



# **Indian Minerals Yearbook 2020**

**(Part- I : GENERAL REVIEWS)**

**59<sup>th</sup> Edition**

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

**(ADVANCE RELEASE)**

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**December, 2021**

# 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 and the Minerals (Other than Atomic and Hydrocarbons Energy Minerals) Concession Rules, 2016, the State Governments would grant mineral concessions. A mineral concession” means either a reconnaissance permit, prospecting licence, mining lease, composite licence or a combination of any of these and the expression “concession” shall be construed accordingly.

A “reconnaissance permit” (for the holder of a reconnaissance permit which was granted prior to January 12, 2015) means a permit granted for the purpose of undertaking reconnaissance operations. Reconnaissance Operations means any operations 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 bore holes on a grid specified from time to time by the Central Government) or sub-surface excavation.

A “prospecting licence”(for the holder of a reconnaissance permit which was granted prior to January 12, 2015) means a licence granted for the purpose of undertaking prospecting operations. Prospecting Operations means any operations undertaken for the purpose of exploring, locating or proving mineral deposit.

A “composite licence” means the prospecting licence-cum-mining lease which is a two stage concession granted for the purpose of undertaking prospecting operations followed by mining operations in a seamless manner.

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, PROSPECTING LICENCES AND COMPOSITE LICENCES

No information from the State Governments/ Union Territories is reported regarding grant of reconnaissance permit/ prospecting licence/ composite licence for minerals (other than Atomic Minerals, Coal, Lignite, Petroleum, Natural Gas and Minor Minerals) during the period from April, 2019 to March, 2020.

## MINING LEASES

Section 3 (c) of the Mines & Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act 1957 defines “Mining Lease” (ML) is 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 40 Metallic and Non-metallic minerals (excluding Atomic Minerals, Coal, Lignite, Petroleum, Natural Gas and Minor Minerals) as on 31.3.2020 ( P ) indicates that 3,437 mining leases were in force in the country in 23 States covering an area of 3,12,645.72 hectares.

The statewise summary of existing mining leases as on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018, 2019 and 2020 is detailed in Table-1. The mineral-wise summary of existing mining leases as on 31.3.2020 ( P ) is furnished in Table-2 .

Sectorwise distribution of mining leases as on 31.3.2020 (P) is furnished in Table-3.

STATUS OF RECONNAISSANCE PERMITS, PROSPECTING LICENCES AND MINING LEASES

The statewise break up of mining leases as on 31.03.2020 as reflected in Table-1 indicates that Madhya Pradesh was leading with 701 mining leases followed by Tamil Nadu (464), Gujarat (416), Andhra Pradesh (403), Karnataka (379), Chhattisgarh (185), Odisha (173), Rajasthan (171), Maharashtra (168), Jharkhand (146) and Telangana (84). These 11 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 18% followed by Karnataka (13% ), Madhya Pradesh (12% ), Rajasthan (11%), Andhra Pradesh & Gujarat (9% each), Chhattisgarh (8%), Jharkhand (7%), Maharashtra(4%) and Telangana & Tamil Nadu (3% each). These eleven States accounted for about 97% of the total mining lease area granted and the remaining 3% was accounted for by the rest of the 12 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 10 minerals under Scheduled Minerals for which mining leases were in existence as on 31.3.2020 (P). The number of existing mining leases for the said Scheduled Minerals is 1,126, i.e., about 33% of the total mining leases accounting for an area of 1,35,362.64 hectares which is 43% of the total mining lease area (Excluding coal, lignite, petroleum, natural

gas, atomic mineral and minor minerals) in the country. Out of the ten scheduled minerals, the total number of mining leases for iron ore is placed at 431 followed by bauxite (363), manganese ore (270), chromite (27), copper ore (12), gold (11), lead & zinc ores (8), diamond (02), ruby (01) and sapphire (01).

During 2019-20, mining leases in force were in both Private and Public Sectors which included Central and State Government Undertakings. Out of the total 3,437 mining leases in force in the country, 3,164 (92%) mining leases with an area of 2,22,516.58 hectares (71%) are in the Private Sector and the remaining 273 (8%) with an area of 90,129.14 hectares (29%) 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. The number of existing mining leases as on 31.03.2020 for 8 Metallic Minerals (including gold & tin) was 1,137 (33%) covering an area of 1,34,704.79 hectares (43%). On the other hand, the number of existing leases for 32 Non-metallic Minerals/Industrial Minerals was 2,300 (67%) which covered an area of 1,77,940.93 hectares (57%).

**Table-1 : Existing Mining Leases\*as on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018, 2019 and 2020  
( By States)**

State	as on 31.03.2018		as on 31.03.2019		as on 31.03.2020 (P)	
	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)
<b>India</b>	<b>3834</b>	<b>325876.20</b>	<b>3527</b>	<b>315986.03</b>	<b>3437</b>	<b>312645.72</b>
Andhra Pradesh	490	28265.25	453	27703.12	403	27918.98
Assam	7	889.50	7	889.50	7	889.50
Bihar	7	257.87	1	53.38	1	53.38
Chhattisgarh	186	25525.80	183	24565.95	185	24593.89
Goa	15	2385.08	15	2226.19	15	2378.65
Gujarat	462	26215.50	432	25829.83	416	26821.10
Haryana	4	46.85	4	46.85	4	46.85
Himachal Pradesh	43	2471.31	43	2468.44	42	2459.78
Jammu & Kashmir**	39	2162.72	37	2020.40	37	1984.12
Jharkhand	168	23803.20	146	21980.87	146	21980.61
Karnataka	378	39854.18	376	39349.81	379	39116.01
Kerala	15	2246.49	8	1687.40	5	421.65

(Contd)

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

**Table-1 (Concl'd)**

as on 31.03.2018 State	as on 31.03.2019		as on 31.03.2020 (P)			
	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)
Madhya Pradesh	727	38246.75	702	40555.40	701	37207.31
Maharashtra	173	13938.08	169	14106.03	168	13935.08
Manipur	1	132.78	-	-	-	-
Meghalaya	22	849.34	21	789.34	22	1019.34
Odisha	268	61152.36	172	55108.72	173	55138.52
Rajasthan	180	32507.40	195	33394.21	171	33492.81
Sikkim	3	96.32	3	96.32	2	78
Tamil Nadu	540	10048.76	464	9061.66	464	9062.24
Telangana	90	11170.19	84	10887.16	84	10882.45
Uttar Pradesh	5	3397.80	4	2960.19	4	2960.19
Uttarakhand	7	191.79	7	191.79	7	191.79
West Bengal	4	20.88	1	13.47	1	13.47

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

Source: Data received from various State Governments

\*\* formed a new Union Territory to be known as the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir vide Gazette Notification No. 53, New Delhi, the 9th August, 2019/Shravana 18, 1941 (Saka)

**Table-2 : Existing Mining Leases\*  
as on 31.3.2020 (P)  
(By Minerals)**

Sl. No.	Mineral	No. of Leases	Lease Area (ha)
1.	Amethyst	3	6.63
2.	Apatite	1	13.47
3.	Aquamarine	1	24.29
4.	Bauxite	363	30083.94
5	Borax	1	159.00
6.	Chromite	27	7687.85
7.	Copper ore	12	4179.73
8.	Diamond	2	275.96
9.	Emerald	1	46.32
10.	Epidote	1	4.05
11.	Flint stone	2	11.78
12.	Fluorite	10	326.24
13.	Garnet	28	175.35
14.	Garnet (gem)	1	4.27
15.	Gold	11	6972.29
16.	Graphite	38	1627.36
17.	Iolite	5	61.79
18.	Iron ore	431	66061.08
19.	Kyanite	24	1394.03
20.	Lead & zinc ore	8	7098.20

(Contd)

**Table-2 (Concl'd)**

Sl. No.	Mineral	No. of Leases	Lease Area (ha)
21.	Limeshell	21	1557.82
22.	Limestone	1959	163932.88
23.	Magnesite	39	2289.85
24.	Manganese ore	270	12302.53
25.	Marl	6	1111.14
26.	Moulding sand	4	24.75
27.	Perlite	1	144.88
28.	Phosphorite	4	1893.38
29.	Rock phosphate	6	163.87
30.	Rock salt	1	8.12
31.	Ruby	1	27.66
32.	Sapphire	1	673.40
33.	Semi-precious stones	17	276.85
34.	Siliceous earth	45	319.03
35.	Sillimanite	1	4.64
36.	Stibnite	1	40.47
37.	Tin	15	319.17
38.	Vermiculite	56	892.75
39.	White shale	4	146.18
40.	Wollastonite	15	302.72
<b>Total</b>		<b>3437</b>	<b>312645.72</b>

\* 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

**Table – 3 : Existing Mining Leases\* as on 31.3.2020 (P)  
(By Sectors)**

Sector	No. of Leases	Percent (%)	Area (ha)	Percent (%)
<b>India</b>	<b>3437</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>312645.72</b>	<b>100</b>
Public	273	7.94	90129.14	28.83
Central Government Undertakings	101	2.94	47341.88	15.14
State Government Undertakings	172	5.00	42787.26	13.69
Private	3164	92.06	222516.58	71.17

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

*Source: Data received from various State Governments*