

Commencement of Drilling on 10th April, 2019 in Banskhapa-Pipariya Sub Block-I, District Betul, Madhya Pradesh, Field Season: 2019-20

(Title of the item: Preliminary exploration for base metal mineralization in northern part of Banskhapa-Pipariya Sub block-I, District Betul, Madhya Pradesh; OCBIS Proposal ID: M2AFGBM-MEP/NC/CR/SU-MP-BHO/2019/24603)

Banskhapa-Pipariya base metal prospect (divided as Sub-block-I, II & III) is one of the most promising ones out of all situated in Proterozoic Betul belt, District Betul, Madhya Pradesh. Sub block-I being the most prominent, was taken up by **GSI** for preliminary exploration during **FS 1995-99**. The exploration work in Banskhapa-Pipariya Sub-Block-I has established a mineralised zone over a strike length of 975m from south-western to northern part of the block indicating irregular distribution of the ore zones with pinch and swell character. **GSI** has estimated an ore resource of **4.37** million tonnes with 1.81% Zn & 0.32% Cu in the block.

A field item in the form of G-3 stage exploration in northern part of the block has been taken up during **FS 2019-20** to assess the strike extension of mineralization established during previous exploration work (GSI, FS: 1995-99; 2018-19 & MECL, FS-2007) in south-western and central part of the block. This is an approved item taken up by State Unit Madhya Pradesh under the Central Region of GSI and forms a continuum of exploration operations in Banskhapa-Pipariya Sub block-I preceded by G-2 stage exploration by GSI in south-western part of the block during **FS 2018-19**. Hence, the item was planned to be initiated on priority basis under the guidance of **Shri D. Mohan Raj**, ADG & Head, Mission-II, GSI; **Shri Godise Vidya Sagar**, ADG & HOD, CR, Nagpur and **Shri S. Ray**, Dy. DG & Head, Regional Mission-II, CR, Nagpur. Proposal for the first borehole of the project was submitted on 1st April, 2019 under the guidance of **Shri Hemraj Suryavanshi**, Dy. DG, SU: Madhya Pradesh and **Shri Subhrasuchi Sarkar**, Director & Supervisory officer (Base Metal Division) and same was approved by the office of Dy. DG & RMH-II, CR, Nagpur on 4th April, 2019. After all the pre-field preparations, **Shri Satya Narayan Rana**, Geologist & Project In-charge departed for field work on 6th April, 2019 with **Shri Kunal Ghosh**, Assistant Survey Officer in order to fix the borehole location at the earliest. Field location of the first borehole was shown to **Shri C. S. Rajput**, Assistant Executive Engineer & acting officer in-charge, drilling unit no.506 by the evening of 6th April, 2019. Each staff member of the drilling unit displayed the highest degree of dedication and hard work to initiate the drilling as soon as possible under the guidance of **Shri Manoj Kumar Meena**, Assistant Executive Engineer who recently taken over the charge of drilling for the project, which resulted in commencement of drilling operations on 10th April, 2019 in Banskhapa-Pipariya Sub block-I for FS 2019-20.

“Teamwork makes the dream work” -Bang Gae

Project team is highly thankful to all the officers and staff members of GSI involved directly or indirectly with the project for their support and cooperation pertaining to the timely initiation of the field work and drilling which itself is a great example of team spirit prevailing from a long time in GSI.

FIELD PHOTOGRAPHS



Drilling team performing rituals before starting the machine



Commencement of drilling



Shri S.N. Rana, Geologist & Project In-charge (4th from left) and Shri Manoj Kumar Meena, Assistant Executive Engineer & Officer In-charge, drilling unit no.506 (3th from right) with the drilling staff.