

**F. No. FC-II/MH-165/2021-NGP**

Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
(Forest Conservation Division)

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Indira Paryavaran Bhawan  
Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road  
New Delhi- 110003  
Dated:23-08-2025

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests)  
Government of Maharashtra  
Mumbai.

**Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 12.07 ha forest land for Sakhari-Irawati (Pouni III) Opencast Mine Project in Reserve Forest Compartment No. R-603 in favour of M/s Western Coalfields Limited in Chandrapur District of Maharashtra State (Online No. FP/MH/MIN/8832/2014) - regarding.**

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Govt. of Maharashtra's letter no. Desk-17/Nodal/I/ID-12417(14-15)2024-2025/1003 dated 28.07.2025 on the proposal mentioned in above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government in accordance with Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. In this regard, the following shortcomings has been observed in the information submitted by the State Govt.:

- i. In compliance to the condition at Sr. no (ii) of the Stage-1 approval, the State has not initiated and taken up the matter for the correction of digital forest boundaries with FSI in case of the non-forest area, which is within forest boundary as per DSS Analysis in the instant project;
- ii. In compliance to condition at sr no (iv) the state has mentioned that the proposed area is not part of DSS corridor, whereas in the proposal it was informed that the project area located within tiger corridor joining TATR & Indravati tiger reserve as per Telemetry data of Wildlife Institute of India.
- iii. In compliance to condition at sr no(v) the number of trees has still been mentioned as zero without any justification of the fact that the density of the area was reported by the State as 0.4.
- iv. In compliance of the condition no. (ix) of the Stage-I approval, the KML file is not uploaded on e-Green watch portal. The same needs to be uploaded and GPS ID may be submitted.
- v. In compliance to condition at sr no (xi), the User Agency has not prepared a detailed plan for life of project as per mining plan, clearly linking the progress of mining and felling of the trees. Felling of trees shall be done, when it is absolutely necessary in phase-wise manner in the areas which become due

for mining as per mining plan.

- vi. In compliance to condition at Sr. no (xii) the state has not submitted a schedule for surrender of the mined out and reclaimed forest land in accordance with existing mining plan
- vii. In compliance to condition at Sr. no xviii, it is has been mentioned that a geo-tagged map showing village tanks and water bodies within 5 km radius of the Sakhari-Irawati (Pouni III) and the GPS Coordinates of village tanks / water bodies is attached. However the same has not been found attached.
- viii. In compliance of the condition no. (xxi) of the Stage-I approval, the comprehensive soil conservation plan is not submitted along with compliance report.

In view of above, the State Government is requested to furnish the above mentioned information to the Ministry for further consideration of the proposal.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

(Suneet Bhardwaj)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:-

1. PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest, Government of Maharashtra, Mumbai.
2. DDGF (Central), MoEF&CC's Regional Office, at Nagpur.
3. APCCF—cum-Nodal Officer, Government of Maharashtra.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi for uploading.