

MINISTRY OF MINES
Major Highlights / Activities

August, 2023

- During the month of August 2023, two important Acts under the ambit of Ministry of Mines, namely the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957 and the Offshore Areas Mineral (Development & Regulation) (OAMDR) Act, 2002, have been amended by the Parliament and notified.
- The MMDR Amendment Act, 2023 empowers the Central Government to exclusively auction mining leases and composite licenses in respect of 'critical and strategic mineral'. The list of such minerals is at **Annexure - I**.
- Accordingly, Ministry of Mines will shortly start the auction of critical and strategic minerals. In this regard, the Ministry has initiated preparations as under:
 - i. SBI Capital Markets Limited has been appointed as the Transaction Advisor to assist the Central Government to conduct auction.
 - ii. Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) to be engaged as the agency for preparation and demonstration of mineral blocks for the purpose of auction.
 - iii. MSTC Ltd. to be engaged to provide e-auction platform.
 - iv. Geological Reports (G2/G3 level) and Geological Memoranda (G4 level) in respect of critical and strategic minerals handed over to various State Governments by GSI/ MECL, have also been shared with MECL to analyse the same for the purpose of auction.
- A bilateral meeting between Shri Vivek Bhardwaj, the then Secretary (Mines) and Chilean delegation led by Mr. Sebastian Gomez, Commerce Secretary, Chile, was held on 08.08.2023 to discuss issues of mutual interest, pertaining to opportunities in mining and lithium cooperation between Chile and India.
- A meeting of Empowered Committee of Secretaries (ECoS) under the chairmanship of Shri Vivek Bhardwaj, the then Secretary (Mines) was held on 30.08.2023 to discuss the following proposals for investment

abroad by CPSEs/ JVs under the administrative control of the Ministry of Mines:

- i. Exploration and Development Agreement between Khanij Bidesh India Ltd (KABIL) and Catamarca Minera Y Energetica Sociedad Del Estado (CAMYEN), a Government company of Argentina, for taking up exploration and exploitation of five identified blocks of Lithium in Catamarca Province.
 - ii. Opening of an offshore office of KABIL in the city of Catamarca for coordination with the provincial regulatory authority during various stages of exploration and exploitation in the five blocks offered by CAMYEN, Argentina and to depute officers from KABIL to the branch office in Catamarca.
 - iii. Approval for investment of USD 25.712 million (approx. Rs. 211 crore) over a period of five years for exploration and development of Lithium mines in Argentina.
- To strengthen the quality control eco-system for non-ferrous metals sector in the country, notification for three Quality Control Orders (QCOs) viz. Aluminium and Aluminium Alloys, Copper and Nickel powder, covering seven items was issued on 31.08.2023, following the due process of notification of technical regulations. This will help curb the import of sub-standard products, prevent unfair trade practices, and ensure supply of quality products to the domestic consumers including industrial users. The QCOs will also ensure Indian product quality in these items akin to global standards, and enhance the brand value of 'Make in India' in the international market.
 - The 5th round of India-Australia Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) negotiations on "Critical Minerals" and "2023 Korea-India Mineral Cooperation Round Table" to promote and strengthen cooperation in the field of mineral sector between the two countries were held on 09.08.2023 and 11.08.2023 respectively, in New Delhi. Both the meetings were attended by Joint Secretary, Ministry of Mines.
 - Ministry of Mines, with officials from the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) and the Geological Survey of India (GSI), participated in the 26th National e-Governance Conference at Indore and set up a stall for disseminating two major information technology projects - National Geo-science Data Repository of GSI and Mining Tenement

System (MTS) of IBM.

- The closing ceremony of 75 AYUSH Wellness Camps, organized by the Ministry to mark *Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav*, was held on 04.08.2023. Hon'ble Minister of AYUSH and Ports, Shipping and Waterways was the Chief Guest at the function. In addition to the AYUSH Wellness Camps, other theme-based campaigns viz. 75 geo-heritage camps, 75 metal recycling drives, 75 exploration site visits and Lecture series on rock engineering covering 75 colleges, organized as part of AKAM 2.0, culminated in August.
- Ministry of Mines and field formations under its administrative control celebrated 77th Independence Day of India with enthusiasm and gaiety in all the offices and observed 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' and "Har Ghar Tiranga" campaign on 15.08.2023.
- The Index of mineral production for the month of July 2023 was 111.9, which is 10.7% higher as compared to the level in the month of July, 2022.
- State Governments are continuing to use District Mineral Foundation (**DMF**) funds to combat COVID-19, wherein Rs.1510.58 crore has been spent till 31.07.2023 (monthly expenditure in July, 2023 is Nil.). The latest position of funds utilization by the States up to 31.07.2023 is at **Annexure-II**.
- Since the amendment of MMDR Act, 1957 in 2015, a total of 293 mineral blocks have been auctioned till 31.08.2023 across 11 States. Further, 7 mineral blocks (2 Iron ore, 1 Iron and Manganese Ore, 2 Basemetal & Associated Minerals and 2 Basemetal) were successfully auctioned in the month of August, 2023 and 17 new NITs for Limestone, Potash, Basemetal & Associated Minerals and Potash (Gluconite) have been issued for the State of Rajasthan in the month of August, 2023.
- Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojna (**PMKKKY**) is being implemented through the funds collected under District Mineral Foundation (**DMF**) and till July, 2023, Rs.81,282.99 cr. was collected (monthly collection in July, 2023, Rs.1608.96 cr.). Till

July, 2023, Rs.74,235.72 cr. stands allocated and Rs.44,458.60 cr. has been spent. Total 3,00,623 projects have been sanctioned under the scheme and out of them, a total of 1,62,736 projects have been completed so far.

- Three meetings were held in the Month of August 2023, to review the progress of auctions in the State. The details are as under:
 - i. Meeting of the then Secretary (Mines) with CS & Secretary (Mines & Geology), Govt. of Jharkhand on 21.08.2023 regarding mining related issues.
 - ii. Meeting with the Government of Uttarakhand was held under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary, Ministry of Mines on 30.08.2023 through VC.
 - iii. Meeting with the Government of Bihar was held under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary, Ministry of Mines on 31.08.2023 through VC.
- Shri Janardan Prasad, Director General, GSI and Sh. Adil Zainulbhai, Chairman, Capacity Building Commission (CBC) co-chaired the Annual Capacity Building Plan (ACBP) kick-off meeting of GSI as proposed by the Capacity Building Commission, Government of India on 01.08.2023. To mark the contribution of GSI on the iGOT: Karmayogi platform, a 24-page booklet entitled, 'Online Course Content Creation by GSI Training Institute on iGOT Portal of Mission: Karmayogi Bharat' was released by the DG, GSI and Chairman, CBC.
- DG, GSI met with senior representatives from Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) on 08.08.2023 for collaborative research on alternative energy sources to achieve India's long-term commitment of Net-Zero emission.
- DG, GSI attended a meeting, chaired by the then Secretary, Mines to review the promotion and maintenance of Geoheritage sites and Geo-relics on 14.08.2023 with the senior officers of GSI and SBICAPS personnel. The than Secretary, Mines advised to hold VC meeting once a week between GSI and SBICAPS to review the status of work and monthly review meetings by the DG, GSI.

- DG, GSI held a meeting on 16.08.2023 with Shri Sanjiva de Silva, Counsellor, Australian High Commission in India to discuss collaboration in the fields of Climate Change, Energy and resources.
- DG, GSI along with ADG, PSS and other senior officers of GSI attended the Study Visit of the Standing Committee on Coal, Mines and Steel to Mangalore/Coorg from 21.08.2023 to 23.08.2023.
- UAV survey related activities: A register of receipt of drone/satellite data submitted by the lessees under rule 34A of MCDR 2017 is being maintained at IBM. Action is being taken to create GIS layers, through Mining Plan Data/ the boundary pillar coordinates of the auctioned blocks & leases, for comparison with drone/satellite data. IBM at its Headquarters has recently commissioned its largest Data Centers with capacity of 131 Terabytes. Up to August, 2023, 1105 mines have submitted online Drone data on Drone Data Management System.
- IBM carried out 121 inspections (under MCDR/ MP/Other references) during the month of August, 2023. As per the dashboard of Mining Plan (Including Mining Plan, Review of Mining Plan & Modification of Mining Plans), during the year 2023-24 at the beginning of August, 2023, 112 Mining plans (Including Mining Plan, Review of Mining Plan & Modification of Mining Plans) were under processing and 44 Mining Plan Applications were received during the month of August, 2023 (112+44=156). Out of these 156, during August, 2023, 28 mining Plans were approved, 03 were not approved, 01 Plan was withdrawn by the parties and 124 Mining Plans were under processing at the end of the month. Cumulatively up to August, 2023, IBM carried out 446 inspections; disposed 214 applications under MPAS.
- IBM completed Full Scale & Limited Scale Ore Dressing Investigations (ODI) equivalent to 3.5, 2320 Chemical Analysis and 253 Mineralogical Examinations in the month of August, 2023. Cumulatively up to August, 2023 IBM carried out 19.25 Ore Dressing Investigations, 9495 Chemical Analysis and 1250

Mineralogical Examinations.

- IBM's Training Centre: So far Five Course Modules have been uploaded on iGOT Platform. Further, cumulatively, till August, 2023, IBM organized 04 training programmes in which 107 IBM and 127 Industry personnel participated and revenue of Rs.11,43,000/- was generated.
- Sustainable Development in mines: Portal for performance year 2022-23 has been opened and so far 1243 lessees have filed SDF templates out of which 88 templates are validated.
- Mining Surveillance System: During the Phase IV (2022-23), 138 triggers are generated so far up to August, 2023 of which 34 triggers are verified by the concerned State Governments and 07 cases of unauthorised mining have been detected.
- Mining Tenement System (MTS): Registration, Returns and Mining Plan Modules of MTS were launched in 6th Mining Conclave on 12.7.2022. IBM registration portal has been successfully integrated with NSWS portal on 1.5.23. Registration Module: During the FY 23-24 till August 2023, a total of 266 Nos. of registration for different business domains has been carried out in the portal. Cumulatively Up to July, 2023, 8087 Miners, 5400 End Users, 10359 Traders, 2922 Stockiest, 1592 Exporters have registered online. Returns Module: Up to August, 2023 1825 miners and 674 End Users have submitted Annual Returns for 2022-23. Mining Plan Module: During 2023-24, up to August, 2023, 184 Mining Plans have been approved online in IBM-MPAS. DPR in respect of the other modules is in progress and they will become operational in phased manner.
- Joint Secretary, Ministry of Mines held a meeting on 23.08.2023 to discuss the plan of action for auction of Critical and Strategic Mineral blocks with SBICAPs, MECL, MSTC Ltd and GSI. The DDG & Head, NM-II attended the meeting.
- Ministry of Mines vide G.S.R. 642(E) dated 31.08.2023 has notified the M/s Engeotech Consultant under 'Category A

Exploration Agencies' for the purposes of the second proviso to sub-section (1) of section 4 of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) (MMDR) Act.

- The new resolution of the Central Geological Programming Board (CGPB) was published in the e-gazette of India on 22.08.2023.
- The then Secretary (Mines) inaugurated a workshop on “Critical Minerals” organized by the Indian National Committee of the World Mining Congress on 28.08.2023 at New Delhi and addressed the stakeholders of the India’s Critical Mineral Industry.
- Activities and highlights of National Aluminium Company Limited (**NALCO**) & Hindustan Copper Limited (**HCL**), CPSEs under Ministry of Mines are as under:

NALCO

- NALCO has posted PAT of Rs.349.39 Cr in the 1st quarter of FY 23-24.
- NALCO observed “Meri Mati Mera Desh” Campaign with launching of mass plantation drive at its S&P complex, Angul.
- As part of 3 months campaign for Vigilance Awareness Week 2023, a talk on leadership through self-engineering was organized on 22.08.2023 at corporate office, NALCO.
- With the theme of Sports as an enabler for an inclusive and fit society, NALCO celebrated National Sports Day 2023. Sports competition among employees, family members, school students were also organized at S&P complex, Angul and at M&R complex, Damanjodi.

HCL

- Ore production of MCP for the month of August, 2023 is 103% of the target.
- HCL added 66.59 million tonnes of Copper Ore in its reserves and resource base during FY 2022-23. As on 01.04.2023, the total

Reserve & Resource of Copper Ore within HCL's mining leases is 698.44 million tonnes of ore with average grade of 1.31% copper.

- The then Secretary (Mines) visited Indian Copper Complex (ICC) in Jharkhand on 20.08.2023. He visited the mining locations of ICC and reviewed the current mining situation of ICC, Ghatsila Unit of HCL and also inaugurated the upgradation of VFD panels and PLC system for Sub incline winder underground at 4th Level, Shaft no. 3, Surda Mine.
- Hindustan Copper Limited signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Mineral Exploration and Consultancy Limited (MECL) on 25.08.2023 for a duration of three years to carry out exploration and allied works within its mining leases in Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.
- Meeting of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Coal, Mines & Steel was held at Coorg, Karnataka on 22.08.2023 to discuss on the topic of self-reliance of metals and minerals with reference to copper industries.
- Hon'ble Minister of Education, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship inaugurated DBT in National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme on 11.08.2023 at Kaushal Bhavan, New Delhi. Director (Operations), HCL has attended the event.
- CMD, HCL and other employees of HCL took a pledge on the occasion of Organ Donation Day (Angdaan Mahotsav) across all units of HCL on 03.08.2023 to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of independence of India, as per directives of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- Extensive campaigns were carried out by HCL, focusing on the National AYUSH Mission. 21 AYUSH wellness camps were held in Khetri Copper Complex, Rajasthan, 23 were held in Indian Copper Complex, Jharkhand, 21 in Malanjkhand Copper Project, MP, 5 in Taloja Copper Project, Maharashtra, 3 in Gujarat Copper Project & 2 in Kolkata, where HCL is headquartered.
- "Meri Maati Mera Desh" Abhiyan was carried out in all the Units and Offices of HCL with great fervor on 14.08.2023. In the occasion, CMD, HCL, also administered the Panch Pran Shapath to the employees of HCL Corporate Office in Kolkata.

- CMD, HCL inaugurated the HCL Pavilion in the 26th National Exhibition in Kolkata on 24.08.2023 which is themed on "Contribution to make Advanced, Powerful and Great India" in celebration of India's G20 Presidency. Hindustan Copper Limited won the award for the best pavilion.
- On the occasion of the National Sports Day on 29.08.2023 employees of HCL took the Fit India pledge to lead active and healthy lifestyle and to take sports as an integral part of their lives. Sports activities were also organized across the Units of HCL as well as Corporate Office.

Annexure - I

List of Critical and Strategic Minerals specified in Part D of the First Schedule of the MMDR Act.

1. Beryl and other beryllium bearing minerals.
2. Cadmium bearing minerals.
3. Cobalt bearing minerals.
4. Gallium bearing minerals.
5. Glauconite.
6. Graphite.
7. Indium bearing minerals.
8. Lithium bearing minerals.
9. Molybdenum bearing minerals.
10. Nickel bearing minerals.
11. Niobium bearing minerals.
12. Phosphate (without uranium).
13. Platinum group of elements bearing minerals.
14. Potash.
15. Minerals of the "rare earths" group not containing Uranium and Thorium.
16. Rhenium bearing minerals.
17. Selenium bearing minerals.
18. Tantalum bearing minerals.
19. Tellurium bearing minerals.
20. Tin bearing minerals.
21. Titanium bearing minerals and ores (ilmenite, rutile and leucoxene).
22. Tungsten bearing minerals.
23. Vanadium bearing minerals.
24. Zirconium bearing minerals and ores including zircon.

Annexure - II**Expenditure Report for COVID-19 - DMF funds
Till July, 2023**

S.No.	Name of State	DMF fund available as on 28th March 2020 (Rs.in crore)	DMF fund available as on 31st March 2021 (Rs.in crore)	Cumulative amount spent on activities related to COVID-19 since 28 Mar 2020 (Rs. in crore)
1	Andhra Pradesh	623.12	278.68	139.79
2	Assam	77.5	-	0.65
3	Bihar	84.5	-	0
4	Chhattisgarh*	1190.04	1707.59	106.41
5	Goa	187.89	-	30.53
6	Gujarat	153.52	83.68	26.23
7	Haryana	20.24	-	0
8	Himachal Pradesh	135.66	-	0.43
9	Jharkhand	2056.85	-	22.85
10	Karnataka	1281.64	1211.64	204.79
11	Kerala	2	-	0
12	Madhya Pradesh	1297.65	1185.56	9.24
13	Maharashtra	687.99	-	59.5
14	Odisha	3274.18	6418.9	475.57
15	Punjab	26.16	-	0.65
16	Rajasthan	2020.08	2625.28	60.03
17	Tamilnadu	98.93	99.6	17.92
18	Telangana\$	1001.2	-	334.08
19	Uttar Pradesh	383.22	423.22	11.29
20	Uttarakhand	74.39	110.62	10.16
21	West Bengal	17.7	-	0.46
Total		14694.46	14144.77	1510.58

Note: Total balance available in DMF as on 2th March is 14694.47 cr. and 30% of this comes as approx. 4408 cr.

\$ As per D.O.No.7/2/2020-MIV, dated 28.03.2020 Rs 334.08 crore from 19 districts has been transferred to Chief Minister's relief fund.

* Chhattisgarh reported correction in COVID19 reporting in

I/3011602/2023

January, 2023 for districts Bijapur (5.14 cr. reduced to 2.53 cr.) and
Korea (7.66 cr. reduced to 2.63 cr.)
