INTRODUCTION

Minerals are the foundation of economic, technological and infrastructural growth of any human civilization. It provides essential raw materials for agriculture, manufacturing, transportation, defence and other various sectors. Minerals are finite in quantity and non-renewable in nature, their judicious use along with proper conservation is very much essential for development and maintaining standard of human civilization.

The recent National Mineral Policy was formulated in 2019. The major shift from First come, First serve (FCFS) to Auction mode came with the latest Mines & Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 2015. Government of India introduced an exclusive "Exploration Licence" mechanism specifically tailored to accelerate the discovery of deep-seated critical resources. Since then, there has been a significant boost in mineral exploration regime with setting up of National Mineral Exploration Trust (Now, National Mineral Exploration and Development Trust as per G.S.R. 780 (E) dated 23.10.2025).

In this competitive market scenario, value of commercial intelligence is of utmost importance where ‘Data is the foundation of modern decision making’. With this perspective and its Charter of Functions, Indian Bureau of Mines undertakes periodic updation of mineral inventory quinquennially.

The previous updation was completed as on 01.04.2020 for 46 important major minerals and same 46 major minerals are covered for updation of NMI as on 01.04.2025. During the exercise of preparation and updation of NMI, Leasehold data is taken from Mining Plan Approval System (MPAS module) for reserve/resource data and annual production from Annual/Monthly Returns of MTS portal. Data on Freehold areas/blocks, are sourced from GSI, MECL and other exploration agencies of the country. Data on auctioned blocks which are not executed is maintained under freehold category and will be shifted to the suitable category after its execution in the next updation.

In order to present mineral resources in our country at a global platform, the mineral inventory has absorbed ‘United Nations Framework Classification’ (UNFC) since year 2000. UNFC is a generic principle-based system in which quantities are classified on the basis of three fundamental criteria i.e. Economic viability, Feasibility study and Geological knowledge of the deposit, by using a numeric codification. A brief explanatory note on UNFC has been included in this publication for ready reference of the readers. The figures in tabular forms contain terminologies and requisite three digit codes applicable to UNFC. It provides a standardized approach to ensure consistency, transparency, and sustainability in resource management.

The main sections of the publication comprising reserves/ resources as on 01.04.2025 are:

I. India (Total): All major minerals,
II. State - All minerals occurring in a particular state,
III. Mineral (Total): All India, grade-wise with state-wise breakup
IV. Summary - All minerals without terminologies and codes.

This data is utilized specifically for policy planning by the Government and for the benefit of mining and mineral industries at large. This 'National Mineral Inventory - At a Glance' is the sixth edition aimed at providing a quick browser of the country's resources wealth.