

## SAFETY IN COAL MINES

Coal mining, world over, is a highly regulated industry due to the presence of many inherent, operational and Occupational Hazards. Coal Mine Safety Legislation in India is one of the most comprehensive and extensive statutory frameworks for ensuring Occupational Health and Safety (OHS). Compliance of these safety statutes is mandatory and implementation of which is closely monitored at several levels.

### 1. Guidelines on “Safety and Health Management Audit in Coal and Lignite Mines”

- The focus of the safety health management system audit is a system driven, instead of individual-driven and based on the principles of risk management in place of compliance-oriented, that is, identification of hazards and assessment of risk and implementation of control to ensure risk at an acceptable level and as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA).
- One of the reasons for the ineffective implementation of the present system of risk-based safety management in Indian coal mines is the lack of suitable mechanisms or processes for auditing the SMPs at regular intervals. In view of the above, Ministry of Coal issued guidelines for regular auditing to be adopted by the mine management on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023 for effective implementation of the Safety and Health Management system. The auditing shall be done by qualified auditors who are

experienced in SHMS having domain knowledge and experience.

### 2. Disaster Management Plan & Crisis Management Plan

- Ministry of Coal has prepared Disaster Management Plan. The DMP provides a framework and direction to the coal companies for all phases of disaster management cycle. The DMP is a “dynamic document” in the sense that it will be periodically improved keeping up with the global best practices and knowledge base in disaster management. It is in accordance with the provisions of the Disaster Management (DM) Act 2005, the guidance given in the National Policy on Disaster Management and the established national practices. Coal Companies will carry out disaster management activities in different phases in the disaster-affected Coal Mines depending on the type and scale of disaster.
- Also, Crisis Management Plan for 2023-24 of the Ministry of Coal is prepared and submitted to Cabinet Secretariat. The Crisis Management Plan will be applicable in case of crisis in coal mines (Underground & Opencast). The Crisis Management Plan will be applicable in case of crisis in coal mines (Underground & Opencast). For the purpose of this Plan, any mishap will be treated as a crisis when the lives of 10 persons or more in the affected mine are lost or threatened by the defined crisis event/incident.



## INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

### 1. India-EU Collaboration

- i. A Meeting held between Secretary (Coal) and State Secretary and Special Envoy for International Climate Action at the German Federal Foreign Office, Ms. Jennifer Morgan held on 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2023 in New Delhi.
- ii. A Meeting held between Secretary (Coal) and Mr. Jochen Flasbarth, State Secretary of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) held on 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2023 in New Delhi. Matters such as repurposing of abandoned/closed and coal mines, CCUS, Transfer of suitable cost-effective technology

and technological collaboration etc.were discussed during the meeting..

- iii. A Meeting held between Hon'ble Union Minister Pralhad Joshi and, Hon'ble Minister of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic Mr. Jozef Síkela held on 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2023 in New Delhi to discuss mutual cooperation in the areas of coal and mining sharing of technology.

### 2. India-Japan Collaboration

A Meeting held between Secretary (Coal) and Mr. Ryo Minami, Deputy Commissioner, METI, Govt. of Japan, along with his delegation held on 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2023 in New Delhi to discuss 'Synergy between G7 and G20 countries.

