MINISTRY OF COAL

# QCI-NABET to accredit prospecting agencies; Schedule VI dropped

G.S.R. 999(E), November 17, 2026: prospecting agencies are accredited by QCI-NABET under a scheme the Ministry of Coal approves. In force on publication.

THE MINISTRY OF COAL HAS amended the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 so that QCI-NABET grants accreditation to a Prospecting Agency for prospecting operations and geological reports, under a scheme prepared by QCI-NABET and approved by the Ministry of Coal. The amendment is the Mineral Concession (Third Amendment) Rules, 2026, notification G.S.R. 999(E), dated November 17, 2026, made under section 13 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. The rules "shall come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette".

KEY FACTS

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Notification G.S.R. 999(E), Mineral Concession (Third Amendment) Rules, 2026



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Ministry of Coal · November 17, 2026

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The notification is published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (i), No. 892, dated November 17, 2026 (CG-DL-E-20112026-278087), and was put online on November 20, 2026. It is signed by Sanoj Kumar Jha, Additional Secretary, under F. No. CCT-12/1/2026-CCT.

It makes three changes. First, it substitutes rule 21C, "Accreditation system for prospecting operations and preparation of geological report", which now reads: "The QCI-NABET shall grant accreditation to Prospecting Agency for undertaking prospecting operations and preparation of geological report in accordance with the scheme prepared by QCI-NABET and approved by the Ministry of Coal in this regard." Second, in rule 22B(3), the words "standards and procedures prescribed in Schedule VI of these rules" are replaced by "the scheme prepared by QCI-NABET and approved by the Ministry of Coal in this regard". Third, Schedule VI is omitted.

The notification does not publish the scheme itself or say when QCI-NABET will issue it. It notes that the principal rules were published as G.S.R. 1398, dated November 26, 1960, and were last amended by G.S.R. 796(E), dated September 9, 2026.

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| Issued by | Ministry of Coal |
| Document | Notification G.S.R. 999(E), Mineral Concession (Third Amendment) Rules, 2026 |
| Dated | November 17, 2026 |
| Published | Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (i), No. 892, November 17, 2026 (CG-DL-E-20112026-278087); put online November 20, 2026 |
| Legal basis | Section 13, Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 |
| Amends | Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 (G.S.R. 1398, November 26, 1960), last amended by G.S.R. 796(E), September 9, 2026 |

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|---|---|
| Rule 21C | Substituted: QCI-NABET grants accreditation to Prospecting Agency under a scheme prepared by QCI-NABET and approved by the Ministry of Coal |
| Rule 22B(3) | Reference to Schedule VI standards and procedures replaced by the QCI-NABET scheme |
| Schedule VI | Omitted |
| In force | On the date of publication in the Official Gazette |
| Signed by | Sanoj Kumar Jha, Additional Secretary |

The notification (PDF, 649 KB)

Source: Gazette of India, CG-DL-E-20112026-278087.

Checked against the official copy on November 21, 2026.

**IndusDesk**

hello@indusdesk.com · +91 11 4141 3939

9th Floor, Hemkunt House, Rajendra Place, New Delhi, Delhi 110008, India

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