

GEOGRAPHY

CHAPTER – 26

MINERAL RESOURCES OF KARNATAKA



We learn about the following in this chapter,

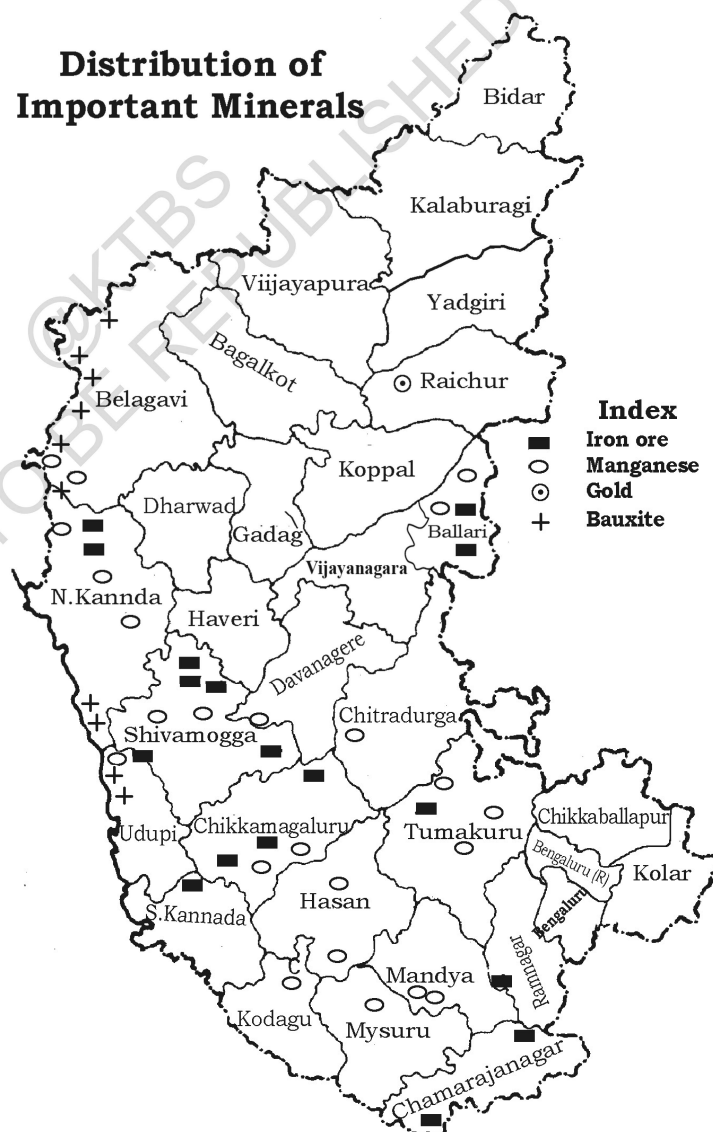
- The minerals available in Karnataka and their importance.
- Understand the distribution and production of important minerals in Karnataka.

The mineral resources play a significant role in the economic development of the state country. Karnataka has rich and varied mineral resources. Among them, iron ore, gold, manganese, lime stone, copper, bauxite, chromite, mica, asbestos and granite are the important minerals. Let us study about them.

Iron ore

Iron ore is the raw material for iron and steel industry. Karnataka has vast reserves of magnetite and haematite grade iron ore. Karnataka stands next to Odisha in the production of iron ore in India. There are 75 working iron ore mines in the state. High grade magnetite ore contributes 63% of the iron ore produced in our state. The rest is haematite ore.

Distribution of Important Minerals



Distribution : Iron ore is mainly distributed in the districts of Ballari, Chikkamagaluru, Bagalkot, Chitradurga, Tumakuru, Shivamogga, Dakshina Kannada, Uttara Kannada and Gadag. Ballari has rich deposits and they are mainly found in Hospet and Sandur areas. Iron ore is extracted at Donimalai, Vibhutigudda, Belagala, Kumaraswamy Hills, Timmappana Gudi, Devadri range and Ramadurga Hills.

Chikkamagaluru district occupies the second position. Iron ore is found in Bababudangiri hills (Inam Dattatreya Peeta), Kemmannugundi, Kudremukh, Gangamula, Kalhattagiri and Jenusuri hillocks. With a view to protecting biodiversity, the Supreme Court has ordered mining to be stopped at Kudremukh which has a National Park. There are iron ore deposits in Hosadurga and Sasalu of Chitradurga district, Ameengadh of Bagalkot district, Huliya and Chikkanayakanahalli of Tumakuru district, Kumsi, Shankaragudda and Siddarahalli of Shivamogga district etc.

Activity

List out the minerals available in your district.

The iron ore produced in the state is supplied to the iron and steel factory at Bhadravati and the Jindal Vijayanagar Iron and Steel factory near Ballari. The rest is exported.

Manganese

Manganese ore is mainly found in oxide form in sedimentary and metamorphic rocks. It is used as an alloy in the manufacture of steel to increase its hardness. It is also used in the manufacture of chemicals, electrical industry, chemical fertilizers, calico printing and paints. Hence it is known as 'the jack of all trades'.

Distribution : Deposits of manganese ore are plenty in Karnataka, and accounts for about 27% of the total deposits in the country. Karnataka ranks second after Odisha in the production of manganese.

The distribution of manganese is found in the areas where iron ore is found. Sandur in Bellary district is an important producer of manganese. It produces about 90% of the manganese ore of the state. The other main manganese ore mining centers are Kumsi, Shankaragudda and Hosahalli in Shivamogga district, Sadarahalli in Chitradurga district, Chikkanayakanahalli in Tumakuru district, Sirasi taluk, Supa, Londa, Uscanda in Uttara Kannada district, and

the districts of Dharwad, Vijayapura and Chikkamagaluru. A major portion of the state's manganese production is exported to Japan, China and other countries.

Bauxite

Bauxite ore is mostly used in the preparation of aluminium. It is also used in the manufacture of cement, steel and electric wires. Hence its demand is increasing.

Distribution : Deposits of bauxite ore in Karnataka are found in the districts of Belgavi, Chikkamagaluru, Chitradurga, Dakshina Kannada and Udupi. Belgavi district is the leading bauxite-producing district. There are bauxite mines in Belgavi and Khanapur taluks. This ore is used in the Indian Aluminium Company factory at Belgavi.

Gold

Gold is a very rare, glittering and durable yellow metal. It is used for making ornaments, and in the manufacture of valuable articles like watches etc. Recently the use and the demand for gold has increased, its price has also sky-rocketed.

Karnataka occupies the first position in the production of gold in India. It produces 80% of the total gold in India. Hence Karnataka is known as the 'Land of Gold'. Gold is mined in Karnataka from ancient times. However, gold mining was begun on a large scale in 1880 by John Taylor, and this is the reason for the establishment of K.G.F. in 1885. There are four important mines in the Kolar Gold Fields. They are Nandidurg, Urigaum, Champion Reef and Mysore Mines. Among these, Champion Reef is the deepest gold mine (3217 mtrs.). The gold deposits in these mines is almost exhausted due to continuous mining for many years. Now they are not working. But mining continues at Hutti mines.

At present, Hutti in Raichur district is the biggest gold mine in India. Lots of gold is produced here. Gold is also produced in Bellara in Tumakuru district and Ajjanahalli near Sira. Other places with gold deposits are Mulgund and Kappatagudda in Gadag district, Kempinakote in Hassan district etc.

EXERCISES

I. Fill in the blanks with suitable words.

1. Kudremukh in Karnataka is noted for _____ ore .
2. The best-quality iron ore is _____.
3. Sandur in Ballari district has _____ mines.
4. The metal that is produced from bauxite ore is _____.
5. The deepest gold mine is _____.

II. Discuss in groups and answer the following questions.

1. Why is Karnataka called the 'Land of Gold'?
2. Which are the important minerals available in Karnataka?
3. Which is the ore used as an alloy?
4. Name the places in Karnataka where iron ore is available.
5. Which district is an important producer of bauxite ?
6. Name the important gold mines of Karnataka.

III. Match the following.

A

1. Supa
2. Hatti
3. Kumsi
4. Khanapur

B

- a. Manganese
- b. Bauxite
- c. Limestone
- d. Iron ore
- e. Gold mine

IV. Activities.

1. Collect samples and write an account of the minerals available in Karnataka.
2. On a map of Karnataka mark and name the where minerals are found.

