



UPSC &amp; STATE PCS CURRENT AFFAIRS · UJIYARI.COM

MAGAZINE NOTES

# Rubaya Coltan Mine Collapse & Rat-Hole Mining

15 February 2026 ·

IR

ENVIRONMENT

GS2

GS3

CURATED &amp; WRITTEN BY

**Bharat Choudhary**

UPSC Educator &amp; Content Creator

[in linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)

ALSO FROM THE CREATOR

**BharatNotes**Free UPSC notes, MCQs, PYQ analysis. **100% Free.**[bharatnotes.com](https://bharatnotes.com) →

ADVERTISE

**Advertise with Ujiyari**

Reach thousands of UPSC aspirants daily.

[✉ epicbharat@gmail.com](mailto:epicbharat@gmail.com)

# Rubaya Coltan Mine Collapse & Rat-Hole Mining

 **Down to Earth** Chapter 18 · 1 min read ·

## Rubaya Coltan Mine (DRC)

- Located in **North Kivu province**, Democratic Republic of Congo
- Recently collapsed, killing **over 200 people**
- Accounts for **15% of global Coltan** (columbite-tantalite) supply
- Coltan refined into **tantalum** — heat-resistant rare metal critical for semiconductors, aerospace, EV batteries

## Rat-Hole Mining (Meghalaya)

- **East Jaintia Hills:** Site of recent disastrous coal mine collapse
- Rat-hole mining persists illegally despite **2014 NGT ban** and Supreme Court directives

## UPSC Angle

- **GS3:** Mineral resources, mining regulation
- **GS2:** International affairs (DRC conflict minerals)

### ★ FACTS CORNER — KNOWLEDGE PEDIA

#### RUBAYA MINE (DRC):

Location: North Kivu, DRC

Global coltan share: 15%

Product: tantalum (semiconductors, aerospace, EVs)

Deaths in collapse: 200+

#### RAT-HOLE MINING:

Location: East Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya

Ban: NGT, 2014; Supreme Court directives



CURATED &amp; WRITTEN BY

## Bharat Choudhary

UPSC Educator &amp; Content Creator

[in linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)[Read Full Article on Ujiyari →](#)<https://ujiyari.com/magazines/2026/down-to-earth-february-2026/rubaya-coltan-mine-rat-hole-mining/>

### ALSO FROM THE CREATOR

## BharatNotes

Free UPSC study platform — subject-wise notes across all 4 GS papers, Prelims MCQs, Mains answer frameworks, PYQ analysis & progress tracking. **100% Free • No Login Required.**

[Start Preparing → bharatnotes.com](#)

### 📌 OPPORTUNITY

## Advertise with Ujiyari

Reach **thousands of serious UPSC & State PCS aspirants** daily through our PDFs, website, and social channels.

**Ideal for:** Coaching institutes • EdTech platforms • Book publishers • Exam prep apps

[✉ epicbharat@gmail.com](mailto:epicbharat@gmail.com)

Write to us for rates & media kit

Free UPSC & State PCS Current Affairs · [ujiyari.com](https://ujiyari.com) · [bharatnotes.com](https://bharatnotes.com)