



NEWSLETTER

Mining Engineers' Association of India

Rajasthan Chapter - Udaipur

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- ⇒ India's only producer of SMS grade Limestone and also the largest producer of natural Gypsum and Rock Phosphate.
- ⇒ Mining Operations: Rock Phosphate (Udaipur), Lignite (Nagaur & Barmer), Limestone (Jaisalmer) and Gypsum in western Rajasthan.
- ⇒ Green Energy: 106.3 MW Wind Power Project at Jaisalmer & 5 MW Solar Power Plant near Gajner in Bikaner district.
- ⇒ First PSU in India to earn foreign exchange by trading Carbon Credit in international market.
- ⇒ RSPCL, a subsidiary of RSMML has been formed for development of Oil & Petroleum sector in Rajasthan.
- ⇒ RSGL, a JV company with GAIL (India) Ltd. has been formed for developing City Gas Distribution network in Rajasthan.



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Rajasthan Chapter - Udaipur

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EDITORIAL

The mineral legislation of India entered watershed Auction regime in 2015 which was followed by a series of enabling amendments in Acts and connected adjunct Rules. It may be recalled that the one of the key drivers in shifting to Auction route was observance of transparency that must be visible in granting the licenses, besides doing away with discretionary biases. Thus comes competitive bidding process, preferred/qualified bidders bid and the natural resources as mineral property goes in the hands of the highest qualified bidder. The FCFS system is no longer available now and grant of mineral blocks for both major and minor minerals, is now through the e-auction only.

Recently, a news item appeared in one of the leading newspapers wherein the Supreme Court orally observed that acceptance of an unrealistically high bid for mining of the natural resources could lead to the bidder defaulting in payments to the government, and eventual risk of delayed or altogether non operationalization of such auctions. The case pertains to MP government for allocating sand mining lease in the entire Raisen district for Rs 71 crore while its realistic price could have been close to Rs 50 crore only. The MP government terminated the lease after issuing show cause notice to the lessee when the default amount was Rs 8.5 crore and the lessee desired more time to pay up but failed. The lessee moved the HC and repeatedly sought time to pay up, at the same time the amount after interest and penalties, had accrued to hefty Rs 42 crore. The HC dismissed the petition finding the lease owner unable to keep promise to pay up. On the other hand, the SC pilloried the MP government for accepting an unrealistic bid even when it knew that the highest bidder could not have made that much profit to pay Rs 71 crores. The second highest bidder had only quoted a realistic Rs 44 crore! The SC observed that “You cannot view the mining lease to be a milch cow. The government must be realistic in assessing the value of minor minerals that the bidder could mine in a year. Accepting the highest bid, which quoted an unrealistic sum, would be of no good as the bidder would not be able to pay up”.

It is true that in this case, the bidder had quoted a sum, through a transparent process of bidding, yet he could not earn and make the timely payment to the government. Simultaneously, it would be also not easy and straight forward for any government to mark a realistic cap on the bidding amount based on the realistic value of the property, otherwise it would be directly accused for 'fixing' and 'favoring' some body and the transparency in granting the license would be lost! What probably the governments can do is to be sensibly vigilant and make it clearer and more transparent to the bidders about the fair value of the property by mandatory disclosure of relevant information so that the bidders themselves understand the realistic value of the mineral property.

It appears that some time bidders also attempt to win the Auction Block race aggressively at whatever cost without a detailed homework and situation may arise that the bidder lands in a state where no option exists except to surrender the area in due course of time when results do not appear to the level of expectation, thereby resulting in loss of national revenue and crucial time of all stakeholders involved in the process. The recent Coal Blocks auction is reported with an aggressive bidding where the highest bid reached 288.75% (Assam) and 344.75% (Arunachal Pradesh) of the reserve price and it can only be assumed that the bidders have done an appropriate analysis prior to bidding. The take away from the relevant observation of the apex court, in a wider perspective, is that the government must be convincing by itself about the fair value of the mineral property and at the same time the bidder must also be the realistic for quoting the bid amount and be able to adhere to the legislative commitments so that there is a win-win situation for both the government and the successful bidder.



Narendra Kavdia

- Editor

MoM - Amendment to Act & Rules

Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015

The Ministry of Mines on February 18, 2022 has issued the **Mineral (Auction) Amendment Rules, 2022** to further amend the **Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015**. These pertain to Rule 16 (Prerequisites for Auction of Composite Licence) and Rule 17 (Auction for Composite Licence). Amendments have been made in Rule 16(2), Rule 17(1)(b) sub-clause (i) and Rule 17(1)(c) sub-clause (ii) to include global positioning system and removing cumbersome land classification for auction block.

Amendment to 2nd Schedule of the MMDR Act, 1957

Following the Union Cabinets approval, amendment is made to the 2nd Schedule of the Mines and **Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957** vide gazette notification dated 15th March 2022 to incorporate the royalty rate for glauconite, potash, platinum group of metals, emerald, molybdenum, andalusite and sillimanite.

The royalty rates are listed on page 4.

- ASP for glauconite and potash defined
- Royalty rates for glauconite – potash, molybdenum, PGM, sillimanite andalusite & kyanite have been notified, would enable auction of more blocks.



Minerals (Other than Atomic and Hydro Carbons Energy Minerals) Concession Amendment Rules, 2022

The amendment is made in Rule 45 vide notification dated 15th March 2022 for calculation of ASP for glauconite and potash.

- In the heading “and other minerals” inserted after tungsten;
- New sub-rule (4) inserted describing the formula for average sale price of Glauconite and Potash. The following formula shall be used by Indian Bureau of Mines for arriving at the average sale price of Glauconite and Potash:

$$\text{Average Sale Price for Glauconite \& Potash} = \text{Domestic price of Muriate of Potash (MOP) as published in the monthly bulletins of Department of Fertilizers, Government of India} \times \text{Percentage of K}_2\text{O content in Glauconite/ Potash deposit} \times 0.4 \text{ (conversion factor)}$$



Potash

Inclusion of Royalty Rates, 2nd Schedule MMDR Act, 1957

“16A.	Emerald:	Ten per cent. of average sale price on ad valorem basis.”;
“20A.	Glauconite and Potash:	Two point five per cent. of price for Muriate of Potash published by the Government of India, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Department of Fertilizers chargeable on the contained K ₂ O in ore produced for those dispatched for making such Muriate of Potash.”;
“32A.	Molybdenum:	Seven point five per cent. of London Metal Exchange Molybdenum metal price chargeable on the contained Molybdenum metal in ore produced.”;
“35A.	Platinum Group of Metals: (i) Platinum and Palladium; (ii) Rhodium, Iridium and Ruthenium; (iii) Osmium:	Four per cent. of London Bullion Market Association price chargeable on the Platinum and Palladium metals in ore produced; Four per cent. of Johnson Matthey Precious Metals Management price chargeable on the Rhodium, Iridium and Ruthenium metals in ore produced; Four per cent. of Osmium -Preis.com price chargeable on the Osmium metal in ore produced.”;
44.	“Sillimanite, Kyanite and Andalusite:	Twelve per cent. of average sale price on ad valorem basis.”.

“Kyanite,” is omitted against item 55 in the list.

Note. The Second Schedule to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (67 of 1957) was amended vide G.S.R. 175(E), dated the 31st March, 1975 and was lastly amended vide G.S.R. 445(E), dated 14th July, 2020.

MoM - Recent Memorandum

Scheme for Partial Reimbursement of Exploration Expenses from NMET funds

MoM vide office memo dated 23rd March 2022 circulated a scheme for partial reimbursement of exploration expenses from NMET funds for holders of Composite License (CL) granted through auction for exploration of some specific minerals. It is an optional scheme for 3 years from notification.

The scheme covers some specific minerals only: Copper; Tellurium, Selenium; Lead; Zinc, Cadmium, Indium; Gold, Silver; Diamond; Rock-Phosphate; Apatite; Potash; Critical and strategic minerals (Lithium, Cobalt, Molybdenum, Rhenium, Tungsten, Graphite, Vanadium, Nickel, Tin, PGE, Columbite, Tantalite, Lepidolite, Scheelite, Cassiterite); and Elements of Rare Earth Group.

Salient Terms & Conditions:

- If exploration leads to signing of mining lease, then the lessee shall payback the amount released by NMET within 2 years of mineral production and dispatch

- The CL holders shall submit proposal to NMET through DMG/DGMs of the concerned state government and the reimbursement towards the exploration cost will only be considered for prospecting stage of composite license
- The CL holder shall share the geological data/result along with detailed exploration report to state DGMs/DMGs, IBM, GSI from time to time
- Reimbursement will be settled through bank transfers in a dedicated bank account of composite license holder and shall be made in maximum of 4 installments only

NMET's Technical cum cost committee (TCC) will evaluate each proposal on merit

Scale for Reimbursement for Exploration Expenses:

- Geological Mapping: Reimbursement up to 50% of direct cost with max. ceiling of Rs. 0.50 Cr
- Geochemical & Soil Sampling: Reimbursement up to 50% of direct cost with max. ceiling of Rs. 0.50 Cr
- Geophysical Investigation: Reimbursement up to 50% of direct cost with max. ceiling of Rs. 1.00 Cr
- Exploratory Drilling: Reimbursement up to 50% of direct cost with max. ceiling of Rs. 2.50 Cr
- No reimbursement for other activities

Financial Assistance for Procurement of machinery/ equipment/ chemical analysis instruments

In order to enhance the exploration activities, MoM vide office memo dated 23rd March 2022 will consider proposals from Central Government organizations and State DGMs/DMGs to strengthen their machinery/equipment/chemical analysis instrument facilities. States will be given up to 10% of the total approved exploration project cost including approved project cost of concerned state PSUs. NMET's Technical cum cost committee (TCC) will evaluate each proposal for providing funds from NMET.

Granite and Marble Development Council

MoM vide office memo dated 17th March 2022 has added Federation of Minor Mineral Industry (FEMMI) and Tamil Nadu Granite Quarry Owners and Export Association as members to Granite and Marble Development Council (GMDC). The council has to prescribe a uniform framework with regard to systematic and scientific exploration of Granite and Marble throughout the country.

MoEF-Validity of ECs for Integrated Projects with Captive Mines

Ministry has issued an office memorandum on 11.02.2022 which states that the validity of the EC for steel plant or cement plant, or any other industry, as a part of an Integrated Project, shall be seven years, which shall be further extendable for three years for start of production operations by the said plant.

Further, as per provision of EIA Notification, 2006, the validity of EC for captive mining projects refers to the project life as estimated by the Expert Appraisal Committee subject to a maximum of thirty years and has no bearing on the EC granted for the industry which would be as per the clarification provided above.

The MoEF has clarified that the validity of the EC in respect of captive mines of any integrated project shall be read as per the provisions of the EIA Notification, 2006 for the mining projects.

Industry Need not be shut over lack of prior green nod : SC

The SC on 25th March 2022, set aside an NGT order for closure of industries running without prior environmental clearance, saying an industry contributing to the country's economy and providing livelihood needn't be closed down only on the ground of the technical irregularity of not obtaining prior environmental clearance (EC). A bench of justices Indira Banerjee and A S Bopanna said the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 does not prohibit ex post facto environmental clearance. "Grant of ex post facto EC in accordance with law, in strict compliance with Rules, Regulations, Notifications and/or applicable orders, in appropriate cases, where the projects are in compliance with, or can be made to comply with environment norms, is in our view not impermissible. "The court cannot be oblivious to the economy or the need to protect the livelihood of hundreds of employees and others employed in the project and others dependent on the project, if such projects comply with environmental norms," the bench said. The apex court said there can be no doubt that the need to

comply with the requirement to obtain EC is non-negotiable.

PESO Launches NSWS Portal

Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO) and National Informatics Centre (NIC), Nagpur have integrated application modules with National Single Window System (NSWS) Portal for submission of application for approval of licence under various rules administered by PESO. Vide circular dated 16th February 2022, PESO has requested all stakeholder to essentially submit all their PESO applications for approval, hence forth through NSWS portal only wherever applicable. The portal can be accessed through URL: <https://www.nsws.gov.in/>

DGMS – Bye-laws (Medical related) Notification

In accordance with the provisions laid down under Regulations 31 of the Metalliferous Mines Regulations 1961, the Bye-laws for the conduct of Medical Examination and grant of medical certificate of fitness are notified by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Directorate General of Mines Safety on 20 January 2022.

National Safety Awards (Mines)

In recognition of good safety performance in the mines covered under the Mines Act, 1952 (now subsumed in OSH & WC Code, 2020), the Government of India, Ministry of Labour and Employment has instituted National Safety Awards (Mines). These awards for safety of mine workers in Coal, Metal and Oil mines are being presented to the mines every year in two categories: (i) Longest Accident Free Period, and (ii) Lowest Injury Frequency Rate. The purpose of these awards is to enhance safety consciousness and to improve work place environment by way of creating a healthy competition for the safety measures and safety performance among the various mines and recognize the same at the national level. The National Safety Awards ceremony for the 4 years from 2017 to 2020 was held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 8th March 2022. The awards were conferred by the Union Minister of Labour and Employment Sh Bhupendra Yadav in presence of State Minister for Labour and Employment Sh Rameshwar Teli, Director General of Mines Safety Sh Prabhat Kumar and others.

The awards were given under three schemes viz. (1) for Longest Accident Free Period (LAFP), 2(A) for Lowest Injury Frequency Rate (LIFR) per lakh manshift and 2(B) for Lowest Injury Frequency Rate (LIFR) per million cum. Output.

National Safety Awards – Rajasthan Mines (2017-2020)

Year	Scheme	Category	Mine
2017	2(A)	Metal Mines – Mechanised Opencast with manshifts<= 0.5 lakh	RAS LIMESTONE MINE, Ambuja Cements Ltd. (Winner)
			DHARMETA MARBLE MINE, R.K. Enterprises (Runner)
	2(A)	Metal Mines – Mechanised Opencast with manshifts<= 0.25 lakh	DHANLAXMI SOAPSTONE & DOLOMITE MINE, Khetan Business Corp. Pvt. Ltd. (Winner)
	2(A)	Metal Mines – Belowground	KOLIHAN COPPER MINE, Hindustan Copper Ltd. (Winner)
	2(A)	Oil Mines	RAVVA OIL AND GAS MINE, Vedanta Limited, Cairn Oil and Gas (Winner)
2018	2(B)	Coal Mines (Opencast) output>10 million cubic meter (including overburden)	KAPURDI LIGNITE MINE, Barmer Lignite Mining Co. Ltd. (Winner)
			SUVALI OIL MINE Vedanta Ltd. (Runner)
	2(A)	Coal Mines – Opencast	KAPURDI LIGNITE MINE, Barmer Lignite Mining Co. Ltd. (Winner)
2019	1	Metal Mines – Manual Opencast	DHANAPPA LIME STONE MINE, J. K. Cement (Runner)
			KHETRI COPPER MINE, Hindustan Copper Ltd. (Runner)
	2(A)	Metal Mines – Mechanised Opencast with manshifts<= 0.5 lakh	SANU LIME STONE MINE, Rajasthan State Mines & Minerals Ltd. (Winner)
	2(A)	Metal Mines – Belowground	KAYAD LEAD AND ZINC UNDERGROUND MINE, Hindustan Zinc Ltd. (Winner)
	2(A)	Oil Mines	RAVVA OIL AND GAS MINE, Vedanta Limited, Cairn Oil and Gas (Winner)
2020	1	Metal Mines – Belowground	KAYAD LEAD AND ZINC UNDERGROUND MINE, Hindustan Zinc Ltd. (Winner)
			SANU LIME STONE MINE, Rajasthan State Mines & Minerals Ltd. (Winner)
	2(A)	Metal Mines – Mechanised Opencast with manshifts<= 0.5 lakh	DHANAPPA LIME STONE MINE, J. K. Cement (Runner)
	2(A)	Oil Mines	RAVVA OIL AND GAS MINE, Vedanta Limited, Cairn Oil and Gas (Winner)



Sh KC Meena, Kayad Mine, HZL



Sh ML Paliwal, Dharmeta Mine, RK Enterprises



Sh DD Shripat & Sh PR Prajapat, Sanu Mine, RSMML



Sh. Rajendra Harlalka, Dhanlaxmi Mine, KBC

Amendments in the Rajasthan Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 2017

The GoR amended the **Rajasthan Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 2017** vide Rajasthan Gazette notification dated 3rd January 2022 as **Rajasthan Minor Mineral Concession (Amendment) Rules, 2022**.

- **Amendment of Rule 2:-** The definition of “Registered dealer” is inserted under a new clause (xliii-a).
- **Amendment of Rule 36:-** This pertains to extension of existing contract period. In the sub-Rule (5), a new provision is made regarding extension of existing contract period (royalty/excess royalty collection contract) up to one year on payment of 10% of increased amount in the event of any pandemic or natural calamity and a rider agreement shall be executed within a period of fifteen days from the date of receipt of order of extension or before expiry of the original contract period whichever is earlier.
- **Amendment of Rule 73:-** For generation of each e-rawanna, a processing fee of rupees ten shall be deposited online [new sub-rule (5)].
- **Amendment of Rule 74:-** Gypsum mining for some specific purposes (extraction or removal of gypsum for improvement of agriculture land, digging or extraction of brick earth used for making bricks or pottery, ordinary earth or murrum used for filling, leveling or embankment of roads or railways up to depth of three meters and removal of overburden from dumps) shall not be treated as mining activities. Provided that such operations shall be carried out under short term permit, permit or brick earth permit issued by the Mining Engineer or Assistant Mining Engineer concerned.
- Therefore, environment clearance (EC) will not be required in



Removal of Gypsum

such cases (MoEF notification dated 28.3.2020 states that any activities declared by the State in its rules as non mining activity is exempted from EC).

- **New Rule 81A** inserted as “Registration of dealer” - For the purpose of carrying of the business of buying, selling, storing, distributing or processing of minerals, a dealer shall be required to get registered with the Department. The application fee for registration shall be rupees two thousand and annual fee shall be rupees twenty five thousand. Provided that the existing dealers already registered with the Department shall also require to pay annual fee.
- **Substitution of Rule 92:-** Instead of Transit Pass, provision of e-Transit Pass is made to the registered dealer through e-payment.
- **Amendment of Schedule II.** In Part-A, S.No.1, royalty rate for undressed sandstone slabs etc. of Kota and Bundi Districts revised to 160 from 170. Corrections also incorporated in S.No.5 (A) for Slabs and Tiles in (ii) line. In S.No.6, royalty rate for Blocks of +70cm dimension revised to 290 from 300.
- Deletion of **FORM-33, -34 and -35.**



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Changing Mining Scenario in India

- Praveen Sharma

In recent times ESG has become the prime focus of all the organizations irrespective of their core domains. Accordingly, Safety and Sustainability become the key ingredients for success of industrial operations. This is in line with changing times and more importantly investors are increasingly becoming climate conscious. Investors nowadays are inclined to invest only in companies with sustainable ESG goals and good track record in delivering the same. When it comes to ESG, mining companies are always seen disapprovingly. One untoward incident in any of the mines could topple the sentiment of mining companies across the world. So it is pertinent, especially for mining companies, to doubly ensure that each step taken is in line with sustainability.

As a leading mining industry in India, HZL has always been conscious of this fact and has taken responsible ESG measures by way of investing in latest technologies and also bringing in the experts to provide guidance for keeping the industry's carbon footprint low. In mining, whether open pit or underground, sizeable emission comes from the diesel equipment deployed. This is despite deploying HEMM with Tier 2 and Tier 3 engines, the risk of emission is not eliminated. It also entails increase in heat load of operating mines requiring huge quantity of air to dilute the DPM, noxious gases to acceptable levels. This in turn will require deploying huge fans capable of delivering such quantities which is again a huge power guzzler. As our country is still dependent on coal to meet majority of its power requirements, which is again met by burning of fossil fuels. HEMM also brings noise and vibration in the working environment. It is known that exposure to noise may interfere with speech, cause annoyance and can be a source of distraction.



BEV

- Sustainable Mining with continued emphasis on ESG
- Smart Mining with innovative technologies
- Focus on reducing the carbon footprint

In these changing times, where climate change is no more a prediction but a day-to-day reality, it is right time for the mining industry to take baby steps, if not huge, in this transition and do our bit to make India the Net Zero economy by 2070.



Solar Farm

In order to deal with these multitude of problems, the mining industry is planning to transition from majorly diesel powered to Battery electric vehicles. Even though it is still a nascent technology, at least in the mining domain, and has some inherent challenges such as shorter battery cycles, charging infrastructure etc. It still comes with number of advantages compared to diesel powered fleet such as zero emission in the operating environments, considerable reduction noise and vibration associated. Even though the battery still needs to be charged, HZL have plans to eliminate the fossil element by way of ramping up its solar farm infrastructure and utilizing their output by sending them via cables to underground charging stations.

In addition, BEVs entering market nowadays comes with high efficiency driveline and consumes less kWh per km compared to diesel ones and can recover some more while moving downhill. Recent comparison studies also show that for the given size BEVs are more powerful and productive than their diesel counterparts.

Mining has always carried the stigma of one of the highest polluting industries. In these changing times, where climate change is no more a prediction but a day-to-day reality, it is right time for the mining industry to take baby steps, if not huge, in this transition and do our bit to make India the Net Zero economy by 2070.



Shri Praveen Sharma, Chief Operating Officer - Mines, Hindustan Zinc Ltd, carries a rich 30 years of global experience in underground mechanized mining operations (Lead, Zinc, Silver, Copper, Cobalt and Gold) and have worked in variety of leadership roles in India, Australia and Africa. Sh. Sharma has received many prestigious awards & recognition for his brilliance in leadership.

Invest Rajasthan Summit इन्वेस्ट राजस्थान समित आयोजन

राजस्थान राज्य में खनिज क्षेत्रों में निवेश हेतु "इन्वेस्ट राजस्थान समित" के क्रम में उदयपुर स्थित (राजस्थान खान एवं खनिज निगम लिमिटेड) के मीरा मार्ग स्थित मुख्यालय पर दिनांक 10 जनवरी को राज्य स्तरीय ऑनलाईन कार्यक्रम आयोजित किया गया। श्री ओम कसेरा, प्रबंध निदेशक आर.एस.एम.एम.एल. द्वारा स्वागत उद्बोधन दिया गया। निदेशक, खान एवं भूविज्ञान विभाग, डॉ. के.बी. पण्ड्या ने मुख्य उद्बोधन में बताया कि समित में राज्य में खनन क्षेत्र एवं खनिज आधारित उद्योगों में निवेश करने के इच्छुक प्रधान खनिज के 12, तेल एवं प्राकृतिक गैस के 4 तथा अप्रधान खनिज के 380 निवेशकों के साथ कुल रु 28,552 करोड़ के एम.ओ.यू./एल.ओ.आई. पर हस्ताक्षर किये गये। समित में सभी निवेशकर्ता ऑनलाईन उपस्थित हुए जिनमें सीमेंट उद्योग में निवेश हेतु रु 9,550 करोड़ के एम.ओ.यू. तथा रु 11,050 करोड़ के एल.ओ.आई. पर हस्ताक्षर किये गये। खनिज ऑयल ओर एवं स्टील उद्योग में रु 3,520 करोड़ एम.ओ.यू. हस्ताक्षर किये गये। ऑयल व प्राकृतिक गैस के 4 निवेशकों के साथ रु 3,038 करोड़ के एम.ओ.यू. पर हस्ताक्षर किये गये। अप्रधान खनिज में निवेश हेतु 955 करोड़ से अधिक के एम.ओ.यू. तथा रु 438 करोड़ से अधिक के एल.ओ.आई. पर हस्ताक्षर किये गये।

मुख्य निवेशकर्ताओं अडानी इन्फ्रा (इण्डिया) लि. के साथ 5,000 करोड़, मैसर्स श्री सीमेंट के साथ 3,500 करोड़, जिन्दल सॉ लि. के साथ 2,500 करोड़, वण्डर सीमेंट लि. के साथ 2,100 करोड़, जे.के.सीमेंट लि. के साथ 2,000 करोड़, मारवाड़ सीमेंट लि. के साथ 2,000 करोड़, ओरियेन्ट सीमेंट लि. के साथ 1,500 करोड़, नुवोको लि. के साथ 1,500 करोड़, उदयपुर सीमेंट के साथ 1,250 करोड़, फोकस एनर्जी लि. के साथ 1,125 करोड़, ONGC के साथ 1,050 करोड़, ए.सी.सी.लि. के साथ 1,050 करोड़ तथा ओजस्वी मार्बल्स के साथ 1,020 करोड़ के करार पर हस्ताक्षर किये गये। अप्रधान खनिजों में प्रमुख रूप से खनिज ग्रेनाइट के 115 निवेशकों के साथ 527 करोड़ से अधिक के खनिज चाईनाक्ले के 103 निवेशकों के साथ 213 करोड़ से अधिक के, खनिज मेसेनेरी स्टोन के 61 निवेशकों के साथ 128 करोड़ से अधिक के तथा खनिज सेण्डस्टोन के 23 निवेशकों के साथ 104 करोड़ के करार पर हस्ताक्षर किये गये।

Suggestions by the Mines Association to GoR

Shri Pramod Jain, Minister of Mines and Petroleum, GoR, took a meeting of Mines Association and DMG officials at Udaipur on 20.1.2022 and invited suggestions on upcoming Mineral Policy of Rajasthan. The Association desired to include increase in time period of lease, creation of dumping yard facility, and reduction in stamp duty and promotion of local minerals. The Association acknowledged the GoR for M-Sand policy. Sh KB Pandya, Director, Deptt. Of Mines & Geology apprised the minister on work progress of the department and actions taken on illegal mining in the state.

Rajasthan Mineral Auction News

The state government made a second attempt of e-auction for one block of limestone (District Nagaur) and one block of copper and associated minerals (District Bhilwara) for the purpose of grant of mining lease, notified on 18.02.2022.

NITs for e-auction of minor minerals for the purpose of grant of mining lease were issued on 08.02.2022 and 04.03.2022 for 193 and 42 plots respectively.

Rajasthan Budget Announcements बजट घोषणा

मुख्यमंत्री श्री अशोक गहलोत ने दिनांक 23.02.2022 को राजस्थान के बजट घोषणा में अप्रधान खनिजों (Minor Minerals) के संबंध में निम्न घोषणायें की।

- ✦ जिन अप्रधान खनिजों के खनन पट्टों/क्वारी लाईसेन्सों की अवधि 31 मार्च, 2025 तक समाप्त हो रही है, उन्हें निश्चित प्रीमियम के भुगतान की शर्त पर 31 मार्च, 2040 तक बढ़ाना।
- ✦ वैज्ञानिक और सुरक्षित खनन को बढ़ावा देने की दृष्टि से खातेदारी भूमि में अप्रधान खनिज खनन पट्टा जारी करने की 4 हेक्टेयर की अधिकतम सीमा को हटाना।
- ✦ अप्रधान खनिज के खनन पट्टों/क्वारी लाईसेन्स के समीप उपलब्ध भूमि में से एक निश्चित क्षेत्रफल तक निर्धारित प्रीमियम के भुगतान पर खनन पट्टा/लाईसेन्सधारी को आवंटन का प्रस्ताव।
- ✦ खनन पट्टों का संविदा निष्पादन (Lease Agreement Execution) बिना पर्यावरण अनुमति के किया जाना प्रस्तावित किया गया है परन्तु खनन कार्य पर्यावरण अनुमति प्राप्त करने के पश्चात् ही अनुमत।
- ✦ अप्रधान खनिजों के खनन पट्टों के हस्तान्तरण पर लिये जाने वाले प्रीमियम के संबंध में डेड रेन्ट/लाईसेन्स फीस के 10 गुना व अधिकतम 10 लाख रुपये के प्रीमियम के स्थान पर 5 गुना व अधिकतम 5 लाख रुपये प्रीमियम का प्रस्ताव।
- ✦ पट्टाधारियों द्वारा अप्रधान खनिजों के खनन पट्टों के संबंध में मासिक ऑनलाईन रिटर्न के स्थान पर त्रैमासिक रिटर्न की व्यवस्था का प्रस्ताव।

Development of New Auction Blocks for precious and base metals

The state government is looking forward to develop 5 Auction Blocks for Cu, Au, Pb-Zn-Ag in Bhilwara, Chittorgarh and Rajsamand Districts by investing Rs 39.82 crore from NMET fund.

18x Upsurge in Revenue from Minor Mineral Auctions in Rajasthan

GoR notified Rajasthan Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 2017 on 1.3.2017, which provided for e-auction of plots of minor minerals for leases/licences in all kinds of government land in the state.

As per the provisions of RMMCR, 2017, bids are invited for premium amount in e-auction of plots delineated for minor minerals. After e-auction, plot is allotted to the highest bidder, 40% of the premium amount is deposited before grant of mining lease/licence and remaining amount will have to be deposited in 3 equal annual installments. Since implementation of e-auction procedure, a total of 1,419 plots comprising 2619.38 hectare area have been auctioned up to March 2022. These plots are mainly for mineral Bajri, Granite, Limestone (dimensional), Marble, Masonry Stone, China Clay, Phyllites/Schist, Quartz, Feldspar, Mica, Red Ochre, Sandstone, Ball Clay, Silica Sand, Quartzite, Dolomite, Soapstone etc.

Sum of Reserve Price, offered premium and 40% premium amount received by the state prior to grant from these e-auctioned plots in last three years is given in table.

The e-auctioning of various minor minerals over the last three years in Rajasthan makes successful revenue generation to the state. The highest bidders offered an overall premium of Rs. 860.5 crore against the reserve price of Rs. 48.1 crore, an upsurge of over 18x in the reserve price of the minor minerals.

Table - Reserve Price & Premium

<i>Figures in Rs crore</i>			
Year	Σ Reserve price	Σ Premium	Σ Premium Received
2019-20	7.9	120.9	48.4
2020-21	16.0	260.5	104.2
2021-22	24.2	479.1	191.6
Cumulative	48.1	860.5	344.2

Technical Talk

Application of Drones in the Mining Industry

A technical session on “Applications of Drones in the Mining Industry - Rules, Guidelines and Case Study” was organized by MEAI in association with RSMML on 28th March 2022 at Institute of Engineers, Udaipur. The key speaker, Sh Rajnish Purohit, Controller of Mines, North-West Zone, Udaipur elaborated the amendments made in the Mineral Conservation and Development Rules 2017 notified on 03.11.2021 requiring submission of digital Aerial images of mining lease areas to IBM and the precautions that the lessee must know to avoid punitive measures. The provisions of Rule 34A (1) of MCDR 2017 stipulates that every lessee having (a) an annual excavation plan of one million tonne or more in a particular year; or (b) leased area of 50 hectare or more shall carry out drone survey of the leased area and up to 100m outside the lease boundary in the month of April or May every year and submit processed output as specified by the IBM to the Controller General on or before first July every year. The Rule 34A (2) stipulates submission of high resolution Georeferenced Ortho-rectified Multispectral satellite images of the leased area covering up to 100m outside the lease boundary for those not covered under 34A (1). The Rule 34A (3) mandates drone survey within six months before submission of any mining plan or modification thereto.



- Rule 34A(1) of MCDR 2017 mandates enhanced Mine Surveillance using Drone Survey
- Drone Survey provides high quality precision survey data for efficient application in mine planning, DTM creation & geological mapping with significant time saving

Sh Hitanshu Kaushal, HK & Associates, gave a brief account of the Drone Rules 2021, categorization and classifications of drones, registration and certification of Drone Agency and Drone Pilot certification procedure. He also discussed on the Standard Operating Procedures and control point requirements for survey and guidelines issued by the IBM to this effect. A case study of drone surveying over an opencast mine was

presented by him with Ortho-mosaic image creation and preparation of Digital Elevation Model. The Drone survey is capable of producing high quality precise data covering various aspects related to mine planning, topography, geology, forestry and agriculture.

An interactive session was also held with the participants on the drone survey and SOPs and Rules. Sh Purohit requested the members to put forward their suggestions on the SOP for carrying out the drone survey and form of data to be submitted to IBM as per Rule 34A.



The session, with over 100 participants, was presided by Sh RP Gupta, Patron, MEAI Rajasthan Chapter – Udaipur and Sh Mukesh Chaturvedi, GGM, RSMML was the Chief Guest. On this occasion, MEAI also congratulated and felicitated recipients of National Safety Award (2017-2020) from the region viz. M/s KBC (Dhanlaxmi Mine), HZL (Kayad Mine), RK Marble (Dharmeta Mine) and RSMMLtd (Sanu Mine).

Executive Committee Meeting

The 7th Executive Committee Meeting was held on 21st March 2022.

New Members

The chapter extends warm welcome to the following new members:

Life Institutional Members

1. Khetan Business Corporation Pvt. Ltd. (Udaipur), 2. Sangam University (Bhilwara).

Life Members

1. Sh V Jayaraman (Udaipur)
2. Sh Sabyasachi Upadhyay (Bhilwara)
3. Sh Dileep Kumar Suthar (Udaipur)
4. Sh Hatim Hussain Faizee (Udaipur)
5. Sh Shiv Kumar Lakhara (Udaipur)
6. Sh Mayank Bhavsar (Udaipur)






आकर प्रभवः कोषः कोषादण्डः प्रजायते।
पृथिवी कोषदण्डाभ्याम प्राप्यते कोषभूषणाः॥

- कौटिल्य

"Mines are the source of treasury, from the treasury comes power to the state, and the "earth whose ornament is treasury, acquired by means of army and treasury."

- Kautilya

Newly Included Minerals in 2nd Schedule of MMDR Act, 1957

 Glauconite	Composition: Hydrous silicate of iron and potassium Uses: As direct fertilizer to adjust soil pH, oil paint, as water softener (to remove iron from the water and filtering of heavy metals from industrial waste water)	 Molybdenite	Composition: MoS ₂ Uses: An ore of Molybdenum. Mo is an alloying agent in stainless steel, alloy steels and super alloys to enhance hardness, strength and resistance to corrosion
 Potash	Composition: Potassium salt mixed with impure potassium carbonate Uses: Fertilizer, water softening, cement, fire extinguishers, food products, textiles and as a catalyst for synthetic rubber manufacturing	 Andalusite	Composition: Al ₂ SiO ₅ Aluminum silicate Uses: In making refractory bricks and ceramic objects used in the steel making and metal processing industries
 PGM	Composition: PGM includes platinum, palladium, rhodium, ruthenium, iridium, and osmium Uses: High value metals, jewelry, anticancer drugs, dentistry, electronics, and vehicle exhaust catalysts (VECs)	 Sillimanite	Composition: Al ₂ SiO ₅ Aluminum silicate Uses: Mullite or high-alumina refractories
 Emerald	Composition: Beryllium aluminum silicate Uses: Gem quality green beryl as Gemstone	 Kyanite	Composition: Al ₂ SiO ₅ Aluminum silicate Uses: Refractory products – bricks, mortars, kiln furniture, mullite etc.

OBITUARY



Shri Nand Lal Bansal

Sh Nand Lal Bansal (LM-1803) left us for his heavenly abode on 4th March, 2022 at Pune. He was a regular participant in the activities of Udaipur chapter of MEAI. He graduated in mining from MBM Engineering College, Jodhpur in 1966. After graduation he also obtained Management diploma from Chandigarh University.

He joined Bikaner Gypsum Ltd. and worked there for about 13 years. Later he joined at Jhamarkotra Rock Phosphate Mine of RSMML and worked in contracts, mine planning and operations departments and superannuated from there as GGM. He was very sincere and honest person and had deep knowledge of the subject. His simplicity and integrity and dedication to work will be inspiration for all and will be well remembered.

The members of MEAI express their heartfelt condolences on the sad demise of Sh Nand Lal Bansal and convey their profound sympathies to the bereaved family to overcome this great loss.

RK
GROUP



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