



## Single Window Clearance for Coal

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### Why in News

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Recently, the Union government has announced a new **online single window clearance portal for the coal sector.**

- The coal sector can be the **biggest contributor** towards the target of **India becoming a USD 5 trillion economy by 2025.**
- Despite having the **world's fourth-largest coal reserves**, India is **importing coal.**
- The next tranche of commercial mining auction would be **launched in January 2021.**

### Key Points

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- **Aim :**

It is aimed at **allowing faster clearances**, including **environmental and forest clearances**, from a **single portal** with progress monitoring, instead of having to go to multiple authorities.

Presently, about **19 major approvals, or clearances are required before starting the coal mine** in the country.
- **Significance:**
  - The portal will allow successful bidders to **operationalise coal mines more quickly.**
  - It is in the spirit of **minimum government and maximum governance.**
  - It will further **ease of doing business** in the country's coal sector.
  - It will help in bringing **huge investment and creating employment.**

- **Future Plan:**

**PARIVESH Mechanism** for forest and environment related clearances would likely be **merged into this single window clearance mechanism** which is expected to **help with the operationalisation of the coals blocks** that are set to be auctioned in the upcoming auctions.

**PARIVESH** is a **web-based application** which has been developed for online submission and monitoring of the proposals submitted by the proponents for **seeking Environment, Forest, Wildlife and Coastal Regulation Zones (CRZ) Clearances from Central, State and district level authorities.**

- **Recent Initiatives in Coal Sector:**

- **As a part of Atmanirbhar Abhiyaan:**

- **Commercial mining** of coal allowed, with 50 blocks to be offered to the private sector.
- **Entry norms will be liberalised** as it has done away with the regulation requiring power plants to use “washed” coal.
- **Coal blocks to be offered to private companies on revenue sharing basis** in place of fixed cost.
- **Coal gasification/liquefaction** to be incentivised through rebate in revenue share.
- **Coal bed methane (CBM)** extraction rights to be auctioned from Coal India’s coal mines.

- **UTTAM (Unlocking Transparency by Third Party Assessment of Mined Coal):** In April 2018, the Ministry of Coal launched **UTTAM Application** for coal quality monitoring.

- **Scheme for Harnessing and Allocating Koyala (Coal) Transparently in India (SHAKTI):** Launched in May 2017, for allocation of future coal linkages in a transparent manner for the power sector.

**Source:IE**