



**GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA**  
**State Unit: Tamil Nadu & Puducherry**  
**Chennai**



**ANNUAL STRATEGIC INTERACTION MEET – 2019**  
**10<sup>th</sup> May 2019 – 12.30 Hrs**

**Venue: Conference hall, Industries Department, Secretariat**

The Annual Strategic Interaction Meet-2019 with Govt. of Tamil Nadu and functionaries of MoM was held at the Secretariat, Chennai on 10.5.19

The following officials attended the meeting,

<b>Ministry of Mines</b>	<b>Government of Tamil Nadu</b>
Shri M Sridhar, Additional Director General & HOD, GSI, Southern Region, Hyderabad	Shri N. Muruganandam, IAS., Principal Secretary to the Govt. of Tamil Nadu
Shri Amitava Kundu, Deputy Director General, State Unit: Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, Chennai	Shri E. Saravanelraj, IAS., Director, Department of Geology and Mining, Govt. of Tamil Nadu
Shri J. Prabhakar, Director, GSI, SU: TNP, Chennai	Officers of Industries Department, Government of Tamil Nadu
Shri K. Aravind, Director, GSI, SU: TNP, Chennai	Officers of Department of Geology and Mining, Government of Tamil Nadu
Shri S.B. Vijay Kumar, Superintending Geologist, GSI, SU: TNP, Chennai	
Officers of IBM, Chennai	
Officers of MECL, Hyderabad	

The Director, Department of Geology and Mining welcomed the delegates and requested the ADG & HOD, GSI, SR to speak.

The ADG while thanking the Principal Secretary for the positive response, conveyed the greetings of MOM and appraised that the ASIM – 2019 is conceived by the Ministry to help create an enabling environment where convergence of ideas and efforts of the stake holders takes place to bring about synergy to work for & along with the State Govt. by sharing the activities and benefits of all the geoscientific works with the highest seat of administration for the ultimate objective of sustainable growth of mines & mineral sector.

He also enunciated GSI's 169 years of dedicated service to the nation, capabilities and expertise in all fields of geoscience, especially in mineral exploration and public good geosciences. He informed the house that GSI swiftly responds to the societal necessities such as landslide

mitigation, post disaster management, etc. and is also involved in technical consultancy services. The Principal Secretary sought GSI's service in taking up mineral block evaluation for TAMIN as a consultancy work. The DDG, SU: TNP informed that GSI has been rendering technical expertise to DGM, Tamil Nadu. The ADG & HOD, SR elaborated the activities and capabilities of Geological Survey of India Training Institute, which has world class training facilities for geoscientists not only from GSI but also from various organisations including African and South East Asian countries He added that the training to State DGMs is free of cost. The Principal Secretary instructed the officials from DGM, TAMIN, TANMAG, etc. to nominate officers for training programmes hosted by GSITI.

When the ADG & HOD was presenting the Mission-wise activities of GSI, the Principal Secretary enquired about the significance of baseline data generation, Specialised Thematic Mapping. The DDG, SU: TNP, explained the nuances of STM with the objective of generating spin off mineral exploration projects and R & D programmes.

The ADG while presenting the Mission-II activities, mentioned about the publication of "Geology of Tamil Nadu" in Tamil. He informed that as most of the shallow deposits have already been explored or exploited and many areas are soil covered, GSI is targeting for deep seated & concealed mineral deposits by launching a pilot programme "Project Uncover" in collaboration with Geoscience Australia using geophysical tools like DSRS (Deep seismic reflection Surveys) and MT (Magneto telluric) survey, besides National Geochemical Mapping, National Geophysical Mapping and NAGPM. The 'Regional Mineral Targeting' programmes are also for the same purpose.

While presenting the Mission-III activities, the ADG & HOD, informed that GSI uses its powerful OCBIS (Online core business integrated system) an online interface to host and disseminate various geoscientific data/products of GSI to the stake holders and also helps in conducting all its technical, administrative and financial functioning of GSI.

While presenting the fundamental and multi-disciplinary geoscientific activities under Mission-IV, the ADG gave details of the National Landslide Susceptibility Mapping (NLSM) and Seismic Hazard Microzonation, geotechnical consultancy services (to hydroelectric, irrigation, river linking, communication projects, etc) in the State. The Principal Secretary showed keen interest in the landslide susceptibility map of Niligiris, maps of multithematic appraisal & seismic hazard microzonation of Chennai metropolitan and advised DGM to obtain the latest reports and maps published by GSI and share the same with the Department of Housing and Urban Development and Commissionerate of Revenue Administration. In this regard, Shri K. Aravind, Director informed that a copy of all the reports have already been provided to the concerned departments besides regularly liaising with the district administration of Niligiris and Dindigul for Landslide mitigation & preventive measures. He also informed the house about the collaborative work taken up by GSI with British Geological Survey for landslide early warning system and also informed the present involvement of GSI in the geotechnical investigations for Kundah PSHEP,

Kolli Hydro Electric Project and post construction stage geotechnical investigation for BKB III and dam safety studies.

Referring to the mineral exploration efforts, the Principal Secretary enquired about the status of auctioning after receiving GSI's reports. The Director, DGM has pointed out the recommendations in the reports and requested for further discussion on the subject with GSI. The Principal Secretary has opined that the G1 stage exploration for PGE and Molybdenum can be taken up under NMET fund by TAMIN. Shri J. Prabhakar, Director, GSI explained that ore beneficiation studies pertaining to the PGE Project of T2 Sector is under process with IBM, further action may be initiated after the receipt of results. Shri S.B. Vijay Kumar, Superintending Geologist, GSI has informed that the G2 stage exploration for PGE in T3 sector of Tasamapalayam Block will be taken up in 2019-20. Regarding molybdenum, a strategic commodity, the Director, DGM informed that IBM is in the process of fixing unit price. The ADG & HOD, GSI, has assured to take up this matter with the Additional Secretary, Ministry of Mines for expediting the process. Shri J. Prabhakar, Director has added that the molybdenum mineralization has been traced for a strike length of 21 kms in Harur-Uttangarai Belt (HUB) out of which only selected blocks have been explored to G2/G3 stage. However, GSI has initiated the exploratory activities in remaining blocks in HUB.

The Principal Secretary enquired about the economic and mining feasibility of lignite resources of Ramnad basin and Shri J. Prabhakar, Director has informed that lignite occurs at the depth of 350 to 450 m and hence not cost effective. Shri S.B. Vijay Kumar, Superintending Geologist added that adopting of modern mining technology like Underground Coal Gasification (UCG) may help in winning out the energy mineral resources.

During the discussions on the contribution by the Marine and Coastal Survey Division, OPEC-IV, GSI in Tamilnadu, the ADG has informed the offshore mineral exploration conducted for heavy minerals in the near shore of Poompuhar and Kollidam sectors. The Principal Secretary enquired about any discovery of archaeological features during the survey. He also wanted to know about the suitability of utilizing of research vessels available with GSI for archaeological studies. The ADG & HOD, replied that the study was not carried out for this purpose and no such occurrence has been recorded during the investigation. The possibility for exploration for construction sand in the territorial waters off Tamil Nadu as an alternative to M-sand was also discussed. The Principal Secretary also suggested that exploration for inland placer deposits for gold and garnet to be conducted in the river borne sediments accumulated in reservoir side of dams.

The ADG & HOD has highlighted the various public good geoscience programmes. The Principal Secretary enquired whether the reports pertaining to these programmes have been disseminated to the state / district authorities. Shri K. Aravind, Director informed that the reports are regularly submitted to the concerned State authorities and the report on "Multi Thematic Appraisal of Chennai Metropolitan" area would be submitted soon.

The preservation and maintenance of various geo-heritage sites and fossils in Ariyalur in Tamil Nadu was discussed in detail. The Principal Secretary advised DGM to identify locales rich in representative fossil assemblage for declaring as 'non-mining' areas. Shri J. Prabhakar, Director informed that GSI, SU: TNP is maintaining four national geological monuments in Tamil Nadu out of which three sites i.e. National Fossil Wood Parks of Thiruvakkarai, and Sathanur and the National Geological Monument for Charnockite at St. Thomas Mount have been proposed for global UNESCO Geopark status. The Principal Secretary assured to extend support in this regard. The ADG & HOD suggested that the Museum constructed within the premises of State Travelers Bungalow opposite the National Fossil Wood Park, Sathanur, may be utilized to display fossils collected from the sedimentary rocks of Ariyalur.

The ADG & HOD also informed that the officers engaged in the field assignments experiences various problems due to resistance by local population to the work being carried out. The Principal Secretary has advised the DGM to extend support to GSI and take necessary action to notify the work proposals of GSI in state gazette to ensure smooth execution of investigations.

As the outcome of the ASIM the Principal Secretary emphasized to the following points;

1. Advised the DGM officials to participate in the training programmes offered by GSITI.
2. Action to be initiated by the DGM for acquiring the administrative control of the Museum constructed in Ariyalur and take measures for collection and display of fossils in the museum.
3. Proposal to carry out off-shore exploration for sand from NMET fund.
4. Mapping / mineral investigation works taken up by GSI are to be notified in the state gazette by DGM.
5. Landslide susceptibility map should be shared with the Secretary, Department of Housing Development.

The meeting ended with the release of the GSI publication entitled "Glimpses of GSI activities in Tamil Nadu" by the Principle Secretary, Dept. of Industries, Govt. of Tamil Nadu.



**Address by the Principal Secretary**



**Presentation by the ADG & HOD, SR**



**Interactive session between the officials of State Government and GSI**



**Release of brochure on "Glimpses of geological activities of Tamil Nadu"**