Secretary (Mines) led an Indian delegation to participate in ‘Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada (PDAC-2019) held during 3\textsuperscript{rd} to 6\textsuperscript{th}, March, 2019 at Toronto, Canada. In addition to showcasing Indian Mineral Sector before the international mining community, G2G and G2B meetings were held on the sidelines to identify areas of cooperation, so as to maximize India’s energy and mineral security.

One Graphite block was auctioned in Jharkhand in March, 2019. Total of 54 mineral blocks with estimated resources of Rs 2.26 lakh crores have been auctioned as on 31\textsuperscript{st} March, 2019. The estimated revenue to the State Governments over the lease period of these mines is Rs 1.83 lakh crores out of which the estimated auction premium is Rs 1.43 lakh crores.

An MoU on cooperation in the field of Geology and Mineral Resources between the Plurinational State of Bolivia, represented by the Ministry of Mining and Metallurgy and the Republic of India, represented by the Ministry of Mines was signed on 29.03.2019 during the visit of Hon’ble President of India to Bolivia.

A total of 166 nos. mineral exploration projects have been approved for National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) funding at the cost of Rs. 52,132.18 Lakhs.

Besides, a National Aero-Geophysical Mapping Programme (NAGMP) of GSI is funded through NMET to cover 27 lakh line km of Obvious Geological Potential & adjoining areas over a period of three years. The survey in 9 blocks out of 12 Blocks along with a TS-QC consultant have been approved so far at the cost of Rs. 25395.87 Lakhs. In addition, a project for interpretation of airborne legacy data for follow up Heliborne surveys has been approved under NMET funding at the cost of Rs. 337.90 Lakhs. Also, the Deep Seismic Reflection Survey (DSRS) and Magneto-Telluric (MT) survey have been approved under NMET funding at the cost of Rs. 8100.00 Lakhs for the Northern Transect of Project- Uncover of GSI.

Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) has achieved ore production of 41.22 lakh tonne which is highest in last 20 years with a growth of 12\% over last year’s production. HCL has created the momentum for the ramp up of ore production to achieve 51.0 lakh tonne in fiscal year 2019-20. These are in line with the ramp up planned for 200 lakh tonne per annum target over six years.

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