



GEONESIS

Indian Mining & Exploration Updates

Volume 10 - Issue 8

MINERALS SECURITY PARTNERSHIP: WHAT IS IT, AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?



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The Minerals Security Partnership (MSP) was announced in June 2022 by the US to strengthen critical mineral supply chains;

India is not a part of the 11-member group

The Minerals Security Partnership (MSP) is a global initiative by the US to bolster critical mineral supply chains. It is also known as the critical minerals alliance.

It was announced by the US and other key partner countries in June 2022 with an aim to ensure that critical minerals are produced, processed and recycled in a way that helps countries secure a stable supply of critical minerals for their economies. It also aims to weaken China's grip on supplies of critical minerals worldwide.

The focus is primarily on the supply chains of critical minerals such as cobalt, nickel, lithium and the 17 "rare earth" minerals. However, India is not a part of this partnership.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ongoing state visit to the US is expected to see a discussion on India's possible entry into the global alliance on critical minerals.

Officials said various ministries, including the Ministry of Finance, have communicated to the Ministry of External Affairs to explore the possibility of India joining the partnership.

A critical mineral is a mineral resource that is essential to the economy and has high economic vulnerability and high global supply chain risk.

Critical minerals have a supply chain at risk of disruption. They are used to manufacture advanced technologies, such as mobile phones, tablets, electric vehicles, solar panels, wind turbines, fibre optic cables, and defence and medical applications. Many critical minerals, including rare earth minerals and metals such as lithium, gallium, tellurium, and indium, are central to high-tech sectors. Rare earth (RE) comprises 17 elements which are classified as light RE elements (LREE) and heavy RE elements (HREE).

Individual countries develop their own list of critical minerals depending on the importance of particular minerals in the industrial sector and the strategic assessment of supply risks. The major critical minerals are graphite, lithium and cobalt. They are critical for making semiconductors and high-end electronics manufacturing. They are also used in manufacturing fighter jets, drones, and radio sets.

According to the International Energy Agency, the major producers of critical minerals are China, Congo, Chile, Indonesia, South Africa, and Australia. China has global dominance in terms of processing.

Rare earth minerals are a set of 17 metallic elements, which includes scandium, yttrium, and the 15 lanthanides (15 metallic chemical elements with atomic numbers 57–71, from lanthanum to lutetium).

Rare earth minerals are necessary components of a wide range of applications such as cellular telephones, flat-screen monitors and televisions, and electric vehicles.

The amount of rare earth minerals used in a product is significantly less, but it can be necessary for the device to function.

Countries part of the MSP

Japan, Australia, Finland, the US, Germany, the UK, Canada, the Republic of Korea, France, Sweden, and the European Union are part of the Minerals Security Partnership,

India's concerns

Some rare earth elements available in India are: neodymium, lanthanum, cerium, samarium, and praseodymium. Some elements classified as heavy RE elements, such as dysprosium, terbium, and europium, are not available in the country in extractable quantities. It relies heavily on China for HREE.

India has recently witnessed a shift from public and private transport to electric vehicles. This underlines the need to secure the supply of critical minerals.

India needs a multi-dimensional mineral policy to address the

issues posed by the uneven distribution of rare earth elements, the Economic Survey 2022-23 had pointed out.

India-Australia Critical Minerals Investment Partnership

India and Australia decided to strengthen their partnership in the field of projects and supply chains for critical minerals under the Australia-India Critical Minerals Investment Partnership.

In March 2022, Australia allocated \$5.8 million to the three-year partnership.

Under this partnership, India can take resources from Australia to meet the growing demand for critical minerals to help India's space and defence industries and the manufacture of electric vehicles.

According to a statement released by the Australian Trade

and Investment Commission, the companies and institutions in Australia will partner with India to supply critical minerals, export services and technology to "process, refine, recover, and recycle critical minerals, help with mineral exploration in India, carry out joint research projects, and support India's mining-related environmental management".

In July 2022, the Union minister for parliamentary affairs, coal and mines, Pralhad Joshi, visited Australia for a six-day tour to strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries.

A statement released by the Ministry of Mines said, "as part of its larger mission to transition to clean sources of energy, India is set to move a step closer to realising its ambition to develop secure, robust, and commercially viable strategic critical minerals".

Source: Business Standard

INDIA'S JINDAL STEEL, HINDALCO AMONG BIDDERS FOR COMMERCIAL COAL MINES

India has received bids from 22 companies, including Jindal Steel and Power (JNSPNS) and Hindalco Industries (HALC. NS), for the commercial extraction of coal from 18 thermal and coking coal mines, the Ministry of Coal said on Wednesday.

Most of the mines have reserves of thermal coal used in power generation, while one has the variety used in the process of making steel. Half of the mines are fully explored and the others partially, the ministry said in a statement.

The total capacity of the fully explored mines is 47.8 million tonnes per year.

The other bidders include Sunflag Iron and Steel miner NLC India the mining unit of power company NTPC and cement and ready-mix concrete company Nuvoco Vista

The government wants private players to boost coal production in the country as power demand surges. State-run Coal India dominates coal mining in the country.

"As part of the auction process, Technical Bids consisting of online and offline bid documents were opened here today (June 28, 2023). The online bids were decrypted and opened electronically in the presence of the bidders. Subsequently, sealed envelopes containing offline bid documents were also opened in the presence of bidders. Entire process was displayed on screen for the bidders," it said.

On March 29, the government launched the seventh round of commercial coal auctions in a bid to increase the availability of dry fuel in the country. A total of 103 coal mines were put on the block in the latest round of auctions. Of the total mines offered, the majority of blocks are partially explored.

The government amended the mineral laws to open up the coal sector to provide a level-playing field to the public and private sector players and to permit the auction of coal mines without any restriction on end use. Coal from these mines can be utilised towards own consumption, sale or any other purposes.

Source: The Print



INDIA'S COAL PRODUCTION REGISTERS SIGNIFICANT RISE IN FY23 BACKED BY AUCTION SCHEME, SAYS ICRA

Domestic coal production was up 13.4 per cent in financial year 2021-22 and 8.5 per cent in financial year 2022-23, in response to a rise in demand for the dry fuel, said rating agency Icra in a report.

India's coal production picked up in "a big way" during FY22 and FY23 resulting in improved availability and supply of the dry fuel, on account of various government initiatives towards the sector, Icra said.

The production of Coal India grew by 12.1 per cent in FY23, the ratings agency said, adding it was the fastest growth rate registered by the state-owned miner in the past few decades.

Besides enhancing output and supply, the government implemented multiple reforms to bring in greater transparency, improvement in ease of doing business, and investment attractiveness in the domestic coal and mining sectors, Jayanta Roy, senior vice president and group head – corporate ratings, Icra, said.

The government has taken various initiatives since January 2015. The policy interventions, especially with regard to both captive and commercial coal mining have ushered in greater transparency and ease of doing business in the coal sector, he said in the Icra note.

"Domestic coal production picked up in a big way in FY2022 and FY2023, when, in order to keep pace with the steep jump in domestic coal demand, it grew by 8.7 per cent and 14.8 per cent, respectively.

"In order to keep pace with the steep jump in domestic coal demand during financial years 2021-22 and 2022-23, when demand increased by 13.4 per cent and 8.5 per cent respectively, domestic coal production grew by 8.7 per cent and 14.8 per cent, respectively," he said.

This was possible because of a sharp pick-up in captive and merchant coal mining, benefitting from the coal ministry initiatives, he said.

He further said that "the transition to the auction regime in January 2015, and opening up of commercial coal mining in June 2020... has aided production of coal from captive/ merchant miners."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the auctions for commercial coal mining in India in 2020 to increase the availability of coal in the country.

As per the coal ministry data, so far, 86 coal mines have been auctioned under commercial coal mining, with a potential to generate Rs 34,188 crore in annual revenue to various states in the country. The coal production from captive and commercial coal mines have been steadily increasing over the years, registering a 216 per cent growth in the last six years.

The production from captive/merchant miners grew by a sharp 43.2 per cent in FY23, crossing the 100 MT-mark of annual production for the first time. It grew to 123 MT from 86 MT in FY22.

To increase India's self-reliance on coking coal, the coal minister in August 2021 launched the Mission Coking Coal which aims to more than double the country's coking coal production to 140 MT by FY2029-30.

On this, the expert said "our analysis is that this can help reduce the coking coal import dependence for the steel sector to 75 per cent from the prevailing level of 85-90 per cent".

According to official data, in last four years India's coal production has shown significant growth of 22.5 per cent to 893 MT compared to 729 MT in FY 2018-19.

The offtake or supply has also improved during the period to 878 MT in FY23 from 733 MT earlier. Coal minister Pralhad Joshi recently said at an event that the country will not face any shortage of coal this year. In the April-June quarter of FY24, the domestic coal production grew by 8.18 per cent, achieving the highest-ever figure of 222.6 MT and domestic coal offtake grew by 6.8 per cent to reach the peak of 240.1 MT.

Source: News9 Live

FUNDING OF COMMERCIAL COAL MINES IN INDIA

As part of its commitment to assisting India in meeting its energy demands and actively pursuing Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat, the Ministry of Coal organised stakeholder consultation in New Delhi to promote "Funding of Commercial Coal Mines in India". The event was chaired by Shri M. Nagaraju, Additional Secretary and Nominated Authority, Ministry of Coal and attended by Coal Mine Allocatees and senior officials from Banks/Financial Institutions (FIs).

Shri M. Nagaraju inaugurated the meet commenting on the global industry scenario and outlook of coal sector in India, emphasized the imminent need of financing coal mines. He stated that out of 87 auctioned mines till date, only a few have been successful in receiving financing support and urged the Banks/FIs to expedite the financing in the coal sector.

Presentations were made by Shri Ajitesh Kumar, Director, Ministry of Coal on commercial coal mine auctions process and extant enablers for funding commercial coal mines and Shri Ashok Sharma, CGM, State Bank of India (PFS-BU) on SBI's commercial coal funding policy. Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Director,

Department of Financial Services (DFS) also addressed the meet and showcased the support of DFS, Ministry of Finance to facilitate coal mine funding. The meet focused on major concerns pertinent to financing of commercial coal mining and solicited feedback/suggestions from all stakeholders. Given coal mining is capital intensive, the Coal Mine allocatees highlighted possible bottlenecks being faced in availing financial assistance (high cash margin in BG issuance, stringent pre-disbursement conditions, negative outlook of coal sector in banking fraternity etc.) and requested relaxations in the same. The Banks expressed their willingness and assured flexibility to finance coal mines subject to demonstration of, among other things, project viability, equity infusion visibility etc. in presence of detailed business plan.

Based on the feedback, the Nominated Authority suggested some enablers to facilitate ease of coal financing in India such as, Banks/FIs may designate Nodal Officer for coal mine financing and establish detailed policies, Banks/FIs to explore participation in initial stages (Vesting Order/EC/FC and other approvals), and Coal Mine Allocatees to formulate detailed business plans showcasing project viability before approaching banks for financing needs.

Source: pib.gov.in



INDIA'S GOVT LISTS 30 CRITICAL MINERALS IN CLEAN ENERGY PUSH

The Indian government said on Wednesday that it had listed 30 minerals, including nickel, titanium, vanadium and tungsten as critical to drive its clean energy push.

The federal government had previously listed 12 strategic minerals, including lithium - a critical raw material for electric vehicle batteries. Lithium reserves were discovered earlier this year in the federally administered region of Jammu and Kashmir.

The government has also asked Jammu and Kashmir to hold lithium auctions at the earliest, Pralhad Joshi, the minister for coal and mines, said at a news conference.

The government hopes to find more lithium reserves in the region later this year, Mining Secretary Vivek Bharadwaj said.

The 30 identified minerals will be key to India's ambition for cleaner technologies in electronics, telecommunications, transport and defence, the government said.

"We plan to bring out a policy framework for exploration, processing, use and recycling of critical minerals," minister Joshi said.

Last week, India joined the Minerals Security Partnership (MSP), a U.S.-led venture to create critical energy minerals supply chains. India will join 12 other countries, plus the European Union.

The South Asian country, among the world's top greenhouse gas emitters, has been pursuing overseas pacts to secure key minerals in resource-rich countries such as Australia, Argentina and Chile. India aims to be a net zero emitter of greenhouse gases by 2070.

"India and Australia have identified two lithium and three cobalt projects," Joshi said.

Earlier this month, NMDC-backed Legacy Iron Ore signed a lithium exploration joint venture with Australia's Hancock Prospecting Pty Ltd.

Reporting by Neha Arora Editing by Dhanya Ann Thoppil



PSU KABIL TO SIGN A DEAL WITH ARGENTINA TO SECURE LITHIUM BLOCKS: REPORT

KABIL was formed in August 2019 as a joint venture company among NALCO (National Aluminium Company Limited), HCL (Hindustan Copper Limited), and MECL (Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited).

The government-owned mineral exploration firm KABIL will "shortly" ink a deal with Argentina to secure a few lithium mining blocks, reported news agency Reuters reported on Wednesday citing a government source with direct knowledge of the matter. Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL) was formed in August 2019 as a joint venture company among NALCO (National Aluminium Company Limited), HCL (Hindustan Copper Limited), and MECL (Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited).

The firm is tasked to identify, acquire, develop, process, and make commercial use of strategic minerals in overseas locations for supply in India. "Right now, we are concentrating on copper, cobalt and lithium among critical minerals and looking for collaborations with other countries," the source told Reuters.

India, one of the leading contributors to global greenhouse gas emissions, has been actively seeking international agreements to ensure access to crucial minerals in countries abundant in resources, including Australia, Argentina, and Chile, the report said.

As per the Ministry of Mines, KABIL is specifically focused on the identification and procurement of

battery minerals like Lithium and Cobalt. Currently, KABIL is engaged in ongoing partnerships and projects in Australia and Argentina.

The equity participation between NALCO, HCL, and MECL is in the ratio of 40:30:30. At the time of formation of this joint venture government had said that the KABIL would carry out identification, acquisition, exploration, development, mining, and processing of strategic minerals overseas for commercial use and meeting country's requirement of these minerals. The sourcing of these minerals or metals is to be done by creating trading opportunities, G2G collaborations with the producing countries, or strategic acquisitions or investments in the exploration and mining assets of these minerals in the source countries.

Lithium is a non-ferrous metal, which is used to make mobile-laptop, electric vehicles, and other chargeable batteries. India is completely dependent on expensive foreign supplies of lithium which is the reason for the costly electric vehicles in the country.

It should be noted that India discovered to big lithium reserve in Rajasthan's Nagaur and in Jammu and Kashmir earlier this year. Currently, 75 per cent of the world's lithium refining is under Chinese control. Lithium for India is sourced from the US, China, and Hong Kong.

Source: ABP Live



EXPLORATION OF COAL AND LIGNITE SCHEME EXTENDED: UNVEILING INDIA'S ENERGY POTENTIAL

The extension of the 'Exploration of Coal and Lignite Scheme' signifies the Indian government's commitment to harnessing the nation's vast coal and lignite resources efficiently.

India, as one of the world's fastest-growing economies, heavily relies on coal and lignite as primary sources of energy. To ensure a sustainable and uninterrupted supply, the Indian government has extended the 'Exploration of Coal and Lignite Scheme' from 2021-22 to 2025-26. With an estimated expenditure of Rs. 2,980 crore, this central sector plan aims to explore and assess the country's coal and lignite resources, laying the foundation for informed decision-making and future coal mining endeavors.

Objective:

Assessing Presence, Quantity, and Quality The primary objective of the 'Exploration of Coal and Lignite Scheme' is to determine the presence, quantity, and quality of coal and lignite resources within India. Through systematic exploration efforts, geological surveys are conducted to identify potential areas for coal mining. By understanding the geology and characteristics of these resources, the government can effectively plan for their extraction, ensuring long-term energy security.

Promotional (Regional) Exploration:

Shaping the Future A significant portion of the allocated funds, Rs.1,650 crore, is dedicated to promotional (regional) exploration. This stage involves surveying approximately 1,300 square kilometers to identify potential coal and lignite deposits. By conducting comprehensive studies, the scheme aims to encourage investment and generate interest in the development of these resources. Such exploration plays a pivotal role in attracting both domestic and international stakeholders, contributing to economic growth and job creation in the coal mining sector.

Detailed Exploration in non-Coal India Limited (CIL) Blocks:

Unveiling Potential The 'Exploration of Coal and Lignite Scheme' also allocates Rs.1,330 crore for detailed drilling in non-CIL areas, covering about 650 square kilometers. This stage involves extensive field investigations, including drilling boreholes and conducting geological surveys, to assess the quality and quanti-

ty of coal and lignite reserves. Detailed exploration provides vital data that supports the preparation of comprehensive project reports necessary for initiating coal mining operations.

Utilization of Geological Reports:

Driving Efficiency The geological reports generated through these explorations serve as a crucial resource for various purposes. Firstly, they aid in the auctioning of new coal blocks, ensuring a transparent and competitive bidding process. Potential allocatees can make informed decisions based on the comprehensive geological information provided, enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of resource allocation. Additionally, the cost incurred during exploration is subsequently recovered from successful allocatees, ensuring a self-sustaining financial model for the scheme.

Benefits:

Empowering India's Energy Sector The 'Exploration of Coal and Lignite Scheme' holds immense significance for India's energy sector and the nation as a whole. By accurately estimating the available coal and lignite resources, the scheme contributes to the preparation of detailed project reports, which facilitate the start of coal mining operations. This, in turn, helps meet the rising energy demands of various sectors, including power generation, industries, and domestic consumption. Furthermore, the scheme supports job creation, economic growth, and ensures long-term energy security for the nation.

Future Prospects:

Fostering Sustainability and Innovation As India seeks to diversify its energy mix and reduce its dependence on coal, the 'Exploration of Coal and Lignite Scheme' lays the foundation for a sustainable transition. The data and knowledge gained through this exploration will enable informed decision-making regarding the utilization of coal resources, including adopting cleaner technologies, enhancing environmental sustainability, and promoting renewable energy sources. The scheme also encourages innovation in the coal mining sector, fostering research and development to maximize efficiency and minimize environmental impact.

Source: Economic Times



STOP AUCTION OF 9 COAL BLOCKS: CHHATTISGARH TO CENTRE

The auction of the nine coal blocks will impact the lives of people in 24 villages and would destroy local ecology, the state government said

Chhattisgarh has asked the central government to stop auctioning nine of the 23 coalfields located in pristine forests around the Hasdeo Arand and Mand River catchment since mining in these areas would harm local ecosystems.

The auction of the nine coal blocks will impact the lives of people in 24 villages and would destroy local ecology, the state government said in a June 23 letter to the Union coal secretary.

“Chhattisgarh assembly on July 26, 2022, had resolved to get call coal blocks in the Hasdeo area to be cancelled. The coal ministry was informed about the resolution on September 19, 2022,” Jai Prakash Maurya, special mining secretary of the Chhattisgarh government, said in the letter. “I have been directed to inform the state government’s objection to the proposed auction of nine block blocks in the area.”

In March, the Union government announced the 7th round of its coal mine auctions, in which 101 fields were to be auctioned, including the Tara block in Chhattisgarh’s Hasdeo Arand forest, which has a canopy cover of 81%

Another six coal blocks are in the catchment area of Mand River, an important tributary of the Hasdeo River. Both rivers have their origin in the dense forests of northern Chhattisgarh, which have up to 80% of forest cover. The region has a significant presence of elephants and is an important site for migratory birds, state officials said.

“A total of 24 villages will be directly affected by the mining of these nine coal blocks, and the total coal reserve area (geological block area) is 16,810 hectares

meaning that many forests will be lost,” said a forest official, requesting anonymity.

The state government was awaiting a response from the Centre, an official at chief minister Bhupesh Baghel’s office said. “Once that comes, we will decide further course of action, but these nine blocks should be exempted for the sake of environment, biodiversity and forest,” he said, requesting anonymity.

It was good to see Chhattisgarh objecting auction of densely forested coalfields situated in river catchments, said Sudiep Shrivastava, a Bilaspur-based advocate, who has been filing lawsuits against mining in Hasdeo Aranya.

“The ministry of coal ought to have kept such blocks out of the auction list since only 29 blocks received bid out of 141 offered in the last auction,” Shrivastava said, questioning the rationale to auction 101 blocks.

The Chhattisgarh assembly has unanimously resolved to protect the entire Hasdeo region from any disruption, including a ban on coal mining, and the state government is bound to protect it, according to Alok Shukla of Chhattisgarh Bachao Andolan, an advocacy group.

“Unfortunately, coal mines in such rich ecosystems are being unnecessarily allocated merely for commercial gains of the corporates, that too when there is no need,” Shukla said. “Already, coal mines with a cumulative capacity worth 2400 million tonnes per annum have been allocated, which is far more than India’s total energy needs till 2040.”

Source: Hindustan Times

JSW STEEL ANNOUNCES SELECTION AS 'PREFERRED BIDDER' OF MINING LEASE FOR IRON ORE IN GOA

The two blocks are VI- Cudnem-Cormolem Mineral Block, and IX-Surla-Sonshi Mineral Block in North Goa, with projected iron ore resources of 9.77 MMT and 65.73 MMT.

JSW Steel has been declared as a 'preferred bidder' of mining lease for iron ore mineral in two blocks, located in Goa. "The company has been declared as a 'preferred bidder' vide communication dated June 9, 2023, received from the Directorate of Mines and Geology, Goa," the company said in a regulatory filing. The auctions were conducted by the state government, it further added.

The two blocks are VI- Cudnem-Cormolem Mineral Block, and IX-Surla-Sonshi Mineral Block in North Goa, with projected iron ore resources of 9.77 MMT and 65.73 MMT. The highest final price offered by JSW Steel was 96.65 per cent of the value of mineral dispatched for the Block VI- Cudnem-Cormolem Mineral Block and 109.80 per cent of the value of the mineral dispatched for the Block IX-Surla-Sonshi Mineral Block.

The company further stated that it will take all requisite steps as per the tender document to obtain Letter of Intent, all statutory clearances to execute the Lease Deed with Mine Development and Production Agreement (MDPA) and start the mining operations

JSW Steel's performance

In a regulatory filing today, JSW Steel said that it reported consolidated crude steel production for the month of May, 2023 at 21.78 Lakh tonnes, a growth of 7 per cent YoY. The Company achieved combined production of 22.30 Lakh tonnes, grew by 8 per cent YoY.

Earlier in May, JSW Steel had posted fiscal fourth quarter profit at Rs 3,741 crore, up 11.9 per cent in comparison to Rs 3,343 crore in the same quarter last year. It had posted revenue from operations at Rs 46,962 crore as against Rs 46,895 crore in the corresponding quarter last year. The company had recorded average India capacity utilization of 96 per cent in the fourth quarter, with crude steel production recorded at 6.58mt in Q4, steel sales of 6.53mt in the quarter and captive iron ore self-sufficiency stood at 41 per cent for standalone operations for FY23. In terms of India operations, JSW Steel posted record total, domestic and auto grade sales with consolidated sales up 8 per cent on-year supported by ramp up at "Dolvi Phase-II and BPSL expansion, as well as recovery in exports post removal of export duties in Nov'22".

Source: The Financial Express





INDIAN MINER NMDC PLANS \$61 MILLION INVESTMENT IN FIRST GOLD BLOCK

State-owned Indian iron ore miner NMDC is likely to invest around 5 billion rupees (\$61 million) in its planned first foray into gold mining, a source with direct knowledge of the matter said on Monday.

NMDC is “on track” to secure a lease for the Chigargunta-Bisanatham gold block soon, having signed a letter of intent over the project with the state government late last year, the source said.

According to local rules, it must secure the mining lease for the gold block within three years of signing the letter of intent.

The block, located in the Chittoor district of the southern state of Andhra Pradesh, has estimated gold reserves of around 1.83 million tonnes, containing 5.15 grams of gold per tonne, the source said.

The company plans to appoint a consultant to help seek government clearances, such as environmental approvals, the source added.

The source did not wish to be named, as investment details are not public.

Gold is a must-have at weddings and festivals in India, the world’s biggest gold consumer after China.

India meets more than 90% of its gold demand through imports, spending \$36.6 billion on overseas purchases of the precious metal in 2022, and a record \$55.8 billion in 2021.

Currently state-run Hutti Gold Mines Co Ltd, based in the neighbouring Karnataka state, is the country’s only major gold producer.

Reporting by Neha Arora and Mayank Bhardwaj; Editing by Jan Harvey

MINING DEPTT FINALISES JAMMU SAPPHIRE DETAILED EXPLORATION STRATEGY

Secretary, Mining, Amit Sharma, today chaired a meeting regarding finalization of strategy for conducting detailed exploration study of 'Jammu Sapphire' located in Padder area of Kishtwar district.

Among others the meeting was attended by experts from Mining Department, Director Geology and Mining, O P Bhagat, Additional Secretary, Mining Arun Kishore Kotwal, Director Geological Survey of India (GSI), J&K, Ajay Kumar, General Manager, Mineral Exploration and Consultancy Limited (MECL) P Ravindran, MD J&K Minerals Limited, Vikram K Gupta, geologists and others.

The GSI team made a detailed presentation about the exploratory studies conducted by them during last two to three years in Khan area of Padder regarding presence of Sapphire and Ruby like precious gems in different Adits, mostly in Corundum form.

Later, MECL team made a presentation on detailed exploration plans of this Central PSU who has been assigned the task of conducting detailed exploration in the upcoming summer months in the area, as a specialist, purely on scientific lines, by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

Amit Sharma revealed that different Steering Committees at the Policy level

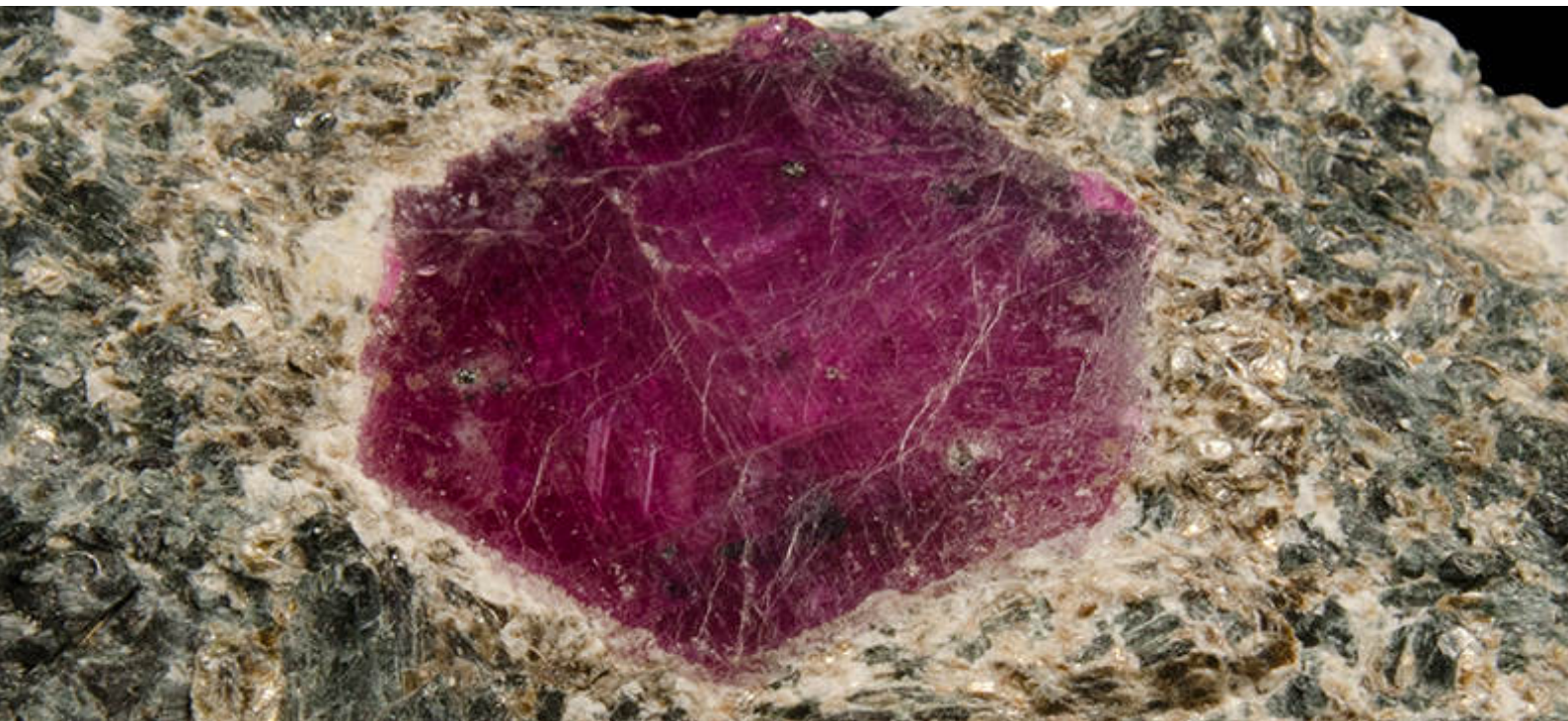
and the Execution level shall be created by the government so as to ensure hassle free completion of this project in a time bound manner before the end of this working season. He further mentioned that detailed timelines shall be shared by MECL, the adherence of which shall be reviewed on a weekly basis by the government.

Secretary also asked the Deputy Commissioner, Kishtwar, Devansh Yadav, to extend full support to the Working Group led by Director Geology and Mining for this upcoming detailed exploration of Padder Mines in Kishtwar. Being initiated by MECL through NMET Funding on scientific lines, this initiative is first of kind launched under the visionary leadership of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha and guidance of Chief Secretary, Dr Arun.K Mehta.

The visiting officers of MECL assured that they will use best machinery and experienced work force to make this operation a huge success.

Later, Secretary also advised MD, JKML to share all past experiences which they gained while exploring and mining Sapphire in Padder during last few years so that MECL exploration goes on smoothly and they can improvise upon same by using latest methodologies, drone surveillance and similar techniques for achieving multiple success in the challenging limited time.

Source: The Print





“REWRITE YOUR GENETIC STORY: CHOOSE OPTIMAL HEALTH”

Powerful ways to outsmart “bad genes” for optimal health.

We’ve all heard the phrase, “they must have those good genes”, because someone might be in their late 50’s but they still look in their 30’s. Some say, they don’t need to eat, but just looking at the food makes their weight gain. Or some may say that their asthma, eczema, blood pressure, diabetes are also gifted by their parent’s, or grand parents and so on.

The good news is that according to experts, 80% of the way we age is influenced by the way we behave and although we have genes that were passed on by our ancestors, those bad genes do not have to be our fate. Our lifestyle and circumstances can activate certain genes in our body and so just by changing ones habits and environment one can surely improve overall health. Even if you do not inherit bad genes, your overall state of health will be determined by your habits and your environment.

Ways to outsmart your genes for optimal mind and body.

1. Choose a healthy diet.

Studies, shows that your genes responds to the food you consume. A high carb diet triggers genes to work overtime, which also is responsible for inflammation, leading to diseases such as diabetes, dementia and heart diseases.

To outsmart your genes, consume more vitamins, minerals and nutrients.

2. Say ‘no’ to a sedentary lifestyle.

Most people don’t exercise and blame it on their genes. Change the mindset, get up and keep moving, thus getting out of the negative pattern and helping oxygen and nutrients reach every tissue and every cell.

3) Keep a track of your physical and emotional quotient.

Research says that constant exposure to stress hormone triggers dna modifications in the brain, forcing a change in gene expression. The longer time remained stressed, bigger is the risk for anxiety, depression, and mood disorders.

Coping mechanisms like walking, running, yoga, meditation can reset the nervous system and help the body function at the optimum best.

4) Unlock the power of sleep

Sleep is extremely important for overall health and wellbeing. Just like the body and mind needs rest and sleep, the genes also respond to the quality of sleep.

5) Rest and restore, leave your phone at the door

A smartphone, laptop, or tablet will create a hindrance in the quality of your sleep, by deregulating your circadian rhythm, known as your sleep and wake cycle. Getting rid of your devices atleast 30 minutes before going to bed is a very simple but very effective way that is responsible for happier and healthier genes.

“Rise above your dna, outsmart your genes”

ABOUT AUTHOR

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Dr. Majo Joseph is an Ayurveda Consultant, & General Practitioner. He is also a Psychology And Counselling, Wellness Trainer.

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