

MINISTRY OF MINES
Major Highlights / Activities

September, 2022

- In order to encourage exploration activities the Ministry of Mines has on 29.09.2022 notified the following private agencies for carrying out exploration.

Sl. No.	Exploration Agency	Category of Exploration Agency
1	M/s Geo Exploration and Mining Solutions	A
2	M/s Geo Marine Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	B
3	M/s Ecomen Laboratories Pvt. Ltd.	A

- Ministry of Mines organized the National Mines Ministers' Conference (NMMC) from 09.9.2022 to 10.9.2022 in Hyderabad Telangana. Hon'ble Minister of Mines, Coal and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Pralhad Joshi inaugurated the NMMC. The event was graced by Mines Ministers' from 11 States, Principal Secretaries/ Special Secretaries (Mines) and DGMs/DMGs from 19 States and 01 Union Territory along with the officials of Ministry of Mines, Ministry of Coal and Ministry of Steel. CMDs from 14 CPSEs of Ministry of Mines, Coal and Steel and heads of 10 Notified Private Exploration Agencies.
- During the conference, Hon'ble Minister of Mines inaugurated a digital platform called ' **The Mining Arena**'. This is an interactive platform which will give the people first-hand experience and information about working of the Ministry of Mines.
- Since the amendment of MMDR Act, 1957 in 2015, a total of 208 mineral blocks have been successfully auctioned till 30.09.2022 across 10 States. Further, 5 mineral blocks (4 iron ore & 1 phosphorite) were auctioned this month in the states of Karnataka, Rajasthan & Uttar Pradesh. Further, 28 New NITs for limestone block have been issued for Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Goa and Uttar Pradesh in the month of September, 2022. Out of 208 mineral blocks auctioned so far 100 has been auctioned after the reforms undertaken in March 2021.
- Two auction review meetings were also held on 20.9.2022 and 28.9.2022 with the State Governments of Madhya Pradesh & Maharashtra respectively.
- Pradhan MantriKhanijKshetraKalyanYojna (PMKKKY) is being implemented through the funds collected under District Mineral Foundation (DMF) and till August, 2022 Rs. 68,281.44 Cr. have been collected (monthly collection in August 2022- Rs 1,329.39 Cr.). Till August, 2022, Rs. 60,479.11 Cr. stands allocated and Rs. 35,624.85 Cr. has been spent. A total of 2,49,304 projects have been sanctioned under the scheme and 1,31,478 projects have been completed so far.
- State Governments continue to use District Mineral Foundation (DMF) funds to combat COVID-19, wherein Rs. 1,489.81 crore have been spent till 31.8.2022. The latest position of funds utilization by the States up to 31.08.2022 is at Annexure.
- A meeting between CSIRO, Australia headed by Dr. Rob Hough, Director, CSIRO, Mineral Resources (Australia) and Ministry of Mines headed by Shri Sanjay Lohiya, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Mines was held on 05.09.2022 in New Delhi to discuss issues focusing on critical minerals, the essential ingredients for the technologies that power the energy transformation and provides solutions as we strive towards achieving a Net Zero world.

- An MoU has been signed between Geological Survey of India (GSI) and Naval Physical Oceanographic Laboratory, (NPOL), DRDO pertaining to Joint Collaboration on Marine Geoscience Research on 06.09.2022 at Marine and Coastal Survey Division (MCSD), HQ, GSI, Mangalore.
- The portal for filing the Star Rating template by the lessees, for the performance year 2021-22 has been enabled and so far 1169 lessees have filed Sustainable Development Framework (SDF) templates.

Annexure

Expenditure report for COVID-19 – DMF funds

Till August, 2022

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)	Amount spent on activities related to COVID-19 on date (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	0	139.79
2	Assam	77.5	-	0	0.65
3	Bihar	84.5	-	0	0
4	Chhattisgarh	1190.04	1707.59	3.84	100.05
5	Goa	187.89	-	0	30.53
6	Gujarat	153.52	83.68	0	26.23
7	Haryana	20.24	-	0	0
8	Himachal Pradesh	135.66	-	0	0.43
9	Jharkhand	2056.85	-	0	22.85
10	Karnataka	1281.64	1211.64	0	204.13
11	Kerala	2	-	0	0
12	Madhya Pradesh	1297.65	1185.56	0	9.24
13	Maharashtra	687.99	-	0	59.5
14	Odisha	3274.18	6418.9	3.25	461.83
15	Punjab	26.16	-	0	0.65

16	Rajasthan	2020.08	2625.28	0	60.03
17	Tamilnadu	98.93	99.6	0	17.92
18	Telangana ^{\$}	1001.2	-	0	334.08
19	Uttar Pradesh	383.22	423.22	0	11.29
20	Uttarakhand	74.39	110.62	0	10.16
21	West Bengal	17.7	-	0	0.46
Total		14694.46	14144.77	7.09	1489.81