

Kerala Opposes Centre's Mines and Minerals Amendment Act

Kerala raised strong constitutional objections against the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act passed by Parliament.

The MMDR Amendment Act alters the regulatory framework for mineral exploration and empowers the Centre to auction critical and strategic minerals.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- **Parliament** passed the **Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill**, 2026 to reform the mining sector.
- The legislation empowers the **Union Government** to conduct commercial auctions for **critical, strategic, and deep-seated minerals**.
- **Kerala** political leaders argued that the amendment directly challenges the fiscal and **legislative autonomy** of States.
- Critics claimed the law facilitates **private monopoly** over valuable **mineral resources** located within state boundaries.
- The issue brings **Centre-State relations** into focus regarding natural resource governance under the **federal structure**.

DID YOU KNOW..!?

The principal legislation governing the mining sector in India is the **Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957**.

Under the **Seventh Schedule, Entry 54 of List I** (Union List) empowers Parliament to regulate mines and mineral development in the public interest.

Entry 23 of List II (State List) gives States power over mines and mineral development, subject to provisions made by Parliament by law.

Article 246 of the Indian Constitution distributes **legislative powers** between the Union Parliament and State Legislatures.

The **Sarkaria Commission (1983)** and **Punchhi Commission (2007)** examined Centre-State legislative and financial relations in India.

The **District Mineral Foundation (DMF)** was instituted under the MMDR Amendment Act, **2015** for the benefit of mining-affected persons and areas.

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MMDR Act 1957 governs Indian mining under Seventh Schedule List I Entry 54 and List II Entry 23.

Syllabus Relevance: Important for Unit 5 questions on Seventh Schedule entries, Centre-State legislative powers (Article 246), and mining laws.

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