

# Geologists to look for platinum in Lalitpur

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**Lucknow:** Search for the platinum group of elements would be initiated in UP during the upcoming field survey programme. It is going to be the second attempt of the mining department to explore the earth surface in the hope of finding the rare mineral and a team of geologists and experts are going to visit Lalitpur district in the Bundelkhand region to discover platinum and palladium in the coming weeks.

Earlier, platinum was discovered in Pipariya village and the team is going to scout adjoining barren rocky terrain to discover the additional mineral reserve. The decision to depute the team again in the region has been taken following encou-

raging results from a survey conducted in 2019. Petrological and chemical examination was done of 39 bed rocks and 96 additional samples that were taken out after drilling eight vertical trenches.

A senior geologist from the mining directorate said that the first block of platinum and palladium has been put up for auction on November 30 and bidding procedure is underway. "The survey, study and results of the second potential block would take at least three years. Till then only research and study work would go on at the site and laboratories," the officer added.

Sharing details of further studies being conducted this season, the officer added a team is also going to be

deputed in Mauranipur area of Jhansi to detect iron ore. The survey exercise for iron ore in Jhansi has been revived after a gap of a decade and 2.20 sqkm (220 hectare) would be mapped in a detailed manner this time as the average iron oxide content in the collected samples was found to be 44%. "As per the recommendation of the Indian Bureau of Mines the value of iron oxide shall be 55% to get good value in the market. We would try to see if neighbouring rocks have better value of iron ore," said the geologist.

The UP government has asked the mining department to revive the old blocks and explore possibilities of detecting more reserves particularly that of major minerals.