



# Indian Minerals Yearbook 2018

(Part- I : GENERAL REVIEWS)

**57<sup>th</sup> Edition**

**STATUS OF RECONNAISSANCE PERMITS,  
PROSPECTING LICENCES AND  
MINING LEASES**

**(FINAL RELEASE)**

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# 3 Status of Reconnaissance Permits, Prospecting Licences and Mining Leases in India

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## INTRODUCTION

Under the Mines & Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (as amended up to 27.3.2015) and the Minerals (Other than Atomic and Hydrocarbons Energy Minerals) Concession Rules, 2016, the State Governments may grant non-exclusive reconnaissance permits, prospecting licences (for the holder of a reconnaissance permit which was granted prior to January 12, 2015), composite licences or prospecting licence-cum-mining lease and mining leases. Also the State Governments are required to submit a copy of every mineral concession granted or renewed under the Act and rules made thereunder within two months of such grant or renewal to the Controller General, Indian Bureau of Mines and the Director General, Directorate General of Mines Safety under Rule 59 (1) of Minerals (Other than Atomic and Hydrocarbons Energy Minerals) Concession Rules, 2016. Additionally, the State Governments also have to submit a consolidated Annual Return of all mineral concessions granted or renewed under the Act and rules made thereunder to the Controller General, Indian Bureau of Mines in such form as may be specified for the purpose and a copy shall also be supplied to the Director General, Directorate General of Mines Safety under Rule 59 (2) of Minerals (Other than Atomic and Hydrocarbons Energy Minerals) Concession Rules, 2016 not later than the 30<sup>th</sup> day of June following the year to which the return relates.

## RECONNAISSANCE PERMITS

Reconnaissance Permit is a permit granted for the purpose of undertaking reconnaissance operations which means any operation undertaken for preliminary prospecting of a mineral through regional, aerial, geophysical or geochemical surveys and geological mapping, but does not include pitting, trenching, drilling (except drilling of boreholes on a grid specified from time to time by the Central Government) or sub-surface excavation.

As per Section 10 C of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015, Non-exclusive Reconnaissance Permits may be granted in respect of any notified minerals or non-notified minerals or a group of specified minerals, other than minerals specified in Part A or Part B of the First Schedule of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act 1957, subject to

such terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the Central Government. The holder of such non-exclusive reconnaissance permit shall not be entitled to make any claim for the grant of any prospecting licence-cum-mining lease or a mining lease. As per the Rule 3 (2) of the Mineral (Non-exclusive Reconnaissance Permits) Rules, 2015, the State Government shall establish an online system for grant of such non-exclusive reconnaissance permits.

During the period from April-2017 to March-2018, no information regarding grant of Reconnaissance Permits/Non-exclusive reconnaissance Permits has been received.

## PROSPECTING LICENCES

Under the Mines & Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 (as amended up to 27.3.2015) "Prospecting Licence" (PL) means a licence granted for the purpose of undertaking prospecting operations with a view to exploring, locating or proving mineral deposits. The State Governments and Union Territories are empowered to grant/renew/revoke Prospecting Licences (only for the holder of a reconnaissance permit which was granted prior to January 12, 2015) under provisions of Minerals (Other than Atomic and Hydrocarbons Energy Minerals) Concession Rules, 2016.

As per information received from the State Governments/Union Territories, no Prospecting Licence (excluding Atomic Minerals, Coal, Lignite, Petroleum, Natural Gas and Minor Minerals) was granted/approved during the period from April-2017 to March-2018.

The state-wise details of Prospecting Licences granted during the period from 2015-16 to 2017-18 are furnished in Table- 1.

Mineral-wise, no Prospecting Licence (excluding Atomic Minerals, Coal, Lignite, Petroleum, Natural Gas and Minor Minerals) was granted/approved during the period from 2017-2018. The mineral-wise distribution of Prospecting Licences granted during the period from 2015-16 to 2017-18 is furnished in Table-2.

## COMPOSITE LICENCES (PROSPECTING LICENCE - CUM- MINING LEASE)

"Composite Licences or Prospecting Licence-cum-Mining Lease " means a two stage concession granted for the purpose of undertaking prospecting operations followed by mining operation. During the period from

April-2017 to March-2018, no “Prospecting Licence-cum-Mining Lease” or composite licence” has been approved/granted.

## MINING LEASES

Section 3 (c) of the Mines & Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act 1957 defines “Mining Lease” (ML) as a lease granted for the purpose of undertaking mining operations and includes a sub-lease granted for such purpose. The Act defines “mining operations” as any operations undertaken for the purpose of winning any mineral.

The status of mining leases of 44 metallic and non-metallic minerals (excluding Atomic Minerals, Coal, Lignite, Petroleum, Natural Gas and Minor Minerals) as on 31.3.2017(P) indicates that 4382 mining leases were in force in the country in 24 States covering an area of 3,66,010.88 hectares.

The state-wise summary of existing mining leases during the period from 2014-15 to 2016-17 is detailed in Table-3. The mineral-wise summary of existing mining leases as on 31.3.2017(P) is furnished in Table-4 .

Sector-wise distribution of mining leases as on 31.3.2017(P) is furnished in Table-5.

During 2016-17, the state-wise break up of mining leases as reflected in Table-3 indicates that Madhya Pradesh was leading with 773 mining leases followed by Tamil Nadu (563), Andhra Pradesh (472), Gujarat (469), Odisha (416), Karnataka (410), Goa (281), Chhattisgarh (190), Rajasthan (188), Maharashtra (183), Jharkhand (169) and Telangana (112). These 12 states together accounted for about 96% of the total mining leases in force.

Of the total mining lease area covered by different States, Odisha accounted for 20% followed by Rajasthan (13%), Karnataka (12%), Madhya Pradesh (10%), Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh & Jharkhand (7% each), Gujarat & Goa (6% each), Maharashtra (4%), Telangana and Tamil Nadu (3% each). These twelve States

accounted for about 97% of the total mining lease area granted and the remaining 3% was accounted for by the rest of the twelve States.

Scheduled Minerals are those Minerals specified in Part C of the First Schedule of the Mines & Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. There are 11 minerals under Scheduled Minerals for which mining leases were in existence as on 31.3.2017(P). The number of existing mining leases for said Scheduled Minerals is 1,550, i.e., about 35% of the total mining leases accounting for an area of 1,80,349.22 hectares which is 49% of the total mining lease area (Excluding coal, lignite, petroleum, natural gas, atomic mineral and minor minerals) in the country. Out of the eleven scheduled minerals, the total number of mining leases for iron ore is placed at 777 followed by bauxite (391), manganese ore (296), chromite (36), copper ore (14), lead & zinc ores (14), gold (11), ruby (06), diamond (02), asbestos (02) and sapphire (01).

During 2016-17, mining leases in force were in both Private and Public Sectors which included Central and State Government Undertakings. Out of the total 4,382 mining leases in force in the country, 4,078 (93%) mining leases with an area of 2,64,098.68 hectares (72%) are in the Private Sector and the remaining 304 (7%) with an area of 1,01,912.20 hectares (28%) are in the Public Sector.

In the metallic minerals, Ferrous group of minerals includes iron ore, manganese ore, chromite, while the Non-ferrous group of minerals comprises bauxite, copper ore, lead & zinc ores, molybdenum, nickel, tin and the noble metals which include gold, silver and platinum group of metals. There are no mining leases for molybdenum, nickel, silver and platinum group of metals in the country. In 2016-17, the number of existing mining leases for 11 metallic minerals (including gold) was 1,554 (35%) covering an area of 1,79,426.91 hectares (49%). On the other hand, the number of existing leases for 33 non-metallic minerals/industrial minerals was 2,828 (65%) which covered an area of 1,86,583.97 hectares (51%).

**Table – 1 : Prospecting Licences Granted, 2015-16 to 2017-18 (By States)**

State	2015-16		2016-17*		2017-18**	
	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)
<b>India</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2869.048</b>	-	-	-	-
Andhra Pradesh	1	900	-	-	-	-
Chhattisgarh	1	1548.00	-	-	-	-
Odisha	3	421.048	-	-	-	-

Source:- \*Bulletin of Mining Leases & Prospecting Licenses, 2017.

\*\*Data received from various State Governments (Compiled the data from BMI April-September 2017 and BMI October 2017-March 2018).

STATUS OF RECONNAISSANCE PERMITS, PROSPECTING LICENCES AND MINING LEASES IN INDIA

**Table – 2 : Prospecting Licences Granted, 2015-16 to 2017-18  
(By Minerals)**

Mineral	2015-16		2016-17*		2017-18**	
	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)
<b>India</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2869.048</b>	-	-	-	-
Chromite	3	421.048	-	-	-	-
Group of minerals	2	2448.00	-	-	-	-

Source:- \*Bulletin of Mining Leases & Prospecting Licenses, 2017.

\*\*Data received from various State Governments (Compiled the data from BMI April-September 2017 and BMI October 2017 - March 2018).

**Table-3 : Existing Mining Leases, 2014-15 to 2016-17  
( By States )**

State	2014-15*		2015-16**		2016-17**	
	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)
<b>India</b>	<b>11001</b>	<b>453891.73</b>	<b>4128</b>	<b>354908.75</b>	<b>4382</b>	<b>366010.88</b>
Andhra Pradesh	1484	41902.37	462	26438.25	472	26818.12
Assam	7	889.50	7	889.50	7	889.50
Bihar	15	1604.07	12	387.47	12	387.47
Chhattisgarh	299	23707.11	177	23546.78	190	25582.58
Goa	90	7402.98	281	21280.45	281	21280.44
Gujarat	1078	28503.23	467	22434.02	469	22537.01
Haryana	107	10912.38	4	46.85	4	46.85
Himachal Pradesh	43	2539.21	41	2465.80	43	2471.47
Jammu & Kashmir	59	2458.14	35	2012.48	38	2036.29
Jharkhand	271	27033.79	164	23846.08	169	24017.71
Karnataka	546	47651.14	393	40020.59	410	42251.67
Kerala	90	2431.76	15	2246.49	15	2246.49
Madhya Pradesh	1018	34835.46	697	32613.27	773	35718.89
Maharashtra	260	15457.68	167	12401.94	183	13289.40
Manipur	1	132.78	1	132.78	1	132.78
Meghalaya	18	606.19	17	601.29	17	601.29
Odisha	526	74840.12	350	69207.98	416	73469.70
Rajasthan	3511	93092.56	163	50169.61	188	46843.25
Sikkim	3	96.32	3	96.32	3	96.32
Tamil Nadu	935	10162.56	543	9470.21	563	10738.61
Telangana	486	22516.88	113	10990.12	112	10944.57
Uttar Pradesh	23	3619.30	5	3397.80	5	3397.80
Uttarakhand	87	1083.11	7	191.79	7	191.79
West Bengal	44	413.09	4	20.88	4	20.88

\*Excluding Atomic Minerals, Coal, Lignite, Petroleum and Natural Gas (includes the minerals declared as Minor as per Gazette Notification dated 10<sup>th</sup> February 2015)

\*\* Excluding Atomic Minerals, Coal, Lignite, Petroleum and Natural Gas & Minor Minerals

Source: Data received from various State Governments

STATUS OF RECONNAISSANCE PERMITS, PROSPECTING LICENCES AND MINING LEASES IN INDIA

**Table-4 : Existing Mining Leases\*\* as on 31.3.2017(P)  
(By Minerals)**

Mineral	No. of Leases	Lease area (ha)
<b>India</b>	<b>4382</b>	<b>366010.88</b>
Amethyst	3	7.83
Apatite	2	20.17
Aquamarine	1	24.29
Asbestos	2	166.57
Bauxite	391	30500.35
Borax	1	159.00
Chromite	36	9160.33
Copper ore	14	4250.05
Diamond	2	275.96
Emerald	1	46.32
Epidote	1	215.83
Flint Stone	2	11.77
Fluorite	11	1289.85
Garnet	108	1688.60
Garnet (Gem)	3	50.30
Gold	11	7445.69
Graphite	135	4272.40
Iolite	17	277.96
Iron ore	777	94723.86
Kyanite	32	1531.92
Lead & Zinc ores	14	17983.18
Limeshell	26	3061.99
Limestone	2117	160012.84
Magnesite	39	2438.52
Manganese ore	296	15039.83
Marl	2	9.22
Moulding sand	35	841.85
Nephelene yenite	1	14.28
Perlite	1	144.88
Phosphorite	11	2158.71
Red Oxide	6	489.38
Rock Phosphate	1	13.20
Rock Salt	1	8.12
Ruby	6	130.00
Sapphire	1	673.40
Semi precious stone	16	206.30
Siliceous earth	46	324.03
Sillimanite	7	3027.06
Stibnite	1	40.47
Tin	15	323.62
Vermiculite	109	1877.22
White clay	50	577.80
White shale	15	77.34
Wollastonite	16	418.59

\*\* Excluding Atomic Minerals, Coal, Lignite, Petroleum and Natural Gas & Minor Minerals

Source: Data received from various State Governments

STATUS OF RECONNAISSANCE PERMITS, PROSPECTING LICENCES AND MINING LEASES IN INDIA

**Table – 5 : Existing Mining Leases\*\* as on 31.3.2017  
(By Sectors)**

Sector	No. of Leases	Percent (%)	Area (ha)	Percent (%)
<b>India</b>	<b>4382</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3,66,010.88</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Public</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1,01,912.20</b>	<b>27.84</b>
Central Government Undertakings	118	2.69	56347.52	15.39
State Government Undertakings	186	4.24	45564.68	12.44
<b>Private</b>	<b>4078</b>	<b>93.06</b>	<b>2,64,098.68</b>	<b>72.15</b>

\*\* Excluding Atomic Minerals, Coal, Lignite, Petroleum and Natural Gas & Minor Minerals

Source: Data received from various State Governments