A workshop on "Enhancing participation of States in Mineral Exploration’ involving six States’ Directorate of Mining & Geology (DMGs) and the Mineral Development Corporations (MDCs) of these States was organized at Hyderabad, Telangana on 8th October, 2018. The workshop was sponsored by Telangana State Mineral Development Corporation (TSMDC), Hyderabad. The representatives from the States of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and their MDCs participated in the workshop.

Secretary (Mines) chaired the 10th meeting of the Executive Committee of National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) on 30th October, 2018. The total cost of new projects approved by Executive Committee is Rs. 9886.07 Lakh (inclusive of all taxes).

A team of scientists from National Research Council (CNR)-IRPI, Italy visited GSI, CHQ, Kolkata between 3rd and 11th October, 2018 and an agreement has been made to jointly carry out landslide modeling and provide training to six GSI officers engaged in Landslide Investigation project.

Secretary (Mines) chaired the Central Coordination-cum-Empowered Committee (CCEC) meeting of 21 Mineral rich States on 12th October, 2018 at Ahmedabad, Gujarat. In this meeting: (a) Progress & preparedness for e-auction of mineral blocks for 2018-19; (b) Status of Statutory Clearances for the auctioned mineral blocks; (c) Progress for auction of Mining Leases expiring in 2020; (d) Progress of Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY); (e) Implementation of Mining Tenement System (MTS); (f) Mining Surveillance System (MSS); (g) Star Rating of Mines and Minor Mineral Rules were discussed.

Swachhata Pakhwada was organized by the Ministry from 16th October 2018 to 31st October, 2018. During the fortnight various activities were carried out by the Ministry and its subordinate/attached offices and PSUs.

An MOU has been signed between GSI and National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) – CSIR, for collaboration in chemical analyses for National Geochemical Mapping samples on 25.10.2018.