MINISTRY OF MINES

MAJOR ACTIVITIES

August – 2018

➢ A meeting between Sudanese delegation led by H. E. Dr. Awad Ahmed Mohammed Elgaz, Assistant to the President of the Republic of the Sudan and Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Hon’ble Union Minister of Mines was held on 8th August 2018. During the meeting Hon’ble Union Minister of Mines highlighted that India has huge geological potential and a wide variety of minerals. He further, informed the Sudanese delegation that the Geological Survey of India is a pioneer exploration agency and will be able to assist Sudan in geological mapping and mineral exploration. The leader of Sudanese delegation informed that Sudan has a huge surficial mineral deposits and wanted big Indian mining companies to invest in Sudan. He also informed that Sudan is very much in need of technical expertise and experience of India so as to develop their mining sector.

➢ On 9th & 10th of August 2018, Secretary (Mines) visit the Bhubaneswar and reviewed the performance of NALCO and noted that NALCO has achieved global benchmarking of being the lowest cost producer of alumina and 2nd lowest cost producer of Bauxite in world. A business model was presented by CMD, which has the potential to bring in an additional net profit of Rs.1,000 crore in next 3 years. The business model includes commissioning of new Alumina Refinery, opening of Utkal-D coal block, operation of new Wire Rod Mill and introduction of cashless model for MSMEs. In the afternoon of 9th August, Secretary (Mines) along with CMD NALCO met the Governor of Odisha and appraised him about the functioning of NALCO.

➢ On 10th August, 2018, Secretary (Mines) took a meeting with Additional Chief Secretary of Steel & Mines, Govt. of Odisha and senior officials of state govt., officials of GSI, IBM and NALCO. In the meeting, the process of auctioning of mineral blocks in Odisha was reviewed. Subsequently, there was meeting with Hon’ble Chief Minister of Odisha and other senior officials of State Govt. and CPSEs. In the meeting, Hon’ble Chief Minister was appraised about the auction of mineral blocks and the performance and projects of NALCO. Support in terms of law & order at Angul & Damanjodi Units of NALCO, opening of coal block etc. were requested. The State Government assured to extend necessary help. In afternoon of 10th August, the Iconic Shrine (Jagannath Puri Temple) project of NALCO under Swachh Bharat Mission was reviewed at Puri attended by CMD NALCO, District Collector and other senior officials of district.
The 9th meeting of Executive Committee, National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) was held on 8th August 2018. A total of 16 nos. of projects were approved at an estimated cost of Rs. 281.10 crore from NMET fund.

Ministry of Mines has initiated an endeavour called 100X100 Model VAQ programme with an aim to increase Visibility, to improve Activity and to enhance Quality in various activities of Geological Survey of India (GSI). This programme was organised with the aim to harness the energy and drive of the middle level officers of GSI for developing programmes implementable within 100-300 days which will have significant impact on VAQ parameters of GSI. Under this program 125 middle level professionals of GSI were carefully selected, representing different domain expertise as well as all the Regions and State Units of GSI. The four month long churning process of deliberations within GSI by these professionals culminated in a workshop wherein the key issues of each thematic domains of GSI were discussed in detail and the recommendations with time lines were finalised for implementation. GSI has formally launched recommendations of VAQ programme on 14.8.2018 for implementations in phased manner.

Two significant collaborations have been initiated by Geological Survey of India (GSI) by signing of two MoUs:

- MoU between GSI Training Institute and Indian Institute of Technology (ISM) Dhanbad on collaboration for Academic and Research Program, and;
- MoU between Northern Region, GSI and Haryana Sarasvati Heritage Development Board for comprehensive studies to reconstruct the fluvial history of Ancient Sarasvati River.