

## **Phosphatic Rocks**

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- Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers will explore indigenous deposits of phosphatic rock, a step towards becoming AatmaNirbhar in fertilizer production. Phosphate rocks are majorly produced only from two States in India, namely Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.
- Phosphorus or **phosphate rocks are unprocessed ores, these deposits can be sedimentary or igneous.** Large sedimentary deposits are located in China, Middle East, Northern Africa, and the United States. Meanwhile, the igneous deposits are mined in Brazil, Canada, Finland, Russia, South Africa, and Zimbabwe.
- Worldwide, more than 85% of the phosphate rock mined is used to manufacture phosphate fertilizers. All common fertilizers have an 'N-P-K' rating. Phosphorus is the 'P' in fertilizers, which is essential for plants.
- Rock Phosphate is the key raw material for Diammonium Phosphate (DAP) and Nitrogen,
  Phosphorus and Potassium (NPK) fertilizers. Currently India is 90% dependent on imports for
  this raw material. Volatility in international prices affects domestic prices of fertilizers. It hinders the
  progress and development of the agriculture sector in the country and puts extra pressure on
  farmers.
- Currently, there exists 30 lakh MT of phosphorite deposits in the country, for which important steps are being taken by the Government to ramp up its production. These deposits are available in Rajasthan, central part of peninsular India, Hirapur (Madhya Pradesh), Lalitpur (Uttar Pradesh), Mussoorie syncline, and Cuddapah basin (Andhra Pradesh).

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