



Increase in Chhattisgarh Mineral Revenue

Why in News?

Chhattisgarh's efficient [mineral resource extraction](#) has propelled an unprecedented **30-fold increase** in the state's mineral revenue since its formation, reaching Rs 13,000 crore in 2023-24.

Key Points

- **Successful E-Auctions of Mineral Blocks:**
 - Chhattisgarh has conducted e-auctions for 44 mineral blocks, ensuring transparency and efficiency in resource allocation.
 - **India's first [lithium](#) block auction** was conducted in Chhattisgarh, with the **Katghora lithium block in Korba district** allocated to South Maiki Mining Company at a 76% premium.
 - Further **lithium exploration is underway in Sukma and Korba districts**, with officials reporting promising reserves.
- **National Critical Minerals Mission:**
 - Recognizing the importance of critical minerals, the Government of India launched [the National Critical Minerals Mission](#) in January 2025.
 - In alignment with this initiative, **Chhattisgarh has prioritized exploration, focusing on 31 out of 56 ongoing projects** on critical and deep-seated minerals.
- **Iron Ore Mining and E-Auction Expansion:**
 - **Bailadila region** remains a **major iron ore mining region**, housing one of **India's largest iron ore reserves**.
 - The state is conducting e-auctions for three new iron ore blocks, expected to conclude by March 2025.
 - **The Hahaladdi iron ore block in Kanker district** is in the final auction stage.
- **Chhattisgarh's Rich Natural Resource Base:**
 - The state is home to 28 types of minerals, including Coal, Iron ore, Limestone, Bauxite, Gold, Nickel, Chromium, Platinum group elements.

National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM)

- **Objective:** The NCMM aims to reduce India's dependence on imports of critical minerals and ensure **self-reliance for high-tech industries**, clean energy, and **national defense**.
 - The mission will cover **all stages**, including mineral exploration, mining, beneficiation, processing, and recovery from end-of-life products.
 - The mission will intensify the **exploration of critical minerals within the country and in its [offshore areas](#)**.
- **Approach:** The NCMM will adopt a **"whole-of-government" approach**, working closely with various ministries, [Public Sector Undertakings \(PSUs\)](#), private companies, and research institutions.
 - A fast-track approval process will be established to expedite mining projects for critical minerals.
- **Stockpiling Minerals:** NCMM provisions to **develop stockpiles of critical minerals** will ensure that India has sufficient reserves to meet future demands.

- **International Strategy:** Encourages Indian companies to acquire critical mineral **assets abroad** and build trade ties with resource-rich nations.
- **Infrastructure:** The mission will establish **mineral processing parks**, promote recycling of critical minerals, and support research in related technologies, including the creation of a **Centre of Excellence for Critical Minerals**.
 - Encourages industries to **establish processing units within India** through financial incentives.
 - Expands **Promoting Innovations in Individuals, Startups And MSMEs (PRISM) initiative** to fund startups and [Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises \(MSME\)](#) in the critical minerals sector.

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