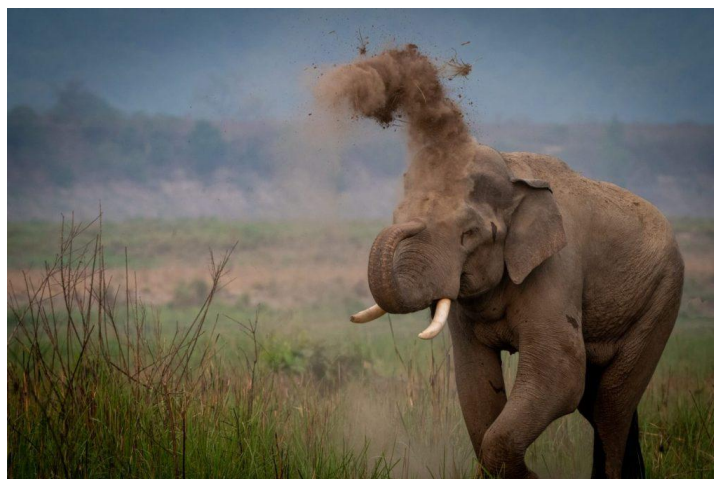


Daily Current Affairs

12 August 2026

World Elephant Day 2026

- World Elephant Day 2026 is observed on August 12, the day aims to promoting the conservation and protection of elephants around the globe.
- The theme for 2026 is “**Bringing the world together to help elephants**”, which emphasizes the need for joint efforts.
- This holiday is organized to increase public awareness about the threats that make lives of elephants endangered and to start some effective activities for their conservation.
- India holds great significance regarding the conservation of the Asian elephant. Official government documents note that India houses over 60% of the wild Asian elephants found worldwide.
- The Asian elephant is considered an Endangered species according to the IUCN Red List. The species also enjoys the highest level of legal protection offered by the Wildlife (Protection) Act of India in 1972.
- Project Elephant was launched in 1992 as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. The scheme provides aid towards elephant conservation, habitat protection and dealing with human-elephant conflict.



International Youth Day 2026

- International Youth Day 2026 celebrated on 12th August under the theme **“Different Contexts, Common Aspirations.”**
- The day raises global awareness about the issues faced by youth while acknowledging them as active partners in the process of social, economic and sustainable development.
- The concept of celebrating an International Youth Day originated through discussions held by young people in the first session of the World Youth Forum of the UN System in Vienna in 1991.
- The UN World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth suggested that the day of 12th August should be designated as International Youth Day in 1998.



Parliament Passes Bankers' Book Evidence Bill 2026

- The Parliament has passed the Bankers' Book Evidence Bill 2026 and paved the way for the introduction of a legal recognition of electronic and digital banking records in court cases. While the Rajya Sabha had approved the bill through voice vote on August 10, it had been passed by the Lok Sabha a week earlier.
- The Bankers' Book Evidence Bill 2026 replaces the Bankers' Book Evidence Act of 1891 which was passed during the colonial era and was meant for a time where banking records were kept in paper form.
- The Bankers' Book Evidence Bill 2026 replaces the nearly 135-year-old Bankers' Book Evidence Act of 1891.

- It creates a technology neutral legal framework for bankers' books and recognizes records kept in electronic and digital format.
- The Finance Minister of India Nirmala Sitharaman responded to the debate in Rajya Sabha by stating that there was a need for a change in law due to technological advancement in the field of banking since the time of its enactment.
- The previous Bankers' Book Evidence Act, 1891 was enacted in an era when banks used paper records extensively.
- As a result of the increased digitalisation of banks, it became necessary to change the law.
- Under the previous law, problems might emerge about how electronically stored data must be presented before the court.



Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards 2024-25

- For the India's performing arts in 2026, Honorable President of India is set to confer the Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships and Awards for the years 2024 and 2025 on August 13, 2026.
- A total of 115 artists have been selected for this prestigious recognition which includes areas such as music, dance, theatre, folk and tribal arts, puppetry, instrumental making and other performing arts.
- The Sangeet Natak Akademi awards have been conferred from 1952 onwards. The Sangeet Natak Akademi awards include both classical music and dance

along with theatre, folk and tribal traditions and other associated performing arts.

- The highest award from the Sangeet Natak Akademi is called Akademi Fellowship or Akademi Ratna. A Fellow is given ₹3 lakh whereas an Akademi Award includes a prize money of ₹1 lakh and a Tamrapatra & Angavastram.

Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellows — Akademi Ratna

S. No.	Fellow
1	Ramlal Bareth
2	A V Anand
3	Rita Ganguly
4	Puru Dadheech
5	Chittaranjan Jyotishi
6	Pasumarthi Rattaiah Sarma
7	Sudharani Raghupathy

Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards 2024

Music

S. No.	Artist	Field / Discipline
1	Arun Nagesh Kashalkar	Hindustani Vocal
2	Nirmalya Dey	Hindustani Vocal – Dhrupad

3	Bharat Bhushan Goswami	Hindustani Instrumental – Sarangi
4	Sanjay Mukherjee	Hindustani Instrumental – Tabla
5	Krishna Vageesh	Carnatic Vocal
6	N. Vijay Siva	Carnatic Vocal
7	A S Krishnan Carnatic	Instrumental – Morching
8	Komanduri Seshadri Carnatic	Instrumental – Violin
9	Rakesh Chaurasia	Creative and Experimental – Flute
10	Prabhati Mukherjee	Other Major Traditions of Music – Sugam Sangeet
11	Anand Bhate	Other Major Traditions of Music – Abhang
12	Samandar Khan Manganiar	Other Major Traditions of Music – Mand

Dance

S. No.	Artist	Field / Discipline
1	Rajeswari Sainath	Bharatanatyam
2	Bipul Chandra Das	Kathak

3	Rajkumari Thambalsana Devi	Manipuri
4	Veena Murthy Vijay	Kuchipudi
5	Bichitrananda Swain	Odissi
6	Prema Ozah Borbayan	Sattriya
7	Sreedevi Rajan	Mohiniattam
8	Nripen Sahis	Chhau
9	Shashidharan Nair	Creative and Experimental
10	Kalamandalam Unnikrishnan	Music for Dance – Kathakali
11	Kumara Surya Narayana	Music for Dance

Theatre

S. No.	Artist	Field / Discipline
1	Satish Dave	Direction
2	T S Nagabharana	Direction
3	Ravi Chaturvedi	Direction
4	Om Katore	Direction
5	Gummadi Gopala Krishna Rao	Acting

6	Vagai Chanderasekar	Acting
7	Arun Nalavde	Acting
8	Dhiren D Merchant	Allied Theatre Arts – Lighting
9	Dinesh Kumar Poddar	Allied Theatre Arts – Lighting
10	Mukund Ram Marathe	Traditional Theatre – Sangeet Natak

Folk, Tribal, Puppet, Mask & Instrument Making

S. No.	Artist	Field / Discipline
1	Dursheti Ramaiah	Folk Music, Telangana
2	K Murugan	Folk Dance, Puducherry
3	S C Sharma	Folk & Tribal Music, Karnataka
4	Atamjeet Singh	Nautanki, Uttar Pradesh
5	Mahendra Ram	Folk Music, Bihar
6	Butan Devi and Somari Devi (Joint)	Folk Dance, Jharkhand
7	Ranajit Kumar Nag	Folk Dance – Sambalpuri, Odisha
8	Hawa Singh	Folk Music, Haryana

9	Veswuzo Phesao	Folk Music & Dance, Nagaland
10	Gulabi Sapera	Folk Dance, Rajasthan – Kalbeliya
11	Lourembam Bedabati	Folk Music, Manipur
12	Subhash Narayan Nakashe	Folk Dance, Maharashtra
13	Kishorbhai Somabhai Mistry	Instrument Making – Rudra Veena

Overall & Others

S. No.	Artist	Field / Discipline
1	T S Sathyavathi	Overall Contribution in Music
2	Voleti Rangamani	Overall Contribution in Dance
3	Shubhada Manohar Varadkar	Scholarship in Performing Arts – Dance
4	Tapati Chowdhurie	Art Critique – Performing Arts
5	Sunanda Nair	Overseas – Dance (Mohiniattam)

Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards 2025

Music

S. No.	Artist	Field / Discipline
1	Krishna Mohan Pathak	Hindustani Vocal – Dhrupad
2	Suresh Gandharv	Hindustani Vocal
3	Shailesh Bhagwat	Hindustani Instrumental – Shehnai
4	Jyoti Ganpati Hegde	Hindustani Instrumental – Rudra Veena
5	Pantula Rama	Carnatic Vocal
6	Papanasam Ashok Ramani	Carnatic Vocal
7	Tripoonithura N Radhakrishnan	Carnatic Instrumental – Ghatam
8	Anoor R. Anantha Krishna Sharma	Carnatic Instrumental – Mridangam
9	D. Srinivas Carnatic	Instrumental – Veena
10	Yugantar Sindoor	Other Major Traditions of Music – Sugam Sangeet
11	Satchidananda Das Other	Other Major Traditions of Music – Mardala

12	Seema Anil Sehgal	Other Major Traditions of Music – Sugam Sangeet
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Dance

S. No.	Artist	Field / Discipline
1	Roja Kannan	Bharatanatyam
2	Krishna Mohan Mishra Maharaj, Vaswati Misra and Ram Mohan Maharaj (Trio)	Kathak
3	Kalamandalam Krishnakumar	Kathakali
4	Irengbam Nalini Devi	Manipuri
5	Seetha Nagajothy and P. Nagajothy (Joint)	Manipuri
6	Mallika Kandali	Sattriya
7	Girija Chandran	Mohiniattam
8	Pagulu Jena	Chhau – Mayurbhanj
9	Kaniyal Hariprasad	Music for Dance – Bharatanatyam
10	Bhaskar Jyoti Ojah	Music for Dance – Sattriya
11	S. Kumar	Major Traditions of Dance & Dance Theatre – Bhagavatamela

Theatre

S. No.	Artist	Field / Discipline
1	Kapildev Chandrakant Shukla	Direction
2	Kallol Bhattacharyya	Direction
3	Navdeep Kaur	Direction
4	Pramod Dnyandeo Pawar	Direction
5	Subodh Patnaik	Direction
6	Chetana Das	Acting
7	Suresh Kumar Hazzu	Acting
8	Makhan Lal Saraf	Acting
9	Ashok Patki	Allied Theatre Arts – Music for Theatre
10	Usha Nangiar	Other Major Traditions of Theatre – Nangiarkooth

Folk, Tribal, Puppet, Mask & Instrument Making

S. No.	Artist	Field / Discipline
1	Anup Ranjan Pandey	Folk Music, Chhattisgarh
2	Bheru Singh Chouhan	Folk Music, Madhya Pradesh – Nirguni

3	Surjya Kumar Debbarma	Folk Dance, Tripura
4	Joginder Singh Habbi	Folk Dance, Himachal Pradesh
5	Romalo Ram	Folk Music & Dance, Jammu and Kashmir
6	Harmanpreet Singh	Folk Dance, Punjab
7	Ali Mohammad	Folk Music, Ladakh
8	Domin Karbak	Folk Dance, Arunachal Pradesh
9	K. Rosiama	Folk Dance, Mizoram
10	Rani Maring	Instrument Making
11	Sushanta Kumar	Mask Making – Chhau
12	Mangla Prasad Sharma	Instrument Making

Overall & Others

S. No.	Artist	Field / Discipline
1	Kunal	Overall Contribution in Theatre
2	Maneesha Sathe	Overall Contribution in Dance – Kathak
3	Rakesh Sinha	Overall Contribution – Art Photography

4	Manjari Sinha	Art Critique – Performing Arts
5	T S Nandakumar	Overseas – Music (Mridangam)



Tribunals Reforms Bill 2026 Passed in Parliament

- The Tribunals Reforms Bill, 2026 has received approval from the Parliament and hence, the stage has been set for setting up the National Tribunals Commission (NTC). The objective of the new legal structure is to achieve uniformity in terms of appointment, terms of service, and tenure of tribunal members.
- The Tribunals Reforms Bill, 2026 has been approved by both Houses of the Parliament and hence, marks a significant move towards the restructuring of tribunals in India.
- The Tribunals Reforms Bill, 2026 is an attempt at replacing the Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021 with a new legal regime built around NTC.
- The Chairpersons of the Tribunals will be able to continue for five years or till they reach the age of 70 years, whichever comes first.
- The Members of the Tribunals will be able to continue for five years or till they reach the age of 67 years, whichever comes first.
- Members may be reappointed depending on their performance.
- The main tribunals which would be covered are,
 - Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT)
 - National Green Tribunal (NGT)
 - Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT)

- Customs, Excise and Service Tax Appellate Tribunal (CESTAT)
- Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT)
- Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT)



Colombia Declares National Emergency After 7.4 Earthquake

- The recent event in Colombia has put focus back on its tectonic environment, where the Nazca, South American and Caribbean tectonic plates meet. The country is located in the Ring of Fire along the Pacific Ocean, making the country prone to earthquakes.
- The Pacific Ring of Fire, sometimes referred to as the Circum-Pacific Belt, stretches for about 40,000 kilometres along the Pacific Ocean.
- It runs through the borders of several tectonic plates and is characterised by high levels of seismic and volcanic activity.
- It is believed that the Pacific Ring of Fire is responsible for about 90% of the earthquakes in the world and about 75% of the volcanoes that are active.
- Some of the countries that can be found along this ring include Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Chile, Mexico, the US, Japan, Indonesia, the Philippines and New Zealand.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. World Elephant Day is observed annually on which date?

- A. 5 June
- B. 12 August
- C. 22 May
- D. 16 September

Answer: B. 12 August

2. What is the theme of World Elephant Day 2026?

- A. Save Elephants, Save Forests
- B. Protecting Elephants for Future Generations
- C. Bringing the World Together to Help Elephants
- D. Together for Wildlife Conservation

Answer: C. Bringing the World Together to Help Elephants

3. Project Elephant was launched by the Government of India in:

- A. 1972
- B. 1986
- C. 1992
- D. 2002

Answer: C. 1992

4. What is the theme of International Youth Day 2026?

- A. Youth for Sustainable Development
- B. Different Contexts, Common Aspirations
- C. Youth Building a Better Future
- D. Empowering Youth for Global Peace

Answer: B. Different Contexts, Common Aspirations

5. The Bankers' Book Evidence Bill, 2026 replaces which legislation?

- A. Banking Regulation Act, 1949
- B. Bankers' Book Evidence Act, 1891
- C. Indian Banking Act, 1900
- D. Digital Banking Act, 2005

Answer: B. Bankers' Book Evidence Act, 1891

6. What is the highest honour of the Sangeet Natak Akademi?

- A. National Performing Arts Award
- B. Akademi Award
- C. Akademi Fellowship (Akademi Ratna)
- D. Bharat Kala Ratna

Answer: C. Akademi Fellowship (Akademi Ratna)

7. The proposed National Tribunals Commission (NTC) is associated with which legislation?

- A. Tribunals Reforms Bill, 2026
- B. Judicial Reforms Bill, 2026
- C. Courts Administration Bill, 2026
- D. Legal Services Reform Bill, 2026

Answer: A. Tribunals Reforms Bill, 2026

8. Under the Tribunals Reforms Bill 2026, a tribunal Chairperson can serve for five years or until attaining what age, whichever is earlier?

- A. 65 years
- B. 67 years

- C. 70 years
- D. 72 years

Answer: C. 70 years

9. Colombia is located near the meeting zone of which three tectonic plates?

- A. Indian, Eurasian and Pacific
- B. Nazca, South American and Caribbean
- C. African, Eurasian and Arabian
- D. Pacific, Philippine and Eurasian

Answer: B. Nazca, South American and Caribbean

10. The Pacific Ring of Fire is also known as the:

- A. Circum-Pacific Belt
- B. Pacific Seismic Zone
- C. Pacific Volcanic Belt
- D. Circum-Atlantic Belt

Answer: A. Circum-Pacific Belt