



Auction of Mine Blocks in Rajasthan | Rajasthan | 22 May 2024

Why in News?

The **Rajasthan government** has decided to expedite delineation work for the **auction of minor and major blocks** in the state.

Key Points

- To combat [illicit mining activities](#), the government will focus on getting ready and selling off numerous mining sites.
- The drilling for mineral exploration and analysis of reports will help combat illegal mining of valuable minerals, leading to **increased revenue and job opportunities in the state**.
- The government has asked officials to develop a [water harvesting system](#) in the offices and areas of the mineral department.
 - Additionally, officials were directed to ensure efficient operation of the e-filing system in department offices and reduce processing times.
- **Rajasthan is one of the richest states in availability and variety of minerals** in the country, producing over **57 different minerals**. The mines department earned a **revenue** of over **Rs 7,490 crores during 2023-2024**.
- The mines department has drawn out a plan aimed at ensuring daily monitoring by preparing a road map for exploration, drilling, preparing blocks and plots for auction, making an auction calendar, and revenue collection.

Illegal Mining

- Illegal mining is the **extraction of minerals, ores, or other valuable resources from land or water bodies without** the necessary permits, licenses, or regulatory approvals from government authorities.
 - It can also involve the **violation of environmental, labor, and safety standards**.
- **Laws Related to Mining in India:**
 - The entry at serial No. 23 of **List II (State List)** to the Constitution of India mandates the state government to own the **minerals located within their boundaries**.
 - The entry at serial No. 54 of **List I (Central List)** mandates the central government to own the minerals within the [exclusive economic zone of India \(EEZ\)](#).
 - In pursuance to this [Mines & Minerals \(Development and Regulation\) \(MMDR\) Act of 1957](#) was framed.
 - The **power to frame policy and legislation relating to minor minerals is entirely delegated to the State Governments** while policy and legislation relating to the **major minerals are dealt by the Ministry of Mines under the Union Government**.