July - 2018

- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, in its meeting held on 01.08.2018 has approved the issue of fresh 13,87,82,700 equity shares to the extent of 15% of paid up equity capital of face value of Rs. 5/- each by Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) through the Qualified Institutions Placement (QIP) route as per SEBI and other applicable guidelines. Consequently, GoI shareholding in HCL will come down from 76.05% to 66.13%. Further, the paid-up Share Capital of HCL will increase from the present Rs. 462.61 crore to Rs. 532.00 crore. HCL will use the proceeds of QIP to meet its expansion/capex plan. The raising of fund is essential for HCL’s expansion plans to achieve production level of around 1.90 lakh tonnes of metal in copper concentrate and thus meet around 30% of the refined copper demand of the country. The proposed expansion plan would create employment opportunities for 9,300 persons approximately. Expansion projects of HCL are located in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Jharkhand.

- The Coordination-cum-Empowered Committee (CCEC) meeting was held on 12th July, 2018 where key issues like status of preparation of States for auction of mineral blocks in 2018-19, status of grant of statutory clearances for the auctioned mineral blocks, progress of implementation of Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY), progress of exploration in mining leases expiring in 2020, Star Rating of Mines, exploration of mineral blocks under the National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET), Mining Surveillance System (MSS) and Mining Tenement System (MTS) were discussed. Representatives of State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh attended the meeting.

- The Ministry of Mines organized the 4th National Conclave on Mines & Minerals on 13th July 2018 at Indore, Madhya Pradesh. Hon’ble Union Minister of Mines, Hon’ble Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Hon’ble Union Minister of States for Mines, Hon’ble State Mining ministers, officials of Central Ministries including MoEFCC, officials of the State Government, CEO’s of mining industries, industry associations, academic institutions and
others participated in the conclave and held meaningful discussions on various issues & opportunities in the mining sector to bring about higher growth and facilitate ‘Ease of Doing Business’.

- A two-day workshop on a unique programme named 100x100 VAQ (enhancing Visibility, increasing Activity and enriching Quality) model as a culmination of a four month long process of deliberation within GSI was held on 19-20th July, 2018 at GSI, Kolkata. The workshop has resulted in detailed implementable programme with time lines which is expected to enhance the visibility, activities and quality of work by GSI within 100 to 300 days. GSI has taken up the recommendations for immediate implementation.

- Two Assistant Secretaries of IAS 2016 Batch, Ms. Bandana Pokhriyal (West Bengal) and Shri Gopi B. (Telangana) joined in the Ministry of Mines on 2nd July, 2018 for a period of 3 months.

- A meeting of Hindi Salahkar Samiti of Ministry of Mines was held under the Chairmanship of Hon’ble Union Minister Shri Narendra Singh Tomar at Indore on 19th June, 2018. Senior Officers from Ministry and Heads of Offices under the control of this Ministry attended the meeting.

- As part of its efforts towards Digital India, Ministry of Mines has adopted e-tender of the epp portal for e-procurement. Further, e-purthy has also been implemented in the Ministry for issue of consumables to the officers and staff.
June - 2018

- As of June, 2018, 43 mineral blocks with an estimated value of resources of Rs 1,99,782 crore have been auctioned in 9 States. The estimated total revenue to the State Governments over the lease period is Rs 1,55,457 crore including estimated additional contribution through auction of Rs 1,19,721 crore. The collections in Royalty, DMF and NMET are at Rs 31,907 crore, Rs 3,191 crore and Rs 638 crore respectively. 20 more mineral blocks are at various stages of auction process.

- The 8th meeting of the Executive Committee of National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) was held on 12th June, 2018. Executive Committee accorded approval for exploration of 34 blocks (15 blocks of DGM Telangana, 1 block of KIOCL, 14 blocks of DGM Chhattisgarh and 4 blocks of MECL) at an estimated cost of Rs.67.19 crore through NMET funding.

- Secretary (Mines) held a meeting on 14th June, 2018 with the officers of Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) to discuss the issues in Mineral Concessions for Atomic Minerals. Amendments required in Atomic Minerals Concession Rules, 2016 (AMCR, 2016) and Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 2017 (MCDR, 2017) to ensure regulatory compliance of Atomic Mineral Concession holder was also discussed.
May - 2018

- Hon’ble President of India conferred the National Geoscience Awards for the year 2017 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 16th May, 2018. Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Hon’ble Minister of Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and Mines, Shri Haribhai Parthibhai Chaudhary, Hon’ble Minister of State (Mines), and senior officers of Ministry of Mines, GSI, and other Central Ministries also graced the occasion.

- Hon’ble Minister of Mines conducted a meeting with Senior Officers of the Ministry on 16th May, 2018 to review the draft National Mineral Policy, preparedness for auction of mining leases expiring in 2020 and role of Member of Parliament (LS) in DMF & implementation of PMKKKY. Hon’ble Minister of State for Coal and Mines also attended this meeting.

- I held a Video Conference (VC) on 17th May, 2018 with the Principal Secretary/Secretary in charge of the Mining Department of the 12 major mineral rich States (Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana) to discuss the progress of Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY) / District Mineral Foundation (DMF), National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET), block-wise preparedness for auction in 2018-19 and Star Rating of Mines.

- On 18th May, 2018, I held a meeting with officials of MoEFCC & State Govt. of Odisha to discuss the issues in regard to statutory clearances (including Environment Clearance-EC & Forest Clearance-FC) of the non-captive mines expiring on 31.03.2020.

- Another meeting with the representatives of Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) and State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra & Rajasthan was held on 23rd May, 2018 to discuss the action plan for auction of non-captive mines expiring on 31.03.2020 and also the modalities for giving area relaxation under section 6 (I) of MMDR Act 2015.
April - 2018

- A meeting between His Excellency Aziz Rabbah, Minister of Energy, Mines and Sustainable Development of Kingdom of Morocco, and Hon’ble Union Minister of Mines was held on 11th April 2018 during which MoU between India and Morocco on cooperation in the field of mining & minerals sector was signed.

- Officers of the Ministry who were nominated as nodal officers of different Districts in country for the Gram Swaraj Abhiyan have visited their respective districts for ensuing 100% saturation coverage of the seven flagship programmes of the Government of India. Further, all senior officers of the Ministry participated in the Civil Services Day function held on 20th-21st April, 2018.

March - 2018

- Shri Anil Mukim joined the Ministry of Mines as OSD on 15th March, 2018 and assumed charged of Secretary on 1st April, 2018 consequent to the superannuation of Shri Arun Kumar.

- The Coordination-cum-Empowerment Committee (CCEC) meeting was held on 8th March, 2018 under the chairmanship of Shri Arun Kumar, then Secretary (Mines). In this meeting major key issues like, progress of e-auction of Mineral Blocks for 2018-18, progress of implementation of Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY), progress of auction of mining leases expiring in 2020, Mining Tenement System (MTS), Mining Surveillance System (MSS), Star Rating of Mines and Illegal Mining and its control were discussed. The representatives of the various major mineral producing states namely Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Telangana attended this meeting.

- Sand is categorized as a minor mineral under the mining regulations and is devolved to the states for its legislation, regulation and administration. Pursuant to the issues raised in the conference of Mining Ministers in May, 2017 in regard to high prices, illegalities, ecological sustainability, availability of sand across the country, a committee was formed under the chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Mines, having officials from various State Governments to study the existing system of sand mining in various states.
and to submit a report. A ‘Sand Mining Framework’ has been prepared by the committee and released on 20.03.2018.

- The Ministry of Mines organized the 3rd National Conclave on Mines & Minerals on 20th March, 2018 at New Delhi. Earlier two conclaves were held at Raipur and New Delhi in 2016 & 2017 respectively. The representatives of State Governments, mining industries, industry associations, academic institutions and others participated in the conclave and raised various issues, challenges and opportunities in the mining sector to realize its optimum potential for the sustainable development.

- Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL) (29.53% Government shareholding) has paid an amount of Rs. 7,48,77,03,540/- (Rupees Seven Hundred Forty Eight Crore Seventy Seven Lakh Three Thousand Five Hundred Forty) for second Interim Dividend to the Government of India on 28.03.2018.