



Daily PIB Summary

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1. MOVING BEYOND EXTRACTION: INDIA'S FIRST NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON MINE CLOSURE & REPURPOSING HELD AT NEYVELI



- The workshop focused on transitioning from traditional mining to environmentally responsible mine closure practices.
- Stakeholders discussed strategies for ecological restoration and repurposing mined land for economic use.
- The event emphasized integrating sustainability, community welfare, and land rehabilitation into mining policy.
- Experts highlighted opportunities such as renewable energy parks, agriculture, tourism, and water reservoirs on reclaimed land.
- The initiative supports India's commitment to sustainable development and environmental restoration.
- It also aligns with global best practices in responsible mining.
- The discussions contribute to strengthening India's mining governance framework.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Mine Closure

Mine closure refers to the systematic process of:

- Rehabilitation of mined land
- Environmental restoration
- Socio-economic transition for affected communities

It is an essential stage in the mining lifecycle.

Legal Framework in India

The **Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957** mandates preparation of Mine Closure Plans.

Types of closure plans include:

- **Progressive Mine Closure Plan (PMCP)** – implemented during mining operations
- **Final Mine Closure Plan (FMCP)** – implemented after mining ends

Institutional Context

The **Ministry of Coal** and **Ministry of Mines** oversee mining policy and sustainability measures.

Neyveli Mining Region

Neyveli in Tamil Nadu is known for large lignite deposits and mining operations run by **NLC India Limited**.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **First National Initiative:** Dedicated workshop on mine closure and land repurposing.
- **Sustainability Focus:** Environmental restoration after mining activities.
- **Land Repurposing:** Potential for renewable energy, agriculture, and tourism.

- **Policy Dialogue:** Participation of policymakers, industry, and experts.
- **Community Impact:** Emphasis on livelihood transition for affected populations.
- **Environmental Protection:** Rehabilitation of soil, water bodies, and biodiversity.
- **Way Forward:** Institutionalizing mine closure as a core component of mining governance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

2.POLICY REFORMS THAT TRANSFORMED INDIA'S BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT



PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **MMDR Act, 1957:** Governs mineral resource management in India.
- **PMCP:** Progressive Mine Closure Plan during mining operations.
- **FMCP:** Final Mine Closure Plan after mine exhaustion.
- **Mine Reclamation:** Restoration of land to usable condition.
- **Lignite:** Low-grade brown coal used in power generation.
- **NLC India Limited:** PSU involved in lignite mining and power generation.
- **Post-Mining Land Use:** Agriculture, forestry, solar parks, reservoirs.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 governs mineral resource regulation in India.
2. Progressive Mine Closure Plans are implemented only after mining operations cease.
3. Mine reclamation involves restoring mined land for productive use.

- Over the past decade, India has undertaken major structural reforms to simplify business regulations.
- Key initiatives include the Goods and Services Tax (GST), Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), and corporate tax reforms.
- Digital governance measures have reduced compliance burdens and improved transparency.
- Policies promoting startups and innovation have strengthened the entrepreneurial ecosystem.
- Infrastructure and logistics reforms have enhanced competitiveness in global trade.

- These changes have contributed to improved investor confidence and economic resilience.
- The reforms collectively support India's goal of becoming a major global economic hub.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Ease of Doing Business Reforms

India introduced multiple regulatory reforms to simplify procedures for businesses:

- Simplification of company registration.
- Online compliance mechanisms.
- Reduction in licensing requirements.

Major Structural Reforms

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Implemented in 2017, GST replaced multiple indirect taxes with a unified tax system.

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016

Created a time-bound insolvency resolution process to address stressed assets.

Corporate Tax Reduction

Corporate tax rates were reduced to enhance competitiveness and attract investments.

Institutional Framework

The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** plays a central role in improving India's business climate.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Tax Reform:** Introduction of GST unified indirect taxation.

- **Insolvency Framework:** IBC strengthened credit discipline.
- **Digital Governance:** Online approvals and compliance platforms.
- **Startup Ecosystem:** Policies encouraging innovation and venture funding.
- **Infrastructure Push:** Logistics, ports, and industrial corridors.
- **Investor Confidence:** Increased FDI inflows and domestic investment.
- **Way Forward:** Continued regulatory simplification and policy stability.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **GST:** Implemented on 1 July 2017.
- **IBC, 2016:** Time-bound insolvency resolution mechanism.
- **DPIIT:** Nodal department for industrial promotion.
- **FDI:** Foreign Direct Investment in productive assets.
- **Startup India:** Initiative launched in 2016.
- **Corporate Tax Reform (2019):** Reduced rates for new manufacturing firms.
- **Ease of Doing Business:** Global index formerly published by the World Bank.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code introduced a time-bound resolution process for stressed assets.
2. GST replaced multiple indirect taxes with a unified taxation system.
3. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade functions under the Ministry of Finance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

3. INAUGURAL EDITION OF RAISINA SCIENCE DIPLOMACY INITIATIVE (SDI) FOCUSES ON STRATEGIC AUTONOMY AND DISRUPTIVE TECHNOLOGIES



- The **Raisina Science Diplomacy Initiative (SDI)** is a new platform aimed at strengthening India's role in global **science diplomacy and technological governance**.
- The inaugural edition focused on the strategic importance of **disruptive technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Quantum Computing, Biotechnology, and Space Technologies**.
- These technologies are increasingly shaping **national security, economic competitiveness, and geopolitical alignments**.
- For India, the initiative highlights the need to build **technological sovereignty while maintaining global collaboration**.

- It also underscores the growing importance of **science-led diplomacy** in addressing global challenges such as climate change, health security, and digital governance.
- The discussions emphasized **strategic autonomy**, ensuring that India remains capable of developing and controlling critical technologies while avoiding overdependence on external actors.
- The initiative also reflects India's broader ambition to become a **trusted global partner in technology governance and innovation ecosystems**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Science Diplomacy

Science diplomacy refers to the **use of scientific collaboration among nations to address common problems and build constructive international partnerships**.

It generally operates through three dimensions:

1. **Science in Diplomacy** – Scientific inputs guiding foreign policy decisions (e.g., climate negotiations).
2. **Diplomacy for Science** – Diplomatic efforts enabling international scientific cooperation.
3. **Science for Diplomacy** – Scientific collaboration improving diplomatic relations between countries.

Science diplomacy has become increasingly relevant due to global challenges like **pandemics, climate change, and emerging technologies governance**.

Strategic Autonomy in Technology

Strategic autonomy refers to a country's ability to **independently design, develop, and deploy critical technologies without excessive reliance on external powers.**

For India, this concept is linked with:

- **Technological self-reliance**
- **Resilient supply chains**
- **Secure digital infrastructure**
- **Indigenous innovation ecosystems**

Major initiatives supporting this goal include:

- Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan
- National Quantum Mission
- Semicon India Programme

Disruptive Technologies

Disruptive technologies are innovations that **significantly alter industries, economic systems, and geopolitical power structures.**

Key disruptive technologies include:

- Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- Quantum Computing
- Biotechnology and Synthetic Biology
- Advanced Semiconductors
- Space Technologies

These technologies are increasingly becoming **strategic assets influencing global power dynamics.**

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Strategic Focus:** The initiative emphasized building **technological strategic autonomy** while maintaining collaborative global partnerships.
- **Technology Governance:** Discussions highlighted the need for **global norms and frameworks** for emerging

technologies such as AI and quantum computing.

- **National Security Dimension:** Disruptive technologies are now central to **defence preparedness, cyber security, and intelligence capabilities.**
- **Innovation Ecosystem:** The platform encourages stronger collaboration between **government, academia, startups, and industry.**
- **Global Cooperation:** Science diplomacy can help address transnational challenges like **climate change, health security, and digital governance.**
- **Geopolitical Significance:** Countries with leadership in advanced technologies are likely to shape **future global economic and strategic order.**
- **India's Role:** India aims to position itself as a **bridge between developed and developing countries in technology governance debates.**
- **Way Forward:** Strengthening **research funding, talent development, and international scientific collaboration** will be key to achieving technological leadership.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- I. **Science Diplomacy:** Use of scientific collaboration to strengthen international relations and address global problems.
- II. **Strategic Autonomy:** Capability of a nation to **pursue independent policies and maintain technological sovereignty.**
- III. **Key Disruptive Technologies Identified Globally:**
 - A. Artificial Intelligence (AI)
 - B. Quantum Computing

- C. Biotechnology
- D. Advanced Semiconductor Manufacturing
- E. Space Technologies

IV. **National Quantum Mission:**

- A. Approved in **2023**
- B. Budget allocation: **₹6000 crore (approx.)**
- C. Focus: Quantum computing, communication, sensing, and materials.

V. **Semicon India Programme:**

- A. Aims to establish **semiconductor fabrication and design ecosystem in India.**

VI. **Global Science Diplomacy Platforms:**

- A. **UNESCO science diplomacy initiatives**
- B. **OECD technology governance frameworks**

VII. **Importance for India:**

- A. Ensuring **secure supply chains**
- B. Reducing **technology dependence**
- C. Strengthening **innovation capacity**

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Science diplomacy involves using scientific cooperation among nations to address global challenges and strengthen international relations.
2. Strategic autonomy in the technological domain implies complete isolation from international technological cooperation.
3. Disruptive technologies such as Artificial Intelligence and Quantum Computing have increasing

implications for national security and geopolitical competition.

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)

4.NITI AAYOG AND UNICEF INDIA SIGN STATEMENT OF INTENT TO STRENGTHEN NUTRITION AND HEALTH OUTCOMES IN ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICTS AND BLOCKS



- The partnership between **NITI Aayog and UNICEF India** aims to enhance **nutrition and health outcomes among vulnerable populations** in India's Aspirational Districts and Blocks.
- The initiative will focus on strengthening **maternal and child health services, nutrition monitoring systems, and community awareness programmes.**
- It seeks to use **data-driven governance and behavioural change**

strategies to address persistent challenges like **malnutrition, stunting, and anaemia**.

- The collaboration also intends to support **capacity building of frontline workers**, including Anganwadi workers and health personnel.
- This effort aligns with India's broader development priorities such as **improving human capital, achieving SDG targets related to health and nutrition, and reducing regional disparities**.
- By focusing on the most underdeveloped districts and blocks, the initiative aims to ensure **inclusive development and equitable access to essential health and nutrition services**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP)

The Aspirational Districts Programme was launched in **2018** by NITI Aayog to **rapidly transform the most underdeveloped districts in India**.

Key features:

- I. Covers **112 districts across India**
- II. Focus on **five development themes**
 - A. Health & Nutrition
 - B. Education
 - C. Agriculture & Water Resources
 - D. Financial Inclusion & Skill Development
 - E. Basic Infrastructure

The programme uses **real-time data monitoring and competitive federalism** to improve governance outcomes.

Aspirational Blocks Programme

(ABP) The Aspirational Blocks Programme was launched in **2023** to **replicate the ADP model at the block level**.

Key objectives:

- Improve development outcomes in **500 blocks across India**
- Focus on **last-mile governance**
- Strengthen service delivery at the **grassroots administrative level**

Nutrition Challenges in India

Despite progress, India continues to face major nutrition challenges:

- **Child stunting**
- **Wasting**
- **Anaemia among women and children**
- **Low birth weight**

Major initiatives addressing these issues include:

- POSHAN Abhiyaan
- Integrated Child Development Services
- Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Strategic Partnership:** The Sol establishes a collaborative framework between **NITI Aayog and UNICEF India** to improve child and maternal health outcomes.
- **Target Areas:** The initiative focuses on **Aspirational Districts and Aspirational Blocks**, which represent regions with relatively weaker development indicators.
- **Nutrition Improvement:** Emphasis on tackling **malnutrition, stunting,**

wasting, and anaemia among children and women.

- **Data-Driven Governance:** Strengthening **monitoring systems and evidence-based policymaking** through real-time data and analytics.
- **Capacity Building:** Training and empowering **frontline workers such as Anganwadi workers, ASHA workers, and health personnel.**
- **Community Engagement:** Promoting **behavioural change communication** for improved nutrition practices, maternal care, and child health.
- **SDG Alignment:** Supports India's commitments toward **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, particularly **SDG 2 (Zero Hunger)** and **SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being).**
- **Inclusive Development:** Reducing **regional disparities and ensuring equitable access to health and nutrition services.**

- C. Child stunting and wasting
- D. Learning outcomes in schools
- V. **Frontline Health Workers:**
 - A. **ASHA workers**
 - B. **Angan wadi workers**
 - C. **Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANM)**
- VI. **Relevant Sustainable Development Goals:**
 - A. **SDG 2 – Zero Hunger**
 - B. **SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-being**
- VII. **UNICEF:**
 - A. Full form: **United Nations Children's Fund**
 - B. Works on **child protection, nutrition, education, and health worldwide.**

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. The Aspirational Districts Programme aims to improve development outcomes in selected districts through data-driven governance and competitive federalism.
2. The Aspirational Blocks Programme focuses on improving development indicators at the sub-district administrative level.
3. POSHAN Abhiyaan primarily targets improving nutrition outcomes among women, children, and adolescent girls in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- I. **Aspirational Districts Programme (2018):**
 - A. Implemented by **NITI Aayog**
 - B. Covers **112 districts**
 - C. Uses **delta ranking system** to measure progress.
- II. **Aspirational Blocks Programme (2023):**
 - A. Covers **500 blocks across India**
 - B. Focus on **last-mile governance and service delivery.**
- III. **Key Nutrition Mission:**
 - A. POSHAN Abhiyaan (National Nutrition Mission) launched in **2018.**
- IV. **Key Indicators Monitored under ADP:**
 - A. Institutional deliveries
 - B. Full immunization coverage

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

Answer: ©

5. UNION MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT TO LAUNCH NATIONWIDE 'VB-G RAM G YOUTH DIGITAL CAMPAIGN' WITH MY BHARAT



- The **VB-G RAM G Youth Digital Campaign** is a nationwide initiative aimed at **engaging youth volunteers in disseminating information about government rural development schemes**.
- Through collaboration with **MY Bharat**, the campaign seeks to leverage **digital platforms and youth networks** to spread awareness in rural areas about various welfare programmes.
- The initiative focuses on empowering **young volunteers to act as change agents** who can help rural citizens understand and access government benefits.
- It also reflects the government's broader approach of integrating **digital governance, youth participation, and grassroots outreach** for effective implementation of rural development programmes.

- By promoting awareness and participation, the campaign is expected to improve **scheme uptake, transparency, and community engagement in rural governance**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

MY Bharat (Mera Yuva Bharat)

MY Bharat was launched in **2023** to provide a **national platform for youth engagement in nation-building activities**.

Key objectives:

- Encourage **youth participation in community development**
- Build **leadership and civic responsibility among young citizens**
- Create a **digital platform connecting youth volunteers with development programmes**

The initiative seeks to channel the demographic potential of India's **large youth population** toward social and developmental activities.

Role of Youth in Rural Development

Youth participation plays an important role in:

- **Promoting awareness of welfare schemes**
- **Supporting digital literacy in rural areas**
- **Facilitating community participation in governance**
- **Strengthening last-mile delivery of public services**

Digital campaigns involving youth can help bridge the **information gap between government programmes and beneficiaries**.

Digital Governance in Rural India

India has increasingly relied on digital tools to strengthen rural governance through initiatives such as:

- Digital India
- Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana
- Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission

These initiatives aim to **improve infrastructure, financial inclusion, and livelihood opportunities in rural areas.**

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Youth Mobilisation:** The campaign aims to mobilize **youth volunteers through MY Bharat** to spread awareness about rural development schemes.
- **Digital Outreach:** Utilizes **digital platforms, social media, and online engagement tools** to reach rural communities.
- **Awareness Generation:** Focuses on informing citizens about **government welfare programmes and entitlements.**
- **Grassroots Participation:** Encourages **community engagement and participatory governance** in rural areas.
- **Capacity Building:** Provides opportunities for youth to develop **leadership skills and civic responsibility.**
- **Improved Scheme Delivery:** Increased awareness can help improve **beneficiary identification and scheme utilization.**
- **Bridging Information Gap:** Youth volunteers act as intermediaries

between **government institutions and rural citizens.**

- **Inclusive Development:** Strengthens the objective of **inclusive and participatory rural development.**

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- I. **MY Bharat (Mera Yuva Bharat):**
 - A. Launched in **2023**
 - B. National platform for **youth participation in nation-building activities.**
- II. **Ministry of Rural Development:**
 - A. Responsible for implementation of **major rural welfare and livelihood programmes.**
- III. **Major Rural Development Schemes:**
 - A. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
 - B. Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin
 - C. Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission
- IV. **Digital Governance Goal:**
 - A. Improve **service delivery, transparency, and citizen participation.**
- V. **India's Demographic Advantage:**
 - A. Around **65% of the population is below 35 years of age.**
- VI. **Importance of Digital Campaigns:**
 - A. Enable **last-mile awareness**
 - B. Improve **citizen access to welfare schemes**
 - C. Strengthen **community participation in governance.**

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. MY Bharat is a national platform designed to facilitate youth participation in nation-building activities.
2. The VB-G RAM G Youth Digital Campaign aims to use youth volunteers to increase awareness about rural development programmes.
3. The Ministry of Rural Development is responsible for implementing programmes such as MGNREGA and the National Rural Livelihoods Mission.

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: (d)