



Kimberley Process

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Why in News

The plenary meeting of the **Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS)** is being hosted by India from **18th to 22nd November 2019 in New Delhi.**

Significance of KPCS

- India has been actively involved in the development of the **Kimberley Process (KP)** as an important protocol in trade of diamonds which has ensured that **99.8% of the diamonds in the world are conflict-free.**
 - The **Kimberley Process (KP)** is a **commitment** to remove conflict diamonds from the global supply chain.
 - **Conflict Diamonds** means rough diamonds used by rebel movements or their allies **to finance conflict** aimed at undermining legitimate governments.
- Currently, India **exports around US \$24 billion** worth **cut and polished diamonds** which is expected to reach an export target of **US \$1 trillion** in the upcoming years.
- The importance of KPCS is immense to India as **more than one million people are directly employed** by the diamond industry. The industry plays a pivotal role in sustaining the livelihoods of these people.

Kimberley Process Certification Scheme

- The KPCS came into effect from **1st January 2003** and evolved into an effective mechanism for stopping the trade in conflict diamonds.
- **India is one of the founder members** of the KPCS. India had earlier chaired KPCS in the year 2008.
- The Kimberley Process is a joint initiative involving Government, International Diamond Industry and Civil Society **to stem the flow of Conflict Diamonds.**
- It is also described in **United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions.**
- At present, KPCS has **55 members representing 82 countries** including EU with 28 members.
- It is chaired **on a rotating basis** by participating countries.

- Since 2003, India has been actively participating in the KPCS process and is a member of almost all Working Groups of KP (except the Working Group on Artisanal and Alluvial Production (WGAAP)).
 - **Department of Commerce is the nodal Department**, and
 - **Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC)** is designated as the **KPCS Importing and Exporting Authority in India**. GJEPC is responsible for **issuing KP Certificates** and is also the **custodian of KP Certificates** received in the country.

Source: PIB