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Current Affairs Today, July 12, 2026

12 July 2026

ENVIRONMENT

GS1

GS3

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Current Affairs Today, July 12, 2026

12 July 2026 · 4 min read ·

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A roundup of the key current affairs for July 12, 2026, covering the items not taken up as separate deep-dive articles.

NEW BEE AND FRESHWATER ALGAE SPECIES DESCRIBED FROM INDIA

Researchers described new species of solitary bees from Arunachal Pradesh and a new freshwater red alga from Meghalaya.

Key Points

- Two new **solitary bee** species, *Elaphropoda triangulata* and *Habropoda adi*, were described by researchers of **ATREE, Bengaluru** from material collected on the **Siang Expedition** in **Arunachal Pradesh**; *Habropoda adi* is named after the **Adi** indigenous community. Each is known so far from a single specimen, underlining how thinly India's pollinators are surveyed.
- Botanical Survey of India** scientists described *Sheathia meghalayensis*, a new **freshwater red alga (Rhodophyta)**, from a stream near **Crinoline Falls, East Khasi Hills, Meghalaya**. Freshwater red algae are **bioindicators** (<https://ujjyari.com/terms/bioindicators/>) of **pristine, oxygen-rich water**, and the species has been proposed as Critically Endangered given its single known location.
- India is one of the world's **17 megadiverse** (<https://ujjyari.com/vocab/megadiverse/>) **countries** and holds **four biodiversity hotspots**: the Himalaya, Indo-Burma, the Western Ghats and Sri Lanka, and Sundaland (Nicobar Islands).

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New bees: *Elaphropoda triangulata* and *Habropoda adi* (Arunachal Pradesh), described by ATREE.

New red alga: *Sheathia meghalayensis*, Meghalaya, described by the Botanical Survey of India.

India: one of 17 megadiverse countries; four biodiversity hotspots.

SOURAV GANGULY INDUCTED INTO THE ICC HALL OF FAME

The ICC inducted Sourav Ganguly, Anjum Chopra and Kevin Pietersen into its Hall of Fame.

Key Points

- **Sourav Ganguly**, the former India captain, and **Anjum Chopra**, a pioneering India women's captain, were inducted into the **ICC Hall of Fame** alongside England's **Kevin Pietersen**.
- Ganguly captained India to the **2003 ICC Cricket World Cup final**; the **ICC Hall of Fame** was instituted in **2009**, in the ICC's centenary year, to honour the game's greats.

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Inductees: Sourav Ganguly, Anjum Chopra (India) and Kevin Pietersen (England).

ICC Hall of Fame: instituted in 2009 (ICC centenary year).

Ganguly: captained India to the 2003 World Cup final.

MALALA DAY

July 12 is observed as Malala Day.

Key Points

- **Malala Day**, marked on **July 12**, is a United Nations observance on **Malala Yousafzai's birthday**, dating from her address to the **UN Youth Assembly on July 12, 2013** advocating education for every child.
- Malala won the **Nobel Peace Prize in 2014**, jointly with India's **Kailash Satyarthi**, becoming the youngest-ever Nobel laureate. The day connects to **SDG 4** (quality education), **Article 21A** and the **Right to Education Act, 2009**.

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Malala Day: July 12; from her 2013 UN Youth Assembly address.

Nobel Peace Prize 2014: shared with Kailash Satyarthi of India; youngest-ever laureate.

Links: SDG 4, Article 21A, Right to Education Act, 2009.

EIU GLOBAL LIVEABILITY INDEX 2026

The Economist Intelligence Unit released its Global Liveability Index 2026.

Key Points

- The **Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)** ranks **173 cities** on **30 indicators** across five categories: **stability, healthcare, culture and environment, education, and infrastructure**.
- **Copenhagen** topped the 2026 index, followed by **Vienna** and **Melbourne**. Indian cities ranked low, with **New Delhi** and **Mumbai** placed around the **120th** mark, reflecting weaknesses in infrastructure, environment and healthcare access.

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Index: EIU Global Liveability Index 2026; 173 cities, 30 indicators, 5 categories.

Top: Copenhagen, then Vienna and Melbourne.

India: New Delhi and Mumbai around 120th.

PAPER BAG DAY

July 12 is observed as Paper Bag Day.

Key Points

- **Paper Bag Day**, marked on **July 12**, commemorates the patenting of the first paper-bag-making machine and promotes alternatives to plastic carry bags.
- It is a useful hook for India's **Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 (as amended)**, the **ban on identified single-use plastics from July 1, 2022**, and **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)** obligations on producers and brand owners.

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Paper Bag Day: July 12; promotes alternatives to plastic bags.

Policy: Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016; single-use plastic ban from July 1, 2022.

EPR: Extended Producer Responsibility on producers, importers and brand owners.

UPSC RELEVANCE

These items span GS Paper 1 (society, biodiversity) and GS Paper 3 (environment, ecology, reports and indices). Revise them as quick prelims pointers alongside the day's deep-dive articles.

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New species: two solitary bees (Arunachal, ATREE) and *Sheathia meghalayensis*, a freshwater red alga (Meghalaya, BSI).

ICC Hall of Fame: Sourav Ganguly, Anjum Chopra, Kevin Pietersen; instituted 2009.

Malala Day: July 12; Nobel Peace Prize 2014 with Kailash Satyarthi; links to SDG 4 and RTE.

EIU Liveability Index 2026: 173 cities, 30 indicators; Copenhagen first; Delhi and Mumbai around 120th.

Paper Bag Day: July 12; Plastic Waste Management Rules 2016; single-use plastic ban (2022); EPR.

Sources: *Botanical Survey of India* (<https://bsi.gov.in>), *ATREE* (<https://www.atree.org>), *International Cricket Council* (<https://www.icc-cricket.com>), *United Nations* (<https://www.un.org>), *Economist Intelligence Unit* (<https://www.eiu.com>)

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