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OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS & HoFF  
PLOT NO. GD-2/12, ARANYA BHAWAN, CHANDRASEKHARPUR  
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No. 9916 /9F (MG) – 49/2023  
Dated, Bhubaneswar the 18<sup>th</sup> May' 2026

To

The Inspector General of Forests  
Government of India, MoEF & CC (FC Division)  
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road  
Aliganj, New Delhi-110003

**Sub:** Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for non-forestry use of 134.69 ha of forest land for Expansion of Kulda Open Cast Coal Mining Project of Basundhara Area of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited in Sundargarh District under Sundargarh Forest Division- Stage-I compliance regarding

**Ref:-** Letter dated 10.07.2025 of Deputy Inspector General of Forests, Govt. of India, MoEF & CC (FC Division), New Delhi

Sir,

In reference to the above mentioned subject, I wish to inform your good office that Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (FC Division), New Delhi have accorded 'Stage-I' approval vide Letter dated 10.07.2025 under Section-2 (1) (ii) of Van (Sarankshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of MCL for non-forestry use of 134.69 ha of forest land for Expansion of Kulda Open Cast Coal Mining Project of Basundhara Area of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited in Sundargarh District under Sundargarh Forest Division subject to fulfillment of 32 nos. of conditions imposed therein. The point wise compliance based on the reports of the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division and RCCF, Rourkela Circle are as follows:-

**Condition No.(1):-** Legal status of the diverted forestland shall remain unchanged.

**Compliance:-** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the user agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division that the legal status of the forest land proposed for diversion shall remain unchanged, which is enclosed as Annexure-I.

**Condition No. (2):-** Compensatory Afforestation:

a) The User Agency shall transfer the cost of raising and maintaining the compensatory afforestation as per the approved CA Scheme at the current wage rate in consultation with State Forest Department in the account of CAMPA of the concerned State through online portal;

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**Compliance:-** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the Scheme for raising Compensatory Afforestation over 280.90 ha of degraded forest land identified in different RF/PRF/DPF (Sikajore-A RF-74.50 Ha, Sikajore PRF-40.00 Ha, Tangarpali DPF- 14.00Ha, Pandripani RF-64.30Ha, Sidharmunda RF-50.40Ha & Punjipahad RF-37.70Ha.) of Sundargarh Forest Division has been prepared as per the one time cost norm at the current wage rate which has been approved by the PCCF (FD & NO, FC Act), O/o PCCF & HoFF, Odisha with a total Financial Outlay of Rs.10,99,09,200/-. The User Agency has deposited a sum of Rs.27,53,87,987/- in the state specific CAMPA account vide UTR No. SBINR52025082696596623, Dated. 26.08.2025 which inter alia includes the cost of CA amounting to Rs.10,99,09,200.00. The detailed statement of payments of compensatory levies deposited by the UA have been shown in prescribed 12 point CAMPA Format duly signed by the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division and countersigned by the Addl.PCCF (FD & Nodal Officer, FC Act) which is enclosed as **Annexure- II.**

*b) The cost of survey, demarcation and erection of permanent pillars, if required on the identified CA land, shall be deposited in advance with the Forest Department by the user agency. The CA will be maintained for 10 years. The scheme may include afforestation of indigenous species with appropriate provision for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for subsequent years;*

**Compliance:-** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has completed the work of survey, demarcation and erection of permanent pillars on the identified compensatory afforestation land. The site-specific CA scheme includes afforestation of indigenous species viz. Kurum/Haldu (*Adina cordifolia*), Dhaura (*Anogeissus latifolia*), Simili (*Bombax ceiba*), Sunari (*Cassia fistula*), Amla (*Emblica officinalis*), Mahul (*Madhuca indica*), Mango (*Mangifera indica*), Bija (*Pterocarpus marsupium*), Bahada (*Terminalia belerica*), Asan (*Terminalia tomentosa*), Tangan (*Xylia xylocarpa*) etc. and maintenance of the plantation for 10 years, with provisions for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for subsequent years. The copy of approved CA scheme is enclosed as **Annexure-III.**

*c) The Compensatory afforestation over degraded forest land i.e. 280.90 ha, shall be raised by the State Forest Department at the project cost and the afforestation works shall start within two years from the date of grant of final approval;*

**Compliance:-** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that it has been agreed by him that the compensatory afforestation over degraded forest land of 280.90 ha identified in various RF/PRF/DPF of Sundargarh Forest Division will be raised at the Project Cost and the afforestation works will be initiated within two years from the date of grant of final

approval. Further, the User Agency has also furnished an undertaking to this effect which is enclosed as Annexure-IV.

*d) The State shall ensure that the CA scheme is prepared to accommodate at least 1000 seedlings/ha over DFL identified for CA. In case 1000 saplings cannot be accommodated per hectare in the DFL identified for CA, the balance seedlings will be planted in any RF/PF as per prescription of the working plan. The State Government will intimate the name/details of the RFs/PFs areas in which the balance seedlings are to be planted. The user agency shall deposit the cost of plantation of the same.*

**Compliance:-** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the DFO, Sundargarh has reported that an Additional Compensatory Afforestation Scheme over 218.75 ha of degraded forest land identified in different Forest Blocks of Sundargarh Forest Division which comprises of 154.97 ha in Chitkikhadu RF (Patch 1 & 2), 49.78 ha in Beheramunda PRF of Hemgir Range and 14.0 ha in Tangarpali DPF of Ujalpur Range has been prepared by him by accommodating 1,44,000 nos. of seedlings as against the required balance seedlings of 1,40,450 nos. The details of the Additional Compensatory Afforestation Scheme are furnished below.

The following Additional CA schemes over 218.75 ha of degraded forest land alongwith SoI Maps, Geo-reference map and DSS analysis report are enclosed herewith.

Sl No.	Name of Range	Name of the RF/PRF/DPF	Type of land	Area in ha	Plants per Ha	Total plants per ha	Financial outlay approved by PCCF (FD & NO) FC Act
1.	Hemgir	Chitkikhadu RF Patch-1	Degraded forest land	135.50	ANR@500	67,750	5,48,78,000.00
2.	Hemgir	Chitkikhadu RF Patch-2	Degraded forest land	19.47	ANR@1000	19,470	1,41,06,500.00
3.	Hemgir	Beheramunda PRF	Degraded forest land	49.78	ANR@1000	49,780	3,47,49,200.00
4.	Hemgir	Tangarpali DPF	Degraded forest land	14.00	ANR@500	7,000	26,75,100.00
		<b>Total</b>		<b>218.75</b>		<b>1,44,000</b>	<b>10,64,08,800.00</b>

**Condition No.(3):- NPV:**

*a) The User Agency shall transfer the funds towards the cost of Net Present Value (NPV) of the forest land being diverted under this proposal from the User Agency as per the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 28.03.2008, 24.04.2008 and 09.05.2008 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202/1995 and the guidelines issued by this Ministry vide its letter No. 5-3/2007-FC (pt.) dated 29.12.2023 through online portal of CAMPA account of the State Concerned;*

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**Compliance:-** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has deposited a sum of Rs.27,53,87,987/- in the state specific CAMPA account vide UTR No. SBINR52025082696596623, Dtd.26.08.2025 which inter alia includes the cost of Net Present Value (NPV) of the forest land of 134.69 ha being diverted under this proposal amounting to Rs.16,54,78,787.00. The copy of receipt in support of the payment made in this regard by the User Agency is enclosed herewith as **Annexure-V**.

*b) At the time of payment of the Net Present Value (NPV) at the present rate, the user agency shall furnish an undertaking to pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India; Undertaking to pay additional NPV, if revised by Hon'ble Supreme Court.*

**Compliance:-** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the user agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division to pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, which is enclosed as **Annexure-VI**.

**Condition No. (4):-** *The State Govt. shall submit the compliance report in respect of Stage-I approval accorded to M/s MCL in Bashundhara washery by MoEF & CC vide letter no 8-176/1997 FC(Vol) dated 11.03.2019;*

**Compliance:-** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the complete compliance report in respect of Stage-I approval accorded to M/s MCL in Bashundhara washery by MoEF & CC vide letter no 8-176/1997 FC(Vol) dated 11.03.2019 submitted by the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division is enclosed herewith as **Annexure-VII Series**.

**Condition No. (5):-** *The user agency shall prepare a schedule for surrender of the mined out and reclaimed Forest land in accordance with existing mine plan and submit the same along with an undertaking to surrender the mined out and reclaimed forest land as per such schedule to the ministry, before grant of final approval under the Adhiniyam for diversion of said Forest land.*

**Compliance:-** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has submitted a schedule for surrender of mined out and reclaimed forest land prepared in accordance with existing Mining Plan-cum-Mine Closure Plan in respect of Kulda OCP (Expansion) project, Basundhara Area along with an undertaking to surrender the mined out and reclaimed forest land as per the schedule which has been technically approved by the undersigned (RCCF, Rourkela Circle, Rourkela), a copy of which is enclosed as **Annexure-VIII**.

**Condition No.(6):-** *A wildlife plan should be prepared for conservation and mitigation of impact on wildlife in consultation with CWLW and the same should be approved and monies deposited before final approval.*

**Compliance:-** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that a Site-Specific Wild Life Conservation Plan has been approved by the PCCF (Wildlife) & CWLW,

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Odisha, Bhubaneswar for Rs.11,15,12,000.00. Upon raising of necessary demand for the same by the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division, the User Agency has deposited the aforesaid amount into the State specific CAMPA account, vide UTR No. SBINR52025071892582223, Dtd. 18.07.2025. The receipts in support of the above payment made by the User Agency and a copy of the approved Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan are enclosed as **Annexure-IX Series**.

***Condition No.(7):- Compensatory levies to be realized from the User Agency under the project shall be transferred/ deposited, through e-challan, into the account of CAMPA pertaining to the State concerned through e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>);***

**Compliance:-** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that all the compensatory levies on account of CA, NPV, Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan, RWLMP etc. have been paid by the User Agency via Parivesh portal into the CAMPA account pertaining to the state of Odisha. The screenshot in support of the payment made by the User Agency is enclosed as **Annexure-X Series**.

***Condition No. (8):- The KML files of diverted area, the CA areas, the proposed SMC treatment area and the WLMP area shall be uploaded on the e-Green watch portal along with GPS Ids and all other requisite details prior to final approval;***

**Compliance:-** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the KML files of the forest area proposed for diversion, the CA areas, the proposed SMC treatment area and the WLMP have been uploaded on e-Green Watch portal. The screenshots in support of such uploading are enclosed as **Annexure-XI**.

***Condition No.(9):- Following activities, as per approved plan/schemes, shall be undertaken in the lease area by the User Agency under the supervision of the State Forest Department;***

***a) Mitigative measures to minimize soil erosion and choking of stream shall be implemented within a period of three years with effect from the issue of Stage-II clearance in accordance with the approved Plan in consultation with the State Forest Department;***

**Compliance:-** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the scheme for mitigative measures to minimize soil erosion and choking of streams prepared by the User Agency in consultation with the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division has been technically approved by him with a total financial outlay of Rs.63,01,556/-. A copy of the approved scheme is attached herewith as **Annexure-XII Series**. The User Agency has furnished an undertaking to implement the interventions proposed in the said scheme in consultation with the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division which is enclosed herewith as **Annexure XII(a)**.

***b). Planting of adequate drought hardy plant species and sowing of seeds, in the appropriate area within the mining lease to arrest soil erosion in accordance with the approved scheme;***

**Compliance:-** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the scheme for planting of adequate drought hardy plant species and sowing of seeds, in the appropriate area within the mining lease to arrest soil erosion prepared by the User Agency in

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consultation with the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division has been technically approved by him with a total financial outlay of Rs.8,58,44,558.00. A copy of the approved scheme is enclosed as **Annexure–XIII Series**. The User Agency has furnished an undertaking to implement the interventions proposed in the said scheme in consultation with the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division which is enclosed herewith as **Annexure–XIII(b)**.

*c). Construction of check dams, retention /toe walls to arrest sliding down of the excavated material along the contour in accordance with the approved scheme;*

**Compliance:-** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the scheme for construction of check dams, retention/toe walls to arrest sliding down of the excavated material along the contour prepared by the User Agency in consultation with the DFO, Sundargarh Division has been technically approved by him with a total financial outlay of Rs.5,92,52,400.00. A copy of the approved scheme is enclosed as **Annexure–XIV Series**. The User Agency has furnished an undertaking to implement the interventions proposed in the said scheme in consultation with the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division which is enclosed herewith as **Annexure–XIV(c)**.

*d). Stabilize the overburden dumps by appropriate grading/benching, in accordance with the approved scheme, so as to ensure that angles of repose at any given place is less than 28°;*

**Compliance:-** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the scheme for stabilization of the overburden dumps by appropriate grading/benching, in accordance with the approved scheme, so as to ensure that angles of repose at any given place is less than 28° prepared by the User Agency in consultation with the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division has been technically approved by him with a total financial outlay of Rs. 37,68,720.00. A copy of the approved scheme is enclosed as **Annexure–XV Series**. The User Agency has furnished an undertaking to implement the interventions proposed in the said scheme in consultation with the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division which is enclosed as **Annexure–XV(d)**.

**Condition No. (10):- Safety Zone Management: Following activities, at project cost, shall be undertaken by the user agency for the management of safety zone as per relevant guidelines issued by the Ministry's guidelines:**

*a). User agency shall ensure demarcation of safety zone (7.5-meter strip all along the inner boundary of the mining lease area), and its fencing, protection and regeneration by erecting adequate number of 6 feet high RCC boundary pillars inscribed with DGPS coordinates with barbed wire fencing and deploying adequate number of watchers under the supervision of the State Forest Department;*

**Compliance:-** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has demarcated the safety zone (7.5-meter strip all along the inner boundary of the mining lease area), by erecting adequate number of 6 feet high RCC boundary pillars inscribed

with DGPS coordinates so as to ensure its fencing, protection and regeneration with barbed wire fencing and deploying adequate number of watchers. A list showing the coordinates of safety zone boundary pillars and the photographs showing the pillars so erected are enclosed as **Annexure-XVI(a) Series.**

*b) Boundary of the safety zone of the mining lease, adjacent to habitation/roads, should be properly fenced by the user agency;*

**Compliance:-** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the user agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division that they will abide by the above condition, which is enclosed as **Annexure-XVI(b).**

*c) Safety zone shall be maintained as green belt around mining lease and to ensure dense canopy in the area, regeneration shall be taken up in this area by the user agency at project cost under the supervision of the State Forest Department;*

**Compliance:-** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that The scheme for maintaining the Safety Zone as green belt around mining lease by taking up regeneration in this area and to ensure dense canopy in the area, has been prepared by the User Agency in consultation with the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division which has been technically approved by him with a total financial outlay of Rs.1,06,95,072.00. A copy of the approved scheme is enclosed as **Annexure-XVI Series.**

Further, the User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division to implement the scheme, which is enclosed as **Annexure-XVI(c).**

*d) The State Government and the user agency shall ensure that safety zone is maintained as per the prescribed norms;*

**Compliance:-** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the user agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division that they will abide by the above condition, which is enclosed as **Annexure-XVI(d).**

**Condition No. (11):-** *No damage shall be caused to the top-soil and the user agency will follow the top soil management plan;*

**Compliance:-** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that A Top Soil Management Plan prepared by the User Agency and submitted through the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division has been technically approved by him with a total financial outlay of Rs.82,40,03,200/- vide his office Memo No.282 Dtd.21.01.2026. A copy of the approved plan is enclosed as **Annexure-XVII Series.**

Further, the User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Sundargarh Division to abide the same which is enclosed as **Annexure-XVII (a) & XVIII.**

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***Condition No. (12):- User agency either himself or through the State Forest Department shall undertake gap planting and soil & moisture conservation activities to restock and rejuvenate the degraded open forests (having crown density less than 0.40), if any, located in the area within 100 meters from outer perimeter of the mining lease. The plan for plantation and SMC activities will be prepared and submitted to MoEF&CC before final approval;***

**Compliance:-** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported the scheme for undertaking gap planting and soil & moisture conservation activities to restock and rejuvenate the degraded open forests (having crown density less than 0.40) located in the area within 100 meters from outer perimeter of the mining lease submitted by the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division has been technically approved by him with a total financial outlay of Rs.27,62,412.00. As the interventions prescribed in above scheme shall be carried out through the State Forest Department, as per demand raised by the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division, the User Agency has deposited the aforesaid cost of the scheme into the State specific CAMPA account vide UTR No. SBINR52025111405860265, Dated. 14.11.2025. The of receipt payment in this regard is enclosed as **Annexure–XIX**. A copy of the approved scheme is enclosed as **Annexure–XX Series**.

***Condition No. (13):- The User Agency shall prepare a list of existing village tanks and other water bodies with GPS co-ordinates located within five km from the mine lease boundary. This list is to be duly verified by the concerned Divisional Forest Officer. The User Agency shall regularly undertake desilting of these village tanks and other water bodies so as to mitigate the impact of siltation of such tanks/water bodies. A detailed approved plan for desilting of identified ponds and water bodies to be prepared in consultation with forest department and shall be submitted to MoEF& CC before Stage-II approval;***

**Compliance:-** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has prepared a list of existing village tanks and other water bodies with their GPS coordinates located within five kilometers from the mine lease boundary. This list has been duly verified by the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division. A detailed plan for desilting the identified tanks and water bodies has been prepared by the User Agency in consultation with the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division which has been technically approved by him with a total financial outlay of Rs.2,03,23,195.00. A copy of the approved plan for desilting is enclosed as **Annexure-XXI Series**.

Further, the User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division to implement the scheme which is enclosed as **Annexure-XXI(a)**.

***Condition No. (14):- The cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department;***

**Compliance:-** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the user agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Sundargarh Forest

Division to deposit the cost of felling of trees with the Forest Department, which is enclosed as **Annexure-XXII**.

**Condition No. (15):-** *Trees should be felled in phased manner as per the requirement in the approved Mining Plan with prior permission of concerned DFO;*

**Compliance:-** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the user agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division to take up tree felling in phased manner as per the requirement in the approved Mining Plan with prior permission of concerned DFO, which is enclosed as **Annexure-XXII**.

**Condition No. (16):-** *The user agency shall explore the possibility of translocation of maximum number of trees identified to be felled and shall ensure that any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department.*

**Compliance:** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the user agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division to explore the possibility of translocation of maximum number of trees identified to be felled and shall ensure that any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department, which is enclosed as **Annexure-XXII**.

**Condition No. (17):-** *A Site-Specific Wildlife Management Plan shall be prepared by the State Government in consultation with the PCCF (Wildlife) for the protection and conservation of wildlife of the area. A copy of approved Plan shall be submitted to the Ministry along with the compliance of Stage-I approval. Entire cost of implementation of the provisions of the Wildlife Management Plan shall be deposited into the account of CAMPA of the State;*

**Compliance:-** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that a Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan has been prepared in consultation with the PCCF (WL) & CWLW for the protection and conservation of wildlife in the project area. The Plan has been duly approved by the PCCF (Wildlife) & CWLW, Odisha, Bhubaneswar with a total financial outlay of Rs.11,15,12,000.00 vide his Letter No.8180 Dtd.19.07.2004. The User Agency has deposited the entire cost of implementation of the provisions of the Wildlife Management Plan into the State specific CAMPA account, vide UTR No. SBINR52025071892582223, Dtd.18.07.2025. The receipt in support of payment made by the User Agency in this regard is enclosed as **Annexure-IX Series**. A copy of the approved Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan is enclosed herewith as **Annexure-X Series**.

**Condition No. (18):-** *The State Government shall complete settlement of rights, in term of the Scheduled Tribes and Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, if any, on the forest land to be diverted and submit the documentary evidence, in accordance with the Rule 11 (7) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023; The User shall undertake mining in a phased manner after taking due care for reclamation of the mined over area.*

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**Compliance:-** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the settlement of rights in terms of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, has been completed on the forest land proposed for diversion in accordance with Rule 11(7) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023. The certificate under Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006 for 134.69 ha. of forest land proposed for diversion has been issued by the Collector, Sundargarh vide his Letter No.5417 Dtd.21.06.2021 which is enclosed as **Annexure-XXIII Series**.

***Condition No. (19):- The concurrent reclamation plan as per the approved mining plan shall be executed by the User Agency from the very first year, and an annual report on implementation thereof shall be submitted to the Nodal Officer, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, in the concerned State Government and the concerned Regional Office of the Ministry. If it is found from the annual report that the activities indicated in the concurrent reclamation plan are not being executed by the User Agency, the Nodal Officer or the concern Addl. Principle Chief Conservator of Forests (Central) may direct that the mining activities shall remain suspended till such time, such reclamation activities area satisfactorily executed;***

**Compliance:-** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the user agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division that they will abide by the above condition, which is enclosed as **Annexure-XXIV**.

***Condition No. (20):- The User Agency shall comply with the Hon'ble Supreme Court order on re-grassing, and re-grass the mining area and any other areas which may have been disturbed due to mining to restore them to a condition which is fit for growth of fodder, flora, fauna, etc. in a timely manner;***

**Compliance:-** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that as regards the Hon'ble Supreme Court order regarding re-grassing of mined-out areas, the User Agency has committed that, systematic re-grassing and biological reclamation of backfilled and other disturbed areas will be taken up to restore them for the growth of fodder, flora and fauna.

Reclamation and re-grassing will be carried out as part of the concurrent reclamation plan from the initial years of mining operations. The process includes:

- Grading and leveling of backfilled areas to attain the desired slope.
- Spreading of topsoil and application of organic manure to enhance fertility.
- Broadcasting of grass seeds (such as Chrysopogon zizanioides, Stylohamata, Dicanthium annulatum, cynodondactylon, etc.) for soil stabilization and development of ground cover.
- Plantation of suitable native species on dumps and reclaimed areas to promote ecological balance and biodiversity.

Further, the user agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division that they shall comply with the Hon'ble Supreme Court order on regrassing, and re-grass the mining area and any other areas which may have been disturbed due to mining to restore them to a condition which is fit for growth of fodder, flora, fauna, etc. in a timely manner, which is enclosed as **Annexure-XXV**.

***Condition No. (21):- Period of diversion of the said forest land under this approval shall be for a period co- terminus with the period of the mining lease proposed to be granted under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, as amended time to time and the Rules framed there-under;***

**Compliance:-** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that The User Agency has submitted that the diversion of forest land for the project shall be co-terminus with the period of the mining lease granted under the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, and the rules framed there under, as amended from time to time.

Accordingly, the forest land diverted under this approval shall remain under the possession and use of the User Agency only for the validity period of the mining lease. It has been formally committed by the User Agency that upon expiry or termination of the lease period, the forest land shall be handed back to the Forest Department after completion of all reclamation, rehabilitation, and re-grassing measures as prescribed in the approved Mine Closure Plan and in accordance with the Van (Samrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

Further, the User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division to implement the scheme which is enclosed as **Annexure-XXVI**.

***Condition No. (22):- The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required;***

**Compliance:-** In compliance to the above, the User Agency has submitted the Environmental Clearance (EC) for the Kulda Opencast Project (Expansion to 21.0 MTPA) under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the EIA Notification, 2006, which is enclosed as **Annexure-XXVII Series**.

***Condition No.(23):- No labour camp shall be established on the forest land and the User Agency shall provide fuels preferably alternate fuels to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas;***

**Compliance:-** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the user agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division that no labour camp shall be established on the forest land and the User Agency shall provide fuels preferably alternate fuels to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas which is enclosed as **Annexure-XXVIII**.

***Condition No. (24):- The boundary of the diverted forest land, mining lease and safety zone, as applicable, shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, distance from pillar to pillar and GPS coordinates;***

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**Compliance:-** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the boundary of the diverted forest land, mining lease and safety zone, as applicable have already been demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, distance from pillar to pillar with GPS coordinates. A list showing the forest pillars alongwith the photocopies of the pillars submitted by the User Agency is attached as **Annexure-XXIX Series**.

Further, as reported by the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division, the User Agency has demarcated the safety zone (7.5-meter strip all along the inner boundary of the mining lease area), by erecting adequate number of 6 feet high RCC boundary pillars inscribed with DGPS coordinates so as to ensure its fencing, protection and regeneration with barbed wire fencing and deploying adequate number of watchers. A list showing the coordinates of safety zone boundary pillars and the photographs showing the pillars so erected are already enclosed above as **Annexure-XVI(a) Series**. In this context, the UA has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division which is enclosed as **Annexure-XXX**.

***Condition No. (25):- The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government and the forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal except the change in land use allowed on the forest land vide Ministry's guideline dated 26.12.2024;***

**Compliance:-** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the user agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division that the layout plan of the mining plan/ proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government and the forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal which is enclosed as **Annexure-XXXI**.

***Condition No. (26):- The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government;***

**Compliance:-** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the user agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division that the forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department, or person without prior approval of the Central Government, which is enclosed as **Annexure-XXXII**.

***Condition No. (27):- No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused;***

**Compliance:-** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the user agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division that no damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused which is enclosed as **Annexure-XXXIII**.

***Condition No. (28):- The User Agency shall submit the annual self-compliance report in respect of the above stated conditions to the State Government, concerned Regional Office and to this Ministry by the end of March every year regularly;***

**Compliance:-** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the user agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division that they shall submit the annual self-compliance report in respect of the above stated conditions to the State Government, concerned Regional Office and to the Ministry by the end of March every year regularly which is enclosed as **Annexure-XXXIV**.

***Condition No. (29):- Any other condition that the concerned Regional Office of this Ministry may stipulate with the approval of competent authority in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife; and***

**Compliance:-** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the user agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division to abide by any other condition of the concerned Regional Office of the Ministry that they may stipulate with the approval of competent authority in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife which is enclosed as **Annexure-XXXV**.

***Condition No. (30):- The user agency shall comply all the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Hon'ble Court Order (s) and NGT Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.***

**Compliance:-** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the user agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division that they shall comply all the provisions of all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Hon'ble Court Order (s) and NGT Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project which is enclosed as **Annexure-XXXVI**.

***Condition No. (31):- Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed in para 1.16 of Chapter 1 of the Consolidated Guidelines and Clarifications on Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam,1980 as issued by this Ministry's letter dated 29.12.2023;***

**Compliance:-** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the user agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division that they shall ensure compliance to the provisions of all Acts, Rules and Regulation as prescribed in para 1.21 of Chapter 1 of the Handbook of comprehensive guidelines of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 as issued by this Ministry's letter No. 5-2/2017-FC dated 28.03.2019 which is enclosed as **Annexure-XXXVII**.

***Condition No.(32):- The compliance report shall be uploaded on e-portal (https://parivesh.nic.in/).***

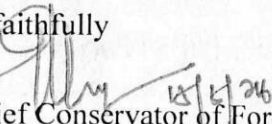
**Compliance:-** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the user agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Sundargarh Forest

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Division that the compliance report will be uploaded on e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>) of GoI, MoEF & CC., which is enclosed as **Annexure-XXXVIII**.

In view of the above, the compliance to the conditions imposed by the GoI, MoEF & CC, New Delhi is sent herewith for according final approval under Section-2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of MCL for non-forestry use of 134.69 ha of forest land for Expansion of Kulda Open Cast Coal Mining Project of Basundhara Area of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited in Sundargarh District under Sundargarh Forest Division.

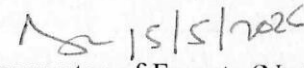
**Encl: Stage-I Compliance in one set**

Yours faithfully

  
Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
(Forest Diversion and Nodal Officer, FC Act)

Memo No. 9917 /Dt. 18-05-2026

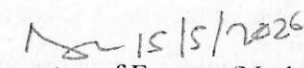
Copy forwarded to the Deputy Director General of Forests (Central), GoI, MoEF& CC, Regional Office, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar-751023 for information and necessary action with reference to Letter dated 10.07.2025 of Deputy Inspector General of Forests, Govt. of India, MoEF& CC (FC Division), New Delhi.

  
Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

Memo No. 9918 /Dt. 18-05-2026

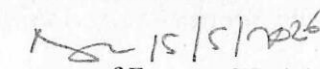
Copy alongwith one set of Stage-I compliance forwarded to the Principal Secretary to Government, Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department, Odisha, Bhubaneswar for information and necessary action with reference to Letter dated 10.07.2025 of Deputy Inspector General of Forests, Govt. of India, MoEF& CC (FC Division), New Delhi.

**Encl: Stage-I Compliance in one set**

  
Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

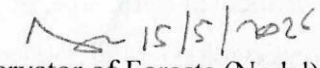
Memo No. 9919 /Dt. 18-05-2026

Copy forwarded to the RCCF, Rourkela Circle for information and necessary action with reference to his Memo No.360 dated 29.01.2026 and Memo No.1547 dated 26.03.2026.

  
Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

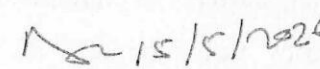
Memo No. 9920 /Dt. 18-05-2026

Copy forwarded to the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division for information and necessary action with reference to Memo No.361 dated 29.01.2026 and Memo No.1548 dated 26.03.2026 of RCCF, Rourkela Circle.

  
Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

Memo No. 9921 /Dt. 18-05-2026

Copy forwarded to Project Officer, Kulda OCP of Basundhara Area MCL for information with reference to Memo No.362 dated 29.01.2026 and Memo No.1549 dated 26.03.2026 of RCCF, Rourkela Circle.

  
Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)