Chhattisgarh, located in the heart of India, is known to be rich in mineral wealth. The State is one of the richest in India, in terms of its mineral wealth. This unique feature has positioned the State as one of the most favorable destinations of investors in the mining & industry sector. The mineral resources, coupled with plentiful labour, power and water resources in the State, which is well connected to all major cities, has been attracting national and international attention as an investment hub.

Geological Environment:
Geologically, Chhattisgarh has a unique place in the world. Lithological sequence ranging from Archaean to Recent is found in the State. Combination of Cratons, Mobile belts and supra-crustal belts occupy a large part of the State, which provide conducive environment for hosting a variety of mineral deposits.

The Archaean and the Proterozoic rocks are the "Storehouse for minerals" experiencing almost all the metamorphic to geologic history. Archaeans mostly occupy south and south-eastern parts of the state covering ~ 60,000 Km2 area. These rocks host important mineral deposits like gold, cassiterite, micas, corundum, garnet etc. Proterozoic rocks occur central part of the state. Most of the bulk and trace minerals like Iron ore, Limestone, Dolomite, Diamond etc. are associated with these rocks.

North and north eastern part is occupied by Gondwana sediments with good deposits of power grade coal. Deccan trap belts occupy a large part of the state. These belts host important mineral deposits like gold, cassiterite, micas, corundum, garnet etc. Precious metal gold also occur in the State.

Mineral Resources:
Chhattisgarh has the perfect geological set up to host a number of economic mineral deposits and state is the richest in mineral wealth in country. Important minerals with which the name of the State is intimately associated are Diamond, Coal, Iron ore, Limestone, Dolomite, Bauxite and Tin ore. Tin ore is being produced only in Chhattisgarh amongst Indian states. Atomic minerals and precious metal gold also occur in the State. Other minerals include corundum, clay, quartzite, base metals, fluorite, beryl, andalusite, kyanite, sillimanite, talc, soapstone, and garnet. Vast reserves of granite of various attractive shades, which can be used as decorative stones, are also available in State.

**Iron Ore:**
- The state has world-class iron ore deposit (upto 68%Fe) in Dantewada, Narayanpur, Bastar, Kanker, Balod, Rajnandgaon & Kawardha districts.
- Over 4031 million tonnes of superior grade hematite iron ore is available in the state, which constitute one fifth and 19.59% of total Indian iron ore.
- The state produced 294.18 Lakh tonnes iron ore in 2014-15 and ranked 2nd in the country. NMDC & SAIL produce 98% total production of iron ore in state.
- Besides Jindal Steel Power Limited & Bihai Steel Plant and about 10 sponge iron unit are operational in the state.

**Coal:**
- 54912 million tonnes coal which is 17.91% of the total deposits of coal in India are in 13 coalfields of the state occurring in Raigarh, Bilaspur, Surajpur, Durg, Bemetara, Rajnandgaon, Kawardha, Jagdalpur, Raipur, Jagdalpur, Raigarh, Bilaspur and Janjgir-Champa districts.
- The state ranks 1st in dolomite production and producing 24.38 lakh tonnes in 2014-15. Dolomite available in the state is mostly of flux and refractory grade and being used in steel and iron industry.

**Limestone:**
- The state, ranks 5th in the country in extracting bauxite 15.66 Lakh tonnes in 2014-15.
- State reserves support Aluminium extraction units of BALCO Korba (C.G.) and Hindalco (U.P.).
- The State contributes 4.84% of the national resources with over 8959 million tonnes limestone of all grades.
- Good deposits of cement grade limestone are available in Raipur, Baloda-bazar, Durg, Bemetara, Rajnandgaon, Kawardha, Jagdalpur, Bilaspur, Mungeli, Raigarh, Bastar and Sukma districts.
- The State rank.7th in limestone produce 235.05 lakh tonnes in 2014-15.
- 10 major cement units are operational and 1 major cement units are also complete as earliest.

**Dolomite:**
- The State has 11.37% of the total Indian dolomite deposits with 919 million tonnes reserve.
- Dolomite is available in Baloda-bazar, Durg, Bemetara, Bastar, Jagdalpur, Raipur, Raigarh, Bilaspur and Janjig-Champa districts.
- The state ranks 1st in dolomite production and producing 24.38 lakh tonnes in 2014-15. Dolomite available in the state is mostly of flux and refractory grade and being used in steel and iron industry.

**Gold:**
- Potentially diamondiferous kimberlites have been identified in Behradhis-Payalkhand area of Gariaband district.
- 13 Lakh carat of Diamond established in State and State has 4.07% of total Indian deposit.
- Chhattisgarh is the sole producer of tin ore in India.
- 36% of the Indian tin ore occurs in the state which is 30.00 million tonnes with tin metal is 15487 tonnes.
- Tin ore occurs in southern part of the state.
- Precious & Semi precious corundum occur in Bhupalpattanam, Uloor of Bijapur district and Sonakeukanar areas of Dantewada district.
- 885 tonnes of corundum reserves have been estimated in the state.

**Tin Ore:**
- Tin ore is also available in Baloda-bazar, Bijapur, Sukma, Jashpur and Surguja District.
- 885 tonnes of corundum reserves have been estimated in the state.

**Base Metals:**
- Potential base metals like copper, lead & zinc indications are known from Rajnandgaon, Mahasamund, Kanker, Sukma, Narayanpur, Dantewada, Sukhna and Bastar district.
- These indicate that copper can be used in electric wires, batteries, manufacture of pigments, alloys etc.

**Cutting polishing industries of Corundum are operational in Bastar.**
The Chhattisgarh Mineral Policy aims to harness the State's mineral wealth potential and achieve the target of doubling the contribution of minerals to the State Domestic Product. The specific objectives of the Policy are to ensure:

- Sustainable development and use of the State’s mineral wealth
- Encouragement of value addition
- Creation of a conducive business environment to attract private investment (domestic and international) in the sector.
- Simplification of procedures and complete transparency in decision-making.

To meet these objectives, the State has identified specific initiatives, which have been classified as:

- Development of Infrastructure & Human Resources
- Encouragement of Value Addition and Mining Development
- Institutional Development and Regulatory Reforms

**COMPLIANCE OF MINES AND MINERAL (DEVELOPMENT & REGULATION) AMENDMENT ACT 2015**

The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act 2015 has been enforced since 27th March 2015. On the basis of global demand and uniformity of mineral concessions of major minerals will be granted only after assessing their economics, feasible parameters, women, children and disabled development etc.

**State Contribution in National Mineral Exploration Trust for unexplored areas** - In pursuance with Section 9(c) of Amended Mineral Act, National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) has been established for the exploration of minerals and to conduct prospecting in previously identified areas for preparing blocks for auction. In this trust, a contribution of 51 crore rupees has been received from the lease holders of the state till 31.5.2016.

**Account has be opened in all districts for DMF in which around 416 blocks for auction. In this trust a contribution of 51 crore rupees has been allotted for Mining Lease through auction. State will get an additional 4699 crore rupees approx. as auction money other than royalty and cess in the upcoming years from these blocks.**

**MINERAL RESOURCES OF CHHATTISGARH**

Chhattisgarh Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. (CMDC) is an undertaking of the Government of Chhattisgarh is engaged in the exploration, development, mining and trading of different major minerals either through its own or through joint Venture Company (JVC).

Presently CMDC is mining and marketing of bauxite ore from bauxite mine situated at village- Barima, Narmadapur, Kesara etc. in Tehsil Mainpait Dist-Surguja. CMDC is also collecting tin ores from the tribal development societies in the South Bastar of Chhattisgarh State. Apart from it CMDC is also doing mining of tin ore and engaged in Smelting of tin through Joint Venture Company i.e. M/s Precious Minerals & Smelting Ltd. Jagdalpur.

CMDC has formed Joint Venture Company i.e. NMDC-CMDC Ltd. (NCL) with NMDC Ltd. for the development of mines in Bailadila Iron Ore Deposit No.4 & 13. All the statutory clearances required for operating the mine has been obtained for Deposit No. 13 and production is expected in the next financial year 2017-18. Apart from it CMDC also having 02 iron ore deposit one at Village - Aridongri, Distt- Kanker and other at Village-Chelikama Ekla etc. Distt- Kanker.

In the coming years CMDC will be one of the major revenue generating corporation of Chhattisgarh State and will also be one of the major raw material provider for the iron and bauxite industries of the Chhattisgarh State.