PRESS RELEASE

ICEA Congratulates Government on Launch of National Critical Mineral Mission

New Delhi, July 3, 2025: India Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA) congratulates the Government of India and the Ministry of Mines on the formal launch of the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM). This landmark initiative marks a strategic turning point in India's journey toward secure, sustainable, and competitive access to critical minerals.

The NCMM stems from the announcement by the Hon'ble Union Finance Minister in the Union Budget 2024-25 to establish a mission focused on critical minerals. The formal notification signals the beginning of a structured, mission-mode approach to industrial policy centred on advanced and strategic technologies.

Critical minerals are essential to semiconductors, smartphones, servers, precision tools, telecom equipment, medical electronics, batteries, and clean energy, among others. These inputs underpin industrial strength and national resilience. Global supply chains remain vulnerable due to geopolitical concentration and strategic trade controls. A focused national mission was both timely and necessary.

"The National Critical Mineral Mission is a foundational step. It addresses a blind spot in India's industrial strategy. Electronics and semiconductors are mineral-intensive sectors. This mission brings foresight, purpose, and structure to how we prepare for the future," said Mr. Pankaj Mohindroo, Chairman, ICEA.

India is entering a new phase of technological growth. Electronics production reached USD 138 billion in 2024-25, with mobile phones contributing USD 64 billion. New frontier such as semiconductors, advanced packaging, EVs, digital infrastructure, and defence electronics are poised for scale. These sectors require reliable supplies of rare earths, lithium, cobalt, nickel, tungsten, tantalum, and gallium, among others. Any delay or disruption can derail national objectives.

This mission is crucial as India targets USD 500 billion in electronics production by FY31 and beyond. Building a secure and competitive critical minerals ecosystem is a long-term strategic necessity.

India holds significant geological potential including 6% of global rare earth reserves and emerging prospects in lithium, graphite, and other strategic minerals. Yet the domestic base in mineral extraction, processing, metallurgy, and downstream manufacturing remains underdeveloped.

"We must move with speed and clarity. India has no option but to build resilience. Global examples show the consequences of delayed response. This mission can unlock a new industrial chapter. ICEA is fully aligned with the government's vision," Mr. Mohindroo added.

ICEA believes this is the moment for decisive leadership, deep collaboration, and strategic clarity. The NCMM can serve as the backbone for building India's technological sovereignty, economic security, and global stature.

"We are entering a new era. Our mineral planning must be integrated, long-term, and globally competitive. ICEA stands committed to partnering with the government. We will engage deeply with the policy and help shape an ecosystem that is scalable, future-ready, and globally trusted," concluded Mr. Mohindroo.

ICEA will undertake a comprehensive review of the policy with a focus on enabling a secure, competitive, and future-ready critical minerals ecosystem to support India's electronics and semiconductor ambitions. The objective is to identify strategic interventions across the value chain spanning exploration, processing, technology development, and international cooperation that can strengthen India's position as a trusted and resilient partner in global supply chains**.**

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About ICEA

India Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA) is the apex industry body for electronics and semiconductor manufacturing. It works to advance India's leadership in electronics, semiconductor and component manufacturing ecosystems, design innovation, and global trade. Its vision is to position India as a trusted, competitive, and resilient global hub for electronics and semiconductor manufacturing and exports.