

KHADI AND VILLAGE INDUSTRIES COMMISSION



- **Khadi and Village Industries Commission** is a statutory body established under the **Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act of 1956**.
- **Nodal Ministry:** It is an apex organization under the **Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises**.
- It is charged with the **planning, promotion, organisation and implementation** of programmes for the development of Khadi and other village industries in rural areas.
- At the **state level, Khadi & Village Industries Boards** were set up to effectively implement the schemes of KVIC in their respective states.
- **The objectives of the KVIC are:**
 - **Social Objective:** To provide employment in rural areas
 - **Economic Objective:** To produce a saleable product
 - **Wider Objective:** To create self-reliance among the economically weaker section

Functions of the KVIC:

- To **build a strategic reserve of raw materials** and implements for supply to producers.
- To **create common service facilities** for processing raw materials as semi-finished goods and provisions for facilities for marketing KVI products.
- To **enhance the sale and marketing of Khadi** and other products of village industries or handicrafts.
- To be responsible for encouraging and **promoting research in the production techniques**.
- To assure the genuineness of the products and to set standards for the quality of products from Khadi and Village Industries.

PAIMANA PORTAL



The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) continues to strengthen monitoring of Central Sector infrastructure projects through its PAIMANA platform.

- PAIMANA (**Project Assessment, Infrastructure Monitoring & Analytics for Nation-building**) is a flagship initiative of the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**.
- It functions as a **centralised national repository of infrastructure projects**, enabling web-generated analytical reports and enhancing data accuracy, and operational efficiency.
- It is integrated with DPIIT's **Integrated Project Monitoring Portal (IPMP/IIG-PMG)** through APIs.

Key Features of the PAIMANA Portal:

- **Centralized Project Monitoring:** It serves as a centralized project monitoring system, **providing a single-window interface for ministries**, departments, and implementing agencies to upload, track, and review project information.
- **Real-time Dashboards:** It features **real-time dashboards** with drill-down capabilities, enabling users to monitor progress across sectors, states, and timelines.
- **Advanced Data Analytics:** It includes **advanced data analytics**, role-based user access, interactive dashboards, reporting and query modules, and review cases for identification of data gaps.
- It is mandated to **monitor Central Sector Infrastructure Projects worth ₹150 crore and above.**

INDIA-US CRITICAL MINERALS FRAMEWORK

On the sidelines of the 11th Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting (FMM), India and the United States signed the bilateral India-US Critical Minerals Framework — formally titled "Securing of Supply in the Mining and Processing of Critical Minerals and Rare Earths."

What Triggered This Framework — China's Export Controls

- The immediate trigger for the framework was China's imposition of a licensing regime on rare earth element exports in 2025 — effectively choking global supplies during its trade war with the US. This directly impacted Indian industry, which began facing shortages of rare earth magnets late last year.
- The strategic context is stark — China controls 90% of global critical mineral processing, giving it enormous leverage over global technology supply chains.
- India is **100% import-dependent** for key **critical minerals** including cobalt, lithium, nickel, rare earth elements (REEs), and silicon — with little domestic processing capacity.

Key Objectives of the India-US Framework

- The bilateral framework seeks to:
 - Deepen cooperation across the entire critical minerals and rare earths supply chain — covering mining, processing, recycling, and related investments.
 - Strengthen resilient and diversified supply chains — reducing dependence on China.
 - Promote collaboration in financing and effective management of critical minerals and rare earths scrap.
 - Accelerate R&D collaboration and promote investment across the entire critical mineral value chain.
 - Align domestic laws and regulations of both countries to facilitate easier supply chain access.
 - Tighten controls to address national security requirements.

Building Blocks — The Journey So Far

- The India-US Critical Minerals Framework did not emerge overnight. It is the culmination of a series of engagements:
 - February 2025 — Secure supply routes for critical minerals were identified as a "shared strategic priority" under the India-US **TRUST** (Transforming the Relationship Utilising Strategic Technology) initiative.
 - The **Strategic Mineral Recovery Initiative** was also launched — a US-India programme to recover and process critical minerals (including lithium, cobalt, and rare earths) from heavy industries like aluminium, coal mining, and oil and gas.
 - February 2026 — India became a signatory to the **US-led Pax Silica initiative** — a Washington-led grouping to counter China's dominance in new-age sectors including AI and critical minerals.
 - May 2026 — Signing of the bilateral India-US Critical Minerals Framework and the Quad Critical Minerals Initiative Framework.
- **Other Related Initiatives**
 - **Forum on Resource Geostrategic Engagement (FORGE)** — India and the US are also partnering under this initiative for resource security cooperation.
 - **Mineral Security Partnership (MSP)** — Both India and the US are members of this US-led grouping that aims to catalyse public and private investment in critical mineral supply chains globally.

Conclusion

The India-US Critical Minerals Framework represents a significant deepening of the India-US strategic technology partnership — moving from declarations to operational frameworks for supply chain security.

It reflects India's recognition that critical mineral security is inseparable from economic security, technological sovereignty, and defence preparedness.

HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE ON DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES - GOVERNMENT'S NEW PUSH ON ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION AND POPULATION TRENDS

- The Union government has constituted a High-Level Committee on Demographic Changes (HLCDC) under the MHA to examine “unnatural demographic changes” allegedly arising from illegal immigration and other abnormal factors.

Composition of the Committee:

- The committee will be headed by retired Supreme Court judge **Prakash Prabhakar Navlekar**, and includes other members (Durga Shanker Mishra [Census Commissioner], Balaji Srivastava, Shamika Ravi).
- The panel has been asked to submit its report **within one year**, extendable by six months if necessary.

Why the Committee was Formed?

- According to the Union Home Minister, demographic change caused by illegal infiltration and “other abnormal reasons” poses challenges to:
 - **National sovereignty,** Internal security,
 - Law and order, **Social cohesion,**
 - Tribal identity and protection
 - Resource distribution and governance
- The government argues that certain demographic shifts in border and sensitive regions cannot be explained solely through normal fertility and mortality trends.

Key Mandates of the Committee:

- **Scientific study of demographic changes:**
 - The committee will examine demographic shifts across regions and communities.
 - It will analyse causes such as illegal immigration, cross-border movement, fertility variations, economic migration, socio-environmental factors, and administrative failures.

- **Identification of “abnormal” population trends:**

- The panel will study abnormal settlement patterns, orchestrated or planned migration, structural changes in religious and social demographics, and population changes diverging from national trends. **Special focus areas** include border districts, tribal regions, urban centres, and industrial corridors.

Illegal Immigration and Deportation Framework:

- A **major responsibility** of the committee is to recommend a permanent and streamlined mechanism for identification, detention, and deportation of illegal immigrants.
- The process is expected to be legal, fair, and time-bound, and the committee will also propose measures to strengthen:
 - Border management, Identification systems,
 - Monitoring mechanisms, Centre-State coordination.

Key Issues and Concerns:

- **National security dimension:** The government links demographic imbalance to border security threats, illegal cross-border networks, pressure on public resources, and governance challenges.
- **Constitutional and human rights questions:** The proposed framework may raise debates concerning citizenship rights, due process in detention and deportation, minority rights, and federal relations between Centre and States.
- **Data and evidence challenges:** Experts may question the definition of “abnormal demographic change”, reliability of demographic attribution, and distinction between migration and natural population growth.

Conclusion:

- The constitution of the committee marks a significant policy intervention connecting demography with national security, migration governance, and population management.
- While the government views the initiative as essential for protecting sovereignty and social stability, the exercise is likely to generate wider constitutional, political, and socio-economic debates.

QUAD (QUADRILATERAL SECURITY DIALOGUE)

- The **Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad)** is a strategic grouping of **India, the United States, Japan, and Australia**. It aims to promote a **free, open, inclusive, and rules-based Indo-Pacific region**.
- The idea of the Quad emerged after cooperation among the four countries during the **2004 Indian Ocean tsunami relief efforts**.
- It was formally proposed in **2007**, but momentum slowed for several years before being revived in **2017** due to rising geopolitical concerns, particularly China's growing influence in the Indo-Pacific.
- Although often viewed as a strategic counterbalance to China, the Quad officially describes itself as a platform for practical cooperation rather than a military alliance.

Objectives and Areas of Cooperation

- Promoting maritime security and freedom of navigation.
- Ensuring resilient supply chains and critical technologies.
- Strengthening disaster response and humanitarian assistance.
- Supporting clean energy transitions and climate resilience.
- Expanding cooperation in critical minerals, cybersecurity, and emerging technologies.
- For India, the Quad is strategically important because it supports a **rules-based Indo-Pacific order**, complements India's **Act East Policy**, and helps balance regional power dynamics.
- India sees the Quad as a mechanism to:
 - Secure sea lanes of communication in the Indian Ocean.
 - Enhance cooperation in defence, technology, and supply chains.
 - Reduce dependence on concentrated supply sources for critical minerals and semiconductors.
 - Address challenges arising from regional instability and coercive behaviour.



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NATIONAL SPORTS BOARD



National Sports Board

- It will function as the **central authority for granting recognition to National Sports Bodies** and ensuring compliance with governance, financial and ethical standards.
- **Composition**
 - It shall consist of a **Chairperson and two Members** to be appointed by the Central Government.
 - It is constituted from a panel of names recommended by the **Search-cum-Selection Committee**.
- **Term of Office:**
 - The **Chairperson and every other Member** shall **hold office for a term of 3 years** or till they attain the age of **65 years**, whichever is earlier.
 - They are **eligible for re-appointment** for one more term.
- **Functions:**
 - The Board shall **maintain a register of affiliate** units of the National Sports Bodies registered with the Board.
 - They **specify model guidelines** or regulations in relation to matters of **sports governance**,

AUSTRALIA

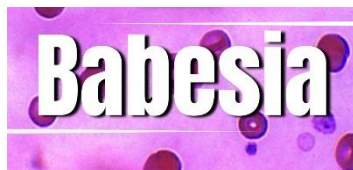


- **Location:** It is the **smallest continent** and the largest country.
- **Water Bodies:** It is bounded by major bodies namely the **Indian Ocean** to the west and the **South Pacific Ocean** to the east.
- **Capital City:** Canberra

- **Geographical Features of Australia**

- **Climate:** Australia experiences **diverse climate types** due to its large north-south extent, majorly covering temperate and tropical along with other zones.
- **Highest Point:** The highest point in Australia is **Mount Kosciuszko**
- **Major Rivers:** Murray-Darling, Murrumbidgee, & Lachlan.
- **Deserts:** It consist expansive deserts such as the **Great Victoria Desert, the Gibson Desert, and the Simpson Desert.**
- **Natural Resources:** It consist of gold, iron ore, lead, nickel, rutile, uranium, zinc and zircon, brown coal, cobalt, copper, ilmenite, lithium, silver, tungsten and vanadium.

WHAT IS BABESIA?



- Babesia is a genus of **microscopic parasites** that **infect the red blood cells (RBCs)** of **animals and humans**, causing the disease known as **babesiosis**.
- These protozoa are **transmitted mainly by the bite of ticks**, primarily by the **Ixodes tick**, also known as a **deer tick**, which is **also responsible for transmitting other diseases**, such as **Lyme disease**.
- Babesiosis can **affect both animals and humans**, although it is much **more common in animals**, especially **cattle, dogs**, and other mammals.
- Is Babesiosis Contagious?
 - No, babesiosis **isn't contagious from person to person**.
 - **Rarely, Babesia is transmitted from a pregnant women to the fetus.**
- **Treatment:**
 - Treatment for babesiosis usually involves a combination of **antimicrobial drugs**, as the infection is caused by a parasite.
 - The most recommended is a **combination therapy of two drugs, atovaquone (antiparasitic) and azithromycin (antibiotic)**.