

04/07/2026 Daily Current News

1. *District Mineral Foundation (DMF):*

Context: The Ministry of Mines, Government of India, will organise the National District Mineral Foundation (DMF) Summit 2026 on 23–24 March 2026 at the SCOPE Convention Centre, New Delhi. The Summit, titled “Effective Utilization of District Mineral Funds for ADP/ABP Areas”. The Summit aims to strengthen inter-governmental coordination and identify policy reforms for improving the effective and outcome-oriented utilisation of DMF funds in mining-affected districts, particularly in Aspirational District Programme (ADP) and Aspirational Block Programme (ABP) areas.

About District Mineral Foundation (DMF):

- ❖ **Statutory Body:** District Mineral Foundation (DMF) is a statutory, non-profit trust established by State Governments.
- ❖ **Legal Basis:** Constituted under Section 9B of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, inserted through the MMDR Amendment Act, 2015.
- ❖ **Establishment:** State Governments establish a DMF in every mining-affected district through a notification.
- ❖ **Objective:** To work for the welfare and development of mining-affected people and areas.
- ❖ **Jurisdiction:** DMFs function under the respective State Governments, which prescribe their composition and functions.
- ❖ **Funding Source:** Financed through mandatory contributions from holders of major and minor mineral leases.
- ❖ **Contribution Rate (Pre-12 Jan 2015 Leases):** 30% of the royalty payable by miners.
- ❖ **Contribution Rate (Post-12 Jan 2015 Leases):** 10% of the royalty payable by miners.
- ❖ **Utilisation of Funds:** Used for the overall development of mining-affected areas as per the Annual Action Plan.
- ❖ **Infrastructure Development:** Supports the creation of local socio-economic infrastructure and community assets.
- ❖ **Community Welfare:** Funds are used to provide, maintain, and upgrade public services in mining-affected regions.
- ❖ **Skill Development:** Supports training, capacity building, employment, and self-employment programmes for local communities.

Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY):

- ❖ **Launch:** Launched by the Ministry of Mines in 2015 for the welfare of mining-affected areas and people.
- ❖ **Funding:** Implemented using funds collected under the District Mineral Foundation (DMF).
- ❖ **Objective:** To implement developmental and welfare projects in mining-affected districts, complementing Central and State Government schemes.
- ❖ **Environmental & Social Focus:** Aims to minimise the adverse environmental, health, and socio-economic impacts of mining.
- ❖ **Sustainable Livelihoods:** Promotes long-term sustainable livelihoods for communities affected by mining.
- ❖ **High-Priority Allocation:** At least 60% of PMKKKY funds must be spent on drinking water,

- healthcare, education, environment preservation, sanitation, and welfare measures.
- ❖ Other Priority Areas: Up to 40% of funds can be utilised for physical infrastructure, irrigation, energy, watershed development, and other development projects.

2. *7th National Water Awards:*

Context: The Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (DoWR, RD & GR), Ministry of Jal Shakti has launched the 7th National Water Awards on the Rashtriya Puraskar portal of Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

About National Water Awards:

- ❖ Any State, District, Urban Local Body, Dam Own Agencies, & Industry who have done good work in the field of water conservation and management is eligible.
- ❖ Each winner would be provided a Trophy with a Citation.
- ❖ All applications received for 7th National Water Awards are scrutinized/shortlisted by a Screening Committee & shortlisted applications are placed before the Jury Committee which is constituted by the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- ❖ The National Water Awards (NWAs) were introduced to recognize and encourage exemplary work and efforts made by States, Districts, individuals, organizations etc. across the country in accomplishing the government's vision 'Jal Samridh Bharat'.
- ❖ It aims to sensitize the public about the importance of water and motivate them to adopt the best water usage practices.
- ❖ The objective of the National Water Awards is to encourage the stakeholders to adopt a holistic approach toward water resource management in the country as surface water and groundwater play a significant role in the water cycle.
- ❖ The first edition of the National Water Awards was introduced in the year 2018 by the Department and 6 editions of the Awards have been successfully organised by the Department.

3. *One Health Approach:*

Context: A two-day national conference and table-top simulation exercise on "One Health: Integrating Health Security and Biosecurity" began on 2 July 2026 in Chennai. The event was organised by the Deccan Centre for International Relations in collaboration with the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation and LEAD at IFMR/KREA University.

About One Health Approach:

- ❖ Definition: One Health is an integrated approach linking human, animal, and environmental health.
- ❖ Purpose: Promotes collaborative action to address interconnected health challenges.
- ❖ Focus Areas: Used for the control of zoonotic diseases, antimicrobial resistance (AMR), and environmental surveillance.
- ❖ National One Health Mission: India's framework for multi-sectoral coordination across health, veterinary, environment, and science sectors.

- ❖ Coverage: Focuses on zoonotic disease control, antimicrobial resistance, biosecurity, and pandemic preparedness.
- ❖ Goal: Strengthens early detection, prevention, and coordinated response to emerging public health threats.

4. ***Green methanol:***

Context: India Signs First Global Green Methanol Supply Deal. ACME Green Molecules Business, part of India's ACME Group, signed a binding long-term Purchase and Sale Agreement with Mitsubishi Gas Chemical Company on 3 July 2026. The agreement covers the supply of 100,000 tonnes per annum of green methanol and has an estimated value of about USD 1 billion. The green methanol will be produced at ACME's facility in Paradip, Odisha.

About Green methanol:

- ❖ Definition: Green methanol is renewably produced methanol with minimal or no polluting emissions, often using green hydrogen.
- ❖ Production: Produced from biomass gasification or renewable electricity combined with captured CO₂.
- ❖ Nature: It is a low-carbon, renewable liquid fuel.
- ❖ Applications: Used as an alternative to fossil fuels, especially in maritime transport and other hard-to-decarbonise sectors.
- ❖ Environmental Benefit: Helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions and supports decarbonisation.
- ❖ Grey Methanol: Produced from natural gas or coal without carbon capture; non-renewable and highly polluting.
- ❖ Blue Methanol: Produced from natural gas with carbon capture and storage (CCS), making it less polluting than grey methanol.

5. ***Global Biofuel Alliance:***

Context: The Global Biofuels Alliance inducted 15 early-career researchers as the first cohort of Global Biofuel Champion Fellows on 30 June 2026 at the India Habitat Centre in New Delhi. Each fellow will receive a research grant of up to US\$15,000 and will serve as a GBA Ambassador for two years.

About Global Biofuel Alliance:

- ❖ Nature: A multi-stakeholder alliance comprising governments, international organizations, and industries.
- ❖ Initiative: Launched by India to bring together major biofuel producers and consumers.
- ❖ Launch: Unveiled on the sidelines of the G20 Summit 2023 in New Delhi.
- ❖ Objective: To promote biofuels as a key component of the global energy transition and support economic growth and job creation.
- ❖ Focus Areas: Strengthens global biofuel markets, trade, policy cooperation, and technical support for national biofuel programmes.
- ❖ Capacity Building: Promotes technology transfer, value-chain development, and wider adoption of sustainable biofuels.

- ❖ Standards & Knowledge: Facilitates international standards, sustainability principles, regulations, and serves as a global knowledge and expert hub.
- ❖ The Global Biofuels Alliance is a coalition of 34 member countries and 14 international organisations.
- ❖ The Global Biofuel Champion Fellowship is a programme for early-career researchers in biofuels. It aims to support biofuel innovation, research-driven solutions, and leadership development in the biofuels sector.

6. ***Indus Waters Treaty (IWT):***

Context: India on Friday said the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) will remain in “abeyance” till Pakistan “credibly and irrevocably” stops supporting cross-border terrorism. Official spokesperson of the External Affairs Ministry Randhir Jaiswal made the remark in the context of a recent international conference held in Pakistan where it called for the restoration of the treaty. The Cabinet Committee on Security had put the treaty in abeyance a day after the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22, 2025, killed 26 civilians and injured dozens. The attack led to India’s strikes on terror targets inside Pakistan under Operation Sindoor.

About Indus Waters Treaty (IWT):

- ❖ It was signed in 1960 as a water-distribution arrangement between India and Pakistan.
- ❖ It develops plans to utilize the Indus and its tributaries as a source of water.
- ❖ The World Bank mediated the agreement.
- ❖ Under the treaty signed between India and Pakistan in 1960, all the waters of three rivers, namely Ravi, Sutlej, and Beas (Eastern Rivers) were allocated to India for exclusive use.
- ❖ While, the waters of Western rivers – Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab were allocated to Pakistan except for specified domestic, non-consumptive, and agricultural use permitted to India as provided in the Treaty.

7. ***Lonar lake:***

Context: Recently, rising water levels in Lonar Lake have submerged parts of nearby temples, including the Kamalja Devi Temple.

About Lonar lake:

- ❖ Location: Situated in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra, in Buldhana district.
- ❖ Origin: Formed about 50,000–52,000 years ago by a meteorite impact on the basaltic Deccan Plateau.
- ❖ Type: One of the world's largest meteorite impact crater lakes.
- ❖ Conservation Status: Recognised as a Wildlife Sanctuary, National Geo-Heritage Site, and Ramsar Site.
- ❖ Unique Water: Has two distinct water layers—an outer freshwater layer and an inner alkaline-saline layer, supporting unique microorganisms.
- ❖ Endorheic Basin: It is a closed drainage basin with no natural outlet.
- ❖ Scientific Importance: The lake's minerals resemble those found in Moon rocks, making it an important site for geological and planetary research.

8. ***Biodiversity Heritage Sites:***

Context: Borjuli Wetland, located in Sonitpur district of Assam, has been notified as a Biodiversity Heritage Site. It is renowned for conserving *Oryza rufipogon*, the wild ancestor of cultivated rice (*Oryza sativa*). This wild rice is valued for its natural resistance to diseases and pests and its ability to withstand flooding and saline conditions, making it an important genetic resource for developing climate-resilient rice varieties.

About Biodiversity Heritage Sites:

- ❖ These are areas that are unique, ecologically fragile ecosystems having rich biodiversity.
- ❖ Under section 37 of the Biological Diversity Act, the State Governments are empowered to notify in the official gazette, in consultation with 'local bodies.
- ❖ Under sub section (2) of Section 37 of the BD Act, the State Government in consultation with the Central Government may frame rules for the management and conservation of BHS.
- ❖ Total number as of 2026: 46
- ❖ In 2007, Karnataka declared Nallur Tamarind Grove in Bengaluru as the country's first Biodiversity Heritage Site.
- ❖ Tripura and Maharashtra have 5 sites, and Karnataka and West Bengal have 4 sites.

Quick Bites:

- ☐ 7th edition of Marshal of the Air Force Arjan Singh Memorial Hockey Tournament was conducted from 23 Jun to 03 Jul 26 at Amit Singh Bakshi Hockey Stadium, Air Force Station Jalahalli. A total of 16 teams participated in this tournament. The final match of the tournament was played between Indian Air Force and Indian Navy. Indian Air Force Hockey team won the final match by 2-1 goals. Sgt Anand Lakra (Air Force) and AGV (S) Agyapal (Air Force) were declared as Man of the match and player of the tournament respectively.
- ☐ The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), under the chairmanship of Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh on July 03, 2026, accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) i.e., in-principle administrative approval to various acquisition proposals for the Defence Forces at an estimated cost of about Rs 52,000 crore. For the Indian Army, approval of granted for the procurement of Anti-Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) Electronic Warfare System 'AKASH TARANG', Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) Systems, Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MRSAM) Weapon System, Very Short Range Air Defence System (V-SHORADS), Active Protection System for Tanks and Jet Based Kamikaze Drone System.
- ☐ The Department of Legal Affairs and the Legislative Department, Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India, will jointly organise 'Reforms Utsav & Chintan Shivir 2026' on 4–5 July 2026 at Gyan Sarovar, Brahma Kumaris Headquarters, Mount Abu, Rajasthan. The two-day programme is being organised to review the Ministry's key achievements, highlight important legal and institutional reforms, and discuss the future roadmap for building a modern, efficient and citizen-centric legal system in line with the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.
- ☐ A banyan tree in Munger, Bihar, estimated to be around 700 years old, has been identified as the oldest accurately dated banyan tree, *Ficus benghalensis*, using radiocarbon dating, a method that relies exclusively on scientific evidence rather than historical records or local lore

- ☐ In a major milestone for India's maritime and manufacturing sectors, Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal, today unveiled the first export-import (EXIM) shipping container manufactured in India for global shipping major A.P. Moller–Maersk at the Maersk-CONCOR Inland Container Depot in Dadri, Uttar Pradesh.
- ☐ NITI Aayog released a report titled Strategic Roadmap for Making Ayurveda Global on 2 July 2026 in collaboration with PwC. The roadmap sets a phased plan up to 2047 for Ayurveda as an evidence-based healthcare system with wider international recognition.
- ☐ Hokato Hotozhe Sema is an Indian para-athlete from Nagaland and a Subedar in the 9 Assam Regiment of the Indian Army. He became World No. 1 in the men's Shot Put F57 category on 2 July 2026. He won a bronze medal in the men's Shot Put F57 event at the Paris 2024 Paralympics with a personal best throw of 14.65 metres at the Stade de France.
- ☐ Project SAMARTH, or the Silicon and Advanced Semiconductor Manufacturing Research and Training Hub, is being established at IIT Gandhinagar in Gujarat with a total budget of ₹190 crore.
- ☐ India's first commercially produced matcha tea was sold at the Guwahati Tea Auction Centre by an Assam tea estate. Matcha is made from Camellia sinensis leaves that are shade-grown for 3–4 weeks before harvest, blocking about 90% of sunlight, which increases chlorophyll and amino acid content, giving the tea its characteristic bright green colour, rich flavour, and high nutritional value. This marks a significant diversification of India's tea industry beyond conventional tea production.

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