

Dated 8th April, 2024

MEETING NOTICE

Subject: Meeting Notice to Revisit of Exploration Norms


The Government of India has amended several acts and implemented rules and policies to facilitate mineral exploration activity, which have provided a compelling environment for both the Government and Private stakeholders. The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (the Act) was endorsed to provide for the development and regulation of mines and minerals under the control of the Union. The MMDR Act, 1957 was comprehensively amended in 2015 to bring several reforms in the mineral sector notably, mandating method of auction for grant of mineral concessions to bring transparency in allocation of mineral resources. The Act was further amended in 2016 and 2020 to address specific emergent issues and was last amended in 2021 to bring further reforms in the sector. These amendment aims to boost the economic growth of the country by auctioning of advanced stage resource bearing blocks with major thrust on venturing into geologically potential areas. Further, for the first time Government of India has notified the comprehensive list of critical minerals on 09th August 2023 considering the requirements of sectors like defence, agriculture, energy, pharmaceutical, telecom etc. The release of the Critical Minerals list marks a milestone in India's pursuit of self-reliance and security in the domain of mineral resources.

As the follow up of the above amendments, GSI has so far handed over a total of 324 geological memorandums for auction as CL (Composite Licenses) and 215 resource bearing blocks (Mining Leases) to the State Governments through Ministry of Mines. Now, the Critical Minerals blocks are being put up for auction by the Central Government.

During the auctioning process of critical minerals by Government of India (Pre-bid Meetings/Road Shows), it was raised that, there is a need of revisiting the existing norms of exploration to meet up the current auction scenario. In the light of above, it is proposed to hold a **Workshop in hybrid mode** to discuss the following points to **Revisit the current Exploration Norms**, tentatively during the **1st week of May, 2024**. It is kindly requested to provide your valuable inputs/views on the issues below.

- ❖ Optimum size of Block area for exploration leading to CL/ML blocks
- ❖ Borehole spacing for different level of exploration.
- ❖ Systematic surface sampling to decipher 2D surface geometry of the ore body.
- ❖ Commodity specific Geophysical surveys.
- ❖ Channel sampling on profiles of the boreholes.
- ❖ Mineral phase identification studies.
- ❖ Beneficiation studies for primary as well as their associated critical and strategic minerals
- ❖ Level of exploration for complex nature of deposits (vein type, lenticular bodies including bodies occurring en-echelon, sheared/silicified linear zones of composite veins, lenses pockets, stockworks, irregularly shaped modest to small sized bodies)
- ❖ Threshold values for critical and strategic minerals.
- ❖ Additional boreholes for potential auctionable blocks. (for beneficiations studies requirement, physical inspection of mineralized cores/stratigraphic core by the industry/bidders)
- ❖ Number of boreholes per sq.km for establishing resources of Schedule-II Minerals (Iron ore, Bauxite and Limestone)

Further any other issues need to be addressed may be placed for consideration.


08/04/2024
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