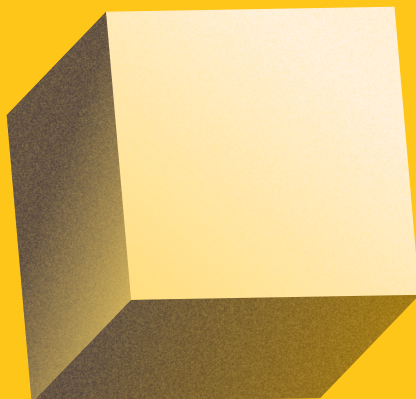


THE HINDU ANALYSIS

23rd March 2024

by saurabh pandey



Q.

Water diplomacy is way forward in maintaining relationship between countries in the era of Anthropocene. Discuss (250 words)

Ans.

Anthropocene era means the bad impact on the Earth's ecosystem by human activities. By these activities we have depleted the finite water resource drastically as well. Factors contributing to the continuous depletion of water includes both physical and economic ones, such as - rapid urbanization, industrialization, unsustainable agricultural practices, erratic rainfall pattern, climate change, pollution, inadequate water management approaches etc.

Why concerning?

- * Acc. to 'World Resource Institute's' data - nearly 17 countries comes under extremely high water stress crisis.
- * India is also not an exception to this problem, falls under the water stressed nation, with its water capacity expected to reduce from 1341 m^3 by 2025 and 1140 m^3 by 2050.

Reasons behind water depletion :-

(i) Water table going down due to increased tubewell / borewell density.

(more discharge of ground water than its recharge)

(ii) Dumping of sewage and other grey waters directly into rivers resulting in lowering down the quality of water.

(iii) Reduced storage of water (rain) in reservoir / wetlands / waterbodies due to filling of silt.

Currently the world is experiencing countless meteorological extremities ranging from intense heat waves to turbulent floods, which increases water insecurity ^{by} many folds.

To overcome this problem, the world order needs to foster improved cooperation via water diplomacy, as - Out of UNESCO's 194 state member & 12 associate members, 153 countries can be classified as water-sharing nations.

Role of Water Diplomacy

* By using water diplomacy among nations, will help in fostering improved resource sharing.

* Following and framing of new universal

principles for international water law.

- * Keeping in mind the intricate relation b/w water, climate change and international stability, a collaborative governance is required for effective and equitable water sharing among nations.
- * Inclusion of research, academia and industry to implement & deploy of new technologies.
- * Extensive cross border networks with civil societies and academic networks for facilitating political ~~processes~~ processes to prevent, mitigate & resolve water related disputes.



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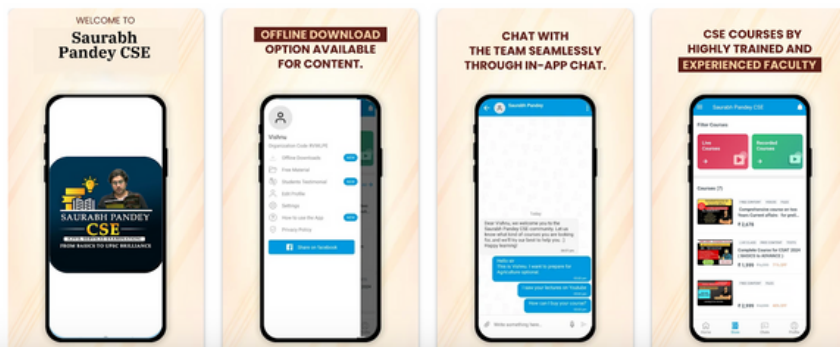
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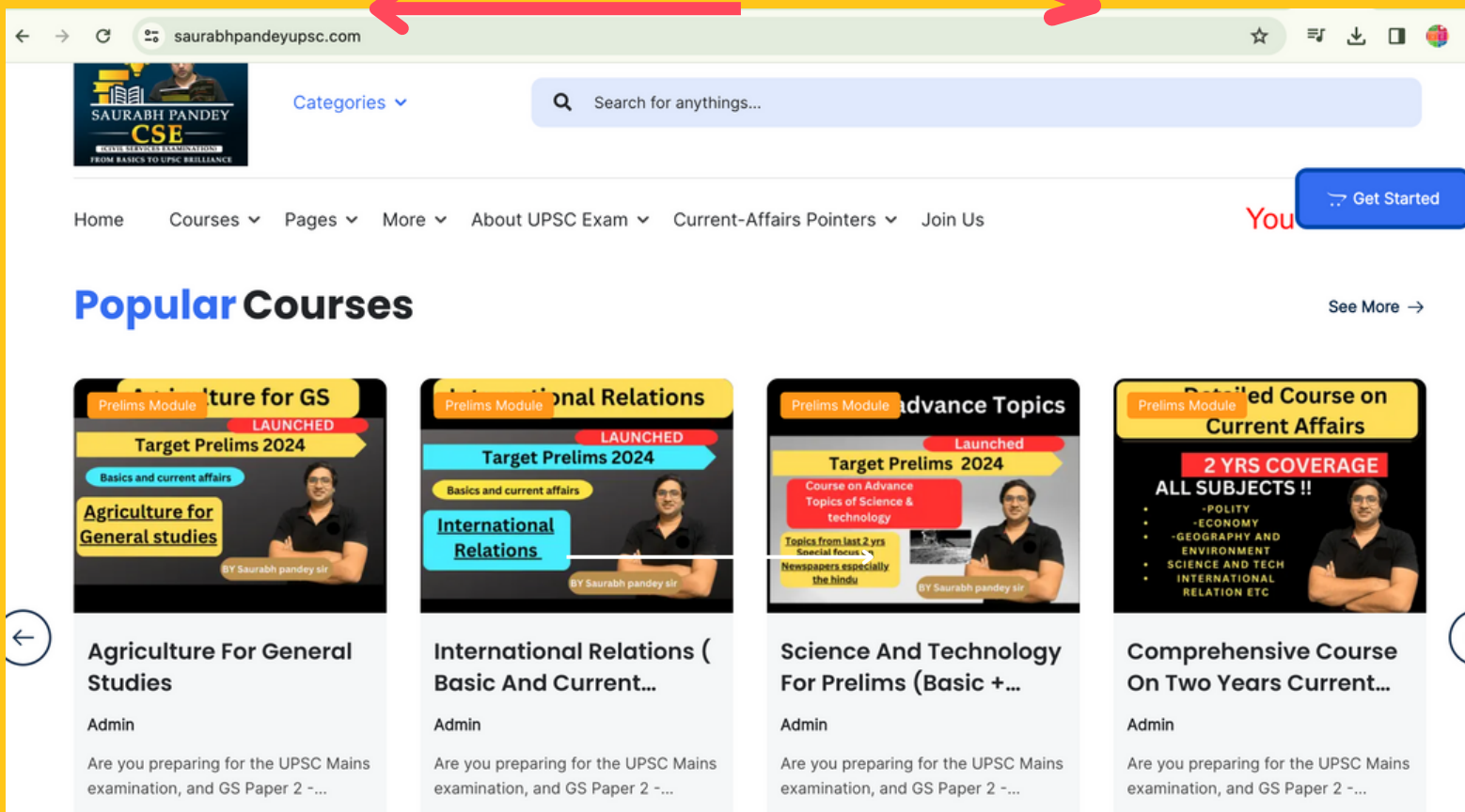

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Can Arvind Kejriwal continue to be CM while in custody?

NEWS ANALYSIS

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Questions are being asked about whether Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal can continue to occupy a public office that demands a high degree of morality after being remanded in judicial custody.

Earlier judgments in the Supreme Court and High Courts have concluded that constitutional morality, good governance, and constitutional trust are the basic norms for holding a public office.

A recent judgment by the Madras High Court in *S. Ramachandran versus V. Senthilbalaji* referred to arguments made in court on whether a Minister must forfeit his right to occupy a public office that demands a high degree of morality if he is accused of a "financial scandal". Mr. Senthilbalaji, a former Tamil Nadu Minister, was arrested by the ED on money-laundering charges last year. He continued to be a Minister without portfolio while he was in judicial custody.

The High Court heard arguments on whether he "has virtually forfeited his office as a Minister on account of being arrested and detained in prison".

The arguments referred to a 2014 Constitution Bench judgment of the Supreme Court in *Manoj Narula versus Union of India*, which had held that the basic norm for holding a public office was constitutional morality, that is, to avoid acting in a manner contradictory to the rule of law. The second norm was

good governance. It was argued in the Madras High Court that "the government has to rise above narrow private interests or parochial political outlook and aim at doing good for the larger public interest". The third was constitutional trust, that is, to uphold the high degree of morality attached to a public office.

Practical difficulties

The Madras High Court judgment highlighted discussions by lawyers in court about the practical difficulties of being a Minister while in custody. For one, a "Minister sitting in prison cannot ask the Secretary of the State to get the files concerning any of the departments without breaching the oath of office", it was pointed out.

On the other hand, should a person be paid salary from the State exchequer while occupying a public office without performing any duty attached to the office he held, it was asked in the High Court.

The High Court agreed that these were arguments based "more on the concern for public morality or constitutional morality" as Mr. Senthilbalaji did not "completely suffer a disqualification as an MLA under the Representation of the People Act, 1951".

However, the High Court had agreed that citizens expect, and "legitimately so", that persons in power had high standards of moral conduct.

"Political compulsion cannot outweigh the public morality, requirements of good/clean governance and constitutional morality," the High Court had observed.



The hindu analysis by
saurabh pandey sir



Can Arvind Kejriwal continue to be CM while in custody?

- **The arguments referred to a 2014 Constitution Bench judgment of the Supreme Court in Manoj Narula versus Union of India, which had held that the basic norm for holding a public office was constitutional morality, that is, to avoid acting in a manner contradictory to the rule of law.**
- **The second norm was good governance. It was argued in the Madras High Court that “the government has to rise above narrow private interests or parochial political outlook and aim at doing good for the larger public interest”.**
- **The third was constitutional trust, that is, to uphold the high degree of morality attached to a public office.**



Practical difficulties

- “Minister sitting in prison cannot ask the Secretary of the State to get the files concerning any of the departments without breaching the oath of office”, it was pointed out.
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- However, the High Court had agreed that citizens expect, and “legitimately so”, that persons in power had high standards of moral conduct

Real GDP growth may hit 8% this fiscal year, signals FinMin

Ministry reckons continuing momentum in Q4 may lift FY24 growth pace above NSO's 7.6% estimate; flags risks next year from 'hardening oil prices'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India's economy may well end up growing by about 8% this fiscal, outstripping the 7.6% real GDP growth projected by the National Statistical Office (NSO), the Finance Ministry signalled on Friday, citing the continuing momentum in economic activity in the ongoing final quarter of 2023-24.

Citing recent growth projections of 7.8-8% for FY24 from certain agencies, the Ministry said this inclination stemmed from the NSO's growth estimate, which implied a 5.9% pace in Q4. This "is likely to be an understatement given the continuing momentum of the economy".

Despite risks such as "hardening crude oil prices" and "global supply chain bottlenecks to trade", the Ministry asserted the outlook for 2024-25 was bright with this fiscal closing on a positive note of 'strong growth, stable inflation and external account and a progressive employment outlook'.

It noted that retail inflation had extended its stay inside the RBI's tolerance range of 2%-6% for a sixth month with core inflation continuing to ease.

"Despite price volatility in certain specific food

Outlook 'bright'

FinMin cites positive close to FY24 with 'strong growth, stable inflation, external account' as factors for upbeat FY25 outlook



■ Sees inflation view positive as pick-up in summer crops' sowing likely to help pare food prices

■ Expects rural demand recovery to strengthen on 'forecast of a normal monsoon'

■ Flags risk to goods exports outlook from Red Sea crisis, need to monitor current account deficit in FY25

items, headline inflation stayed below 6% throughout this year except in July and August," the Ministry said in its monthly review, adding that spices and cereals had recorded the lowest inflation since August 2022 last month. For the coming months, the inflation outlook was positive, it said, citing the pick-up in the sowing of summer crops, which was likely to help reduce food prices.

Arguing that robust investment activity was "clearly underway", the Ministry said that private consumption demand was strengthening as seen in indicators like "burgeoning air passenger traffic and sale of passenger vehicles, digital payments, improved consumer confidence and expectations of a normal monsoon". The Ministry, however, seemed to acknowledge that private consumption demand

was backed by 'resilient urban demand' while rural demand remained weak.

'Rural demand'

"The recovery in rural consumption demand is expected to be strengthened by the forecast of a normal monsoon," it said. It also underlined that an increase in household savings would be necessary to finance private sector capital formation.

"On the external front, the narrowing merchandise trade deficit and the rising net services receipts are expected to result in an improvement in the current account balance in 2023-24. However, in 2024-25, the current account deficit will bear watching," it averred, hinting at the risks to goods exports and possible oil price surges due to the Red Sea crisis and the drought in the Panama Canal.





What is Real GDP?

- Real gross domestic product is an inflation-adjusted measure that reflects the value of all goods and services produced by an economy in a given year.
- It is expressed in base-year prices and is often referred to as constant-price, inflation-corrected, or constant-dollar GDP.
- Real GDP makes comparing GDP more meaningful because it shows comparisons for both the quantity and value of goods and services.
- Real GDP is calculated by dividing nominal GDP by a GDP deflator.
- Unlike real GDP, nominal GDP uses current market prices and doesn't factor inflation into its calculation.

•

GDP Deflator

$$= \frac{\text{Nominal GDP}}{\text{Real GDP}} \times 100$$

India now eyes Africa for critical minerals

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India is looking at Africa for minerals, including cobalt, and other critical minerals, Mines Secretary V. L. Kantha Rao said on Friday. The country is still engaging with Australia for lithium blocks, he added.

Mr. Rao said, "We are looking at Zambia, Namibia, Congo, Ghana and Mozambique for minerals."

Critical minerals, including lithium are crucial for electric vehicle batteries and for India's decarbonisation mission.

Mr. Rao also said auction rules for offshore mineral blocks were being re-

Lithium blocks in Kashmir will be auctioned again as govt. received only 2 bids in round one

died and that 10 blocks would be up for sale after the general elections. He added that the result of the first round of auction would be out in 10 days.

Mr. Rao said the lithium blocks in Jammu and Kashmir would now be auctioned in the third tranche as it received only two bids in the first round.

Seven critical mineral blocks have been put up for sale in the third round.



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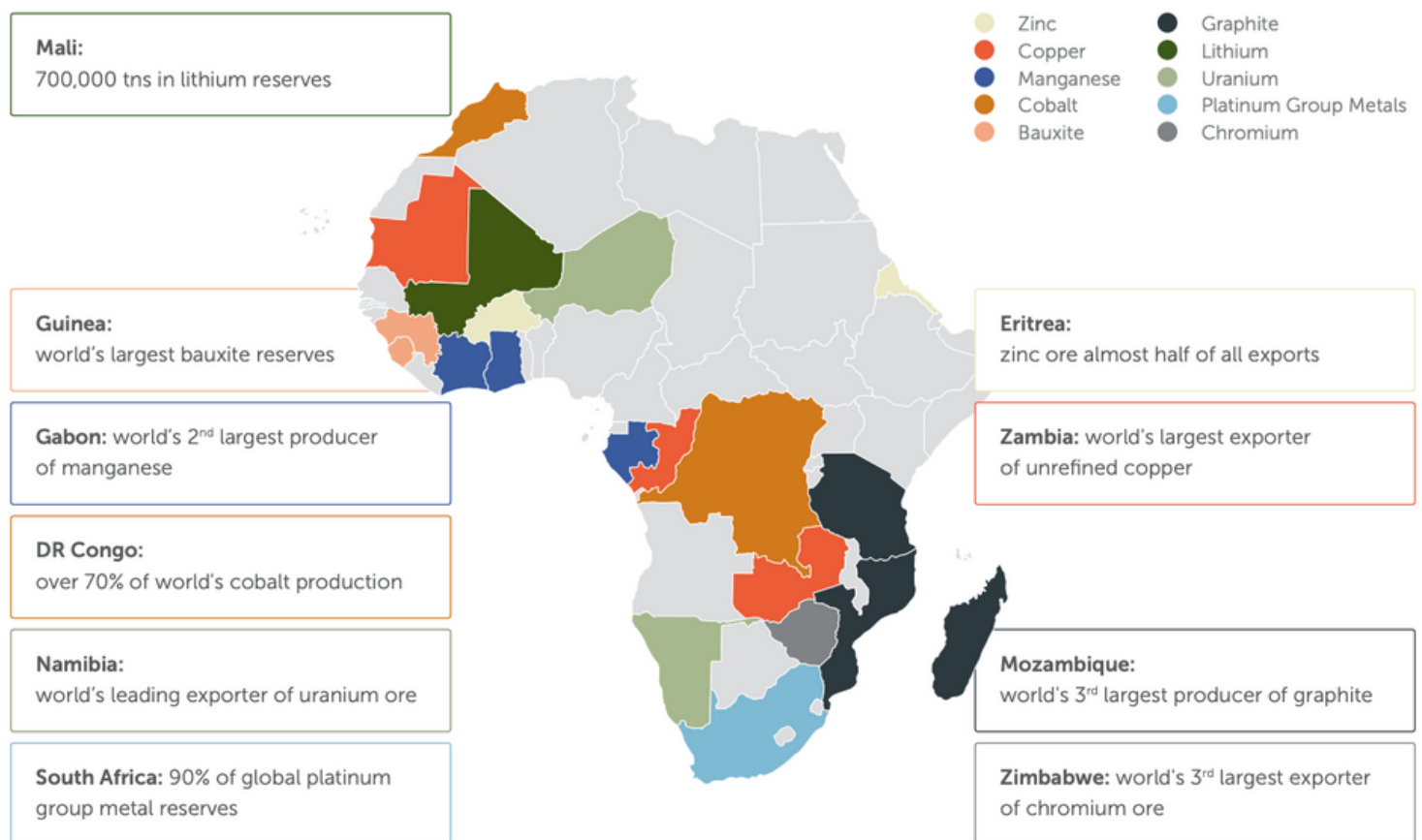
Critical Minerals in Africa

- The clean energy transition will require significant amounts of critical minerals which are not only vital to the manufacturing of clean energy technologies (e.g. solar panels, wind turbines, electric vehicles, battery storage, hydrogen electrolyzers and fuel cells), but they are also essential in several applications of the defence, ICT, pharmaceutical industries and they are crucial to achieve economy-wide decarbonisation objectives (i.e. the transport and industrial sectors).
- The EU, the United States and China have made commitments to reach net-zero by 2050 and 2060 respectively,



- Africa holds substantial reserves of bauxite, chromium, cobalt, copper, gold, iron, lithium, manganese, platinum, and uranium to name just a few.

African countries: selected low carbon minerals (2019)



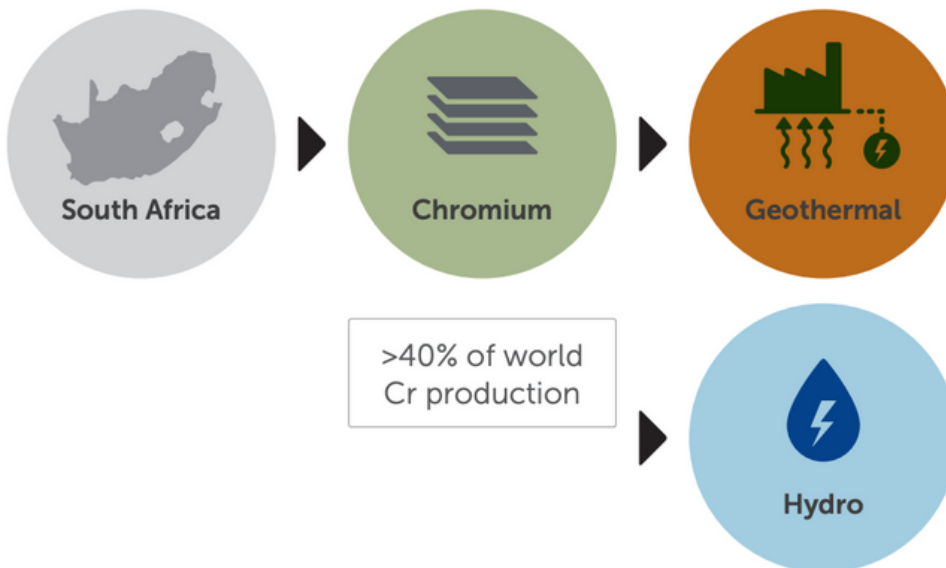
Source: MIF based on Atlas of Economic Complexity, United States Geological Survey & World Nuclear Association



1/4 world bauxite reserves

>50% global Al ore exports

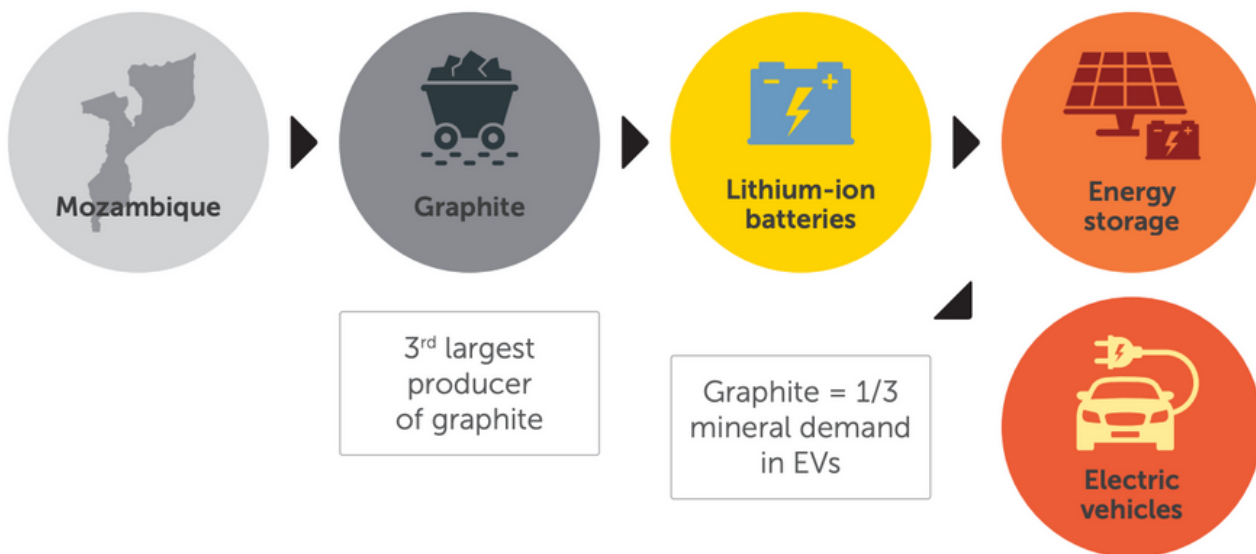
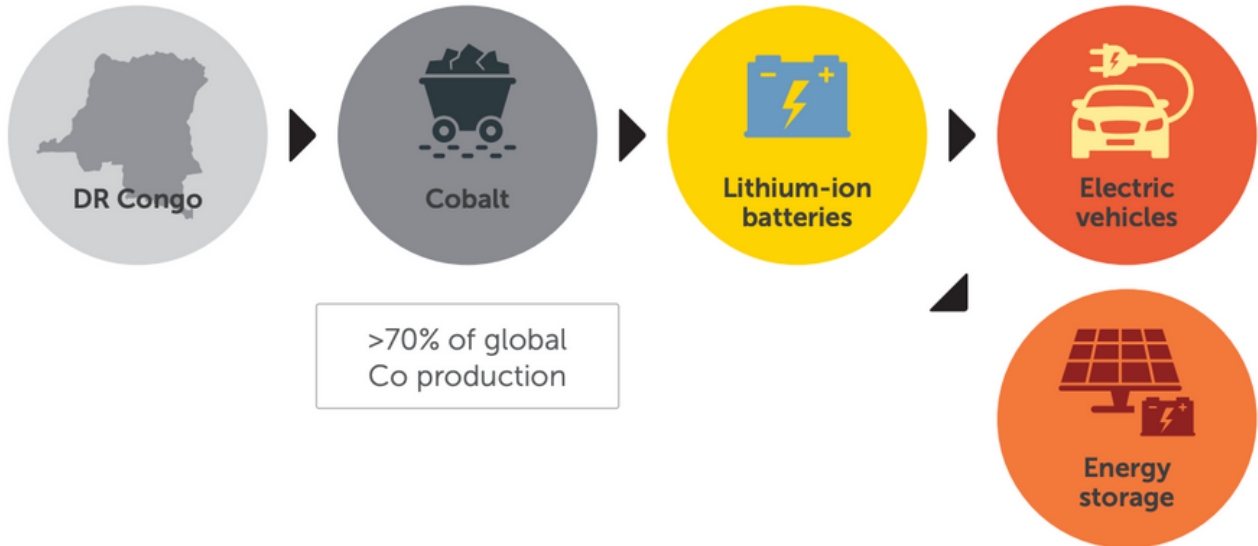
Al = 85% of components in



Cr = >1/3 of mineral demand for geothermal

>40% of world Cr production

Cr = >1/3 of mineral demand for hydropower





- **Manganese (Mn): concentrated solar needs African manganese**
- **Manganese will be a key mineral for many green technologies such as concentrated solar power, wind, hydro, and geothermal while also being used in electric vehicles and for energy storage.**
- **Manganese accounts for over one quarter of the mineral demand from concentrated solar power.**
- **Manganese has no satisfactory substitute in its major applications.**
- **Over 60% of global mine production for Manganese occurs in Africa, with several countries on the continent hosting manganese resources.**
- **Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Ghana, and South Africa all produce manganese.**
- **South Africa is the world's largest manganese producer, followed by Gabon.**



Platinum Group Metals (PGMs):

- **South African minerals key to decarbonising heavy transport and industry** Platinum group metals, including metals such as iridium, palladium, and platinum, will be key to the adoption of green hydrogen, and for decarbonising difficult sectors such as heavy transport, heating, and industry.
- **Platinum and Iridium are the ideal metals for catalysts in Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM) technology, the process which produces hydrogen fuel.**



- Africa accounts for over 90% of global PGM reserves, with South Africa accounting for the large majority of that.
- • Between 2016 and 2020, South Africa accounted for over 70% of global platinum production, and over 80% of global iridium production.
- • Between 2016 and 2020, Zimbabwe was the world's third largest producer of platinum and second largest producer of iridium.

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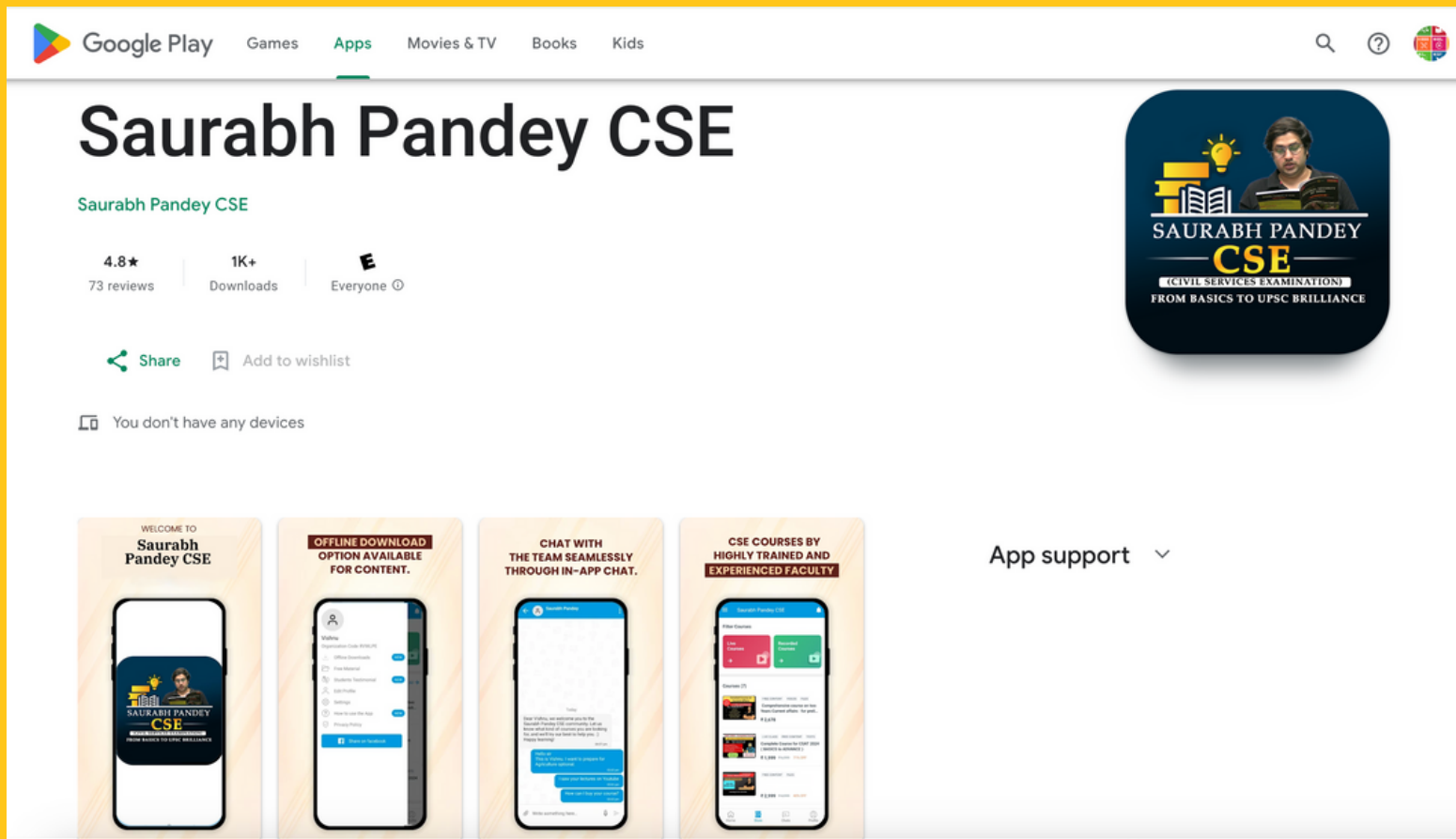
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“Technology is shaping human or human is shaping technology”

"प्रौद्योगिकी मानव को आकार दे रही है या मानव प्रौद्योगिकी को आकार दे रहा है"

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