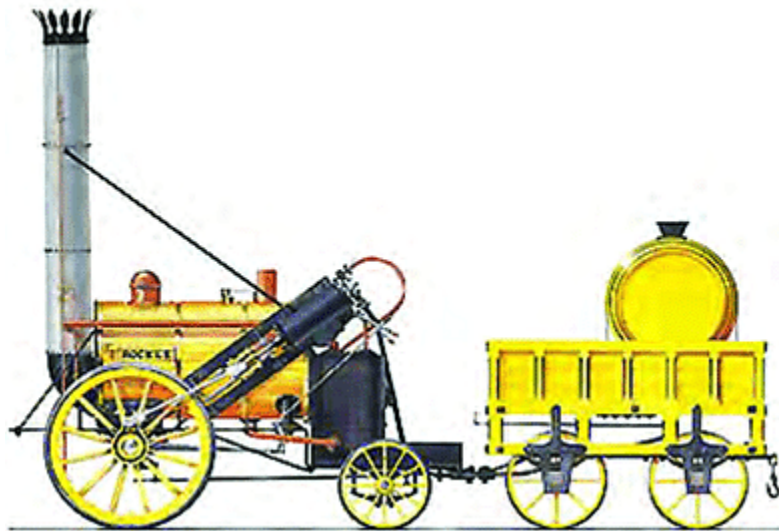


Mineral Resources

Nature has gifted us many things. Many of them lie over the Earth's surface. Many more lie buried deep under the ground. The underground wealth has to be brought up and refined. Deep holes have to be dug to bring the material from beneath the Earth. These holes are called mines. The materials that come up are called minerals. They are in the form of ores. The ores are refined to get pure metals.



The first coal driven railway engine. Most railway engines now run on diesel or electricity.

We get metals from mineral ores. Iron, copper, aluminium are some of the important metals that we use in everyday life.

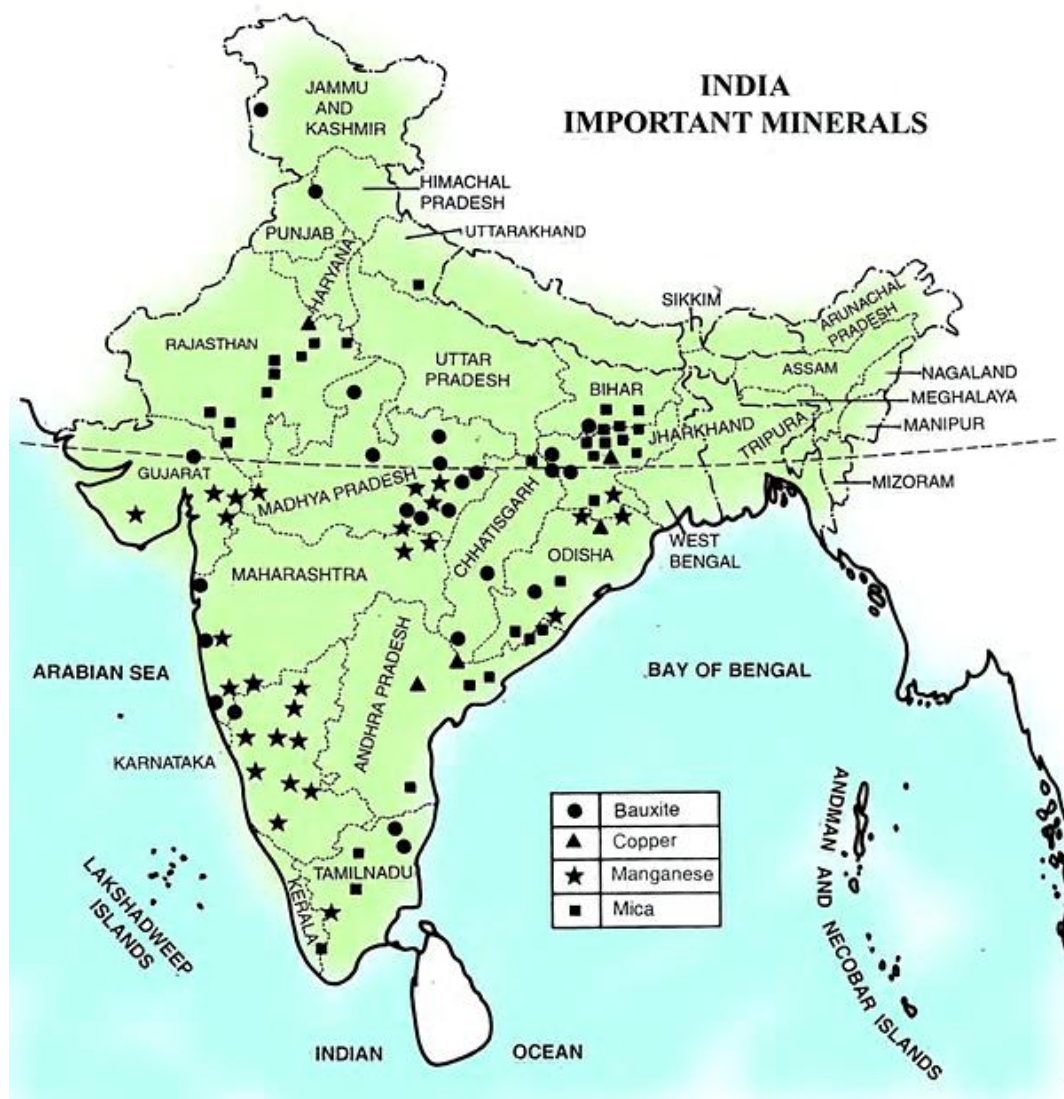
Coal and Petroleum are also obtained from under the Earth. These are important sources for generating power.

Large quantities of iron ore are found in the States of Odisha, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh. Steel plants have been set up at Jamshedpur (Tatanagar), Bhilai, Rourkela and Durgapur.

Iron ore is also found in Karnataka and Goa. We do not have enough steel plants to refine all the available ore. So some ore is exported. Besides iron, many more minerals are found in India. Copper was the first metal discovered by man. It is used in making electric wires. Manganese makes steel hard. Mica is used in electric

machines. Aluminium is used to make bodies for aircrafts. Limestone is also mined. Gold is mined only from Kolar in Karnataka.

Coal is used at steel plants and also at Thermal Plants. At Thermal Plants electricity is produced using coal.



India – Important Minerals

Mineral oil is refined to get kerosene oil, petrol, diesel oil, grease and paraffin wax. As it comes out from the wells, it is known as Petroleum. Oil fields exist in Assam and Gujarat. Petroleum is also being pumped out from under the sea bed at Bombay High.

Big refineries have been set up at Mumbai, Chennai, Vishakhapatnam, Cochin, Mathura, Barauni, Haldia and Guwahati. Liquid Petroleum gas is used as a domestic fuel.

Minerals will not last forever. So we have to use them carefully.

Minerals can be conserved by avoiding wastage. At the same time we must find alternative sources of energy.

Use of coal and petroleum is also causing problems of air pollution.

Wind power and solar energy offer very good substitutes. But today it is very expensive to convert solar energy into electricity. Scientists are working hard to make solar cells cheaper. Till then we have to use our minerals economically.



Solar water heater

Tips:

- Mineral resources lie buried under the ground. Ores are extracted from the mines and refined to get metals.
- Iron ore is mined in States of Bihar, Odisha and Madhya Pradesh. Steel plants at Tatanagar, Bhilai, Durgapur, Bokaro and Rourkela refine the ore and make steel out of iron ore.
- Coal and petroleum are sources of power. Coal is used at Steel Plants, Thermal power stations and as domestic fuel.
- Petroleum is obtained from oil wells. It is refined to get a number of petroleum products.
- The stock of minerals would exhaust one day. So there is need to use them carefully and also keep on looking for alternative sources.