

Jharkhand's mineral wealth :A catalyst for vikshit Bharat

Archana Kumari Singh*

Research Scholar, Department of History, Binod Bihari Mahto Koylanchal University, Dhanbad, Jharkhand, India

Email: mitiarchana@gmail.com

Abstract- *Jharkhand, known as the "Land of Forests," is a state rich in mineral resources that have long served as a catalyst for the development of India. The abundance of minerals such as coal, iron ore, copper, mica, bauxite, limestone, and uranium has established Jharkhand as one of the leading mineral-rich states in the country. These natural resources play a crucial role in various industries, making Jharkhand a significant contributor to India's economic growth. The mining sector in Jharkhand has been a key driver of industrialization and infrastructure development in the region and beyond. The state's coal reserves, particularly in areas like Dhanbad and Jharia, have fueled the growth of the thermal power sector, providing energy to power industries and households across the country. Iron ore deposits in places like Singhbhum have been instrumental in supporting the steel industry, a backbone of India's manufacturing sector. The extraction and processing of these minerals have created employment opportunities for thousands of people in Jharkhand, contributing to the state's socio-economic development. However, it is essential to ensure that this wealth is managed sustainably and judiciously to avoid environmental degradation and protect the rights of local communities. Investments in infrastructure, technology, and skill development are crucial to harnessing Jharkhand's mineral wealth effectively. The government and industry stakeholders must work together to ensure that mining activities are conducted responsibly, taking into account environmental conservation and social welfare. Additionally, promoting downstream industries and value addition to raw minerals can further enhance the value derived from these resources.*

In conclusion, *Jharkhand's mineral wealth has the potential to drive the transformation of India into a more developed and prosperous nation. By leveraging these natural resources sustainably and innovatively, Jharkhand can continue to be a catalyst for 'Vikshit Bharat' - a developed India that prioritizes inclusive growth, environmental sustainability, and social progress.*

Keywords: *Vikshit, Bharat, Jharkhand, Development, minerals, resources, environment*

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INTRODUCTION

Jharkhand is a state located in eastern India, carved out of the southern part of Bihar on November 15, 2000. Its capital is Ranchi. The state is known for its rich cultural heritage, vast mineral resources, and diverse ethnic population. The region that now constitutes Jharkhand has been inhabited since prehistoric times. Archaeological evidence suggests the presence of early human settlements in the region, with numerous artefacts and cave paintings discovered. In Ancient Period Jharkhand was a part of the ancient Mahajanapadas (great kingdoms). It was ruled by various dynasties such as the Mauryas, the Guptas, and the rulers of the Magadha Empire. The region was known for its forested and rugged terrain, which made it a relatively isolated area. During medieval times, Jharkhand saw the rise of local tribal kingdoms. It was also influenced by larger empires

such as the Mughal Empire. The tribal communities, such as the Santhals, Mundas, and Oraons, played a significant role in the region's history, maintaining their distinct culture and resistance against external influences. In the Colonial Period The British East India Company annexed the region in the 18th century and exploited the mineral resources of Jharkhand, particularly coal, which led to significant economic and social changes. However, the region remained relatively underdeveloped compared to other parts of British India. The colonial period witnessed several tribal uprisings against British rule. The Santhal Rebellion (1855-56) and the Birsa Munda Rebellion (1899-1900) were notable insurrections that highlighted the tribal communities' resistance to British exploitation and encroachment on their lands. After India's independence in 1947, the region continued to be part of the state of Bihar. However, there was a growing demand for a

separate state to address the unique cultural and developmental needs of the tribal population. The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), led by leaders like Shibu Soren, played a pivotal role in advocating for a separate state. The movement gained momentum in the latter half of the 20th century, highlighting issues such as land rights, tribal autonomy, and economic development. On November 15, 2000, Jharkhand was officially created as the 28th state of India, fulfilling a long-standing demand of its people. Since its formation, Jharkhand has been focusing on economic development, particularly in the mining and industrial sectors. However, the state faces challenges such as poverty, political instability, and naxalite (Maoist insurgent) activities. Efforts are ongoing to improve infrastructure, education, and healthcare to uplift the socio-economic status of its population. Jharkhand, located in eastern India, is renowned for its rich natural resources and diverse ecosystems, which contribute significantly to its natural importance. Jharkhand, located in eastern India, is one of the country's most mineral-rich states, boasting vast reserves of critical minerals. It is renowned for its abundant deposits of coal, which fuel many of India's power plants, making it vital for energy security. The state is also a significant producer of iron ore, particularly from the Singhbhum region, which supplies essential raw materials for steel production, a cornerstone of industrial development. Additionally, Jharkhand has substantial reserves of copper, uranium, mica, bauxite, and limestone. These minerals are crucial for various industries, from electronics and energy to construction and manufacturing. The state's rich mineral wealth not only drives its local economy but also plays a crucial role in supporting India's broader industrial and economic growth, making it a key contributor to the vision of "Viksit Bharat" (Developed India).

The formal launch of the Viksit Bharat Mission was a major milestone in India's development. It is an opportunity for India to show its true potential and become a developed country by 2047, which will complete the 100 years of India's independence. With the rapid development in major sectors of the economy, experts have predicted that this mission will be accomplished within its time limit. In 2023, the Indian Prime Minister launched the Viksit Bharat @2047 scheme via a video conferencing platform. In this video conference, he declared the formal launch of this scheme along with its four pillars: Youth, Poor, Women and Farmers. Viksit Bharat represents a blueprint for India's development. It aims to achieve the 'India Great' target by the year 2047; which was termed as 'Amrit Kaal'. Viksit Bharat 2047 is a vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to make India a developed country by the year 2047, when India will celebrate its 100th year of independence. According to this vision, India will achieve a \$30-trillion economy, provide a pucca house and piped water to every citizen, empower women farmers with drones, increase the number of affordable medicines through Jan Aushadhi Kendras, and adopt green and sustainable growth policies. Viksit Bharat 2047 also aims to overcome the colonial legacy, strengthen

India's geopolitical position, and enhance its diplomatic relations with other countries. Viksit Bharat 2047 is not just a slogan, but a Sankalp, a resolve, that resonates with the people of India, especially the youth, who aspire for a better future for themselves and their country. This concept encompasses multiple facets of development, including robust economic growth through industrialization and technological innovation, high-quality education and healthcare for all citizens, and the alleviation of poverty. It aims to enhance infrastructure, promote environmental sustainability through renewable energy and climate action, and ensure good governance characterized by transparency and accountability. Additionally, "Viksit Bharat" envisions the preservation of cultural heritage and the strengthening of India's global standing through strategic international partnerships. Through various government initiatives like Digital India, Make in India, and Atmanirbhar Bharat, this vision strives to create a nation where every citizen has the opportunity to thrive and contribute to the country's overall progress and well-being. The aims of "Viksit Bharat" encompass transforming India into a prosperous, advanced, and inclusive nation through sustained economic growth, robust industrialization, and technological innovation. The vision includes providing high-quality education and comprehensive skill development to prepare a future-ready workforce while ensuring affordable and accessible healthcare for all. Infrastructure development, particularly in transportation and energy, along with the promotion of sustainable urbanization, is a key focus. Social welfare programs aim to reduce poverty, ensure gender equality, and empower marginalized communities. Environmental sustainability is prioritized through renewable energy initiatives and climate action. Good governance, characterized by transparency and accountability, is essential for simplifying regulations and promoting inclusive policymaking. The preservation of India's rich cultural heritage and the enhancement of its global standing through strategic international partnerships and trade are also integral to this vision. Through these comprehensive goals, "Viksit Bharat" aims to create a balanced and holistic development model that enables every citizen to thrive and contribute to the nation's progress and well-being.

Today the status of the Jharkhand is quite important due to its geographical features and can play vital role in achieving the aims of vikshit Bharat. The state has many significance in terms of opportunities like-

Mineral Wealth: Jharkhand is one of India's most mineral-rich states, with vast deposits of coal, iron ore, copper, uranium, mica, bauxite, granite, limestone, silver, graphite, magnetite, and dolomite. The state's mineral wealth plays a crucial role in India's industrial sector, particularly in steel production and energy generation. Key mining areas include Dhanbad, known as the "Coal Capital of India," and the Singhbhum region, rich in iron ore and copper.

Forests and Biodiversity: Jharkhand is covered with dense forests that account for about 29% of its geographical area. These forests are home to a rich variety of flora and fauna, including several endangered species. Prominent wildlife sanctuaries and national parks, such as Betla National Park and Hazaribagh Wildlife Sanctuary, are significant for biodiversity conservation. The state's forests are also vital for the local climate, water cycle, and soil conservation.

Water Resources: The state has numerous rivers, including the Damodar, Subarnarekha, Koel, and Barakar, which are essential for irrigation, drinking water, and hydroelectric power generation. These rivers also support diverse aquatic ecosystems and provide livelihood opportunities for local communities through fishing and agriculture.

Agricultural Land: Despite its mineral wealth, Jharkhand has substantial agricultural land that supports various crops like rice, wheat, maize, pulses, and oilseeds. The state's agriculture benefits from its fertile soil and favourable climatic conditions. Additionally, Jharkhand is known for its production of fruits such as mango, litchi, guava, and vegetables like tomato and cauliflower.

Climate and Topography: Jharkhand's topography, characterized by hills, plateaus, and forests, contributes to its unique climate. The Chota Nagpur Plateau is a significant geographical feature, influencing the state's weather patterns and supporting rich biodiversity. The plateau's elevation helps maintain a relatively cooler climate, which is conducive to certain types of agriculture and forestry.

Ecotourism Potential: Jharkhand's natural beauty, including its forests, waterfalls (such as Hundru, Jonha, and Dassam Falls), and wildlife, offers significant ecotourism potential. Ecotourism can promote sustainable development by generating income while conserving natural resources and fostering environmental awareness.

Renewable Energy: The state's natural resources, particularly its rivers and sunny climate, offer opportunities for renewable energy development, including hydroelectric power and solar energy. These resources can help reduce reliance on fossil fuels and contribute to sustainable energy solutions. It can be said that Jharkhand's natural importance lies in its abundant mineral resources, rich biodiversity, fertile agricultural land, significant water resources, unique climate and topography, ecotourism potential, and renewable energy opportunities. These natural assets are crucial for the state's economic development and environmental sustainability.

Jharkhand can play a significant role in contributing to the vision of "Viksit Bharat" (Developed India) through its rich natural resources, industrial potential, and strategic initiatives in various sectors. Jharkhand, with its vast mineral and natural resources, stands as a cornerstone for realizing the vision of "Viksit Bharat"

(Developed India). Its abundant reserves of coal, iron ore, copper, uranium, and other minerals position the state as a crucial player in India's industrial and economic advancement. The state's natural wealth not only fuels the country's manufacturing and energy sectors but also catalyzes broader socio-economic development. Here's a comprehensive look at how Jharkhand's minerals and natural resources contribute to this transformative vision:

Economic Growth and Industrialization

Economic Growth can be achieved by Leveraging its vast mineral wealth, Jharkhand can boost India's industrial output, particularly in steel, coal, and other essential minerals. This can lead to increased exports, job creation, and overall economic growth. Establishing processing industries for minerals can add value locally, creating more employment opportunities and enhancing the state's contribution to the national economy. Jharkhand's strategic location and mineral resources make it an ideal hub for manufacturing industries, particularly steel, automotive, and heavy machinery. Promoting industrial clusters can attract investments and spur economic activity.

Jharkhand's mineral wealth is integral to India's industrial sector. The state is one of the largest producers of coal and iron ore, essential inputs for the steel and energy industries. Dhanbad, known as the "Coal Capital of India," plays a pivotal role in powering India's thermal power plants, thus ensuring energy security. The Singhbhum region, rich in iron ore and copper, is critical for steel production, which is the backbone of infrastructure development and manufacturing. The presence of these minerals has led to the establishment of several large-scale industries and industrial hubs in Jharkhand. The Tata Steel plant in Jamshedpur, one of the oldest and largest steel plants in India, epitomizes the state's contribution to the national economy. By producing high-quality steel, Jharkhand supports the construction of infrastructure such as bridges, roads, and buildings, all vital for a developed nation. Moreover, the state's copper reserves are essential for electrical industries, which are crucial for the country's electrification and technological advancement.

Employment and Skill Development

The mining and industrial sectors in Jharkhand provide substantial employment opportunities, contributing to socio-economic upliftment. These industries require a diverse range of skills, from manual labor to high-tech engineering, thus driving skill development among the local population. By creating jobs, these sectors help reduce poverty and improve living standards, aligning with the goals of "Viksit Bharat." To enhance this impact, there is a focus on vocational training and education in mining and related technologies. Institutions like the Indian School of Mines (now IIT Dhanbad) play a significant role in producing skilled professionals who can drive

innovation and efficiency in the mining sector. By fostering a skilled workforce, Jharkhand ensures sustained industrial growth and economic resilience.

Infrastructure Development:

The revenue generated from Jharkhand's mineral resources can be reinvested into infrastructure development. Improved infrastructure, including roads, railways, and ports, is essential for the efficient transportation of minerals and industrial goods. This not only boosts local economies but also integrates Jharkhand more effectively with national and global markets. For instance, the development of the Ranchi-Dhanbad industrial corridor can enhance logistical efficiency, making it easier to transport coal and steel to other parts of India and for export. Such infrastructure projects facilitate economic growth by reducing costs and improving connectivity, thereby attracting further investments into the state.

Energy Security and Sustainability:

Jharkhand's coal reserves are pivotal for India's energy security, particularly in the context of thermal power generation. With the growing demand for electricity to power industries, homes, and infrastructure, Jharkhand's coal mines are indispensable. However, the state also has significant potential for renewable energy, particularly solar and hydroelectric power. By harnessing renewable energy resources, Jharkhand can contribute to India's sustainable development goals. The state's rivers, such as the Damodar and Subarnarekha, offer opportunities for hydroelectric projects, which can provide clean and sustainable energy. Additionally, the state's ample sunlight can be tapped for solar power generation, reducing reliance on fossil fuels and mitigating environmental impacts.

Environmental Conservation and Sustainable Practices:

While mining is essential for economic development, it is crucial to balance it with environmental conservation. Jharkhand can lead the way in implementing sustainable mining practices that minimize ecological damage. This includes adopting technologies for reducing emissions, managing waste, and rehabilitating mined areas. Sustainable mining ensures that the state's natural resources are used efficiently and responsibly, preserving them for future generations. Furthermore, Jharkhand's forests and biodiversity are invaluable assets. The state can promote ecotourism and conservation projects that protect its rich flora and fauna while generating revenue and employment. Ecotourism, centered around attractions like Betla National Park and the various waterfalls, can foster environmental awareness and sustainable livelihoods.

Agricultural Development and Water Resources:

Jharkhand's fertile land and water resources also play a significant role in its development. By promoting

modern agricultural practices and efficient water management, the state can boost agricultural productivity and ensure food security. The use of advanced irrigation techniques can optimize water usage, benefiting both agriculture and industries. Developing agro-based industries can add value to agricultural produce, creating additional income streams for farmers and rural communities. This diversification strengthens the rural economy, making it more resilient and less dependent on monolithic industries.

Policy and Governance:

Effective governance is key to harnessing Jharkhand's natural resources for national development. Transparent and accountable management of resources ensures that the benefits are equitably distributed and environmental regulations are enforced. Policies that promote sustainable mining, environmental protection, and community development can drive inclusive growth. The state government can collaborate with central agencies to implement policies that attract investments, enhance infrastructure, and ensure the welfare of the mining communities. Public-private partnerships can also play a crucial role in driving development projects, bringing in expertise and capital.

Social Equity and Community Development:

Jharkhand's development model must ensure that the benefits of natural resource exploitation reach local communities. This involves investing in healthcare, education, and infrastructure in mining areas, improving the quality of life for residents. Corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives by mining companies can contribute significantly to local development.

Engaging local communities in decision-making processes and ensuring fair compensation and rehabilitation for displaced populations are critical for social equity. Empowering tribal and rural populations through education and skill development ensures that they can actively participate in and benefit from the state's economic growth.

National and Global Integration:

Jharkhand's integration into national and global supply chains is essential for realizing "Viksit Bharat." By exporting minerals and industrial goods, the state can contribute to India's trade balance and economic stability. Strategic partnerships with global companies can bring in advanced technologies and best practices, enhancing productivity and sustainability.

The Union Government has implemented a series of strategic measures to support Jharkhand in achieving the vision of "Viksit Bharat" (Developed India). Central initiatives focus on enhancing infrastructure, boosting industrial growth, and promoting social welfare. Through schemes like

Bharatmala Pariyojana and Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, significant investments are made to improve road connectivity, facilitating better transportation of goods and services. The development of industrial corridors, aims to attract investments and create job opportunities, thereby spurring economic growth. Education and skill development programs like Skill India and Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana equip the local workforce with necessary skills, enhancing employability. Health initiatives under Ayushman Bharat provide financial protection and access to quality healthcare. Additionally, agricultural schemes like Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana improve irrigation infrastructure, boosting productivity and farmer incomes. The Union Government also emphasizes environmental sustainability through renewable energy projects and afforestation programs, ensuring balanced development. These comprehensive measures collectively contribute to Jharkhand's progress, driving it towards a prosperous and developed future.

CONCLUSION

Jharkhand's minerals and natural resources are foundational to India's vision of "Viksit Bharat." Through responsible and innovative exploitation of its resources, the state can drive industrial growth, create jobs, and contribute to national energy security. Sustainable practices, effective governance, and inclusive policies ensure that this growth benefits all sections of society while preserving the environment. As Jharkhand harnesses its natural wealth, it not only propels itself towards prosperity but also plays a pivotal role in transforming India into a developed nation. To achieve the governments vision there is requirement of structural and institutional reforms, excellence in specific areas, international assignments and global leadership. Also there is need to adopt green and sustainable policies.

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Corresponding Author

Archana Kumari Singh*

Research Scholar, Department of History, Binod Bihari Mahto Koylanchal University, Dhanbad, Jharkhand, India

Email: mitiarchana@gmail.com