INTRODUCTION

The Markhanda Forest Project Division was originally formed in the year 1974 with head quarter at Chandrapur, which was later on shifted to Ballarshah in the year 1981. The Division lies between latitudes $19^0$27'29" N to $19^0$53'42" N and longitudes $79^0$45'05" E to $80^0$14'53.52" E. The existing Management Plan was written by Shri. P. R. Dawada, Divisional Manager, for the period 2016-17 to 2025-26. The approval for the same received on 25/09/2017. Meanwhile, a Working Scheme for the year 2016-2017 was in force. The total area of this division in existing Management Plan is 34259.432 ha which is spread over in 141 compartments spread in Chamorshi, Aheri and Mulchera Tahasils of Gadchiroli District of Maharashtra. Apart from this, the new area of 6519.259 Ha of Perimili and Pedigudam Ranges of Allapalli Forest Division (Territorial) is attached to this division as per Government Resolution no.FDC-2023/F.N.81/F-5, Dt 4 August 2023. Thus, the total area of this division for the proposed Management Plan is 40778.691 ha. The Division's area is reorganized for administrative convenience by MD's order no: Desk-Plan/Markhanda/reorganization/f.n.17/2024-24/1255 dt-31/07/2024 into 5 Ranges, 18 Rounds, 40 Beats and 163 compartments. This Management plan deals with the scientific management of forest for a period of ten years from 2026-27 to 2035-36.

OBJECTIVES OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN :

The National Forest Policy of 1988 will be the guiding principle to decide the general objects of management and these objectives are mentioned here under.

(i) To preserve forest cover on steep hill slopes, along the Nala banks and water courses and to prevent soil erosion.

(ii) To enrich the growing stock in the natural forests and to restock all the under-stocked and degraded forests, to achieve normality of growing stock in shortest possible time.

(iii) To increase the productivity of forests by using improved plantation technology and to maintain the same on sustained yield basis.

(iv) To meet the requirement of small timber, fuel wood, fodder and minor forest produce of the rural and tribal population on top priority.

(v) To increase the production of NTFP and to manage the same scientifically to utilize the potential to the maximum possible extent on sustained basis.

(vi) To conserve and protect wildlife.

PERIOD OF THE PLAN: -

This plan is prepared for a period of ten years i.e. from 2025-26 to 2034-35.