



Government of Maharashtra

Industry, Energy, Labour and Mining Department,
Ground Floor, Annex Building, Hutatma Rajguru chowk, Mantralaya,
Mumbai-400 0 32.

Email ID :-laxmikant.dhoke@nic.in

Tel.No.-022-22824519

No.-MNG-1122/C.R.218/Ind-9(A)

Date :11/11/2025

To,

M/s.Sunflag Iron and Steel Co.Ltd.
33, Mount Road, Sadar,
Nagpur-440001.

Subject: In relation to grant of a mining lease for Lohardongri Block for Iron Ore in Lohardongri village, Bramhapuri Taluka, Chandrapur District over an area of 35.73 Hectare to Preferred Bidder M/s.Sunflag Iron and Steel Co.Ltd.

- Reference:**
- 1) Letter of Intent Reference Letter – MMN-079/CR Part-5) IND-9 dated 13/03/2019
 - 2) Extension of LoI Letter No.MNG-1222/C.R.218 /Ind-9A dated 11/01/2023
 - 3) Letter of Director General, Directorate of Geology and Mining, Nagpur No.MLV/ Misc./424/Part/2025/951 dated 13/03/2025
 - 3) ACS (Mining), Industry,Energy,Labour and Mining Dept. Letter No.MNG-0425/C.R.34/Industry-9A Dated 29/04/2025
 - 4) Joint Secretary, Ministry of Mines, New Delhi, Letter No.16/55/2025-Mines VI dated 16/10/2025

For the Iron Ore mineral block located at Mouza Lohardongri, Taluka Bramhapuri, District Chandrapur, a Letter of Intent (LoI) for a Mining Lease over an area of 35.73 hectares was issued to M/s Sunflag Iron & Steel Co. Ltd., the highest bidder, with the approval of the Government, on 13/09/2019. (valid up to 12/09/2022)

Subsequently, based on the proposal received from the Directorate, the validity of the Letter of Intent was extended for a further period of two years, up to 11/09/2024, vide order dated 11/01/2023.

During this extended period, the applicant has complied with all requirements except for obtaining Environmental Clearance. As the process of obtaining Environmental Clearance is underway, and production and transportation can commence immediately upon receipt of Environmental clearance, hence a request was made by the State Government to the Government of India, vide letter dated 29/04/2025, for extension of the validity of the Letter of Intent under Section 31 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act.

Accordingly, the Ministry of Mines, Government of India, vide letter dated 16/10/2025 (copy enclosed), has granted approval for extension of the validity of the said Letter of Intent originally issued on 13/09/2019 for the subject mining area, from 16/10/2025 to 15/10/2026 (for a period of one year).



(Laxmikant Dhoke)

Joint Secretary, Government of Maharashtra

Copy to:

1. Director General, Directorate of Geology and Mining, Nagpur
2. Collector, District Chandrapur, Maharashtra.
3. Deputy Director, Directorate of Geology and Mining, regional office, Chandrapur.
4. District Mining Officer, Chandrapur.
5. Select File (Ind.9A)

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No. 16/55/2025-Mines VI
Government of India
Ministry of Mines

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated: 16th October, 2025

ORDER

Whereas, the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (hereinafter, 'the Act') was enacted to provide for development and regulation of mines and minerals in the country.

And whereas, the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 were framed under Section 13 of the Act to provide for the manner of auction and grant of mineral concessions and related matters.

And whereas, the first proviso to sub-rule (6) of rule 10 of the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 provides that no Mining Lease Deed shall be executed on expiry of a period of three years from the date of the letter of intent, and the letter of intent shall be invalidated leading to annulment of the entire process of auction.

And whereas, the second proviso to sub-rule (6) of rule 10 of the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 provides that the State Government may allow a further period of two years for execution of the Mining Lease Deed, if the reasons for delay were beyond the control of the preferred bidder.

And whereas, Government of Maharashtra vide letter no. MNG-0425/C.R.34/Ind-9A dated 29.04.2025 has informed that the letter of intent for grant of mining lease for the Lohardongri Iron Ore block over an area of 35.73 hectares at Tehsil Bramhapuri, District Chandrapur was issued in favor of M/s Sunflag Iron and Steel Company Limited (hereinafter, 'the preferred bidder') on 11.09.2019 for a period of two years, i.e. till 10.09.2021.

And whereas, Government of Maharashtra has informed that the preferred bidder requested for extension of period of letter of intent for a further period of three years i.e. till 10.09.2024, before the expiry of validity period of the letter of intent. The said order for extension of validity of letter of intent was issued on 11.01.2023, after a period of 16 months.

And whereas, Government of Maharashtra has informed that the preferred bidder has obtained the approval of mining plan, the public hearing for grant of Environmental Clearance has been conducted, the second installment of upfront payment has been deposited and the performance security in the form of bank guarantee has been submitted.

And whereas, Government of Maharashtra has informed that due to delay in obtaining various permissions and other administrative reasons, covid-19 pandemic, code of conduct period of Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha elections in the State, the mining lease for the said block could not be executed within the period of validity of letter of intent.

And whereas, Government of Maharashtra has requested for allowing

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further extension of one year to the validity of letter of intent under Section 31 of the Act in the interest of mineral development to facilitate execution of mining lease and its early operationalization.

And whereas, Section 31 of the Act provides that the Central Government may, if it is of opinion that in the interests of mineral development, it is necessary so to do, by order in writing and for reasons to be recorded, authorise in any case the grant, renewal or transfer of any mineral concession, or the working of any mine for the purpose of searching for or winning any mineral, on terms and conditions different from those laid down in the rules made under Section 13.

Now therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 31 of the Act, the Central Government, in the interests of mineral development, hereby in relaxation of sub-rule (6) of rule 10 of the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015, extends the validity of letter of intent issued in favor of the preferred bidder on 11.09.2019 in respect of Lohardongri Iron Ore block over an area of 35.73 hectares at Tehsil Bramhapuri, District Chandrapur for a further period of one year with effect from the date of this order.

D. Mahur
16.10.2025

(Dinesh Mahur)

Joint Secretary to the Government of India

Phone No.: 011-23384334

To: Additional Chief Secretary (Mines), Government of Maharashtra.