

MINISTRY OF MINES
Major Highlights / Activities

July, 2023

- Last month, after the approval of the Cabinet, the Bill to amend the MMDR Act was considered and passed by the Lok Sabha. Through this Amendment, six critical minerals have been de-listed from the list of atomic minerals. These six minerals along with other eighteen minerals are now listed as critical minerals and will now be auctioned by the Central Government. A new concession, viz., an Exploration Licence, has been introduced.
- The Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2023 (OAMDR) was also introduced during the month in the Lok Sabha after the approval of the Cabinet. The Lok Sabha has passed the Amendment Bill. The Bill introduces auctions as the method of allocation of mineral rights in the offshore areas.
- The Hon'ble President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, conferred the prestigious National Geoscience Awards for the year 2022 on 24.07.2023 at Rashtrapati Bhavan. Ten National Geoscience Awards to 22 Geoscientists under different categories, which includes one National Geoscience Award for Lifetime Achievement, eight National Geoscience Awards under different fields and one National Young Geoscientist Award were conferred.
- The G20 Energy Ministers met in Goa on 22nd July, 2023 and adopted a Joint Communiqué wherein the role of critical minerals in energy transition was comprehensively mentioned for the first time. The Presidency's Voluntary High Level Principles for collaboration on Critical Minerals for Energy Transitions were also duly noted by the G20.
- Hon'ble Minister of State for Mines inaugurated the awareness camp for students and local people on 07.07.2023 at Ajanta as part of the 75 such camps being organized at geo-heritage sites all over the country by GSI to celebrate the Azadi Ka Amrit

Mahotsav. Hon'ble State Minister for Agriculture, Government of Maharashtra was present in the function which was attended by over 800 people.

- The Index of mineral production for the month of June 2023 was 122.3, which is 7.6% higher as compared to the level in the month of June, 2022.
- State Governments continue to use District Mineral Foundation (**DMF**) funds to combat COVID-19, wherein Rs.1510.58 crore has been spent till 30.06.2023 (monthly expenditure in June, 2023 is Rs. 0.07 cr.). The latest position of funds utilization by the States up to 30.06.2023 is at **Annexure**.
- Since the amendment of MMDR Act, 1957 in 2015, a total of 286 mineral blocks have been auctioned till 31.07.2023 across 11 States. 13 mineral blocks (5 Iron ore, 1 Glaucosite {Potash}, 1 Bauxite and Laterite, 1 Bauxite and Marl, 2 Limestone and Marl, 2 Bauxite Limestone and Marl and 1 Limestone) were successfully auctioned in the month of July, 2023. Further, 79 new NITs for Glaucosite, Limestone, Diamond, Gold and Associated Minerals, Gold, Phosphorite, Bauxite, Manganese ore, Iron ore, Base metal, Base Metal & Associated Mineral, Siliceous Earth, Fluorite, Laterite and Limestone, Bauxite & Laterite, Diamond, Manganese ore & Dolomite, Gold and Base metal, Graphite, Vanadium, Phosphorite, PGE and Copper have been issued for the States of Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, in the month of July, 2023.
- The State of Madhya Pradesh has issued Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for auction of a record number of 51 mineral blocks on 14.07.2023. This is the highest number of mineral blocks notified for auctions in a single tranche by any State. After the introduction of auction regime in 2015, 754 blocks have been put for auctions by the various major mineral bearing states, out of which 276 blocks have been successfully auctioned. These 51 blocks comprises 14 minerals including strategic and critical minerals like Graphite & Vanadium, Platinum Group of Elements (PGE) and also other major minerals such as Manganese, Bauxite, Limestone, Iron Ore, Base metal and Gold. Out of the 51 mineral

blocks for which NIT has been issued by Madhya Pradesh, 13 blocks are for Mining Lease and 38 blocks are for Composite License.

- Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojna (**PMKKKY**) is being implemented through the funds collected under District Mineral Foundation (**DMF**) and till June, 2023, Rs.79,674.03 cr. was collected (monthly collection in June, 2023, Rs.1133.70 cr.). Till June, 2023, Rs.71,755.45 cr. stands allocated and Rs.43,638.23 cr. has been spent. Total 2,83,101 projects have been sanctioned under the scheme and out of them, a total of 1,54,850 projects have been completed so far.
- Under "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" a camp was organized at the Ajanta Geo-Heritage Site, Maharashtra on 7.7.2023 by the Geological Survey of India (**GSI**) under the "Cultural Pride" theme to create awareness among the students/local people. Shri Raosaheb Patil Danve, Hon'ble Minister of State for Ministry of Mines, Coal and Railways graced the event as chief guest.
- During the month of July, 2023, Secretary (Mines) held two meetings with the Government of Madhya Pradesh and Government of Rajasthan through VC regarding review the progress of auctions in the States on 10.07.2023 & 11.07.2023 respectively.
- A meeting with the Government of Chhattisgarh was held under the Chairmanship Additional Secretary (Mines) through VC on 13.07.2023 regarding review the progress of auctions in the State.
- Secretary (Mines) also discussed with a team of Senior Executives of CVMR Corporation on 18.07.2023 regarding transparent process of investment proposals from foreign agencies.
- GSI participated and received 1st Prize for Excellent Achievements in the Government Achievements & Schemes Expo-2023 Exhibition, organized by NNS (National News Service) Media Group at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi during 21st-23rd July,

2023. Shri. S. P. Singh Baghel, Hon'ble Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Government of India inaugurated the Expo-2023.

- GSI has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Oil India Limited (OIL) at GSI, CHQ, Kolkata on 28.7.2023 for Geoscience Research Projects, Data Exchange, and Capacity Building in the august presence of Shri. Janardan Prasad, Director General, GSI, Dr. Ranjit Rath, Chairman and Managing Director-OIL.
- A meeting between Joint Secretary, Ministry of Mines with the delegation of the European Union held on 31.07.2023 to discuss the proposal to establish a Critical Raw Material Club.
- 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 co-ordinates 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 July, 2023, 1057 mines have submitted online Drone data on Drone Data Management System.
- IBM carried out 103 inspections (under MCDR/ MP/Other references) during the month of July, 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 July, 2023, 125 Mining plans (Including Mining Plan, Review of Mining Plan & Modification of Mining Plans) were under processing and 41 Mining Plan Applications were received during the month of July, 2023 (125+41=166). Out of these 166, during July, 2023, 45 mining Plans were approved, 06 were not approved, 03 Plans were withdrawn by the parties and 112 Mining Plans were under processing at the end of the month.
- IBM completed Full Scale & Limited Scale Ore Dressing Investigations (ODI) equivalent to 4.5, 2243 Chemical Analysis

and 249 Mineralogical Examinations in the month of July, 2023. Cumulatively up to July, 2023 IBM carried out 17.25 Ore Dressing Investigations, 7175 Chemical Analysis and 997 Mineralogical Examinations.

- IBM's Training Centre organized one training programme during July, 2023, "Training Programme on Establishment Matters" for IBM Officers/Officials from 5th to 6th July, 2023 at IBM, Nagpur, in which 36 officers/officials participated. Cumulatively, till July, 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 1225 lessees have filed SDF templates.
- Mining Surveillance System: During the Phase IV (2022-23), 138 triggers are generated so far up to July, 2023 of which 31 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 :Up to June, 2023, 8086 Miners, 5377 End Users, 10324 Traders, 2901 Stockiest, 1585 Exporters have registered online. Returns Module: Up to July, 2023 1809 miners and 644 End Users have submitted Annual Returns for 2022-23. Mining Plan Module: During 2022-23, 204 Mining Plans and during 2023-24, upto July, 2023, 136 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
- **NALCO**
- NALCO has started commercial sale of mechanized sow ingots from 14.07.2023.

- Under the aegis of Ministry of Mines and Ministry of Steel, NALCO along with stakeholders in the metal industry jointly organized an Awareness Conference on “Sustainable & Circular Bharat: Towards Zero Waste in Metals Processing” on 20.07.2023 at Angul. This campaign emphasized on adopting innovative technologies to achieve zero waste discharge and preserve the environment. Bulk utilisation of these wastes to produce value added products is key for primary aluminium industry to become circular and sustainable. This event was conducted as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav Campaign 2023.
- Van Mahotsav week was celebrated at Panchpatmali Bauxite Mine with mass plantation drive taken up in backfilled areas of Central & North Block. Every year about 1.10 lakh trees are planted here with more than 39 lakh trees planted so far, making the Mines a green landscape. VanMahotsav week was also celebrated cutting across all other units of NALCO.
- **HCL**
- Consequent to superannuation of Shri Arun Kumar Shukla, Ex-CMD on 31.07.2023, Shri Ghanshyam Sharma, Director (Finance) has taken additional charge of CMD w.e.f. 01.08.2023.
- Ore production and MIC Production of MCP for the month of July, 2023 is 127% & 128% of the target.
- Surda Mine Update - Further to the Update regarding the Surda Mine - CF, Jamshedpur forwarded the query to DFO, Jamshedpur on 09.06.2023 which in turn was intimated by DFO, Jamshedpur (status of NOC of District Commissioner (DC) under Forest Rights Act (FRA) 2006) to HCL on 14.06.2023. Consent of 04 village Gramsabha has already been submitted to SDO and the fifth village Gramsabha has submitted their consent on 26.07.2023. Subsequent to consent of concerned village Gramsabha, recommendations of Sub-Divisional level and District level FRA committee is required for issuance of NoC under FRA 2006 for which follow up action is in process.
- Kendadih Mine - Kendadih Mining Lease over 1139.60 ha was valid till 02.06.2023. The application for extension of ML period was already submitted on 16.03.2022. Ranchi raised a query on 09.06.2023, the reply to the query was submitted on 13.06.2023. HCL vide letter 17.04.2023 and again on 19.07.2023 requested

Govt. of Jharkhand for issuance of LoI/order for extending the lease for which communication from Govt. of Jharkhand is yet to be received.

- Rakha Mine - HCL has applied for the Stage-I Forest Clearance over remaining 98.932 ha forest area within Rakha Mining Lease on 02.06.2023 which in turn was accepted by MS, PSC (Project Screening Committee), Jharkhand on 14.06.2023 and subsequently deliberated on 27.06.2023. PSC on 06.07.2023 raised EDS (Essential Detail Sought) (20 queries) and further communicated by DFO, Jamshedpur on 11.07.2023. Out of the 20 queries, 05 queries are dependent on documents from State Revenue, Mining & Geology and Forest departments. Reply to the queries are under progress.
- As a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, HCL is organizing Wellness Camps with emphasis on AYUSH across all its Units. HCL has set a target of conducting 80 number of wellness Camps during the period March 2023 to August, 2023 and so far, 69 number of Wellness Camps have been conducted till 31.07.2023. Extensive campaigns were done to enhance the outreach of the Program. AYUSH Doctors provided free consultation and counselling to the patients and free medicines were distributed at these Camps. Report and photographs on Wellness camp have been uploaded in AKAM portal under Theme 2.0 "Health and Wellness" and HCL Social Media.
- Secretary (Mines) took a review meeting through VC on 07.07.2023 on progress of tender for selection of MDO for Rakha mines.
- CMD inaugurated the Wellness (AYUSH) camp organized in collaboration with National Institute of Homoeopathy, Kolkata (an autonomous Institute under the Ministry of Ayush, Government of India) on 20.07.2023 at Milan Sangha, Kolkata, wherein more than 100 beneficiaries were medically examined. Team from National Institute of Homoeopathy provided free consultation and counselling to the patients in the camp. Free medicines were also distributed. Due care was taken to ensure that all AYUSH protocols demonstrated in the Wellness (AYUSH) Camp.
- C&AG has conducted supplementary audit of financial statements of HCL for year ended 31.03.2023 under Section 143(6)(a) of the Companies Act, 2023 and given Nil comment on 21.07.2023.

- An extraordinary general meeting of the JV company KABIL was held on 27.07.2023 through VC for obtaining approval of Members to increase authorised capital from Rs.100 crore to Rs.500 crore.

Annexure

Expenditure Report for COVID-19 - DMF funds

Till June, 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 28 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 January, 2023 for districts Bijapur (5.14 cr. reduced to 2.53 cr.) and Korea (7.66 cr. reduced to 2.63 cr.)
