

Ministry of Coal to launch 9th round of commercial coal mine auctions

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Ministry of Coal is set to embark on another significant stride with the launch of the 9th round of Commercial Coal Mine Auctions here on Wednesday, December 20.

It is poised to enhance the participation of more private players in the coal sector, fostering competition, efficiency, innovation and contributing to sustainable development. This initiative follows unprecedented achievements in coal production and dispatch from Captive and Commercial Coal Mines.

The Minister of Coal, Pral-

had Joshi will grace the occasion as the chief guest and Minister of State for Railways, Coal & Mines, Raosaheb Patil Danve will be the guest of honour on the occasion. A total of 26 coal mines will be offered in the upcoming round, comprising 03 under the CM (SP) Act 2015 and 23 under the MMDR Act 1957. Among these, 7 coal mines are Fully Explored, while 19 are Partially Explored. Additionally, 5 coal mines are being offered under the 2nd Attempt of round 7 of Commercial Coal that includes four CMSP coal mine and one MMDR coal mines. Of these, four is Fully Explored, and one is partially explored. Ministry of Coal said in a statement. The ministry further said unlike previous Commercial Coal Mine Auctions, there are no restrictions on the sale or utilization of coal. Notably, eligibility criteria

have been eliminated, removing any technical or financial barriers for participation.

Also, a strategic shift from the notified price to the National Coal Index ensures transparency and fairness, establishing a market-driven pricing mechanism. The amendment of mineral laws has been instrumental in unlocking the coal sector, providing an equitable playing field for both public and private sector players and allowing auctions for various purposes, including own consumption and sale.

For ease of doing business, the ministry has conceptualized a Single Window Clearance System (SWCS) portal to create a platform to obtain various clearances for the early operationalization of coal mines, ultimately resulting in the augmentation of coal production in the country through a single gateway.