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Current Affairs Today, August 12, 2026

12 August 2026 ·

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Current Affairs Today, August 12, 2026

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August 12, 2026 is International Youth Day. The Zoological Survey of India recorded a rare Himalayan bee species in India for the first time, Prime Minister Narendra Modi released former President Ram Nath Kovind's autobiography, Indian para-cyclists won 12 medals at the UCI Paraspport Denmark Grand Prix, and nuclear scientist-turned-science-communicator M.P. Parameswaran passed away at 91.

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY 2026

The United Nations observes **International Youth Day** on **August 12** every year, and 2026's theme is **"Different Contexts, Common Aspirations."**

Background

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INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY 2026:

Observed August 12 annually; designated by the UN General Assembly in 1999 (Resolution 54/120)

2026 theme: "Different Contexts, Common Aspirations"

Focus: youth in LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS

RARE HIMALAYAN BEE COLLETES BHUTANICUS RECORDED IN INDIA FOR THE FIRST TIME

Scientists from the **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)** recorded the solitary "plasterer" bee **Colletes bhutanicus** in **Tawang district, Arunachal Pradesh**, marking its first confirmed record in India.

Background

The species belongs to the genus *Colletes* (family Colletidae) and was first described from **Bhutan in 2003**; until now it was known only from Bhutan and China's Xizang (Tibet) region. ZSI researchers recorded it during Eastern Himalayan field surveys at elevations between **1,500 and 3,800 metres**. Unlike social honeybees, *Colletes* bees are solitary, non-colonial pollinators, and this record was documented visiting roughly two dozen flowering plant species, including mustard, buckwheat and coriander, underlining its relevance to regional agricultural pollination.

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COLLETES BHUTANICUS:

First India record: Tawang district, Arunachal Pradesh; recorded by the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)

Elevation range: 1,500-3,800 metres

Family Colletidae; genus *Colletes*; solitary (non-colonial) bee

First described from Bhutan, 2003; previously known only from Bhutan and Xizang (Tibet)

PM MODI RELEASES FORMER PRESIDENT RAM NATH KOVIND'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY

*Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** released former President **Ram Nath Kovind's** autobiography at an event in New Delhi on **August 12, 2026**.*

Background

Kovind served as India's **14th President** from **July 25, 2017 to July 25, 2022**, succeeding **Pranab Mukherjee** and preceding incumbent President **Droupadi Murmu**. Before his presidency, he served as **Governor of Bihar** from 2015 to 2017.

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RAM NATH KOVIND:

14th President of India, term July 25, 2017 to July 25, 2022

Preceded by Pranab Mukherjee (13th); succeeded by Droupadi Murmu (15th)

Previously Governor of Bihar (2015-2017)

Autobiography released by PM Narendra Modi, August 12, 2026

INDIA'S PARA-CYCLISTS WIN 12 MEDALS AT UCI PARASPORT DENMARK GRAND PRIX

Indian para-cyclists won **12 medals (2 gold, 5 silver, 5 bronze)** at the **UCI Parasport Denmark Grand Prix**, held **August 7-9, 2026**, in Odense, Denmark, Denmark's first UCI-approved track para-cycling event.

Background

Arshad Shaikh (Andhra Pradesh, MC2 category) led the medal tally with six medals (two gold, three silver, one bronze). **Vishwa Vasani** (Gujarat, 17, WC3 category) won four bronze medals, and **Anshuman Dhumal** (Maharashtra, 16) won two silvers. The Indian **contingent** competed under chief coach **Aditya Mehta**.

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UCI PARASPORT DENMARK GRAND PRIX (AUG 7-9, 2026, ODENSE):

India's tally: 12 medals (2 gold, 5 silver, 5 bronze)

Top medallist: Arshad Shaikh (Andhra Pradesh, MC2 category), 6 medals including 2 gold

Chief coach: Aditya Mehta

PERSONS IN NEWS: M.P. PARAMESWARAN, NUCLEAR SCIENTIST AND SCIENCE COMMUNICATOR, DIES AT 91

M.P. Parameswaran, nuclear engineer and pioneering science-popularisation activist, died at his residence in **Thrissur, Kerala**, on **August 11, 2026**, at the age of **91**.

Background

Born on **January 18, 1935**, in Kiralur, Thrissur, Parameswaran earned a PhD in nuclear engineering from the **Moscow Power Engineering Institute** and worked at the **Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC)**, Trombay, from the late 1950s until 1975. He then left BARC to join the **Kerala Sasthra Sahithya Parishad (KSSP)**, a grassroots science-popularisation movement, and helped found the **All India People's Science Network**. He is credited with developing the "**Fourth World Theory**", an alternative-development model, and with designing a Malayalam typewriter keyboard layout. He was awarded the **Kerala Sree Award** in 2022.

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M.P. PARAMESWARAN (1935-2026):

Died August 11, 2026, Thrissur, Kerala, aged 91

PhD in nuclear engineering, Moscow Power Engineering Institute; worked at BARC, Trombay (until 1975)

Co-founder, Kerala Sasthra Sahithya Parishad (KSSP) and the All India People's Science Network

Proponent of the "Fourth World Theory" of alternative development

Kerala Sree Award, 2022

UPSC RELEVANCE

GS Paper 1: Youth demographic dividend and global development contexts (International Youth Day); science-popularisation movements in modern India (M.P. Parameswaran and KSSP).

GS Paper 2: Presidential succession and constitutional office-holders (Ram Nath Kovind); disability-inclusive sport and welfare (para-cycling achievements).

GS Paper 3: Biodiversity documentation and pollinator ecology in the Eastern Himalaya (*Colletes bhutanicus*).

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DATES TO REMEMBER:

International Youth Day: August 12 (UN designation, 1999)

Colletes bhutanicus first India record announced: August 12, 2026 (ZSI survey, Tawang)

Kovind's autobiography released: August 12, 2026

UCI Paraspport Denmark Grand Prix concluded: August 9, 2026

M.P. Parameswaran died: August 11, 2026

INSTITUTIONS AND PERSONS:

Former President: Ram Nath Kovind (14th President, 2017-2022)

Para-cycling top medallist: Arshad Shaikh

ZSI recorded *Colletes bhutanicus* in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh

Sources: PIB, The Hindu, GKToday

Source: Current Affairs Today, August 12, 2026 — Ujiyari.com | Free UPSC & State PCS Current Affairs

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