

Battle for minerals

Chhattisgarh is fast turning into a police state where officialdom is trying to clear the path for corporate mining interests.
By **RAMESH CHAKRAPANI**

Number of operating mines in India		
	2013-14	2014-15
All Minerals	3,979	3,524
Public sector	741	731
Private sector	3,238	2,793
Coal (including lignite)	552	552
Metallic minerals	711	637
Non-metallic minerals	2,716	2,335

Once again Chhattisgarh has hit the national headlines for issues relating to police excesses and the free rein that anti-Maoist vigilante groups seem to enjoy in areas that have long been rocked by insurgent trouble. Anyone speaking against the police atrocities is branded a Maoist sympathiser and thrown into jail or driven out of the district. It must be noted that Chhattisgarh is one of the most mineral-rich States in the country.

The mining and quarrying sector has been contributing over

India's place in global mineral/metal output 2013

Coal & lignite	610	13.5%
Bauxite	21.67	7.3%
Chromite	2.85	9.9%
Iron ore	152	4.8%
Manganese ore	2.59	4.9%
Barytes	1.14	13.5%
Aluminium	1.67	3.5%

■ Production in million tonnes
■ Contribution to global production (%)

Mining at a glance 2013-14

Public sector continued dominant role, accounting for ₹ 1,67,985 crore, 59% of total value

Value distribution
Fuel 66%
Metallic minerals 15%
Non metallic minerals 2%
Minor minerals 15%

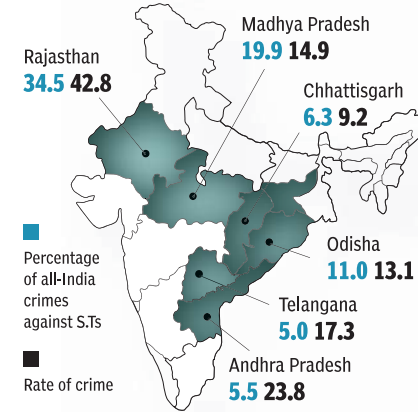
Average daily employment in mining was estimated at 5,12,270 persons

Public sector (persons) 4,02,047 78%
Private sector (persons) 1,10,223 22%

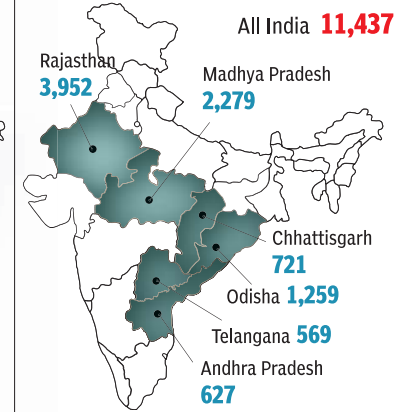
Among metallic ores, production rose in
BAUXITE 30%
COPPER CONCENTRATE 13%
IRON ORE 12%
LEAD CONCENTRATE 5.4%
MANGANESE ORE 11%

Total value of mineral production showed marginal increase 2013-14
₹ 2,82,726 cr
2012-13 ₹ 2,79,999 cr

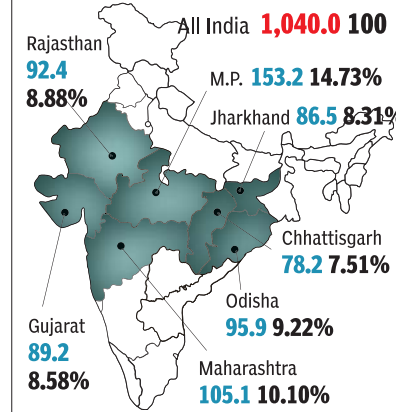
Top contributors to crimes against S.Ts 2014



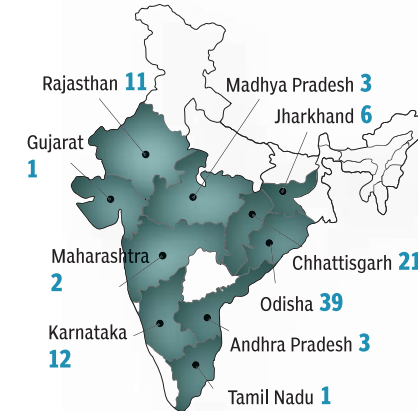
Number of crimes against S.Ts (worst offenders) 2014



States with high S.T. populations (in lakh) 2014



Accrual to GDP from mining of minerals 2013-14 (in %)



State mineral production value in Rs. cr

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Metallic minerals	47,032	43,167	42,654
Non metallic minerals	6,135	7,467	6,924
Minor minerals**	52,491	46,678	46,678

Excluding minerals declared as prescribed substances under Atomic Energy Act, 1962. ** Earlier year's figure taken as estimate for 2013-14 because of non-receipt of data

Rs.2 lakh crore to the country's gross domestic product (GDP) in recent years. In 2013-14, the accrual to GDP was Rs.2,22,652 crore, the Indian Bureau of Mines said in its Indian Minerals Yearbook 2014. The Bureau functions under the Union Ministry of Mines and Minerals. That year, the top contributors to the accrual to the GDP were Odisha (39 per cent) and Chhattisgarh (21 per cent). These two States are also home

to vast tracts of forest areas and high populations of members of the Scheduled Tribes (S.Ts) and, unsurprisingly, a strong Maoist presence.

The average daily employment in mining in 2013-14 was an estimated 5,12,270 persons, with public sector companies accounting for 78 per cent. The public sector also accounted for 59 per cent of the total value of production, or Rs.1,67,985 crore, despite operating only 741 mines compared with the private sector's 3,238. The total value of mineral production showed a marginal increase at Rs.2,82,726 crore from Rs.2,79,999 crore in 2012-13. Fuels accounted for about 66 per cent, with metallic, non-metallic and minor minerals accounting for the rest.

Chhattisgarh has a high S.T. population of 78.2 lakh, about 7.5 per cent of the country's total S.T. population of 10.4 crore. Data from the National Crime Records Bureau show that it stood fourth in the number of crimes against S.Ts in 2014, after Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha.

Bastar, the third largest district in the State, is one of the worst affected in terms of state terror. Nearly 66 per cent of the population is S.T. and its literacy rate at 54.4 per cent is much lower than 70.3 per cent for the State. Only 51.4 per cent of the households have electricity and 90.8 per cent of them use firewood for cooking.



Bastar at a glance

- District spread over 10,469.5 sq km, third largest in State
- Literacy rate 54.4% compared with 70.3% for Chhattisgarh
- 65.9% of Bastar's population belong to Scheduled Tribes
- Cultivators and agricultural labourers account for 78.8% of working population
- 90.8% of households use firewood for cooking
- Only 51.4% of households have electricity
- 69.2% of population relies on handpumps for water
- Bastar top in sex ratio in State, with 1,023 women for 1,000 men