

### MERA YUVA BHARAT

Recently, the Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister of India has approved the establishment of an autonomous body Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat).



#### About Mera Yuva Bharat:

- It is an **autonomous body** will benefit the youth in the **age group of 15-29 years**, in line with the definition of ‘Youth’ in the National Youth Policy.
- In case of programme components specifically meant for the adolescents, the beneficiaries will be in the age group of 10-19 years.
- It will help in Setting the focus of the Government on **Youth Led development** and to make the Youth “active drivers” of development and not merely “passive recipients”.
- It will be launched on 31st October, 2023 on National Unity Day.

#### Objectives

- The primary objective of Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) is to make it a whole of Government platform for youth development.
- Under the new arrangement, with **access to resources & connection** to opportunities, youth would become community change agents and nation builders allowing them to act as the Yuva Setu between the Government and the citizens.
- It seeks to harness the immense youth energy for nation building.
- Mera Yuva Bharat supported by a technology platform would help to increase the Youth outreach efforts of the Department of Youth Affairs.

### INDIA NEEDS TO GO NUCLEAR

#### Context

- **India’s economy is expected to surpass Germany and Japan** and move up from number five to number three position **before the end of this decade**.

- With economic growth, a **significant growth in India's primary energy consumption** (most of which is currently fossil based) will go up which is already the **third-highest globally**.

## **The Energy Requirement to Support a Developed India**

- India aspires to reach a Human Development Index (HDI) comparable to advanced countries of the world.
- For this, **India needs a minimum of 2,400-kilogram oil equivalent (kgoe) energy consumption per capita per year**.
- This threshold could improve to around 1,400 kgoe, as a result of expected improvements in energy use efficiency.
- Even after considering this, the total clean energy requirement to support a developed India would work out to around 25,000 — 30,000 TWhr/yr.
- **This is more than four times India's present energy consumption.**

## **Major Concerns in Meeting Energy Requirement**

- **Fossil Energy- Major Contributor to Global Warming**
  - Fossil fuel consumption is a major **contributor to global warming**, which has now become an existential crisis for humanity.
  - Therefore, deep and immediate emission cuts, leading to net zero, have become unavoidable.
  - There is now a global consensus to reach the net zero goal in the 2045-2070-time frame.
- **Hurdles in Achieving Net Zero Target**
  - Transition to net zero involves massive transformation of energy systems which involves new technologies, restructuring of energy systems at supply-and-demand ends and large costs.
  - For a large and developing country like India, the challenge of reaching net zero is much bigger.
- **Unable to Meet Per Capita Energy Demand in the Long Term**
  - **India's developmental aspirations require a manifold increase in per-capita energy use**, along with transitions to net-zero GHG emission.
  - The inability to meet this dual challenge would mean either compromising on development or failing to realise the net-zero target timeframe or both.

## The Importance of Nuclear Energy

- **Cleanest and Safest**
    - Today, nuclear energy has emerged as one of the cleanest and safest of energies capable of effectively countering climate change.
    - Since India is pursuing a closed nuclear fuel cycle, waste issue is also reduced to a negligible level.
    - **Best Option Available for India to Meet Net Zero Target**
    - According to a study done by Vivekananda International Foundation, **nuclear energy would need to be scaled up to a couple of thousand GWe for an optimum solution to reach net-zero in a developed India.**
    - On the technology front, **India is capable of self-reliance.**
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## GOAN CASHEW

Recently, Goan cashew (kernel) got the geographical indication (GI) tag.



### About Goan cashew:

- Cashew is one of the most important **plantation crops in India**
- Cashew was **native to northeast Brazil** in Latin America and was introduced to Goa by the Portuguese in the 16th century (1570).
- At the time of its introduction on Indian coasts, cashew was known mainly as a crop for afforestation and soil conservation.
- In the state of Goa, it occupies the largest area among horticultural crops.

### Climatic condition

- **Soil and climate:** Well-drained deep sandy loam soils are the best for growing cashew. In general, all soils from sandy to laterite are well suited for this crop.
  - It is very well adapted to Indian coastal area under hot humid conditions
  - **Temperature:** In the range of 20 to 38 °C, relative humidity in the range of 60 to 95%.
  - **Rain fall:** Annual precipitation in the **range of 2000 to 3500mm.**
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- Extreme low temperature and frost are not conducive to raise cashew plantations.
  - The cultivation of this crop is being extended to non-traditional areas in the plains of **Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh** and some parts of North East hill region.
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## CHILIKA LAKE



**Migratory birds have started their annual journey to Chilika Lake—India’s largest waterbird habitat in Odisha — ahead of winter this year.**

### **About Chilika Lake:**

- It is a **brackish water lake** and a **shallow lagoon** with estuarine character spread across the districts of Puri, Khurda and Ganjam **in the state of Odisha.**
  - It is connected to **the Bay of Bengal** by a 32 km long and 1.5 km wide channel that mostly runs parallel to the Bay separated by a narrow spit.
  - It is **located at the mouth of the Daya River**, flowing into the Bay of Bengal, covering an area of over 1,100 km<sup>2</sup>.
  - It can be broadly **divided into four ecological sectors** based on salinity and depth, namely the southern zone, the central zone, the northern zone and the outer channel.
  - It is the **largest wintering ground** for migratory waterfowl found anywhere on the Indian sub-continent.
  - It is one of the **hotspot of biodiversity in the country**, and some rare, vulnerable and endangered species listed in the IUCN Red List of threatened Animals inhabit the Lake area for atleast part of their life cycle.
  - In 1981, Chilika Lake was designated the first Indian wetland of international importance under the **Ramsar Convention.**
  - The **Nalaban Island** within the lake is notified as a **Bird Sanctuary** under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
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## CONCERNS REGARDING THE CENTRE'S FACT-CHECK UNIT

### Why in News?

- The Bombay High Court has reserved its verdict in a batch of petitions challenging the constitutionality of the **Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Amendment Rules, 2023**.
- The Rules permit a fact check unit of the Union Government to identify “fake or false or misleading” online content “related to the business of the Central Government” and demand its removal.

### Background:

- **Intermediaries** are entities that store or transmit data on behalf of other persons, and include telecom and internet service providers, online marketplaces, search engines, and social media sites.
- The **Information Technology Act, 2000** was amended in 2008 to provide an exemption to intermediaries from liability for any third party information.
- Following this, the **IT (Intermediary Guidelines) Rules, 2011** were framed under the IT Act to specify the due diligence requirements for intermediaries to claim such exemption.
- Later on, **Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021** were notified in February, 2021, to replace the 2011 Rules.

### About Information Technology Amendment Rules, 2023:

- In April 2023, the Government introduced new rules called the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Amendment Rules, 2023.
- The most contentious modification introduced by the 2023 Amendment is discussed below:
  - **Fact Check Unit ('FCU'):**
    - The Rules require the SMIs, SSMIs (such as Twitter, Facebook, etc.) and Online Gaming Intermediary to inform their users to not 'host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, store any information which is **'identified as fake or false or misleading by a fact check unit of the Central Government'** in respect of any business of the Central Government.

- The MeitY is empowered to notify the fact check unit of the central government to identify fake, false, or misleading information about any central government business.
- In cases where information has been flagged as false or misleading, intermediaries are expected to take down the content.
- The FCU can instruct intermediaries (including social media sites) not to host such content.

### FCU & the Freedom of Speech Debate:

- The proposed introduction of the FCU has raised concerns among internet freedom activists.
- The amendment, however, does not define the term ‘any business of the Central government.’
- Experts have warned that intermediaries are likely to protect their own commercial interests rather than **risk losing safe-harbour protection** for non-compliance with the directions of the FCU, even at the cost of curbing their users’ right to freedom of speech and expression.
- Under IT Act, safe harbour safeguard essentially exempts intermediaries from liability for any third-party information made available or hosted by them, provided they observed “due diligence” while performing their obligations under the IT Act.

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## STRATEGICALLY SIGNIFICANT OR CRITICAL MINERALS: CABINET APPROVES ROYALTY RATES FOR LITHIUM, TWO OTHER STRATEGIC MINERALS

### Why in News?

- The Centre has approved an amendment to a key law in order to specify competitive royalty rates for the mining of three strategically significant minerals - **lithium, niobium, and rare earth elements (REEs)**.
- The decision comes after the government removed 6 minerals from the list of ‘specified’ atomic minerals, which could set the stage for participation of the private sector through the auctioning concessions for these minerals.

### What are Critical Minerals?

- A **mineral is critical** when the risk of supply shortage and associated impact on the economy is (relatively) higher than other raw materials.
- These minerals are **essential for economic development and national security**, and their lack of availability/ the concentration of extraction/ processing in a few geographical locations could potentially lead to **supply chain vulnerabilities**.
- These (such as lithium, graphite, cobalt, titanium, and rare earth elements) are essential for the advancement of many sectors, including **hightech electronics, telecommunications, transport, and defence**.
- **It forms part of multiple strategic value chains**, including -
  - **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.

### Identification of 30 Critical Minerals by the Indian Govt:

- The identification of these minerals was done on the basis of a report on critical minerals prepared by an expert team constituted by the **Ministry of Mines**.
  - The ministry **will revisit the list periodically**.
- The panel decided to have a **3-stage assessment** to arrive at a list of critical minerals.
  - **In the first stage**, the panel looked at the strategies of various countries such as Australia, USA, Canada, UK, Japan and South Korea, and identified a total of 69 elements/ minerals.
  - **In the second stage**, an inter-ministerial consultation was carried out with different ministries to identify minerals critical to their sectors.
  - **The third stage** assessment was to derive an empirical formula for evaluating minerals criticality, taking cognizance of the EU methodology that considers two major factors - **economic importance and supply risk**.
- Based on this process, **a total of 30 minerals** were found to be most critical for India, out of which two are critical as fertiliser minerals:





## WHAT IS SAYERET MATKAL UNIT?

As per recent reports, Israel's most elite special operations force, Sayeret Matkal, is being prepped for extremely dangerous hostage-rescue missions in the Gaza Strip.



### About Sayeret Matkal Unit:

- Sayeret Matkal, also called **General Staff Reconnaissance Unit 269**, is an **elite commando unit of the Israeli Defense Force (IDF)**.
- The unit was **established in 1957** at the initiative of its first commander, Avraham Arnan.
- It is **modelled on the UK's Special Air Service, or SAS**, a Special Forces unit of the British army, taking the unit's motto "**Who Dares Wins**".
- Sayeret Matkal is a **field intelligence-gathering unit** that **conducts deep reconnaissance behind enemy lines** and is also tasked with **counter-terrorism** and **hostage rescue beyond Israel's borders**.
- It is **directly subordinate to the Special Operations Branch of the IDF's Directorate of Military Intelligence**.
- Israel only acknowledged its existence in the 1980s.
- They have been known to **work in conjunction with other elite Israeli units** such as Sayeret Tzanhanim, Flotilla 13, and Sayeret Golani.
- It is **best known for its role in the 1976 Entebbe airport raid in Uganda**, when its commandos **saved 100 Israelis from Palestinian hijackers**.