

## India in Mineral Security Partnership

### Why in news?

India joined the elite critical minerals club, Mineral Security Partnership to secure critical mineral supply chains.

### What is Minerals Security Partnership (MSP)?

- [Minerals Security Partnership](#) (MSP) is a US-led alliance of 14 developed countries launched in June 2022.
- The elite critical minerals club is also known as the '[Critical Minerals Alliance](#)'.
- It was set up to ensure that critical minerals are produced, processed and recycled in a way that it secures critical mineral supply chains.
- It also aims to weaken China's grip on supplies of critical minerals worldwide.
- **Members** - The US, Australia, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, UK, the European Commission, Italy and India.
- India is the only developing country to become a part of the MSP.

### India's status of critical minerals?

- India is endowed with and produces over 85 minerals.
- Some of the required critical mineral assets are not yet ready to be mined.
- India is dependent on China and other countries to meet its requirement of critical minerals including Rare Earth Elements (REE)
- Currently, Khanij Bidesh India Ltd. (KABIL), is taking charge of ensuring mineral security through facilitating supply chains, mine asset acquisitions, and G2G collaborations.
- Click here to know about [Status of Critical Minerals in India](#)

### What does MSP mean to India?

- India is the first major developing country to join the group, giving it a greater ***international balance***.
- **Knowledge sharing** - MSP membership will help India engage with countries using advanced exploration and extraction technologies and learning from their experience.

*Only about 10-20% of India's critical minerals has been explored.*

- It will encourage India to make better use of its great geological potential.
- **Strengthening India** - MSP and the critical mineral list could ensure India in ensuring ***self-reliance*** and addressing ***vulnerability*** in the supply chain of minerals.

- Getting into alliances like MSP, along with policy initiatives like critical minerals list is so crucial for India's **energy security**.
- Help in India's ambitious shift towards **e-vehicles** and its associated **battery** requirements.
- India's late attempts to enter the **lithium value chain** as India found large [reserves of Lithium](#).
- **China's dominance** - China produces 60% of the world's rare earth elements.
- It has also become a dominant player in refining and processing critical minerals that it does not produce.
- It should enhance efforts for supply chain security, at the time of China's dominance over mining, processing, and refining of many key critical minerals.

### What should India do further?

- **Critical Mineral List** - Individual countries identified critical minerals according to their national priorities and future requirements.
- India came up with such a list of 30 critical minerals that it considers essential for its economic development and national security.
- The list is based on the 'Report of the Committee on Identification of Critical Minerals' constituted by the Ministry of Mines.
- **Specialised agency** - The committee also called for a need for establishing a National Institute or Centre of Excellence on critical minerals.
- **Partnerships** - India needs to go beyond MSP and build critical mineral partnerships with key countries such as Japan, the US and Australia.
- India already entered into a partnership with Australia, jointly investing in 5 critical minerals exploration projects in Australia.

*Australia produces almost half of the world's lithium, is the second-largest producer of cobalt and the fourth-largest producer of rare earths elements.*

- **Utilise geological potential** - India needs to double down on prospecting and exploration efforts to find critical minerals in India.
- **Private players** - India should encourage private sector participation in exploration of minerals.

### Quick Facts

**Critical minerals** - A critical mineral is a metallic or non-metallic element that is essential for the functioning of our modern technologies, economies or national security and there is a risk that its supply chains could be disrupted.

**Rare earth minerals** - Rare earth minerals comprises 17 elements which are classified as light RE elements (LREE) and heavy RE elements (HREE).

### Critical Mineral List (30)

|                |                   |                  |               |
|----------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------|
| 1. Antimony    | 15. Nickel        | iv. Neodymium    | 20. Rhenium   |
| 2. Beryllium   | 16. PGE           | v. Promethium    | 21. Selenium  |
| 3. Bismuth     | i. Platinum       | vi. Samarium     | 22. Silicon   |
| 4. Cadmium     | ii. Palladium     | vii. Europium    | 23. Strontium |
| 5. Cobalt      | iii. Rhodium      | viii. Gadolinium | 24. Tantalum  |
| 6. Copper      | iv. Ruthenium     | ix. Terbium      | 25. Tellurium |
| 7. Gallium     | v. Iridium        | x. Dysprosium    | 26. Tin       |
| 8. Germanium   | vi. Osmium        | xi. Holmium      | 27. Titanium  |
| 9. Graphite    | 17. Phosphorous   | xii. Erbium      | 28. Tungsten  |
| 10. Hafnium    | 18. Potash        | xiii. Thulium    | 29. Vanadium  |
| 11. Indium     | 19. REE           | xiv. Ytterbium   | 30. Zirconium |
| 12. Lithium    | i. Lanthanum      | xv. Lutetium     |               |
| 13. Molybdenum | ii. Cerium        | xvi. Scandium    |               |
| 14. Niobium    | iii. Praseodymium | xvii. Yttrium    |               |

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## References

1. [The Print - How MSP can help India harness critical minerals potential](#)
2. [IE - India joins US-led critical mineral club](#)
3. [Business Standard - Minerals Security Partnership: why is it important?](#)

