



# India's Exploration of Critical Minerals

**Source: IE**

India is **expanding global partnerships** in **Africa, South America, and Australia** to secure **critical minerals**.

- The government has allocated **Rs 4,000 crore** for **domestic and international mineral exploration** under the **National Critical Minerals Mission**.

## Key Highlights:

- India secured **9,000 sq km in Zambia** for **copper-cobalt exploration**, led by **Geological Survey of India (GSI)**, with mining rights expected in **2-3 years**.
  - **Zambia** ranks **7<sup>th</sup> in copper** and **14<sup>th</sup> in cobalt production** (2023) with existing investments by Canada and China.
- India is engaging with **Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tanzania, Mozambique, and Rwanda** to acquire **critical mineral assets**.
- India is already active in **South America (Argentina, Chile)** and **Australia**, where **Khanij Bidesh India Ltd (KABIL)** is exploring **lithium and cobalt assets**.

**Critical minerals** are minerals that are vital to a country's economy and national interest.

- India has identified **30 key minerals**, including **lithium, cobalt, graphite, nickel**, and **rare earth elements (REEs)**.

**Read More: [National Critical Mineral Mission](#), [India's Critical Minerals Roadmap](#).**

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