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Indian Mining & Exploration Updates



Odisha issues notice inviting tender for e-auction of 11 mineral blocks

The Odisha government has issued Notice Inviting Tender for online auction of 11 more mining blocks, including seven virgin blocks

The Odisha government has issued Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for online auction of 11 more mining blocks, including seven virgin blocks.

The Directorate of Mines has issued the notice for grant of mining lease for seven iron ore blocks, two iron ore & manganese blocks, one iron ore & dolomite and one bauxite block.

The seven iron ore blocks are -- Nadidih (Bico), Purheibahal, Chandiposhi, Jumka Pathriposhi, Dholtapahar, Netrabandha Pahar (West) and Gandhalpada.

Similarly, two iron ore and manganese blocks put under the hammer are -- Nadidih (Feegrade) and Teherai. Kasia mineral block



having both iron ore and dolomite has also been put for the auction. The government has put Karlapat bauxite mineral block, a virgin block, for auction.

The interested bidder can purchase the tender documents till August 19, 2021 while August 24 is the last date for submission of the bid. The tender fee for all the 11 blocks is Rs 5 lakh each.

Accordingly, the government has invited financial bids in digital format only and technical bids in both digital and physical format.

WILL IT BE CORPORATION OR AUCTION FOR MINING?



In March this year, when Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant had announced the decision of the government to launch a State Mining Corporation to re-launch mining operations in the State, the stakeholders in the sector had all applauded it. Yet, three months later, before the government could take any step to incorporate the body, the Union Mines Ministry via a notification has directed the State government to

intimate details of all areas or mines available for auction of mining lease, including the mining leases that have expired. This is to facilitate the auction of the leases, by the Central government who will after the auction intimate the details of the winning bidder to the State government which shall then grant a mining lease for the area to the successful bidder.

What it all boils down to is that the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act 1957 that was amended in 2015 stresses on the auctioning of the mines. The Centre is taking the over the auction process. Essentially, what will now occur is that the Centre will take over the process of auctioning the mining leases in the State, and the local government will then have to complete the rest of the procedure in getting the mining lease working again. The State's views on who gets the lease will have no bearing on the matter. The move of the Centre is to ensure a continuous supply of minerals as any delay in conducting auctions impacts the availability as well as prices of minerals.

Which brings up the question: Had the State government not shown any tardiness in restarting mining operations – whether by auction or otherwise – would this move by the Centre have still been made?

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On December 4 last year, Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant had said that he expected mining operations to resume within the six months if there are no legal hurdles. After a meeting in New Delhi, the Chief Minister had said that the Centre as well as the State have 'started the ball rolling and the mining resumption issue has been fast tracked. It was in November last that for the first time the State had shown any inclination for auctioning of the mining leases, when Sawant had spoken of considering this option. The next big announcement was three months later of the mining corporation which was made in March this year. Since then the progress on restarting mining has been almost nil, though there have been no new legal im-

pediments. Simultaneously, the mining dependants have been regularly renewing their demands for the recommencement of operations and have welcomed the idea of a corporation.

Essentially, after having been stuck at a crossroads for over three years, since February 2018 when the Supreme Court struck down the second renewals of mining leases, Goa's mining sector will now step on the auction path, with little effort from the State government, and almost every aspect taken over by the Centre. This will ensure that mining restarts in the State, but simultaneously raise a tricky question of whether the existing players in the mining sector will return to the mines or

whether this will bring new players.

Mining in Goa, however, still remains in quite a muddle. The plan of a corporation by the State and the initiative of an auction by the Centre, do not provide a clear picture of how the sector will be taken forward in the months ahead. The roadmap is still unclear, but there could be news for the stakeholders soon. However, the recovery of the mining losses continues to proceed at a slow pace. Along with restarting mining, the State needs to also recover this money, as this will prove the commitment of the government to end illegalities in the system and prevent others in the future.



2nd tranche auctions for commercial coal mining is the biggest ever offer of coal mines in the country

The Ministry of Coal jointly with FICCI as the Industry Partner today organised the 1st Stakeholders' Consultation on the 2nd Tranche of Auction of Coal Mines for Commercial Mining. The first in the series of two stakeholder consultations held today virtually witnessed participation of leading players from coal and mining business, equipment manufacturers, mine developers and operators (MDOs) and financial institutions.

Addressing the participants, Mr M Nagaraju Additional Secretary & Nominated Authority, Ministry of Coal, said: "We are offering 67 mines with a total resource of almost 36 bn and explored mines PRCs of about 150 million tonnes (mt) during 2nd tranche auctions of

coal mines for commercial mining. This is the biggest ever offer of coal mines in the country." The offers, which are in almost all coal-bearing states, give great opportunity & chance to the industry to pick the relevant & useful mines depending on their requirements, he added.

Assuring the industry of providing all support, Mr Nagaraju said, "From this ongoing tranche of auction, Ministry of Coal is moving to a rolling auction mechanism wherein any un-auctioned mine shall remain available for auction on the portal, with more mines being added as and when available".

Mr Manoj Kumar, CMD, CMPDIL & WCL said that there are 67 coal blocks in this

tranche, 23 of which are CMSP & 44 are MMDR blocks; 37 are fully explored, while the remaining 30 are partially/ regionally explored.

Mr Dilip Chenoy, Secretary General, FICCI said that the second tranche auctions of commercial coal mines are an important step towards the commitment of increasing the availability of coal across the different segments of the industries and reducing the burden on coal imports. Initiatives for ensuring environment-friendly & sustainable mining, adoption of cutting-edge technologies, including coal gasification and CBM projects will help in ensuring sustainable growth in this endeavour, he added.

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After the commercial coal mining auction process was initiated last year on 18th June 2020 through a high-level launch event jointly organized by Ministry of Coal with FICCI, the 2nd tranche auction is expected to bring in global best practices which will lead to development of a vibrant coal market, boosting economic growth and employment generation in the country.

The second tranche auction process was formally launched by Union Minister of Coal,

Shri Pralhad Joshi and Shri Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog in the presence of senior officials from Ministry of Coal and key dignitaries on 25th March 2021.

Following up with the pre-bid meeting held on April 26, 2021, Ministry of Coal is organising a series of two stakeholder consultations under the aegis of FICCI for wider outreach to potential bidders.

The auction shall be held online through a transparent 2 stage process. Key highlights of

this auction process are – market linked mechanism wherein bidding shall be based on Percentage Revenue Share, National Coal Index linked payments, ease in participation with no restriction for prior coal mining experience, optimized payment structures, efficiency promotion through incentives for early production and use of clean technology, flexible operating terms etc.

Coal India's 114 mining projects under different stages of implementation

State-owned CIL's 114 ongoing coal projects, costing Rs 20 crore and above, are under different stages of implementation, according to a report.

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Implementation and completion of these projects depend upon critical extraneous factors such as possession of land, green clearances and evacuation infrastructure, the Coal Ministry said in its annual report 2020-21.

In 2020, total 34 projects were sanctioned and nine mining projects completed by Coal

India Ltd (CIL), it said.

The coal behemoth took various measures to ensure timely completion of projects.

There was persistent persuasion by CIL with state governments for expediting land authentication in Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

"Further, land owners are being constantly persuaded to accept compensation and handover land acquired by the company," the report said.

There is also constant coordination and liaising with state governments for expediting the process of grant of forest clearance, it added.

"State governments have been constantly

persuaded by the coal companies at all levels to initiate necessary action for curbing the frequent law and order issues," it said.

The implementation of the projects is reviewed regularly at the level of CIL and its subsidiaries. The coal ministry also reviews projects costing more than Rs 500 crore and having capacity of three million per annum and above in every quarter.

Coal India, which accounts for over 80 per cent of domestic coal output, is eyeing one billion tonne production by 2023-24.

Proponents of Sustainable Mining: Model Mines by Adani Coal Project, Tata Steel, Hindustan Zinc

Indian mining firms like CIL, Tata Steel Limited, Hindustan Zinc Limited, and Adani Group's coal project have adopted sustainable mining routines, inspiring industry peers to follow suit.

A handful of states and provinces in Australia, India, Russia, and China are accountable

for 77 percent (1.7 billion tonnes per annum) of new mine activity as per an analysis which surveyed 432 proposed coal projects globally.

While these nations embark on the coal production journey, they need to ensure effective implementation of sustainable mining

techniques, not just to protect the environment and public health but also to enhance the lifespan of the mining industry.

In an attempt to completely restore the entire ecosystem, Indian mining operations have

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adopted an efficient and effective development process for proper rehabilitation and mine reclamation. Indian mining operators like Coal India Limited (CIL), Hindustan Zinc Limited, Tata Steel Limited, and Adani coal projects are tediously shifting towards sustainable mining practices and eco-friendly solutions.

The New Mineral Policy 2019 takes into account the necessary discursive view to decide upon the land use as per the developmental and ecological/environmental needs of the area to be mined.

In this regard, the sector needs to be supported by a robust legislative and regulatory network, affordable technologies, effective administration of New Minerals Policy 2019, and best international and domestic process practices.

Sesa Sterlite Limited set forth one such ex-

ample of sustainable mining by applying biotechnology solutions for the recovery of the mine site after mine closure by restoring the dilapidated land to acceptable levels.

Tata Steel Limited and Hindustan Zinc Limited have adopted pre-eminent sustainable mining routines for rescuing mine water and disposing of mine tailings in Noamundi Iron Ore Mine and Rampura Agucha Zinc Mine respectively.

Additionally, Adani coal projects in different states, notably in Chhattisgarh, have deployed numerous initiatives towards green belt development and environmental protection. The company has adopted green mining techniques like surface mining, progressive land reclamation, and geo blanketing around the project sites.

Turning out to be a responsible mining firm, Adani coal the project further deployed state

of the art tree transplantation technology for the development of thick green belts around the mining sites, to reclaim and restore the mining land. The group is already making use of the latest technology - GIS and UAVs for land restoration and for safety and surveillance purposes.

Advanced technologies like Electrostatic Precipitators, Dust Control Systems, Scrubbers, Acid Mist Suppressants, etc., are adopted by big mining firms but mass-scale adoption is yet to be significantly seen for the entire Indian mining sector.

In this regard, the sector needs to be supported by a robust legislative and regulatory network, affordable technologies, effective administration of New Minerals Policy 2019, and best international and domestic process practices.

Ore scarcity: Steel units in Odisha want exports curbed

Of the 111 MMT of iron ore produced in Odisha, around 65 MMT is produced from captive mines of Tata Steel, SAIL, JSW Steel and Arcelor Mittal.

For auction the average price of iron ore was kept at Rs 11,612 per MMT, an increase of around Rs 4,000 per MMT as compared to the last tender.

Industry experts said the price increase was deliberate to reap profits from their own mines as the price determined through the auction becomes applicable to end-user industries without captive iron ore mines in Odisha who are long term lease buyers of OMC. However, due to this unprecedented price rise, many units have become unviable and shut down. Even earlier, several industries like NINL, MESCO, Adhunik, Concast, MSP, etc had closed.

Many other end-user industries have been badly hit, leading to huge retrenchment of

manpower during the tough times as well as losses in the revenues of the State government. Industry bodies like Orissa Sponge Iron Manufacturers' Association (OSIMA) and Kalinganagar Industries Association (KIA) have sought the intervention of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Chief Secretary and Secretary, Steel and Mines in the matter to keep iron ore prices at a reasonable level.

“There should be a hike in production of iron ore. Secondly, captive miners should not take part in iron ore auction process and a special provision should be made to dictate fair price of iron ore for the LTL buyers so that iron and steel industries in the State can survive and make some profit,” said P L Kandoi, president of KIA. Voicing similar concerns, OSIMA president Yogesh Dalmia opposed the current auction process and said the auction of iron ore by OMC should be made on a monthly and not bi-monthly basis.



“Despite the auction, 80 per cent of the iron ore should be reserved for Odisha-based industries. OMC should focus on increasing its iron ore production first and stop exporting the mineral to cater to the state-run iron and steel industries at a fair price.” added Dalmia.

Buxwaha diamond mining project will make Bundelkhand's water scarcity worse: Experts

The water requirement for the Bunder mine and ore processing plant is about 5.9 million cubic meters in a year

The proposed diamond mine in the Buxwaha protected forest region in Chhatarpur district of Madhya Pradesh may have a greater ecological impact on the region than projected so far.

The project threatens to further deplete the already scarce water reserve of the drought-prone Bundelkhand region to excavate about five million tonnes of diamond-bearing kimberlite ore per annum.

Diamond mining is a water-intensive process. The water requirement for the Bunder mine and ore processing plant is about 16,050 cubic metres per day (5.9 million cubic meters in a year), according to the pre-feasibility report of the project. The project is estimated go on for 14 years.

The Bunder mining project was awarded to Essel Mining & Industries Limited in 2019. The company, in its application for environmental clearance, stated that to meet water requirements and protect the mine from inundation, a seasonal nullah (stream) will be converted into a dam.

A seasonal nullah, however, will not be enough to meet the water requirement of the project, said the tribal communities and locals of Chhatarpur. They fear the company may end up using groundwater for the purpose.

This is likely to exacerbate the water scarcity problem in the region, according to experts.

PG Najpande from Jabalpur, a local activist, filed a public interest litigation in National Green Tribunal (NGT) to stop the project. He said:

Do Bundelkhand's streams even have water?

This is a mere facade. The company says it will make a dam using the stream water. But when the monsoon ends the stream also goes dry. It is not perennial.

The Chhatarpur was categorised as a semi-critical region by the Central Ground Water Authority in 2017.

In 2020, the district recorded a rain deficit of 24 per cent, according to the Indian Meteorological Department. Low rainfall has been the trend in the district as well as in the Bundelkhand region: There was a deficit of 10 per cent in 2018; 27 per cent in 2019 and 24 per cent in 2020.

Essel is yet to receive approval from the state's water resource ministry.

Around 200,000 trees also will be felled for the excavation. Environmentalists and local communities have been protesting against the project for over a month.

Waste from tailing ponds and water-pollution

Two major kinds of waste are generated during the excavation of any ore. One, overburden (OB) waste which lies over the ore, such as rocks and soil. The other is tailings or the remains of the mineral after the economically valuable components have been extracted from the finely milled ore.

Under the Bunder project, five metric tonnes of kimberlite ore will be excavated per annum. Its mining would generate about 3.70 metric tonnes of soil waste, 16.34 metric tonnes of OB waste and 5 metric tonnes of tailing waste annually.

A large part of the auctioned forest land will be used for dumping waste. Over 86 hectares of land will be required to dump OB waste, 12 hectares for soil waste and over 50 hectares for tailings.

Soil and OB wastes are not contaminated and thus are easy to dispose of. But tailings are disposed of in dams or ponds usually built around the mining site. The tailing ponds contain process-affected water, dissolved metals and various toxic ore processing reagents that can seep into the ground.



“The problem will be to identify the location for the tailing ponds and how to manage them after the diamond is extracted,” said an official from the Geological Survey of India on condition of anonymity.

There have been several reports of contaminated waste leaching into the groundwater and the tailing ponds overflowing in the monsoon. In April 2011, leakage from the red mud pond containing bauxite residue of the aluminium refinery of Vedanta Ltd in Odisha entered River Vamsadhara and caused enormous damage to the environment.

The Geological Survey of India official added: Diamond extraction is not mechanical extraction and requires a lot of chemicals besides water. These chemicals do leak out. If it's soluble in the water, then even if we treat the water it still remains there. The long-term impact of it is seen on animals, humans and the environment.

Apart from spatial requirements for storage, tailings also require long-term management and rehabilitation. Soil and groundwater degradation of the surrounding areas is a common impact of tailing ponds. Since the toxic waste is supposed to be there for a long time, its impact too will be long-term.

Mining dept to conduct survey to explore gold, diamond reserves in Telangana

The State government is proposing a reservation of these areas to the NMDC.

The Mines and Geology Department will conduct a thorough survey to explore gold and diamond sources at four sites in Telangana. Even as the Ministry of Mining has discouraged the department from finding gold and diamonds reserved, officials are confident that a thorough investigation at these sites will yield results.

“We will investigate the primary sources of

gold and diamond in Mahbubnagar, Gadwal, Wanaparthy and Nagarkurnool districts. The Geological Survey of India has proposed an exploration for gold in Gadwal Schist belt and tungsten in Atkur,” Mining Department officials said. The State government is proposing a reservation of these areas to the NMDC.

“We did some research and found resources at these four locations. However, the Central government stated there was no possibility

of unearthing resources of gold and diamond in Telangana. We will go ahead with our with the assistance of GSI officials and collect samples for testing to prove that the Telangana has gold and diamond reserves,” the officials added. The department would send proposals to the State government for financial assistance for the project. Once the government approves the proposals, the project would be initiated

Prospects for locating Phosphorite in Nibh Dungar- Dedha-Jajiya Area, Jaisalmer District Rajasthan - By V.P. Laul

Abstract

Nibh Dungar-Dedha-Jajiya area in Jaisalmer district appears to be prospective for locating phosphorite and requires attention for prospecting by geochemical sampling and/or pitting and trenching upto 2-5 m in area of oolitic calcarenite/oolitic limestone (Unit D) of Jaisalmer Formation (Middle Jurassic) to intersect phosphatic nodules bearing zone for sampling and drilling upto 10 m in plains and depressions underlain by shales of Unit A of Baisakhi Formation (Upper Jurassic) to intersect phosphatic nodules bearing ferruginous bands contained in shales and phosphatic nodules bearing zone in Unit D of Jaisalmer Formation underlying

below Baisakhi Formation.

Introduction: Western Rajasthan is deficient in mineable phosphorite deposits. Some of known phosphorite occurrences in Jaisalmer district include Birmania phosphorite (Cambrian), Fathegarh phosphorite (Cretaceous- Paleocene) and phosphatic nodules recorded in Jurassic sequence of Jaisalmer basin. The nodules were recorded at places like Nibh Dungar, Kuldhar, Manpiya, Rupsi, north of Khara Rann and Kaladungar as briefly discussed in article - Geonesis February 2021. Keeping in view better concentration of phosphatic nodules Kaladungar section was studied in detail by Laul and Kumar (Current Science, v 66

no.3,1994). Kaladungar is well exposed representative section for detailed studies but may not be mineable due to overburden. Nibh Dungar-Dedha- Jajiya area appears to be prospective for locating mineable phosphorite deposit.

Nibh Dungar-Dedha-Jajiya area:

The area is mainly represented by calcarenite- sandstone sequence of Unit C and calcarenite- oolitic calcarenite-calcilutite and at places associated fragile sandstone of Unit D of Jaisalmer Formation (Middle Jurassic). Baisakhi Formation(Upper Jurassic) is mainly represented by shales with some sandstone intercalations at places, of Unit A and fragile and hard

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compact calcareous to ferruginous sandstones of Unit B of Baisakhi Formation (Upper Jurassic).

Nibh Dungar : Nibh Dungar is represented by units-C and D of Jaisalmer Formation (Middle Jurassic). The unit-C in general is represented by calcarenite, calcareous sandstone and at places associated with fragile sandstone whereas unit-D in general is represented by sequence of calcarenite-oolitic calcarenite-calcareous sandstone- calcilutite (Figure1). At places limestone is marly to shaly in nature. Localised occurrences of small phosphatic nodules (4-5 cms) have been recorded in shaly to marly limestone in south-eastern part of Nibh Dungar. Nodules have analysed 22-27% P₂O₅. In the surrounding area Basal Baisakhi unit A is mainly concealed and sometimes exposed in nala sections. It is mainly made up of shales/ clays with intercalated sandstone. It is 4m thick west of Nibh Dungar in nala section and contains phosphatic nodules

(4-5cms) as core of ferruginous nodules in ferruginous partings. Baisakhi unit-A is 6m thick north and west of Bhuj Kharin/ khadin overlain by the arenaceous bed of unit- B of Baisakhi Formation.

Kaladungar phosphorite occurrence:

Kaladungar area is perhaps best

exposed representative and reference section out of known sections to study phosphatic nodules bearing gradational contact zone between Jaisalmer oolitic calcarenitic limestone unit (Unit D) of Jaisalmer Formation (Middle Jurassic) and Basal Baisakhi Shales (Unit A) of Baisakhi Formation (Upper Jurassic) but may not be mineable due to thick overburden. Kaladungar prospect is very important because studies may indicate the following which may be guiding factors for locating phosphorite in Jurassic sequence in different areas of Jaisalmer basin.

In Kaladungar, Basal Baisakhi Unit A, mainly of shales has five phosphatic nodules bearing ferruginous bands and nodules have analysed phosphate content varying from 5.85 -22.42 % P₂O₅, ferruginous cortex 0.5-9.95 % and host rock 0.5- 1%. Average grade is 9.5% P₂O₅. Jaisalmer phosphatic nodules have average grade of 22.47% P₂O₅. The average grade of Jaisalmer- Baisakhi contact zone is 12.75 %P₂O₅ in potential area.

Above studies suggest that phosphatic nodules and phosphatised fossils in upper most part of Jaisalmer Formation (Middle Jurassic) may analyse 22-27% P₂O₅ as indicated by nodules of Kaladungar and Nibh Dungar. Phosphatic nodules of ferruginous bands of Basal Baisakhi

Shales (Unit A) may also analyse nearly upto 22% P₂O₅ as indicated by phosphatic core of ferruginous nodules of Baisakhi Formation. It appears that phosphate content is more rich in nodules of lower ferruginous bands as compared to nodules of upper ferruginous bands. The upper most 1-2 ferruginous bands may be with or without phosphatic core in ferruginous nodules of ferruginous bands in Basal Shales (Unit A) of Baisakhi Formation. Phosphate content in Baisakhi phosphatic nodules and ferruginous cortex suggests that phosphate content may decrease outward from the phosphatic core towards the ferruginous cortex.

Geologic- geomorphic setting of Nibh Dungar-Dedha-Jajiya area:

Geologic- geomorphic setting of area is favourable for locating phosphorite in the form of phosphatic nodules. Oolitic calcarenite (oolitic limestone) with associated shales/ marls (Unit D) of Jaisalmer Formation (Middle Jurassic) of Nibh Dungar-Dedha-Jajiya area appears to be prospective for locating zone of high grade phosphatic nodules (P₂O₅ 22-27 % or more) where as overlying poorly exposed Basal Baisakhi Shales (Unit A) of Baisakhi Formation (Upper Jurassic) may contain 5 or more phosphatic nodules bearing

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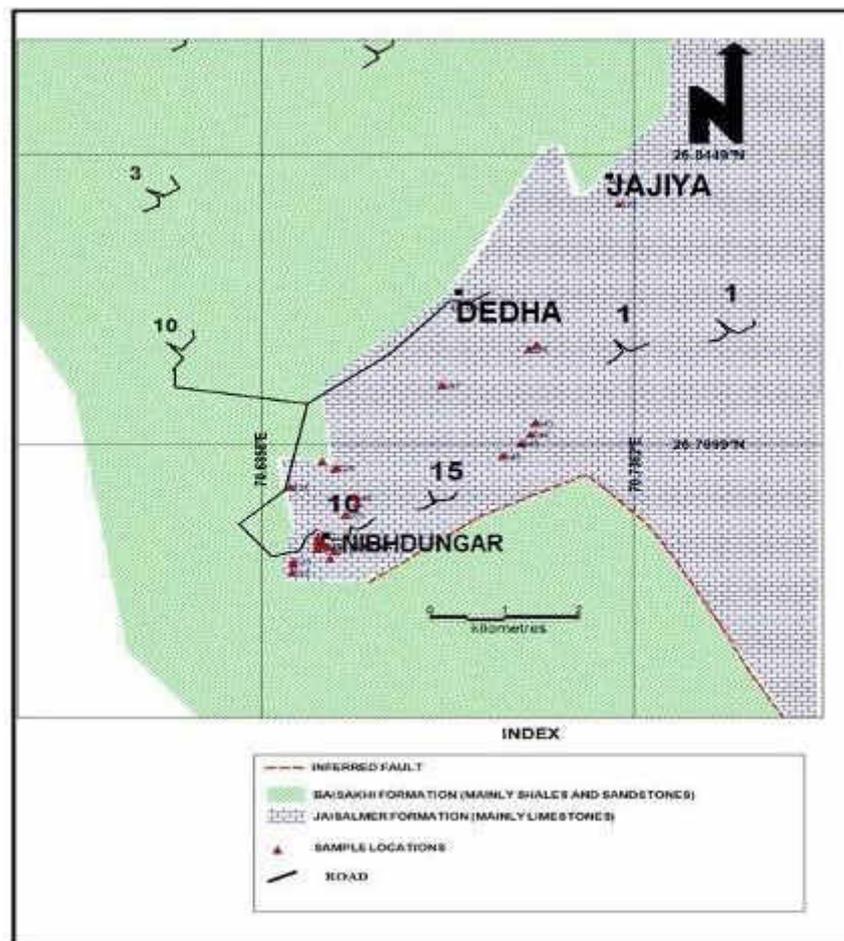
ferruginous bands in shales . Since a major part of Unit A of Baisakhi Formation is concealed , the following prospecting work is suggested.

Upper most oolitic calcarenite (limestone) beds - Unit D of Jaisalmer Formation in Nibh Dungar - Dedha- Jajia area may be prospected by geochemical sampling and/or pitting/ trenching upto 2-5m depth for locating zone of phosphatic nodules

for sampling. Basal Baisakhi Shales invariably form plains and depressions including farm lands used for cultivation. In general beds are horizontal to subhorizontal in disposition excepting Nibh Dungar proper which is structurally disturbed and also suggests faulted Jaisalmer- Baisakhi contact in Nibh Dungar area.

Since major part of Basal Baisakhi Shales (Unit A) is concealed it is

suggested to carry out geochemical sampling including soils of cultivation farms and/ or drilling upto 10 m depth to intersect phosphatic nodules bearing ferruginous bands contained in Baisakhi Shales (Unit A) and phosphatic nodules in Unit D of Jaisalmer Formation for sampling. It may be mentioned here that the area may also contain good resource of cement to high grade limestone.



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Karnataka govt invitations world tender to survey mineral deposits in state | Hubballi News

To determine and map mineral wealth, the state authorities has known as world tenders for divining of mineral deposits throughout the state.

Minister for mines and geology MurugeshNirani in a gathering with division officers in Belagavi stated at present the state' information about presence of mineral wealth is restricted and is counting on an previous survey carried out about 50 years in the past. "Except for some areas with active mining, we don't know the exact details of which minerals are available in which part of the state," he stated.

Minister stated the federal government already invited world tenders to conduct divi-

ing of minerals current deep contained in the earth. This course of, he stated would facilitate the state in readying a holistic and correct map of the mineral deposits in numerous components of Karnataka. He pointed that the method of divining of minerals is a laborious train. In the current day the method will contain use of high-tech devices and leading edge know-how. He added that when that is accomplished, it's going to assist invigorate mining trade, generate jobs and increase income.

The minister additionally stated the state is significantly mulling institution of Karnataka state sand company to implement scientific sand mining, truthful distribution and easy

provide of sand to builders and householders. He stated at current there are confusions about availability of sand, transport and sale. However, he stated the state is but to take a remaining name on the identical. The authorities can also be planning to arrange college of mining to coach youths in mining and allied actions. This will guarantee provide of expert manpower to the mining trade. He additionally stated mining officers will put drones to make use of to identify crushers working with out permits. The mining division employees will clad uniform, use digital devices for communication, detect irregularities and filed stories.

BJP, former CM Koda warn of iron ore scam in Jharkhand

BJP state president Dipak Prakash met state Governor DroupadiMurmu on Wednesday and submitted a detailed memorandum apprising her of alleged loot of iron ore, coal and sand in the state since the UPA government came into power in Jharkhand

BJP state president Dipak Prakash met state Governor DroupadiMurmu on Wednesday and submitted a detailed memorandum apprising her of alleged loot of iron ore, coal and sand in the state since the UPA government came into power in Jharkhand.

The matter first came to the fore after BJP leader and former State Khadi Board member Kulwant Singh Bunty tweeted to chief minister Hemant Soren about revenue loss worth Rs. 50-60 crore a couple of days ago.

"Mineral resources like iron, coal and sand are being looted freely here since the UPA government came into power. The Congress is the mastermind behind this while the JMM

is cooperating and collaborating to keep it going," Prakash said after meeting the Governor.

"Thakurani iron mine in West Singhbhum district was earlier allotted to Padma Kumar Jain, but the state government cancelled the lease of this mine spread on 84.6 hectares in 2019. Before this, the Supreme Court had ordered to collect fines from 347 mines for illegal mining in 2017. A fine of Rs. 334.47 crore was levied on Padma Kumar Jain too. The court ordered to collect the fine amount by auctioning the previously mined stocks of iron ore," said Prakash.

He alleged that the state was losing huge revenue worth crores due to the negligence of the state government and vested into the interest of certain mining department officials.

"I have requested the Governor to stall the Jharkhand State Mineral Development Corporation (JSMDC) tender order for auction,

besides doing grade rating of the ore samples by a competent agency outside the state and taking strong action against officials found guilty," Prakash said.

He has given copies of the tender document, grade rating order on May 30, mining plan submitted to Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) and monthly returns filed by the company with the state government and IBM to the Governor.

Meanwhile, former CM MadhuKoda has also warned against imminent iron ore scam in the district again. "Iron mines in the district are closed on paper, however, illegal mining hasn't stopped. The state is losing revenue worth crores in the form of iron ore coming from Odisha in connivance of mining officers and local police," said Koda, who was himself a convict in a coal scam worth Rs. 4000 crore and an accused in the iron ore scam

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worth over Rs. 2000 crore.

“I have been keeping CM Hemant Soren informed about the grading of iron ore in Thakurani Mine in Gua. Now mining department has come out with an amended notification extending the date of the JSMDC tender.

But I had demanded a fresh grading as Padma Kumar Jain has claimed the grade of ore and fines to be 55-65 in its report to IBM whereas government laboratory has put the grading at 39-55,” Kulwant Singh Bunty said.

“The state may lose Rs. 5000 per tonne due to

this difference in grading percentage. The ore and fines with the grading of 55-65% are currently priced at Rs. 9000 per tonne. If the grading comes out below this, the price will fall to Rs. 3000 per ton, resulting in loss to the tune of Rs. 50-60 crore,” added Kulwant.

NMDC gets LoI for Bailadila iron ore mine in Chhattisgarh

The Mineral Resource Department, Government of Chhattisgarh has issued Letter of Intent (LOI) for Bailadila Iron Ore Mine, Deposit-4, South Bastar, Dantewada District, in favour of NMDC-CMDC.

NMDC-CMDC is a joint venture company (JCV) wherein NMDC hold 51% stake and Chhattisgarh Mineral Development Corporation (CMDC) holds the remaining 49% stake.

The LoI issued to the JVC is for iron ore mining over 646.596 hectares in Dantewada Forest Division, Chhattisgarh.

Bailadila Iron Ore Deposit-4 is located north of Deposit-5 on the western flank of the Bailadila range of hills, lying at a distance of about 135 kms towards south-west of Jagdalpur. It is a big and homogeneous iron ore deposit having on site reserve of approximately 107 MT with an average grade of Fe of 65.39%.

Ministry of Mines, Government of India on 30 September 2019 has granted its prior approval for reservation of Bailadila Iron Ore Deposit-4 (Total Area 646.596 hectares). in favour of NMDC-CMDC for the purpose of prospecting and mining of iron ore.

Shares of NMDC slipped 3.22% to end at Rs 169.65 on the BSE today, after the Government of India launched an offer for sale (OFS) to sell upto 21.95 crore shares (representing 7.49% stake) of the company. The Government of India held 68.29% stake in NMDC as of 31 March 2021.

The floor price for the OFS is Rs 165 per equity share, at a 5.88% discount to NMDC's closing price of Rs 175.30 on the BSE on Monday, 5 July 2021.

The OFS opened on Tuesday (6 July 2021) for non-retail investors, while both retail as well as non-retail investors will be able to subscribe

on Thursday (7 July 2021). A total of 10% of the offer size is reserved for retail investors.

As on 15:30 IST, the OFS received subscription for 22,55,13,374 shares. It was subscribed 213.75% on the base non-retail offer size of 10,55,01,810 shares and 114.15% on the total non-retail offer size (base size + green shoe) of 19,75,52,139 shares.

NMDC is India's single largest iron ore producer, presently producing about 35 million tonnes of iron ore from 3 fully mechanized mines, two located in Chhattisgarh and one in Karnataka. As on 31 March 2021, the Government of India held 68.29% stake in the company.

On a consolidated basis, NMDC's net profit surged 717.15% to Rs 2,835.54 crore on 114.83% jump in revenue from operations to Rs 6,847.57 crore in Q4 March 2021 over Q4 March 2020.

Centre gives in-principle approval for mining in Karnataka's Devadari Hill Range by KIOCL

The Ministry of Environment and Forests has accorded stage 1 in-principle approval for diversion of 401.5761 hectares of forest land at Devadari Hill Range in Ballari district for iron ore and manganese ore mining for a period of 50 years by KIOCL Limited.

KIOCL Chairman cum Managing Director MV Subba Rao told a press meet here on Monday that the approval was given on

June 24 and after fulfilling certain conditions, they will get the second and final approval. The mining activities in the new captive mine are likely to begin from the next financial year.

It is after a gap of more than 15 years that KIOCL, formerly known as Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited, is getting a captive mine. The company had to stop all its

mining activities in its previous facility located in Kudremukh following a Supreme Court order passed on December 31, 2005. Several environmentalists had sought a ban on mining in Kudremukh located in the fragile Western Ghats stating that it has resulted in large-scale destruction of wildlife and deposit of heavy silt in the Bhadra river

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system affecting thousands of farmers.

Since then, Subba Rao said the company had been making efforts to have its captive mines. For the last 15 years, the company, which is a Government of India enterprise, was wholly dependent on private mines located within the state and outside for raw materials like iron ore and manganese for manufacturing of pellets that are used in production of steel. "There was a lot of uncertainty all these years as we had to depend on others for raw material. Now, the new captive mine provides raw material security. The quality of our products will

also increase now," he said.

The CMD said initially they will start with 0.3 million tons of mining in Devadari which will gradually go up to 2 million tons in a span of 5 years. The total expenditure of the new mining activity will be Rs 1,500 crore out of Rs 150 crore will be used for pre-mining activities. The project will generate over 1,000 direct jobs out of which 50 per cent of staff will be permanent employees. In the second phase, a pellet plant will be commissioned in Devadari and until then the mine's minerals will be brought to the pellet plant in Mangaluru. There is huge

demand for pellets and KIOCL is making efforts to expand the pellet market to Brazil and Middle East and North African (MENA) countries.

CMD to retire on June 30

KIOCL CMD MV Subba Rao is set to retire on June 30 after 14 years of service. A B.Tech graduate in Metallurgy from a Warangal college, he worked in the Aditya Birla Group for 15 years and in a steel plant owned by the Andhra Pradesh government before moving on to KIOCL.

JSPL eyes more asset sales to pare debt, may put mines on the block

With commercial mining opportunities coming up soon in both coal and iron ore sectors, the firm is keen to divest these high-debt assets

Naveen Jindal's flagship steel company Jindal Steel and Power (JSPL) is looking to sell its overseas mining assets and focus on the India business instead, a senior company official told *Mint*. With commercial mining opportunities coming up soon in both coal and iron ore sectors, the firm is keen to divest these high-debt assets and use the proceeds to invest in its home market and reduce its debt instead.

JSPL has a host of coal and iron ore mines in Africa, specifically in South Africa, Botswana and Mozambique and coking coal reserves in Australia. In February, *Mint* reported that JSPL was preparing to sell high-yield dollar-denominated bonds to refinance debt of around \$750 million on its overseas assets. The company now appears to have changed its intentions since then and is pursuing asset sales instead.

"The environment in India is changing," V.R.

Sharma, MD, JSPL, told *Mint*. "Coal and iron ore mines are coming back to the industry in India and the atmosphere for steel in the future is very congenial. Why focus overseas when everything is available within the country? We're looking inwards."

"The government is going to allow the private sector in coal mining and iron ore mine auctions are already happening," Sharma said. "Even if we can't secure our own coal mines, the overall availability of coal within India is going to rise so we can still buy from the market at a competitive price. Already, coal prices have fallen 35-40% from January to June. Our focus is on Indian soil; that's why we're going to divest the overseas entities and keep the Indian company healthy."

On Tuesday, JSPL announced that it had accepted a binding offer to sell its entire stake in Jindal Shadeed Iron and Steel Co LLC (JSIS Oman), another overseas asset, to promoter company Templar Investments Ltd. JSIS Oman was held through JSPL's subsidiary Jindal Steel and Power (Mauritius) Ltd. The enterprise value of the deal is over \$1 billion,



valuing the company at 7.2 times its FY20 earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation.

JSIS Oman operates a 2 million-tonne-per-annum integrated steel plant in the port city of Sohar in Oman.

"There were 6-7 bidders for the Oman asset and all of them conducted their due diligence," Sharma said. "We had engaged EY and a local consultant for the process. Because of covid-19 and the oil price shock, the prospects of the steel industry there were dimmer than before and investors were not as interested in an acquisition. Finally, bids were submitted in sealed envelopes and the Mauritius subsidiary of Jindal family group was the highest bidder."

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Sharma also said that the Oman sale will reduce debt on JSPL's balance sheet by roughly Rs. 6,000 crore. As of March-end, JSPL reported consolidated net debt of Rs. 35,919 crore, after paying down about Rs. 3,200 crore in FY20. "There has been continuous pressure by lenders to reduce debt and we have been doing this from internal accruals to the extent of Rs. 4,000- Rs. 5,000

crore every year. Then we discussed with our company in Mauritius and lenders and decided to free Indian bankers from the burden by selling the asset," Sharma said.

Indian brokerage firms have said that the sale is a positive for JSPL's financial metrics, but are awaiting details on the specifics of the deal. A report by ICICI Securities said: "The underlying presumption here, and which will

get tested as the contours of the deal become more and more clear, is that the fund raising of Templar Investments Ltd shouldn't lead to any additional promoter pledges or lien of any kind to the promoter shareholding. The chances of the same are limited in our view."

Goa's mining plans derailed as Centre steps in

Union Mines Ministry seeks details of mines for auctioning of blocks; Upon completion of auction by Centre, State has to grant mining lease to preferred bidder

The delay on the part of the State government to auction the iron ore mining leases is set to wreck the plans of Goa's iron ore mining industry, as the Centre, taking over the powers, has asked the State government to intimate them details of the mines, including those expired in March 2020, within 45 days, for the purpose of auctioning the blocks.

Goa has the highest number of 184 iron ore leases in country that expired in March 2020, of which 124 leases can be taken up for ore extraction as per the Union Ministry' report.



In a fresh notification issued on June 18, Union Ministry of Mines states, "The State government shall intimate to the Central government the details of all the areas or mines available with the State government for auction of mining lease, including the mining leases expired under Section 8A and cases covered under subsection (2) of Section 10A, within forty-five days of the commencement of the

Mineral (Auction) Second Amendment Rules, 2021."

It adds, "Upon successful completion of the auction, the Central government shall intimate the details of the preferred bidder in the auction to the State government and the State government shall grant mining lease for such area to such preferred bidder in accordance with rule 10," the Ministry said further.

The Ministry has also sought to know the outcome of any auction that the State has undertaken so far of the mining leases.

The Union Mines Ministry had proposed amendments to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act 1957 with regards to mineral auction and the same was notified.

As per the notification, apart from the number of mines, the State has to intimate the Centre with regards to the geological report in respect of any area or mine for auction of mining lease from Geological Survey of India, Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited or

MINING MUDDLE

■ As per Central government-appointed Dr K Rajeswara Rao Committee, 184 mining leases in Goa expired in March 2020

■ These are apart from 88 leases, whose renewals were quashed and set aside by the Supreme Court in 2018

■ In Goa, of 184 non-working mines, 60 leases fall in protected areas of

wildlife sanctuaries and national park, within the buffer zone and hence cannot be taken up for mining in future

■ Remaining 124 mining leases can be taken up for mining in future through e-auction

■ Of these 124, there are 77 leases, which have never been worked and another 47 leases which have worked for some time

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any other government or private entity, along with a tentative schedule for notification of such area and conducting auction of such area under sub-sections (3) and (4) of Section 10B, respectively.

It also seeks details of termination of mining lease or lapsing of letter of intent for mining lease, within fifteen days from such termination or lapse.

The Centre also sought to know the details of mines available with the State government for auction of composite licence, including the prospecting licence, those standing expired.

The move is to ensure continuous supply of minerals in the country. "Any delay in conduct of auction has substantial impact on the availability as well as prices of minerals," it added.

Chief Minister Dr PramodSawant, while presenting the State Budget 2021-22, had announced the formation of the Goa Mining Corporation to auction the leases. The Bill in this regard, is expected to be tabled during the forthcoming session of the State Legislative Assembly in July.

34 bids received for 19 coal mines

Posted On: 09 JUL 2021 4:03PM by PIB Delhi

The auction process of 67 coal mines for sale of coal was launched by the Nominated Authority, Ministry of Coal on March 25, 2021. The last date of submission of Technical Bid was July 08, 2021. As part of the auction process, Technical Bids comprising of online and offline bid documents were opened today i.e. July 09, 2021, 10:00 am onwards at New

Delhi, in the presence of the bidders. 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 the screen for the bidders. A total of 34 (thirty four) bids have been received for 19

(nineteen) coal mines of which 10 (ten) are fully explored mines and 9 (nine) are partially explored mines. 4 (four) of these mines are coking coal mines and the remaining 15 (fifteen) mines are non-coking coal mines. Two or more bids have been received for 8 (eight) coal mines. Mine-wise list of bids received is appended below:

SI No	Name of Coal Mine	No of Bids
1	Alaknanda	1
2	Beheraband North Extn	1
3	Bhaskarpara	3
4	Bhivkund	2
5	Burakhap Small Patch	5
6	Burapahar	1
7	Choritand Tiliaya	1
8	Dahegaon/Makardhokra-IV	1
9	Dip Extn Of Belpahar	1
10	Gondbahera Ujhene East	1
11	Gondkhari	2
12	Jhigador	2
13	Jogeshwar & Khas Jogeshwar	3
14	Khargaon	2
15	Lalgarh (North)	1
16	Ramnagar	1
17	Rauta Closed Mine	4
18	Shankarpur Bhatgaon II Extn	1
19	Tokisud Block II	1
	Total Bids	34

A total of 20 companies have submitted their bids in the auction process as per the following list:

Sr. No	Name of the Bidder	No of Bids Submitted
1	Adani Power Maharashtra Ltd	1
2	Adhunik Power & Natural Resources Ltd	2
3	Aurobindo Realty & Infrastructure Pvt Ltd	4
4	Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd	1
5	CG Natural Resources Pvt Ltd	2
6	Chhattisgarh Mineral Development Corporation Ltd	1
7	Dhansar Engineering Co Pvt Ltd	1
8	Godavari Power & Ispat Ltd	1
9	Hiltop Hirise Pvt Ltd	1
10	Hindalco Industries Ltd	1
11	Jhar Mineral Resources Pvt Ltd	2
12	MP Natural Resources Power Ltd	1
13	Prakash Industries Ltd	1
14	Ramgarh Sponge Iron Pvt Ltd	1
15	Rungta Mines Ltd	1
16	Shree Sai Urja Ltd	2
17	Shree Satya Mines Pvt Ltd	3
18	South West Pinnacle Exploration Ltd	3
19	Sunflag Iron and Steel Company Ltd	4
20	Vedanta Ltd	1
	Total Bids	34

The bids will be evaluated by a multi-disciplinary Technical Evaluation Committee and Technically Qualified Bidders would be shortlisted for participation in the electronic auction to be conducted on MSTC portal.

SWASTHA

A GEMCOKATI EMPLOYEES INITIATIVE

UNDERSTANDING THE ART AND SCIENCE OF GRATITUDE

The hardest arithmetic to master is that which enables us to count our blessings.- Eric Hoffer

In our consumerist society, we tend to focus on what we lack or what others have and that we do not, where as gratitude is the feeling of appreciation for what we already have. Unfortunately a materialistic culture that encourages constant wanting and sees possessions as the source of happiness is not the most fertile ground for gratitude.

Gratitude- in Latin means gratia or grace.

Now more than ever during this pandemic, it's challenging to be in the present moment and be grateful for all that we have. So at times like this, when everything seems so uncertain, a gratitude practice can be a stabilizer.

Scientific evidence into benefits of gratitude:

Research shows that gratitude invites positive emotions that have physical and psychological benefits through our immune system. When we practice gratitude and appreciate all that we have, calming part of nervous system is triggered which decreases the level of 'stress' hormone called **Cortisol** and increases the level of 'love' hormone called **Oxytocin**, that makes us feel good. Participants in the studies, showed lower level of cortisol, better cardiac functioning, more resilience to emotional setbacks and negative experiences and had significantly reduced symptoms of depression and anxiety. By acknowledging and appreciating the little things in life we can rewire the brain to deal with present circumstances with more awareness and flexibility in every aspect of life.

A brief light on one of the most important aspect....

Relation of gratitude and professional commitment:

- Grateful workers are more efficient, more productive and more responsible.
- Employees expressing gratitude, volunteers for more assignments, are always willing to go extra mile and have a great team coordination thus having a stronger group cohesiveness and better productivity.
- Expressing gratitude in the workplace is a proactive action towards building a great feeling of closeness and interpersonal bonds.
- Gratitude also makes a leader compassionate, considerate, empathetic and loved among others.

Simple hacks in cultivating a great life with gratitude:

- Keep a gratitude journal.
- Slow down, Mindfulness, Yoga, Meditation
- Be mindful of making comparisons.
- Appreciate yourself and accepting being imperfect is perfect.
- Occasional Gratitude visits to our well wishers.
- Self-Engaging in frequent mental subtraction. Imagine what your life would be if some positive event had not occurred.

We all desire a happy life, a cushy job, a perfect family, financial stability and a great social life but the irony is this indefinite pursuit of a perfect life is mostly like a mirage, but still we surely can spare a minute to thank for what we are already blessed with at this very moment.

Thanking Mother Nature or the Almighty, thanking others, and thanking our selves. Gratitude in any form enlightens mind, makes us feel happier and has a great healing effect on us.

Gratitude as an intervention in healing process is convenient, less time consuming, less expensive and extremely useful in the long term.

Thus gratitude is rightly called as a natural detox and is truly described as "Mother of all virtues".

About Author:

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DISCLAIMER: This is a compilation of various news appeared in different sources. In this issue we have tried to do an honest compilation. This edition is exclusively for information purpose and not for any commercial use. Your suggestions are most valuable.

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