfare obligations connected with Phase II, III and IV/Master Plan development. with the following composition:

Chairperson	Sub Collector, Thiruvananthapuram
Members	Deputy Director, Fisheries, PIU, Vizhinjam
	Deputy Director, Tourism, Thiruvananthapuram
	District Labour Officer (Enforcement)
	Secretary, Thiruvananthapuram Corporation
	Health Officer, Thiruvananthapuram Corporation
	Representative of Vizhinjam International Seaport Limited
	Representative of Adani Vizhinjam Port Private Limited
	District Animal Husbandry Officer, Thiruvananthapuram.
	Officer in charge of Housing, Thiruvananthapuram Corporation (to be co-opted whenever required)
	Officer in charge of Housing, Kottukal Grama Panchayat (to be co-opted whenever required)
	Agricultural Officer, Kottukal (to be co-opted whenever required)
	Any other departmental officer or technical expert as may be required by the Chairperson, depending upon the subject under consideration.

6. The RIC shall perform all functions presently vested in the

Livelihood Impact Appraisal Committee and , in addition , shall be entrusted with the following responsibilities:

- (i) conduct/oversee a Social Impact Study covering all affected sectors;
- (ii) identify Project-Affected Persons based on suitable and uniform eligibility criteria;
- (iii) assess and appropriately fix livelihood compensation;
- (iv) recommend alternate livelihood-improvement measures for affected persons;
- (v) Final approval of proposals for EC-related Social Welfare fund disbursement connected with Public Hearing commitments;
- (vi) identify and prescribe additional Social Welfare activities required in the project-affected area;
- (vii) Performance of all other functions presently discharged by the erstwhile Livelihood Impact Appraisal Committee (LIAC).

7. Government are further pleased to constitute the **Rehabilitation Implementation Committee Appeal Committee (RIC-AC), Vizhinjam**, headed by the District Collector, Thiruvananthapuram, with the following composition:

Chairperson	District Collector, Thiruvananthapuram
Members	Director of Fisheries
	Director of Tourism
	Regional Joint Labour Commissioner, Kollam
	Secretary, Thiruvananthapuram Corporation
	Secretary, Kottukal Grama Panchayat
	Chief Executive Officer, Vizhinjam International Seaport Limited
	Chief Executive Officer, Adani Vizhinjam Port Private Limited
	Additional departmental representatives and technical experts, to be invited depending upon the subject under consideration

8. The RIC-AC shall function as the appellate, supervisory and oversight authority and shall hear appeals against decisions of the RIC; review, amend wherever necessary and approve recommendations of the RIC; approve alternate livelihood-improvement activities; approve major rehabilitation and livelihood-restoration programmes; monitor utilisation of funds; review expenditure against project milestones; assign target dates for completion to implementing agencies; and issue such directions as may be necessary to ensure fulfillment of the Environmental Clearance obligations in a transparent and time-bound manner. Representatives of other connected Departments and technical experts may be co-opted to the meetings of the RIC-AC depending upon the subject under consideration.

9. In order to provide an effective execution and monitoring mechanism, Government are further pleased to approve the **constitution of a Social Welfare & EMP Implementation Project Management Unit (PMU)** to function as the execution and monitoring arm under the policy and appraisal authority of the RIC and RIC-AC.

10. The PMU shall be:

- (i) co-chaired by the District Collector, Thiruvananthapuram and the Managing Director, VISL;
- (ii) Sub Collector, Thiruvananthapuram – Member Secretary and Convenor; and
- (iii) supported by such departmental officers and technical personnel as specified in the approved Rehabilitation Implementation Guidelines.

11. The PMU shall be responsible for coordination, execution, project management, monitoring, documentation, reporting and follow-up of rehabilitation, livelihood restoration, EMP and Social Welfare programmes approved by the RIC/RIC-AC.

12. Government are also pleased to approve the **“Rehabilitation Implementation Guidelines** for Utilisation of Funds Earmarked for Environmental Management Plan (EMP) and Social Welfare Activities under the Environmental Clearance for Phase II, III and IV (Master Plan) Development of Vizhinjam International Seaport” appended as Annexure-I to this Government Order.

13. The Guidelines shall constitute the operational framework for

implementation of the rehabilitation, livelihood restoration, EMP and Social Welfare obligations and shall provide, inter alia, for: institutional arrangements; evidence-based Social Impact Assessment; identification of Project-Affected Persons; assessment and determination of livelihood compensation; alternate livelihood-improvement measures; project-management arrangements; community consultation; transparency and accountability measures; monitoring and reporting mechanisms; and utilisation of the ₹194 crore EMP and Public Hearing/Social Welfare corpus, together with the associated livelihood-compensation provision under the Environmental Clearance.

14. Government further order that all expenditure from the EMP, Public Hearing commitments and other rehabilitation-related funds prescribed under the Environmental Clearance shall be undertaken strictly in accordance with the approved Guidelines and under the overall supervision of the RIC and RIC-AC.

15. Government specifically order that EMP expenditure by the Concessionaire, Adani Vizhinjam Port Private Limited, on behalf of the Project Proponent shall be incurred only with the prior approval of the RIC-AC, based on proposals processed in accordance with the approved Guidelines.

16. The RIC and RIC-AC shall accordingly assume all functions presently discharged by the LIAC and LIAC-AC, together with the additional responsibilities and powers specified in Annexure-I, in respect of Phase II, III and IV/Master Plan development.

17. The Departments concerned, VISL, AVPPL and other implementing agencies shall extend necessary cooperation to the RIC, RIC-AC and PMU and shall take timely action on the decisions/directions issued under the approved framework.

18. The constitution of the RIC, RIC-AC and PMU and the operational framework approved herein shall remain subject to the applicable provisions of the Environmental Clearance, other statutory clearances, and the terms of the Concession Agreement.

(By order of the Governor)
DR RATHAN U KELKAR I A S

SECRETARY

To:

1. The District Collector, Thiruvananthapuram.
2. Sub- Collector, Thiruvananthapuram.
3. The Chief Executive officer, Kerala Maritime Board,
Thiruvananthapuram
4. Director of Tourism, Thiruvananthapuram
5. Regional Joint Labour Commissioner, Kollam
6. The Managing Director, Vizhinjam International Seaport Ltd,
Thiruvananthapuram
7. The Director, Fisheries Department, Thiruvananthapuram
8. The Managing Director, Matsyafed, Kamaleswaram, Manacud.P.O
9. The Director, Coastal Area Development Corporation
10. Secretary, Thiruvananthapuram Corporation
11. District Labour Officer, Enforcement
14. Secretary, Kottukal Grama Panchayat
15. Agricultural Officer, Kottukal Grama Panchayat
16. Committee Members (through VISL)
17. SF/OC

Forwarded /By order

Section Officer

Copy to: The Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Minister
PA to Secretary, Ports Department
CA to Joint Secretary, Ports Department