



Geochemical Baseline Atlas

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Why in News

Recently, **CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI)** has released the **first 'Geochemical Baseline Atlas of India'** for environmental management.

- The atlas aims to document the **concentration and distribution of the chemical elements** in the soils of India.
- It consists of **44 maps of metals, oxides, and elements** present in **top and bottom** soils **across India**.

Significance

- Both human activities and natural processes are continuously modifying the chemical composition of our environment. Hence, it will help to **assess the chemical compositional changes on the Earth's surface**.
- It will help the country **to assess the presence of toxic chemicals** in soil and how it varies from place to place. It also helps in identifying how soil pollution is contributing to groundwater contamination
- Further, the map will also support in choosing the **right soil that's rich** in certain micronutrient elements required for each plant growth.
- The geochemical data presented in these maps will be a part of the **global map to be prepared by the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGC)**.

About CSIR-NGRI:

The National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) is a geoscientific research organization established in **1961** under the **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)**.

International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGC)

- It is a **non-governmental scientific organization** founded in 1961 which promotes and encourages the study of geological problems, and facilitates international and interdisciplinary cooperation in the earth sciences.
- The Union consists of **121 members nations**. India is the member.
- At present IUGS gives considers issues related to:
 - Geoscience education,
 - Geoscience information,
 - Environmental management and hazards

Source: TH