

# Tata Steel's Sukinda Chromite Mine to Roll-out Sustainable Development Framework



**S**ukinda Chromite Mine (SCM) of Tata Steel, situated in Jajpur district of Odisha, achieves the rare honour of becoming the first mine in India to roll out a pilot project on Sustainable Development Framework (SDF), a concept proposed and promoted by Ministry of Mines, Government of India for the development of culture of sustainable mining in the country.

Shri Balvinder Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Mines, Government of India formally launched SDF at Sukinda Chromite Mine of Tata Steel.

Sustainable Development Framework aims at integrating social, environmental and economic value in decisions and operations of mining companies, in a transparent and accountable manner, thereby acting responsibly and contributing to the well-being of the society with mineral conservation, environment and corporate social responsibility at its core.

Sukinda Chromite Mine of Tata Steel got this honour by fulfilling the intrinsic principles of sustainable mining by integrating Sustainable development aspects for corporate decision making process, conducting the business with ethical practices and sound systems of corporate governance, implementing risk management strategies based on valid data with scientific approach,

achieving continual improvement in health, safety and environmental performances based on proactive approach, upholding the fundamental human rights and respecting ethnicity, cultures, customs and values in dealing with employees and stakeholders. Integrated approaches for land use planning, responsible use, reuse, research and recovery of mined out materials including associated natural resources with an aim of zero waste mining is being done considering the social, economic and institutional development of the communities with an effective and transparent engagement, communication and reporting arrangements with stakeholders with due consideration to biodiversity management.

In order to develop a complete data base covering the basic principles of sustainable mining, Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), Bhubaneswar Region has selected the Sukinda Chromite Mine of Tata Steel to espouse the format developed for further deliberations and its customisation for all the mines in the state as well as in the country.

Congratulating Sukinda Chromite Mine of Tata Steel for becoming the first mine in the country to initiate the process of SDF Union Mine Secretary Shri Kumar said, this will set an example for other mines to follow for making Indian mining industry more

sustainable in days to come. Speaking on the occasion Shri Chaudhary said as a responsible corporate, Tata Steel has always been taking measures for sustainable mining with adequate focus on protection of environment, energy conservation, social inclusion and the present recognition is very humbling, puts more responsibility on us to remain ahead of the curve.

Sukinda Chromite Mine of Tata Steel has many “firsts” to its credit. As a pioneer in many aspects in the history of mining industry of the country it was first in the country to discover Chromite ore in the Sukinda valley in 1949, and the first mine to start Chrome Ore Beneficiation Plant (COBP) in the country in the year 1991. It became the first COBP in India to bag ISO 9001-Quality Management System in 1993.

Raising the bar a notch higher it became the first mine in Asia to bag ISO 9001-Quality Management System in 1994 and its COBP became the first plant in Asia to bag ISO 14001-Environment Management System in 1999. It is also the first mine in the world to bag SA-8000 Social Accountability System in 2004. Now it adds another feather to its cap by becoming the first mine in the country to roll out Sustainable Development Framework.