



NEWSLETTER

CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 2026

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India's Critical Minerals Push Gains Pace As Centre Auctions 56 Blocks Across Seven Tranches

Swarajya,
June 24, 2026

India's critical minerals sector has received a major boost with the Ministry of Mines completing the auction of 56 critical and strategic mineral blocks across seven tranches conducted by the Central Government.

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The ministry auctioned ten critical and strategic mineral blocks under the seventh tranche, achieving a successful auction rate of over 63 per cent, with 56 blocks auctioned out of 88 unique mineral blocks taken up for auction.

The seventh tranche marked a significant expansion of India's critical mineral exploration landscape, with critical mineral blocks auctioned for the first time in Gujarat, Uttarakhand and Telangana by the Central Government.

The blocks include minerals such as graphite, rare earth elements, vanadium, titanium, glauconite and rock phosphate, expanding the reach of critical mineral exploration across the country.

Alongside critical mineral auctions, the Ministry successfully completed the second tranche of Exploration Licence auctions, further strengthening India's exploration ecosystem.

The second tranche marked the expansion of the Exploration Licence framework to Arunachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Odisha for the first time by the Central Government, with the cumulative number of Exploration Licence blocks successfully auctioned reaching 11 since the introduction of the EL auction regime.

The auctions were conducted under the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015, as amended from time to time.

The initiatives will accelerate the exploration and development of critical minerals essential for clean energy technologies, electric mobility, renewable energy systems, advanced manufacturing, electronics, defence applications and other strategic sectors of the economy.

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Uttar Pradesh Targets Rs 4.9 Trillion Data Centre Investments, Plans 2 GW Capacity Expansion To Emerge As India's AI Infra Hub: Report
Business Standard,
June 24, 2026

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath wants to position Uttar Pradesh as one of the most competitive destinations in India for digital infrastructure investments.

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Uttar Pradesh is preparing for a major expansion of its digital infrastructure ecosystem, with the state aiming to attract private investments worth nearly Rs 4.9 trillion for the development of large-scale data centre projects, as per a report by Business Standard.

The report stated that investor interest has been strong, with domestic and international firms expressing intent to establish data centres with a combined capacity of around 5,410 MW.

The proposed developments are expected to support rising demand for cloud services, artificial intelligence applications, digital commerce and advanced computing infrastructure.

The government has set a goal of adding more than 2 GW of new data centre capacity by 2030. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed officials to formulate a revised policy framework that better aligns with industry requirements and emerging technological trends.

The upcoming policy is expected to prioritise AI-enabled infrastructure, energy-efficient operations, sustainable green data centres, streamlined approvals and high-quality connectivity.

“Potential investors include Essar Group, Grew Energy, Golden State Capital, Mapletree, CtrlS Datacenters, and Nxtra by Airtel, AM Green, Trifecta Connex among others,” a senior state official was quoted as saying in the BS report.

The state has already made significant progress under its existing Data Centre Policy 2021, which targeted 900 MW of capacity and investments worth Rs 30,000 crore.

Officials said proposals valued at more than Rs 21,000 crore have already received approvals, reflecting growing confidence among investors in the state’s digital ambitions.

Several projects are being developed across Noida, the Yamuna Expressway region, Lucknow, Varanasi, Prayagraj, Meerut and Sitapur.

At present, six data centre parks and two independent data centre facilities are operational, while projects representing a committed capacity of 644 MW are under construction.

Leading companies, including Hiranandani Group, NTT Global Data Centers, Adani Group, ST Telemedia, Web Werks and Sify Technologies, are among those developing facilities in the state.

Additional interest has also emerged from firms exploring future investments in large-scale computing and digital infrastructure.

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The Chief Minister has further proposed specialised incentives for facilities establishing advanced AI computing capabilities and for projects securing recognised green data centre certifications.

He also emphasised the need to expand development beyond the National Capital Region, encouraging the creation of data centre clusters across multiple cities.

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