



Daily PIB Summary

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1. MMDR AMENDMENT ACT, 2026



- The amendment aims to establish a **predictable and uniform fiscal regime** for mineral development.
- It seeks to reduce the burden of multiple taxes, cess and levies on mineral rights and mineral-bearing lands.
- Greater fiscal certainty is expected to encourage **investment, exploration and domestic mineral production**.
- The reform is significant for **critical and strategic minerals**, essential for clean energy, defence and advanced manufacturing.
- It also has implications for **Centre-State fiscal relations**, particularly regarding taxation powers over mineral resources.
- The broader objective is to strengthen **mineral security, industrial competitiveness and ease of doing business**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

MMDR Act, 1957

- Principal legislation governing the **development and regulation of mines and minerals** in India.
- Provides the framework for mineral concessions, mining operations and mineral development.

Key Reform

- The 2026 amendment introduces **Section 9D**, restricting State Governments from imposing taxes, cess or other levies on **mineral rights and mineral-bearing lands**, subject to conditions/restrictions prescribed by the Central Government.

Federalism Linkage

- **Entry 50, State List:** Taxes on mineral rights, subject to limitations imposed by Parliament relating to mineral development.
- **Entry 54, Union List:** Regulation of mines and development of minerals under parliamentary declaration.
- The amendment therefore has important implications for **fiscal federalism and Centre-State relations**.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Fiscal Reform:** Creates greater uniformity and predictability in mineral-sector taxation.
- **Investment:** Seeks to make mining projects more commercially viable and attractive.
- **Mineral Security:** Supports domestic availability of critical and strategic minerals.
- **Industrial Impact:** Can reduce input costs for mineral-dependent industries.
- **Federalism:** Places greater constraints on State-level taxation of mineral rights.
- **Strategic Significance:** Supports energy transition, defence manufacturing and high-technology industries.
- **Challenge:** Balancing national mineral security with States' fiscal interests.
- **Way Forward:** Ensure transparent Centre-State coordination, sustainable mining and equitable revenue mechanisms.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Parent Act:** MMDR Act, 1957.
- **Amendment:** MMDR Amendment Act, 2026.
- **Key Provision:** Section 9D.
- **Entry 50, State List:** Taxes on mineral rights.
- **Entry 54, Union List:** Regulation of mines and development of minerals.
- **Royalty:** Supreme Court held in 2024 that **royalty is not a tax**.
- **2024 Case:** *Mineral Area Development Authority v. Steel Authority of India Ltd.*
- **Critical Minerals:** Important for EVs, renewable energy, electronics, semiconductors and defence.
- **Core Objective:** Fiscal certainty + mineral security + investment + competitiveness.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding the MMDR Amendment Act, 2026:

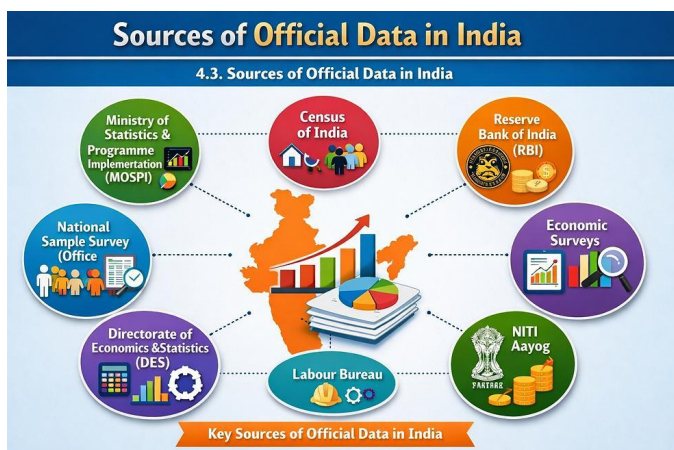
1. It seeks to establish a more uniform fiscal framework for the mineral sector.
2. It restricts State Governments from imposing certain taxes or levies on mineral rights and mineral-bearing lands.
3. The Constitution places all taxation of mineral rights exclusively under the Union List.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (b)

2. ACCURATE DATA ESSENTIAL FOR EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE AND DELIVERY OF BENEFITS TO RIGHT BENEFICIARIES



- Reliable data forms the foundation of **evidence-based governance and policy-making**.
- Incorrect or outdated data can lead to inefficient resource allocation and exclusion of deserving beneficiaries.
- The Vice-President highlighted the importance of **field experience, accurate data collection and timely presentation**.
- India's data ecosystem is expanding through **digital databases, GST data and high-frequency economic information**.

- Official statistics should maintain **accuracy, impartiality, confidentiality and professional integrity**.
- Economic indicators alone do not capture human well-being; **quality of life and happiness** are also important dimensions.
- Data-driven governance will be crucial for achieving the vision of **Viksit Bharat@2047**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Data-Driven Governance

- Government data supports:
 - A. Policy formulation
 - B. Targeted welfare delivery
 - C. Resource allocation
 - D. Monitoring and evaluation
 - E. Evidence-based decision-making

Indian Statistical Service (ISS)

- **ISS** is a specialised Group 'A' Central Civil Service dealing with statistical analysis and official statistics.
- ISS officers contribute to statistical planning, data collection, analysis and interpretation across government.

Official Statistics

- The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** plays a central role in India's official statistical system.
- Important statistical outputs include national accounts, economic indicators, surveys and socio-economic statistics.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Data Quality:** Accuracy and reliability are essential for sound policy decisions.
- **Welfare Delivery:** Quality beneficiary data helps ensure schemes reach eligible people.
- **Field Validation:** Ground-level experience improves the quality and relevance of collected data.
- **Digital Ecosystem:** Digital databases and GST/high-frequency data strengthen real-time governance.
- **Ethics:** Statistical integrity requires impartiality, confidentiality and professional independence.



- **Human Development:** Governance must consider well-being beyond conventional economic indicators.
- **Way Forward:** Integrate datasets responsibly, strengthen data quality, improve field verification and protect privacy.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **ISS:** Indian Statistical Service.
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).
- **Official Statistics:** Statistics produced or endorsed by authorised government institutions for public use and policy-making.
- **GST Data:** Can provide high-frequency information on economic activity and transactions.
- **Data for Development:** Uses reliable data to improve policy design, implementation and evaluation.
- **Key Principles:** Accuracy, timeliness, impartiality, confidentiality and professional independence.
- **Viksit Bharat@2047:** Vision of transforming India into a developed nation by 2047.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Accurate government data is important for effective resource allocation and targeted welfare delivery.
2. The Indian Statistical Service is a specialised Central Government service dealing with official statistics.
3. Economic indicators alone provide a complete measure of human well-being.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (b)

3. NCC'S 'APARAJITA – PARANG LA 2026' HIGH-ALTITUDE GIRLS' TREK



- The expedition will cross **Parang La Pass at 5,578 m (18,300 ft)**, connecting Spiti Valley with Changthang in Ladakh.
- It is designed to promote **leadership, courage, endurance, teamwork and self-confidence** among NCC girl cadets.
- The trek traverses high-altitude deserts, glaciers, snowfields and river valleys, making it a demanding endurance expedition.
- Women officers from the **Army, Navy and Air Force** are leading the team, highlighting women's growing participation in the defence ecosystem.
- The initiative strengthens NCC's role in **youth development, adventure training and national integration**.
- It also reflects the broader emphasis on **Nari Shakti** and expanding opportunities for women in traditionally demanding fields.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

National Cadet Corps (NCC)

- I. NCC is a **Tri-Services youth organisation** comprising the Army, Navy and Air Force wings.
- II. It aims to develop:
 - A. Discipline
 - B. Leadership
 - C. Character
 - D. Adventure spirit

E. National integration

Parang La Pass

- **Altitude:** 5,578 metres.
- Connects **Spiti Valley, Himachal Pradesh** with **Changthang, Ladakh**.
- The route involves extreme high-altitude terrain and requires acclimatisation and specialised preparation.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Participants:** 28 NCC girl cadets.
- **Leadership:** Women officers from all three Armed Forces.
- **Distance:** Approximately 250 km.
- **Duration:** 30 days.
- **Highest Point:** Parang La — 5,578 m.
- **Strategic Significance:** Promotes youth leadership, resilience and national integration.
- **Women Empowerment:** Demonstrates growing capabilities and participation of women in challenging domains.
- **Way Forward:** Expand adventure training, leadership programmes and opportunities for women in defence-related activities.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **NCC:** National Cadet Corps.
- **Nature:** Tri-Services youth organisation.
- **Parang La:** High-altitude pass connecting **Spiti Valley and Changthang**.
- **Altitude:** 5,578 m / 18,300 ft.
- **Aparajita-Parang La 2026:** 250-km, 30-day expedition.
- **Participants:** 28 girl cadets.
- **Leadership:** Women officers representing Army, Navy and Air Force.
- **Terrain:** High-altitude deserts, glaciers, snowfields and river valleys.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding 'Aparajita – Parang La 2026':

1. It is an NCC expedition involving girl cadets.
2. Parang La connects Spiti Valley with the Changthang region.
3. The expedition is led exclusively by officers of the Indian Army.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (b)

4. INDIA'S BIGGEST SEMICONDUCTOR EVENT TO BE HELD IN NEW DELHI



- The event will showcase India's growing ambitions in **semiconductor manufacturing, design and electronics**.
- It provides a platform for global and Indian companies to explore partnerships, investment and technology collaboration.
- Semiconductor capability is strategically important for **electronics, automobiles, telecommunications, defence, AI and clean-energy technologies**.
- The event complements India's efforts to build a resilient domestic semiconductor ecosystem and reduce dependence on concentrated global supply chains.
- It can strengthen collaboration across the semiconductor value chain—from **chip design and fabrication to packaging, testing and assembly**.

- Greater domestic capability can support high-skilled employment, technology development and export competitiveness.
- The initiative aligns with India's broader objective of becoming a **trusted global semiconductor and electronics hub**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)

- I. The **India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)** is the institutional framework driving India's semiconductor ecosystem.
- II. It focuses on developing:
 - A. Semiconductor fabs
 - B. Display fabs
 - C. Compound semiconductors
 - D. Packaging and testing
 - E. Semiconductor design

Why Semiconductors Matter

- I. Semiconductors are essential components in:
 - A. Smartphones and computers
 - B. Automobiles
 - C. 5G/telecommunications
 - D. Artificial intelligence
 - E. Defence systems
 - F. Renewable-energy and power electronics

Global Supply Chain

- Semiconductor manufacturing requires substantial capital, advanced technology, specialised infrastructure and highly skilled manpower.
- Geographic concentration of semiconductor production makes **supply-chain resilience and diversification** strategically important.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Event:** India's biggest semiconductor-focused event.
- **Venue:** Yashobhoomi, New Delhi.
- **Dates:** 17–19 September 2026.
- **Focus:** Semiconductor manufacturing, design, innovation, investment and ecosystem development.
- **Strategic Significance:** Strengthens India's technological and supply-chain resilience.

- **Economic Impact:** Potential investment, high-skilled employment and electronics-sector growth.
- **Global Linkage:** Promotes international technology and investment partnerships.
- **Way Forward:** Strengthen R&D, skilled manpower, semiconductor infrastructure, domestic supply chains and industry-academia collaboration.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Semiconductor:** Material whose electrical conductivity lies between that of a conductor and an insulator.
- **Key Semiconductor Materials:** Silicon, germanium and gallium compounds.
- **Fab:** Facility where semiconductor wafers are manufactured using highly sophisticated processes.
- **OSAT:** Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test.
- **India Semiconductor Mission:** Government initiative for developing India's semiconductor and display ecosystem.
- **Semiconductor Applications:** Electronics, automobiles, telecommunications, defence, AI and renewable energy.
- **Yashobhoomi:** India International Convention and Expo Centre located in **Dwarka, New Delhi**.
- **Strategic Objective:** Build a resilient domestic semiconductor ecosystem and integrate India into global value chains.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding semiconductors:

1. Semiconductor manufacturing includes activities such as wafer fabrication, assembly and testing.
2. Semiconductors are critical components in sectors such as telecommunications, automobiles and defence.
3. OSAT refers to a technology used exclusively for designing semiconductor circuits.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (b)

5. WASTE TO WOODS: RAICHUR RECLAIMS 22 ACRES THROUGH MIYAWAKI TRANSFORMATION



- The project demonstrates how degraded and waste-affected land can be restored through nature-based solutions.
- The Miyawaki approach enables rapid development of dense vegetation by planting diverse native species in close proximity.
- Conversion of a dumping ground into green cover can improve **air quality, soil conditions, biodiversity and local microclimate**.
- The initiative supports urban environmental management by combining **land reclamation with ecological restoration**.
- Such urban forests can contribute to carbon sequestration, heat mitigation and improved groundwater infiltration.
- The model highlights the role of local governments and community participation in addressing environmental challenges.
- It offers a replicable approach for reclaiming degraded urban and peri-urban land across Indian cities.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Miyawaki Method

- Developed by Japanese botanist **Akira Miyawaki**.
- It involves planting **multiple layers of native vegetation** densely together.
- Typical layers include:
 - Canopy trees
 - Sub-canopy trees
 - Shrubs

- Ground-cover plants
- Dense planting encourages competition for sunlight and space, accelerating vegetation growth.

Ecological Restoration

- Ecological restoration seeks to recover degraded ecosystems and restore their ecological functions.
- Restored urban forests can provide:
 - Carbon sequestration
 - Biodiversity habitat
 - Temperature regulation
 - Dust and pollution reduction
 - Recreational spaces

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Land Reclamation:** 22 acres of former waste-affected land converted into green cover.
- **Technique:** Miyawaki method based on dense planting of native species.
- **Environmental Impact:** Supports biodiversity, carbon sequestration and microclimate regulation.
- **Urban Governance:** Demonstrates local-government-led environmental restoration.
- **Waste Management:** Converts degraded dumping-site land into productive ecological space.
- **Replicability:** Can be adapted for other degraded urban lands where adequate site preparation and maintenance are possible.
- **Challenge:** Long-term survival requires soil restoration, water availability and maintenance.
- **Way Forward:** Prioritise native species, monitor ecological outcomes and integrate urban forests into city-level climate plans.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Miyawaki Method:** Dense, multi-layered plantation technique using predominantly native species.
- **Origin:** Developed by Japanese botanist **Akira Miyawaki**.



- **Core Principle:** High-density planting → competition and rapid growth → development of forest-like vegetation.
- **Native Species:** Species naturally occurring or historically established in a particular region.
- **Urban Forest:** Concentrated vegetation within or around urban areas providing ecological and social benefits.
- **Ecological Restoration:** Process of assisting the recovery of degraded ecosystems.
- **Key Benefits:** Biodiversity enhancement, carbon sequestration, heat reduction, pollution mitigation and soil improvement.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding the Miyawaki method:

1. It generally uses densely planted, diverse native species.
2. It was developed by Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki.
3. It necessarily requires planting only a single tree species to maximise rapid growth.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (b)