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Daily news summary**Mines and Minerals Development and Regulation Act Notification**

UPSC Civil Services · 24 August 2026 · Prelims and Mains

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WHY IN NEWS

- The Central Government has officially notified rules under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, raising federal fiscal concerns among States.

WHAT IS THE MMDR ACT, 1957?

- Central statute regulating the allocation, prospecting, and mining leases of major and minor minerals in India.
- Administered by the Ministry of Mines, it sets royalties, auction frameworks, and statutory payments like the **District Mineral Foundation** (DMF).

KEY PROVISIONS AND UPDATES

- Notifies standardized operating procedures for mineral concessions and auction protocols across major mineral blocks.
- Formalizes royalty collection procedures and revenue distribution mechanics between the Centre and state exchequers.

WHY IT MATTERS

- **Federalism angle:** Mineral-bearing States debate state taxation boundaries versus central statutory royalty ceilings.
- **Mining efficiency:** Impacts revenue realization and resource extraction timelines across key economic sectors.

KEY TERMS

- **Mineral Royalty:** Statutory payment made by a mining leaseholder to the state for extracting non-renewable mineral resources.
- **District Mineral Foundation:** Non-profit trust set up in mining districts to work for the interest and benefit of persons affected by mining operations.

PAPERS

GS2, GS3

PRELIMS FACTS

- MMDR Act 1957 is the principal statute for mineral leasing and royalty frameworks in India.

MAINS DISCUSSION

- Analyze the constitutional balance of fiscal powers between the Union and States regarding mineral resources.

KEY DATA

- **Parent Act:** Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 - Primary law governing regulatory control and leasing of mineral resources in India.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Mines - Central authority responsible for national mineral legislative policy.

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