



Most Trusted Learning Platform



IUCN- International Union for Conservation of Nature

- Its members include States, non-governmental organizations, indigenous peoples' organisations, experts, government agencies, etc.
- IUCN works to tackle three of the most important challenges facing the world's ocean and polar regions: climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution
- Its experts are organised into six Commissions dedicated to species survival, environmental law, protected areas, social and economic policy, ecosystem management, and education and communication.
- It has tools such as the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ provide technical expertise and guide conservation action worldwide.
- Members meet every four years at the IUCN World Conservation Congress to set priorities and agree on the Union's work programme.

IUCN- International Union for Conservation of Nature

- IUCN congresses have produced several key international environmental agreements including the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the World Heritage Convention, and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.
- IUCN is the official advisory body on nature under the World Heritage Convention.
- IUCN evaluates sites nominated for the World Heritage List and monitors the state of conservation of listed sites, aiming to improve the management of World Heritage sites and enhance the role of the Convention in nature conservation and sustainable development.

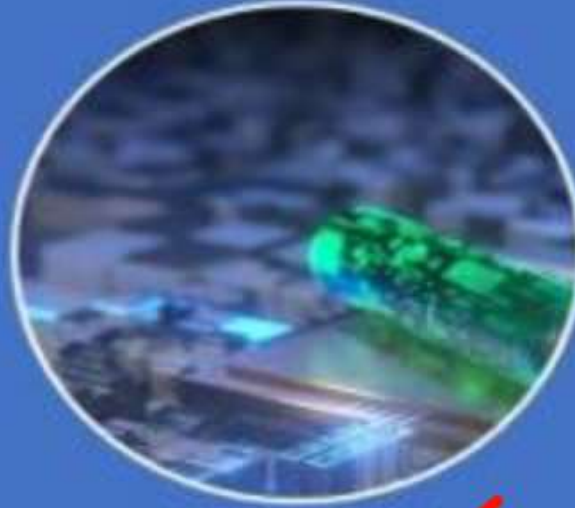
Critical Minerals

- A mineral is labelled as critical when the risk of supply shortage and associated impact on the economy is (relatively) higher than the other raw materials.
- Minerals that are essential for economic development and national security
- Essential for the advancement of many sectors, including high tech electronics, telecommunications, transport, and defence
- Vital to power the global transition to a low carbon emissions economy,

Critical Minerals



Clean technologies initiatives such as zero-emission vehicles, wind turbines, solar panels;



Information and communication technologies, including semiconductors; and



Advanced manufacturing inputs and materials such as defence applications, permanent magnets, ceramics



Critical Minerals

HEAVY METAL



Critical minerals for which India is 100% import-dependent

Mineral	Major application
✓ Lithium	Rechargeable batteries, ceramics
Cobalt	Rechargeable batteries and superalloy
Nickel	Stainless steel, superalloys, rechargeable batteries
Vanadium	Alloying agent for iron and steel, batteries
Niobium	Steel and superalloys, construction, transportation
Germanium	Fiber optics and night vision applications
Rhenium	Superalloys, aerospace and machinery use
Beryllium	Alloying agent in aerospace and defense industries
Tantalum	Electronic components, mostly capacitors and in superalloys
Strontium	Aluminium pigments and fillers, glass, magnets

Source: A report on *Unlocking Australia-India Critical Minerals Partnership Potential* by Australian Trade and Investment Commission, July 2021/ Critical Minerals of India report

→ Infor
→ Steel
→ battery
→ Electronics
→ fiber optics

Magellanic Cloud

- These are irregular galaxies that share a gaseous envelope and lie about 22° apart in the sky near the south celestial pole.
- The Large Magellanic Cloud (LMC) and the Small Magellanic Cloud (SMC), two irregular galaxies that orbit the Milky Way once every 1,500 million years and each other once every 900 million years, make up this group.
- About 1billion years ago, the Milky Way Galaxy and the Magellanic Clouds formed simultaneously.
- They contain many young stars and star clusters, as well as some much older stars.
- The Magellanic Clouds are visible to the unaided eye in the Southern Hemisphere.
- They are currently captured in orbits around the Milky Way Galaxy and have experienced several tidal encounters with each other and with the Galaxy.

Euclid Space Telescope

- It is named after the Greek mathematician, Euclid of Alexandria.
- This mission is part of ESA's Cosmic Vision Programme which plans to explore the origin and components of the Universe and the fundamental laws that govern it.
- The spacecraft will have a 1.2-metre-wide telescope and two instruments:
- A visible-wavelength camera (the Visible instrument)
- A near-infrared camera/spectrometer (the Near-Infrared Spectrometer and Photometer)
- The detectors of the near-infrared instruments have been supplied by NASA.
- It will be floating 1.5 million kilometres above the Earth, and the telescope hopes to deliver images that are at least four times sharper than ground-based ones.
- It was launched on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket and will remain operational for a minimum of six year

Suspension of MPs

- Rules in Lok Sabha dealing with suspension of Members
- Rule 373 ✓ → 1 day suspension
- The Speaker in exercise of his/her disciplinary powers may direct any member guilty of disorderly conduct to withdraw from the House. The member so ordered to withdraw is required to do so forthwith and remain absent for the remainder of that day's sitting.
- Rule 374 ✓
- The Speaker, may, if deems it necessary, name a member who disregards the authority of the Chair or abuses the rules of the House by persistently and wilfully obstructing the business thereof.
- If a member is so named by the Speaker, the Speaker shall, on a motion being made forthwith put the question that the member (naming such member) be suspended from the service of the House for a period not exceeding the remainder of the session

Suspension of MPs

- The rule relating to 'Automatic Suspension' of a Member
- In 2001, during the 13th Lok Sabha, a new rule 374A was recommended by the Rules Committee and agreed to by the House.
- Rule 374A of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha provides that in the event of grave disorder occasioned by a Member coming into the well of the House or abusing the rules of the House persistently and wilfully obstructing its business by shouting slogans or otherwise, such Member shall, on being named by the Speaker, stand automatically suspended from the service of the House for five consecutive sittings or the remainder of the Session, whichever is less.



374A

Suspension of MPs

- Rajya Sabha rules dealing with suspension of Members
- Rule 255 ✓ → one day
- The Chairman may direct any member whose conduct is in his opinion grossly disorderly to withdraw immediately from the Council and any member so ordered to withdraw shall do so forthwith and shall absent himself during the remainder of the day's meeting.
- Rule 256 ✓ → 2
- The Chairman may, if he deems it necessary, name a member who disregards the authority of the Chair or abuses the rules of the Council by persistently and willfully obstructing the business thereof.
- If a member is so named by the Chairman he shall forthwith put the question on a motion being made, no amendment, adjournment or debate being allowed, that the member (naming him) be suspended from the service of the Council for a period not exceeding the remainder of the Session

TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT 2023

- The Telecommunications Act, 2023 is an act of the Parliament of India to replace the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and the Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933.
- It was implemented in December 2023
- Authorisation for telecom-related activities: Prior authorisation from the central government will be required to:
 - (i) provide telecommunication services,
 - (ii) establish, operate, maintain, or expand telecommunications networks, or
 - (iii) possess radio equipment.
- Existing licences will continue to be valid for the period of their grant, or for five years, where the period is not specified.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT 2023

- Assignment of spectrum: Spectrum will be assigned by auction, except for specified uses, where it will be allocated on an administrative basis. (Exceptions – national security and defence, transport, weather forecasting, BSNL, MTNL etc)
- Powers of interception and search: Messages or a class of messages between two or more persons may be intercepted, monitored, or blocked on certain grounds.
- Such actions must be necessary or expedient in the interest of public safety or public emergency, and must be in the interest of specified grounds which include:
 - (i) security of the state, (ii) prevention of incitement of offences, or (iii) public order

TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT 2023

- Digital Bharat Nidhi: The Universal Service Obligation Fund has been established under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 to provide for telecom services in underserved areas. The Bill retains this provision, renames the fund as Digital Bharat Nidhi, and also allows its use for research and development in telecom.
- Appointments to TRAI: The Bill amends the TRAI Act to also allow individuals with:
 - (i) at least 30 years of professional experience to serve as the Chairperson, and
 - (ii) at least 25 years of professional experience to serve as members

→ bh

TRAI

16th Finance Commission

- The Sixteenth Finance Commission was constituted on 31.12.2023 with Shri Arvind Panagariya, former Vice-Chairman, NITI Aayog as its Chairman.
- The Sixteenth Finance Commission has been requested to make its recommendations available by October 31, 2025, covering an award period of 5 years commencing 1st April 2026.
- Tenure: The Chairman and other members of the Commission shall hold office from the date on which they respectively assume office up to the date of submission of the Report or 31st day of October 2025, whichever is earlier.
- The Finance Commission normally takes about two years to make their recommendations.
- As per the clause (1) of article 280 of the Constitution, the Finance Commission is to be constituted every fifth year or earlier.

6 years

16th Finance Commission

- However, as the recommendations of the 15th FC cover the six-year period up to 31st March 2026, the 16th FC is proposed to be constituted now.
- This will enable the Finance Commission to consider and appraise the finances of the Union and the States for the period immediately, preceding the period of its recommendations.
- 15th FC recommendations
- Share of states in central taxes: The share of states in the central taxes for the 2021-26 period is recommended to be 41%, same as that for 2020-21. This is less than the 42% share recommended by the 14th Finance Commission for 2015-20 period.
- Fiscal deficit and debt levels: The Commission suggested that the centre bring down fiscal deficit to 4% of GDP by 2025-26. For states, it recommended the fiscal deficit limit (as % of GSDP) of: (i) 4% in 2021-22, (ii) 3.5% in 2022-23, and (iii) 3% during 2023-26.

41%

42%

1 April 2026

Fast Radio Bursts

- FRBs are bright flashes of light that appear for a few milliseconds and then vanish.
- FRBs are bright flashes of light that come from outside the Milky Way galaxy.
- They are caused by an unknown high-energy astrophysical process
- FRBs are brighter than entire galaxies and can emit as much energy as the sun in three days in just thousandths of a second.
- FRBs have a wide range of timescales, with some sub-microsecond sub-bursts and others lasting up to a few seconds.
- The first FRB, the Lorimer Burst, was discovered in 2007. As of June 2021, 140 more FRBs have been discovered.

Fast Radio Bursts

- Some FRBs are 'one-off' phenomena: spotted just once and never detected again; others are repeaters, flashing earth intermittently like some ghostly lighthouse in the depths of space
- Among the candidates for the sources of FRBs are the superdense neutron stars left over after a supernova, or magnetars (neutron stars with ultra-strong magnetic fields)
- A neutron star is the collapsed core of a massive star. They are the densest objects astronomers can observe directly, with a mass of half a million times Earth's mass in a sphere about 12 miles across.
- A supernova is a powerful explosion of a star. It can occur when a massive star is in its final stages of evolution or when a white dwarf undergoes runaway nuclear fusion.
- Magnetars are a type of neutron star with a very strong magnetic field. The magnetic field decay of magnetars powers the emission of high-energy electromagnetic radiation, particularly X-rays and gamma rays.

Codex Alimentarius Commission

- The Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) is an international body that sets food standards.
- It was established in 1963 by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO).
- The CAC's purpose is to protect consumer health and ensure fair practices in food trade
- The CAC is responsible for developing standards, guidelines, and other recommendations on the quality and safety of food.
- The CAC has 189 members, including 188 member countries and one member organization, the European Union (EU).

UFI

Codex Alimentarius Commission

- India became the member of Codex Alimentarius in 1964
- The CAC also has 239 Codex observers, including 59 intergovernmental organizations, 164 non-governmental organizations, and 16 United Nations organizations
- The Agreement on Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) of the World Trade Organization (WTO) recognizes Codex standards, guidelines and recommendations as reference standards for international trade and trade dispute settlement
- The Codex Alimentarius includes provisions in respect of food hygiene, food additives, residues of pesticides and veterinary drugs, contaminants, labelling and presentation, methods of analysis and sampling, and import and export inspection and certification



MAHASAGAR Initiative

- MAHASAGAR also another word for vast ocean, is the Indian Navy's outreach initiative for a high level virtual interaction between Maritime Heads for Active Security And Growth for All in the Region.
- The maiden edition of the high-level virtual interaction MAHASAGAR was hosted by the Indian Navy on 29 November 2023
- The interaction's theme was 'Collective Maritime Approach towards Countering Common Challenges', which highlights the present and necessary imperative for harmonising and collaborating capacities and capabilities in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), which is in consonance with the Government of India's vision of SAGAR 'Security and Growth for All in the Region'.

All India Judicial Service

- Context:-
- During her inaugural address at the Supreme Court's Constitution Day celebration on November 26, President Droupadi Murmu called for an "all-India judicial service" to recruit judges, saying this will help make the judiciary diverse by increasing representation from marginalized social groups.
- What is All India Judicial Services?
- Article 312 of the Constitution provides for the establishment of an All-India Judicial Service (AIJS), along the lines of the central civil services.
- What is the procedure?
- If the Rajya Sabha declares through a resolution, supported by at least two-thirds of its present and voting members, that it is necessary or expedient to create a service in "national interest," the Parliament "may by law provide for the creation of one or more all India services (including an all India judicial service) common to the Union and states."

All India Judicial Service

- Which posts will it include?
- (a) Article 312 (2) states that the AIJS cannot include any post inferior to that of a district judge, as defined in Article 236.
- (b) A district judge can include a city civil court judge, additional district judge, joint district judge, assistant district judge, chief judge of a small cause court, chief presidency magistrate, additional chief presidency magistrate, sessions judge, additional sessions judge, and assistant sessions judge.

+ All India
Services
+ Rajya
Sabha

All India Judicial Service

- How will it differ from present selection process-
- (a) Articles 233 and 234 of the Constitution of India deal with the appointment of district judges and place it in the domain of the states.
- (b) The selection process is conducted by the State Public Service Commissions and the concerned High Court, since HCs exercise jurisdiction over the subordinate judiciary in the state.
- (c) All judges of the lower judiciary up to the level of district judges are selected through the Provincial Civil Services (Judicial) exam.

National Medical Commission and logo issue

- As of December 1, 2023, the National Medical Commission (NMC) has a new logo:
- A black-and-white image of the Hindu deity Dhanvantri, the physician of the gods, at the center of its logo
- A colorized version of the god with the word "Bharat" written above
- The NMC's new logo replaces the national emblem and features a colored photo in the center.
- The National Medical Commission (NMC) is an Indian regulatory body that regulates medical professionals and medical education.
- It was established in 2019 as an umbrella regulatory body that replaced the Medical Council of India (MCI) on September 25, 2020

National Medical Commission and logo issue

- It has recently envisaged one nation, one registration platform" for doctors across the country to eliminate duplication, red tape and allow the public to access information on any physician working in India.
- The NMC will consist of 25 members. A Search Committee will recommend names for the post of Chairperson, and part-time members. The term of the members of the NMC will be a maximum of four years, with no reappointment.



National Medical Commission and logo issue

- Functions of the NMC include:
- (i) framing policies for regulating medical institutions and medical professionals,
- (ii) assessing the requirements of healthcare related human resources and infrastructure, and
- (iii) framing guidelines for determination of fees for up to 50% of the seats in private medical institutions and deemed universities which are regulated as per the Bill.
- The NMC will have four separate autonomous boards: under-graduate medical education, post-graduate medical education, medical assessment and rating and ethics and medical registration.

Green Voyage2050 Project

- Context: India has been selected as pioneer lead country for International Maritime Organization (IMO) Green Voyage2050 Project, with the objective to assist developing countries in their efforts to reduce Green House Gases (GHG) emissions from ships.
- GreenVoyage2050 is a partnership project between the Government of Norway and the International Maritime Organisation.
- It aims to help developing countries and small island nations meet their environmental shipping target, in line with the IMO goal of cutting down CO2 emissions by 2050
- It aims at reducing shipping greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 50% before 2050, eventually removing them from the industry.
- The project directly responds to the need to provide technical assistance to states, support technology transfer and promote green technology uptake to improve energy efficiency and reduce GHG emissions throughout the maritime sector.

Climate Change Performance Index

- It is Published annually since 2005
- It is an independent monitoring tool for tracking the climate protection performance of 63 countries and the EU
- The CCPI evaluates 63 countries and the European Union, which together generate 90%+ of global greenhouse gas emissions.
- India secured 8th position in the index which is 2 positions up from the last edition.
- Since no country was strong enough in all index categories to achieve an overall very high rating, thus the top three places i.e 1-3 are vacant. Thereafter India is amongst the top 5 countries.
- It aims to enhance transparency in international climate politics and enables comparison of climate protection efforts and progress made by individual countries.
- Germanwatch, the New Climate Institute and the Climate Action Network publish the index annually.
- CCPI looks at four categories, with 14 indicators: Greenhouse Gas Emissions (40% of the overall score), Renewable Energy (20%), Energy Use (20%), and Climate Policy (20%).

GHG emission → 40%

Climate Policy

RE → 20%
Energy Use → 20%
Renewable Energy → 20%



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THANKS FOR WATCHING

