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DHANBAD BRANCH

Annual General Meeting and Technical Session held at Dhanbad Branch on 05.08.2017

Dignitaries attended the AGM & Technical Session at Dhanbad Branch on 05.08.2017

RANCHI BRANCH

3rd Technical Session (2017-18) of MGMI Ranchi Branch held on 22.09.2017

2nd Technical Session (2017-18) of MGMI Ranchi Branch held on 4th August 2017

RANCHI BRANCH

3rd Technical Session (2017-18) of MGMI Ranchi Branch held on 22.09.2017

ODISHA BRANCH

Dignitaries at the Seminar organised by the Odisha Branch on 30.08.2017

ODISHA BRANCH

Participants of the Seminar organised by the Odisha Branch on 30.08.2017

BHUBANESWAR BRANCH

Meeting at Bubaneswar Branch held on 22.09.2017

BHUBANESWAR BRANCH

Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Bubhaneswar Branch held on 22.09.2017

HYDERABAD BRANCH

An interactive Session of MGMI Hyderabad Branch along with NMDC Officials and the dignitaries of the Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration Inc. (SME), USA held on August 23, 2017

Dr NK Nanda, President, MGMI presided over the interactive session on 23rd August 2017, with society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration IMC (SME, USA).

MEETING WITH SME

View of the dignitaries in the meeting between MGMI and SME on 24.08.2017

Shri Prasanta Roy, Hony. Secretary, MGMI welcoming the Foreign Guests and introducing the Members of MGMI with SME Delegates and presenting Power Point Presentation at MGMI

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International Mining, Equipment, Minerals & Metals Exhibition
(Concurrent with 7th Asian Mining Congress)

EXHIBITION
November 8 - 11, 2017
Eco Park, Rajarhat, Kolkata

CONGRESS
November 8 - 10, 2017
Hotel Westin, Rajarhat, Kolkata
(Opposite to Exhibition Venue)

Congress Theme: International Cooperation in Innovative Technology for Growth of Mineral Industry

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COVER PAGE PHOTOGRAPH

Solar panels at Noamundi Mine of TATA.

The solar installation covers 19 acres of land at an elevated reclaimed mining hill. The 3-megawatt solar photovoltaic power plant is situated at the company's centenary Noamundi Iron Ore Mine, in the State of Jharkhand. Tata says there is enough room to expand the project and increase generation to 4.5 megawatts.

Photo by Tata Steel. (Source : mining.com)

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

It gives me immense pleasure to share with you that our prestigious Institute has been performing well on all fronts.

I take pleasure in sharing with you all that MGMI has organized a series of Group Discussions on technical issues through which it can help members to update their knowledge on current topics of relevance to the development of the Mining and Mineral sectors in the country. A working group has been constituted for the purpose for suggesting alternative Reporting System for Coal. I am happy to note that a draft of Indian Mineral Industry Guidelines (IMIG) have been prepared by MGMI through its vast experienced members in collective manner. The observation has been prepared primarily focusing on prevailing Indian conditions and also tried to strengthen the Reporting System of Coal Deposits.

I urge the MGMI branches, throughout the country, to function more proactively. A lot of effort needs to be made for making the branches vibrant. The success of MGMI depends on how efficiently and actively, the available expert knowledge bank is used for the mineral sector and also be a part of the policy makers of the sector. The National Mineral Policy is set for revision and in this regard the think tank, expertise and experience of MGMI should collate and submit its recommendation for a seamless growth of mineral sector

I firmly believe that technical institutions of this age and heritage cannot restrict its activity limited to its survival only. I am confident that the activities taken by each and every member of MGMI including the Council members will be remembered for time immemorial, if more and more innovative ideas start forthcoming.

Once again, I would like to remind all of you that the date of the 7th Asian Mining Congress and Exhibition has been finalized and it will be held during November 8-11, 2017 at Kolkata. Please actively participate in the mega event and inform your colleagues and friends about the event for their participation.

Thank you,

Dr NK Nanda

WORLD IS RUNNING OUT OF SAND

"Shortage of supply of sand has affected all building projects, including government ones like the Metro Rail" (The Hindu, April 28, 2017). The Hindu reports over 30% - 40% of construction activity has been hit across all States in the country because of shortage of sand. In fact, not only in India, sand shortage and its volatile price escalation is a major cause of concern in the real estate and infrastructure development worldwide. World is running out of sand.

Sand is a vital ingredient in the manufacture of concrete, glass, electronics, silicon chips, solar panels and a variety of other products besides stowing in underground mines. It, seemingly an infinite staff sourced from river banks, deltas and beaches around the world, is in short supply as global demand is in increase year by year.

The biggest consumer of it is civil construction - an essential necessity of modern civilisation. Cities like Dubai, Shanghai and Mumbai growing every day in length, breadth and height, are in demand of increasing amounts of sand to build skyscrapers, sidewalks and all other infrastructure that supports growth. The recent obsession with fracking has also caused a rapid rise in the consumption of this limited resource. Sand in fracking is used in hydraulic fracturing (fracking), a process where materials are pumped into the ground at high pressure in order to fracture rock and force the stubborn last few drops of oil out of geologic deposits.

An estimate given by U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) suggests sand and gravel requirement in construction alone accounts for about 30 billion tons every year globally. A conservative estimate combining land reclamation, embankments, concrete roadways and industry gives a consumption figure of sand around 44 billion tons per year.

According to the USGS, China, India, Brazil, the U.S., and Turkey are the world's biggest concrete producers, with China and India together accounting for two-thirds of total production. But when it comes to sand consumption, there's no contest: China gobbles the most by far as its megacities expand. In the past 20 years, cement demand in China has increased by an astronomical 437 percent compared to about 58 percent in the rest of the world, according to the United Nations Environment Program. Scientists, city planners, administration are worried with the fact that world is running out of sand.

Traditional Sources of Sand and its disappearance

Traditionally sand is sourced from the river banks. Rivers flowing from the hills and mountains carry stones and pebbles along the flow of water and in the process sand is generated and starts residing on the side of the flowing rivers while the eroded stones and pebbles go along the flow of the stream at the centre. Then sand is mined from near the shore and supplied to the consumers for different uses. The sand excavated is replenished by the river. Unfortunately, if the mining of sand exceeds natural generation of it, the problem starts. Again in case the water flowing along the river is reduced due to natural reason, generation of sand gets affected. The situation aggravates in case the flow of the stream is reduced due to human interference, like

construction of dams one after another along the river, diversion / splitting the flow for societal demand. Of late, these activities have increased in all countries many fold. The net result is reduction in generation of river sand.

Impact of Excessive Sand Mining

The overenthusiastic miners exceed the limit of sand collection from the shore towards the main river and starts in-stream mining of sand in most irresponsible manner. Excessive in-stream sand and gravel mining causes degradation of rivers. In-stream mining lowers the stream bottom, leading to bank erosion. Depletion of sand in the stream bed and along coastal areas causes deepening of rivers and estuaries enlarging the river mouths and coastal inlets. Consequently it leads to saline-water intrusion from the sea. The effect of mining is compounded by the effect of sea level rise. Any volume of sand exported from streambeds and coastal areas is a loss to the system. Excessive in-stream sand mining is a threat to the bridges, river banks and nearby structures. Besides, sand mining also affects the adjoining groundwater system.

From above one can imagine that irresponsible sand mining does not only create sand crisis, absence of sand causes erosion of soil of the sides breaking and swallowing land, village after village, creating havoc for the inhabitants. In fact, sand on two sides along the shore protects the soil of the land along the river. In absence of sand and soil along the shore flood becomes a regular event in every rainy season.

Besides, in-stream sand mining results in destruction of aquatic and riparian habitat through large changes in the channel morphology. Impacts include bed degradation, bed coarsening, lowered water tables near the streambed, and channel instability. These physical impacts cause degradation of riparian and aquatic biota and may lead to the undermining of bridges and other structures. Continued extraction may also cause the entire streambed to degrade to the depth of excavation.

Sand Substitutes

To cope with the crisis, developers are now going for alternatives. Manufactured sand or M-sand is the most popular substitute for river sand. It is produced by crushing hard granite, and the crushed particles are cubical in shape with grounded edges -- it is washed and graded to construction standards. The concrete's durability is ensured, as M-sand doesn't contain organic and soluble compounds that affect the setting time and properties of cement. Impurities such as clay, dust and silt coatings are also absent, increasing quality and durability. But its usage is limited to only concrete and block work, as river sand is still preferred for plastering.

Surendra Hiranandani, Chairman & MD, House of Hiranandani, who replaced sand cement plasters with Gypsum Vermiculate Plaster (GVP) in early 90s, says it helped reduce the company's dependency on river sand tremendously. "GVP plaster gives a smoother finish and doesn't require water curing. While a few areas still require river sand, the total usage has been reduced overall," he says. In recent past Sandstone rocks in Sikar/Junjhunu is being disintegrated to produce Manufactured Sand (M-Sand), well cleaned and washed and supplying to Haryana and NCR region. Other alternatives that developers could opt for include granulated blast furnaces slag formed during the production of steel, quarry dust. Recently there was news which highlights the "Construction sand from Slag: BIS2016. Essar Steel uses it for all construction, roads, heavy industries construction to replace river sand".

In Rajasthan millions and millions tons of waste from sandstone mines have accumulated in

Jhodhpir, Bundi and Kota which can be good source of manufactured sand suitable for any construction activity. It will also regenerate clean environment in mining area.

Foundry waste sand can be an alternative to river sand. Red bricks could be replaced by using FaL-G (fly ash, lime, gypsum) bricks, in order to avoid the exploitation of soil. Considering the fact that 60 per cent of the project cost for buildings goes towards procurement of materials, it was possible at places to reduce the construction cost and ensure greater durability by using quality alternative materials.

There seems to be plenty of sand in the world's deserts. One can think of replacing river sand by desert sand. But the problem is desert sand is eroded predominantly by wind rather than water, and as a result it's too fine to be used as construction material. However, there is a dramatic increase in demand of marine and beach sand mining in some places.

Researchers are working hard for developing natural sand alternatives. A team of engineers based in the UK are trying out a new concrete formula in India that replaces some sand with tiny plastic particles.

So far, no one has come up with a single replacement for natural sand that can keep pace with demand. But together, the alternatives may have some impact. Recycling concrete, quarry dust as described above, and even glass bottles can help reduce demand. Crushing rock or pulverizing concrete can be well thought of sand alternative, but it is costly, and the resulting M-sand is ill suited for many applications.

In India and Indonesia, activists and government officials are confronting black-market sand mining gangs. The global black market for sand is a violent business that has seen numerous activists in South Asia killed for confronting the issue. The United Nations has also showed concern over the illegal mining, but nothing seems to have been done to tackle the situation.

River Sand Mining in India

For past many years, incidents of illegal river sand mining across the country are on the rise. Given its resultant and adverse impact on river system and dependent communities, various state and central governments continue to go through the motions of devising a mechanism for judicious excavation of this minor mineral. But there seems no will to achieve compliance. At the same the time, people and concerned groups affected by illegitimate riverbed mining practices are approaching judiciary seeking legal intervention to curb the unsustainable mining of the natural resource.

In this backdrop, tracking of this issue is providing an overview of various aspects related abstraction of the finite grit material from the rivers through a three part blog series thought by Tamilnadu. The first part of the series presents description of the most of the illegal riverbed sand mining incidents that have taken place in different Indian States through the year 2016. The second part of the blog gives account of the measures taken by governments at States and Central level to check the pilferage of this natural resource. The third part will highlight on the legal interventions by respective courts including Honourable Supreme Court (SC) and National Green Tribunal (NGT) to regulate unscientific quarrying of riverbeds.

Excessive mining on river beds to meet the increasing demand for sand from the construction industry has led to severe ecological imbalance. The fact that rivers are running dry is being used as a reason to mine them for sand. The bigger issue is mining done under the guise of river restoration, say experts. More than rivers, wetlands are being exploited for sand mining

across Tamil Nadu and other states. Rivers in the public eye are better protected, but rivers such as the Cheyyar, the Vegavathy, and smaller streams are being destroyed.

The sand available now is coarse, and contains a high percentage of silt and clay. This retains moisture and reduces the strength of the concrete. Mica, coal, fossils, and other organic impurities also make the sand useless for concrete work. The acute shortage and high price for river sand has also led to adulteration using sea sand, which has raised serious concern among builders.

Situation in West Bengal is not different. In recently past illegal mining of sand by mafias and creating sand crisis was a hot topic in the press. Illegal sand mining has become not only a severe law and order issue in Birbhum but is also one of the reasons behind the factional feud in the local political parties. As the press goes, these mines generate revenue to the tune of Rs. 70 crore.

Sand mining is not illegal in the State. The West Bengal Minor Minerals Rules, 2002, states that "no mining operation shall be done within a distance of 5 kilometres" of a river. The permits are issued on first come first serve basis. However, locals in Birbhum allege that this rule is violated all the time, with mining taking place on the banks of the Mayurakshi and the Ajay rivers.

Locals said in the press that there were about 80 illegal sand mines in Birbhum, with 30 located on the banks of the Mayurakshi, and about 25 near the Ajay river. The sand is then smuggled to places such as Rajarhat in the North 24 Parganas, Durgapur and Asansol in Bardhaman district, and Baharampur in Murshidabad district, where the real estate is booming. Such illegal rampant irresponsible mining of sand in the river banks and even in main stream are causing irreparable damage to the ecological system besides creating crisis of sand supply to the consumers without any control.

Way Ahead

The situation can improve only when the State drafts a strong mining policy. Adequate monitoring and inspection of sand quarries is also required. To avoid contradictory orders passed by different subordinate courts and benches of the Courts, it is important that all matters pertaining to sand mining are consolidated and heard by the same bench.◆

LETTERS

Pros and cons of unbundling Coal India Limited

Dear Editor,

Thanks a lot for keeping abreast the readers of the MGMI News Journal regarding the latest thinking of Government of India through your esteemed editorial published in the April-June issue of the journal on unbundling Coal India Limited to seven independent coal companies. Nobody can say with certainty at the moment as to whether or not will Coal India Limited be disintegrated in future. But one thing which has become clear by now is that the government is thinking very seriously over its dissolution. If the disintegration of Coal India Limited does take place at any moment of time, then the Maharatna status and hitherto the world's largest coal company named Coal India Limited will cease to exist instantly. There will be no holding company as such; instead there would be seven independent coal companies with different heads. Stiff competitiveness along with rivalry will also find place among these companies. There won't be a dog's chance of the survival of a non-performing or bad performing company. This will pose an utterly ugly situation. Chaos and mass unrest are likely to crop up. On humanitarian grounds, therefore, the powers-that-be must desist from taking the drastic step of disintegrating Coal India Limited. Like many others, I am also of the opinion that only the unified Coal India Limited has the capability and potentiality to safeguard the interests of its workforce.

Thanking you,

Ravindra Prasad Sinha
Gare Palma Group of mines, 16/09/2017

(From the Editor : When government is in the process of reducing the number of the independent public sector banks to 5 or 6 through amalgamation, it will amount to a bizarre idea to disintegrate the Coal India into seven independent companies to bring in competition and settle a realistic market price of its produce.)

Not unbundling, instead Coal India should diversify towards renewable energy sector

Dear Sir

This is in response to the editorial page in MGMI News Journal vol-43 No. 1 (Apr-June 2017) where it is mentioned about the NITI Aayog work on 'National Energy Plan' for energy security of the country up to 2040. It has also indicated about the India's transition to renewable energy, universal access to power by 2022, lowering import dependence, increasing energy security.

It has also been mentioned in the editorial about NITI Aayog's suggestion to unbundling of seven subsidiaries of Coal India to bring favourable impact and bring transparency in pricing.

As being mentioned in the editorial unbundling Coal India is not a new thought, it is being thought for decades but some reason or other it could not be materialized. Any restructuring is not only for the transparency in pricing of the commodity but also for the social/environmental etc. impact/cost and for the up to date necessity for a long term benefit of the nation as a whole if not globally.

As coal India is fulfilling the major Energy demand of the country for decades maintaining the other social/environmental aspect till now, so it can be very well taken that Coal India will continue to do so in the years to come. It is not necessary that Coal India will put all its efforts on coal production only as its name started with "COAL". Coal India can initiate in the renewable energy sector with its huge resources (Land, Money, Highly skilled manpower, very good infrastructure etc.) and can make herself the major energy player as it is now in the country in the years to come. The present requirement of the country is to heavily enhance the energy from renewable sector and Coal India can very well meet this with suitable restructuring.

In India renewable energy sector is till like a virgin coal field. There is lot of scope for new entrants to explore the possibility which is proven in many advanced countries. The government is also encouraging and putting much effort in enhancing the renewable energy to meet the future demand. Many companies/ entrepreneurs are entering in this sector. But commendable thrust can be achieved only when big giants like Coal India enters in this energy sector. It is certain that the switching from fossil fuel energy to renewable energy is the order of the day for many advantages for the nation as a whole. Integrated approach is to be taken to make it a success

Thanks & regards

Dr. Bimal B Sen
08/09/2017

(**From the Editor :** It is very true that Coal India in capable of taking the venture like renewable energy/solar energy as opined by the author of the letter. It is doubtful if the subsidiary companies after turning those to independent companies will be able to help government's programme of enhancing renewable energy.)

Apprehensions on ''unbundling of Coal India''

Shri Bibhas,

I read the recommendation of Niti Aayog for splitting of CIL. Nothing can be more harmful to coal industry. Competition may be a fanciful mantra taught in rudimentary Management. It is harmful to coal. If adopted, it will harm safety and good mining practices. Again, coal is allotted to industries on the basis of serious logistics. No one should be allowed coal from wherever he chooses.

TR Jayaraman

(From the Editor : Thanks for your immediate response, Sir, I appreciate your apprehension about fate of Coal India in case it is splitted. I am afraid, in this era of off-loading the mining workloads to MDOs and contractors, splitting Coal India into a number of smaller units may ultimately bring back the century old practices of contractual mining, unscientific mining at the cost of conservation of the reserves and safety of the work persons, and many other downstream wrong practices, exactly to stop which the then private mines were nationalised.)

India needs to think seriously on mining of minor minerals in the country or off the country

Dear Mr Bhattacharya,

At the outset I wish to convey you my sincere appreciation for your efforts in improving the content and formatting of the News Journal and specially the Group Discussion feature. While referring to this feature in Vol 43 No1 and Sri Prasanta Roy's observation about such discussions resulting in bringing out issues of Mineral Policy. At one time, late forties and fifties the MGMI Annual General Meetings provided the occasion for Minister for Mines as

the Chief Guest to spell out the Mineral Policy of the Government besides learning about the concerns of the Mining Community. Sad MGMI has lost that stature.

I feel the present commendable efforts of eliciting the views from members about present Government Policies and the implications relating to a healthy development of the Mining Sector - as suggested by Sri Prasanta Roy has to be followed up vigorously. It could also be the forum to draw the attention of the Mining Industry in general about the necessity of looking at the Mineral Industry too - a sector not very much in the concerns of the MGMI which it seems mainly looking at the major minerals.

The present opportunities in High Technology Development in the Electronic and Solar field will be missed unless serious thought is given to some of the Critical and Strategic Minerals like High Purity Quartz (for Silicon Quartz), Graphite (for Graphene), Rare Earth Minerals etc besides Cobalt and Nickel. In the case of those that are not available in the country it is high time Indian entrepreneurs think of overseas ventures.

I had occasion, as a junior member of the MGMI Council years ago to attention to the problem of Minor Minerals and small mining sector. Sri Sankarlal Chakraverty, a senior member, had followed it for a while and it was forgotten subsequently.

Regards

R Sudhakar
08/09/2017

[**From the Editor** : I very much appreciate your suggestion of taking up projects for mining of minor minerals including High Purity Quartz, Graphite (for Graphene), Cobalt, Nickel, Rare Earth Minerals, etc. which are very much critical and strategic for modern industrial need. If need be the investors should look abroad for taking up such ventures. China is going ahead even for sea-bed mining beyond their main land.]

An Appreciation

Dear Editor

The get up of the Magazine I found is of excellent standard. Wish we keep up our bench mark and endeavour to improve.

Regards

Narendra K Nanda

(**From the Editor :** Many thanks, Sir. Your appreciation is great encouragement for us.)

Surge in Demand of Pet coke : A New Challenge to Coal Mining Industry!

Dear Editor,

Your categorical description about rising pet cock demand in India in the Editor's page of Oct – Dec. 2016 issue of the MGMI News Journal is indicative of the hard fact that pet coke is verily a superior solid fuel in comparison to coal which should as a matter of fact be construed as a new challenge to survival of coal mining industry. In boilers of coal fired power plants, if pet coke is admixed with coal to obtain a bit higher calorific value then problem is not much. But in course of time, if the newer boilers will start replacing altogether coal by pet coke, then entire coal mining industry, in particular the coal industry controlled by Coal India Limited, will get adversely affected. There is bound to be a steep decline in demand of coal if the newer boilers of power plants would be designed in such a manner as to be fed by pet coke only. Existential crises of the coal mining industry is apprehended to be on the anvil vis-à-vis the ever increasing preferential treatment to pet coke, leaving aside domestic coal, for opting as the fuel source by the concerned consumers viz power plant, steel industry, cement kilns, fertilizer industry, etc. If this rising trend persists, then it will undoubtedly do immense harm to coal mining industry. In other words, the

entire coal mining industry will suffer a lot on account of growing demand of pet coke in the competitive marker.

Last but not the least, it is an agreed and acknowledged fact now that various coal consumers have started evincing affinity towards pet coke which will obviously put question mark on the sustainability of coal mining industry. Policy makers of the country should look around this matter. The adoption of a policy or a principle of mutual co-existence could be one good alternative.

Yours faithfully,

Ravindra Prasad Sinha
Gare Palma Group of Mines
Raigarh Area SECL
July 22, 2017

(From the Editor : It is still to be seen if adopting Pet Coke as a source of fuel is an advantage or adventure. But the reality is consumption of Pet Coke has spiked in India. A large chunk of cement plants, located away from coal fields or located near the sea ports are using pet coke to the extent of 100 per cent in both cement kilns as well as captive power plants. Other coal consuming units are also leaning towards Pet Coke to remain cost competitive. Import of this fuel has sharply increased due to demand in power generating stations. India is importing 12 million tonnes of this fuel in addition to using a similar quantity of domestic production.

But is all well with pet Coke? Various stakeholders like environmental activists, regulators, green courts, and civil society members have started looking down upon pet coke to be an utterly unwise fuel choice from the environmental perspective. But besides complexity of dealing with higher sulphur content an environmental menace in pet coke vis-a-vis coal, there are other daunting challenges accepting Pet Coke as a pet fuel, like relative difficulty in grinding pet coke vis-a-vis coal, difficulty in managing the chemical/process issues of raw mix design and kiln operability caused by lower silica/mineral content in pet coke as against Indian coal.

Looking into the future, we are left wondering if pet coke is really a sustainable cost advantage, or an environmental adventure that can backfire)◆

Regular Feature

HEADQUARTERS ACTIVITY

Minutes of the 875th Council Meeting

The 875th Council Meeting was held on 6th May 2017 at MGMI Building, Kolkata on Saturday, 2.30 p.m. Dr. NK Nanda, President was in the Chair. The meeting was attended by Prof Banerjee SP, S/Shri Saha RK, Ghosh Avijit, Goenka JP, Jha AK, Acharya A, Arora VK, Dr Barnwal JP, Prof. Bhattacharjee Ashis, Biswas Anup, Bose LK, Chakrabarti Bhaskar, Choudhury Akhilesh, Dhar Gautam, Ghosh Samir Kr, Guha Phalguni, Karmakar AK, Prof. Karmakar GP, Pandey AK, Dr Sarkar Debasish, Singh Anil Kumar, Dr. Jha Shambhu, Kundu DK, Wadhwa IP, Lochan Rajiw, Talapatra Ranajit, Bhattarcharya BC and Roy Prasanta.

ITEM No. 0 Opening of the Meeting

0.1 Shri Prasanta Roy, Hony. Secretary extended welcome to all members and requested Dr NK Nanda, President to Chair the Session. The meeting was chaired by the President, Dr NK Nanda.

0.1.1 Leave of absence was granted to those who could not attend the Meeting.

0.2 President welcomed the Past Presidents, all members of the Council and Invitees. He expressed his happiness for the activities of MGMI. He thanked to Shri JP Goenka, Convenor, President Golf Cup Tournament for successful organisation.

Condolence : One minute silence was observed in memory of late Surendra Nath Pandhi (LM – 2770, 1976-77) and Prof. MP Singh (LM – 6292, 1992-93).

The Hony. Secretary appraised the house that late SN Pandhi passed away on 5th April, 2017 at Odisha. He became Life Member in 1976-77. He was 60th batches B.Tech Mining from the then ISM Dhanbad. Pandhi retired on superannuation as Director General of Mines Safety, GOI on 31.07.2000. He had a bright academic carrier throughout. He got 1st position in the 1st class Mines Managers' (Coal) Certificate Examination. He also holds Surveyor's and 1st Class Mine Managers' (Metalliferous) Certificate. Initially, he worked in some reputed Mining Companies. He joined DGMS as a Deputy Director in 1967 and was promoted to the post of Joint Director, Director, Dy. Director General and finally to the post of Director General on 1.1.1998. He has authored about 50 technical papers presented at International and National Fora and published in prestigious Journals. He has been inducted to Board of Directors of OMC Limited, Bhubaneswar (a State Govt. Undertaking) and MOIL, Nagpur, he worked as Director, OMC Ltd. upto the end of 2016.

Late Prof. M P Singh became Life Member in 1992-93 and left for heavenly abode on 13th April, 2017 at Varanasi. Prof. Singh was born on 10th September 1957. He was serving as the Head of the Dept. of Geology, BHU. He graduated in 1978 and obtained his Ph.D. degree in 1981, both from BHU. He was instrumental in establishing and advanced Coal Petrology Lab in the department which is the first of its kind in any Indian University. Prof. Singh published over 75 papers in reputed Journals. He was a recipient of "Subrata Ghosh Award" and "Dr. J Coggin Brown Memorial Gold Medal for Geology" from MGMI for his outstanding contributions in Coal Petrology. In true sense,

he was a friend, philosopher and guide having pleasing personality. He is survived by his wife Prof. Meenakshi Singh, BHU, a daughter, Divya Goutam, a son, Aditya Goutam.

Their souls may rest in peace and family members gain strength to bear the irreparable loss.

Shri LK Bose, Shri VK Arora, Shri Phalguni Guha and Shri Prasanta Roy briefed about Late Pandhi and Singh.

President thereafter took the agenda items.

875.1.0 To confirm the minutes of the 874th meeting of the Council held at the Hotel, Hyatt Regency, Kolkata on 4th February, 2017

The Minutes were circulated to all Council Members. So far, no comments were received. The Council then resolved that:

Resolution : Be it resolved that the Minutes of the 874th (2nd meeting of the 111th Session) meeting of the Council held on 4th February, 2017 at Kolkata are confirmed.

875.1.1 To consider matters arising out of the minutes

The Council then considered the Action Taken Report on the Minutes of the 874th Council Meeting held on 4th February, 2017 at Kolkata and noted the report.

875.2.0 To discuss the forthcoming events of the Institute

a) **111th Annual General Meeting :** The Council discussed the matter at length and felt that due to the work load of the 7th Asian Mining Congress and Exhibition during November 08-11, 2017 , it will be difficult to hold the 111th Annual General Meeting in September 2017. So, considering the circumstances, Council decided and resolved that the 111th Annual General Meeting would be held at the afternoon of 10th November 2017. This may, accordingly be intimated to the Office of ROC for their information.

b) **60th Holland Memorial Lecture :** The Council also decided to organize the 60th Holland Memorial Lecture separately.

c) **National Seminar or Workshop 2017 :** Organising the National Seminar will be decided in due course of time.

d) **7th Asian Mining Congress & Exhibition 2017 :** The Hony. Secretary briefed about the Conference. Shri AK Jha, CMD, MCL and Chairman, Organising Committee, 7th Asian Mining Congress informed that as a follow up action letters will be sent to the organisations where already appealed and fresh letter will be sent to the organisations where no approach has been made so far.

Hony. Secretary informed that two persons were employed earlier for AMC, who have already left MGMI. He proposed to engage one person for the 7th AMC. The Council agreed to the proposal to engage a person.

Shri LK Bose was requested to brief about the Technical Sessions of the 7th AMC. Shri Bose informed that letters have been written to the promising personnel for sending Technical Papers for the Technical Sessions. He also mentioned about the different categories of the paper for AMC, namely Technical Papers for Technical Sessions, Invited Papers, Key Note Address and Country Status Papers. However, so far, response is not so encouraging.

The Hony. Secretary brought to the notice of the Council that the Budget for the 7th

AMC would be to the tune of 6th AMC, plus minus 10%.

He also informed that letters have already been written to the promising organisations, who generally sponsor Asian Mining Congress and Exhibition, for different categories of sponsorship under the signature of President, MGMI.

Before starting of the meeting, the Hony. Secretary requested Shri I P Wadhwa, Managing Worker, Tafcon India Pvt. Ltd. to brief about the progress of IME 2017. Shri Wadhwa briefed the status of IME 2017. He sought help from President, MGMI and other Council Members for more participation in IME 2017.

875.3.0 To consider and appoint a Judging Committee for various Awards and Medals. (list attached)

A list of members of Judging Committee for various Awards and Medals was placed before the Council. The Council authorized the Hony. Secretary to revise the existing list of members in consultation with some senior members.

875.4.0 To consider and constitute a board of scrutineers to conduct the Election of Council Members for the year 2017-2020

The Council constituted a Board of Scrutineers with the following members :

Shri JP Goenka	-	Chairman
Shri RK Saha	-	Member
Shri Anup Biswas	-	Member
Shri Amrita Acharya	-	Member
Shri R Talapatra	-	Member
Shri Prasanta Roy	-	Hony. Secretary – Ex Officio Member

875.5.0 To consider applications for membership and the membership position of the Institute

a) The Council approved 09 applications for Life membership.

b) The Council noted the present position of membership which is as follows :

Membership Position
(As on 06.05.2017)

	04.02.2017	Add	Trans	Loss	06.05.2017
Member	265	-	-	-	265
Life Member	2460	09	-	-	2469
Associate	39	-	-	-	39
Student Associate	06	-	-	-	06
Life Subscriber	32	-	-	-	32
Subscriber	01	-	-	-	01
Donor	02	-	-	-	02
Patron	04	-	-	-	04
Corporate	08	-	-	-	08
	2817	09			2826

While considering the application for membership it was decided that Council Members should take initiatives for membership drive so that more and more membership application forms are received for processing. It was also discussed that Engineering students to be motivated for becoming Student Members of MGMI and they may wish to open students chapter in their collages for which a Sub Committee has been constituted involving senior members like Dr. Bhabesh Chandra Sarkar, Prof. G P Karmakar and Prof. Ashis Bhattacharjee.

875.6.0 Any other matter with the permission of the Chair

Group Discussion : The Hony. Secretary requested Prof. SP Banerjee to brief the Council on the Group Discussion on Mineral Reserve Estimation System held on 08th April 2017. Prof. Banerjee briefed the Council on the Group Discussion and also informed that it was a good discussion and the participants present in the discussion were very much encouraging and supportive. A report has been prepared and would be published in the forthcoming issue of MGMI Journal.

The Hony. Secretary proposed to constitute a Working Group consisting of the following members. The Working Group will prepare a Road Map suggesting an alternative reporting system for Coal. In this work, IIT Dhanbad (ISM), GSI, IBM, CMPDIL, SCCL, NMDC, etc. are to be taken into the group for discussion.

1. Prof. SP Banerjee
2. Dr. Bhabesh Chandra Sarkar
3. Shri Smarajit Chakraborty
4. Shri Biplab Chatterjee
5. Dr. AK Moitra
6. Shri Phalguni Guha
7. Shri TN Gunaseelon
8. Dr. Anupendu Gupta
9. Shri P Kumar
10. Prof. GP Karmakar
11. Shri Bhaskar Chakraborti
12. Shri Rajiw Lochan
13. Shri Ranjit Datta
14. Shri Prasanta Roy

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair at 4.30 p.m.◆

DISCLAIMER : The findings, interpretations, and conclusions expressed in any of the contributions of the MGMI News Journal is entirely those of the authors and should not be attributed in any manner to the Mining Geological and Metallurgical Institute of India (MGMI), to its branches or its members. The MGMI does not guarantee the accuracy of the data included in the publications and accepts no responsibility whatsoever for any consequence of its use.

BRANCH ACTIVITIES

Dhanbad Branch

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting and Technical Session

A meeting of MGMI Dhanbad Branch was convened at the Committee Room of CSIR-CIMFR Dhanbad on 05/08/2017 under the Chairmanship of Dr Amalendu Sinha and in the presence of Dr Pradeep K Singh, Director, CSIR-CIMFR, Shri Prasanta Roy, Secretary, MGMI Kolkata, Shri D Gangopadhyay, Director (T), BCCL and other members of the MGMI, Dhanbad Branch.

The following points came out from the discussions during the meet :

1. Dr Amalendu Sinha welcomed all the participants and introduced the mission, vision and mandate of the MGMI to the participants. He emphasized on the initiation of more activities under this branch.
2. Shri Prasanta Roy addressed the meet and urged the members to contribute voluntarily to the Branch activities. He informed the members about the activities and progress for the upcoming Asian Mining Congress & Exhibition scheduled to be held during 8-11 November, 2017 at Kolkata. He also requested that members and others interested may arrange a bus to visit the Exhibition at Kolkata on 10th November, 2017.
3. The incumbent chairman proposed the name of Dr Pradeep K Singh as the new chairman of MGMI Dhanbad Branch which was seconded by Dr AK Singh and supported by the members present.
4. The new chairman, Dr Pradeep K Singh accepted the position and assured to make Dhanbad branch very vibrant and to start a membership drive.
5. The new chairman proposed the names of new office bearers of MGMI Dhanbad Branch as follows :
   i. Prof BC Sarkar, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad as Executive Member
   ii. Dr B Paul, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad as Executive Member
   iii. Shri SK Singh, GM, BCCL as Executive Member
   iv. Dr MP Roy, Principal Scientist, CSIR-CIMFR as the Honorary Secretary
   v. Dr AK Verma, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad as the Joint Secretary
   vi. Mr Ashok Kumar, Scientist, CSIR-CIMFR as the Treasurer.

All the nominations were unanimously accepted by the members present in the meeting.

6. It was decided unanimously that the auditor of MGMI Dhanbad Branch will be M/s Harodia and Sons who are already engaged as auditor for CSIR-CIMFR.

7. The meeting was followed by a Technical Session Chaired by Shri D Gangopadhyay, Director (T), BCCL. The following two young scientists from CSIR-CIMFR presented their papers in the Technical Session :

   - Shri Arka Jyoti Das on Problems and issues of ground control for underground extraction of inclined coal seam.
   - Dr RK Paswan on Geotechnical characterisation of strata for pre-split blasting to control pit-wall damage.

The meeting concluded with the vote of thanks by Dr MP Roy.

Ranchi Branch

Minutes of the 3rd Technical Session (2017-18)

A Technical Session of the MGMI, Ranchi Branch was held at Koel Hall, STC Building, CMPDI (HQ), Gondwana Place, Kanke Road, Ranchi (Jharkhand) on Friday, the 22nd September 2017 at 05.30 PM. The session was attended by 45 eminent MGMI members and their professional guests.

At the outset Dr Anindya Sinha, General Manager (S&T), CMPDI (HQ) and Hony. Secretary, MGMI Ranchi Branch welcomed all the MGMI members and their guests. Dr Sinha was happy to announce that the MGMI Ranchi Branch is in a position to organize such technical session on a regular basis participated by senior as well as junior members of MGMI and thanked the MGMI Ranchi Branch members for their continual patronage and support.

MGMI Ranchi Branch was honoured by the august presence of Sri Shekhar Saran, Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD), CMPDI & Director (Technical), CIL (Additional Charge). MGMI Ranchi Branch also fondly acknowledged the auspicious presence of Sri Binay Dayal, Director (Tech/P&D), CMPDI & Director (Tech.) select of CIL, Sri Ashim Kumar Chakraborty, Director (Tech./ES), CMPDI and Sri Rajiw Lochan, newly elected Hony. Secretary, MGMI (Apex), Kolkata in the seminar. They were happy to know the activities of MGMI Ranchi Branch which are being taken up on regular basis.

Dr Sinha was happy to announce that the MGMI is organizing the 7th Asian Mining Congress & International Mining Exhibition during November 8-11th, 2017 at Kolkata and on behalf of Sri Rajiw Lochan invited MGMI Ranchi Branch members to whole heartedly participate in that auspicious biennial event.

Later, Dr Anindya Sinha introduced today's seminar topic and the authors of the technical paper to the audience. In this session, a technical paper titled "Introduction of Self Advancing (Mobile) Goaf Edge Support (SAGES) – an innovation through R&D efforts" was presented by Sri Arun Kumar, Sr. Manager (Mining), Sri Milan Sen, Sr. Manager (Mining) & Sri Somesh Kumar, Sr. Manager (Mining), CMPDI. Sri SK Varma, Former CMD, CMPDI/ECL/CCL and a veteran member of MGMI, presided over the technical session as Chairman and Sri Shekhar Saran, CMD, CMPDI and Director (Technical), CIL (additional charge) gave his kind consent to preside as Session Rapporteur.

In this occasion, Sri JN Singh, Former Director, WCL, Sri KK Khadiya, Former Director, CMPDI, Sri RN Sharma, Former Director, CMPDI, Sri DD Sahai, Former Coal Controller, Sri VK Singh, Former CGM & Former Member of Environment Advisory Committee (Coal & Thermal), MoEF, and Sri OS Srivastava, Former GM, MCL also graced the occasion with their esteemed presence and enriching suggestions.

Formal vote of thanks was delivered by Sri Jayanta Chakravarty, Hony. Treasurer, MGMI, Ranchi Branch.

Minutes of the 2nd Technical Session (2017-18)

A Technical Session of the MGMI, Ranchi Branch was held at Koel Hall, STC Building, CMPDI (HQ), Gondwana Place, Kanke Road, Ranchi (Jharkhand) on Friday the 04th August 2017 at 05.30 PM. The session was attended by 40 eminent MGMI members and their professional guests.

At the outset Dr Anindya Sinha, General Manager (S&T/Blasting), CMPDI (HQ) and Hony. Secretary, MGMI Ranchi Branch welcomed all the MGMI members and their guests. Sri JN Singh, Former Director, SECL & a veteran MGMI member informed the house about the selection of Dr Anindya Sinha by UPSC as Advisor (Projects), Ministry of Coal, Govt. of India and the house congratulated him for his achievement. Dr Sinha thanked the august gathering for the continual patronage and was privileged by the support rendered by MGMI members during his tenure (Oct. 2015 - till date) as Hony. Secretary, MGMI, Ranchi Branch. He fondly remembered that the MGMI Ranchi Branch was awarded with the best Branch Activity Award for the year 2015-16 in the 110th MGMI General Body Meeting held on 20.09.2016 at Kolkata and hope to bag the same in future too.

Dr Sinha was happy to announce that the MGMI is organizing the 7th Asian Mining Congress & International Mining Exhibition during November 8-11th, 2017 in Kolkata and invited MGMI Ranchi Branch members to whole heartedly participate in that auspicious annual event.

During the session, MGMI Ranchi Branch was inspired by the dignified presence of Sri MK Sinha, Former CMD, NCL. He was appraised about the activities of MGMI Ranchi Branch which are being taken up on regular basis. Later, Dr Anindya Sinha introduced today's seminar topic and the author of the technical paper to the audience. In this session, a technical paper titled "Effect of Delay Scatter on Peak Particle Velocity and application of Artificial Neural Network for Prediction of Blast Induced Vibrations in Open Pit Coal Mine – A Case Study" was presented by Sri Ashish Das, Dy. Manager (Mining) & Sri Dayamoy Garai, Dy. Manager (Mining), CMPDI. The co-author Sri Pritiranjan Singh, Asst. Manager (Mining), CMPDI was absent being on official tour. Sri MK Sinha, Former CMD, NCL presided over the technical session and Sri MC Singhal, Former CGM, CCL as Session Rapporteur.

In this occasion, Sri KK Khadiya, Former Director, CMPDI, Sri RP Thakur, Former Director, SECL, Sri DD Sahai, Former Coal Controller and Sri OS Srivastava, Former GM, MCL also graced the occasion with their esteemed presence and enriching suggestions.

Formal vote of thanks was delivered by Smt. Suchandra Sinha, Sr. Manager (E&M), CMPDI and Co-opted Executive Member of MGMI, Ranchi Branch.

Odisha Branch

Seminar Organised on 30.08.2017

The Mining, Geological & Metallurgical Institute of India (MGMI), Odisha Branch organized a Seminar on "Indian Coal Mining Industry : Overcoming Challenges for a Better Tomorrow" on 30.08.2017 at Rajanigandha Club, Jagruti Vihar, MCL HQ, Sambalpur.

The event was participated by 125 delegates from different Industries/Institutions including Coal Mining Industry, Power Sector, Manufacturing Sector and Educational Institutions of India, such as NIT- Raipur, Rourkela, VNIT Nagpur and AKS University, Satna (MP). Industry participation includes NALCO, Vedanta, NTPC, Jindal Power, JSPL, Spectrum Coal & Power, BEML, GMMCO, SICAL, Aditya Birla, Sainik

Mining, BGR, Mahalaxmi, PCPATEL, VFPL-ASIPL and Special Blast Limited.

Total 11 numbers of Technical Papers were presented, outcome of which was with numbers of suggestions for improvement of coal mining industry in terms of efficiency, technology and overall system.

Mahanadi Coalfields Limited was the principal Sponsor of the event.

The Seminar was chaired by Shri JP Singh, Director (Tech./Operation) of MCL. There was gracious presence of Shri OP Singh, Director (Tech./Project & Planning) with Mr. Munawar Khursheed, CVO, MCL.

Shri AK Singh, GM, MCL and Hon. Secy MGMI, Odisha Branch incepted the Seminar with his welcome speech.

Shri JP Singh on his inaugural speech narrated that the challenges to Indian coal mining are multi-dimensional which include environmental issues, high target & growth, acquiring & getting possession of coal bearing land, coal evacuation, infrastructure development, reduction of sharing of coal in power generation etc.

He laid emphasis for revamp in infrastructure & support system, improving work culture, better compliance of environmental bye laws and technological development of the industry in line with National Mineral Exploration Policy 2016.

Shri OP Singh, Director (Tech./Project & Planning), MCL deliberated the role of technological developments in the growth and modernization of Indian Coal Mining Industry. He also emphasized for revival of old Underground Coal Mines to compete with new era of profitability and productivity.

Shri Munawar Khursheed, CVO, MCL expressed his appreciation for hard work done by Technocrats of Coal Mining Industry and their role in Nation building.

The Seminar was wrapped up with summary of suggestions and it was an all way successful event.

Hyderabad Branch

Interactive Session

MGMI Hyderabad along with NMDC organised an Interactive session on 23rd August 2017 with Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration Inc. (SME), USA .

Dr NK Nanda, President, MGMI presided over the function. MGMI members and professionals from NMDC had very fruitful interaction with Mr John G Mansanti, President SME and Mr David L Kanagy, Executive Director, SME.

Bhubaneswar Branch

Minutes of the MGMI Bhubaneswar Executive Committee Meeting

4th MGMI Bhubaneswar Executive Committee meeting was held on 22.09.2917 in the committee room of Institution of Engineers (India), Odisha state center, Bhubaneswar.

Following were present in the meeting :

1. Sri GS Khuntia, Chairman, Executive Committee, MGMI Bhubaneswar Branch, Director OMC Ltd.
2. Sri AB Panigrahi, Vice Chairman, Executive Committee, MGMI Bhubaneswar Branch, Former Controller of Mines, IBM
3. Sri DK Mohanty, Hony Secretary, Executive Committee, MGMI Bhubaneswar Branch, GM (Sales),OMC
4. Dr Prof GB Mishra, Member, Executive Committee, MGMI Bhubaneswar Branch, Former Prof & HOD, Mining Engg Dept, IIT (Kharagpur)

5. Sri Abhiram Sahoo, Treasurer, Executive Committee, MGMI Bhubaneswar Branch, Addl. GM (prodn), OMC.
6. Sri SK Das, Member, Executive Committee, MGMI Bhubaneswar Branch, Addl. GM (Geology), OMC.
7. Sri JP Panda, Member, Executive Committee, Bhubaneswar Branch,
8. Sri JN Praharaj, Co-opted Executive Committee member.
9. Sri GD Nayak, Member, Executive Committee Member, OMC.
10. Sri SS Barik, Co-opted Executive Committee Member, OMC.
11. Sri Gokulananda Sahoo, Co-opted Executive Committee Member/Asst Manager, OMC

Sri GS Khuntia, Chairman, MGMI presided over the meeting and following points were discussed as per agenda circulated earlier.

1. Confirmation of Election of next Chairman of MGMI-Bhubaneswar: Sri GS Khuntia was elected as Chairman, and Sri AB Panigrahi was elected as Vice Chairman of the Branch.
2. Sri GS Khuntia, Chairman initiating the meeting explained about the progress of -- (i) Bank Account Status, (ii) Some Pending Payments.
3. Sri Khuntia informed that soft copy of MGMI News Journal April-June 2017 has been circulated by him to all Committee Members, details of Bhubaneswar Branch are mentioned in Pages-13, 14 & 15 and condolences on Late SN Padhi at page 53. He had circulated a copy of the Journal to Sri Padhi's daughter who is a Sr Doctor in MCL. He desired that the Journal may be circulated to all members staying in Bhubaneswar and in mining areas.
4. He further desired that all Committee Members staying in Bhubaneswar in OMC HO and other places may renew their membership on priority basis. Steps may also be taken for membership renewal for those staying in OMC mines. He also mentioned that he has issued many reminders to OMC, RMs Geology Camps, and also spoke to them about this. He mentioned that a Membership drive may be made by taking up with Private Mines / Steel makers MEAI, SGAT, IEI, RRL(B), GSI-BBSR, Utkal university, DMS office, IBM BBSR Office.
5. He mentioned that he has written to Sri Prasant Ray, Hony Secretary, MGMI to help us by contributing 25% membership fees, say Rs 25000 to meet the branch expenses as per MGMI Rules.
6. He desired that a Register be maintained on priority basis with Members details like, Name, Designation / address / Contacts-Mobile no., E-Mails, Status of Payment of Annual fees, etc.
7. The status including fund position may be reviewed before every meeting. He also mentioned that further Fund collection can be made by writing to RSP, NMDC, MCL, CMPDI, NALCO, OMC, ESSAR, JINDAL and others with the requests to participate in the Paper presentation meetings and insert Advertisements in our Journal.
8. He also mentioned that bi-Monthly paper reading to Continue to reach our membership to 100 no from present level of 75, say by December, 2017, after which we will request Odisha Govt through Principal Secretary (Steel & Mines) to allocate a piece of Govt land, say about 4000 sft, for MGMI Bhubaneswar Branch Office after consulting MGMI-HO.

Thereafter Special Paper Readings were held as under. Some Guests also attended who promised to be MGMI members namely, Sri GC Das, Guest, Former Senior manager (mining), SAIL, Sri JK Hota, Guest, Former Editor of MEJ.

Papers presented by (a) Sri GS Khuntia on NEW MINING LEGISLATION IN INDIA, SALIENT FEATURES, Implication of AUCTION FOR MLIPL & new Taxes like DMF INMET, service Taxes and by (b) Sri AB Panigrahi, Former Controller of Mines, IBM on STAR RATING OF Mines.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks delivered by Hony Secretary Sri DK Mohanty. He desired that more members should attend Paper Reading Meetings. He thanked Chairman, Hony. Secretary of IEI, OSC, Bhubaneswar and thanked IEI Bhubaneswar for making the Hall available for the meeting.◆

The members are requested to send contributions for the columns of the MGMI News Journal, like "Technical Articles" related to the mineral industry on topics dear to the members, Articles as Case History on various mine practices in the field, interesting write-ups for "Down Memory Lane", "Opinion" on burning issues of the mining industry, "Safety & Health" issues, research findings for "Technology Updates", etc.

Regular Feature

NEWS ABOUT MEMBERS

As on 04.07.2017

Shri Ravindra Prasad Sinha (8484-LM) MMGI is now at Gare Palma VTC, Gare Palma IV/2&3, OCM, CHP Libra, PO Libra, Distt. Raigarh (CG) Pin 496107, email : osdgarepalma@gmail.com

Shri Bhaskar Rao Morisetty (10259-LM) MMGI is now at Flat No 808, Tanzanite Block, Rainbow Vistas at Rock Garden, Moosapet, Hyderabad 500018, Telangana State. email : bhaskarraomorisetty@gmail.com

Shri Shyamalendu Roy (5285-LM) MMGI is now at 107 Mahima Fountain Sq, Behind Lalit Hotel, Malviya Nagar, Jaipur 302017, email : syamalendutay@hotmail.com

Shri D S Sinha (8652-LM) MMGI is now at Flat No 8H, Orbit Heights, 33, Gariahat Road (South), Kolkata 700 031, (M) 9831392417 email : shankardeb@yahoo.com

Shri Pradip Kumar Jana (5979-LM) MMGI is now at Qr. No. C/14, Pali Project Colony, Post : Birsinghpur Pali, Dist. : Umaria, M.P. PIN – 484551, Ph : 9424180402, Whatsapp : 999843523, email : pradipkrjana.68@gmail.com

Dr Avtar K Raina (7583-LM)MMGI is now CSIR-Central Institute of Mining and Fuel Research, 17/C Telangkhedi Area, Civil Lines, Nagpur 440 001 email : rainaji@gmail.com

Dr More Ramulu, (7576-LM) MMGI is now Sr Principal Scientist & Professor (AcSIR), Rock Mechanics & Rock Excavation Division, CSIR-Central Institute of Mining & Guel Research Centre II Floor, 17/C Telangkhedi Area, Civil Lines, Nagpur 440 001 (M) 94236886796, email : ramulu.more@cimfr.nic.in

Shri PN Rajan (9317-LM) MMGI is now GM (E&T), Room No 5302, 4th Floor, E&T Department, SECL HQ, Seepat Road, Bilaspur (CG) 495 006, (M) 9771849168, 9425531777, email : pnrajan13@gmail.com

Shri Sanjay Kumar Sahu (10456-LM) MMGI is now at Qr No D/13, Khadia Project Colony, Shaktinagar, Pin 231 222, Dist. Sonebhadra, UP, email : sanjaysahu126@yahoo.in

Dr Manoj N Bagde (7573-LM) MMGI is now Principal Scientist, CSIR, Central Institute of Mining and Fuel Research, Nagpur Research Center, 17/C, Telenkhedi Area, Civil Lines, Nagpur 440 001, Telefax 712 2510604 (O), 2510311(O), email : mnbagde@gmaiul.com

Shri Bipin Kumar (8927-LM) MMGI is now GM NCL, Qtr No D-1, Bina Project Colony, PO Bina, Distt Sonebhadra, UP, 231 220, email : bipingrd06@gmail.com

Shri Piyush Mittal (10364-LM) MMGI is now General Manager, Pandeshwar, ECL, Phool Bagan, Pandeshwar 713346, email : prmittal1960@gmail.com

Shri Bharat Singh Jodha (6762-LM) MMGI is now Director(G), Regional Training Institute, (G Block), Geological Survey of India, Western Region, Jaipur 302 004 Rajasthan (M) 9414023478, email : jodha1961@gmail.com

Shri SK Jagnania (9656-LM) MMGI is now Former CGM (CIL), Ex-RD (CMPDIL), 301, Devika Garden Appt. 2, Sugat Nagar Chowk, Nara Ring Road, PO Uppalwadi, Nagpur 440 026, email : s_jagnania@yahoo.co.in

Shri N N Gautam (7861-LM) MMGI is now at D-8, Second Floor, Greater Kailash

Enclave 2, Masjid Moth, New Delhi 110 048, email : nityagautam@gmail.com

Shri C Sivanarayanan Nair (10252-LM) MMGI is now at Ashdeep West Fort, Mavelikara, Alappuzha Dist. Kerala 690 101, (M) 9633055389, email : nair.cs28@gmail.com

Shri Ganesh Kumar Sinha (10321-LM) is now at Qtr. No C-8, GM Complex, PO Brajrajnagar, Dist Jharsuguda (Odisha), 768 216, email : ganeshkumar.sinha3@gmail.com

Shri Gopal Chandra Panda (8416-LM) MMGI is now Asst GM, SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant, Qr No C-16, Sector-6, Rourkela, Distt. Sudergarh, Orissa 769 002, email : gc.panda@salirsp.co.in

Dr Tapas Kumar Mallik, (8682-LM) MMGI received a certificate of excellence from Rashtriya Gaurav Award for Meritorious Services, outstanding Performances and Remarkable Role by India International Friendship Society, New Delhi on 27th May 2017 and a Memento was received by Dr T K Mallik in recognition of services to Indian Ocean Research on 30th November 2015 by IIOE. Another Memento was received in recognition of the services to the Indian Ocean Polymetallic Nodule Programme by Ministry of Earth Sciences on 13th May 2017.

Shri CB Sood (8712-LM) MMGI is now at S-351, 3rd Floor, Greater Kailash -1, New Delhi 110 048, email : chandersood7@gmail.com

Dr DK Bandyopadhyay (8008-LM) MMGI is now at 92, Hazra Road, Kolkata 700 026 (M) 9830353754, email : kpbandy@gmail.com

Prof (Dr) Vinod P Sinha (2655-LM) MMGI is now at 901, Garden City Apartment, Luby Circular Road, Near Indian Oil Bhawan, Dhanbad 826 001 (M) 9934012341, 9234511043, email : vinodsinha@gmail.com

Shri Ravi Kumar Lingam (10691-LM) MMGI is now Scientist, Qtr. No SA -11, Near Community Centre, CSIR-NEIST Campus, PO RRL, Jorhat – 785006, Assam, email : ravilingam@neist.res.in

Shri S K Maity (10138-LM) MMGI is now Sr Manager (M), PAD Division, CIL, Coal Bhawan, Coal India Ltd., New Town, Rajarthat, Kolkata 700 156, email : kuchu.maity@gmail.com

Shri Ravindra Kumar (5850-LM) MMGI is now at H No 1233, Kripalu Kunj, Near Govt. Primary School, Pontemol – Curchorem, Goa 403706, email : kumar.ravindra50@gmail.com

Shri Rajesh Kumar (9695-LM) MMGI is now at Plot No 312, Atharved -2, Dixit Nagar, Nari Road, Nagpur, MS 440 026, email : rajesh3wcl@gmail.com

Shri Biswanath Pan (5659-LM) MMGI is now at C/o New Calcutta City Co-operative Housing Society Ltd, BB – 06, Street Number 165, New Town, Rajarhat, Kolkata 700 156, email : biswanathpan1943@gmail.com

Shri Debaki Kumar Sarkar (3788-LM) MMGI is now at IMFA Building, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar 751 010, email : debaki_sarkar@yahoo.co.in

Shri Shyamalendu Ray (5285-LM) MMGI is now S Roy, 107-Mahima Fountain Sq., Behind Lalit Hotel, Malviya Nagar, Jaipur 302 017, Email : symalenduray@hotmail.com

Shri Ravi Kumar Lingam (10691-LM) MMGI Scientist, is now at Qtr No SA 11, Near Community Centre, CSIR-NEIST Campus, PO RRL Jorhat 785006, Assam, email : ravilingam@neist.res.in

Shri MC Sharma (10408-LM) MMGI is now at Flat No 205, Bhagwati Complex, Dari Mohala, Bank Road, Dhanbad 826 001, email : mahesh0325@gmail.com

Shri Kalyan Kumar Hajra (7016-LM) MMGI is now in new email address kalian.hajra@jmsmining.com

Shri Virendra Kumar Singh (9905-LM) MMGI is now at Qtr No C-26, Ananta Vihar Colony, PO Dera, Talcher, Dist. Angul, Odisha 759 103 (M) 9437220291, 9438878195, email : vk_singh14@yahoo.in

Shri Sanjeev Kumar (10335-LM) MMGI is now District Mining Officer, Seraikella Kharsawan, Jharkhand 833 219 (M) 9065318401, email : sanjeevbhardwaj511@gmail.com

Dr KP Bandyopadhyay (8008-LM) MMGI is now DDG (Retd.), GSI, 92, Hazra Road, 2nd Floor, Kolkata 700 026, email : kpbandy@gmail.com

Shri Arvind Kishore Prasad (4862-LM) MMGI is now at B 803, Lord Krishna CGHS, Plot No 22, Sector – 43, Gurgaon 122009, Haryana, (M) 9953206485, email : arvindprasad_2000@yahoo.com

Dr Hari Prakash Tiwari (10692-LM) MMGI is now at 003, New Twin Cottage, Road No. 7, B H Area, Kadma, Jamshedpur 831 005, Jharkhand, email : tiwari.hari@gmail.com

Shri Konasani Sreeman Narayana (9548-LM) MMGI is now former GM (Min), WCL, C/o Shri K Avinash, Envy Homes, Krishna Block 'F', Flat No 2013, Door No 48/13-20, Behind Aayush Hospital, Sri Ramchandra Nagar, Vijayawada – 500 028 (AP) (M) 9422506822, email : ks.narayana@yahoo.com

Shri PK Mukhopadhyay (4827-LM) MMGI is now GM (Vigilance, ECL, Barachak House, PO Sitarampur 713 359 email : prabir.prabirkm.mukhopadhyay@gmail.com

Shri PN Singh (893-LM) MMGI is now at 305, B Wing, Sunshree Kangan, NIBM Road, Kondhwa, Pune 411 048, email : pnsingh.sai@gmail.com

Shri Rajinder Kumar Khosla (7902-LM) MMGI is now Director, KM Products India Pvt Ltd., B 117 SFS Flats, Triveni Apartment, Sheikh Sarani, Phase I, New Delhi 110 017

Shri Ashok Kumar Tooley (3815- LM) MMGI Member Delhi State Centre Ex Committee is now 2/5, East Patel Nagar, New Delhi 110 008 email : aktooley@gmail.com

Shri Anurag Kumar (9687-LM) MMGI is now General Manager, Office of the GM, Kenda Aria, PO Haripur, Dist West Burdwan Pin 713378 Ph 9434796047, email : dsp.anurag@gmail.com

Shri Jatindra Narayan Praharaj (5368-LM) MMGI is now N-3/173, IRC Village, Bhubaneswar 751015, email : jatindranarayanpraharaj@gmail.com

Shri Jyotindra Parikh (3037-LM) MMGI is now at Flat No 701, 7th Floor, Avenue Park, Muralidhar Road, Citylite, Surat 395 007, email : ramjyoti113@gmail.com

Dr Bibhuti Bhusan Mandal (9265-M) MMGI is now at JNARDCC Campus, Amravati Road, Wadi, Nagpur 440 023, email : bbmandal@hotmail.com

Shri Hans Raj Uppal (4126-LM) MMGI is now at Flat G-102, Aparna Cyberzon, Nallagndla, Serilingampally, Ranga Reddy, Distt. Hyderabad 500 019, Ph: 9873002004, 9953702002, email : hruppal@hotmail.com

Shri Amarnath Pandey (9408-LM) MMGI is now Area General Manager, GM Bunglow, NCL, Khadia Project, PO Shaktinagar, Distt. Sonebhadra, UP 231 222, email : cgm..khd@gmail.com

Shri Devi Prasad Mohanty (10609-LM) MMGI is now Sr. Manager (Systems), MCL HQ, Post-Jagruti Vihar, Burla, Dist. Sambalpur 768020◆

Regular Feature

NEW MEMBERS

(As approved in Council Meeting on 16.09.2017)

As Life Member

10740-LM, Shri Dheeraj Kumar, Associate Professor, Ph.D. (Min), M Tech (Min), BE (Min), IIT (Indian School of Mines), Department of Mining Engineering, Dhanbad, Jharkhand - 826004, Ph : 0326-2235486 /9431711199 (M), E-mail : dheeraj@dkumar.org

10741-LM, Shri Pradeep Kumar, B.Tech. (Min), MBA (Operation), PGDCA (Comp), Dy. General Manager (Min), NMDC, Flat No. 307, Kalyani Natraj Residency & Kalyani Sridhar Plaza, 2-2-1130/4 & 5, New Nallakunta, Hyderabad – 500044, Telangana, Ph : 040-23538793 (O),(M) 9425266334 / 7224995917, E-mail : pradeepk@nmdc.co.in

10742-LM, Shri Prasanta Kumar Sahoo, Diploma (Min), Dy General Manager (Min), Odisha Mining Corporation Limited, Regional Office, Gandhamardan Iron Mines, OMC Ltd, P.O. Suakati, Dist. Keonjhar – 758018, Ph : 9437252908, E-mail : pkrsahoo.1965@gmail.com

10743-LM, Shri Abhiram Sahoo, Diploma (Min), AGM(Min), Odisha Mining Corporation Limited, Laxmi Nagar, Patia, Bhubaneswar, Ph : 9437794740

10744-LM, Shri Biswajit Dutta, B.E. (Production/ Industrial Engg, Manager, BEML Limited, 2/89, Viveknagar (Jadavpur), Kolkata – 700 075, Ph : 033-24015299/ 9051213395; (M) E-mail : biswajitdutta05@gmail.com

10745-LM, Shri Sudhakar Kolluru, Degree (Min), PG Diploma, Sr. Manager (Min), Coal India Limited (HQ), C-4/3B, Rohini Housing Complex, P-225, CIT Scheme VII-M, Ultadanga, Kolkata – 700 054, Ph : 8902496572 / 8240724918, E-mail : ksudhakar.cil@coalindia.in, kolluru_sudhakar@yahoo.com

10746-LM, Shri Dilip Kumar Mohanty, B.Sc. Engg, (Metallurgy), PGDCA, Jt. General Manager (Metallurgy), NISP, NMDC Ltd, Nagarnar, Dist. Bastar, CG – 494001, Ph : 8718888480. E-mail : dkmohanty123@nmdc.co.in, dkmohanty123@yahoo.com

10747-LM, Shri Dilip Kumbhakar, B.Tech. (Min), M.Tech., Sr. Principal Scientist, CSIR-CIMFR, Room No. 108, Mine Mechanization Department, B Singh Advance Mining Research Bldg, Dhanbad – 826015, Ph : 9431729438, E-mail : dilipcimfr@gmail.com

10748-LM, Shri Narayan Kumar Bhagat, AMIE (Min), Sr. Technical Officer, CSIR-CIMFR Rock Excavation Engineering Division, CSIR-CIMFR, Barwa, Road, Dhanbad, Jharkhand – 826001. Ph : 9430394048 / 0326-2296010/Extn – 4293, E-mail : nkbhatat@cimfr.nic.in

10749-LM, Shri Suraj Kumar, B.Tech. (Min), Technical Officer, CSIR-CIMFR, Rock Excavation Engineering Division, CSIR-CIMFR, Barwa Road, Dhanbad Jharkhand – 826001. Ph : 9431309568/9308730781 / 0326-2296010/27-29/Extn. 4455, E-mail : suraj.cimfr@nic.in suraj.9798mishra@gmail.com

10750-LM, Shri Kamal Kishore Sharma, Ph.D. (Chemistry), Domestic Consultant, Central Institute of Mining and Fuel, 203, Sri Mahavir Tower, Manaram Nagar L. C. Road, Dhanbad – 826001, Ph : 9431558340 / 0326-2310159, E Mail : drkamalfri@yahoo.co.in

10751-LM, Shri Rama Shankar Yadav, Diploma (Chemical Technology in Fertilizer), Sr. Technical Officer (I) Rock Excavation

Engineering Division, CSIR-CIMFR, Barwa Road, Dhanbad – 826015, Jharkhand, Ph : 9431318084 / 8789920294,0326-2296010/27, 28, 29 Extn. 4447, E-Mail : rsycfri@yahoo.co.in

10752-LM, Shri Vivek Kumar Himanshu, B.Tech. (Min), M.Tech. (Mine Safety), Scientist, CSIR-CIMFR, Rock Excavation Engineering Divn., Barwa Road, Dhanbad – 826015, Jharkhand Ph:9430145452 / 8102496571, E-Mail : vivekbit07@gmail.com, vivekkhimanshu@cimfr.nic.in

10753-LM, Shri Debal Gangopadhyay, B.Tech. (Min), FCC (Coal), Director (Technical), Bharat Coking Coal Limited, Bunglow No. 2, Koyla Nagar, Dhanbad – 826005, Jharkhand, Ph : 9470597701 Fax : 0326-2230161, E-Mail : dirpp@bccl.gov.in

10754-LM, Shri Rajnish Kumar Shrivastava, Dip in Min, MBA (HR Fin), General Manager, Mahanadi Coalfields Limited, Bharatpur Area, At & P.O. South Balanda, Talcher, Angul- 759116, Ph : 9437016570, E-Mail : rajnish_shri@yahoo.com

10755-LM, Shri Bishnu Charan Tripathy, B.Tech. (Min), FCC (Coal), General Manager (Min), Mahanadi Coalfields Limited, D-7, Jagruti Vihar, MCL Complex, Burla, Sambalpur, Odisha – 768020, Ph : 10663-2542181, 9438879756 / 9776990119, E-Mail : gmhrd2016@gmail.com, 12tripathy@gmail.com◆

Active listening does not mean that you must agree to everything that is said.

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 2017

09 - 10 Dec. : All India Seminar on **Advancement in Mine Closure and Rehabilitation Technique. Venue** : Ranchi. **Organiser :** The Hony. Seretary, IEI, Jhakhand State Centre, Engineer Bhawan, Nepal Kothi Campus, Ranchi - 834002, **Ph :** 0651-2491344. **Web :** ieijsc.org; **email** : jharkhandsc@ieindia.org

21 - 23 Dec. : 32nd Engineering Congress - Theme : Innovation in Engineering : Competitive Strategy Perspective. Venue : Chennai. **Organised by** : The Institution of Engineers (India)**, Hosted by** : Tamilnadu State Centre**. Contact** : Organising Secretary, 32nd Indian Engineering Congress, The Institution of Engineers (India), Tamilnadu State Centre, 19 Swami Sivananda Salai, Chepauk, Chennai - 600005. **Ph :** (044) 25360614 / 64998729. **Fax :** (044) 25369433.

January 2018

13 -15 Jan. : **2nd International Conference on Metallurgical Fundamentals and Science (ICMFS 2018).** Venue : **Hong Kong, China. Website :** http://www.icmfs.org/ **Contact person :** Ms. Cassie Zhang. Publication : Selected submission paper will be recommended to publish in the conference proceedings, and indexed by SCOPUS, Ei Compendex (CPX), Index Copernicus Journals Master List, Google Scholar, etc. **Organized by :** ICMFS. **Deadline for abstracts / proposals :** 1st August 2017. Check the event website for more details.

14 - 16 Jan. : **5th International Conference on Petroleum and Petrochemical Engineering (ICPPE 2018). Venue :** Bali, Indonesia. **Website :** http://www.icppe.org/ **Contact person :** Ms. Ivy Hou. Publication: ICPPE 2018. papers will be published in Journal of Chemical Engineering and Applications (IJCEA ISSN:2010-0221), and will be included in Chemical Abstracts Services, Ulrich's Periodicals Directory, CABI, DOAJ, ProQuest, and Crossref. **Organized by :** CBEES **Deadline for abstracts/proposals :** 5th September 2017. Check the event website for more details.

16 - 18 Jan. : 4th International Conference on Renewable Energy Technologies (ICRET 2018)--Ei Compendex, Scopus, Venue : Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. **Website :** http://www.icret.org/ **Contact person :** Miss Lily L. Chen. Publication : Conference Proceedings. Index: Ei Compendex, EI (INSPEC, IET), Scopus. Keynote Speaker: Prof. Dr. Saad Mekhilef University of Malaya, Malaysia. **Organized by :** ICRET. **Deadline for abstracts/proposals :** 20th September 2017. Check the event website for more details.

February 2018

7 - 9 Feb. : **7th International Conference on Clean and Green Energy (ICCGE 2018). Venue :** Paris, France. **Website :** http://www.iccge.org/ **Contact person :** Ms Lydia Liu. Publication : ICCGE 2018 papers will be published in the International Journal of Smart Grid and Clean Energy (IJSGCE, ISSN : 2315-

4462) or Journal of Clean Energy Technologies (JOCET, ISSN : 1793-821X), which will be indexed by EI (INSPEC, IET). **Organized by :** CBEES. **Deadline for abstracts/proposals :** 5th October 2017. Check the event website for more details.

7 to 9 Feb. : International Seminar on **"Exploration of Oil, Gas, Coal Minerals and Ground Water : Modern Techniques and Appliances'.** Organiser : ISM Alumni Association. Venue : Kolkata. **Contact :** Dr. Ajoy Kumar Moitra (Convener), e-mail : ismaa.kolkata@gmail.com and / or akmoitra@gmail.com

25 - 27 Feb. : 4th International Conference on Environment and Renewable Energy (ICERE 2018)--EI Compendex, Scopus. Venue : Da Nang, Vietnam. **Website :** http://www.icere.org/ **Contact person :** Ms. Alice Lin. Publication: ICERE 2018, papers will be published in IOP Conference Series : Earth and Environmental Science (EES) (ISSN : 1755-1315), which is indexed by EI Compendex, Scopus, Thomson Reuters (WoS), Inspec,et al. **Organized by :** CBEES. **Deadline for abstracts/proposals:** 15th October 2017. Check the event website for more details.

March 2018

24 - 26 March : 2nd International Conference on Green Energy and Applications (ICGEA 2018). Venue : Singapore. **Website :** http://www.icgea.org **Contact person :** Ms. Joy X.C.Xu. Publication: All accepted (Registered & Presented) papers of ICGEA 2018 will be published in the conference proceedings by IEEE, and reviewed by IEEE Xplore, indexed by Ei Compendex, and Scopus. **Organized by :** ICGEA Committees. **Deadline for abstracts/proposals :** 5th November 2017. Check the event website for more details.

April 2018

6 - 8 April : 3rd International Conference on Advances on Clean Energy Research (ICACER 2018)--Ei Compendex and Scopus. Venue : **Barcelona, Spain**. **Website :** http://www.icacer.com/ **Contact person :** Ms. Mandy JL Ming. Publication: All accepted papers after presentation will be published in the conference proceedings and submitted for Ei Compendex and Scopus Index. **Organized by :** ICACER Committees. **Deadline for abstracts/proposals :** 1st December 2017. Check the event website for more details.

25 to 26 April : 6th Edition of the Mozambique Mining, Oil & Gas and Energy Conference and Exhibition (MMEC 2018). Venue : Maputo, Mozambique. Event MMEC 2018 will take place at Joaquim Chissano Conference Centre, Maputo. **Website :** http://ametrade.org/mozmec/ **Organized by :** AME Trade Ltd. Check the event website for more details.

May 2018

28 - 30 May : International Conference on Bioenergy and Clean Energy (ICBCE 2018), Venue : **Hong Kong, China. Website :** http://www.icbce.org/ **Contact person :** Ms. Zero Jiang. ICBCE 2018 Shining Point : Accepted can be published in Journal of Clean Energy Technologies (JOCET, ISSN : 1793-821X, DOI : 10.18178/JOCET), which is indexed by EI (INSPEC, IET), Electronic Journals Library, Google Scholar. **Organized by :** ICBCE Committees. **Deadline for abstracts/**

proposals : 15th January 2018. Check the event website for more details.

June 2018

11 to 13 June: Biohydrometallurgy '18 Conference. Windhoek, Namibia **Website :** http://www.min-eng.com/biohydromet18/ **Contact person :** Dr Barry Wills. 9th Int Symp on Biohydrometallurgy will focus on the latest developments in the field of biohydrometallurgy : the development, optimisation and application of integrated biomining process operations for mineral ores, including low grade and complex... **Organized by :** MEI Check the event website for more details.

14 to 15 June : Sustainable Minerals '18. Conference. Windhoek, Namibia. **Website :** http://www.min-eng.com/sustainableminerals18/ **Contact person :** Dr Barry Wills. The 5th Int Symp on Sustainable Minerals '18 is organised by MEI in consultation with Prof Markus Reuter. The rapid growth of the world economy is straining the sustainable use of the Earth's natural resources due to modern society's .... **Organized by :** MEI. Check the event website for more details.◆

(**Please note** : We aim to provide correct and reliable information about upcoming events, but cannot accept responsibility for the text of announcements or the bona fides of event organizers. Please feel free to contact us if you notice incorrect or misleading information and we will attempt to correct it.)

NEWS UPDATE

Africa coal plan makes headway

New Delhi, Sept. 26 : International Coal Ventures Private Ltd is set to start the mining of coking coal from its holdings in Mozambique. SAIL chairman PK Singh, who also heads ICVL, a joint venture with several other PSU firms, said "we have floated a tender for mining coking coal and will be awarding the work soon". SAIL has faced huge problems in acquiring good quality coking coal, with the Australian mines jacking up prices, forcing the PSU to scout for alternative sources, including Canada and the US. ICVL will ship the coal out of the country from Macuse, which has better rail connectivity with the Moatize region - in Tete province where the mines are located - compared to the Beira port, which ICVL had planned to use initially to export the coal. ICVL had bought the mine three years back, but shipping the coal back to India was found to be expensive. Besides, much of the coal was of the steam coal, or the thermal coal variety, which was considered uneconomical. Tenders were also floated for a thermal power plant in Mozambique to buy this coal, which did not materialise in the absence of a grid.

Supply to gas plants

The steel ministry is now studying the possibility of producing gas out of the thermal coal and shipping it back to the country. India has 25,329 MW of gas-based power plants, of which 14,305 MW are either fully or partly non-functional because of the lack of gas. These plants are estimated to have cost Rs 1.24 lakh crore. However, analysts felt unless global gas prices go up, the gassification of coal may not be very economic. ICVL, a five-way joint venture among SAIL, CIL, RINL, NMDC and NTPC, had acquired Benga, an operating coal mine in Moatize, and other untapped reserves in Mozambique from Rio Tinto for $50 million in 2014. ICVL was set up in 2009 to acquire coal assets overseas for Indian steel companies. The operating coal mine in Mozambique comes with a wash plant and surface infrastructure.

(Source : The Telegraph)

Arabian Sea oil find a boost for ONGC

New Delhi, Sept. 20 : State-owned explorer ONGC Ltd has made a significant oil discovery near Mumbai High in the Arabian Sea. The oil well is estimated to hold in-place reserves of 20 million tonnes. The discovery in well WO-24-3 is estimated to hold an in-place reserve of about 20 million tonnes, the official said, adding that the company plans to drill appraisal wells to determine the size of the new find's recoverable reserves. Mumbai High, the country's biggest oilfield, produces 205,000 barrels of oil per day (just over 10 million tonnes per annum) and the new find will add to the production in less than two years. The new find, which comes almost 50 years after ONGC began production in Mumbai High, will help the company to maintain the production levels from the basin for a longer time than currently estimated. ONGC produced 25.5 million tonnes of oil in 2016-17, which will reach 28-29 million tonnes by 2019-20, the official said. Meanwhile, Cairn Energy today said final hearing in the international arbitration it has initiated against a Rs 10,247-crore retrospective tax demand raised by India, has been pushed back by about six months to August 2018.

(Source : The Telegraph)

Indian billionaire Agarwal to be Anglo American's top shareholder

Sept. 20, 2017 : Indian billionaire Anil Agarwal, the founder and chairman of Vedanta Resources, could become Anglo American's biggest shareholder. Indian billionaire Anil Agarwal is planning to increase its investment in Anglo American (LON:AAL) by as much as 1.5 billion pounds ($2 billion), which would make him the biggest shareholder in the diversified miner. The acquisition of further shares will be done through Volcan Investments Ltd., the family trust of Agarwal, who is the founder and chairman of Vedanta (LON:VED), India's largest mining company. The move could give Agarwal a commanding voice at Anglo American, the world's fifth-largest miner by market value, which the businessman described earlier this year as "a great company with excellent assets and a strong board and management team who are executing a focused strategy." Volcan, Agarwal's family trust, said it would acquire an additional £1.25bn to £1.5bn worth of Anglo shares, which would make the Indian tycoon the miner's biggest shareholder. The investment comes on top of the 12.43% stake he's built since March, when Volcan boosted its holding in Anglo American. In a separate statement, Vedanta confirmed the proposed investment, noting it has nothing to do with the planned acquisition of shares, which is "being made by Volcan alone" with the assistance of JPMorgan. Anglo American appointed in June a new chairman, Stuart Chambers, who will take over Sir John Parker in November. Chambers, 61 and former chairman of UK chip designer Arm, is known for his active participation in the sale of several UK companies, including the one where he was chairman until 2016, as he oversaw the sale of Arm to Japan's Softbank

(Source : mining.com)

SAIL moulds turnaround plan

New Delhi, Sept. 17 : State-run steel behemoth SAIL is working on a turnaround plan, which includes cutting costs, changing its product mix in favour of more value-added products and higher exports from its new Burnpur plant.

SAIL has managed to reduce its losses after tax and depreciation to Rs 2,833.24 crore in 2016-17 from Rs 4,021.44 crore in 2015-16. Its earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) for 2016-17 was a positive Rs 672 crore against a negative EBITDA of Rs 2,204 crore in 2015-16.

However, an interest and depreciation burden of Rs 3,988 crore a year on account of a Rs 65,000-crore modernisation-cum expansion project has made it difficult for the steel giant to turn the corner.

As a result, SAIL has decided not to take on any fresh expansion or takeovers of sick private mills, which the banks had been pressing the PSU.

IISCO, Burnpur, a 1922 vintage plant, has been scrapped and replaced by a modern 2.5-million-tonne unit, which has become SAIL's focal point to reap the benefits of modernisation.

SAIL has now decided to export most of its structural steel products from Burnpur.

"The quality and cost ensures that this will be the steel of choice for our exports," said the SAIL chairman.

In the first quarter of 2017-18, Burnpur's production of saleable steel increased 40 per cent to 3.88 lakh tonnes.

Compared to a global average demand of 220 kg a year per person, India's demand is just 64 kg of steel a year per person, while its rural demand is just 12 kg a person annually.

"We expect this to change with the current infrastructure push in railways and roadways," Singh said.

(Source : The Telegraph)

Coal India plan to feed power need

Calcutta, Sept. 14 : Coal India is planning to ramp up domestic production to meet the fossil fuel requirement of thermal power producers. "In 2012, coal-based power generation capacity was 125 gigawatt (GW). This is likely to go up to more than 330-441 GW by 2040," Coal India's interim Chairman Gopal Singh said while addressing the share holders at the company's annual general meeting here today.

"The demand for these power plants is likely to be first met by domestic coal, which will require quick exploitation of our reserves," Singh said. According to estimates, the country had been able to save Rs 25900 crore in foreign exchange over the past three years by cutting down coal imports. Imports contributed 25 per cent of coal supply in 2015-16 and 23 per cent in 2016-17. According to Singh, the share of coal in the country's commercial energy supply was 55 per cent in 2015-16 and is expected to remain high at 48-54 per cent even in 2040. Singh said the public sector miner needs to achieve a double-digit growth rate in order to meet the production targets. The company produced 554.14 million tonnes of coal in 2016-17, while coal off-take was 543.32 million tonnes during the same period.

Diversification drive

Betting on the core competence in mining, the coal behemoth is planning to foray into mining of iron ore, bauxite, copper and nickel. Coal India sources said the modalities are being worked out and could involve mining of assets overseas as well.

(Source : The Telegraph)

Shakti powers CIL auction

Calcutta, Sept. 13 : Coal India will allocate 27.18 million tonnes every year to power producers who have participated in its first auction under the Centre's fuel linkage distribution scheme called Shakti (Scheme for Harnessing and Allocating Koyla Transparently in India).

Before the Shakti scheme, coal to the power sector was governed by the provisions of National Coal Distribution Policy, where letter of assurances were issued by the Centre's standing linkage committee to the generating companies based on the recommendations of the power ministry. Accordingly, fuel supply agreements were signed between Coal India and the power generators. The Shakti scheme replaces the regime of letter of assurances and fuel supply agreements with the long-term auction of coal linkages.

Following cabinet approval in May, Coal India had invited expression of interests from independent power producers having power purchase agreements by August 19, 2017. CIL sources said 31 applications were received which were scrutinised by the Central Electricity Authority and among them, 14 bidders were found eligible.

Subsequently, the public sector miner conducted the auction on September 11-12. Among the eligible bidders, 10 power producers participated with a cumulative generation capacity of 9000 MW to draw coal from eight available sources.

Under the auction scheme, independent power producers bid for a discount on their existing tariffs, which is intended to lower the costs for those consumers who are sourcing power from these entities.

The scheme also offered bidders quoting higher discount to the existing tariff, the priority on the source from where it would like to receive

coal. At this round of linkage auction, power producers who participated offered to reduce their tariffs by 4 paise per unit on the higher side and 1 paise per unit on the lower side. At least 21.5 per cent of the total coal on offer amounting to 6 million tonnes per year would be allocated to the bids where discount on tariff were 4 paise per unit.

(Source : The Telegraph)

NTPC project prop

Calcutta, Sept. 12 : NTPC Ltd, the thermal power major, is set to finalise the acquisition of the first phase of the Chhabra plant in Rajasthan in a couple of months even as its Bengal project hangs fire. "We are taking over the Chhabra power project in Rajasthan. The running plant is 1,000 megawatts (MW), while two units of 660MW each are under construction. The running cost is coming to around Rs 4,000 crore," NTPC Director (finance) Kulamani Biswal said on the sidelines of an mjunction event. An agreement was signed among NTPC, Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam and Rajasthan Urja Vikas Nigam in January 2017.

"We are in the final phase (of acquisition) and it is expected within a month or two," Biswal added.

Katwa concern

NTPC's proposed thermal power project at Katwa in Bengal is far from becoming operational for want of coal linkage and environment clearance. NTPC initially planned a 1,320MW project but the power major is keeping the final capacity flexible. The project had earlier faced problem in land acquisition. "We are still waiting coal linkage and environment clearance for Katwa. Once the coal linkage is decided, we should take a call on the size of the plant," said Biswal. NTPC plans to source the coal from the Deocha Pachami block in Birbhum. A joint venture of the five states, headed by Bengal, has been formed to lift coal from the block. However, industry sources said extracting coal from the seams concealed in a thick cover of laterite would take time. NTPC's total installed capacity currently stands at 51,698MW.

(Source : The Telegraph)

Sharp fall in coal import

Calcutta, Sept. 10 : Coal imports are expected to remain subdued because of low demand from coal-based units and the rise in renewable energy capacity. According to research firm Fitch Ratings, the decline in imports is expected to continue as the government maintains its push for self-sufficiency and the output of renewable energy increases. "This is amid lower-than-expected demand because of the reduced offtake from financially stressed power distribution companies and subdued industrial performance," the report said. Between April and August this year, provisional coal imports stood at 85.31 million tonnes against 100.27 million tonnes in the corresponding period a year ago, a decline of 15 per cent. Coal ministry officials have attributed the fall largely to higher production by government-owned miner Coal India. But the rise in production has not been in the same pace as the increase in demand from power distribution companies. The utilisation level of thermal power plants continues to decline with the plant load factor at around 60 per cent in the first half of 2017, Fitch Ratings said. India added 25GW of capacity in 2016-17, 58 per cent of which was in renewable energy that has seen significantly low level of tariffs, the report added. Besides, China, a major importer, is relying more on domestic production. This is expected to keep imported coal prices under pressure over the next couple of years, the report said. According to industry sources, sea-borne thermal coal prices are currently moving in a narrow range in the international market

amid cautious trading by Indian buyers who remain tentative about going for fresh contracts because of high prices and adequate domestic supply.

(Source : The Telegraph)

India needs to find allies to tap cheap funds for clean coal – trade body

Sept. 7 : India needs to partner with other countries to tap cheaper funds for cleaner coal technologies as the South Asian nation is expected to use the fuel to produce over half of its power in the next two decades, the World Coal Association chief said on Thursday. India, the world's second-largest coal importer, relies on the fuel for about 78 percent of its electricity generation. The federal think tank NITI Aayog has projected coal's share in the country's overall energy mix will reduce to 48-54 percent by 2040 from around 55 percent in 2015. India will need to ally with countries including the United States, Japan, and Australia, to get cheaper funding from multilateral development banks to access cleaner technology and catch up with Japan and China, Benjamin Sporton, chief executive of the World Coal Association told Reuters in an interview. Sporton said India's reliance on imported coal would be significant in the coming years to power the nation's economic expansion. "For many power plants designed to take imported coal, it will be very difficult to shift those over to domestic coal supply and one of the other reasons is India's coal tends to be of slightly lower quality than what is available in the international market," he said. In July, the U.S. Treasury issued guidance on promoting the use of fossil fuels cleanly and efficiently through funding from multilateral development banks.

(Source : mining.com)

Renewables Gain Ground in India

Sept 7 : "India has huge challenges when it comes to energy," Sporton, chief executive of the World Coal Association said, adding that the government should look at using funds from the National Clean Energy Fund, which has over $4 billion accumulated through the levy of a surcharge on coal. "Coal has a critical role in India today no matter how much money is pumped into renewables," Sporton said. India, Asia's third biggest economy, is gradually raising the share of renewable power in its energy mix. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government aims to raise solar power generation capacity nearly 30 times to 100 gigawatts (GW) by 2022. The capacity has already more than tripled in three years to more than 12 GW. Sporton said he did not expect India's low solar tariffs to be sustained. "I think they (solar tariffs) have got to a point where they are far too low and there is a genuine question whether the projects bid at very low prices will be built, and if they are built, whether they are economic."

(Source : mining.com)

Push for mineral auction

New Delhi, Sept. 6 : The government plans to expedite the auction of non-coal mines to stimulate a flagging economy. These mines include major minerals such as iron ore, bauxite and limestone, said officials. Mines in Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Bengal will be auctioned. The auctions have to be held by individual state governments or by a few states together. Mining leases already auctioned so far have fetched a cumulative resource value of around Rs 1,22,000 crore. Officials said they were also working to amend the Mineral Auction Rules, 2015, to make the bidding simpler. The minimum net worth to participate in the e-auctions is likely to be lowered by half to bring in more bidders. At

present, a company must have a net worth of at least 2 per cent of the value of the mine. This is being halved, said officials. Companies will also be discouraged from sitting idle on the mines after winning the bids as they will be given fixed timelines to develop the mines and start operations. Also in the offing is a move to reduce the number of minimum technically qualified bidders to two from three for bidding to proceed. In a notice, the government said, "The tender process for the coal mines being auctioned under the 5th tranche has been terminated in accordance with Clause 3.3.2(b) of the tender document". India had earlier come out with a new mineral exploration policy that encourages e-auction of both mining licences and exploration blocks identified by the GSI for exploration.

(Source : The Telegraph)

Conservative radio personality takes on Adani

Sep. 5, 2017, Just two weeks following Adani's announcement regarding plans to begin operations at its Carmichael coal mine in October, a TV ad featuring a famous radio broadcaster is pushing to 'stop the taxpayer loan' to the Indian group. Even though Jones is not an environmentalist himself, he is a vocal supporter of farmers and has become a fierce critic of the Adani mine. But his criticism is not linked to the potential impacts that the $12 billion (A$16bn) project would have on the Great Barrier Reef and vulnerable species in Queensland's Galilee Basin. His focus is on Adani's hope to get a $1 billion loan from the Federal Government's National Australia Infrastructure Facility, which would go towards building a rail line from the mine to Abbot Point port so coal can be shipped overseas. Such a request follows a setback that Adani experienced back in March when Australia's four biggest banks ruled out or withdrew funding from the project. In his speech, Jones also mentions rumours around the company's financial deals. He says Carmichael's owners have been accused of transferring tax to the Cayman Islands, and have family members in court in India. On his own earlier this year, however, the 76-year-old also criticized Malcolm Turnbull government's decision to grant water licenses to Adani, which will give the mine unlimited access to groundwater for the next 60 years with no government oversight.

(Source : mining. com)

Philippines' President says open-pit mining ban should stay

Sept 06 : Philippines' President Rodrigo Duterte said on Tuesday he believed the controversial ban on open pit mining imposed by former Environment Secretary Gina Lopez should remain in place given the environmental damage it causes, but noted he would give companies time to find alternative mining methods. Duterte, who has spent his first year in power pushing for stricter mining standards, said he had already asked current Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu "to look into the eventual closure of open-pit mining," local ABS-CBN News reported. The current ban only affects projects, not mines currently in operations. However, its continuity threatens major planned mines including Philex Mining's $2bn Silangan copper-gold project in Surigao del Norte and Sagittarius Mines's $5.9bn Tampakan gold-copper project in South Cotabato, which has the potential to become the Philippines' biggest foreign investment. The country is the world's top nickel ore supplier but Duterte believes mining companies don't pay enough taxes to compensate communities that suffer environmental damage.

(Source : mining.com)

Panel to monitor Coal India supply

Calcutta, Sept. 4 : Coal India has set up a monitoring cell to track coal supply amid concerns of falling stocks at thermal power plants. The public sector miner has also urged power producers, including NTPC, to optimise coal movement to its plants on the basis of the stock level. According to data from the Central Electricity Authority, actual stock at thermal plants across the country as of August 31, 2017 was at nine days, lower than 12 days at the start of the month. At least nine power plants had stocks of less than four days according to the CEA and many of these plants depend on the rail route to source coal. On an average the normative stock requirement ranges between 15 days and 20 days. As part of the monitoring plan, Coal India will co-ordinate with the railways and power utilities to improve the supply to generating units facing critical stocks. "This is an effort to rush coal to thermal power stations facing critical stocks and avoid crisis at any of the linked power stations. We plan to monitor production and despatch of coal closely," said Gopal Singh, chairman of Coal India. Singh has taken over from Sutirtha Bhattracharya on September 1, 2017. Coal India officials further said the miner had decided to temporarily regulate movement to the non-power sector to boost the supply to the power sector. A combination of road and rail movement is being worked out to clear stocks from five of the eight subsidiaries of Coal India.

(Source : The Telegraph)

Indian uranium mine becomes dark matter lab

Sept. 03 : India's very first uranium mine, the Jaduguda mine located in the state of Jharkhand, now hosts a laboratory for conducting experiments in fundamental physics. The Jaduguda Underground Science Laboratory 550, built in a 37-square-meter cavern buried 905 metres and formerly used for storage, will focus on the search for dark matter. It was built by the Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics and it is expected to gather the country's brightest experimental scientists interested in cutting-edge research. Repurposing the cave in the 50-year-old mine managed by the Uranium Corporation of India required an initial investment of $32,000. Scientists considered this to be the best place to install a low-temperature cesium iodide detector because its depth would shield the device from other particles. The site's uranium deposits, which produce 25 per cent of the raw materials needed to fuel India's nuclear reactors, are located some 300 metres away from the lab. Thus, physicists working there are not concerned about background radiation.

(Source : mining.com)

Vedanta builds war chest to fund metal start-ups

Calcutta, Sept. 3 : Vedanta Resources Plc, the world's sixth largest diversified mineral resource conglomerate, will launch a Rs 5,000-crore venture capital fund for mineral-based manufacturing start-ups in India. Vedanta will partner top policy making body Niti Ayog and consulting firm Accenture to identify opportunities in the small and medium sector. "There are opportunities in copper, aluminium, zinc, silver, gold, oil and gas. This is the time for start-up SMEs. We have been doing for technology, now is the time for manufacturing. Units can start at as low as Rs 5 crore and can go up to Rs 100 crore. I will fund them for feasibility. They have to come up with a bankable document, then go to the bank, secure a loan, and if there is any equity required, we will provide. We will take the risk," Agarwal said in an interview with The Telegraph.

The Vedanta chairman said as he turned 60, his aim in life now would be to help create 50 more Vedantas in the future.

Bengal plans

Agarwal, who spent his childhood in Calcutta, said Bengal is the best place for SMEs. Power is available, best of brains is available, cost of labour is low...We will supply the raw material. Bengal is a very good place for contracting and outsourcing," Agarwal said during his 12-hour whirlwind trip to Calcutta.

Agarwal said he would look at the state afresh if and when mines come up for auction. In his address to IIM Calcutta today, Vedanta chief exhorted students to become junior miners. "Naukri ke piche mat bhago", he said asking them to become entrepreneurs and miners as technology has become available at an affordable cost.

Mining Pangs

Vedanta which operates mines in Zambia, South Africa, Liberia, Namibia, besides India, said a lot more can be done to promote mining despite the efforts to bring in transparency by auction. "The government should be concerned about the environment and leave the rest to industry. Second, they should be favourable to the industry making money. Except foreigners nobody takes away money. The put it back to work here.

(Source : The Telegraph)

Indian centenary iron ore mine goes solar

Tata Steel has just inaugurated India's first solar power project located at an iron ore mine. The 3-megawatt solar photovoltaic power plant is situated at the company's centenary Noamundi mine, in the state of Jharkhand. According to a press release, the solar plant will help the country's second largest steel maker replace a part of the electricity it consumes from both the grid and from diesel-based generators. It is also expected to help reduce CO_2 emissions by about 3,000 tonnes per annum. All aspects of the project, from commissioning to building it, took place within the Tata industrial conglomerate. Tata Steel came up with the idea and will purchase the power at a fixed tariff, while Tata Power Solar and Tata Power Trading Company executed it. The plant uses modules that convert solar radiation into electricity. This energy is then transformed through inverters to AC power at a suitable voltage and then fed to the utility grid. According to the company, if a complete outage takes place, the solar plant has the ability to synchronize with an existing DG bus at a processing plant in Noamundi and continue operation. The solar installation covers 19 acres of land at an elevated reclaimed mining hill. Tata says there is enough room to expand the project and increase generation to 4.5 megawatts.◆

(Source : mining.com)

Technical Article

NATIONAL MINERAL POLICY A VEHICLE FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE OF THE MINERAL SECTOR

DN Bhargava*

Introductory Remarks

The Government of India, Ministry of Mines, has constituted vide it's order dated 14 August, 2017 a Committee to review the National Mineral Policy (NMP) 2008 and suggest a new National Mineral Policy which the Government of India has to announce before 31 December, 2017.

The Committee has been constituted in the background of :

(a) The "seminal changes" in the frame-work of Mining Laws, Rules and Regulations made subsequent to the enactment of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act 2015.

(b) The order passed by the Supreme Court in it's judgement dated 02.08.2017 in the writ petition (Civil) No.114 of 2014 directing the Union of India to revisit the National Mineral Policy 2008 and announce a fresh and more effective, meaningful and implementable policy before 31.12.2017.

The Composition of the Committee

The Committee comprises of 29 members ; it is an unwieldy Committee. it is hoped that they would bring forth solutions for hitherto unsolved problems of inordinate delays in clearances for mining projects, instilling confidence among investors, both Indian and Foreign, about security of tenure of their mining rights, and devising systems for effective regulation of mining activity.

Inspite of it's unwieldy composition, the committee does not include any experienced mining engineer who has managed mines, and can honestly bring out un-implementable expectations. The environmental and forest laws have been in force for almost 30 years; by now the regulatory authorities may be aware of the best practices possible.

It is hoped that the Committee would invite presentations from mine managers of large as well as small mines to have the grasp of real-life situations. The professional associations may be consulted on choice of mine managers.

The Terms of Reference

The terms of reference of the Committee have been described as follows :

To review the NMP 2008 and suggest a new policy taking into account the measures already taken and may need to be taken for bringing in further transparency, balanced social and economic growth, including sustainability of mining industry.

To suggest recommendations for conservation and mineral development and protection of environment, and measures to assess the carrying capacity of mining in States/ Regions.

To suggest measures for improvement of survey and exploration of minerals, data-base of mineral resources and tenements, scientific methods of mining, manpower development,

**Former Controller General of IBM (1973 to 1989). As Commonwealth Expert at Ministry of Energy and Mines, Republic of Namibia in 1991-92 he played a key role in framing Minerals (Prospecting & Mining) Act of Namibia.*

infrastructure development, financial support for mining and research in mining,

To examine and make recommendations for development of strategic minerals,

To examine and review fiscal aspects conducive to the promotion of mineral exploration and development including beneficiation and other forms of product refinements.

Any other matter which the Committee feels relevant.

The various items indicated for coverage by the Committee are almost the same as were covered in the NMP 2008. The terms do not bring out that due note has been taken of the Supreme Court's view and specific problems identified for solutions.

Besides, a direction could have been given to the Committee that they must keep in view the broad policies to which the Central Government has declared it's commitment and cast the NMP in tune with those policies. The commitments that are equally applicable to the mineral sector are :

(i) To promote the interests of the Tribals, or other local people.

(ii) To provide 'Ease of doing Business"

(iii) To encourage the inflow of Foreign Direct Investments.

(iv) To provide for development of skills among the affected people to meet the needs of the Industry for skilled labour, or to become self-employed.

About the National Mineral Policy 2008

The genesis of NMP 2008 lay in the recommendations of Hooda Committee. The most important Term of Reference of Hooda Committee was to review the NMP 1993 and the MMDR Act 1957 and suggest the changes needed for encouraging investment in Public and Private sectors in exploration and exploitation of minerals. The rest of the six Terms of Reference were regarding review of the procedures for grant of mineral rights, delays in issue of clearances, infrastructure needs, implications of policies of mineral-rich States, to examines ways of increasing revenues of States and stimulating investment flows and inducting state-of-the-art technology.

The Commiittee did a thorough job and recommended the amendments to be made in the NMP 1993 in recasting a fresh NMP. This led to the framing of the new NMP in 2008.

The ineffectiveness of the NMP 2008 can be judged from it's failure to give a fillip to mineral development. The objective of securing investments in exploration and mining from foreign and Indian entrepreneurs has not been achieved. Some reputed foreign firms who came and started operations got fed up of the inordinate delays in decision-making or not receiving a just and fair deal. The prospectors who discovered mineral deposits were denied grant of prospecting licence or mining lease.

So they wound up their operations and left the country. Even Indian entrepreneurs are wary of indefinite delays in receiving the plethora of clearances thus delaying the start-up of operations even after the mineral rights are obtained.

Detailed exploration done by the State agencies is rendered infructuous either because it's techno-economic viability is not established, or the prospective entrepreneur does not have faith in the exploration report, or the local community is antagonised and does not allow the project to go ahead. In some cases the projects had to be abandoned even after substantial investment had been made at site.

While NMP 2008 spoke about utilising the mine wastes, even to the extent of zero waste mining, little tangible results seem to have been achieved. Similar is the case with promotion of research, adoption of scientific methods of mining or adoption of State-of-the-Art technologies. Even the existing facilities regarding mineral processing available with IBM have remained under-utilised.

Suggestions for the fresh National Mineral Policy

It is suggested that the fresh National Mineral Policy may be conducive to such a scenario of the mineral sector that every stake-holder in it may find himself in a win-win situation. Such a scenario may ensure that :

The good-will of the tribals or other local people is secured by giving them a fair deal.

Whereever Mineral Deposits are identified by Government agencies, to begin with, labour intensive semi-mechanised mining may be promoted through peoples co-operatives so that the local persons get their means of livelihood and become protagonists of mining.

Later, this may facilitate setting up major mining projects; in that case, the mining rights may be so granted that the peoples' co-operatives may continue in an adjoining section or could be integrated with the larger organisation.

Just as forest lands fall under the administrative control of the forest departments, and revenue lands under the administrative control of revenue departments, the lands bearing mineral deposits should be given a distinct classification as mineral bearing lands and brought under the administrative control of mines departments.

The Mines Departments may consult in advance other departments and work out the obligations of the candidate for Mining Lease. He may be conveyed all his obligations as set out by other departments. Thus he may not have to seek clearances any more; he may commence mining operations soon after securing mining lease.

Until changes as stipulated in 4 and 5 above materialise, all clearances may be accorded within not more than three months of submission of applications. It will need radical overhaul of current system.

Until all mineral deposits, which have been explored in detail by government agencies lead to opening of Mines, the Government agencies may take up regional exploration only, as a lot of regional exploration work still remains to be done.

Priority for search and exploration hereafter may be given for deposits of Cobalt, Diamond, Gold, Molybdenum, Sulphur, Tin, Tungsten etc. which, as such, or in value-added form have to be imported. The exploration for diamond and gold deserve top-priority because they are currently being imported at significant outgo of foreign exchange. Since expertise in this field is better available in foreign private sector, it may be allowed to conduct the exploration with the assurance that it will be entitled to grant of mining lease on successful completion of exploration.

Auction was one method suggested by Supreme Court for grant of mining rights, it also said that Government may adopt any other method keeping peoples' welfare in view. Taking cue from the latter view, the auction of mine blocks may be replaced with calling bids which may commit maximum extent of welfare of the Tribals and/or local people. This will result in lower Capital and Operating cost of mineral production and eventually benefit, the consumer.

As regards research, the initiative to sponsor should lie with the Mining Industry to maximise the percentage extraction of the ore-body, to secure safety of mine workings, workers and

equipment, to improve productivity and to reduce costs. The Government may focus only on sponsoring research related to conservation of minerals and protection of environment.

Since mining invariably causes environmental degradation, expansion of mining may be restricted to meeting the country's needs.

A systematic work of compiling specifications of the mine waste should be taken up, and priorities given to mines where the waste has good chance prima facie towards winning of any other mineral of economic value or it's utilisation for road or house construction, landscaping etc.

To improve the effectiveness of regulation, the latest technological tools, including satellite imagery, should be adopted for day to day monitoring. Periodic workshops may be held for interaction with the industry on problems that may arise and finding solutions. The provisions for maintaining of water quality and preventing damage to agricultural fields must be rigorously enforced. It must be checked whether the approved steps to restore environment year by year are being taken as planned.

A positive approach to combating illegal mining without starving the users of those minerals, which may adversely affect the Economy, is to identify fresh deposits of those minerals and legal mining rights be given to commence production. Simultaneously as the production from legally operated mines picks up, firm action to stop illegal mining, confiscation of their machinery, stoppage of access to inputs may be taken and the illegal miners brought to justice.

Access to data on Mineral Resources may be limited to those seriously interested in mineral development. Throwing open the knowledge about the entire mineral wealth of the country may be harmful to the strategic interests of the country. It may be advisable to seek the opinion of the National Security Advisor and go by his advice.

It is hoped that the fresh National Mineral Policy may cover the 15 points mentioned above along with few others which may have been left out. It could then be termed as the Vehicle for Good Governance of the Mineral Sector.

(The content of the article is personal opinion of the author and are very much valid. The readers are requested to respond to the points discussed in it with their opinions)◆

Opinion

ILLEGAL MINING

SC Agarwal

Mining is called illegal when, a) Lessee continues mining beyond the sanctioned lease area or beyond lease period, b) Lessee excavate mineral without valid lease or license, such activity normally takes place in prohibited or restricted area where either lease can't be granted, such as reserved forest or crossing the safe zone of roads or other public properties endangering the stability of structures, and or c) Lessee exceeds production beyond the target capacity sanctioned by MOEF in Environment Clearance or other sanctioning authorities.

It is a hard reality that illegal mining is at rampant all over the country now, somewhere at small scale such as for dimensional building stone, somewhere at mega scale such as mining for Iron ore, Manganese, river sand etc.

It is hard to believe and very unfortunate too, but it is a fact that illegal miners continue mining in this country without forest/environment clearance month after month, year after year and for decades even beyond lease period, till some NGO lodges petition and honourable Court interferes.

Past Status of Illegal Mining Some glaring examples of Illegal mining in different mineral fields leading to unsafe mining and causing environmental damages, destruction :

1. Illegal and unsafe mining of silica sand from Bhatti Mines in Dellhi is glaring example of illegal mining which had played havoc creating serious law and order problem beside frequent accidental fatalities. Ultimately Apex Court had to interfere and ban mining in the entire belt. As of now the entire excavated area is water logged and is the largest source of drinking water for Delhi region.
2. Environmental damage by mining of Limestone in Doon valley and Marble in Arravalies in Alwar (Raj) is on record. Here also after the adverse report of Central Empowered Committee (CEC), Apex Court ordered complete ban of mining in Doon Valley and Arravali region.
3. Illegal mining on large scale of Bauxite, iron ore, Chromite in the region of Goa played havoc in the area, destroying environment and village economy. Politician provided patronage to miners. Lease was granted overlooking MOEF directions. Ultimately Apex court had to intervene and ban total mining in this region. Legal cases of corruption against the big politicians are on record to confirm illegal mining.
4. Illegal mining of sandstone, Kotah stone, other building material has caused great concern to Govt because it was causing serious environmental damage besides heavy revenue loss. Under heavy lawful pressure from Supreme Court to stop illegal mining in the State, Govt. of Rajasthan had raised a police constabulary to control illegal mining in the State under the control of ADGP (a senior IPS) but it failed in its mission.

Present Status of Illegal Mining With damaging experience of illegal mining in above regions, GOI has introduced new mineral policy, changed MMCR, Environmental legislation, but this could not stop illegal mining in the country. Operators changed locations, not their mindset and continued illegal mining unabated. It is now in Odisha.

CEC has found that Lessees in the districts of Keonjhar, Sundargarh and Mayurbhanj in Odisha have rapaciously mined iron ore and manganese ore destroying the environment and forest, and probably causing untold misery to the tribals in the area, besides destroying the costly reserves by doing unscientific and unsafe mining. Land lost is lost forever since in India there is no reclamation.

Of late Pune has registered 400 illegal sand mining in 5 months and recovered Rs 1.57 cr as penalty. Illegal mining of river sand is in rampant even in Rajasthan and State Govt has not been successful to stop in spite of stringent laws from MOEF.

The Commission of Inquiry headed by former Supreme Court judge Justice MB Shah and also the CEC separately observed illegal mining of iron ore and manganese as ''a mining scandal of enormous proportion and involving megabucks''

Impact of Illegal Mining Illegal mining leads to a) Unsafe mining resulting to loss of lives, b) unscientific mining causing colossal loss of mineral resources of the country, c) Destruction of environment, d) damaging the landscape, e) Labour Exploitation, and f) deteriorating social issues. Though such operators employ large number of local residents for manual mining, but all contractors generally believe in making money only and do not take any responsibility towards what to talk of labour welfare and even not paying minimum wages. Illegal operators believe in managing the laws of country in his favour, rather than in compliance. All such agencies are either politicians themselves or protected by influential politicians. It is all money game in the background. Illegal mining operators focus only on earning high profit. It is all mockery of Laws, Rules and Regulations

Illegal Mining : a Economical Terrorism Illegal mining is no less than economic terrorism against nation, society and environment. Social influential in the society first start trading in illegal mining, accumulate ill earned wealth and then through ballot papers represent as elected leaders. They are now continuing trading in ill earned wealth through illegal mining amounting to economical terrorism. Unfortunately, illegal mining leads to concentrate wealth in few hands and not fair social distribution.

With the present scenario it appears that Govt Regulatory bodies are only silent observer otherwise it cannot continue years after years. CEC has also stated in its report that, it is surprising how the States are tolerating losing the dues to them for exploiting the natural resources.

Forest department, Land Revenue department are the biggest defaulters in regulating and enforcing laws. Large forest area has been destroyed due to illegal mining.

Penalty for Illegal Mining of late ''Supreme Court slaps 100% penalty for illegal mining'', but I believe financial penalty even upto 100% is not going to work because penalty amount is a drop in big ocean as compared to megabucks earned. The multiplying factor of production is again managed and under reported. It is surprising that the produce of the illegal mining even got passage for export abroad in past. They have only to say "I am doing business and social welfare". As a taxpayer each one of us can raise finger that social liability or financial protection of workers is the responsibly of Govt

I remember till seventies all laws governing mining minerals, were simple and not so stringent as of now, and mine operators were diligently and religiously complying the rules. Even regulatory bodies were too conscious

in getting regulatory measures implemented. The illegal mining was least heard of and was limited to few.

But thereafter with laws getting harsher, stringent and framing additional laws, illegal mining has been increasing exponentially to create havoc as of now. Operators focused on minting money showing least concern to either business ethics, environment, social welfare, or concern to conservation of the national resources.

Contrarily after getting EC from MOEF, they feel having obtained license to degrade environment freely because they are confident they can manage the authorities. Even after framing laws for compulsory spending @2% on CSR of their profits and after depositing the amount in DMF, nothing concrete is happening; rather after depositing levies, they feel more relaxed in violating laws confidently.

I am of candid opinion, when there is corruption in the system, illegal trade or illegal mining will continue un-abated. Illegal mining leads to corruption and vice-versa. Corruption promotes illegal mining. Illegal mining operators have neither respect to law of the country nor on judicial system. Imposing pecuniary penalty is of no value to them. I doubt if any advocacy to change so polluted mindset will be possible.

Suggestion to Combat Illegal Mining GOI needs to revisit even the amended National Mineral Policy as it has failed to achieve the objective of eliminating illegal mining. The operators, the regulatory bodies, the administration and Judiciary have to act together in synchronised way to curb the menace of illegal mining. Though it is advocated that persuasion is better than punishment but this does not hold good in case of illegal mining in the country. The present situation calls for harsher action like prosecution, speedy disposal. It has to be treated as criminal offence and punishable. Law has to be enforced with heavy hands and result has to be delivered on fast track. Social defamation may, perhaps change their attitude. Delayed action dilutes the matter

Recent suggestion of mining surveillance system having all the quarry sites satellite mapped should be an effective method to monitor illegal mining by respective officials

To my opinion solution lies in collective willingness, may it be political, administrative or mine operators. During last 7 decades there has been total absence of political willingness to curb this menace. In fact political interference encouraging illegal mining with vested interest of all concerned helped increasing the menace manifold. The operators enjoyed the situation in their favour thoroughly for megabucks. Hence there has not been solution in spite of framing stringent laws.

To my opinion now with the fast changing political environment in the country and their commitment for safer environment, there is a ray of hope that illegal mining will soon be restricted. The administrative circle has to match their action with changing political expectations towards elimination of illegal and unsafe mining. I am much hopeful that during next one decade the curse of illegal and unsafe mining will be restricted if not eliminated

It is to remember that deficit of important mineral can be made good by imports but we cannot import forest or environment.◆

(The author is a very senior mining engineer having many years of working experience in various mineral fields. The content of the article' indicates the pain the author is having due to illegal mining resulting in many facets of the menace. The observations may be taken as suggestion without aspersion to any person or group of persons. The views are strictly of the author)

DGMS GUIDELINES ON STRATA MONITORING IN LONGWALL WORKINGS IN COAL MINES

Effective strata control is vital for safe and productive longwall operation in any geomining condition. Effectiveness of strata control can be evaluated by a suitable strata monitoring system. During operation of a longwall panel, a thorough investigation of the associated strata and support systems is required to understand the geomechanical behaviour of the strata and the performance of the support systems. This enables in effective tackling of the problems arising from strata and in ensuring safety of the men and machineries.

Monitoring of strata behaviour during extraction of longwall panel is not only required for ensuring safety and stability of longwall workings but also to get essential inputs for verification of existing design parameters of the panel, proper planning of future longwall panels, assessing suitable support requirements, etc. Therefore, it is felt that a standard protocol is required for strata monitoring in longwall workings.

In view of the above, a technical workshop was conducted on "latest trends in strata control in longwall mining with a special reference to strata monitoring techniques" on 20.1.2017 at DGMS, Dhanbad, which was attended by 57 participants from different stakeholders like mining industry, research & academic institutions and DGMS. Based on the inputs drawn from the deliberations made in the workshop, the following guidelines have been formulated for strata monitoring in longwall workings :

I. Strata monitoring plan: The Owner, Agent or Manager of every mine shall formulate and implement a strata monitoring plan for every longwall panel in the mine under the guidance of a scientific agency having expertise in this field. The plan shall contain :

i) Proposed instrumentation scheme

ii) Monitoring schedules,

iii) List of the persons engaged in implementation of the plan and their duties & responsibilities,

iv) Formats for documentation and records of the readings of strata monitoring, and

v) Any other information related to strata monitoring.

II. The strata monitoring plan referred under Para I above, shall be prepared based on the geo-technical studies by a scientific agency having expertise in this field and every such plan, shall, inter alia, include:-

1.0 Monitoring of Gate Roadways

1.1 Roof to floor convergence of tail and main gate roadways shall be monitored on regular basis by convergence indicators, once at least in every shift up to a distance of at least 40m from the face at an interval not exceeding 10m.

1.2 Load cells shall be installed in main gate and tailgate roadways up to a distance of minimum 40 m from the face at an interval not exceeding 10

m on hydraulic/friction props or with the roof bolts as the case may be. Readings of the load cells shall be recorded in every shift.

1.3 The convergence measurements as required under clause no. 1.1 and load cell readings as required under clause no. 1.2 above shall be taken simultaneously.

1.4 If roof bolts are used as roof supports in gate roadways, at least 2 to 3 instrumented roof bolts shall be installed in each gate roadway at strategic places to determine the loading pattern on the bolts.

1.5 Multi point extensometers/Tell tales/ Sonic probe extensometers shall be installed in main gate and tail gate roadways at an interval not exceeding 50m to monitor dilation/ bed separation in the roof strata. The instruments shall be constantly maintained in the gate roadways of the panel at least upto a distance of 400 m from the face.

2.0 Monitoring of vertical induced stresses (abutment stresses) in barrier / chain pillars and longwall pillar

2.1 To predict abutment stresses in longwall pillar under extraction, stress cells shall be installed in the longwall pillar ahead of the face from main gate and tail gate roadways at an interval of 100 m. The stress cells shall be constantly maintained in the longwall pillar at least upto a distance of 400m from the face. The first stress cell shall be installed at the expected main weighting position.

2.2 To monitor the stability of the barrier/chain pillars and predict magnitude and location of the abutment stresses in it, stress cells shall be installed in the barrier/chain pillars from main gate and tailgate roadways at an interval of 200 m up to a distance of minimum 400 m from the face. The first stress cells shall be installed at the expected main weighting position.

3.0 Monitoring of load and convergence of Powered Roof Supports (PRS)

3.1 Pressure in the gauges fitted in leg circuits of the Powered Roof Supports (PRS) at the face shall be recorded once at least in every shift.

3.2 If there is no automatic continuous monitoring system of leg closure of PRS, measurement of convergence (leg closure) of the PRS shall be carried out by tape measurements at least once in every shift during idle period and daily once in other cases.

3.3 If there are no automatic continuous monitoring system of leg pressure and leg closure of PRS, the load on and convergence of at least 10 PRS at strategic locations shall be continuously monitored with data loggers to understand the loading pattern on PRS and its response.

4.0 Progressive caving of strata in the goaf

To study progressive caving behaviour of roof strata in the goaf with face retreat, at least three multi-point Borehole Extensometers shall

be installed from the surface along the central line of the longwall panel at not more than 500 m interval. In case of presence of goaved-out workings in the overlying seams vertically above the longwall panel, the location and interval between such Extensometers may vary to the extent that may be required to avoid drilling of boreholes through such goaved-out workings.

5.0 Subsidence study

Subsidence survey and maintenance of its records shall be done as per the DGMS circular no 4 of 1988 or its revised version.

6.0 If the roof strata of a longwall panel has been categorised as cavable with substantial difficulty or cavable with extreme difficulty based on Caving Index, the following additional precautions shall also be taken in the panel;

6.1 Continuous monitoring of strata shall be done using micro-seismic monitoring system with geophones installed from the surface to analyse the possible time of failure and location of the failure zones within the roof strata.

6.2 Leg pressures and leg closures of Powered Roof Supports (PRS) shall be monitored continuously by using real time monitoring and automatic data acquisition and interpretation systems.

7.0 In the proximity of the geologically disturbed areas of a longwall panel, during development (drivage of gate roadways and set up gallery) and salvaging of longwall panels the strata monitoring shall be carried out as per the instrumentation scheme suggested by the scientific agency referred under para-I above.

8.0 For every longwall panel, suitable trigger action response plans shall be formulated and integrated with emergency initiated protocols.

9.0 Plan: A part plan of the longwall workings depicting strata monitoring instrumentation with suitable index, shall be kept and maintained in the office of the mine.

10.0 Supervision

In every longwall panel, strata monitoring plan shall be kept under the charge of an Assistant Manager holding 1st Class Manager's Certificate of Competency with relevant experience in longwall, who shall also be assisted with adequate number of trained supervisors and manpower.

The owners, Agents and Mangers of all coal mines having longwall workings are advised to ensure compliance with this circular.

(Source : Circular No. 0.1 Of 2017 on 17/05/2017)

Safe coal dust exposure levels don't exist : A study

Researchers at the University of Melbourne, Australia report that there is little scientific evidence for current coal dust exposure regulations following the resurgence of black lung in Queensland (QLD)

Professor Lou Irving, clinical director of the university's Lung Health Research Centre, said "scientists don't know if there is a safe dust level of exposure". "There are regulations where limiting the amount of dust that coal miners can be exposed to, but they have no basis in science," he said. "We simply do not know at what point exposure to dust triggers lung stiffening, or fibrosis, and we urgently need to address this so that we can catch it before it becomes incurable."

Queensland's coal dust limit is 3mg/m^3 air – higher than that of NSW (New South Wales) and the US – with the Select Committee on Health Black Lung Report recommending coal mining companies to adopt the lowest Australian level of 2.5mg/m^3, found in NSW, until a national standard is implemented. The Centre, a partnership between the University's Department of Pharmacology and Royal Melbourne Hospital, has gathered a team of cross-disciplinary researchers to call for extending diagnosis and management of black lung from chest x-rays and measuring breathing.

Centre co-director and pharmacologist, Professor Alastair Stewart said "advanced technologies, new medicines, and genomics created new possibilities for this research". "We can investigate more accurate coal dust exposure levels and monitoring, and use modern techniques to improve screening and investigate individual sensitivity to exposure," he said.

Currently, 15 workers have been diagnosed with the disease in QLD, the youngest only 39. It believed to have affected 36 per cent in of coal mine workers in Colombia, 17 per cent in China, and around 3 per cent in US. Stewart believed the rate of affected workers in Australia would be similar to US.

The Queensland Government recently appointed a six-person Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis (CWP) select committee (https://www.australianmining.com.au/news/qld-appoints-black-lung-parliamentary-select-committee/) to investigate the resurgence of the disease in the state, (http://dusttodust.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/11-16-2016-Final-Submission-Black-Lung-Inquiry.pdf) with the main priority of "fixing the issue". The 234 page report on "Inquiry into the re-emergence of coal-workers' pneumoconiosis amongst coal mine workers in Queensland" has been published in Nov. 2016. It provides a good guideline to CWP.

At the end Stewart said "There is so much we don't know that the battle against this disease is only just beginning."

(Source : Reproduction of the report of Sharon Masige; FERRET 27th Sep., 2016)

In India Sub-Regulation 4 of Regulation 123 of the Coal Mines Regulations, 1957 and related DGMS circular specify provisions of limit of coal dust in underground mines of Indian coalfields.

The above report indicates that there is good scope of research for fixing the issue as precaution against Coal Worker's Pneumoconiosis (CWP) also called Black Lung Disease in our coal mines.◆

GOODS AND SERVICE TAX (GST) : ITS IMPLEMENTATION, IMPLICATION AND IMPACT ON MINERAL INDUSTRY

India's biggest tax reform is now a reality. A comprehensive dual Goods and Services Tax (GST) has replaced the complex multiple indirect tax structure from 1st July 2017. The Indirect tax system before July in India used to provide for a complex tax environment due to multiplicity of taxes, complicated compliance obligations and tax cascading. Under the new GST regime, all the key Indirect tax legislations said to be subsumed (except for few taxes such as duty on Electricity, Royalty on extraction of minerals from mines, etc). In the new Act the tax is levied on the supply of goods and supply of services which is different from the taxable events of the old system that is manufacture, sale or provisions of service.

This new indirect tax regime rolled out in July with the idea to subsume central excise, service tax and state VAT among other indirect levies on manufactured goods and services. This will simplify the old tax system as planned by the Government. However, as the situation today and the feeling of the concerned entities, it seems some more time is needed for the GST regime to be clearly understood and implemented by the tax payers and tax collectors.

The various activities of mining which was chargeable to service tax under the old regime would attract tax at the rate of 15%, whereas supply of these services under GST would be taxed at the rate of around 18% which is higher than the old tax rate on the same. Thus, there would be additional cash of 3%, however, with seamless credit available all across the net tax cost forming part of final product should decrease.

The minerals and mining sector in India is governed by the Mines Act, 1952 along with the Mines and Minerals Development and Regulation Act (MMDR), 1957. The mines and minerals development and regulation is undertaken as per the MMDR Act under the control of the union. As per Section 9 of the MMDR Act, 1957 the holder of a mining lease granted before or after the commencement of this act shall pay royalty in respect of any minerals removed or consumed. Royalty paid on mineral is not subsumed under GST, thus same shall be as an additional cost for the business entity. The Mines Act, 1952 lays down the rules and regulation in relation to the safety of the labour, regulation for carrying out mining activities and the management of mines.

India currently produces nearly 89 minerals under different groups such as Fuel minerals, metallic minerals, non metallic minerals, atomic minerals etc. The mining sector organizations are engaged in either merchant mining sector or mining cum manufacturing sector.

As such Mining sector involves the following activities :

- Survey and Exploration of minerals
- Excavation of super incumbent strata to expose the mineral
- Earth moving services
- Extraction of the minerals
- Processing of minerals extracted
- Transportation of minerals and
- Demolition of mines

The mining companies may attract service tax for the services relevant to the mining industry as above. A manufacturer and/or service provider paying service tax on procurement of

services are allowed to take credit of same and it is set off against their Service tax or Excise liability. However, no credits are available to primary producers or miners, who are neither service providers nor manufacturers but simply a trader. Exporters are allowed to claim a refund of tax paid on procurement in various forms.

Royalty on mining is collected by the State Government from the business entities in relation to the lease of the mines granted to them. The Supreme Court, in India Cement Ltd. v. State of Tamilnadu and others (AIR 1990 SC 85) had held that royalty is a tax and its payment is for the use of land. The judgment had relied on the concept that royalty was attributed to the extracted mineral created due to interaction among land, capital and labour, each of which possesses some definite intrinsic economic value. In this sense, royalty was viewed as a kind of tax linked either directly or indirectly to the intrinsic economic value of a mineral realized through sale by the lessee. Though the Hon'ble Supreme Court subsequently doubted the correctness of the above referred judgments and referred the case as to "whether royalty is tax or not" to a larger bench of nine judges and the same is yet to be pronounced and therefore the judgment of India Cement Limited can be considered as the law as on date. If the Supreme Court decides that royalty is in nature of tax then both excise duty and service tax cannot be levied, since there cannot be tax on tax.

The grant for the mining lease rights is one of the methods of assignment of rights to use any natural resources and the consideration that is paid by the lease holder is royalty as fixed by the State Government at the time of grant of lease. This royalty which is in the nature of the annual amount payable to the state government are seemingly subject to service tax.

The Constitutional Amendment Bill has deleted only the VAT, Entry Tax and Entertainment Tax from the state lists and Excise duty and Service Tax from the union list. As per Section 3, of the GST Model Law, 2016 the Goods and Service Tax is levied on the supply of goods and services. Various supplies of services such as exploration, mineral production, handling, transportation and the supply of the minerals to consumers would attract GST. Under GST there would be output taxes at the time of supply of output of the mines but at the same time the input tax cost incurred by the miners would be allowed as credit.

In case of merchant miners as the extraction does not amount to manufacture there is no excise duty liability as output tax. In case of mining cum manufacturing sector if any further processing of the minerals so extracted from the mines is undertaken in order to remove the impurities from the minerals or any other value addition process are being undertaken then the same would attract excise duty.

The Value Added Tax (VAT) is levied on the sale of goods within the state. The mines output are subject to VAT, miners are allowed to take the credit of the vat paid on their inputs if any. The VAT cost flows from the mining company to the manufacturer and then to the distributor and reseller.

As per schedule IV of the Goods and Service Tax Act, the consideration paid by the lease holder to the State Government for the grant of the lease of the mines in form of royalty would be chargeable to GST. However, as explained earlier, the matter is to be decided by nine member bench of Hon'ble Supreme Court as to whether royalty is a tax or not. Thus, if it concluds that it is in the nature of tax, GST on same cannot be levied. Thus, as far as GST laws are concerned, there would be GST on the amount of Royalty paid but since Royalty itself is not within the frame work of GST, credit of royalty paid to the State Government becomes a cost of miner, whether merchant or manufacturer.

The Taxes subsumed

GST would replace most indirect taxes currently in place such as :

Central Taxes	State Taxes
Central Excise Duty [including additional excise duties, excise duty under the Medicinal and Toilet Preparations (Excise Duties) Act, 1955]	Value Added Tax
Service tax	Octroi and Entry Tax
Additional Customs Duty (CVD)	Purchase Tax
Special Additional Duty of Customs (SAD)	Luxury Tax
Central Sales Tax (levied by the Centre and collected by the States)	Taxes on lottery, betting & gambling
Central surcharges and cesses (relating to supply of goods and services)	State cesses and surcharges
	Entertainment tax (other than the tax levied by the local bodies)
	Central Sales Tax (levied by the Centre and collected by the States)

Return filing procedure for the first two months of GST implementation is relaxed. Tax would be payable for the first two months based on a simple return Form GSTR – 3B containing a summary of outward and inward supplies. This form is required to be submitted before the 20th of the succeeding month. However, invoice details in regular GSTR-1 would also have to be filed for the month of July and August 2017,

GST is a destination-based tax that replaces the earlier Central taxes and duties such as Excise Duty, Service Tax, Counter Veiling Duty (CVD), Special Additional Duty of Customs (SAD), central charges and cesses and local state taxes, i.e., Value Added Tax (VAT), Central Sales Tax (CST), Octroi, Entry Tax, Purchase Tax, Luxury Tax, state cesses and surcharges and Entertainment tax (other than the tax levied by the local bodies).

A GST Facilitation Cell has been set up in the Department of Industry Policy & Promotion to answer queries regarding GST. The Cell is headed by Shri Sudhansu Sekhar Das, Economic Adviser of the department.

Latest news : On impact of GST on coal (source : The Telegraph 15/09/2017)

On the impact of the goods and services tax (GST) on Coal India, Director (finance) CK Dey in annual general meeting of the CIL Shareholders' in Kolkata on 14/09/2017 said, "we have estimated that on an average, the reduction in rate on local sales is about 5 per cent and on inter-state sales the rate of reduction in taxes is about 3 per cent. This will give an advantage to customers to the tune of Rs 6,000 crore (annually)". He further said that the state-run miner is facing an inverted tax structure under the GST regime as its output is taxed at a lower rate while inputs are taxed on higher rates. "Coal has been made taxable at 5 per cent in the GST regime while taxes are raging between 18-28 per cent on our inputs. Our output is taxed at 5 per cent while our inputs are taxed at higher rates. This is a kind of an inverted tax structure and going forward, this will lead to refund situation," he said.

(The above are the extract from Net on the topic)◆

Read more at :
http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/articleshow/57355477.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst

Special Report

A REPORT ON THE MEETING BETWEEN MGMI AND SME

The members of MGMI met a delegation from The Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration Inc, (SME), USA at MGMI Hqs. on 24/08/2017. The SME was represented by Mr. John G. Mansanti, President SME and Mr. David L. Kanagy, Executive Director, SME accompanied by Mr Pritam Sinha. The MGMI team was represented by Shri Prasanta Roy, Hony. Secretary, MGMI, Shri NC Jha, former President, MGMI & former Chairman, Coal India Limited, Shri PR Mandal, former Advisor (Project), Ministry of Coal, Govt. of India, Shri Smarajit Chakrabarti, former Chairman cum Managing Director, ECL and other dignitaries viz. S/Shri LK Bose, BC Bhattacharya, Dr. AK Moitra, Ranjit K Datta, Anupendu Gupta, Prof. Srikant Annavarapu, TN Gunaseelan, Samir Kumar Ghosh, DK Kundu, Bhaskar Chakraborti, Ranajit Talapatra, A Acharya and Dr. NB Chanda.

The guests and members were welcomed by Shri Prasanta Roy. The foreign guests were greeted with flower bouquets by Shri Smarajit Chakrabarti and were presented with shawls by Shri NC Jha and Shri PR Mondal. Shri Prasanta Roy gave a brief introduction of Mr. John G. Mansanti and Mr. David L. Kanagy and then introduced the MGMI members / delegates to the guests.

A power-point presentation on MGMI, its history and profile, aim, functions, activities, hierarchy, branches, membership strength, national and international events, expertise available, organizations involved etc were made by Shri Prasanta Roy, and elucidated by Shri NC Jha.

This was followed by a presentation on SME, its purpose, goal, key initiatives, strategic plans, programmes, activities etc by Mr. David and Mr. John elucidated some points mainly on activities and criteria for membership. There were some queries from MGMI members on different aspects during the presentation.

The house was then thrown open for interactions between the SME and MGMI members. Lively discussions followed.

Shri NC Jha briefly stated the highlights of MGMI pointing out that it is the oldest organization of this kind in Asia and the parent body of similar organizations like MEAI, FIMI etc. Shri Bhaskar Chakraborti mentioned that MGMI is a member of Central Geological Programming Board that formulates the geo-scientific investigations carried out in the country. Shri PR Mondal presented the Indian Coal Mining scenario and hoped that global cooperation and coordination will help in betterment of all round mining process. Shri Gunaseelan briefed on the organisations MGMI and MEAI. Dr. AK Moitra said that metallurgy needs importance as demands for metals are growing globally. Prof. Srikant and Shri Talapatra spoke on cooperation between global organizations and pleaded for education and knowledge exchange. There were discussions on the roles of organizations like MGMI, MEAI etc in Government's policy making. There were queries on whether a MGMI life member automatically becomes a SME member. Shri DK Kundu desired to know how the cooperation between MGMI and SME may grow.

Shri Prasanta Roy pointed out that this is the first meeting between the two organizations and the methods of coordination and cooperation may be discussed further in later meetings / interactions.

Mr. John expressed that they are encouraged in today's meeting and are looking forward towards further interactions between the two organizations.

The meeting concluded with Vote of Thanks.◆

BE CAREFUL WHEN YOU PULL LEGS OF A SCIENTIST

TR Jayaraman

Way back in 1949 or 1950, we had the fortune of visit by Dr KS Krishnan, who was then Director of National Physics Laboratory. He gave us a talk on the advances made in the measurements of basic units : time, length and mass, and the explanation was lucid. All the students listened with rapt attention. Talk was under the auspices of Literary and Scientific Society of ISM. President of the society was our professor of English, Dr Sadock. Many of you may not know him. He was a bulky man with always a good laugh. He was wont to crack many witty lines and when we responded with a good laugh he would join us with greater force with his bulky belly shaking vigorously. Dr Sadock was envious of our admiring attention given to the speaker. In his closing speech Dr Sadock observed, "I can say this about science and it's advance. I went to a doctor with a complaint of insomnia. I was advised to go to sleep on a full stomach. I retorted that I was advised last year to go to bed on an empty stomach. How was the change now, Dr replied : my dear man, this is what science has advanced in the last one year. The speaker said that time was getting measured by vagaries in a quartz crystal. These people talk of vagaries in rock. What do the scientists know about vagaries of the heart". Dr Krishnan sought to be excused for answering the President 's difficulties. He said there was a good cure for insomnia. Sir, so and so of UK donated a chair for English in a University in London (name forgotten by me) with the inscription that the donation was for the few winks of sleep he ever had in his life in that hall. The president is advised accordingly. In the matter of vagaries of heart he could suggest a sure solution, but the Govt did not permit bigamy. The students had a rush of laugh; for unknown to Dr Krishnan was that Dr Sadock was the professor of English and was also rumoured to be a bigamist.◆

100 YEARS AGO

Report on Mining Education in England with special reference to India (An extract)
By
G.F. Adams, E. H. Roberton and Glen George

The Education of the Subordinate Official

In England the sole method of educating the subordinate official is by means of evening classes, whereby he can obtain theoretical instruction, concurrently with the earning of his livelihood, and we do not think that this method can be improved on in India. We have referred to the existence of a Mines Act in this country, and it is highly probable that in the very near future Government will impose more stringent regulations as regards the management of mines than heretofore, and it is only by an army of intelligent officials that such regulations can be carried out.

Evening classes have been held in the coalfields for the last ten years. For the first five years the lectures were given by a whole-time Government teacher; but from the end of that period the duties have been performed by local colliery managers. We do not consider the latter system has been an unqualified success, and we would invite reference to the remarks made by Mr. Henry Davies, quoted on page 176.

These classes have offered no preliminary scientific education. Although this is obtained so easily in England, it is difficult to obtain it in India, and to obtain it locally is impossible. Provision should be made at these evening classes for so obtaining it.

We therefore recommend that for the education of the subordinate official at evening classes –

a) the teaching should be conducted by whole-time teachers;

b) the classes should offer preliminary scientific training similar to that detailed in the appendices of this report;

c) a close connection should be maintained between the evening classes and the school of mines and that there should be one governing body for the two.

We now consider the various points, to which we paid special attention in England, with regard to their application to India.◆

MEMBERS THOSE WE LOST

Dr Debasish Sarkar

Dr Debasish Sarkar, former Hony. Secretary MGMI left us for heavenly abode on 13th August, 2017 after a critical illness. MGMI family conveys deepest condolences to his bereaved family and prays to Almighty to give them enough courage to bear the loss and strength to pass through the difficult time. We pray to the Almighty - May His Soul Rest in Peace in his heavenly abode.

Dr Sarkar (MMGI, Life Member 5732) was born on 19th October, 1958. He obtained B.Tech degree in Mining in 1980 from ISM, Dhanbad, M.Tech (IEM) in 1984 and PhD in 2002.

An alumnus of Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, Dr. Sarkar was an active Member of MGMI since 1991-92 and was Hony. Secretary of MGMI (HQ) from 2003-07 and again 2009-13. He started his career with Coal India Ltd. as Trainee Engineer and rose to the post of General Manager, North Eastern Coalfields, Margarita, Assam and thereafter continued as General Manager (HRD) Coal India Ltd till he breathed last.

He has been actively associated with MGMI for more than two and a half decades. Besides Hony. Secretary for two terms, he shouldered portfolios like Convener of Seminars, Convener of Asian Miming Congress etc. His dedicated service for MGMI was instrumental in its growth. Dr. Sarkar took very active interest for development of MGMI Calcutta Branch since its beginning. The Annual Day of Calcutta Branch is remembered by all members which helped in growth of the Branch activities. On his posting in NEC by Coal India he developed the Margarita Branch with a good number of new life members. His contribution to MGMI for its development as Hony. Secretary will be remembered by the Institute for years to come. He was loved by all his colleagues and friends for his amicable nature and willingness to help. He used to take lead role in different activities of MGMI and MGMI Council made him Convener for the 7th Asian Mining Congress which will be held in November 2017. During his tenure as Hony. Secretary he contributed quite a lot for the development of MGMI. This loss will be hard to be replenished for MGMI. He has widely travelled abroad as representative of Coal India. He will be remembered by his well wishers for his outspoken nature and straight forwardness. He survived by his wife and two daughters.

Dr AS Prasad

Dr Anadi Shankar Prasad passed away on 4th July 2017 in Lucknow. With heartfelt grief the MGMI family wishes his soul to rest in peace in his heavenly abode. May God give strength to his surviving family members and friends to bear the loss.

Dr Prasad graduated in Mining Engg from Indian school of Mines, Dhanbad in 1957. In 1958 he joined NCDC as an apprentice and was sent to UK for training with NCB. After return from UK and after obtaining the First Class Mine Managers certificate he served in different capacities in mines of NCDC. In 1967 he got a scholarship from Strathclyde University of Glasgow and did his PhD in Mining Engg from the University. After nationalisation of coal mines he was sent to BCCL as custodian and served CIL mines in different capacities. In 1992 he was posted as first CMD of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited. He retired from the Coal industry in 1996 as CMD of Northern Coalfields Limited. After retirement from the coal industry he joined Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad as a professor and served there for 4 and half years. Subsequently he joined Jaiypuriya Institute of Management and served as a part time professor for 3 years. Then again he joined a Management Institute in Jhansi for 6 months.

He is survived by his wife Mrs. Sarla Prasad and two daughters.

Binayak Bandyopadhyay

Binayak Bandyopadhyay (4154 - LM) has left for the heavenly abode on the 21st December, 2016 after a brief illness (dementia) at his Hill View Park North, Asansol residence. The MGMI family is deeply shocked to know the sad demise of the beloved Life Member and convey deep and heartfelt condolences and pray to God to give the members of the family mental strength to bear this loss.

Late Bandopadhyay was born on 10th January 1939 at Ladhurka. He did his Diploma in Mining from Bhaga Mining School, Dhanbad. He started his career in mining with Lodna colliery and then moved to the Coal Board, Asansol, CMPDIL Asansol, Kalipahari Colliery as Assistant Manager, IED (ECL) Asansol, Jorkuri-Palasthali Colliery as Manager, CMD Secretary (ECL), Kankartala Colliery as Superintendant of Mines. He has left behind his wife, one son and one daughter.◆

A Notice

36TH INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS

2-8 MARCH, 2020, DELHI (NOIDA), INDIA

The International Geological Congress is back to India once again after 56 years since it was last held in 1964 at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi.

VENUE

India Exposition Mart, NCR is a large Convention-cum-Exhibition centre in India with a capacity to accommodate 24,000 delegates in eight conference halls, connected to New Delhi & the International Airport by an 8 Lane Express Highway. Metro Rail is expected to be completed before the event.

ACCOMMODATION

Delhi N.C.R. offers many Luxury & budget hotels to be provided during the Congress. Bus services will be provided from hotels to convention centre.

ORGANISATION

Held under the scientific sponsorship of Int. Union of Geol. Sciences (IUGS), the 36th IGC is supported by Government of India, hosted by the Ministry of Mines (MOM) and the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MOES) with active support from Indian Nat. Sc. Academy (INSA) & assistance from the Science Academies of Co-host countries like Banladesh, Nepal, Pakistan & Sri Lanka. Geological survey of India is the nodal agency. The Congress is being organized by the Society "36th International Geological Congress".

FIELD EXCURSIONS

The 36th IGC offers a variety of geological excursions from 1 day short visits to 5 day guided tours before and/or after the Conference, delegates having opportunity to enjoy Indian Cultural Shows, Customs & Traditions, Folk Arts, Handicrafts, Wildlife & Tourist places.

REGISTRATION

Regular (affordable) registration would include Conference Material, Transport, Lunch & Coffee, a visit to the Taj Mahal & a Music Concert. Special discounts will be offered to students (Abstract regn. at nominal fees).◆

Contact :
Director, 36th International Geological Congress Secretariat
Geological Survey of India
C – II, Pushpa Bhawan, Madangir Road, New Delhi - 110062
Tel : +91-11-29965750, 26057035
E-mail : igc.delhi2020@nic.in, igc.delhi2020@gmail.com
Website : www.36igc.org

(Based on GSI information, pamphlet, etc)

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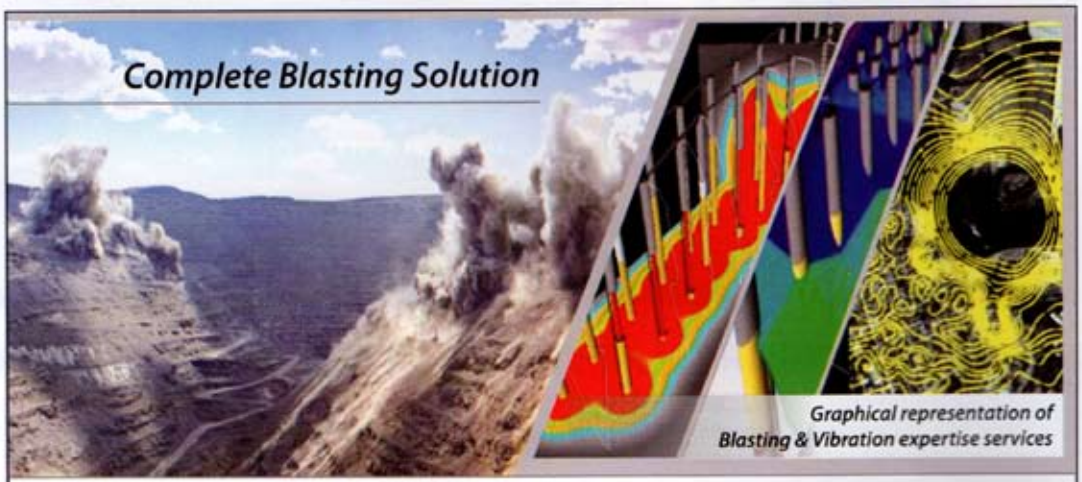

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