

No. M.I-40/4/2020-Mines I
Government of India
Ministry of Mines

Shastri Bhawan, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road
New Delhi-110 001

Dated: 15th December 2022

NOTICE FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Subject: Draft Geoheritage Sites and Geo-relics (Preservation and Maintenance) Bill, 2022 - reg.

Ministry of Mines has prepared a draft of the Geoheritage Sites and Geo-relics (Preservation and Maintenance) Bill, 2022 which seeks to provide for the declaration, preservation, protection and maintenance of geoheritage sites and geo-relics of national importance for geological studies, education, research and spreading awareness regarding them. Accordingly, a brief note on the draft bill and text of the draft bill is enclosed herewith as **Annexure-1** and **Annexure-2**, respectively for comments/ suggestions from the general public, Governments of States and Union Territories, stake-holders, industry associations, and other persons and entities concerned.

2. In view of the above, it is requested that comments/ suggestions on the draft bill may be sent on or before 14th January 2023.

3. The comments/suggestions may be sent by e-mail in MS-Office Word file to the following ID:

dirtech.mom@nic.in

The subject of the e-mail should be "Comments/ suggestions on the Draft Geoheritage Sites and Geo-relics (Preservation and Maintenance) Bill, 2022".

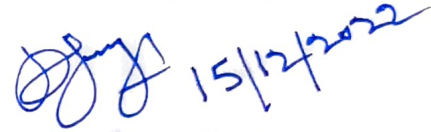
4. Alternatively, comments/suggestions may also be sent by post to the following address:

Shri Pradeep Singh,
Director (Technical)
Ministry of Mines
Room No. 306,
D-Wing Shastri Bhawan,
Dr Rajendra Prasad Road
New Delhi -110 001

The envelope may kindly be superscribed on the top with "Comments/suggestions on the Draft Geoheritage Sites and Geo-relics (Preservation and Maintenance) Bill, 2022".

Encl.: As above.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Pradeep Singh', followed by the date '15/12/2022' written in the same ink.

(Pradeep Singh)

Director(Technical)

Email: dirtech.mom@nic.in

Ph. No. 011-23385329

Annexure-1

Note on the Draft Geoheritage Sites and Geo-relics (Preservation and Maintenance) Bill, 2022

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 India is a party to the UNESCO Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, adopted on 16th November 1972 at Paris and which India ratified on 14th November in 1977, to ensure the effective and active measures for protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage situated within its territory.
- 1.2 Each State Party to this Convention recognizes that the duty of ensuring the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of the cultural and natural heritage situated in its territory, belongs primarily to that State. It is a common practice all over the world to protect Geo-heritage sites (GHS) through relevant legislation/ Act.
- 1.3 The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has adopted a Resolution [2015] that affirmed Geodiversity and Geoheritage as integral parts of Natural Diversity and Natural Heritage and therefore, geodiversity and geo-conservation has to be treated as inseparable from biodiversity and nature conservation.
- 1.4 In sharp contrast to the well laid out protection and conservation measures addressed with relevant legislation on archaeological and historical monuments and cultural heritage sites, India does not have any specific and specialized policy or law to conserve and preserve the geoheritage sites and geo-relics for future generations.
- 1.5 Geoheritage sites are sites of rare and unique geological and geomorphologic significance having the geomorphological, mineralogical, petrological, paleontological, and stratigraphic significance including caves, natural rock-sculptures of national and international interest. Geo-relics are any relic or material of geological significance or interest like sediments, rocks, minerals, meteorites or fossils.
- 1.6 Geological Survey of India (GSI), an attached office under the Ministry of Mines, is a geo-scientific organisation of international repute engaged in mineral resource assessment, exploration of mineral, energy and water resources for the country and updation of national geo-scientific information. GSI also recognizes, declares and

maintains the geoheritage sites in India. GSI has declared 32 geo-heritage sites/ national geological monuments for protection and maintenance. However, due to the absence of any legislation in the country for the protection, preservation and maintenance of the geoheritage sites, these are increasingly threatened with destruction not only by the natural causes of decay but also by population pressure and changing social and economic conditions which is aggravating the situation.

- 1.7 The deterioration or disappearance of any item of geoheritage and geo-relics value constitutes a harmful impoverishment of the natural heritage of this great Indian subcontinent that displays the unique geological characteristics of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science and conservation.
- 1.8 The geo-diversity of the Indian subcontinent ranges from 4.5 billion years and records some of the world's greatest geological events. It is one of the most dynamic landmasses which shifted its position in time and space from the southern hemisphere to the northern hemisphere and ultimately collided with the Asian plate resulting in the mighty Himalayas during various geological periods.
- 1.9 The lofty young mountain ranges of the Himalayas, dissected rugged continental layered volcanic eruptions of the Deccan Traps, the Precambrian Indian peninsula, the dryland environment of the Thar Desert and the rain-soaked North-Eastern India have universal appeal and hold an important position in Earth's geological history.
- 1.10 The fossil wealth of dinosaur remains of Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat, marine fossils of Kutch and Spiti, wood fossils of Gondwana, oldest life forms viz. stromatolites of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, vertebrate fossils of Siwaliks and so on, are of great geoheritage and geotourism value. The world's oldest metallurgical records of gold, lead and zinc in Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh are still preserved but are under great threat.
- 1.11 Many important geoheritage sites have been and are being damaged or destroyed through a lack of knowledge about geodiversity and geoheritage due to the high pressure on land resources. Many fossil sites are being vandalized and fossils are being sold.
- 1.12 Such great geodiversity of this nation needs to be preserved and protected for geological studies, education, research, and for future generations as it is a non-

renewable asset. While our rich cultural heritage has largely been taken care of, the country's geological heritage is still awaiting its turn.

1.13 In view of the magnitude and gravity of the dangers threatening the geologically significant sites and materials, the declaration, preservation and maintenance of the geoheritage sites and geo-relics of global significance, through legislation, is essential.

2. The salient features of the proposed Bill:

- (i) The Bill provides for the declaration, preservation, protection and maintenance of geoheritage sites and geo-relics of national importance for geological studies, education, research and spreading awareness.
- (ii) Authorising the Central Government to declare a geoheritage site to be of national importance. The Central Government shall give two months' notice and consider objections before the declaration.
- (iii) Geoheritage sites have been defined as sites containing geo-relics and phenomena, stratigraphic type sections, geological structures and geomorphic landforms including caves, natural rock-sculptures of national and international interest; and includes such portion of land adjoining the site that may be required for their conservation, protection and maintenance or for the means of access to such sites.
- (iv) Authorising the Central Government to acquire area under a geoheritage site under the provisions of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (RFCTLARR Act), the acquisition being for a public purpose within the meaning of that Act.
- (v) The Central Government and GSI are mandated to take steps to preserve and maintain every geoheritage site and for the same authorised to enter and inspect, survey, take measurements and samples, undertake exploration operations, examine documents, etc.
- (vi) The Bill imposes prohibition on construction, reconstruction, repair or renovation of any building within the geoheritage site area or utilisation of such area in any other manner, except for construction for preservation and maintenance of geoheritage site or any public work essential to the public.
- (vii) The Central Government is authorised to declare the area around each geoheritage site as prohibited area and regulated area and their extent may be different for each site. However, till such extent is declared for a specific site, the area of 100 m. around the

geoheritage site shall be prohibited area and the area of 200 m. around such prohibited area shall be regulated area.

- (viii) Only reconstruction or repair or renovation of pre-existing building or structure shall be allowed to the owner in a prohibited area. Whereas, in a regulated area, new construction or re-construction or repair or renovation shall be allowed to owner and occupier. In both the cases, permission of GSI shall be mandatory.
- (ix) GSI shall have the power to compulsorily acquire a geo-relic in case where it apprehends that it is in danger of being destroyed, removed, damaged, misused or is of opinion that, by reason of its geological or other importance, it is desirable to preserve such geo-relic in a public place. Geo-relic is defined as any relic or material of a geological significance or interest like sediments, rocks, minerals, meteorite or fossils, which is movable or is amenable to removal from any structure, surface, sub-soil or the like for its preservation and maintenance.
- (x) Provision is made for compensation to owner or occupier of land who has sustained any loss or damage or any diminution of profits from the land by reason of any entry on or excavations in land or due to exercise of any power under this Act. Market value of any property shall be ascertained in accordance with the principles set out in the RFCTLARR Act.
- (xi) The Bill provides penalties for destruction, removal, defacement, misuse of geoheritage sites and geo relics; contravention of any direction issued by the Director General, GSI or his authorised subordinate; construction, re-construction, etc. in geo-heritage site, prohibited area and regulated area in violation of the provisions of the Bill, etc. The Bill provides penalty of imprisonment which may extend to six months or fine which may extend to Rs.5 lakh, or both. In the case of a continuing contravention, additional fine of upto Rs.50,000 for every day of continuing contravention may be imposed.
- (xii) Director General, GSI shall be bound by the directions of the Central Government with regard to the powers or the discharge of its functions under the Act or Rules.

3. Justification

- 3.1 The cultural and natural heritage is amongst the most priceless and irreplaceable assets, not only of each nation, but of humanity as a whole. The loss, through deterioration, neglect or destruction, of any of these most prized assets constitutes an impoverishment of the

heritage of all the peoples of the world. Geodiversity and Geoheritage has to be considered as integral parts of Natural Diversity and Natural Heritage; therefore, geodiversity and geo-conservation have to be treated as inseparable from biodiversity and nature conservation. Many countries in the world have specific legislation for protection of natural and geological areas.

- 3.2 The country has well laid out legislations on protection and conservation of archaeological and historical monuments and cultural heritage sites. However, specific policy or law does not exist to conserve and preserve the geoheritage sites for future generations. Therefore, there is an urgent need to change this situation and formulate a legislation to identify, protect and better manage India's geoheritage sites and georelics.
- 3.3 These places have tourism potential which will generate local employment in remote places of the country. Security and maintenance of Geoheritage sites will also generate local employment. Further, Geoheritage sites are expected to increase education & research activities.

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**DRAFT OF THE GEOHERITAGE SITES AND GEO-RELICS
(PRESERVATION AND MAINTENANCE) BILL, 2022**

	THE GEOHERITAGE SITES AND GEO-RELICS (PRESERVATION AND MAINTENANCE) BILL, 2022	
	A	
	BILL	
	<i>to provide for the declaration, preservation, protection and maintenance of geoheritage sites and geo-relics of national importance for geological studies, education, research and spreading awareness regarding them.</i>	
	BE it enacted by Parliament in the Seventy-third Year of the Republic of India as follows: —	
	PRELIMINARY	
	<p>1. (1) This Act may be called as the Geoh heritage Sites and Geo-relics (Preservation and Maintenance) Act, 2022.</p> <p>(2) It extends to the whole of India.</p> <p>(3) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.</p>	Short title, extent and commencement
	<p>2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires, —</p> <p>(a) “Collector” means the Collector of a revenue district, and includes a Deputy Commissioner or a District Magistrate and any officer specially designated by the Government to perform the functions of a Collector under the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013;</p> <p>(b) “Director General” means the Director General of the Geological Survey of India, and includes any officer authorised by the Central Government to perform the duties of the</p>	Definitions

	<p>Director General;</p> <p>(c) “geoheritage sites” means such sites as declared under section 3 of this Act containing geo-relics and phenomena, stratigraphic type sections, geological structures and geomorphic landforms including caves, natural rock-sculptures of national and international interest; and includes such portion of land adjoining the site that may be required for their conservation, protection and maintenance or for the means of access to such sites;</p> <p>(d) “geo-relic” means any relic or material of a geological significance or interest like sediments, rocks, minerals, meteorite or fossils, which is movable or is amenable to removal from any structure, surface, sub-soil or the like for its preservation and maintenance;</p> <p>(e) “maintain”, with its grammatical variation and cognate expressions, includes the fencing, covering in, repairing and cleansing of a geoheritage site or geo-relic, and doing of any act which may be necessary for the purpose of preserving a geoheritage site or geo-relic or of securing convenient access thereto;</p> <p>(f) “notification” means a notification published in the Gazette of India and the expression “notify” shall be construed accordingly;</p> <p>(g) “Prescribed” means prescribed by the rules made under this Act;</p> <p>(h) “prohibited area” means any area specified or declared to be a prohibited area under section 8;</p> <p>(i) “regulated area” means any area specified or declared under section 9.</p>	
	<p>GEOHERITAGE SITES OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE</p>	
	<p>3. (1) Where the Central Government is of opinion that any geoheritage site is of national importance, it may, by notification in the Official Gazette, give two months’ notice of its intention to declare such geoheritage site to be of national importance; and a copy of every such notification shall be disseminated in the places near the site in the manner as prescribed in the rules.</p> <p>(2) Any person interested in any such geoheritage site may, within two months after the issue of the notification, object to the</p>	<p>Power of Central Government to declare geoheritage sites to be of national importance</p>

	<p>declaration of the site, to be of national importance.</p> <p>(3) On the expiry of the said period of two months, the Central Government may, after considering the objections, if any, received by it, declare by notification in the Official Gazette, the geoheritage site, as the case may be, to be of national importance.</p> <p>(4) A notification published under sub-section (3) shall, unless and until is withdrawn, be conclusive evidence of the fact that the geoheritage site to which it relates is of national importance for the purposes of this Act.</p>	
	<p>ACQUISITION, PRESERVATION AND MAINTENANCE</p>	
	<p>4. Once a site is declared as a geoheritage site of national importance under sections 3, the Central Government may acquire such area under the provisions of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, as if the acquisition were for a public purpose within the meaning of that Act.</p>	<p>Acquisition of geoheritage sites</p>
	<p>5. (1) The Central Government shall preserve and maintain every geoheritage site.</p> <p>(2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the forgoing power, the Director General or any officer authorised by him may, for the propose of preservation and maintaining the geoheritage site, may -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) enter and inspect at all reasonable time with his agents, subordinates, and workmen; (b) survey and take measurements of such site; (c) take samples from such site; (d) undertake exploration operations in such site including limited excavation, drilling, pitting, trenching or any operation of a like nature after giving notice to owner or occupier of land; (e) direct in writing any person in possession of any part of a geoheritage site to undertake such steps or omit such acts for the purpose of conservation and maintaining such site and facilitate tourism therein; (f) examine any document, book, register, or record in the possession or power of any person having the control of, or connected with, any such site and place marks of identification thereon, and take extracts from or make copies 	<p>Preservation and maintenance of geoheritage sites</p>

	<p>of such document, book, register or record;</p> <p>(g) order the production of any such document, book, register, record, as is referred to in clause (f);</p> <p>(i) examine any person having the control of, or connected with, any such site; and</p> <p>(h) take such steps as he may consider necessary or desirable for the conservation and maintenance of such site and facilitate tourism therein.</p> <p>(3) the Director General or his subordinate authorised by him under sub-section (2) shall be deemed to be a public servant within the meaning of section 21 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 and every person to whom an order or summons is issued by virtue of the powers conferred by clause (c), clause (f), clause (h) or clause (i) of that sub-section shall be legally bound to comply with such order or summons, as the case may be.</p>	
	<p>6. Subject to any rules made under this Act, the public shall have a right of access to any geoheritage site.</p>	<p>Right of access to geoheritage site</p>
	<p>7. (1) No person, including the owner or occupier of an area, shall construct, reconstruct, repair or renovate any building within the geoheritage site area or carry on any mining, quarrying, excavating, blasting, drilling or any operation of a like nature in such area:</p> <p>Provided that the Director General or any officer authorised by the Director General in this behalf, may carry out any work, construction or any operation of a like nature which are essential for preservation and maintenance of the geoheritage site or any public work or project essential to the public.</p> <p>(2) The Director General may, by order, direct that any building constructed by any person within the site area in contravention of the provisions of sub-section (1) shall be removed within a specified period and, if the person refuses or fails to comply with the order, the Collector may cause the building to be removed and the person shall be liable to pay the cost of such removal.</p>	<p>Restrictions on enjoyment of property rights</p>
	<p>PROHIBITED AND REGULATED AREAS</p>	
	<p>8. (1) An area, beginning at the limit of the geoheritage site and extending to a distance in all directions, as may be specified by the Central Government by notification, shall be the prohibited area in</p>	<p>Declaration of prohibited area and carrying</p>

	<p>respect of such geoheritage site:</p> <p>Provided that till such time a notification is published specifying the extent of prohibited area for a geoheritage site, the prohibited area for such geoheritage site shall be one hundred metres from the limit of the geoheritage site in all directions.</p> <p>(2) Save as otherwise provided in section 10 and 11, no person, other than Director General or an officer authorised by the Director General in this behalf, shall carry out any construction, quarrying, excavation, blasting or any operation of a like nature in any prohibited area.</p> <p>(3) In a case where the Central Government or the Director-General, as the case may be, is satisfied that it is necessary or expedient for carrying out such public work or any project essential to the public, it or he may, notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (2), in exceptional cases and having regard to the public interest, by order and for reasons to be recorded in writing, permit, such public work or project essential to the public, to be carried out in a prohibited area.</p>	<p>out public work or other works in prohibited area</p>
	<p>9. An area, beginning at the limit of prohibited area in respect of every geoheritage site and extending to a distance in all directions, as may be specified by the Central Government by notification, shall be the regulated area in respect of such geoheritage site:</p> <p>Provided that till such time a notification is published specifying the extent of regulated area for a geoheritage site, the regulated area for such geoheritage site shall be two hundred metres from the limit of the prohibited area of the geoheritage site in all directions.</p>	<p>Declaration of regulated area</p>
	<p>10. (1) Any person, who owns any building or structure, which existed in a prohibited area before the commencement of this Act and desires to carry out any reconstruction or repair or renovation of such building or structure, may make an application, to the Director General or the officer authorised by the Director General in this behalf, in such manner as may be prescribed for carrying out such reconstruction or repair or renovation, as the case may be.</p> <p>(2) Any person, who owns or possesses any building or structure or land in any regulated area, and desires to carry out any construction or re-construction or repair or renovation of such building or structure on such land, as the case may be, may make an application, to the Director General or the officer authorised by the Director General in this behalf, in such manner as may be</p>	<p>Application for reconstruction or repair or renovation in prohibited area, or construction or re-construction or repair or renovation in regulated area</p>

	prescribed for carrying out such activities.	
	<p>11. (1) The Director General or the officer authorised by the Director General in this behalf shall consider the application made under section 10 and the impact of such construction or reconstruction or repair or renovation (including the impact of large-scale development project, public project and project essential to the public) and shall, within two months of the receipt of application, either grant permission or refuse the same after giving an opportunity to the applicant of being heard.</p> <p>(2) If the said officer, after grant of the permission under sub-section (1) and during the carrying out of the construction or reconstruction or repair or renovation work, is of the opinion (on the basis of material in his possession or otherwise) that such activity is likely to have an adverse impact on the preservation, safety, security or access to the geoheritage site considerably, it may, withdraw the permission granted under sub-section (1), if so required.</p> <p>(3) The Director-General shall exhibit, on its website, all the permissions granted or refused under this Act.</p> <p>(4) Any person aggrieved by an order refusing permission or non-passing of any order may apply to the Central Government for revision of the order or passing such order as it may think fit and appropriate in the manner prescribed in the rules and the decision of the Central Government shall be final.</p>	Grant of permission by competent authority
	PROTECTION OF GEO-RELICS	
	<p>12. (1) If the Central Government considers that any geo-relic or a part thereof ought not to be moved from the place where they are (whether within a geoheritage site or at any other place) without the approval of the Director General, the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, direct that any such geo-relic or any class of such geo-relics shall not be moved except with the written permission of the Director General.</p> <p>(2) Every application for permission under sub-section (1) shall be in such form and contain such particulars as may be prescribed.</p> <p>(3) Any person aggrieved by an order refusing permission or non-passing of any order may apply to the Central Government for revision of the order or passing such order as it may think fit and appropriate in the manner prescribed in the rules and the decision of the Central Government shall be final.</p>	Power of Director General to control moving of geo-relic

	<p>13. (1) If the Director General apprehends that any geo-relic (whether within a geoheritage site or at any other place) is in danger of being destroyed, removed, damaged, misused or allowed to be damaged or is of opinion that, by reason of its geological or other importance, it is desirable to preserve such geo-relic in a public place, the Director General may make an order for the compulsory acquisition of such geo-relic through the Collector.</p> <p>(2) Where a notice of compulsory acquisition is issued under sub-section (1) in respect of any geo-relic, such geo-relic shall vest in the Central Government with effect from the date of the notice.</p> <p>(3) The power of acquisition under sub-section (1) shall not extend to any image or symbol used for religious practices.</p>	Acquisition of geo-relic from geoheritage site
	PRINCIPLES OF COMPENSATION	
	<p>14. Any owner or occupier of land who has sustained any loss or damage or any diminution of profits from the land by reason of any entry on, or excavations in, such land or the exercise of any other power under this Act shall be paid compensation by the Central Government for such loss, damage or diminution of profits as may be determined in such manner as may be prescribed.</p>	Compensation for loss or damage
	<p>15. The market value of any property which the Central Government is empowered to acquire under this Act or the compensation to be paid by the Central Government in respect of anything done under this Act shall be ascertained in accordance with the principles set out in the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and resettlement Act, 2013, so far as they can be made applicable:</p> <p>Provided that, when making an enquiry under the said Act, the Collector shall be assisted by two assessors, one of whom shall be a competent person nominated by the Central Government and one a person nominated by the owner, or, in case the owner fails to nominate an assessor within such reasonable time as may be fixed by the Collector in this behalf, by the Collector.</p>	Assessment of market value or compensation
	MISCELLANEOUS	
	<p>16. (1) Without prejudice to the provisions of this Act, the Director General shall, in the exercise of its powers or the discharge of its functions under the Act or rules made under this Act, be bound by such directions, as the Central Government may give in writing to it from time to time.</p>	Power of Central Government to issue directions to and call for

	<p>(2) Where the Central Government considers it expedient so to do, it may, by order in writing call upon the Director General or an officer authorised by the Director General for the purpose of any provision of this Act, as the case may be, to furnish in writing such information relating to its affairs as the Central Government may require.</p>	<p>information from Director General</p>
	<p>17. No civil court shall have jurisdiction in respect of any matter which the Director General or an officer authorised by Director General is empowered by or under this Act to determine and no injunction shall be granted by any court or other authority in respect of any action taken or to be taken in pursuance of any power conferred by or under this Act.</p>	<p>Bar of jurisdiction of civil court</p>
	<p>18. The Director General shall prepare once in every year, in such form and at such times as may be prescribed by the Central Government, an annual report giving full description of all the activities carried out by him for the previous year.</p>	<p>Annual report</p>
	<p>19. The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, direct that any powers conferred on it by or under this Act shall, subject to such conditions as may be specified in the direction, be exercisable also by—</p> <p>(a) such officer or authority subordinate to the Central Government, or</p> <p>(b) such State Government or such officer or authority subordinate to the State Government, as may be specified in the direction.</p>	<p>Delegation of powers</p>
	<p>20. (1) Whoever—</p> <p>(i) destroys, removes, alters, defaces, imperils, or misuses a geoheritage site;</p> <p>(ii) contravene any direction issued by the Director General or his subordinate authorised by him under section 5;</p> <p>(iii) does any act in contravention of sub-section (1) of section 7;</p> <p>(iv) raises any construction in a prohibited area in contravention of section 8 or 11;</p> <p>(v) raises any construction in a regulated area or re-constructs, repairs or renovates in a prohibited area or regulated area, as the case may be, without the previous permission of the competent authority or in contravention of the permission</p>	<p>Penalties</p>

	<p>granted by the competent authority; or</p> <p>(vi) moves any geo-relic or other like object in contravention of section 12 or destroys, removes, alters, defaces, imperils, or misuses any geo-relic after issue of notification under section 12;</p> <p>shall be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to five lakh rupees, or with both and in the case of a continuing contravention, with additional fine which may extend to fifty thousand rupees for every day during which such contravention continues after conviction for the first such contravention.</p> <p>(2) The court convicting a person under clause (iii) of sub-section (1) may by order direct such person to restore the geo-relic to the place from which it was moved or to a place as directed by the Director General for its preservation.</p> <p>(3) Any rule made under any provision of this Act may provide that any contravention thereof shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months or with fine which may extend to five lakh rupees, or with both, and in the case of a continuing contravention, with additional fine which may extend to fifty thousand rupees for every day during which such contravention continues after conviction for the first such contravention.</p> <p>(4) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, every offence under this Act shall be deemed to be a cognizable offence within the meaning of that Code.</p>	
	<p>21. If any officer of the Government enters into or acquiesces in any agreement to do, abstains from doing, permits, conceals or connives at any act or thing whereby any construction or re-construction takes place in a prohibited area or regulated area, he shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both.</p> <p>Provided that no previous sanction under any law shall be required to be taken prior to initiating the prosecution of such officer.</p>	<p>Offences by officers of Government</p>
	<p>22. If the Central Government is of opinion that any geoheritage site declared to be of national importance by or under this Act or a part of it has ceased to be of national importance, it may, by notification in the Official Gazette, declare that the geoheritage site or a part of it, as the case may be, has ceased to be of national</p>	<p>Geoheritage sites, which have ceased to be of national</p>

	importance for the purposes of this Act.	importance
	23. No suit for compensation and no criminal proceeding shall lie against any public servant in respect of any act done or intended to be done in good faith in the exercise of any power conferred by this Act.	Protection of action taken under the Act
	<p>24. (1) The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the provisions of this Act.</p> <p>(2) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) manner of dissemination of copy of every notification in the places near the site under sub-section (1) of section 3; (b) manner of making application under sub-section (1) section 10; (c) manner of making application under sub-section (2) section 10; (d) form and particulars of application for permission under sub-section (1) read with sub-section (2) of section 12; (e) manner of applying for revision under sub-section (3) of section 12; (f) manner of determination of compensation under section 14; and (g) form and time of preparation of annual report under section 18. <p>(3) Every rule and every notification made by the Central Government under this Act shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament while it is in session for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid, both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule or notification or both Houses agree that the rule or notification should not be made, the rule or notification shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be; so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule or notification.</p>	Power to make rules

<p>25. (1) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Central Government may, by order, make such provisions or give such directions not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act as may appear to it to be necessary or expedient for the removal of the difficulty:</p> <p> Provided that no such power shall be exercised after the expiry of a period of two years from the commencement of this Act.</p> <p>(2) Every order made under this section shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament.</p>	<p>Power to remove difficulties</p>
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