

**EARLY INITIATION OF DRILLING IN CHAMNUR BLOCK (G2) FOR
LIMESTONE PERTAINING TO FS:2019-20**

**(General exploration for limestone resources in NE of Chamnur, Gulbarga district,
Karnataka. Item no.M2ASMIF-MEP/NC/SR/SU-KG/2019/25652)**

During FS:2019-20, an item was taken up to assess the Limestone resources at Chamnur Block in Chittapur Tehsil of Gulbarga district. This is an approved item taken up by State Unit Karnataka and Goa under the Southern Region of GSI and is a continuation of the work done during FS:2017-18 at Kannur G2 Block, which was just north of this block. The Kannur Block yielded high grade limestone at a very shallow depth in the range of 1 to 5 metres and it proved to be of potential having very good resource of limestone across various grades (382.21 MT). Hence, a G2 item was proposed by the Project Industrial Minerals, SU:K&G under the guidance of Shri K.N.Rajarama, Director, Project IM duly advised by Shri R.Baskaran, the then Deputy Director General, SU:Karnataka & Goa.

The exploration block forms a part of the Shahabad Formation of Bhima Basin, which has been a store house and centre of attraction for the explorers hunting for cement grade limestone. The work of GSI has established the presence of Flux grade limestone in this area, having potential to serve several iron and steel industries across the country. Hence, after the approval of the proposal, this item was taken on priority under the guidance of Shri D.Mohan Raj, ADG & Head, Mission II, GSI, Nagpur and Shri Bharat Singh Jodha, Deputy Director General and Head, Regional Mission-II, SRO, Hyderabad.

Later, by the timely action and effective administration of Shri Ishwar Dan Ashiya, the Deputy Director General SU:Karnataka & Goa with the whole hearted support of Shri M Sridhar, ADG & HoD, Southern Region, Hyderabad, the item could be initiated by 01st April 2019. The associated officer Shri Jobin Jahafar, Senior Geologist and Item In Charge, has made necessary pre-field preparations at the earliest and proceeded to field along with Shri G.Yogesha, Senior Surveyor to initiate the field work on 03rd April 2019. Initially one borehole (KGCH-01) was located and was shown to Shri Piyush Kumar Shukla, Assistant Executive Engineer and officer in-charge unit no. U-432. The enthusiastic approach of the drilling division headed by Shri V.K. Nagpal, Superintending Engineer (Drilling), GSI, SRO, Hyderabad could start the drilling as early on 10th April 2019 and the borehole is under progress.

The enthusiasm and effort shown by the officers and staff across the strata has shown GSI's capability to take up items on fast track in the midst of several administrative and financial hurdles. The whole team, right from top to bottom, deserves appreciation as this could possibly be the first item in GSI where drilling for FS19-20 has been initiated.



**Left: Shri Piyush Kumar Shukla, Assistant Executive Engineer at the drill site
Right: Shri K..N..Rajarama (centre), Director, Project Industrial Minerals, SU:K&G,
Shri Jobin Jahafar (right), Senior Geologist and Item in Charge;
Shri G. Yogesha (left), Senior Surveyor, SU:K&G**