



Daily PIB Summary

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1. MINISTRY OF MINES TO ORGANISE NATIONAL DMF SUMMIT 2026



- The summit aims to **assess performance and impact of DMFs** across states and districts.
- It will bring together **state governments, district officials, and stakeholders** to share best practices.
- Focus areas include **improving transparency, utilisation efficiency, and community participation**.
- The initiative seeks to ensure that mining revenues translate into **inclusive development** in affected areas.
- It aligns with goals of **sustainable mining and social justice**.
- The summit reflects the government's push towards **good governance and accountability in resource management**.
- It also aims to address challenges such as **under-utilisation and fund diversion**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

What is District Mineral Foundation (DMF)?

- DMF is a **non-profit statutory trust** set up in mining districts to work for the **interest and benefit of persons affected by mining**.
- It is funded through contributions from **mining lease holders**.

Legal Basis

- Established under the **Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957** (amended in 2015).
- Each state frames rules governing DMF functioning.

Objective of DMF

- Address **adverse impacts of mining** on environment, health, and livelihoods.
- Promote **sustainable development in mining-affected regions**.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Summit Objective:** Review implementation and impact of DMF across India.
- **Stakeholder Platform:** Participation from states, districts, and policymakers.
- **Focus Areas:** Transparency, fund utilisation, and governance reforms.
- **Social Impact:** Welfare of mining-affected communities (health, education, livelihood).
- **Governance Reform:** Push towards accountability and outcome-based utilisation.
- **Challenges:** Under-utilisation of funds, lack of awareness, administrative bottlenecks.

- **Way Forward:** Strengthen monitoring, community participation, and digital tracking of funds.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **DMF:** District Mineral Foundation – statutory body at district level.
- **Legal Provision:** Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (2015 amendment).
- **Funding Source:** Contributions from mining companies (royalty-linked).
- **Objective:** Welfare of **mining-affected people and areas**.
- **Nature:** Non-profit trust with district-level implementation.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding District Mineral Foundations (DMFs):

1. DMFs are statutory bodies established under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.
2. They are funded entirely by the central government budget.
3. DMFs aim to work for the welfare of mining-affected communities.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

2. INDIAN NAVAL SHIP TRIKAND CONCLUDES PORT CALL AT PORT VICTORIA, SEYCHELLES



- **INS Trikand**, a frontline stealth frigate, visited Seychelles as part of India's **mission-based deployment** in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
- The port call involved **professional exchanges, joint interactions, and goodwill activities** with local authorities.
- It reinforces India's role as a **net security provider in the IOR**.
- The visit enhances **defence diplomacy and maritime cooperation** between India and Seychelles.
- It contributes to **capacity building, interoperability, and mutual trust**.
- Such engagements support **regional stability, anti-piracy efforts, and maritime security**.
- The initiative reflects India's broader vision of **SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region)**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

INS Trikand

- A **Talwar-class stealth frigate** equipped for **multi-role operations** including anti-air, anti-surface and anti-submarine warfare.

- Operates as part of India's forward naval deployments.

Mission-Based Deployment

- Indian Navy maintains **continuous presence in key maritime zones** to safeguard national interests and ensure security of Sea Lines of Communication (SLOCs).

India–Seychelles Relations

- Seychelles is a key partner in the **Western Indian Ocean**, important for **maritime security cooperation, EEZ surveillance, and capacity building**.

SAGAR Doctrine

- India's maritime vision of **Security and Growth for All in the Region**, focusing on cooperative security and sustainable development in the IOR.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Strategic Visit:** Port call at Port Victoria strengthens bilateral maritime ties.
- **Defence Diplomacy:** Enhances cooperation between Indian Navy and Seychelles authorities.
- **Operational Role:** Supports mission-based deployments in IOR.
- **Security Dimension:** Contributes to anti-piracy, surveillance, and regional stability.
- **SAGAR Vision:** Reinforces India's commitment to cooperative maritime security.
- **Interoperability:** Facilitates joint exercises and knowledge exchange.

- **Geostrategic Importance:** Seychelles' location is critical in western Indian Ocean sea routes.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **INS Trikand:** Talwar-class stealth frigate of the Indian Navy.
- **Port Victoria:** Capital port of Seychelles.
- **SAGAR:** India's maritime doctrine – Security and Growth for All in the Region.
- **Mission-Based Deployment:** Continuous naval presence in key maritime zones.
- **IOR Importance:** Crucial for global trade and energy shipping routes.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. INS Trikand is a Talwar-class stealth frigate of the Indian Navy.
2. Seychelles is located in the Western Indian Ocean region.
3. SAGAR doctrine focuses only on military dominance in the Indian Ocean.

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. GENERAL ELECTIONS AND BYE-ELECTIONS 2026: ASSURED MINIMUM FACILITIES AND VOTER ASSISTANCE AT ALL POLLING STATIONS



- The ECI has reiterated mandatory provision of **basic facilities at polling stations** to ensure smooth and inclusive voting.
- Key focus is on **voter convenience, accessibility, and dignity**, especially for elderly and Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).
- Measures include **drinking water, toilets, ramps, seating arrangements and proper signage**.
- Enhanced voter assistance mechanisms aim to improve **participation and reduce voter apathy**.
- The initiative reflects strengthening of **electoral governance and democratic inclusiveness**.
- It aligns with the principle of **free, fair, and accessible elections**.
- The move also supports **higher voter turnout and trust in electoral processes**.

- AMF refers to a set of **basic infrastructure and amenities** mandated at every polling station.
- Includes facilities for **comfort, accessibility, and ease of voting**.

Constitutional Framework

- Elections in India are governed under **Article 324 of the Constitution**, which vests superintendence, direction, and control in the Election Commission of India.

Inclusive Electoral Participation

- Focus on inclusion of **PwDs, senior citizens, women, and remote populations**.
- Use of measures like **volunteer assistance, transport support, and voter awareness campaigns**.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **AMF Provision:** Mandatory facilities such as drinking water, toilets, ramps, and seating at all polling stations.
- **Accessibility Focus:** Special arrangements for **PwDs and elderly voters**.
- **Voter Assistance:** Help desks, signage, and volunteers for smooth navigation and support.
- **Inclusivity:** Ensures participation of marginalized and remote populations.
- **Governance Strengthening:** Enhances transparency and credibility of elections.
- **Turnout Impact:** Likely to improve voter turnout and reduce barriers to participation.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF)

- **Way Forward:** Integrate technology (apps, digital info) and strengthen last-mile delivery.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Article 324:** Empowers Election Commission of India to conduct elections.
- **AMF Components:** Drinking water, toilets, ramps, seating, signage, lighting.
- **PwD Support:** Wheelchairs, volunteers, priority voting.
- **Bye-Elections:** Elections held to fill vacant seats between general elections.
- **Free & Fair Elections:** Core principle of Indian democracy ensured by ECI.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Article 324 of the Constitution empowers the Election Commission of India to conduct elections.
2. Assured Minimum Facilities at polling stations include ramps and drinking water.
3. Bye-elections are conducted only after completion of the full term of a legislature.

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.PRIME MINISTER REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO WATER CONSERVATION ON WORLD WATER DAY



- The Prime Minister highlighted the importance of **water conservation as a national priority**.
- Emphasis was laid on **community participation and Jan Andolan** for sustainable water use.
- The message reinforces ongoing initiatives like **rainwater harvesting, watershed management, and efficient irrigation**.
- It underscores the need to address **water scarcity and climate change impacts**.
- The initiative aligns with India's goals of **sustainable development and resource management**.
- It promotes behavioural change towards **responsible water usage**.
- The statement strengthens governance focus on **integrated water resource management**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

World Water Day

- Observed annually on **22 March**, declared by the United Nations.

- Focuses on raising awareness about **freshwater conservation and sustainable management**.

Water Stress in India

- India faces **high water stress**, with declining groundwater levels and uneven distribution.
- Increasing demand from agriculture, industry and urbanisation intensifies pressure.

Government Initiatives

- **Jal Jeevan Mission:** Ensures tap water supply to rural households.
- **Atal Bhujal Yojana:** Focuses on sustainable groundwater management.
- **Catch the Rain Campaign:** Promotes rainwater harvesting.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Leadership Message:** Narendra Modi calls for collective action on water conservation.
- **Jan Andolan Approach:** Emphasis on people's participation in water management.
- **Sustainability Focus:** Integration of conservation with climate resilience.
- **Policy Linkage:** Supports national missions on water security.
- **Behavioural Change:** Encourages efficient and responsible water use.
- **Environmental Impact:** Aims to reduce water scarcity and ecological stress.
- **Way Forward:** Strengthen local water governance and adopt modern irrigation techniques.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **World Water Day:** Observed on **22 March**.
- **Declared By:** United Nations.
- **Jal Jeevan Mission:** Rural tap water supply programme.
- **Atal Bhujal Yojana:** Groundwater management scheme.
- **Water Stress:** Situation where water demand exceeds availability or quality limits use.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. World Water Day is observed on 22 March every year.
2. Jal Jeevan Mission aims to provide piped drinking water to rural households.
3. Atal Bhujal Yojana focuses on surface water irrigation expansion.

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. MINISTRY OF MINES TO LAUNCH SEVENTH TRANCHE OF AUCTION OF CRITICAL AND STRATEGIC MINERALS



- India is expanding auctions of **critical and strategic minerals** to secure supply chains for key industries.
- The 7th tranche builds on earlier rounds to enhance **private participation and exploration**.
- Focus minerals include those essential for **clean energy, electronics, defence, and high-tech manufacturing**.
- The move aims to reduce **import dependence**, especially for minerals like lithium, cobalt, and rare earth elements.
- It aligns with India's push for **energy transition and technological self-reliance**.
- The initiative strengthens **resource security and industrial competitiveness**.
- It also reflects policy reforms in mining governance and ease of doing business.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

What are Critical & Strategic Minerals?

- Minerals essential for **economic development and national security**,

with limited domestic availability and high import dependence.

- Examples: Lithium, cobalt, nickel, graphite, rare earth elements.

Legal & Policy Framework

- Governed under the **Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957**.
- Recent amendments enable **auction of mineral blocks and private sector participation**.

Global Context

- Demand for critical minerals is rising due to **electric vehicles, renewable energy, and electronics manufacturing**.
- Countries are competing to secure supply chains amid geopolitical uncertainties.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Auction Tranche:** Launch of **7th round** of critical mineral block auctions.
- **Resource Security:** Reduces dependence on imports for strategic minerals.
- **Sectoral Impact:** Supports EVs, renewable energy, defence, and electronics industries.
- **Private Participation:** Encourages investment and advanced exploration.
- **Policy Reform:** Strengthens transparent and competitive allocation of resources.
- **Strategic Importance:** Enhances national security and technological capability.
- **Way Forward:** Develop processing capacity and global partnerships.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Critical Minerals:** Essential for modern technologies and energy transition.
- **Examples:** Lithium, cobalt, nickel, rare earth elements.
- **MMDR Act, 1957:** Governs mineral resources in India.
- **Auction System:** Transparent allocation of mining rights.
- **Import Dependence:** India relies heavily on imports for many critical minerals.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Critical minerals are essential for technologies like electric vehicles and renewable energy systems.
2. India is fully self-sufficient in the supply of critical minerals.
3. The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 governs mineral allocation in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)