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Indian Seafood Exports

Context

- The Embassy of India in Brussels hosted the second edition of the **Indian Seafood and Wine Tasting Event** showcasing India's finest culinary offerings.

Seafood Industry of India

- India is the **third-largest** fish and aquaculture-producing country and the industry employs more than **28 million** people in India.
 - It accounts for **7.96%** of the total global fish production.
- **India's seafood exports** have increased from Rs. 46,662.85 Crore in 2019-20 to Rs. 61043.68 Crore in 2023-24 registering a growth of **30.81%**.
- **India mainly exports** frozen shrimps, fish, cuttlefish, squids, dried items, and live and chilled items.
 - The **frozen shrimp is the largest exported marine product** contributing to more than **40%** of the total quantity and about **67.22%** of the total export value.

Major Export Markets

- **USA, China, and the European Union (EU)** are the largest importers of Indian seafood.
- With 500 EU-approved firms, the EU has become India's second-largest seafood market, with annual purchases of **USD 0.95 billion**.
- Emerging markets like Japan, Vietnam, and the Middle East are gaining traction.

Government initiatives

- **Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA):** It facilitates technology upgradation, market development, and quality certification.
- **RoDTEP:** The Government has also increased the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Export Products (RoDTEP) from **2.5% to 3.1%** for various seafood products.
- **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY):** It was implemented to bring the Blue Revolution through sustainable and responsible development of the fisheries sector in India from **FY 2020-21 to FY 2024-25**.
- **The reduction in import duties** on various ingredients /inputs for manufacture of prawn and shrimp feed/fish feed announced in **Budget 2024-25**, will make Indian seafood-based value-added products more competitive in international markets.
- **Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF):** it was implemented to create a fund to address the infrastructure requirement for the fisheries sector.

- **Kisan Credit Card (KCC)** scheme was extended in the **2018-19** to fisheries and animal husbandry farmers to help them meet their working capital requirements.

Challenges faced by India

- **Stringent Regulatory Norms:** Major markets, including the EU and USA, impose rigorous quality checks, leading to frequent rejections.
- **Technology Adoption:** Limited access to modern technology and practices for sustainable aquaculture.
- **Climate Change:** Rising sea temperatures, ocean acidification, and changing weather patterns affecting fish habitats and breeding.
- **Pollution:** Water pollution from industrial, agricultural, and plastic waste harms aquatic life and ecosystems.
- **Infrastructure:** Inadequate cold storage, processing facilities, and transportation affecting fish quality and market access.

Way Ahead

- **Market Diversification:** Expanding exports to Africa, South America, and ASEAN countries to reduce dependency on traditional markets.
- **R&D and Innovation:** Encouraging research in species diversification, disease management, and climate-resilient aquaculture practices.
- **Sustainability:** Promoting eco-friendly fishing and aquaculture practices to ensure long-term viability of resources.

Concluding remarks

- Indian seafood exports hold immense potential for driving economic growth, and promoting sustainable development.
- Strategic interventions in quality enhancement, market diversification, and infrastructure modernization can position India as a global leader in seafood exports.

Implementation status of Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement(TEPA)

In News

Shri Sunil Barthwal, Secretary of the Department of Commerce, visited Norway to advance the goals of the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA).

About TEPA

- It was signed in March 2024 between India and four EFTA countries: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland.
 - **EFTA offers 92.2% tariff lines**, covering 99.6% of India's exports, with market access for **100% non-agri products** and tariff concessions on processed agricultural products (PAP).
 - India offers 82.7% tariff lines, covering 95.3% of EFTA exports.

Focus Areas of TEPA:

- **Service Sectors:** TEPA will stimulate India's service exports in IT, business, education, cultural, and audio-visual sectors.
 - EFTA offers better access for digital delivery of services, commercial presence, and mobility for key personnel.
- **Impacts on Manufacturing:** TEPA supports India's domestic manufacturing in sectors such as infrastructure, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, food processing, logistics, and banking.
- **Technology and R&D Collaboration:** TEPA facilitates technology collaboration and access to cutting-edge technologies in fields like renewable energy, health sciences, and innovation.

Expected Benefits for India:

- Creation of direct jobs, particularly for India's young workforce.
- Enhanced vocational and technical training opportunities.
- Facilitates technology collaboration in precision engineering, renewable energy, health sciences, and R&D.
- It will boost 99.6% of Indian exports with Market Access to EFTA countries and drive \$100 billion investment

Future Outlook

- TEPA is expected to enhance India's integration into European markets, creating opportunities for both goods and services exports, while also providing access to advanced technologies and boosting India's economic growth.

Do you know ?



- The European Free Trade Association (EFTA) is the intergovernmental organisation of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.
- It was set up in 1960 by its then seven Member States for the promotion of free trade and economic integration between its members.

Features



**Free Movement
of Goods**



**Free Movement
of Services**



**Free Movement
of Capital**



**Free Movement
of Persons**



**Horizontal
Policies**



**Competition /
State Aid**



NBFCs: An Important Pillar of the Financial Ecosystem

Context

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been encouraging Non-Banking Financial Corporation (NBFCs) to adopt prudent growth strategies and focus on long-term sustainability.

Non-Banking Financial Corporation (NBFCs)?

- NBFCs are companies registered under the **Companies Act, 1956**, engaged in financial activities such as;
 - Offering loans and advances,
 - Acquiring shares, stocks, bonds, debentures, or other marketable securities,
 - Operating deposit schemes in various formats.
- It does not include any institution whose **principal business is that of agriculture activity, industrial activity, purchase or sale of any goods** (other than securities) or providing any services and sale/purchase/construction of immovable property.
- The functions of the NBFCs are managed by both the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs and the Reserve Bank of India**.

What is the difference between banks & NBFCs?

- NBFCs lend and make investments and hence their activities are akin to that of banks; however there are a few differences as given below:
 - **Demand Deposits:** NBFC cannot accept demand deposits;
 - **Payment System:** NBFCs do not form part of the payment and settlement system and cannot issue cheques drawn on itself;
 - **Deposit Insurance:** Deposit insurance facility of Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation is not available to depositors of NBFCs, unlike in case of banks.

Importance of NBFCs

- NBFCs are critical to India's financial ecosystem, particularly in rural and semi-urban areas where banks have limited reach. Their importance lies in;
 - **Financial Inclusion:** By providing credit to underserved regions.
 - **Faster Services:** With simplified processes and doorstep delivery.
 - **Priority Sector Lending (PSL):** Addressing credit needs in agriculture, microfinance, and other unorganized sectors.
 - **Economic Growth:** Supporting sectors like housing, infrastructure, and small enterprises through financing.

Challenges faced by NBFCs

- **Higher Risk Weights:** In 2023, RBI increased risk weights for loans to NBFCs, making bank borrowing more expensive.
 - Bank funding to NBFCs dropped from 22% to 15% year-on-year by April 2024.
- **Funding Constraints:** Smaller NBFCs with lower credit ratings face a fund crunch due to rising borrowing costs and limited financing options.
- **Shallow Bond Market:** India's debt market lacks depth and liquidity, limiting access to diversified domestic funding.
- **Regulatory Constraints:** SEBI's cap on the issuance of International Securities Identification Number (ISIN) and absence of active market makers hinder bond market growth.
- **Cost Pressures:** Rising credit costs, projected to increase from 2.6% in 2024 to 4% by 2025, affect NBFCs' profitability.
- **Overseas Borrowing Challenges:** While attractive due to **reduced hedging costs**, overseas funding is still at a nascent stage for many NBFCs.

Way Ahead

- **Strengthening Bond Market:** Developing a vibrant and liquid bond market will reduce reliance on bank funding and support NBFCs in raising long-term capital.
- **Co-Lending Model:** Encouraging co-lending arrangements between banks and NBFCs can lower borrowing costs and ensure better credit distribution.
- **Focus on Compliance:** NBFCs must adhere to RBI's guidelines on risk mitigation and grievance redressal to build credibility.
- **Diversified Funding Sources:** Exploring securitization, commercial papers, and equity markets while balancing domestic and overseas funding options.

Concluding remark

- NBFCs remain a cornerstone of India's financial system, particularly for promoting financial inclusion and economic growth.
- However, funding challenges, regulatory pressures, and market inefficiencies must be addressed to ensure their sustainability.

UNFCCC COP29 Baku

Why in News?

Recently, the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties 29 (COP29)** concluded in **Baku, Azerbaijan**. This conference saw around 200 countries negotiate agreements aimed at addressing **global climate challenges**.

What are the Key Highlights of the COP29?

- **New Climate Finance Goal:** A major breakthrough at COP29 was the **New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance (NCQG)**. It aims to triple climate finance for developing countries to **USD 300 billion per year by 2035 from the previous goal of USD 100**, with developed countries taking the lead.
 - It also makes a general call on all actors to scale up climate financing to USD1.3 trillion per year by 2035 from all public and private sources to help developing countries mitigate and adapt to climate impacts.
- **Carbon Markets Agreement:** COP29 reached a landmark agreement to finalise the mechanisms for **carbon markets**, including **country-to-country trading (Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement)** and a **centralised carbon market under the United Nations (UN) (Article 6.4 of the Paris Agreement)**.
 - Article 6.2, allows bilateral agreements between countries to trade carbon credits based on mutually agreed terms.
 - **Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism** (also known as Article 6.4) seeks to develop a centralised, **United Nations**-managed **carbon emissions offset and trading system**.
- **Declaration on Reducing Methane:** Over 30 countries, including the US, Germany, UK, and UAE, endorsed the **COP29 Declaration on Reducing Methane from Organic Waste (India is not a signatory)**.
 - The declaration targets the **waste sector's methane emissions**, which contribute to **20% of global methane emissions**. It focuses on five priority areas: **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)**, regulation, data, finance, and partnerships.
 - Countries are encouraged to **include sectoral targets for reducing methane emissions** from organic waste in their **NDCs**.
 - This builds on the **Global Methane Pledge** (India is not a signatory) to reduce **global methane emissions by 30% by 2030**, addressing **methane from agriculture, waste, and fossil fuels**.

- **Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities:** COP29 reinforced the importance of **Indigenous Peoples and local communities** in addressing climate change.
 - COP29 adopted the **Baku Workplan** and renewed the **Facilitative Working Group (FWG)** mandate under the **Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP)**.
 - The Baku work plan prioritises bridging indigenous knowledge with modern science, enhancing **indigenous participation in climate dialogues** and embedding indigenous values into climate policies.
 - The **FWG will implement the Baku Workplan** in a gender-responsive and collaborative manner, with a review of progress scheduled for 2027.
 - FWG of the LCIPP is a **constituted body established at COP24** to further operationalize the LCIPP and facilitate its functions on knowledge, engagement, and climate policies, working with diverse bodies.
- **Gender and Climate Change:** A decision was made to extend the **Lima Work Programme on Gender (LWPG)** for another 10 years, reaffirming gender equality in climate action and the need for a **new gender action plan to be adopted at COP30 (Belém, Brazil)**.
 - Established in 2014, the LWPG aims to advance gender balance and integrate gender considerations to ensure gender-responsive climate policy and **action under the Convention and the Paris Agreement**.
- **Baku Harmoniya Climate Initiative for Farmers:** The COP29 Presidency in partnership with the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** launches the **Baku Harmoniya Climate Initiative for Farmers**.
 - It is a platform that brings together the dispersed landscape of existing climate initiatives in the field of food and agriculture, in order to make support for farmers easier to find and to facilitate access to finance.

What is India's Stance at COP 29?

- **Opposition to the Deal:** India rejected the NCQG, criticising it for its **inadequacy**. The USD 300 billion pledge was **deemed insufficient** for addressing the climate challenges faced by developing nations.
 - India, alongside other Global South countries, has been advocating for at least **USD 1.3 trillion annually** to meet the growing demands of climate change mitigation and adaptation in developing nations, with **USD 600 billion as grants or grant-equivalent resources**.

- **Article 9 of the Paris Agreement:** India emphasised that **developed countries should lead in mobilising climate finance**, in line with **Article 9 of the Paris Agreement**, which places responsibility on developed nations.
 - However, the final deal shifted the **responsibility to all actors**, including developing countries, instead of holding developed nations accountable for their **historical emissions and financial commitments**.
- **Solidarity with Vulnerable Nations:** India backed the concerns of **Least Developed Countries (LDCs)** and **Small Island Developing States (SIDS)**, who walked out of the negotiations, citing that their demands for a fair and adequate financial target were being ignored.

Why is COP Important for India?

- **India's Climate Commitments and Achievements:** India's first **NDC was submitted in 2015**, and it updated its **climate goals in 2022**, highlighting achievements such as **reducing emissions intensity by 33–35%** and **meeting 40% of its energy capacity from non-fossil fuels**.
- **Securing Climate Finance:** India has been a major beneficiary of funds through mechanisms like the **Green Climate Fund** and carbon credits markets.
 - COP discussions on the **Loss and Damage Fund** are crucial for India to secure financial support for addressing the **climate-induced impacts** such as floods and cyclones.
- **Global Climate Leadership:** COP provides India the opportunity to assert its leadership in **global climate action**, with initiatives like the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** to drive sustainable solutions for the global climate challenge.
- **Leveraging International Influence:** India leads the **Like-minded Developing Countries (LMDC)** and **BASIC group** at COP, amplifying the voices of the **Global South** and advocating for **equitable climate action** and **finance**.
 - Platforms like COP provide India opportunities to promote initiatives like the **Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE)** and **Mangrove Alliance for Climate**.

How has India's Role in Global Climate Governance Evolved?

- **1970s to 2000s:** India was cautious about Western environmental calls, fearing they would hinder its economic development.
 - At the **1972 Stockholm Conference**, the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi emphasised the need to **balance environmental protection with poverty alleviation**.
 - By signing the **UNFCCC in 1992 at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro**, India formally embraced sustainable development and supported **Common But Differentiated**

Responsibilities (CBDR), which recognised the varying capacities and responsibilities of developed and developing nations.

- India hosted **COP8 in 2002**, marking its shift from a passive participant to an active role in climate negotiations.
- India launched the **National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) in 2008**, demonstrating its commitment to reducing emissions and promoting renewable energy.
- **Post-2015:** The Paris Agreement, 2015 marked a pivotal shift in global climate governance, allowing **developing nations like India to contribute to climate action** without facing disproportionate obligations.
 - The transition from rigid emission reduction targets to **voluntary Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** enabled India to align its climate commitments with developmental priorities.
 - **India submitted its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** and updated them in 2022.
 - India contributed **USD 1.28 billion to climate finance** for other developing countries in 2022, reinforcing its role as a **climate leader**.
- **Advocacy for Climate Equity and Justice:** India advocates for developed nations to provide financial and technological support to developing countries and actively supports mechanisms like the **Green Climate Fund and Loss and Damage Fund**.
- **Leading Global Initiatives:**
 - **International Solar Alliance (ISA):** Launched in 2015 by India and France at the COP21 summit in Paris, **ISA** aims to promote solar energy adoption globally.
 - **Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE):** Advocates sustainable consumption patterns to reduce **carbon footprints**.
 - **Mangrove Alliance for Climate:** Promotes the conservation of mangrove ecosystems to mitigate climate impacts.

Coking Coal as Critical Mineral

Why in News?

Recently, a **NITI Aayog** report titled '**Enhancing Domestic Coking Coal Availability to Reduce the import of Coking Coal**' advocated **coking coal** to be included in the list of **critical minerals**.

Why Should Coking Coal Be Declared a Critical Mineral?

- **Meeting Critical Mineral Criteria:** Coking coal meets **all the criteria** to declare coking coal as a 'critical mineral' for India.
 - Critical minerals have significant **economic importance for key sectors** in the national economy.
 - Critical minerals have a **high-supply risk** due to the **very high import dependence** and **high level of concentration** of set critical raw materials in particular countries.
 - There is a **lack of (viable) substitutes**, due to the unique and reliable properties of these materials for existing, as well as future applications.
- **Steel Production:** Coking coal is a vital **raw material for steel production**, constituting approximately **42% of the cost of steel**, which is crucial for **infrastructure** development and **job-creating sectors** in India,
 - The availability of **affordable coking coal** is crucial for the economy.
- **High Import Dependence:** India **imports about 85% of its coking coal**, much higher than the **European Union's (EU) 62%**, posing risks to its **steel industry and economic stability**.
 - Domestic production of coking coal could have **saved Rs 1.5 lakh crore in FY 2023-24** for import of **58 metric tonnes** of coking coal.
- **Large Domestic Reserves:** India holds significant proved reserves of coking coal—**16.5 billion tonnes of medium-quality and 5.13 billion tonnes of prime-quality coal**.
 - Using these reserves for metallurgical purposes can enhance **energy security, reduce supply chain risks**, and support domestic steel production.
- **Steel Industry's Competitiveness:** In FY 2023-24, **Integrated Steel Plants (ISPs)** imported **58 metric tonnes** of coking coal, costing approximately **Rs 1.5 lakh crore**.
 - Declaring coking coal a critical mineral can boost domestic production, **lowering steel production costs** and enhancing **global competitiveness**.
- **Full Capacity Utilisation:** The **capacity utilisation** of PSU washeries was less than **32% in FY 2022-23** while the **washed (clean) coal yields** were only **35-36%**.

- **Investment and subsidies** for adoption of **efficient technologies** in **washery equipment** can improve their **efficiency** and reduce costs.
- **Global Practices: EU** has declared **coking coal** as a **critical raw material** along with 29 other raw materials which include '**green energy**' minerals like **lithium, cobalt, and rare earths**.
 - India's decision to similarly classify coking coal would **align with global practices** and prioritise it as a key resource for economic development.
- **Energy Security and Sustainability:** India's focus on developing domestic coking coal reserves can **reduce import reliance** and strengthen energy security while supporting its **Net Zero emissions goal by 2070**.

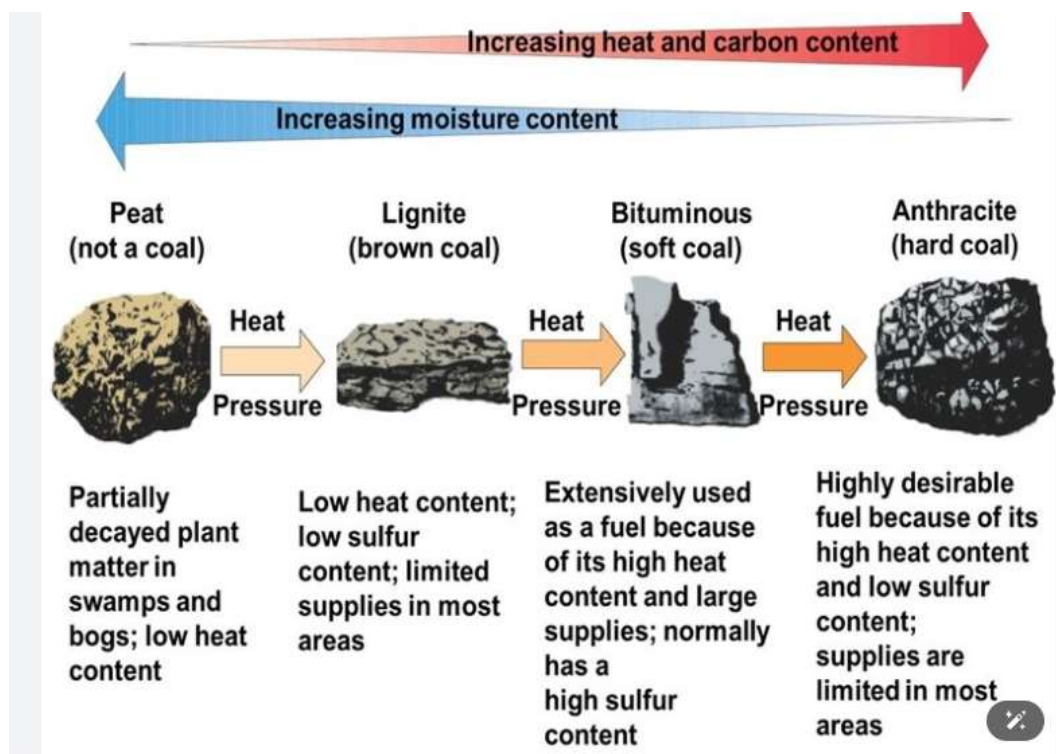
Coking Coal and India

- **High Dependence on Imports:** India's **coking coal imports** for the **first half** (H1) of FY25 (April-September) reached **29.6 million tonnes (mt)**, marking a six-year high.
 - Globally, **India** is the **largest importer of coking coal**.
- **Higher Steel Production:** The increase in coking coal imports coincides with a rise in India's **steel production**.
 - Globally, India is the **second largest producer of crude steel** after China.
- **Top Importing Countries: Australia, US, and Russia** are the largest suppliers of coking coal to India.
- **Trend in Imports:** Shipments from **Russia** saw a substantial 200% increase between H1FY25 and H1FY24.
 - **Australia's share** of India's coking coal imports has **dropped to 54%** (16 mt) in H1FY25, down from 80% (21.7 mt) in H1FY22.
- **Diversification:** There has been a **slight increase** in sourcing from **Mozambique and Indonesia**.



What are the Key Facts About Coking Coal?

- **About:** Coking coal (or Metallurgical coal) is a naturally occurring **sedimentary rock** found within the earth's crust.
 - It encompasses a wide range of quality grades including **hard** coking coal, **semi-hard** coking-coal, and **semi-soft** coking coal. All are used to make steel.
 - Coking coal typically contains **more carbon, less ash and less moisture** than thermal coal, which is used for electricity generation.
- **Formation of Coke:** Coking coal is **heated in the absence of air** in coke ovens to produce **coke**, a porous, carbon-rich material.
 - This process, called **coking**, removes **volatile compounds** from the coal, making the coke suitable for use in the blast furnace.
- **Role in Steelmaking:**
 - **Fuel:** Coke burns at high temperatures (around 1,000°C to 1,200°C) to produce **carbon monoxide (CO)**, which is used to **reduce iron ore (Fe₂O₃) into molten iron**.
 - **Reducing Agent:** Carbon monoxide (CO) reacts with iron ore in the blast furnace to **reduce iron oxide (Fe₂O₃) into iron (Fe)**.
- **Coking Coal Production:** The largest producers of coking coal in 2022 were **China (62%), Australia (15%), Russia (9%), USA (5%)** and Canada (3%).
- **Strategic Importance:** Steel is cited as a **strategic material** in all industries related to the low-carbon transition.
 - About **780 kg of coking coal** is needed to produce **1 ton of steel**.
- **By-Products of Coke Production:** By-products such as **tar, benzole, ammonia sulphate, sulphur, and coke** oven gas are used in chemical manufacturing and for heat/power generation.



What are Critical Minerals for India?

- **Global Scenario:** The list of critical minerals **varies** among countries, depending on their **industries and priorities**.
 - For example, the **United States** has identified **50 critical minerals**, **Japan** has identified **34**, the **United Kingdom** has **18**, the **European Union** has **34**, and **Canada** has **31**.
- **Indian Scenario:** India has identified a total of **30 minerals** that are found to be most **critical** for India where India must prioritise its efforts to ensure an uninterrupted supply chain.
 - **List:** The identified minerals include Antimony, Beryllium, Bismuth, **Cobalt**, **Copper**, Gallium, **Germanium**, **Graphite**, Hafnium, Indium, **Lithium**, Molybdenum, Niobium, **Nickel**, PGE, Phosphorous, Potash, REE, Rhenium, **Silicon**, **Strontium**, Tantalum, Tellurium, **Tin**, Titanium, **Tungsten**, Vanadium, **Zirconium**, **Selenium**, and Cadmium.
 - **States/UTs with Critical Minerals:** The states/UTs housing these minerals are Bihar, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Jammu and Kashmir.

Sl. No.	Critical Mineral	Percentage (2020)	Major Import Sources (2020)
1.	Lithium	100%	Chile, Russia, China, Ireland, Belgium
2.	Cobalt	100%	China, Belgium, Netherlands, US, Japan
3.	Nickel	100%	Sweden, China, Indonesia, Japan, Philippines
4.	Vanadium	100%	Kuwait, Germany, South Africa, Brazil, Thailand
5.	Niobium	100%	Brazil, Australia, Canada, South Africa, Indonesia
6.	Germanium	100%	China, South Africa, Australia, France, US
7.	Rhenium	100%	Russia, UK, Netherlands, South Africa, China
8.	Beryllium	100%	Russia, UK, Netherlands, South Africa, China
9.	Tantalum	100%	Australia, Indonesia, South Africa, Malaysia, US
10.	Strontium	100%	China, US, Russia, Estonia, Slovenia
11.	Zirconium(zircon)	80%	Australia, Indonesia, South Africa, Malaysia, US
12.	Graphite(natural)	60%	China, Madagascar, Mozambique, Vietnam, Tanzania
13.	Manganese	50%	South Africa, Gabon, Australia, Brazil, China
14.	Chromium	2.5%	South Africa, Mozambique, Oman, Switzerland, Turkey
15.	Silicon	<1%	China, Malaysia, Norway, Bhutan, Netherlands

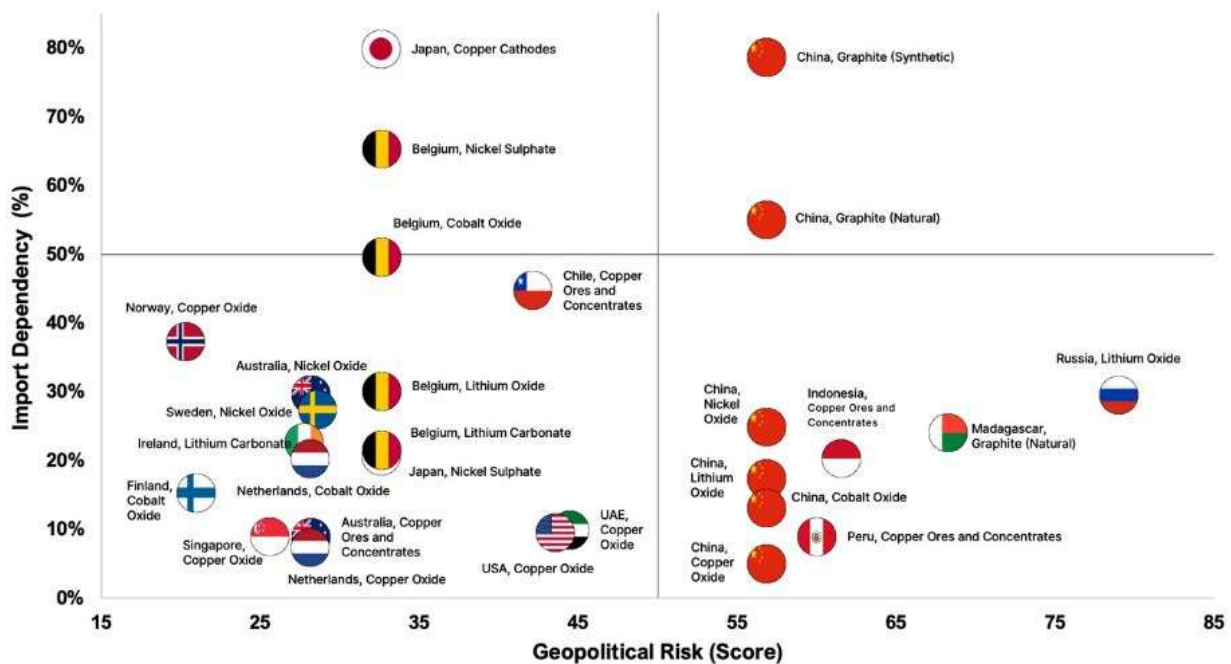
Table 1 The net import reliance for critical minerals of India (2020) (Source: A report on 'Unlocking Australia-India Critical Minerals Partnership Potential' by Australian Trade and Investment Commission, July 2021)

- India's **Import Dependency**: India is **heavily reliant** on imports for critical minerals, with **100% import dependency** for minerals like lithium, cobalt, and nickel.
 - This **dependency is likely to continue**, as demand for these minerals is expected to double by **2030**.



Breaking the Dependence

India hopes to have a rock-solid supply of critical minerals to achieve its renewable energy targets



What are India's Initiatives to Secure Critical Minerals?

- **Mineral Security Partnership (MSP)**
- **Supply Chain Resilience initiative (SCRI)**
- **Investment Partnership with Australia**
- **Khanij Bidesh India Ltd (KABIL)**
- **Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2023**
- **Offshore Area Minerals (Development And Regulations) Amendment Act, 2023**

Conclusion

- **Coking Coal as a 'Critical Mineral':** Coking coal should be declared a **critical mineral** as recommended by **NITI Aayog** to boost domestic production, enhance steel sector competitiveness, and create skilled manufacturing jobs.
- **Whole-of-Government Approach:** To address the shortage of domestic metallurgical coal, NITI Aayog recommends a '**whole-of-government**' approach involving multiple ministries (Coal, Steel, Environment, and Forests).
- **Private Participation: Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs)** should be formed in the **Public-Private Partnership (PPP)** mode for the development of coalfield reserves.
- **Optimising Coal Production:** The production of metallurgical coal requires **collaborative teamwork** among mine planners, geologists, mining engineers, and washery operators.