

CHAPTER

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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

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With diversification of the ICT landscape and Digital India initiative, it has become absolutely imperative for the Government to bring in qualitative and quantitative transformations in wake of changing user expectations. In the year 2020-21, the Ministry of Coal, along with NIC has striven hard and taken the lead in bringing forth standardization and improvement in IT working environment and service delivery.

1. NIC COAL Computer Centre in the Ministry of Coal is well equipped with latest computer systems for delivering and implementing secure multi-platform computer-based applications/solutions, database support, Internet, Email, network and video conferencing facilities. Ministry of Coal has adopted Cloud services of NIC – Meghraj to ensure optimum utilization of the infrastructure and speed up the development and deployment of e-Governance applications of Ministry of Coal.

2. Single Window Clearance System is an innovative endeavor of the Ministry of coal to create a platform to obtain various clearances for early operationalization of coal mines as well as augmentation of coal production in the country through a single gateway.

Various statutory provisions viz approval of Mining Plan and Mine Closure Plan, Grant of Mining Lease, Environment and Forest Clearances, Wild Life Clearance, Safety, Rehabilitation of project affected families, welfare of workers etc. are prerequisite for starting of a coal mine.

These clearances are being granted by various Central Ministries and State Government departments/agencies. Some of the clearances have their online portals; still most of the clearances are being given through offline mode.

This portal maps all the statutory clearances required (covering Central Ministries as well as State Government departments/agencies) for starting a coal mine. The portal is to map not only the relevant

application formats but also map process flow for grant of the approval/clearances.

Single Window Platform is designed to facilitate project proponents to apply for various clearances through a unified user registration to various Central Ministries as well as to State Government departments/agencies with a feature of auto-fetch provision of data from preceding clearances/approvals. The first Module (Mining Plan) of the portal has already been developed.

3. The development of Coal Import Monitoring System (CIMS) is under process for importers to submit advance information in an online system for import of coal items. On submission of online data/information, the system will generate an automatic unique Registration Number.

The CIMS will enable the government to keep a tab on the various categories of coal being imported and help make policy decisions accordingly.

CIMS also has the facility to view earlier online registrations. In addition, incomplete applications which have not been submitted for registration on the DGFT portal are also available in the CIMS for review and further action.

4. The official website of the Ministry of Coal – <https://coal.gov.in> is bilingual, user-friendly and provides easy navigation and quick access to important and latest up-to-date information. A clutter-free responsive design helps the end user to access the site on all handheld devices. The site provides rich updated content such as details of senior officers, organizational setup of the Ministry, subordinate offices links, policies, annual reports, publications, acts, rules, notifications, policies, Right to Information (RTI) disclosures, latest announcements and letters. The website is GIGW compliant and certified by STQC.

The website of the Ministry is in the process of migration into a new platform under CMF (Common Management Framework) developed by NIC using open source technology. This framework facilitates

standardization and improvement in presentation and content delivery of website. This framework enables static websites to migrate to dynamic portals and a set of functional features, along with embedded modules will automatically become available to the websites of Ministries/Departments on adoption of CMF.

As shared hosting is stopped this year these websites have been shifted to the cloud environment. SSL certificate has been installed on the server to make a secure session with browsers.

5. Coal Projects Monitoring Portal has been successfully implemented in the Ministry. This comprehensive MIS links all stakeholders of Coal sector – Industry, Coal Companies, Coal India Limited (CIL), NLC India Limited (NLCIL), State Governments, Ministries/Departments and Ministry of Coal. Coal Projects with their pending issues with various States and / or departments are submitted into the system. These issues are closely monitored, discussed and resolved on this platform thereby eliminating cumulative information seeking and decision-making delays.

6. e-Office a web-based system implemented and maintained for effective online monitoring of movement of files and receipt in the ministry. The e-Office product aims to support governance by ushering in more effective and transparent manner for inter and intra-government processes. It is fully functional in the Ministry of Coal. There is no physical file movement in the Ministry. VPN support for senior officials has been extended for non-NICNET nodes / laptops to ensure nonstop working in e-Office Platform. NIC email facility has been provided to all the officials in the Ministry to access the system and necessary operational training is provided to ministry officials from time to time.

The Ministry of Coal was awarded from DARPG for commendable work done in implementation of e-office in the Ministry.

7. Ministry has developed a web portal of Star Rating of Coal Mines to implement a system of self-evaluation of Coal Mines and subsequent reviewed by

Reviewer which was appointed by Coal Controller and further validation by Coal Controller's Organization of all Coal Mines under various factors covered broadly in seven modules as follows - (a) Mining Operations related parameters (b) Environment related parameters (c) Adoption of Technologies: Best Mining Practices (d) Economic performance (e) Rehabilitation & Resettlement parameters (f) Worker related Compliance (g) Safety and security related parameters.

8. A Dashboard has been developed to monitor the Coal Production, Offtake etc. on a regular basis. The other items which are included as follows – (a) Coal Exploration (b) Central Sector Schemes (c) Status of Coal Stock in Thermal Power Plants (d) MDMS (Mine Data Management Systems) Projects (e) Allocation of Mines (f) Monitoring of Major Coal Mines.

9. A Coal Task Master portal has been created for real time management of key projects, tasks and activities assigned to different sections of the Ministry of Coal for making effective decisions, tracking, information sharing and cross functional learning.

10. e-HRMS (Human Resource Management System) has been implemented in the Ministry of Coal. Employees of the Ministry will be able to not only see all their details w.r.t service book, leave, etc., but also apply for different kinds of claims/reimbursements, loan/advances, leave, leave encashment, LTC advances, Tour etc. on a single platform. Employees shall not be dependent for data updating on administration, but they may themselves update the data with their login subject to verification by concerned administration. They will be able to track status and match details instantly. Initially the process like the Leave Management System, e-Service Book is automated.

11. Coal Allocation Monitoring System (CAS) is implemented to monitor the allocation of coal by CIL to States, States to State Nominated Agencies (SNA) and SNA to consumers in a transparent manner. The system is designed to cater to the consumers through SNA in small and medium sector (erstwhile non-core sector). This web application is developed and designed by NIC and hosted on NIC Cloud with various rich features to usher in faster decisions, establish transparency and to connect all distant stakeholders together.

12. The Ministry is extensively using a Video Conferencing facility set up in the Ministry to facilitate Senior Officers to hold important meetings with various Coal PSUs and board meetings. In the challenging time of Covid-19 Pandemic era, NIC has successfully conducted extensive Video Conferences for officials in the Ministry of Coal. This facility is also successfully being used during VC meetings by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on PRAGATI.

13. Some of the main office automation software being used in the Ministry for day to day working is: Biometric Attendance system, SPARROW for all officials, E-Visitor, Centralized Public Procurement Portal for tender publishing, RTI Proactive disclosure and Annual Return System, PFMS for payroll.

14. E-governance applications that have been implemented in the Ministry are- RTI MIS to manage RTI cases, AVMS for monitoring ACC vacancies, CPGRAMS for public grievances and Parliament Questions and Supplementary MIS.

