

## Minerals and Energy Resources

### Minerals:

- South Bihar has a greater concentration of minerals than North Bihar
- Prior to the bifurcation, Bihar was one of the leading producers of minerals.
- **Manganese**
  - India is the 5<sup>th</sup> largest producer and has the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest reserves in the world.
  - It is used in the Iron and Steel industry for making alloy.
  - In Bihar, it is found in Patna, Munger, and Gaya.
- **Mica**
  - 3 varieties of mica are found in India - Muscovite, Phlogopite, and Biotite.
  - Mica that is found in Bihar and Jharkhand is Muscovite.
  - For its insulating property, it is used abundantly in the electronics industry.
  - Prior to the bifurcation, Bihar was a leader in mica production.
  - It is found in Southeast Bihar in the districts of Nawada, Jamui, Banka, Bhagalpur, and Munger.
  - In Jharkhand, it is found in Hazaribagh, Koderma, and Giridih.
- **Pyrite**
  - It is the sulfide of iron, chiefly used for making Sulphuric acid.
  - Industries like fertilizer, petroleum, steel, etc. use Sulphuric acid.
  - Mainly found in the Sone valley and Vidhyan belt in Rohtas district.
  - Author (Rohtas) has an iron pyrite industry.
- **Limestone**
  - It chiefly consists of Calcium Carbonate.
  - Limestone deposits are of sedimentary origin.
  - Good quality limestone is used in the cement industry while low quality is used in the iron and building construction industry.
  - In Rohtas and Kaimur, good quality limestones are found.
- **Asbestos**
  - It is fibrous in nature.
  - It can be used in fireproof safes, insulators, insulating mats etc.
  - Asbestos cement is used in making sheets, pipes, and tiles for building purposes.
  - In Bihar, it is mainly found in Munger.
- **Monazite** is found in Gaya and Munger.
- **Quartz**
  - It is found in Munger.

- It is used in the cement and power industries.
- **Uranium**
  - It is found in Gaya.
  - It is used in nuclear reactors.
- **Beryllium**
  - It is used as a moderator in the nuclear reactor.
  - It is found in the Gaya district.
- **Bauxite**
  - It is an important ore of aluminium.
  - It is not a specific mineral but a rock consisting mainly of hydrated aluminium oxides.
  - It is found in the Rohtas district.
- **Gold**
  - It is found in the Munger district.
  - It is auriferous lodes and some of it is found in the sands of rivers.
  - It is used for making ornaments and is also used as an international currency.
- **FELDSPAR**
  - It is found along with quartz in Pegmatite rocks.
  - It has applications in ceramic, glass and refractory industries.
  - Feldspar is found in Munger and Bhagalpur district.
- **LEAD**
  - This is obtained from a mineral named Galena.
  - Lead is used in many forms and is obtained from a few places in Bhagalpur

### Energy Resources:

- Availability of adequate, reliable, affordable and quality power is necessary for economic growth and to sustain that growth.
- It generates employment thus leading to the elimination of poverty and human development.
- The per capita power consumption of Bihar is 258 kWh much lower than India's 1122 kWh.
- But still, Bihar has faced the power deficit continuously.
- Bihar State Electricity Board was set up in April 1958 under the Electricity Supply Act.
  - It was mandated for the generation, transmission, and distribution in Bihar.
- Power generation in Bihar is primarily based on fossil fuels.
- But to promote renewable energy, Bihar Govt. has created an agency called Bihar Renewable Energy Development Agency (BREDA)

- **Barauni Thermal Power Plant**
  - The only power plant under the state sector.
  - It is based on the oil refinery at Barauni.
  - It was established in 1970 with Russian help.
- **Kanti Bijli Utpadan Nigam Limited**
  - It is a joint venture of NTPC and Bihar State Power Generation Company Limited.
- **Kosi Hydel Power Station**
  - Constructed on the river Kosi in Supaul
  - It was commissioned in 1970.
  - It was handed over to the Bihar govt. in 16<sup>th</sup> November 2003
- **New Projects - Thermal**
  - **Nabinagar Power Plant**
    - The project is located in Aurangabad.
    - It will be a coal-based plant.
  - **Pirpainti Power Plant**
    - The project will be constructed at Bhagalpur.
    - It will be constructed by NHPC.
  - **Kajara Power Plant**
    - The project will be constructed at Lakhisarai.
    - It will be constructed by NTPC.
  - **New Projects - Hydel**
    - Chausa Hydel Power Plant in Buxar
    - Mathai Hydel Power Project in West Champaran
  - Ultra-Mega Power Project will be constructed in Banka.