

**SOAPSTONE MINE (Area- 4.156 Ha)**  
**M/s. Shri. Gopal Ram**  
**Located at Village- Bheruchaubatta**  
**Tehsil-Bageshwar. Dist. –Bageshwar,**  
**Uttarakhand.**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a decision making tool, in the hands of the Authorities which brings forth the factual position about a project that enables them in arriving at an appropriate conclusion for the proposed projects, to retain them if environmentally sound, and reject if found having deleterious overall impact. EIA identifies the extent of the environmental, social and economic impacts of a project prior to decision-making. EIA systematically examines both beneficial and adverse impacts of the proposed project over and above the prevailing conditions of environmental parameters and ensure that these impacts are taken into account during the project designing stage itself and the values of the combined impacts are never allowed to exceed and remain within the statutory norms. This process has been envisioned and set in motion by the Ministry of Environment and Forests for sustainable development and the final decision is arrived at only, when those to whom it matters are made known of the salient features of the project being envisaged close to them and their opinion has been sought in a widely advertised Public Hearing Event under the chairmanship of the district authorities so that public could also express their opinion free, without favour and fear. Environmental Impact Assessment report is prepared to comply with the Terms of Reference (TOR) received from SEIAA, Uttarakhand, under EIA Notification of the MoEF dated 19-8-2006, and its subsequent amendments and EIA Guidance Manual for Mining of Minerals of MoEF, Govt. of India, for seeking environmental clearance for mining of soapstone in the applied mining lease area measuring **4.156 Ha**. The proposed project falls under Category B2 as per EIA Notification 2006 its amendment 2009, 2011, 2012 & 2016 of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, New Delhi but due to NGT recent order it falls under B1 Category.

### **2. IDENTIFICATION OF PROJECT & PROJECT PROPONENT**

The proposed project of **M/s. Shri. Gopal ram** is for soapstone which covers an area of **4.156 Ha** near Village- Bheruchaubatta, Tehsil- Bageshwar, District- Bageshwar (Uttarakhand). LOI has been granted in favour of **M/s. Shri. Gopal ram** vide **Letter No. 1957/VII-1/26-Soapstone/2016**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

dated **22-12-2016**, attached as **Annexure I**.

Soapstone finds its uses in all aspects of life and commercial business. Soapstone has wide applications across various industries. Some uses for soapstone or talc are paper, textile, cosmetics, paint, ceramics, detergents, animal feed, insecticide, plastics and various drying powder. Soapstone, also known as Talc or Talcum Powder, is a mineral that is naturally found in nature. The chemical name for Talc or Talcum Powder is hydrated magnesium silicate. The region Uttarakhand accounts for 29% of India's soapstone production.

Highest production of soapstone will be **30000 Tonnes/ Annum**.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Top Soil (Cum)</b>	<b>Production of Soapstone (Tonnes)</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	10769	28000
<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	10769	28000
<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	11539	30000
<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	10769	28000
<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	10769	28000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>54614</b>	<b>1,42,000</b>

The proposed mining project has been categorized as Category B1 project.

### **Proponent & Address**

M/s. Shri Gopal Ram S/o Sh. Laccham Ram

Registered Address: Village- Bheruchaubatta, Tahsil

& District- Bageshwar, Uttarakhand.

### **2.1 Brief description of nature, size and location of the project:**

Brief details of the project are described in the Table No. 1.1 given below:

**Table No.1.1:- Details of the Project**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Particulars</b>	<b>Description</b>
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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

<b>A</b>	<b>Mining Lease &amp; Location Details</b>	
1.	Name of the Project	M/s. Shri Gopal Ram Soapstone Mines
2.	Location	Bheruchaubatta,
3.	Village	Bheruchaubatta,
4.	Tehsil	Bageshwar
5.	District	Bageshwar
6.	State	Uttarakhand
7.	Lease Area Coordinate	Latitude : 29° 51' 44.40" to 29° 51' 55.20" N Longitude : 79° 50' 37.81" to 79° 50' 57.40" E
8.	Lease Period of Mine	25 Years
9.	Cost of the project	31 Lac (Approximate)
10.	Man Power Requirement	33 nos.
11.	Water Requirement & Source	4.2 KLD Approx. for Drinking & Dust Suppression/Plantation & Source: Nearby villages & natural springs.
<b>B</b>	<b>Environmental Settings</b>	
12.	Elevation(RL)	Highest & lowest levels found in the area are of RL 1334.9m and 1259.1 m
13.	Nearest National Highway /State Highway	NH-125, 45km SE; SH-37, 7km West, Almora-Bageshwar-Munsyari road
14.	Nearest Railway Station	Kathgodam ; 70 Km SW (Aerial)
15.	Nearest Airport	Pithoragarh Air port; 50 Km SW (Aerial)
16.	Ecological Sensitive Areas(Wildlife Sanctuaries)	Jim Corbett National Park; 84 km SW(Aerial)
17.	Reserved/Projected Forests	Jim Corbett National Park; 84 km SW(Aerial) Nanda Devi; 65 Km NW (Aerial)
18.	Nearest Town/City	Bageshwar, 7. 64 Km SW
19.	Nearest River	Saryu River; 0.46 Km N

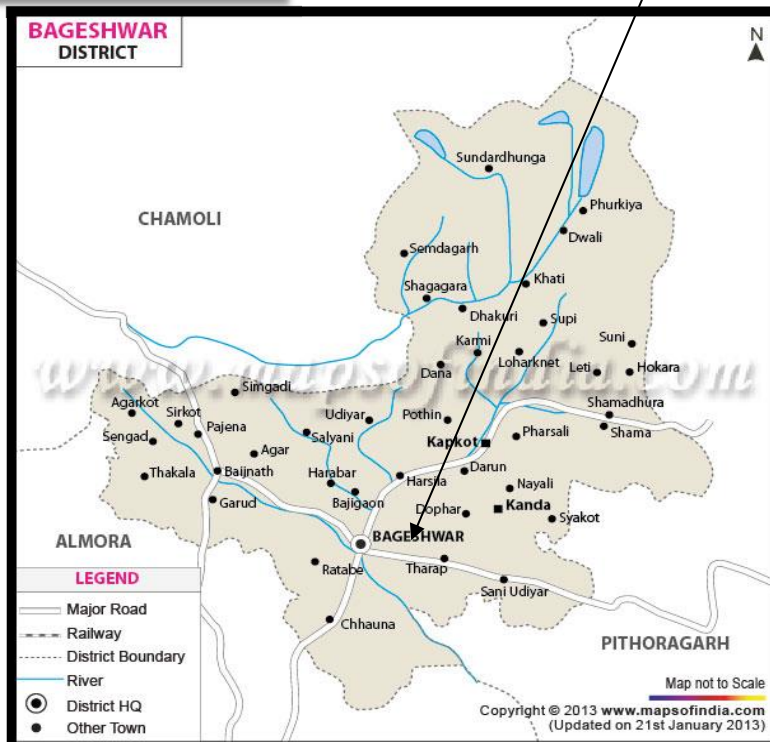
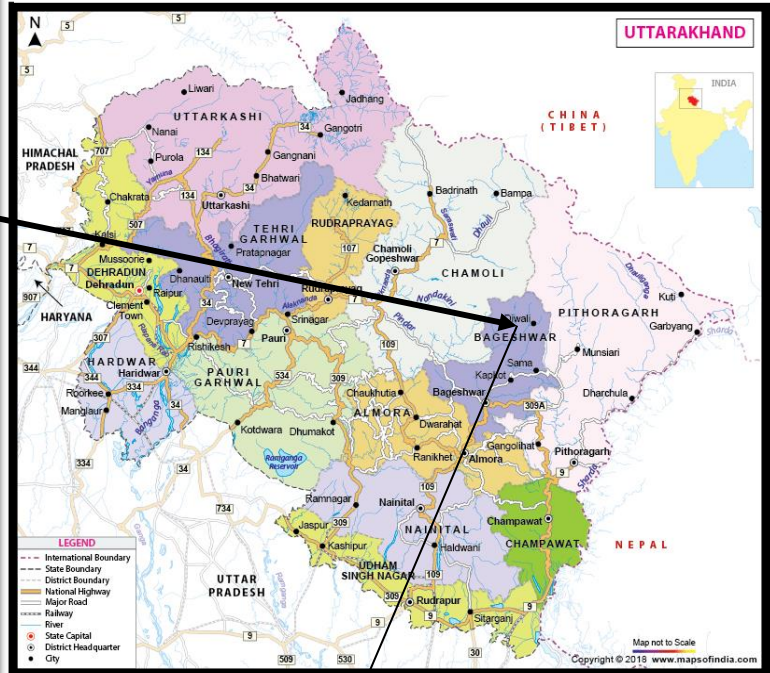
SOAPSTONE MINE (Area- 4.156 Ha)

M/s. Shri. Gopal Ram

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20.	Seismic Zone	Zone V
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**Figure-1 –Project Location**



**Figure-2. 10 KM Study area**

### **3. STATUS OF REGULATORY CLEARANCES OF THE PROJECT**

The Mining plan has been approved by IBM vide **Letter No.- 1939/Mukhya Khanij/MA-Plan-111/BHU.KHANI.E/2017-18** dated **17.02.2018**.

There is no National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary & National Monument, within core zone or 10 km radius of the ML area.

There is no legal issue against the project in the court of law.

### **MINE DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION**

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The mining will be done semi-mechanized way in open cast method in quite a systematic manner by forming 6m high benches. However, there may be minor variation in the width and- height which the lessee will keep on mending. The top soil and interburden to be scrapped with the help of JCB machine, dozer, shovels, pickaxe, spade & crowbar and will be stacked separately in dump yard located near the working pit. The developmental working will be done by construction of road/track to different working benches, removal of top soil and interburden. The soil will be filled into the bags, loaded on mules and unload into stockyard.

### **Method of Mining**

## **4. IMPACT ON LAND USE & RECLAMATION OF MINED OUT AREAS**

Opencast mining activities may alter the landscape of the lease area and also cause some disturbance to the surface features of the surrounding areas. Mining will be done after leaving 7.5 m safety barrier.

Plantation will be developed in consultation with district administration/ local authority, wherever feasible.

### **Proposal for reclamation of land affected by mining activities:**

The mining will commence from the higher levels and will advance towards lower levels. Intermittent backfilling will commence from the higher levels and subsequently advance towards the lower elevation so that terraced agriculture fields would undertake in such a manner that

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original land use will be restored i.e. before the onset of monsoon will be handed over to cultivators for cultivation. The final backfilling will be started once the ultimate benches are formed and pit reaches the optimum economic depth. All recovery of the mineral will be of the saleable grade.

Plantation will be raised in 7.5m barrier zone along the boundaries of the mining lease area by planting the native species around ML area, backfilled and reclaimed area, around water body, roads etc. in consultation with the local DFO/Agriculture department.

**5. LAND USE PATTERN**

Presently (pre-mining), the land covered under the mine lease area is non-forest land.

**6. COST ESTIMATES**

The details of the cost to for the Environmental Management plan for 5 years, the budget for Corporate Environmental Responsibility (CER) (per year) and year wise allocation of funds for the various activities proposed to be taken up under CSR programme has been given in below Table.

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Allocation of Fund (Rs. Lacs)</b>
1	Health Camps	<b>0.40</b>
2	Up gradation of toilets of government school in nearby villages	<b>0.45</b>
3	Distribution of Books and Notebooks among meritorious girl child belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population.	<b>0.25</b>
4	Repair and Painting of School Building in the project village	<b>0.15</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1.25</b>

**Budget for Environmental protection**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Measure s</b>	<b>Capital cost</b>	<b>Annual recurring cost</b>

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		(Rs.)	(Rs.)
		<b>Proposed</b>	<b>Proposed</b>
1	Pollution Control	-	1,00,000
2	Pollution Monitoring	-	1,00,000
3	Occupational Health	50,000	10,000
4	Green Belt	1,00,000	2,00,000
5	Reclamation / Rehabilitation of mined out area	1,50,000	10,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,00,000</b>	<b>4,65,000</b>

## 7. ADDITIONAL STUDIES

### Risk Assessment and Disaster Management Plan

The complete mining operation will be carried out under the management control and direction of a qualified mine manager holding Mines Manager s Certificate of Competency. Moreover, mining staff will be sent to refresher courses from time to time to keep them updated.

### Disaster Management Plan

Emergency preparedness is an important aspect in the planning of Disaster Management. Personnel would be trained suitably and prepared mentally and physically in emergency response through carefully planned, simulated procedures. Similarly, the key personnel and essential personnel shall be trained in the operations.

## 8. PUBLIC CONSULTATION

### **Public Hearing**

In consonance with the EIA notification dated 14th September 2006, vide section 1 (a) related to Public Hearing, the draft EIA/EMP report shall be submitted to the Uttarakhand Environment Protection & Pollution Control Board (UEPPCB) for public hearing



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### 9. PROJECT BENEFITS

The impact on the civic amenities will be substantial after the commencement of mining activities. Medical facilities will be provided in the form of first-aid facility at the mine. These medical facilities will also be available to local people in the surrounding in case of emergencies.

Generation of employment and improved standard of living;

Increased revenue to the State by way of royalty, taxes and duties; and

Superior communication and transport facilities etc.

The employment of local people in primary and secondary sectors of project will upgrade the prosperity of the region.

### 10. CONCLUSIONS

The mining operations will meet the compliance requirements of MoEF&CC;

Community impacts will be beneficial, as the project will generate significant economic benefits for the region;

Adoption of Best Available Technology and Best Management Practices with more environmental friendly process; and

With the effective implementation of the Environment Management Plan (EMP) during the mining activities, the proposed project can proceed without any significant negative impact on environment.

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## भैरुचौबट्टा सोप स्टोन प्रोजेक्ट—एक परिचय

भैरुचौबट्टा सोप स्टोन प्रोजेक्ट ई0आई0ए0 अधिसूचना के संख्या 2006, 2009, 2011, 2012 तथा 2016 के अनुसार मुख्यतः बी 2 श्रेणी के प्रोजेक्ट है, परंतु माननीय हरित प्राधिकरण द्वारा प्रदत्त आदेशों के क्रम में प्रोजेक्ट बी 1 श्रेणी में आ चुका है जिस संबंध में सी0ई0आई0ए0ए द्वारा टी0ओ0आर0 दिनांक 1 जून 2019 को जारी किया गया है।

भैरुचौबट्टा ग्राम जनपद बागेश्वर की तहसील बागेश्वर के अंतर्गत आता है, उपरोक्त ग्राम में 4.156 है0 भूमि में श्री गोपाल पुत्र स्व0 श्री लछम राम निवासी ग्राम भैरुचौबट्टा जनपद बागेश्वर के पक्ष में उत्तराखण्ड शासन के कार्यालय पत्र संख्या **1957/VII-1/26-Soapstone/2016** dated **22-12-2016** द्वारा सोप स्टोन हेतु 25 वर्ष का पट्टा स्वीकृत किया गया है।

उपरोक्त खदान में पाँच वर्ष तक कुल 142000 टन अनुमानित मात्रा में उत्पादन किया जाना है, अधिकतम 30000 टन उत्पादन का लक्ष्य है। पाँच वर्ष का विवरण निम्न तालिका में दर्शाया गया है।

वर्ष	टाप सॉयल	उत्पादन
प्रथम	10769	28000
द्वितीय	10769	28000
तृतीय	11539	30000
चतुर्थ	10769	28000
पंचम	10769	28000

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	<b>54614</b>	<b>1,42,000</b>
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प्रोजेक्ट संबंधी सूचनायें

1	प्रोजेक्ट का नाम	भैरुचौबट्टा सोप स्टोन प्रोजेक्ट
अ	ग्राम	भैरुचौबट्टा
आ	तहसील	बगेश्वर
इ	जनपद	बागेश्वर
ई	लीज एरिया कोर्डिनेट	Latitude : 29° 51' 44.40" to 29° 51' 55.20" N Longitude : 79° 50' 37.81" to 79° 50' 57.40" E
उ	लीज अवधि	25 वर्ष
ऊ	प्रस्तावित मूल्य	31 लाख मात्र
ए	मानव श्रम	33
ऐ	पानी की माँग एवं स्रोत	4.2 किलोडी० पीने तथा धूल हटाने तथा वृक्षारोपण हेतु, पानी के स्रोत प्राकृतिक
2 पर्यावरणीय		
अ	आकार	उँचाई अधिकतम 1334.9 मी० तथा तथा न्यूनमत उँचाई 1259.1 मी०
आ	नजदीकी राज्य राजमार्ग तथा राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग	रा०रा० 125 45 किमी० उ०पू० राज्य मार्ग संख्या 37 7 किमी पश्चिमी
इ	नजदीकी रेलवे स्टेशन	काठगोदाम 70 किमी हवाई
ई	नजदीकी हवाई अड्डा	पिथौरागढ 50 किमी हवाई
उ	वाईल्ड लाईफ सेन्चुरी	जिम कार्बेट 84 किमी हवाई
ऊ	नजदीकी शहर	बागेश्वर 9.66 किमी
ए	नजदीकी नदी	सरयू 0.46 किमी

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उपरोक्त खदान का माइनिंग प्लान भू तत्व एवं खनिकर्म इकाई उत्तराखण्ड के पत्र संख्या 1939/मु0ख0/मा0प्ला0-111/बागे0/भू0खनि0/2017-18 दिनांक 17.02.2018 द्वारा स्वीकृत किया जा चुका है, प्रोजेक्ट के 10 किमी0 अंतर्गत कोई भी नेशनल पार्क, वाइल्ड लाइफ सेन्चुरी तथा कोर जोन नहीं आता है। माइन में कार्य करने हेतु सेमी मेकेनाईज्ड पद्धति से कार्य किया जायेगा, 6 मी उची बेन्च का निर्माण किया जायेगा उपरी सतह में निकाली गई मिट्टी को डंप यार्ड में रखा जायेगा खदान में विस्पोटको का प्रयोग नहीं किया जायेगा। वृक्षारोपण का कार्य जिला प्रशासन तथा अन्य जनपतिनिधियों के सहयोग से किया जायेगा।

प्रस्तावित खदान में बेस लाइन डाटा का कार्य 1 मार्च 2019 से 31 मई 2019 में मानसून पूर्व काल में किया गया है।

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Allocation of Fund (Rs. Lacs)</b>
1	Health Camps	<b>0.40</b>
2	Up gradation of toilets of government school in nearby villages	<b>0.45</b>
3	Distribution of Books and Notebooks among meritorious girl child belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population.	<b>0.25</b>
4	Repair and Painting of School Building in the project village	<b>0.15</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1.25</b>

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प्रस्तावित खदान में पर्यावरणीय सुरक्षा हेतु निम्न प्रकार से धनराशि का आवंटन किया गया है।

**Budget for Environmental protection**

Sl. No.	Measure s	Capital cost (Rs.)	Annual recurring cost (Rs.)
		Proposed	Proposed
1	Pollution Control	-	1,00,000
2	Pollution Monitoring	-	1,00,000
3	Occupational Health	50,000	10,000
4	Green Belt	1,00,000	2,00,000
5	Reclamation / Rehabilitation of mined out area	1,50,000	10,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,00,000</b>	<b>4,65,000</b>

जन सुनवाई— ई0आई0ए0 अधिसूचना 14 सितम्बर 2006 के द्वारा दिये गये निर्देशों के क्रम में प्रस्ताव जनसुनवाई हेतु यू0ई0पी0पी0सी0बी0 में उपलब्ध कराया गया है।