



Place in News - Namchik Namphuk Coal Block

Context: Arunachal Pradesh has inaugurated its inaugural commercial coal mine at the Namchik-Namphuk coal block located in the Changlang district.



About Namchik-Namphuk Coal Block:

- The Namchik-Namphuk coal block represents Arunachal Pradesh's first venture into commercial coal mining and is a component of India's extensive initiative to enhance domestic energy resources under the Atmanirbhar Bharat program.
- **Location:** It is positioned in the Changlang district, in the southeastern part of Arunachal Pradesh, within the Upper Assam coal belt region.
- **Reserves:** The block is estimated to contain approximately 1.5 crore tonnes of coal reserves, which is adequate for sustained production over the long term.



Features:

- It is anticipated to generate an annual revenue of ₹100 crore for the state.
- The project will provide local employment opportunities and help mitigate illegal mining activities.
- It prioritizes eco-sensitive mining practices under the “Mission Green Coal Regions,” which includes land reclamation and afforestation efforts.
- The initiative aligns with the PM EAST vision — Empower, Act, Strengthen, Transform — aimed at fostering balanced development in the Northeast region.

About Commercial Coal Mining in India:

- Commercial coal mining permits private entities to extract coal for sale in the open market, thereby ending the monopoly previously held by Coal India Ltd. (CIL).

Origin:

- This concept was introduced through the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015, and was put into effect in 2020 as part of the AatmaNirbhar Bharat reforms.
- The initiative is designed to enhance competition, efficiency, and self-sufficiency within the coal sector.



Law Governing:

- The mining activities are regulated by the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015, along with relevant environmental and land legislation.
- The auction process is overseen by the Ministry of Coal, which ensures transparency and accountability in operations.

Objectives:

- The primary goals are to increase domestic coal production and decrease reliance on imports.
- The initiative aims to attract private investment, promote technology adoption, and encourage environmental stewardship.
- It also seeks to ensure sustainable mining practices that involve community participation and rehabilitation efforts.