

1.0 Introduction

Mineral resources are finite and non-renewable and their judicious use and conservation are very essential for the survival of human civilization. In Indian context, it can be seen that we have a fairly large variety of mineral deposits and our endowment is quite adequate with exception of few deficient minerals. Considering the ever-increasing population, growth rate of economy and demand, these mineral resources are bound to get exhausted sometime in future. Thus, the knowledge of endowment of mineral resources and their effective management are of utmost importance in order to provide an uninterrupted sustainable supply of minerals to meet the domestic demand as well as for foreign trade in order to boost the national economy. In this journey of mineral exploitation, concept of conservation and ecological balance should always be remembered.

As a sequel to the economic liberalization, Indian Mineral Sector has delineated its objectives with the onset of National Mineral Policy, 1993 and further, with the new National Mineral Policy, 2008. In order to fulfill the commitments as stipulated in the mineral policy, the mining statutes are suitably amended from time to time, the latest amendment being in the form of MM(DR) Act, 2015.

In order to present mineral resources of our country at a global platform, the present inventory has fully absorbed and followed the concept of 'United Nations Framework Classification' (UNFC). UNFC is a generic principle-based system in which quantities are classified on the basis of three fundamental criteria i.e. economic viability, feasibility study and geological knowledge of the deposit, by using a numeric codification. A brief explanatory note on UNFC has been included in this publication for ready reference of the enthusiasts.

Indian Bureau of Mines maintains a fully computerized database on National Mineral Inventory of seventy one minerals. One mineral namely Rare Earth Elements (REE) was included during NMI as on 01.04.2015. The information generated from this database is utilized to a greater or lesser degree specifically for policy planning by government and for the benefit of mining and mineral industries at large. Indian Bureau of Mines disseminates the mineral resource data through its various publications, especially through its flagship publication 'Indian Minerals Yearbook'. However, in the past, demands from various quarters were being received to have a publication providing as a quick browser on this subject. The 'National Mineral Inventory at a Glance' is aimed to fulfill this demand. It provides reserves/ resources of minerals as per UNFC. The figures in tabular forms contain terminologies and requisite three digit codes applicable to UNFC.

The main sections of the publication comprising reserves/ resources as on 1.4.2015 are (i) India (Total): All minerals, (ii) State- All minerals occurring in a state (iii) Mineral (Total): All India grade-wise with state break-up and (iv) Summary- All minerals without terminologies and codes.

The present publication, 'National Mineral Inventory at a Glance as on 1.4.2015' is the fourth edition prepared on the basis of NMI updated as on 1.4.2015 for 71 minerals. It will be handy to users and act as a ready reckoner to unfold the broad scenario of mineral resources in the country.

Note : Pending reconciliation from State Governments and others, hence present data may be treated as Provisional.