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New legal powers strengthen CISF's fight against coal mafia

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NEW DELHI: The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has emerged as a more powerful force in safeguarding India's coal resources following recent amendments to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, which grant the force enhanced enforcement powers against illegal mining and coal theft.

Enforcement capacity grows, shaped by legislative updates targeting unauthorised extraction. With revised powers, responses to coal theft take on stronger legal backing. Protection of mineral assets shifts toward active intervention. Authority previously restrained now operates with broader reach.

Legal adjustments enable stricter oversight in mining zones. Powers realigned through amendment strengthen field operations. Safeguarding natural resources becomes more enforceable across regions.

Now shaping new duties, the CISF moves beyond guarding sites into enforcing laws where violations occur. Where once cooperation slowed outcomes, authority now allows



filing cases straight to court without waiting for others.

With revised rules active, designated personnel may inspect transport or buildings believed to hold banned-mined coal. No longer needing outside help at first steps, these units act faster when evidence points to illegal stockpiling.

Legal updates grant standing that shifts timing, control, and initiation away from regional forces toward centralised response. Court access given directly enables swifter follow-up once suspicion meets threshold under regulation.

Enforcement capacity grows not by size but through procedural autonomy written into updated statutes.

Expected to disrupt entrenched operations, stronger authority arrives amid persistent raids on India's coal reserves. With faster responses now possible, conviction rates may rise under revised legal terms.