

M.VI-16/51/2026-Mines VI
Government of India
Ministry of Mines

GPOA-3, Netaji Nagar, New Delhi.
Dated: 11.06.2026

NOTICE FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Subject: Draft rules pursuant to the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2026 - reg.

The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2026 has received assent of the President on the 7th April, 2026 and has been notified in the Gazette on 8th April, 2026. The Jan Vishwas Act has amended various Central enactments, including, the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act) and the Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 2002 (OAMDR Act) with the aim to decriminalise minor offences to reduce the compliance burden on businesses, promote ease of doing business and ease of living for citizens.

2. The amendments made to the MMDR Act and OAMDR Act, *inter alia*, have decriminalised contravention of rules or terms and conditions of the mineral concessions/ operating rights. Under the amended provisions, such contraventions will now attract civil penalty. In order to effectively implement the amended provisions, the first step is to frame the rules prescribing manner of holding inquiry, adjudication by the adjudicating officer and appeal.

3. Accordingly, following draft rules under the MMDR Act and the OAMDR Act have been prepared:

(a) draft Minerals (Manner of Holding Inquiry and Appeal) Rules, 2026
[Annexure 1]

(b) draft Offshore Areas Mineral (Manner of Holding Inquiry and Appeal) Rules, 2026 [Annexure 2]

4. Further, certain consequential changes would be required in the existing rules framed under the MMDR Act and the OAMDR Act in view of the above draft rules. These draft amendment rules are enclosed herewith as **Annexures 3 to 8**.

5. In view of the above, the general public, Governments of States and Union Territories, mining industry stake-holders, industry associations, and other persons and entities concerned are requested to send their comments/ suggestions **on or before 11.07.2026**.

6. The comments/suggestions may be sent by e-mail in MS-Office Word file to the following ID:

policy-mines@gov.in

7. The subject of the e-mail should be "Draft rules pursuant to the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2026".

8. Alternatively, comments/suggestions may also be sent by post to the following address:

Shri Nalin Bilochan,
Director,
Ministry of Mines
Room No 4415,
GPOA-3, Netaji Nagar,
New Delhi.

9. The envelope may kindly be superscribed on the top with "Draft rules pursuant to the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2026".

Encl.: As above.


(Nalin Bilochan)
Director

[TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE OF INDIA, EXTRAORDINARY, PART II,
SECTION 3, SUB-SECTION (i)]

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES**

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the ___ June, 2026.

G.S.R.__(E). — In exercise of the powers conferred by section 25D of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (67 of 1957), the Central Government hereby makes the following rules, namely: —

1. Short title and commencement. — (1) These rules may be called the Minerals (Manner of Holding Inquiry and Appeal) Rules, 2026.

(2) These rules shall come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

2. Definitions. — (1) In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires, —

(a) "Act" means the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (67 of 1957);

(b) "adjudicating officer" means an officer appointed under sub-section (1) or (2) of section 25B of the Act, as the case may be;

(c) "appellant" means a person aggrieved with an order of adjudicating officer and prefers an appeal before the appellate authority under sub-section (1) of section 25C of the Act;

(d) "appellate authority" means an officer appointed under sub-section (1) of section 25C of the Act;

(e) "form" means a form appended to these rules;

(f) "inquiry" means the inquiry referred in sub-section (1) and (2) of section 25B of the Act;

(g) "Schedule" means the schedule annexed to these rules; and

(h) "section" means a section of the Act.

(2) The words and expressions used in these rules and not defined, but defined in the Act, shall have the same meanings respectively assigned to them in the Act.

3. Complainant. — An officer not below the rank of the Under Secretary to the Government of India or of equivalent rank in the State Government, authorised by the Central Government or the State Government, as the case may be, may file a complaint in Form 1 to the adjudicating officer regarding any contravention under section 25A of the Act.

4. Penalty. — The adjudicating officer shall impose civil penalty for an amount as specified in the Schedule for the contravention under section 25A of the Act.

5. Holding of inquiry. — (1) For the purpose of adjudication of penalties under section 25B of the Act, on receipt of any complaint indicating any contravention under section 25A of the Act, the adjudicating officer shall, issue a notice in Form 2 to such person, requiring him to show cause within such period as may be specified in the notice (being not less than seven days from the date of service thereof) why an inquiry should not be held against him.

(2) Every notice under sub-rule (1) shall indicate the nature of contravention alleged to have been committed.

(3) After considering the cause, if any, shown by such person, the adjudicating officer is of the opinion that an inquiry should be held, he shall issue a notice in Form 3 requiring the appearance of the person proceeded against and such other persons as may be necessary personally or through a representative duly authorised by him on such date as may be fixed in the notice.

(4) On the date fixed, the adjudicating officer shall explain to the person proceeded against or his authorised representative, the contravention committed by such person and the provision of the Act, in respect of which contravention is alleged to have been committed.

(5) The adjudicating officer shall, then, give an opportunity to such person and other necessary persons to produce such documents or evidence under Form 4 as they may consider relevant to the inquiry and if necessary, the hearing may be adjourned to a future date (not later than fifteen days from the first date and up to a maximum of three dates) and in taking such evidence the adjudicating officer shall not be bound to observe the provisions of the Bhartiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 (47 of 2023).

(6) If any person fails, neglects or refuses to appear as required under sub-rule (3) before the adjudicating officer, the adjudicating officer may proceed with the inquiry in the absence of such person after recording the reasons for doing so.

(7) If, upon consideration of the evidence produced before the adjudicating officer, the adjudicating officer is satisfied that the person has committed the contravention, he shall, having regard to the factors specified rule 6, by order in writing, impose such penalty under the Act as he considers reasonable for an amount as specified in the Schedule.

(8) Every order made under sub-rule (7) shall specify the provision of the Act, rules made thereunder or the terms and condition of mineral concession in respect of which contravention has been committed and shall contain the reasons for imposing the penalty.

(9) Every order made under sub-rule (7) shall be dated and signed by the adjudicating officer.

(10) A copy of the order made under this rule and all other copies of proceedings shall be supplied free of cost to the person against whom the inquiry was held.

(11) The adjudicating officer shall complete the proceeding within six months from the issuance of the notice to the person against whom the inquiry was held.

(12) A notice or an order issued under these rules shall be served on the person against whom an inquiry is held, in any of the following manner, namely: —

(i) by delivering or tendering it to that person or his authorized representative; or

(ii) by sending it to the person through electronic means or by registered post or speed post to the address of his place of residence or his last known place of residence or the place where he carried on or last carried on, business or personally works or last worked for gain; or

(iii) If it cannot be served in the manner specified under clauses (i) or (ii), by affixing it on the outer door or some other conspicuous part of the premises in which that person resides or is known to have last resided or carried on business or personally works or has worked for gain.

6. Factors to be considered while determining quantum of penalty. — The adjudicating officer, while adjudicating the quantum of penalty within the range specified in the Schedule, shall have due regard to all or any of the following factors, namely: —

(a) quantum of deviation or contravention from the standard provided under the rules or terms and conditions of the mineral concession;

(b) undue gain or benefit derived out of contravention and its amount, wherever quantifiable;

(c) repetitive nature or frequency of the contravention;

(d) duration of contravention;

(e) past compliance record of the person proceeded against;

(f) star rating of the mining lease; or

(g) any other relevant factor.

7. Summary disposal. — (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in rules 4 and 5 and subject to the provisions of this rule, no inquiry shall be initiated or continued against a person in respect of a contravention under section 25A of the Act, if such person makes payment of the minimum amount specified in the Schedule for the contravention and rectify the contravention of the rules or terms and conditions of the mineral concession, either before initiation or during any stage of inquiry under rule 5:

Provided that the provisions of this rule shall not be applicable if such person commits contravention of the same rule or terms and conditions of the mineral concession for more than three times.

Explanation. — For the purpose of this sub-rule, “minimum amount specified in the Schedule” shall mean, —

(a) in case of contravention of rules or terms and conditions of mineral concession which specify time period of submission of report or information, aggregate of the amount specified for each day of contravention in the Schedule till continuation of such contravention;

(b) in case of other contravention, the minimum amount specified in the range of amount specified in the Schedule.

(2) For the purpose of sub-rule (1), the person who has made a contravention shall file an application to the adjudicating officer in the form of an affidavit specifying the following: —

(a) details of contravention for which the application is being filed along with notice received regarding the contravention, if any;

(b) details of subsequent rectification of the contravention along with a copy of document in support of the same; and

(c) undertaking to deposit the amount under sub-rule (1).

(3) The adjudicating authority shall within fifteen days of the receipt of the application under sub-rule (2), intimate the applicant to deposit the amount under sub-rule (1).

(4) The applicant shall deposit the amount within fifteen days of the intimation under sub-rule (3) and on receipt of amount, the adjudicating officer will issue a closure order and no inquiry shall be initiated or continued against a person in respect of said contravention.

8. Transfer of complaint. — (1) If the adjudicating officer is of the view or it is made to appear that he does not have jurisdiction to entertain any complaint under these rules, he shall transfer the matter to the adjudicating officer concerned within fifteen days of the receipt of such complaint or information made to him after reasons to be recorded in writing.

(2) The adjudicating officer to whom such case is transferred shall proceed with the inquiry from the stage it is transferred to him.

9. Appeal. — (1) Any person aggrieved by an order passed by the adjudicating officer, may file an appeal under section 25C of the Act to the appellate authority.

(2) A memorandum of appeal shall be presented as per Form 5 within a period of thirty days from the date of receipt of the order against which the appeal is filed.

(3) The appeal shall be accompanied by a copy of order of adjudicating officer and a statement of facts appealed against, the grounds for appeal and the relevant section of the Act.

(4) The appeal may be filed by the appellant in person or by his representative duly authorized in writing, or by registered post or speed post or through electronic means.

(5) The appeal sent by post shall be deemed to have been filed to the appellate authority on the day it is received.

(6) If on scrutiny, the appeal is found to be in order, it shall be admitted and in case the appeal is found to be defective, the appellate authority shall intimate the appellant about the defects and allow him to rectify the defects within fifteen days and if the appellant fails to rectify such defects within the time period, the appellate authority may by order and for reasons to be recorded in writing, decline to register such appeal and communicate such refusal to the appellant with a period of seven days thereof.

(7) On admission of the appeal, the appellate authority shall serve a copy of appeal to respondent along with a notice requiring him to file his reply thereto, within such period, not exceeding thirty days, as may be stipulated by the appellate authority in the said notice.

(8) The notice may be served by hand or by registered post or speed post or through electronic means.

(9) The appellate authority may call for the records relating to the proceedings from the adjudicating officer.

(10) The appellate authority may, after giving the parties to the appeal an opportunity of being heard, pass such orders as he may consider reasonable.

(11) The appellate authority shall dispose of the appeal within sixty days from the date of appeal.

10. Extension of time. —The adjudicating officer or the appellate authority may, for reasons to be recorded in writing, where there is a sufficient cause for the delay or failure to act, extend any period specified in these rules for filing of complaint, appeal or other related documents till such period as he considers reasonable.

11. Order and deposit of penalties. — (1) Every order under these rules, shall be dated, signed and communicated to all the parties.

(2) All sums realised by way of penalties under these rules shall be credited to the Consolidated Fund of India or the Consolidated Fund of the State, as the case may be.

The Schedule

(see rule 4 and 5(7))

AMOUNT OF CIVIL PENALTY

Part-A. Amount of civil penalty in respect of the holder of mining lease

S. No.	Area of mining lease	Nature of contravention	Amount of Civil Penalty
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
1	Leased area up to 5 hectare	(i) For contravention of rules or terms and conditions of the mineral concession which specify time period of submission of report or information and rule 19 of the Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 2017	(i) ₹2,000/- for each day of contravention, subject to maximum of ₹2,00,000/-

		(ii) For other contravention not covered under clause (i)	(ii) not less than ₹1,00,000/- which may extend to ₹10,00,000/-
2	Leased area more than 5 hectare and up to 50 hectare	(i) For contravention of rules or terms and conditions of the mineral concession which specify time period of submission of report or information and rule 19 of the Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 2017 (ii) For other contravention not covered under clause (i)	(i) ₹5,000/- for each day of contravention, subject to maximum of ₹5,00,000/- (ii) not less than ₹2,00,000/- which may extend to ₹20,00,000/-
3	Leased area from 50 hectare to 150 hectare	(i) For contravention of rules or terms and conditions of the mineral concession which specify time period of submission of report or information and rule 19 of the Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 2017 (ii) For other contravention not covered under clause (i)	(i) ₹10,000/- for each day of contravention, subject to maximum of ₹10,00,000/- (ii) not less than ₹5,00,000/- which may extend to ₹30,00,000/-
4	Leased area more than 150 hectare	(i) For contravention of rules or terms and conditions of the mineral concession which specify time period of submission of report or information and rule 19 of the Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 2017 (ii) For other contravention	(i) ₹20,000/- for each day of contravention, subject to maximum of ₹50,00,000/- (ii) not less than ₹10,00,000/- which may extend to ₹50,00,000/-

Part-B. Amount of civil penalty in respect of the holder of mineral concession other than mining lease

S. No.	Area of mineral concession	Nature of contravention	Amount of Civil Penalty
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
1	Area of mineral concession up to 100 hectare	(i) For contravention of rules or terms and conditions of the mineral concession which specify time period of submission of report or information (ii) For other contravention not covered under clause (i)	(i) ₹5,000 for each day of contravention, subject to maximum of ₹5,00,000/- (ii) not less than ₹2,00,000/- which may extend to ₹20,00,000/-
2	Area of mineral concession more than 100 hectare	(i) For contravention of rules or terms and conditions of the mineral concession which specify time period of submission of report or information (ii) For other contravention not covered under clause (i)	(i) ₹10,000 for each day of contravention, subject to maximum of ₹10,00,000/- (ii) not less than ₹5,00,000/- which may extend to ₹30,00,000/-

Part-C. Amount of civil penalty in respect of person not holding a mineral concession

S. No.	Nature of contravention	Amount of Civil Penalty
(a)	(b)	(c)
1	(i) For contravention of rules (other than rules made under section 18B) which specify time period of submission of report or information (ii) For other contravention not covered under clause (i)	(i) ₹5,000 for each day of contravention, subject to maximum of ₹30,00,000/- (ii) not less than ₹10,00,000/- which may extend to ₹50,00,000/-

2	(i) For contravention of rules made under section 18B which specify time period of submission of report or information (ii) For other contravention not covered under clause (i)	(i) ₹1,00,000 for each day of contravention, subject to maximum of ₹50,00,000/- (ii) not less than ₹10,00,000/- which may extend to ₹50,00,000/-
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FORM 1

(See rule 3)

To,

The Adjudicating Officer

.....

1. Particular of complainant:-

(a) Name:

(b) Address:

(c) Contact No.

(d) Email (for service):

2. Particulars of complaint:-

(a) Date, time and instance of commission of alleged contravention:

(b) Statement of contravention setting out all relevant material particulars:

(c) Evidence in support of the statement:

(d) Tentative amount of penalty (in pecuniary terms) with cost break-up.

I/We..... the complainantherein declare that the facts stated herein are correct to the best of my/our knowledge.

3. Name and designation of the Complainant:

Signature.

Note- Strike out whichever is not applicable.

FORM 2

[See rule 5(1)]

To

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SHOW CAUSE NOTICE

Sub: Contravention under section 25A of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.

Sir/Madam,

As per intimation dated (copy enclosed), a contravention has been reported undersection of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 at

2. The above contravention is liable for penalty. Therefore, you are required to show cause within a period of days of service of this notice, why an inquiry should not be initiated against you under section 25A of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 for imposition of penalty.

3. In case, no reply is received within the given period, further action shall be taken under the said Act.

Adjudicating officer

Date and place

FORM 3

[See rule 5(3)]

To

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NOTICE FOR APPEARANCE

Sub: Contravention under section 25A of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.

Sir/Madam,

Show cause notice number dated may be referred to.

2. After preliminary examination, I am of the opinion that enquiry should be held against you for the contravention specified in the said show cause notice. Therefore, you are required to appear before the undersigned personally or through representative on dated....., for inquiry initiated against you under section 25A of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.

3. In case of failure to appear on the given date, inquiry will be conducted in your absence.

Adjudicating officer

Date and place

FORM 4

Furnishing of document or evidence by or on behalf of the contravener

[See rule 5(5)]

To

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1. I/we hereby give a statement in reference to the show cause notice dated

2. Complete address including postal index number/code and state along with mobile number and e-mail:

3. Signature of the contravener or his authorized representative:

4. Name of the person along with mobile number who has signed:

FORM 5

Appeal

[See rule 9(2)]

To

Appellate Authority,
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.....

1. Particulars of appellant:

(i) Name:

(ii) Address for correspondence:

(iii) Contact Number:

(iv) Email:

2. Grounds of appeal:

(A copy of order of adjudicating officer to be enclosed)

3. Date of order of the adjudicating officer:

4. Statement of facts:

I/We....., the appellant hereby declare that the facts stated herein above are correct to the best of my/our knowledge, information and belief.

5. Signature of appellant and date:

6. Name of appellant:

[F. No. M.VI-----Mines VI]

(.....)

Joint Secretary to the Government of India.

Annexure II

[TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE OF INDIA, EXTRAORDINARY, PART II,
SECTION 3, SUB-SECTION (i)]

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF MINES

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the ___ June, 2026

G.S.R. ___(E). — In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (m) of sub-section (2) of section 35 of the Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 2002 (17 of 2003), the Central Government hereby makes the following rules, namely:—

1. Short title and commencement. — (1) These rules may be called the Offshore Areas Mineral (Manner of Holding Inquiry and Appeal) Rules, 2026.

(2) These rules shall come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

2. Definitions. — (1) In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires,—

(a) "Act" means the Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 2002 (17 of 2003);

(b) "adjudicating officer" means an officer appointed under sub-section (3) of section 28 of the Act, as the case may be;

(c) "appellant" means a person aggrieved with an order of adjudicating officer and prefers an appeal before the appellate authority under sub-section (1) of section 34 of the Act;

(d) "appellate authority" means an officer appointed under sub-section (1) of section 34 of the Act;

(e) "form" means a form appended to these rules;

(f) "inquiry" means the inquiry referred in sub-section (3) of section 28 of the Act;

(g) "Schedule" means the schedule annexed to these rules; and

(h) "section" means a section of the Act.

(2) The words and expressions used in these rules and not defined, but defined in the Act, shall have the same meanings respectively assigned to them in the Act.

3. Complainant.— An officer not below the rank of Under Secretary to the Government of India authorised by the Central Government may file a complaint in Form 1 to the adjudicating officer regarding any contravention or failure under sub-section (1) of section 28 of the Act.

4. Penalty.— The adjudicating officer shall impose civil penalty for an amount as specified in the **Schedule** for the contravention or failure under in sub-section (1) of 28 of the Act.

5. Holding of inquiry.— (1) For the purpose of adjudication of penalties under section 28 of the Act, on receipt of any complaint indicating any contravention or failure by a person, the adjudicating officer shall, issue a notice in Form 2 to such person, requiring him to show cause within such period as may be specified in the notice (being not less than seven days from the date of service thereof) why an inquiry should not be held against him.

(2) Every notice under sub-rule (1) shall indicate the nature of contravention or failure alleged to have been committed.

(3) After considering the cause, if any, shown by such person, the adjudicating officer is of the opinion that an inquiry should be held, he shall issue a notice in Form 3 requiring the appearance of the person proceeded against and such other persons as may be necessary personally or through a representative duly authorised by him on such date as may be fixed in the notice.

(4) On the date fixed, the adjudicating officer shall explain to the person proceeded against or his authorised representative, the contravention or failure committed by such person and the provision of the Act, in respect of which contravention or failure is alleged to have been committed.

(5) The adjudicating officer shall, then, give an opportunity to such person and other necessary persons to produce such documents or evidence under Form 4 as they may consider relevant to the inquiry and if necessary, the hearing may be adjourned to a future date (not later than fifteen days from the first date and up to a maximum of three dates) and in taking such evidence the adjudicating officer shall not be bound to observe the provisions of the Bhartiya Sakshya Adhinyam, 2023 (47 of 2023).

(6) If any person fails, neglects or refuses to appear as required under sub-rule (3) before the adjudicating officer, the adjudicating officer may proceed with the inquiry in the absence of such person after recording the reasons for doing so.

(7) If, upon consideration of the evidence produced before the adjudicating officer, the adjudicating officer is satisfied that the person has committed the contravention or the failure, he shall, having regard to the factors specified in rule 6, by order in writing, impose such penalty under the Act as he considers reasonable for an amount as specified in the Schedule.

(8) Every order made under sub-rule (7) shall specify the provision of the Act, rules made thereunder or the terms and condition of operating right in respect of which contravention has been committed and shall contain the reasons for imposing the penalty.

(9) Every order made under sub-rule (7) shall be dated and signed by the adjudicating officer.

(10) A copy of the order made under this rule and all other copies of proceedings shall be supplied free of cost to the person against whom the inquiry was held.

(11) The adjudicating officer shall complete the proceeding within six months from the issuance of the notice to the person against whom the inquiry was held.

(12) A notice or an order issued under these rules shall be served on the person against whom an inquiry is held, in any of the following manner, namely: —

(i) by delivering or tendering it to that person or his authorized representative; or

(ii) by sending it to the person through electronic means or by registered post or speed post to the address of his place of residence or his last known place of residence or the place where he carried on or last carried on, business or personally works or last worked for gain; or

(iii) If it cannot be served in the manner specified under clauses (i) or (ii), by affixing it on the outer door or some other conspicuous part of the premises in which that person resides or is known to have last resided or carried on business or personally works or has worked for gain.

6. Factors to be considered while determining quantum of penalty. — The adjudicating officer, while adjudicating the quantum of penalty within the range specified in the Schedule, shall have due regard to all or any of the following factors, namely: —

(a) quantum of deviation or contravention from the standard provided under the rules or terms and conditions of the operating right;

(b) undue gain or benefit derived out of contravention and its amount, wherever quantifiable;

(c) repetitive nature or frequency of the contravention;

(d) duration of contravention;

(e) past compliance record of the person proceeded against; or

(f) any other relevant factor.

7. Summary disposal. — (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in rules 4 and 5 and subject to the provisions of this rule, no inquiry shall be initiated or continued against a person in respect of a contravention under section 28 of the Act, if such person makes payment of the minimum amount specified in the Schedule for the contravention and rectify the contravention of the rules or terms and conditions of the operating right, either before initiation or during any stage of inquiry under rule 5:

Provided that the provisions of this rule shall not be applicable if such person commits contravention of the same rule or terms and conditions of the operating right for more than three times.

Explanation. — For the purpose of this sub-rule, “minimum amount specified in the Schedule” shall mean, —

(a) in case of contravention of rules or terms and conditions of operating right which specify time period of submission of report or information, aggregate of the

amount specified for each day of contravention in the Schedule till continuation of such contravention;

(b) in case of other contravention, the minimum amount specified in the range of amount specified in the Schedule.

(2) For the purpose of sub-rule (1), the person who has made a contravention shall file an application to the adjudicating officer in the form of an affidavit specifying the following: —

(a) details of contravention for which the application is being filed along with notice received regarding the contravention, if any;

(b) details of subsequent rectification of the contravention along with a copy of document in support of the same; and

(c) undertaking to deposit the amount under sub-rule (1).

(3) The adjudicating authority shall within fifteen days of the receipt of the application under sub-rule (2), intimate the applicant to deposit the amount under sub-rule (1).

(4) The applicant shall deposit the amount within fifteen days of the intimation under sub-rule (3) and on receipt of amount, the adjudicating officer will issue a closure order and no inquiry shall be initiated or continued against a person in respect of said contravention.

8. Transfer of complaint. — (1) If the adjudicating officer is of the view or it is made to appear that he does not have jurisdiction to entertain any complaint under these rules, he shall transfer the matter to the adjudicating officer concerned within fifteen days of the receipt of such complaint or information made to him after reasons to be recorded in writing.

(2) The adjudicating officer to whom such case is transferred shall proceed with the inquiry from the stage it is transferred to him.

9. Appeal. — (1) Any person aggrieved by an order passed by the adjudicating officer, may file an appeal under sub section (1) of section 34 of the Act to the appellate authority.

(2) A memorandum of appeal shall be presented as per Form 5 within a period of thirty days from the date of receipt of the order against which the appeal is filed.

(3) The appeal shall be accompanied by a copy of order of adjudicating officer and a statement of facts appealed against, the grounds for appeal and the relevant section of the Act.

(4) The appeal may be filed by the appellant in person or by his representative duly authorized in writing, or by registered post or speed post or through electronic means.

(5) The appeal sent by post shall be deemed to have been filed to the appellate authority on the day it is received.

(6) If on scrutiny, the appeal is found to be in order, it shall be admitted and in case the appeal is found to be defective, the appellate authority shall intimate the appellant

about the defects and allow him to rectify the defects within fifteen days and if the appellant fails to rectify such defects within the time period, the appellate authority may by order and for reasons to be recorded in writing, decline to register such appeal and communicate such refusal to the appellant with a period of seven days thereof.

(7) On admission of the appeal, the appellate authority shall serve a copy of appeal to respondent along with a notice requiring him to file his reply thereto, within such period, not exceeding thirty days, as may be stipulated by the appellate authority in the said notice.

(8) The notice may be served by hand or by registered post or speed post or through electronic means.

(9) The appellate authority may call for the records relating to the proceedings from the adjudicating officer.

(10) The appellate authority may, after giving the parties to the appeal an opportunity of being heard, pass such orders as he may consider reasonable.

(11) The appellate authority shall dispose of the appeal within sixty days from the date of appeal.

10. Extension of time. —The adjudicating officer or the appellate authority may, for reasons to be recorded in writing, where there is a reasonable cause for the delay or failure to act, extend any period specified in these rules for filing of complaint, appeal or other related documents till such period as he considers reasonable.

11. Order and deposit of penalties. — (1) Every order under these rules, shall be dated, signed and communicated to all the parties.

(2) All sums realised by way of penalties under these rules shall be credited to the Consolidated Fund of India.

The Schedule

(see rule 4 and 5(7))

AMOUNT OF CIVIL PENALTY

Part-A. Amount of civil penalty in respect of production lease

S. No.	Area of production lease	Nature of contravention	Amount of Civil Penalty
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
1	Upto 25 standard blocks	(i) For contraventions of Act, rules or terms and conditions of the operating right which specify time period of submission of report, data, information or document.	(i) ten lakh rupees for each day of contravention, subject to maximum of fifty lakh rupees.

		(ii) For other contraventions	(ii) not less than ten lakh rupees which may extend to fifty lakh rupees.
2	more than 25 standard block	(i) For contraventions of rules or terms and conditions of the operating right which specify time period of submission of report, data, information or document (ii) For other contraventions	(i) ten lakh rupees for each day of contravention, subject to maximum of one crore rupees. (ii) not less than seventy-five lakh rupees which may extend to one crore rupees.

Part-B. Amount of civil penalty in respect of operating right other than production lease

S. No.	Area of operating right	Nature of contravention	Amount of Civil Penalty
1	Upto 25 standard block	(i) For contraventions of rules or terms and conditions of the operating right which specify time period of submission of report, data, information or document (ii) For other contraventions	(i) ten lakh rupees for each day of contravention, subject to maximum of fifty lakh rupees (ii) not less than ten lakh rupees which may extend to fifty lakh rupees.
2	more than 25 standard block	(i) For contraventions of rules or terms and conditions of the operating right which specify time period of submission of report, data, information or document (ii) For other contraventions	(i) ten lakh rupees for each day of contravention, subject to maximum of one crore rupees. (ii) not less than seventy-five lakh rupees which may extend to one crore rupees.

Part-C. Amount of civil penalty in respect contravention of rules by the persons not holding an operating right

S. No.	Nature of contravention	Amount of Civil Penalty
1	(i) For contraventions of rules which specify time period of submission of report or information (ii) For other contraventions	(i) ten lakh rupees for each day of contravention, subject to maximum of one crore rupees. (ii) not less than seventy-five lakh rupees which may extend to one crore rupees.

FORM 1

(See rule 3)

To,

The Adjudicating Officer

.....

1. Particular of complainant:-

(a) Name:

(b) Address for service:

(c) Contact No.

(d) Email (for service):

2. Particulars of complaint:-

(a) Date, time and instance of commission of alleged contravention:

(b) Statement of contravention setting out all relevant material particulars:

(c) Evidence in support of the statement:

(d) Tentative amount of damage (in pecuniary terms) with cost break-up.

I/We..... the complainantherein declare that the facts stated herein are correct to the best of my/our knowledge.

3. Name and Signature of the Complainant:

Note- Strike out whichever is not applicable.

FORM 2

[See sub-rule (1) of rule 5]

To

.....
.....
.....

SHOW CAUSE NOTICE

Sub: Contravention of the Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 2002.

Sir/Madam,

As per intimation dated (copy enclosed), a contravention has been committed undersection of the Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 2002 at

2. The above contravention is liable for penalty. Therefore, you are required to show cause within a period of days of service of this notice, why an inquiry should not be initiated against you under section 28 of the Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 2002 for imposition of penalty. In case, no reply is received within the given period, further action shall be taken under the said Act.

Adjudicating officer

Date and place

FORM 3

[See sub-rule (3) of rule 5]

To

.....
.....
.....

NOTICE FOR APPEARANCE

Sub: Contravention under section 28 of the Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 2002.

Sir/Madam,

Show cause notice number dated may be referred to.

2. After preliminary examination, I am of the opinion that enquiry should be held against you for the contravention specified in the said show cause notice. Therefore, you are required to appear before the undersigned personally or through representative on dated....., for inquiry initiated against you under section 28 of the Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 2002.

3. In case of failure to appear on the given date, inquiry will be conducted in your absence.

Adjudicating officer

Date and place

FORM 4

Furnishing of document or evidence by or on behalf of the contravener

[See sub-rule (5) of rule 5]

To

.....
.....
.....

1. I/we
.....
..... hereby give a statement in reference to the show cause notice dated

.....
.....

2. Complete address including postal index number/code and state along with mobile number and e-mail:

3. Signature of the contravener or his authorized representative:

4. Name of the person along with mobile number who has signed:

FORM 5

Appeal

[See sub-rule (2) of rule 9]

To

Appellate Authority,

.....
.....

1. Particulars of appellant:

(i) Name:

(ii) Address for correspondence:

(iii) Contact Number:

(iv) Email:

2. Grounds of appeal:

(A copy of order of adjudicating officer to be enclosed)

3. Date of order of the adjudicating officer:

4. Statement of facts:

I/We....., the appellant hereby declare that the facts stated herein above are correct to the best of my/our knowledge, information and belief.

5. Signature of appellant and date:

6. Name of appellant:

[F. No. M.VI-----Mines VI]

(.....)

Joint Secretary to the Government of India.

Annexure III

[TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE OF INDIA, EXTRAORDINARY, PART II, SECTION 3, SUB-SECTION (i)]

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF MINES

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the ...June, 2026.

G.S.R.....(E).— In exercise of the powers conferred by section 18 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (67 of 1957), the Central Government hereby makes the following rules further to amend the Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 2017, namely:—

1. Short title and commencement.— (1) These rules may be called the Mineral Conservation and Development (Second Amendment) Rules, 2026.

(2) They shall come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

2. In the Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 2017 (hereinafter referred to as the said rules), in rule 27, —

(i) in sub-rule (2), after the words “bank guarantee”, the words “or insurance surety bond” shall be inserted;

(ii) in sub-rule (6), after the words “bank guarantee”, the words “or insurance surety bond” shall be inserted.

3. In the said rules, in rule 35, —

(i) sub-rule (4B) shall be omitted;

(ii) in proviso to sub-rule (5), the brackets and figure “(4B)” shall be omitted.

4. In the said rules, in rule 45, —

(i) in sub-rule (7), in clause (a), for the sub-clause (ii), the following sub-clause shall be substituted, namely: —

“(ii) take action to initiate adjudication of penalty for contravention of rule in accordance with the Minerals (Manner of Holding Inquiry and Appeal) Rules, 2026;”;

(ii) in sub-rule (7A), —

(a) in clause (ii), in sub-clause (a), for the words “such amount as specified in Schedule II”, the words “penalty in accordance with the Minerals (Manner of Holding Inquiry and Appeal) Rules, 2026” shall be substituted;

(b) in clause (iii), for the words “such amount as specified in Schedule II”, the words “penalty in accordance with the Minerals (Manner of Holding Inquiry and Appeal) Rules, 2026” shall be substituted.

5. In the said rules, for rule 62, the following rule shall be substituted, namely: —

“62. Penalty. — Any contravention of these rules shall be liable to penalty in accordance with sections 25A and 25B and the Minerals (Manner of Holding Inquiry and Appeal) Rules, 2026.”.

6. In the said rules, Schedule II and Schedule III shall be omitted.

[M.VI-..... -Mines VI]

(.....)

Joint Secretary to the Government of India.

Note.— The principal rules were published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (i) vide number G.S.R. 169(E), dated the 27th February, 2017 and were subsequently amended as follows: —

1. G.S.R. 289(E), dated the 27th March, 2018;
2. G.S.R. 570(E), dated the 13th August, 2019;
3. G.S.R. 780(E), dated the 3rd November, 2021;
4. G.S.R. 294(E), dated the 11th April, 2022;
5. G.S.R. 51(E), dated the 21st January, 2024; and
6. G.S.R. 232(E), dated the 16th April, 2025.

Annexure IV

[TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE OF INDIA, EXTRAORDINARY, PART II, SECTION 3, SUB-SECTION (i)]

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF MINES

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the ...June, 2026.

G.S.R.....(E).— In exercise of the powers conferred by section 13 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (67 of 1957), the Central Government hereby makes the following rules further to amend the Minerals (Other than Atomic and Hydro Carbons Energy Minerals) Concession Rules, 2016, namely:—

1. Short title and commencement. — (1) These rules may be called the Minerals (Other than Atomic and Hydro Carbons Energy Minerals) Concession (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 2026.

(2) They shall come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

2. In the Minerals (Other than Atomic and Hydro Carbons Energy Minerals) Concession Rules, 2016, (hereinafter referred to as the said rules), rule 34 shall be omitted.

3. In the said rules, for rule 54, the following rule shall be substituted, namely: —

“**54. Penalty.** — Any contravention of these rules shall be liable to penalty in accordance with sections 25A and 25B and the Minerals (Manner of Holding Inquiry and Appeal) Rules, 2026.”.

4. In the said rules, Schedule XII shall be omitted.

[M.VI-____-Mines VI]

(.....)

Joint Secretary to the Government of India.

Note.— The principal rules were published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (i) *vide* number G.S.R. 279(E), dated the 4th March, 2016 and were subsequently amended as follows: —

1. G.S.R. 1120(E), dated the 8th December, 2016;
2. G.S.R. 674(E), dated the 20th September, 2019;
3. G.S.R. 191(E), dated the 20th March, 2020;
4. G.S.R. 209(E), dated the 24th March, 2021;
5. G.S.R. 254(E), dated the 8th April, 2021;
6. G.S.R. 397(E), dated the 10th June, 2021;
7. G.S.R. 775(E), dated the 2nd November, 2021;
8. G.S.R. 205(E), dated the 15th March, 2022;
9. G.S.R. 737(E), dated the 12th October, 2023;
10. G.S.R. 50(E), dated the 21st January, 2024;
11. G.S.R. 118(E), dated the 20th February, 2024;
12. G.S.R. 486(E), dated the 21st July, 2025;
13. G.S.R. 22(E), dated the 12th January, 2026;
14. G.S.R. 222(E), dated the 30th March, 2026; and
15. G.S.R. 271 (E), dated the 10th April, 2026.

Annexure V

[TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE OF INDIA, EXTRAORDINARY, PART II, SECTION 3, SUB-SECTION (i)]

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the ...June, 2026.

G.S.R.....(E).— In exercise of the powers conferred by section 11B of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (67 of 1957), the Central Government hereby makes the following rules further to amend the Atomic Minerals Concession Rules, 2016, namely:—

1. Short title and commencement. — (1) These rules may be called Atomic Minerals Concession (Amendment) Rules, 2026.

(2) They shall come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

2. In the Atomic Minerals Concession Rules, 2016, for rule 37, the following rule shall substituted, namely: —

“**37. Penalty.** — Any contravention of these rules shall be liable to penalty in accordance with sections 25A and 25B and the Minerals (Manner of Holding Inquiry and Appeal) Rules, 2026.”.

[M.VI-____-Mines VI]

(.....)

Joint Secretary to the Government of India.

Note.— The principal rules were published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (i) *vide* number G.S.R. 677(E), dated the 11th July, 2016 and were subsequently amended as follows: —

1. G.S.R. 126(E), dated the 19th February, 2019;
2. G.S.R. 134(E), dated the 20th February, 2019;
3. G.S.R. 693(E), dated the 5th November, 2020;
4. G.S.R. 682(E), dated the 22nd September, 2023; and
5. G.S.R. 106(E), dated the 14th February, 2024.

Annexure VI

[TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE OF INDIA, EXTRAORDINARY, PART II, SECTION 3, SUB-SECTION (i)]

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF MINES

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the ...June, 2026.

G.S.R.....(E).— In exercise of the powers conferred by section 35 of the Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 2002 (17 of 2003), the Central Government hereby makes the following rules further to amend the Offshore Areas Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 2024, namely:—

1. Short title and commencement. — (1) These rules may be called the Offshore Areas Mineral Conservation and Development (Amendment) Rules, 2026.

(2) They shall come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

2. In the Offshore Areas Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 2024 (hereinafter referred to as the said rules), in rule 48, —

(i) in sub-rule (4), for the clause (ii), the following clause shall be substituted, namely: —

“(ii) take action to initiate adjudication of penalty for contravention of rule in accordance with the Offshore Areas Mineral (Manner of Holding Inquiry and Appeal) Rules, 2026;”;

(ii) in sub-rule (5), —

(a) in clause (ii), in sub-clause (a), for the words “such amount as specified in the Second Schedule”, the words “penalty in accordance with the Offshore Areas Mineral (Manner of Holding Inquiry and Appeal) Rules, 2026” shall be substituted;

(b) in clause (iii), for the words “such amount as specified in the Second Schedule”, the words “penalty in accordance with the Offshore Areas Mineral (Manner of Holding Inquiry and Appeal) Rules, 2026” shall be substituted.

3. In the said rules, for rule 60, the following rule shall be substituted, namely: —

“**60. Penalty.** — Any contravention of these rules shall be liable to penalty in accordance with section 28 and the Offshore Areas Mineral (Manner of Holding Inquiry and Appeal) Rules, 2026.”.

4. In the said rules, the Second Schedule and Third Schedule shall be omitted.

[M.VI-..... -Mines VI]

(.....)

Joint Secretary to the Government of India.

Note.— The principal rules were published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (i) vide number G.S.R. 791(E), dated the 31st December, 2024.

Annexure VII

[TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE OF INDIA, EXTRAORDINARY, PART II, SECTION 3, SUB-SECTION (i)]

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF MINES

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the ...June, 2026.

G.S.R.....(E).— In exercise of the powers conferred by section 35 of the Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 2002 (17 of 2003), the Central Government hereby makes the following rules further to amend the Offshore Areas Operating Right Rules, 2024, namely:—

1. Short title and commencement. — (1) These rules may be called the Offshore Areas Operating Right (Amendment) Rules, 2026.

(2) They shall come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

2. In the Offshore Areas Operating Right Rules, 2024, for rule 32, the following rule shall be substituted, namely: —

“**32. Penalty.** — Any contravention of these rules shall be liable to penalty in accordance with section 28 and the Offshore Areas Mineral (Manner of Holding Inquiry and Appeal) Rules, 2026.”.

[M.VI-____-Mines VI]

(.....)

Joint Secretary to the Government of India.

Note.— The principal rules were published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (i) *vide* number G.S.R. 646(E), dated the 16th October, 2024.

Annexure VIII

[TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE OF INDIA, EXTRAORDINARY, PART II, SECTION 3, SUB-SECTION (i)]

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the ...June, 2026.

G.S.R.....(E).— In exercise of the powers conferred by section 35 of the Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 2002 (17 of 2003), the Central Government hereby makes the following rules further to amend the Offshore Areas Atomic Minerals Operating Rights Rules, 2025, namely:—

1. Short title and commencement. — (1) These rules may be called the Offshore Areas Atomic Minerals Operating Rights (Amendment) Rules, 2026.

(2) They shall come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

2. In the Offshore Areas Atomic Minerals Operating Rights Rules, 2025, for rule 38, the following rule shall substituted, namely: —

“**38. Penalty.** — Any contravention of these rules shall be liable to penalty in accordance with section 28 and the Offshore Areas Mineral (Manner of Holding Inquiry and Appeal) Rules, 2026.”.

[M.VI-____-Mines VI]

(.....)

Joint Secretary to the Government of India.

Note.— The principal rules were published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (i) *vide* number G.S.R. 468(E), dated the 14th July, 2025.