

## Archived Material

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### Selected Indian Facilities

#### Jaduguda, Bhatin, Narwarpahar, Turamdih

The Uranium Corporation of India Ltd. (UCIL), which is headquartered in Jaduguda, owns and operates three uranium mines in the Singhbhum East district of Bihar state. India's first and largest mine, the [Jaduguda Uranium Mine and Mill](#) has been in operation since 1967 and can produce up to 200 MT of yellowcake per year, although actual production has averaged 115MT per year. The [second mine in Bhatin](#), which started operations in 1986, is located 4km northwest of Jaduguda. The third mine, the [Narwarpahar Uranium Mine and Mill](#), is located 10km from Jaduguda in Narwarpahar and began operating in 1995.

Jaduguda is also the site of the [Turamidih Uranium Mill](#) in the nearby town of Turamdih. That facility can process to 170MT of yellowcake per year, and is being expanded to 230MT per year in order to handle additional uranium from the Narwarpahar mine. The Jaduguda mill processes all of India's indigenously mined uranium, most of which is then shipped to the Nuclear Fuel Complex in Hyderabad. Despite efforts to expand New Delhi's uranium production capacity, the mines and mill have suffered financial difficulties and lower than scheduled output due to the low-grade of uranium located there.

#### Proliferation Implications

The uranium mines and mill located near Jaduguda are India's primary source of indigenously produced uranium. As such, at least some of this facility's output contributes to the country's nuclear weapons program; whether by fuelling New Delhi's plutonium production reactors at Trombay, or being enriched at the Rattehalli uranium enrichment plant in Mysore. The vast majority of uranium mined and milled at Jaduguda, however, is fabricated into fuel for the country's unsafeguarded commercial power reactors. Lower-than-scheduled output at the mines has caused a shortfall in uranium needed for commercial power plants. With the expected completion of at least two new indigenously built reactors, demands will increase and the challenge of meeting them will become more difficult. Sanctions were imposed on the Jaduguda, Narwarpahar, and Turamdih mines in November 1998 by the United States for being suspected of nuclear weapons related activities.

Originally compiled by Andrew Koch, December 1998  
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