Geography · GS - I

Despite India being one of the countries of the Gondwanaland, its mining industry contributes much less to its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in percentage. Discuss.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2021	GS - I	Geography

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Gondwanaland, geological history, mineral reserves, low mining contribution to GDP, regulatory delays, infrastructure gaps, outdated technology, environmental concerns, tribal displacement, mineral processing, sustainable mining.

Model Answer

Introduction

India's geological history as part of Gondwanaland has endowed it with coal, iron ore, bauxite, manganese and other mineral resources. Yet, mining contributes a relatively small share to national GDP.

Reasons for Low Contribution

- **Regulatory constraints:** Land acquisition, environmental clearances and mining approvals may delay projects.
- **Infrastructure gaps:** High transport costs and inadequate rail, road and processing facilities reduce competitiveness.
- **Technological limitations:** Insufficient exploration and outdated technology constrain productivity and extraction efficiency.
- **Environmental and social concerns:** Forest loss, displacement and conflicts over tribal land complicate mining expansion.

- **Limited value addition:** Dependence on raw mineral extraction rather than advanced processing reduces the sector's economic contribution.
- **Structural constraints:** Uneven mineral distribution and deposits in remote or ecologically sensitive regions increase development costs.

Way Forward

Scientific exploration, transparent auctions, modern technology, improved logistics, recycling and domestic mineral processing can improve productivity. Sustainable mining must protect workers, forests and local communities.

Conclusion

Geological wealth alone cannot ensure economic prosperity. Efficient governance, technological modernisation and environmentally responsible value addition are essential to realise India's mineral potential.

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