

## INTRODUCTION

Minerals play a vital role in the evolution of civilization and industrial economy of mankind. Since pre-historic time, human race passed through various stages of civilization for which minerals were the backbone. As we all know, mineral resources are finite and non-renewable and their judicious use and intelligent conservation are very essential for the very 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.

With the advent of liberalization throughout the globe, the 'National Mineral Policy, 1993 has given opportunity for new horizon and investment in the mineral sector in our country. Since then, investments in mineral bearing projects started cropping up. In this competitive market scenario, value of commercial intelligence is of utmost importance. With this point of view, as per the directives of Ministry of Mines, Indian Bureau of Mines undertaken intermediate updation for twenty five important minerals as on 1.4.2013.

In order to present mineral resources in 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 minerals. The information generated from this database is utilized 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, 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 1.4.2013 are (i) India (Total): All minerals, (ii) State- All minerals occurring in a state (iii) Mineral (Total): India with state break-up and (iv) Summary- All minerals without terminologies and codes.

The present publication is the third edition of National Mineral Inventory at a Glance as on 1.4.2013 prepared on the basis of the NMI updated as on 1.4.2013 by IBM for 25 important minerals. It will be handy to users and act as a ready reference to unfold the broad scenario of resources of twenty five minerals in the country.