

(TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE OF INDIA, EXTRAORDINARY, PART I – SECTION 1)

**Government of India  
Ministry of Mines**

New Delhi, 07<sup>th</sup> July 2009

**RESOLUTION**

No. 20/5/2009-M.II – The Geological Survey of India (GSI) was established as a regular Government Department in 1856 with the objective of locating mineral resources including coal. In the hundred and fifty years since its inception, GSI has continued to grow, and diversify into various geoscience activities, and its yeoman contribution to the Indian Geoscience is well documented.

2. After independence, GSI's activities in mineral exploration as well as baseline surveys have increased manifold in order to sustain the momentum of national economic development. GSI expanded rapidly since the early 1960s and was restructured and a number of Regions and specialized Wings were set up in different parts of the country to meet the increasing demands on its capabilities. Specialized activities like mineral exploration, engineering and groundwater geology, chemical laboratory work, geophysical survey, drilling etc. which were initially controlled from the Central Headquarters were decentralized to the Regional level. Mineral exploration as well as chemical analysis/ activities were later distributed even to State level offices designated as 'Operational Headquarters'. While GSI earlier operated from three operational centers at Calcutta, Madras and Bombay for nearly a hundred years, today it has offices at thirty-three locations spread in all the corners of the country.

3. The GSI is currently a subordinate office of the Ministry of Mines, but has considerable operational autonomy due to the scientific nature of its work. The organizational structure of GSI is already substantially oriented to meet the needs of specialization as well as multidisciplinary study. This has been achieved organizationally by creating multi-disciplinary Regional Offices with operational sub-units, and through separate specialized 'Wings' which interact with the Regional Offices on specialized

subject matters to the extent necessary. Operational units at State level execute the programmes in the field. Multi-disciplinary activities are generally taken up in a 'project' mode by pooling resources at the operational level.

4. All the programmes of GSI are guided by the Government policies and directives and follow the provisions of relevant current Five-Year Plan document. The GSI has evolved a mechanism for formulation and detailing of the programmes in the earth science area, through close co-ordination between GSI, stakeholder Ministries and Organizations and State Geological Departments to avoid duplication of work and ensure synergy. The principal mechanism for this is the Central Geological Programming Board. State Level Programming Boards provide inputs from the State Departments of Mining and Geology while subcommittees of the Central Board provide the inputs from within GSI (including special programmes) as well as from stakeholder Ministries and Organizations. The consolidated programme, prioritized on the basis of resources available, is brought before the Central Geological Programming Board (CGPB) which sets out the final programme for the ensuing field season, State-wise and activity wise.

5. GSI's work encompasses practically the entire gamut of earth science activities reflecting the broad nature of responsibilities envisaged for it. Earth science by its very nature is highly multi- disciplinary and the scale and diversity of human activity makes it essential that GSI, in order to remain relevant, has to factor in very challenging requirements into its organizational structure and its capacity – human as well as scientific. The degree to which GSI is able at once to specialize as well as to develop multi-disciplinary knowledge is crucial for it to remain relevant.

6. To enable GSI to meet the present day requirements of Geoscience in the country, the Government set up a High Powered Committee (HPC) for the GSI vide Resolution dated 7<sup>th</sup> January 2008. The HPC held 13 rounds of discussions and presented its report titled "Report on the functioning of the Geological Survey of India" to the Government on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009. The Committee visualized making the GSI a world-class

Geoscientific Institution and gave recommendations, which inter-alia set out the Vision, Charter, functions, goals, strategies and milestones.

7. The HPC has accordingly suggested reorganization of the structure of the Geological Survey of India. In this proposed structure, there will be 5 dedicated Missions and 3 Support Systems. The policy function of the Wings would be merged into the Missions and the execution part into the Regions. This will facilitate smooth functioning through better streamlining and coordination of decision making at all levels. In the new system the Missions will be responsible for planning activities, giving targets to the Regions (and State units), coordinating, augmenting of resources, monitoring performance and giving sectoral scientific and technical reports and the Support systems will be responsible for the internal management execution and reporting and analysis. Regions will become like mini GSIs and will be functionally semi-autonomously once their programme for the year is cleared (in CGPB) and funds provided. Thus more and more administrative and financial powers will be delegated to the Missions and Regions, and financial and administrative support at Regional level will be strengthened for the purpose. The implementation of these recommendations are underway.

8. As an adjunct to this entire process of empowering GSI, one of the major recommendations of the HPC pertains to the grant of Attached Office status to the GSI. There has been a long standing demand within GSI in this regard based both on the basis of the need for greater functional autonomy and because of aspirations created by the nature of GSI's work and its place in the national geoscientific firmament. After an analysis of the present structure of the GSI, the HPC held that there is a need to change the structure of GSI in keeping with goals and technologies and also in response to the limitations of the existing structure. The HPC further observed that despite the recommendations of the various Committees set up to improve the performance of GSI in the past, the expected improvements have not taken place due to the fact that some of the specific recommendations were not given effect. The HPC deliberated on the key issues that would determine the GSI's place in relation to the administrative Ministry and to ensure adequate long-term policy planning and functional autonomy.

9. The Committee after due consideration, was of the view that GSI had an established reputation and expertise as an impartial scientific institution. The Vision too reaffirmed this perception. The HPC accordingly recommended that GSI should immediately be made an 'Attached Office' rather than be classified as a Subordinate Office, since in official parlance, a Subordinate Office is responsible for detailed execution of the policies of the Government, and assists the Department in handling technical matters in its respective field of specialization. An 'Attached Office' by contrast is generally responsible for providing executive direction for implementation of the policies laid down by the department to which it is attached. It also serves as a repository of technical information and advises the Department on technical aspects of questions dealt by it. The HPC was of the view that with its long and distinguished history and its preeminence in the field of geoscience, GSI actually needed no classification as a subordinate or Attached Office and should actually be classified as an Institution of National Importance. In any case, it was certainly not appropriate to classify it as a subordinate office. The Committee accordingly recommended that GSI may be immediately classified in view of administrative requirements, as an 'Attached Office' if only to ensure it is not classified as a 'Subordinate Office'.

10. The recommendations of the HPC were considered by the Ministry and based on the proposal sent by the GSI seeking Attached Office status, the Government has approved the grant of Attached Office status to the GSI. Accordingly, with effect from the date of publication of this order, it is declared that the Geological Survey of India shall be an Attached Office in the Ministry of Mines, Government of India with its headquarters in Kolkata as heretofore. The list of policy executing and coordinating offices and Field Offices of GSI will be as per Annexure attached.

11. Consequent to the above, it is directed that:-

- (i) The DG Camp Office in Delhi (upgraded from the Liaison Office through suitable reorganization) will be the main point of interface between GSI and the Ministry.

A Senior Deputy Director General or Deputy Director General shall be designated as Head of Department for the office.

- (ii) In all technical and scientific matters, there will be no correspondence between GSI and the Ministry. Instead, the file will be sent by the GSI to the Ministry through the DG Camp Office in Delhi (DGCOD) marked to the Additional/Joint Secretary (Ministry of Mines), who will obtain and convey all approvals/directions on the same file.
- (iii) In respect of all financial and administrative matters, including Plan, Budget, Expenditure, CAT/Court Cases, Recruitment Rules, appointments, promotions etc., cases will be processed as heretofore, by correspondence. Personnel Division of GSI in Delhi is authorized to correspond directly with Union Public Service Commission, Staff Selection Commission, Department of Personnel and Training etc. on all matters excepting those relating to matters of policy etc. requiring administrative approval of the Ministry.

12. These arrangements come into force with immediate effect. The Ministry may modify the arrangements from time to time in consultation with DG, GSI.

**Sd/-**  
**(S. Vijay Kumar)**  
Additional Secretary to the Government of India  
Ministry of Mines

### **ORDER**

ORDERED that a copy of the resolution be communicated to all concerned.

ORDERED also that the resolution be published in the Gazette of India for general information.

**Sd/-**  
**(S. Vijay Kumar)**  
Additional Secretary to the Government of India

To

The Manager,  
Government of India Press,  
Mayapuri, New Delhi

**DETAILS OF GSI's UNITS UNDER THE ATTACHED OFFICE**

**A. Policy Executing and Coordinating Offices**

1. Office of the Director General, Geological Survey of India, Kolkata (including support systems).
2. Five Missions, namely:-
  - Baseline Geosciences Mission (located at Kolkata).
  - Natural Resource Assessment Mission (located at Nagpur).
  - Geoinformatics Mission (located at Kolkata).
  - Fundamental and Multi disciplinary geosciences Mission (located at Kolkata).
  - Training and capacity building Mission (at Hyderabad).
3. DG's Camp Office in Delhi. This Office shall include CGPB Sectt., International Cooperation, Science Policy & Coordination, Commercial Operation and Geoscience Partnerships.
4. Office of the Deputy Director General (P), Nodal Office of GSI, Ministry of Mines, located at New Delhi. This office shall have under it, the Personnel Division and Legal Cell.

**B. Field Offices**

1. Regional Operational Offices, namely:-
  - Eastern Region Office (located at Kolkata).
  - Western Region Office (located at Jaipur).
  - Northern Region Office (located at Lucknow).
  - Southern Region Office (located at Hyderabad).
  - Central Region Office (located at Nagpur).
  - North Eastern Region Office (located at Shillong).

2. State unit Offices located at various parts of the country.
3. Camp Offices on need basis, located at various parts of the country. (These shall be the temporary offices for the purposes of survey, exploration and project based).

***Explanation:-*** Field Training Centres and Drill Core Repositories will be part of the Regional Office having jurisdiction.