

■ Ministry of Mines Launches First-Ever Auction of Critical and Strategic Minerals

The Ministry of Mines initiated the first e-auction of Critical & Strategic Minerals on November 29, 2023. The auction covers minerals like Glauconite, Graphite, Lithium, REE, Manganese, Molybdenum, Nickel, Chromium, Copper, Phosphorite, and Potash. It includes bidding for two lithium blocks, considered a mineral of the future for applications like rechargeable batteries and electric vehicles. These auctions align with the goal of reducing imports and building an *Aatmanirbhar Bharat*. The government has expressed commitment to bring more blocks of critical mineral blocks to auction in a phased manner.