

Home > News > Where are world's hidden JACKPOT? THESE countries are dominating list of biggest

Where are world's hidden JACKPOT? THESE countries are dominating list of biggest valuable reserves

The future will be controlled by those who possess these critical minerals, as they are essential for modern technology. China and the US are in a fierce race to secure them.

Published: February 28, 2025 5:19 PM IST

By [Analiza Pathak](#) | Edited by [Analiza Pathak](#)



Where are world's hidden JACKPOT? THESE countries are dominating list of biggest valuable reserves

Relying on US support for war is proving costly for Ukraine. Under the Biden administration, Ukraine fought against Russia with American weapons and financial aid. However, now that Donald Trump is back, his administration is reclaiming its dues—with interest. Since Ukraine doesn't have billions of dollars to pay back, the U.S. is reportedly forcing it to hand over its rare mineral reserves instead.

Trump recently announced that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy will soon visit the White House, where he is expected to sign an agreement granting the US access to Ukraine's rare minerals. This means the same Ukraine that stood up to Russia with US backing is now losing its valuable natural resources worth billions.

But why is the US so interested in Ukraine's rare minerals? The answer lies in global power struggles. The future will be controlled by those who possess these critical minerals, as they are essential for modern technology. China and the US are in a fierce race to secure them. These rare earth elements are the backbone of advanced technology, playing a crucial role in everything from smartphones and electric vehicles to high-tech military systems. Given this, understanding where these critical mineral reserves are located is key, as they have the potential to reshape global geopolitics.

Where are the world's hidden rare mineral treasures?

A new global map, based on data from the US Geological Survey (USGS), shows the richest deposits of rare minerals on Earth. These minerals are considered rare not because they are scarce, but because extracting them is extremely difficult and costly.

According to the USGS map, China holds the largest reserves, with 44 million metric tons, making it the global leader in production. Following China, Africa—especially Morocco and South Africa—has vast reserves of zinc, lithium, and cobalt, essential minerals for renewable energy and battery production.

South America, particularly Chile and Brazil, is home to massive lithium deposits crucial for electric vehicles. Meanwhile, Ukraine has emerged as a geopolitical hotspot due to its significant titanium and lithium resources, attracting US interest.

Greenland, with its abundant rare earth metals and natural gas reserves, has also caught the attention of global powers. In fact, former US President Donald Trump previously threatened to take control of Greenland due to its mineral wealth. However, despite the presence of large reserves in these regions, China dominates mining and refining, which often disrupts supply chains. Other global powers are now seeking alternative sources to reduce their dependence on China.

What about India?

India also has its share of rare minerals:

- Copper in Khetri
- Zinc and lead in Dariba-Rajpura
- Phosphorus and fluorite in Amba Dongar
- Gold, silver, and copper in Malanjkhand
- Chromium in Sukinda Valley
- Titanium and zirconium in Chhatarpur and Neendakara

These resources could play a crucial role in India's strategic and economic future as global demand for rare minerals continues to rise.

Why are rare earth minerals so important?

Rare earth materials are a group of 17 mineral elements with unique properties that make them essential for high-tech industries. Without these elements, many modern technologies simply wouldn't exist.

- **Electronics:** Smartphones, laptops, and electric vehicles require chips and batteries, which depend on rare earth materials.
- **Defense & Aerospace:** Advanced weapons, missiles, radars, and military technology require rare minerals.
- **Renewable Energy:** Wind turbines and solar panels rely heavily on these materials.

The global battle for rare minerals

As demand for rare minerals surges, global superpowers are in a race to control their supply chains. The key question is: Who will dominate the market?

- China currently holds the world's largest reserves and dominates the rare earth supply chain. Beijing has repeatedly disrupted global markets by restricting exports, pushing Western nations to seek alternatives.
- The US, Canada, and Australia are heavily investing in rare earth mining projects to reduce their dependence on China.
- The European Union is also prioritizing domestic mining to secure its own supply and lessen reliance on Beijing.