

## GEOGRAPHY

PRE-CONTEXT

### CRITICAL MINERALS INITIATIVES

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 6.

**News:** "China's moves must recast India's critical minerals push."

- When it comes to critical minerals, **China is not only a stakeholder but also a leader.**
- China enjoys a near-monopoly status**, controlling 60% of rare-earth production, **60% of critical mineral production and 80% of the processing worldwide.**
- In August 2024, **China announced decision to restrict exports of critical minerals.**
- India is heavily dependent on imports of critical minerals such as **Lithium, Nickel, Cobalt etc** resulted an import cost of **Rs.35,000 crore in FY 2023.**
- Hence, this announcement by China must act as a **wakeup call for India.**

#### India reliance on China for following critical minerals:

- Lithium:** Core component of **lithium-ion batteries.**
- Silicon:** vital for **semiconductors** and solar panels.
- Titanium:** essential for **aerospace** and **defence** applications.
- Tellurium:** important for **solar** power and thermoelectric devices.
- Graphite:** indispensable for **EV batteries** and **steel** production.

#### Centre of Excellence on Critical Minerals:

- Periodically update** the list of critical minerals for India (for every three years).
- Notify **critical mineral strategy** from time to time.
- It recommended 30 minerals are critical for the country, out of which 24 minerals are included in the list of critical and strategic minerals in Schedule 1 of the **MMDR Act 1957.**

India, a major critical mineral importer, still depends on other countries, primarily China, for its mineral security, which has become a cause of strategic concern.

#### Initiatives by India:

- Developing International Engagement with mineral developing countries:**
  - India established Khanij Bidesh India Ltd.(KABIL):**
    - A joint venture company aimed to ensure a consistent supply of critical and strategic minerals to the Indian domestic market.
    - It sought mineral security through agreements and acquisitions via govt-to-govt, govt-to-business, and business-to-business routes.
    - KABIL signed a MoU with Australia** for a critical mineral (**cobalt and Lithium**) investment partnership.
    - KABIL signed pacts** with Latin America's **Lithium Triangle (Argentina, Chile, and Bolivia).**
    - India and Kazakhstan** formed a joint venture, to produce **titanium slag** in India.
- Mineral Diplomacy:**
  - An Intl. engagement **forging and strengthening partnerships** with minor and major initiatives related to mineral security such as:
    - QUAD**, Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (**IPEF**), Mineral Security Partnership (**MSP**) and the **G-7**, for cooperation in the critical mineral supply chain.
    - Ministry of Mines signed a MoU** with the **International Energy Agency** to strengthen cooperation on critical minerals.

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## PYQs: CSE (M).

**GS I 2021:** Discuss the multidimensional implications of uneven distribution of mineral oil in the world.

## SCHEME

PRE-CONTEXT

### BETO BACHAO BETI PADHAO

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 12.

**News:** "Flagship scheme for girl child has helped defeat bias: PM."

#### About Beto Bachao Beti Padhao:

- Scheme, launched in 2015, to address the **declining child sex ratio (CSR)** and **related issues of women empowerment.**
- It is a tri-ministerial effort** of the Ministries of Women and Child Development, Health and Family Welfare, and Education.
- Major Objectives:**
  - Improving Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB)** by two points every year.
  - Improvement in the percentage of **institutional deliveries** or sustained at the rate of 95% or above.
  - 1% increase in **1st Trimester Anti-Natal Care (ANC)** Registration per year.
  - 1% increase in **enrolment at secondary education level** and skilling of girls/women per year.
- Centrally Sponsored Scheme with 100% funding by the Central Government** in all the districts of the country under Sambal vertical of Mission Shakti—**PIB 21 Jan 2025**
- The **BBBP scheme is now integrated** with **Mission Shakti.**

#### Mission Shakti

- A comprehensive program for women's safety and empowerment.
  - Mission Shakti consists of two broader sub-schemes**
    - Sambal:**
      - Safety and Security by ensuring women's safety through **One Stop Centres (OSCs), Women Helpline (181), and Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP), Nari Adalat.**
    - Samarthya:**
      - empowers women through **Shakti Sadans**, relief and rehabilitation homes, **Sakhi Niwas**, providing safe and secure place for stay for working women in the cities, and **Palna-Creche** providing safe and secure place for children of working women etc.

#### Achievements:

- The **national sex ratio at birth has improved** from 918 in 2014-15 to 930 in 2023-24.
- Gross enrolment ratio of girls at the secondary level has risen** from 75% to 78%.
- Institutional deliveries have surged** from 60% to 98%.
- First-trimester antenatal care registrations have increased** from 60% to 80%.

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## GS II

SYLLABUS: GOVERNMENT POLICIES THEIR DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION..

### HEALTH SCHEMES

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 12.

**News:** "National Health Mission has curbed several public health concerns, says Centre's report."

#### National Health Mission 2013:

- Replaced National Rural Health Mission & National Urban Health Mission 2003.
- Aims to address the health needs across urban and rural areas, focusing on accessibility, affordability, and quality of healthcare, **especially for underprivileged.**

#### Major Components of NHM

##### 1. RMNCAH+N component:

- To improve health outcomes of various lifecycle stages Reproductive – Maternal – Neonatal – Child, Adolescent Health and Nutrition.
- **Strategy:**
  - **Health systems strengthening** with infrastructure, Human Resources, supply chains etc.
  - **Evidence based geographical focus** to optimise impact.
  - **Integrated monitoring and accountability:** use of good governance data sets, grievance redressal for accountability.
  - **Collaboration partnerships:** with ministries, departments, civil societies etc.

##### 2. Disease Control Component:

###### • Non Communicable Diseases Control Programmes:

- National Programme for Prevention & Control of **Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases & Stroke.**
- National **Mental Health** Programme.
- National Programme for **Control of Blindness & Visual Impairment.**
- National programme for **Healthcare of Elderly** etc.

###### • Communicable Disease Control Programme:

- National **Vector-Borne Disease** Control Programme (NVBDCP) Eg. **Malaria, Dengue, Filariasis, Kala-azar, Japanese Encephalitis** etc.
- Revised National **Tuberculosis** Control Programme.
- National **Leprosy** Eradication Programme etc.

##### 3. Health Systems Strengthening component:

- Infrastructure creation (under NHM 2013):
  - **Sub Centre(SC):** 1 per 5,000 population.
  - **Primary Health Centres(PHC):** 1 per 30,000 population.
  - **Community Health Centre(CHC):** 1 per 1,20,000 population.
- In 2018, GOI announced 1,50,000 Health and Wellness Centres(HWCs) would be created by transforming existing SCs and PHCs to deliver comprehensive Primary Health Care.
- Adaptation of **Indian Public Health standards.**
- **Addressing skill gaps** and standards treatment protocols.
- **Human Resource shortage:** filling up vacancies, contract based hiring, Performance based incentives etc.

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#### Achievements under NHM:

##### 1. RMNCAH+N component:

- **Maternal Mortality Rate** **reduced** from 254 (in 2005) to 97 (in 2020) — **PIB**
- **Infant Mortality Rate** **reduced** from 58 (in 2005) to 28 (in 2020) — **NHFS 5.**
- **Institutional Deliveries** **increased** to 90% in 2020 from 40% in 2005 — **NHFS-5.**
- **Total Fertility Rate:** **decreased** from 2.3 in 2015 to 2.0 in 2020 — **NHFS-5.**

##### 2. Disease Control component:

- **Reduction in TB Cases:** 280 cases per lakh in 2005 to 190 cases per lakh in 2020 — **WHO World TB report 2020.**
- **Significant reduction in Malaria:** 1.1 per 1000 population in 2010 to 0.05 in 2021 — **NVBDCP report 2021.**

##### 3. Health Systems Strengthening Component:

- Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (ABHIM).
- By end of 2023, total **1,60,000 HWCs** have already been operationalised — **PIB.**
- The NHM has supported the upgrade of **over 30,000 PHCs** — **Health Dynamics of India 2023.**
- Deployment of 1.6 lakh Accredited Social Health Activists (**ASHAs**) in promotion of health awareness, vaccination, and maternal care at the grassroot level.

#### Challenges:

- **Inadequate funding:** overall health budget as a percentage of GDP has been lesser than 2%, which is below the WHO's recommended 5%. — **ES-2023.**
- **Human Resource shortage:** 20% of PHCs are functioning without a doctor — **Rural Health Statistics 2022.**
- Despite **ASHAs'** critical role, their **low remuneration** hampers their motivation and performance. — **RHS 2022.**
- PHCs **lack labor rooms, blood storage units** etc — **RHS 2022.**
- **Inequitable access of healthcare:** only 60% women receive post natal care within 2 days of delivery compared to 70% in urban areas — **NHFS-5.**
- **Health data discrepancies** at local level highlighted by **NHFS-5.**

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## AGRICULTURE

PRE-CONTEXT

### MINIMUM SUPPORT PRICE

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 12.

**News:** "Centre announces hike in MSP for jute by ₹315 a quintal."

#### About MSP:

- MSP is **announced before the beginning of sowing season for certain crops** and acts as an insurance against market prices for farmers.
  - Kharif, Rabi crops, Jute and Copra.
- **Recommended by:** Commission for Agriculture Costs & Prices (**CACP**).
- **Approved by:** Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.
- MSP is **not legally backed by law** (No statutory status).
- **Note:**
  - **Sugarcane does not come under MSP.** Instead, the Central Government announces a **Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) for sugarcane**, under the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966.
  - FRP is recommended by **CACP**.

#### Factors considered by CACP:

- Production, domestic and international prices, demand-supply conditions, inter-crop price parity, terms of trade between agricultural and non-agricultural sectors.

#### Formula:

- **MSP = "Cost A2 + FL".**
  - **Cost A2** = All agriculture inputs costs by farmer (i.e seeds, leased land, fertiliser's etc).
  - **FL** = imputed cost of unpaid labor (Including family labor).
- **Current MSP Formula:** 1.5 times of (A2 + FL).

#### Crops Types under MSP:

##### Kharif Crops (2024):

- **Cereals:** Paddy, Jowar, Bajra, Ragi, Maize.
- **Pulses:** Arhar/ Tur, Moong, Urad.
- **Commercial crops:** Cotton.
- **Oilseeds:** Groundnut, Sunflower Seed, Soyabean, Sesamum, Nigerseed.

##### Rabi crops (2024):

- **Cereals:** Wheat, Barley.
- **Pulses:** Gram, Masur.
- **Oilseeds:** Rapeseeds & Mustard, Safflower.

#### Procurement of crops:

##### Wheat and Paddy:

- **Procured by Food Corporation of India (FCI).**
- They are distributed under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) & NFSA.

##### Pulses and oilseeds & Copra:

- **Procured by:** National Agriculture Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (**NAFED**).

##### Procurement of Cotton & Jute:

- Done at MSP by the **Cotton Corporation of India, Jute Corporation of India (JCI).**

**Payment method:** Indirect (through Direct Benefit Transfer).

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## ECONOMY

PRE-CONTEXT

### DOUBLE TAXATION AVOIDANCE AGREEMENT

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 13.

**News:** "Tax avoidance treaties: India sets new norms for claiming benefits."

#### Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement:

- A **bilateral agreement between two countries** designed to **prevent individuals and businesses from being taxed twice** on the same income.
- Reduce Tax Evasion/ Avoidance & Enhance Foreign Investment.
- **India has DTAA's (also called Tax Treaties) with over 90 countries.** Key treaties include those with **USA, UK, Singapore, Mauritius, Cyprus, UAE, etc**

#### Principal Purpose Test (PPT):

- **PPT is an anti-tax-avoidance provision** that forms part of the Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) Action Plan 6.
  - **If the principal (or main) purpose of a cross-border transaction or structure is simply to obtain a tax benefit** (e.g., by exploiting loopholes in a tax treaty), **then that tax benefit can be denied.**
- PPT will be applied only going forward (i.e., prospectively).
- **Grandfathering:** A common legal concept that protects existing investments or agreements from new rules.

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**Thank you!**