

## ***Recent Economic Developments-June 2024***

- 1. Ministry of Coal initiates India's First Ever Pilot project for Underground Coal Gasification in Jharkhand***
- 2. Bureau of Indian Standards introduces two new standards to enhance Safety and Quality of Electric Vehicles in India***
- 3. Ministry of Mines to Launch the Fourth Tranche of Auction of Critical and Strategic Minerals***
- 4. Government enhances allocation for Fertilizer Sector under SIGHT Programme of the National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM)***

### **1. Ministry of Coal initiates India's First Ever Pilot project for Underground Coal Gasification in Jharkhand**

Under the strategic direction of the Ministry of Coal, Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) has embarked on an innovative pilot project for Underground Coal Gasification (UCG) at the Kasta coal block in Jamtara District, Jharkhand. This underscores the Ministry's proactive diversification efforts within the coal sector. This first ever groundbreaking initiative aims to revolutionize the coal industry by using in-situ coal gasification to convert it into valuable gases such as methane, hydrogen, carbon monoxide, and carbon dioxide.

Underground Coal Gasification offers a significant advantage by providing access to coal resources that are economically unviable through traditional mining methods. This pilot project represents a significant milestone for Coal India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiaries, positioning India as a leader in adopting advanced coal gasification technologies.

### **2. Bureau of Indian Standards introduces two new standards to enhance Safety and Quality of Electric Vehicles in India**

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has introduced two new standards, **IS 18590: 2024** and **IS 18606: 2024**, aimed at enhancing the safety of electric vehicles in the L, M, and N categories. These standards focus on the critical component of electric vehicles—the powertrain—ensuring it meets stringent safety requirements. Additionally, they emphasize the safety and

performance of batteries, ensuring they are both powerful and secure.

With these new standards, BIS has introduced 30 Indian Standards for electric vehicles and their accessories, including charging systems, aiming to promote a more sustainable, environmentally friendly, and efficient transportation system in the country.

### **3. Ministry of Mines to Launch the Fourth Tranche of Auction of Critical and Strategic Minerals**

Union Minister of Coal and Mines, Shri G. Kishan Reddy and Minister of State for Coal and Mines, Shri Satish Chandra Dubey will launch the 4th tranche of auction of critical and strategic mineral blocks on 24th June, 2024 at a programme to be held at Scope Convention Centre, CGO Complex, New Delhi.

Critical Minerals play a pivotal role for both economic development and mineral security of the country. Their scarcity or reliance on a few nations for extraction and processing could pose significant vulnerabilities to our supply chains. In light of the same, Mines and Minerals Development and Regulation (MMDR) Act was amended in 2023 whereunder the Central Government was conferred the power to grant mineral concession of 24 critical and strategic minerals.

So far, the Central Government has launched 3 tranches auction of 38 critical and strategic mineral blocks located across 14 States and Union Territory. During the event preferred bidders of 1st Tranche launched on 29th November, 2023 will be declared.

### **4. Government enhances allocation for Fertilizer Sector under SIGHT Programme of the National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM)**

The Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) is implementing the National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM) with a target to achieve production capacity of 5 million tonnes per annum of Green Hydrogen in the country by the year 2030.

Under the Mission, MNRE had issued the Scheme Guidelines for implementation of SIGHT Programme – Component II: Incentive for Procurement of Green Ammonia Production (under Mode2A) of the NGHM on 16.01.2024. Mode 2A caters to the requirements of the fertilizer sector. As per the said Guidelines, the capacity available for bidding under Tranche I of Mode 2A was 5,50,000 tonnes per annum of Green Ammonia. Thereafter, Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) also issued Request for Selection (RfS) for selection of Green Ammonia Producers through a cost based competitive bidding process.

Please contact, for any query related to this mail, Ms Reema Jain, Research Officer at [reema.jain@phdcci.in](mailto:reema.jain@phdcci.in), and Ms. Nishika Chauhan, Research Associate at [nishika.chauhan@phdcci.in](mailto:nishika.chauhan@phdcci.in), with a cc to Dr S P Sharma, Chief Economist| DSG at

[spsharma@phdcci.in](mailto:spsharma@phdcci.in), PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry.



Warm regards,

Dr S P Sharma

Chief Economist | DSG

PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry

PHD House, 4/2 Siri Institutional Area

August Kranti Marg, New Delhi-110016, India

Tel: +91 49545454

Fax: +91 11 26855450

Email: [spsharma@phdcci.in](mailto:spsharma@phdcci.in)

Website: [www.phdcci.in](http://www.phdcci.in)

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PHD House, 4/2 Siri Institutional Area, August Kranti Marg, New Delhi - 110 016 (India) • Tel. : +91-11-2686 3801-04, 49545454, 49545400  
Fax : +91-11-2685 5450, 49545451 • E-mail : [phdcci@phdcci.in](mailto:phdcci@phdcci.in) • Website : [www.phdcci.in](http://www.phdcci.in), CIN: U74899DL1951GAP001947

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