

13/07/2026 Daily Current News

1. *Mannathu Padmanabhan:*

Context: Vice President unveils statue of Social Reformer and Freedom Fighter Mannathu Padmanabhan, inaugurates the Mannam Smrithi Mandapam in New Delhi

About Mannathu Padmanabhan:

- ❖ Prominent social reformer and freedom fighter from Kerala who worked for social equality, dignity, and the eradication of caste discrimination; inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's ideals of Satyagraha.
- ❖ Founded the Nair Service Society (NSS) on 31 October 1914 to promote education, social reform, discipline, and community organization through grassroots Karayogams.
- ❖ Led legal reforms by helping secure the Nair Regulation (1924–25), which reformed the Marumakkathayam (matrilineal inheritance) system and modernized family law.
- ❖ Actively participated in anti-untouchability movements, supporting the Vaikom Satyagraha (1924–25) and Guruvayur Satyagraha (1931–32) for equal rights and temple access.
- ❖ Led the Savarnajatha (Savarna Jatha) movement, creating public support for temple entry of oppressed communities and contributing to social reforms in Travancore.
- ❖ Participated in India's freedom struggle through the Indian National Congress, joined the Civil Disobedience Movement, and was arrested in 1947 for political protests.
- ❖ Served as the first President of the Travancore Devaswom Board, improving temple administration and strengthening the management of religious institutions.
- ❖ Played an important political role as a member of the Travancore Legislative Assembly (1949) and was a key leader in the Vimochana Samaram (1959).
- ❖ Helped establish the Kerala Congress in 1964, contributing to the rise of regional politics, and authored several important books and speeches documenting his ideas.
- ❖ Honoured with the Padma Bhushan (1966) and the title "Bharata Kesari"; his birth anniversary (2 January) is celebrated as Mannam Jayanti, and his memorial at Perunna, Changanassery commemorates his lasting contribution to Kerala's social and political history.

2. *Miyawaki method:*

Context: Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah extended his heartfelt congratulations to the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation, more than 25,000 volunteers associated with the campaign, and the people of the Gandhinagar Lok Sabha constituency for creating a Guinness World Record by planting over 3.61 lakh saplings in just one hour using the Miyawaki method.

About Miyawaki method:

- ❖ It was named after Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki.
- ❖ This method involves planting two to four different types of indigenous trees within every square metre.
- ❖ The methodology was developed in the 1970s, with the basic objective to densify green cover within a small parcel of land.

- ❖ In this method, the trees become self-sustaining and they grow to their full length within three years.
- ❖ The plants used in the Miyawaki method are mostly self-sustaining and don't require regular maintenance like manuring and watering.

3. *South China Sea:*

Context: The South China Sea Arbitral Award completed 10 years on 12 July 2026. The award was issued on 12 July 2016 by the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague under the dispute settlement framework linked to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

About South China Sea:



China and Taiwan Malaysia Vietnam Brunei Philippines

- ❖ It is an arm of the western Pacific Ocean that borders the Southeast Asian mainland.
- ❖ It is bordered by China, Taiwan, the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei, and Vietnam.
- ❖ It is connected by the Taiwan Strait with the East China Sea and by the Luzon Strait with the Philippine Sea.
- ❖ The two major archipelagos are known as the Paracel Islands, controlled by China, and the Spratly Islands.
- ❖ Busy international waterway, one of the main arteries of global trade worth more than \$5 trillion and is growing year on year.
- ❖ It is a rich source of hydrocarbons and natural resources.
- ❖ There are 11 billion barrels of oil and 190 trillion cubic feet of natural gas in deposits.
- ❖ Rich fishing grounds and also important trade route
- ❖ UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) ruling: The Permanent Court of Arbitration ruled that Chinese claims over 90 percent of the South China Sea area are illegitimate.
- ❖ China outrightly rejected the ruling. It said, China prefers bilateral negotiations with the other parties.

- ❖ But many of its neighbors argue that China's relative size and clout give it an unfair advantage.

4. *The July Revolt of 1931:*

Context: Jammu and Kashmir authorities on Sunday barricaded the roads leading to Srinagar's Naqshband Sahib shrine, which houses the graves of 22 civilians killed during an uprising against the Dogra monarchy in 1931. Locals described July 13, 1931 as a historic watershed that ignited a mass movement against autocracy, oppression and injustice in the erstwhile princely State.

About July Revolt of 1931:

- ❖ Background: The July Revolt of 1931 was the first major mass political uprising against the autocratic rule of Maharaja Hari Singh in the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ Immediate Trigger: Growing resentment over political exclusion, religious discrimination, economic hardships, and restrictions on civil liberties led to widespread public protests.
- ❖ Catalyst: The arrest and trial of Abdul Qadeer Khan (also known as Abdul Qadeer Ghazi) for delivering an inflammatory speech against the Maharaja's administration intensified public anger.
- ❖ 13 July 1931 Incident: On 13 July 1931, the Maharaja's forces opened fire on demonstrators outside the Central Jail in Srinagar, killing 22 protesters, who later came to be regarded as martyrs.
- ❖ Nature of Revolt: The movement marked the beginning of organised political mobilisation in Kashmir, demanding justice, representative government, and protection of civil rights.
- ❖ Political Impact: The uprising compelled the Maharaja to appoint the Glancy Commission (1931) to examine public grievances and recommend administrative and political reforms.
- ❖ Rise of Political Leadership: The revolt brought Sheikh Abdullah to prominence as a mass leader and accelerated organised political activity in the region.
- ❖ Formation of Political Parties: The events eventually led to the establishment of the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference (1932), which was later reorganised as the National Conference (1939).
- ❖ Historical Significance: The July Revolt is regarded as a turning point in Kashmir's political history, laying the foundation for constitutional reforms, representative politics, and the later democratic movement in the region.

5. *Kaziranga National Park:*

Context: Pranab Doley and local communities have been protesting against the proposed luxury hotel and tourism infrastructure projects near Kaziranga National Park, arguing that they threaten the park's fragile ecosystem, wildlife habitats, and elephant corridors. They also allege that the projects could lead to environmental degradation and adversely affect the livelihoods and land rights of local communities.

About Kaziranga National Park:

- ❖ Location: Situated along the Brahmaputra River in Assam, with the Diphlu River flowing through the park and over 250 seasonal wetlands (beels).
- ❖ Ecological Significance: Annual floods of the Brahmaputra enrich the park with nutrients but also cause erosion and habitat loss.

- ❖ History: Established as a Reserve Forest (1908), declared a Wildlife Sanctuary (1950), a National Park (1974), and a UNESCO World Heritage Site (1985).
- ❖ Tiger Reserve: Declared a Tiger Reserve in 2007 owing to its exceptionally high tiger density.
- ❖ Flagship Fauna: Famous for the Big Five—One-horned Rhinoceros, Bengal Tiger, Asian Elephant, Asiatic Wild Buffalo, and Eastern Swamp Deer.
- ❖ Eastern Swamp Deer: Supports almost the entire global population of the Eastern Swamp Deer (Barasingha).
- ❖ Bird Diversity: An important habitat for migratory birds, located at the junction of the Australasian and Indo-Asian Flyways.

Quick Bites:

- ☐ India's young physicists delivered an extraordinary performance at the 56th International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) 2026, held in Bucaramanga, Colombia, with all five members of the Indian team winning Gold Medals. With this exceptional performance, India secured the World No. 1 rank, jointly with China, Kazakhstan, Russia, South Korea and Taiwan, among 381 students from 87 countries. The Indian medal winners are: Kanishk Jain – Pune, Maharashtra, Riddhesh Anant Bendale – Indore, Madhya Pradesh, Rishit Garg – Dwarka, New Delhi, Shresth Suraiya – Mumbai, Maharashtra and Svarit Joshi – Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- ☐ The 3rd BRICS Transport Ministers' Meeting concluded in Nagpur, Maharashtra, under India's BRICS Chairship 2026, marking a significant milestone in deepening transport cooperation among BRICS member countries. The Ministerial Meeting, held on 11th July 2026, was preceded by the 3rd BRICS Transport Working Group (TWG) Senior Officials' Meeting on 9–10 July 2026, during which senior officials finalised the agenda outcomes and Ministerial Declaration for adoption by the Ministers.
- ☐ Science Ministries gear up for nationwide coastal cleanliness campaign 'Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar' from 10 to 19 September 2026.
- ☐ The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) successfully conducted the first lift-off and landing test of its prototype RV-X reusable rocket on 11 July 2026 at the Noshiro Rocket Testing Center. The 40-second test demonstrated vertical take-off, controlled horizontal movement, and safe vertical landing, marking a significant step toward developing reusable launch vehicle technology, which aims to reduce space mission costs by enabling rockets to be recovered, refurbished, and flown multiple times.

Practice questions:

Objective questions:

The term "Nine-Dash Line", often mentioned in the news, is associated with:

- (a) The boundary between North and South Korea was established after the Korean War.
- (b) China's territorial claims over a large part of the South China Sea.
- (c) The maritime boundary between India and Sri Lanka in the Palk Strait.
- (d) The Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) claimed by Australia in the Pacific Ocean.

With reference to the Miyawaki Method of Afforestation, consider the following statements:

1. Trees are planted densely to imitate a natural forest ecosystem.
2. It was originally developed for restoring mangrove ecosystems.
3. Forests developed under this method generally require continuous irrigation and manuring throughout their life.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Kaziranga National Park supports almost the entire global population of:

- (a) Sangai Deer
- (b) Brow-antlered Deer
- (c) Eastern Swamp Deer
- (d) Musk Deer

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