Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Mining Department
Civil Secretariat, J&K

NOTIFICATION

The 29th of June, 2026

S.O. 184 In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (g) of Sub-section (1A) of Section 15 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (Central Act No. 67 of 1957), the Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is pleased to make the following rules, namely:

1. **Short title, extant and commencement**.- (1) These rules shall be called the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir Mineral Exploration Trust Rules,2026.

(2) They shall extend to whole of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and shall apply to all minor minerals.

(3) They shall come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

2. **Definitions**. - (1) In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires.-

a) **"Act"** means the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act,1957 (Central Act No.67 of 1957):

b) **"Chairperson, Governing Body"** means the Chairperson of the Governing Body of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir Mineral Exploration Trust;

c) **'Chairperson, Executive Committee"** means the Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, Mineral Exploration Trust;

d) **"Department"** means the Department of Geology and Mining, Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

e) **"Fund"** means the fund referred to in rule 7;

f) **"Government"** means the Government of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir;

g) **"Governing Body"** means the Governing body of the Trust;

h) **"Executive Committee"** means the executive committee of the Trust;

i) **"Member, Governing Body"** means the member of the Governing Body of the Trust;

j) **"Member, Executive Committee"** means the member of the Executive Committee of the Trust;

k) **"Obvious Geological Potential Areas"** means the mineral potential areas identified by the Geological Survey of India/ Department of Geology & Mining, Jammu & Kashmir from time to time, and

l) **'Trust"** means the Union Territory of the Jammu & Kashmir Mineral Exploration Trust referred in rule 3 of these rules.

(2) Words and expression used and not defined in these rules but defined in the Act shall have the same meaning as assigned to them in the Act.

3. **Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir Mineral Exploration Trust.**- There shall be established a Trust at the Union Territory level to be known as the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir Mineral Exploration Trust. The object of the Trust shall be the planned development of the mineral resources and their exploration in the jurisdiction of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

4. **Governing Body:** (1)The Governing body of the Trust shall consist of the following namely:-

1.	Minister, Mining Department, Government of Jammu and Kashmir	Chairperson
2.	Administrative Secretary, Finance Department, Government of Jammu and Kashmir	Member
3.	Administrative Secretary, Forest, Ecology & Environment Department, Government of Jammu and Kashmir	Member
4.	Administrative Secretary, Revenue Department, Government of Jammu and Kashmir	Member
5.	Administrative Secretary, Mining Department, Government of Jammu and Kashmir	Member
6.	Director, Geology and Mining, Government of Jammu and Kashmir	Member Secretary
7	Director Finance, Mining Department, Government of Jammu and Kashmir	Member

(2) The Chairperson of the Governing body may invite any person having special knowledge in the field of Mineral Exploration. Such invitee shall have no voting right in the meeting but he/she shall be entitled to receive such sitting fee and other allowances as may be decided by the Government, from time to time.

5. **Executive Committee:** - (1) The Executive Committee of trust shall consist of the following namely,

1.	Administrative Secretary, Mining Department, Government of Jammu and Kashmir	Chairperson
2	Director Geology & Mining, Government of Jammu and Kashmir	Member Secretary
3	Director Finance, Mining Department, Government of Jammu and Kashmir	Member
4	Joint Director, Geology & Mining, Jammu, Government of Jammu and Kashmir	Member
5	Joint Director, Geology & Mining, Kashmir, Government of Jammu and Kashmir	Member

(2) The Chairperson of the Executive Committee may invite any person having special knowledge in the field of Mineral Exploration. Such invitee shall have no voting right in the meeting but he/she shall be

entitled to receive such sitting fee and other allowances as may be decided by the Government, from time to time.

6. **Functions of the Governing Body and Executive Committee.**-(1) The Governing body shall lay down the broad policy framework for the functioning of the Trust and review its working.

(2) The Governing Body shall approve the annual plan and annual budget of the Trust on the recommendations of the Executive Committee and it shall meet at least once in a year.

(3) The Executive Committee shall manage, administer, and supervise the Trust and shall also monitor and review the expenditure of the Trust funds at regular intervals.

(4) The Executive Committee shall, while discharging its functions, follow the policy framework and the directions of the Governing Body, from time to time.

7. **Constitution of a fund under the Trust.**- (1) The Government shall, by order, setup a fund under the trust to be called as the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir Mineral Exploration Trust Fund, to be managed by the Executive Committee of the Trust.

(2) The Trust Fund shall receive amount to be paid in accordance with the provisions of Rule- 8 and may also receive contributions / aid from sources as may be approved by the Executive Committee.

(3) The Fund shall be utilized for the objectives and functions as specified in Rule- 10.

8. **Contributions to Trust Fund.**- (1) The Trust shall have power to open and operate bank accounts in its own name at any Scheduled bank as specified in the Second Schedule to the Reserve Bank of India Act,1934 (Central Act No.2 of 1934) and in terms of the extent instructions of the Government.

(2) The Trust shall communicate the particulars of its bank account to the Director, Geology and Mining, Government of Jammu & Kashmir for the purposes of receipts and payments.

(3) The Mineral Concessionaires (Mining lease holders, quarry licensees and permit holders etc) of minor minerals shall pay, in addition to royalty, the contribution to the Trust Fund in respect of any minor mineral mined from the area allotted / permitted, a sum equivalent to two percent of the royalty on the mined mineral, as specified under the Jammu & Kashmir Minor Mineral Concession, Storage, Transportation of Minerals and Prevention of Illegal Mining Rules, 2016, as amended from time to time.

(4) The Payment towards trust fund under sub-rule(3) shall be collected in advance along with royalty under a separate sub head and deposited in the account of trust and if any difference is accrued at the time of assessment of royalty, the same shall be deposited in the account of the trust immediately.

(5) The Director, Geology & Mining, Government of Jammu & Kashmir, shall maintain and update a record of the amount transferred to the bank account of the Trust along with the data base of royalty, so collected and provide such information to the Trust on a monthly basis.

9. Office and Bank Account.- (1) The office of the Trust shall be situated at the Office of Director, Geology & Mining, Government of Jammu & Kashmir or at such other place as may be determined by the Executive Committee.

(2) The Bank Account of Trust shall be opened and operated through the Director, Geology & Mining along with Accounts Officer/ Chief Accounts Officer of the Mining Department or any other officer authorized by the Executive Committee.

10. Objectives and Functions of the Trust.- The Objectives and Functions of the Trust shall be as under:-

(i) to prepare vision and mission plans of short term, mid-term and long term for the planned development of mineral resources under the jurisdiction of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and their scientific / sustainable exploration;
(ii) to prepare a plan for exploration and facilitate exploration activities;
(iii) to facilitate geo-physical, ground and aerial survey and geo-chemical survey of the Obvious Geological Potential Areas;
(iv) to undertake study and advocacy of mineral development, sustainable mining, adoption of advanced scientific and technological practices and mineral extraction metallurgy;
(v) to organize capacity building programs for raising technical capability of the Mining Department personnel;
(vi) to undertake research and development in the field of mineral analysis and testing of ores, identification of associated impurities of rocks and mineral samples so as to assess quality of ores, minerals by chemical, physical testing and instrumental analysis.
(vii) to initiate action to strengthen and upgrade the Exploration infrastructural of the Department, both physical and manpower related;
(viii) to develop the Union Territory Mineral Directory, Union Territory Mineral Atlas/Geo-Informatics Mineral Resource Information System for the Union Territory and putting up geological and other geo scientific data in digital formats in the public domain;
(ix) to organize workshop, seminar and conference for the conservation and development of the mineral, Geo-science familiarization and promotion of mineral based industries in the Union Territory of J&K;
(x) to undertake mineral benefaction and value addition studies on low grade minerals;
(xi) to monitor mining and related activities through modern technologies in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir;
(xii) to use the Trust Fund for such other purposes that the Governing Body may decide, or authorize the Executive Committee, to be necessary or expedient in the interest of conservation, development and exploitation of mineral resource in the jurisdiction of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, not inconsistent with the provisions of the Act.

11. Management of the Trust.- (1) The overall control, periodical reviews and policy direction of the Trust shall vest with the Governing Body.

(2) The Executive Committee shall manage, administer and supervise the day to day activities of the Trust.

(3) The Executive Committee shall formulate and finalize the scheme for delegation of financial powers.

12. Committees.- (1) The Executive Committee may constitute committee or sub-committee to fulfill the objectives of the Trust or such other tasks that may be assigned or delegated to it by the Executive Committee .

(2) The committee or sub-committee so constituted under sub-rule (1) shall discharge the duties and responsibilities under these rules and in exercise of such powers and functions as may be specified by the Executive Committee.

13. Implementation of identified projects by the Executive Committee.-(1) The Executive Committee shall implement the identified projects consistent with the objectives of the Trust as approved by the Governing Body.

(2) In implementation of the projects referred to in the sub-rule (1), the Executive Committee shall devise its own procedure consistent with the Act and rules made there under.

14. Monitoring of exploration projects.-(1) The Trust shall monitor the implementation of the projects either by itself or by engaging any entity.

(2) For the purposes of sub-rule (1), the Trust may devise its own procedure consistent with the Act and rules made there under.

15. Meetings of the Governing Body.- (1) The Governing Body shall meet at least once in a year.

(2) The meetings of the Governing Body shall be presided over by the Chairperson of the Governing Body and in the absence of the Chairperson, Governing Body, the ex-officio Members of the Governing Body may elect an officiating Chairperson among themselves.

(3) All decisions or resolutions of the Governing Body shall be made or adopted by consensus.

(4) In case of any disagreement or dissent, the ruling of the Chairperson, Governing Body shall be final.

(5) The meetings of the Governing Body may be either physical or virtual or by circulation or by combination of both;

Provided that the meeting by circulation shall not apply for adoption of accounts of the Trust and for approval of annual plan, annual budget and annual report of the Trust.

16. Meetings of the Executive Committee.- (1) The Executive Committee shall meet at least once in every three months.

(2) The meetings of the Executive Committee shall be presided over by the Chairperson of the Executive Committee and in the absence of Chairperson, Executive Committee, the Ex-officio Members of the Executive Committee may elect an officiating Chairperson among themselves.

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(3) The meetings of the Executive Committee may be either physical or virtual or by circulation or by combination of both;

Provided that the meeting by circulation shall not apply to adoption of accounts of the Trust and for recommendation to Governing Body for approval of annual plan, annual budget and annual report of the Trust.

17. Notice and agenda for meeting of Governing Body and Executive Committee.- (1) The Chairperson or Member Secretary of the Governing Body with consent of the Chairperson, Governing Body shall convene meeting of the Governing Body by giving a minimum fifteen days notice to all members:

Provided that the Chairperson, Governing Body may authorize to convene a meeting with a shorter notice period.

(2) The Chairperson or Member Secretary of the Executive Committee with consent of the Chairperson shall convene meeting of the Executive Committee by giving a minimum seven days notice to all members:

Provided that Chairperson of the Executive Committee may authorize to convene a meeting with a shorter notice period.

(3) Notice for any meeting may include an agenda for the meeting, draft minutes of the earlier meeting and action taken report on the minutes of the earlier meeting.

18. Quorum for meeting.- (1) The quorum for any meeting of the Governing Body shall be four.

(2) The quorum for any meeting of the Executive Committee shall be four.

19. Powers, Duties and Responsibilities of Member Secretary of Executive Committee.-(1) The Member Secretary of the Executive Committee shall,-

(i) Manage the Trust subject to the superintendence, control and direction of the Executive Committee; and

(ii) exercise such administrative and financial powers as may be delegated by the Executive Committee or as may be assigned by the Chairperson, Executive Committee.

(2) The Member Secretary of the Executive Committee shall have the following duties and responsibilities, without prejudice to the generality of sub-rule (1), namely:-

(i) To cause the preparation of the annual plan and related annual budget and submit them to the Executive Committee for consideration and for further recommendation to the Governing Body;

(ii) To ensure due diligence has been exercised before considering proposals or projects to be undertaken by the Trust in accordance with the best practices, procedure, rules or directions of the Executive Committee;

(iii) To ensure that the activities of the Trust are being conducted in accordance with the annual plan and related annual budget; and

(iv) To submit to the Governing Body the annual plan for each financial year, as approved by the Executive Committee, with a copy to Finance Department, Government of Jammu & Kashmir, through the Mining Department, Government of Jammu & Kashmir by the end of January of previous financial year.

20. Annual Plan.-(1) The Member Secretary of the Executive Committee shall, before the beginning of each financial year, initiate process of preparation of plans for short term and long term projects proposed to be undertaken by the Trust in the ensuing financial year, to be referred as the annual plan, including details of activities to be undertaken or to be completed and expected time for completion of the projects and cost for such projects;

(2) The annual plan shall contain all projects, programs, activities proposed to be undertaken by the Trust for achieving its objectives and shall have clearly demarcated milestones.

21. Annual Budget.- The Member Secretary of the Executive Committee shall, before the beginning of each financial year, initiate process of preparation of an annual budget in advance containing the details of the proposed income and expenditure on activities covered in the annual plan for ensuing financial year, including the legal, administrative and other costs, and expenditure proposed to be incurred by the Trust together with details of the funding requirements in this regard, to be referred to as the annual budget which shall be approved by the Executive Committee for onward approval of the Governing Body well in advance.

22. Approval of the Annual Plan and the Annual Budget.-(1) The annual plan and the annual budget shall be laid before the Governing Body for its approval thirty days before the commencement of each financial year.

(2) The Member Secretary of the Executive Committee shall, on receipt of the copies of the duly approved annual plan and the related annual budget from the Member Secretary of the Governing Body, submit the same to Finance Department, Government of Jammu & Kashmir through Mining Department, Government of Jammu & Kashmir within a period of thirty days from the date of receipt of approval of the Governing Body.

(3) Without prejudice to the provisions of sub-rule (2), the Trust may undertake expenditure for activities that are not approved in the annual plan including the administrative charges subject to specific approval by the Chairperson, Governing Body, and concurrence of the Finance Department, Government of Jammu & Kashmir which shall be laid before the Governing Body in the next annual budget.

(4) The annual plan and related annual budget may be amended at any time subject to the approval of the Chairperson, Governing Body, and concurrence of the Finance Department, Government of Jammu & Kashmir which shall be laid before the Governing Body in the next year plan or budget.

23. Annual Report.-(1) The Member Secretary of the Executive Committee shall, within ninety days of the end of each financial year, submit an annual report containing such information as deemed appropriate by the Executive Committee.

(2) The annual report shall be approved by the Executive Committee and shall contain details, inter alia, of the activities completed by the Trust during the financial year and the expenditure incurred by the Trust during such financial year.

(3) A copy of the annual report shall be sent to the Government within a period of thirty days from the date of its approval by the Executive Committee after approval of the Governing Body.

24. Financial year.-(1) The accounting or financial year of the Trust shall be from the 1st of April to the 31st of March.

(2) The first year of operations of the Trust may be a partial year.

25. Maintenance and Audit of Accounts.-(1) The accounts of the Trust shall be maintained in the form, mode and manner as may be decided by the Executive Committee.

(2) The accounts of the Trust Fund shall be audited in such manner as may be decided by the Executive Committee.

(3) After the audit referred to in sub-rule (2), the Trust shall submit the annual report to the Governing Body.

By order of Lieutenant Governor.

Sd/-
(Ashwani Kumar) IAS
Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary)

No: GM-MNG/141/2025-04
Dated:29.06.2026

Copy to the:

1. All Financial Commissioner(s).
2. Director General of Police, J&K.
3. Principal Secretary to the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor.
4. All Principal Secretaries to the Government.
5. All Commissioner/ Secretaries to the Government.
6. Joint Secretary (J&K), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.
7. Principal Accountant General, J&K.
8. Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir/ Jammu.
9. All Heads of Departments/ Managing Directors.
10. All Deputy Commissioners.
11. Director, Geology and Mining, J&K.
12. Director, Achieves, Archeology and Museums, J&K.
13. Managing Director, J&K Mineral Limited Corporation.
14. General Manager, Government Press, Jammu / Srinagar.
15. OSD with Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, J&K, UT, Minister In-charge Mining Department.
16. Private Secretary to Chief Secretary, J&K.
17. Private Secretary to Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Mining Department.
18. In-charge Website, Mining Department.

29.06.2026

(Mushtaq Ahmad Khan) JKAS
Under Secretary to the Government