

Tungsten

November 16, 2025 • vajiramandravi.com



Tungsten Latest News

Recently, the Hindustan Zinc Ltd (HZL) has received the licence to explore and mine a tungsten block in Andhra Pradesh.

About Tungsten

- It is a chemical element with the symbol W, and **atomic number 74**.
- It is a naturally occurring element and classified as a **transition metal**.
- **Major producers: China** (major global producer), Vietnam, Russia, and North Korea.
- It has been classified as a **Critical Mineral** by the **Government of India**.

Occurrence of Tungsten

- It occurs in **rocks and minerals** combined with other chemicals, but never as a pure metal.
- It is found in **nature in mineral** forms like **wolframite and scheelite**.

Properties of Tungsten

- It has the highest **melting point** of all metals at 3410 °C.
- It has the lowest **vapor pressure** of all metals with 4.27 Pa at 3410 °C.
- It has the highest **tensile strength** of all metals over 1650 °C.
- Tungsten is a solid at room temperature.
- Tungsten alloys tend to be strong and flexible, **resist wear**, and conduct electricity well.

Uses of Tungsten

- Tungsten is used in products such as x-ray tubes, light bulbs, high-speed tools, and welding electrodes.
- It is also **used as a catalyst** to speed up chemical reactions.
- **Tungsten carbide** is **immensely hard** and is very important to the **metal-working, mining and petroleum industries**.
- Other tungsten compounds are **used in ceramic pigments**, as fire retardant coatings for fabrics, and as **color-resistant dyes for fabrics**.

Source: **TH**

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