

# Mining expansion: Hindustan Zinc wins AP tungsten block; composite licence opens path to exploration

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Hindustan Zinc Ltd, a Vedanta Group firm, has secured a composite licence from Andhra Pradesh to explore and mine a tungsten block. This strategic move diversifies HZL's operations beyond its core zinc, lead, and silver businesses. The company aims to bolster India's self-reliance in critical minerals vital for defence and advanced manufacturing.

Hindustan Zinc Ltd (HZL) has secured a composite licence from the Andhra Pradesh government to explore and mine a tungsten and associated mineral block, marking a major step in the Vedanta Group company's strategy to diversify beyond zinc, lead and silver, PTI reported. In a statement on Saturday, HZL said it has been formally declared the successful bidder for the block, following the grant of the two-stage concession that allows both exploration and, upon establishing viability, mining operations. The licence follows a competitive auction conducted by the Centre earlier this year, in which HZL emerged as the preferred bidder. Calling the development a significant milestone, HZL CEO Arun Misra said, "This milestone marks another step forward in Hindustan Zinc's journey of expanding its mineral footprint and contributing to the nation's self-reliance in critical and strategic minerals." Tungsten is considered a critical mineral for defence, aerospace, electronics and advanced manufacturing, and India currently depends heavily on imports. HZL, the world's largest integrated zinc producer and one of the top five silver producers globally, supplies to more than 40 countries and commands roughly 77 per cent share of India's primary zinc market.

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