



## Aromatic and Medicinal Plant Cultivation in Meghalaya Coal Belt

Meghalaya plans to promote the cultivation of **aromatic and medicinal plants** in its coal mining belt, particularly in the Jaintia Hills region, as part of efforts to create sustainable livelihood opportunities.

The initiative seeks to transform areas historically associated with coal mining and environmental degradation into centres of high-value agricultural production. The government will provide support to entrepreneurs and ensure quality standards for value-added products.

The move gains significance as coal mining has remained banned in Meghalaya since 2014, affecting the livelihoods of many people dependent on the sector. Cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants is expected to generate alternative income sources while promoting ecological restoration.

**APSC Relevance:** Sustainable development, livelihood diversification, medicinal plants, environmental restoration, and rural economy.