

Awards

Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar



President Droupadi Murmu conferred the 'Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar' on 17 children for their exceptional achievements in seven categories in New Delhi on 26 December.

Category	Awardee	Age	Achievement
Art and Culture	Keya Hatkar	14	Author and disability advocate excelling in art and culture
	Ayaan Sajad	12	Sufi singer from Kashmir contributing to Kashmiri music.
	Vyas Om Jignesh	17	Sanskrit scholar with cerebral palsy who memorized over 5,000 slokas.
	Janane Narayanan	14	Harikatha artist and Carnatic music student; received the Kala Illamani Award (Tamil Nadu).
	Sanchi Aggarwal	8	Expert in Kathak and Sanskrit shlokas; holds two international records (Uttar Pradesh).
Bravery	Saurav Kumar	9	Saved three girls from drowning.
	Karina Thapa	17	Rescued 36 residents from a fire.
	Kisen Wanniang	15	Saved four children from drowning in the Maweitksar River (Meghalaya).

	Innovation	Sindhoora Raja	15	Developed self-stabilizing devices for Parkinson's patients.
		Risheek Kumar	17	Founded Kashmir's first cybersecurity firm.
	Sports	Hembati Nag	15	Judo player who won silver at the 3rd Khelo India National Games (Chhattisgarh).
		Priteesmita Bhoi	15	Weightlifter who set a world record in clean and jerk; won gold at IWF World Youth Championships (Odisha).
		Saanvi Sood	9	Youngest Asian girl to summit Mount Kilimanjaro and reach Everest Base Camp; conquered several peaks (Punjab).
		Jessy Raj Mathrapu	14	Artistic skater with 43 medals, including gold at the World Skate Oceania Artistic Championship (Andhra Pradesh).
		Goldi Kumari	16	Divyang shot-put player excelling in national and state competitions (Bihar).
		Arav Bhardwaj	12	Completed 1,251 km cycling journey from Kargil War Memorial to India Gate; cycled 2,612 km in 2022 (Delhi).

	Anish Sarkar	3+	Youngest FIDE-ranked chess player with a rating of 1,555 (West Bengal).
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Key Point

- ❖ The children, who hail from 14 states and union territories, were recognized for their accomplishments in Art and Culture, Bravery, Innovation, Science and Technology, Social Service, Sports, and Environment.
- ❖ Each awardee received a medal, a certificate, and a citation booklet.
- ❖ In 2022, Mr Modi had announced that **26th December** will be marked as **Veer Baal Diwas** to pay tribute to the courage of the **Sahibzades**, the sons of Guru Gobind Singh and their quest for justice.

About the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PMRBP)

- ❖ The PMRBP is India's highest civilian honour for children as is formerly called the **National Child Award for Exceptional Achievement**.
- ❖ It is annually awarded by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development**.
- ❖ It is awarded annually to children in the age group of **5-18**
- ❖ The award is presented to children for exceptional achievements in seven categories ie.
- ❖ Art & Culture, Bravery, Innovation, Science & Technology, Social Service, Sports, and Environment.
- ❖ **Award:** Each awardee will receive a medal, certificate and citation booklet.

Important Days

'Losar'



The Ladakhi **Losar**, celebrating the New Year according to the Tibetan calendar, began with great enthusiasm on December 25 across Ladakh.

Key Point

- ❖ The term '**Losar**' means New year in the Tibetan language. '**Lo**' means year and '**Sar**' means new.
- ❖ It begins on the day of a new moon that marks the first day of the first month on the Tibetan calendar.
- ❖ Losar is celebrated for 15 days, with the main celebrations on the first three days.
- ❖ Organized by LAHDC Leh with support from the Culture Academy, Leh.
- ❖ Losar predates the arrival of Buddhism in Tibet and has its roots in a winter incense-burning custom of the Bon religion.

Scheme

Viksit Panchayat Karmayogi



The Centre launched the '**Viksit Panchayat Karmayogi**' initiative on **Good Governance Day** to mark the 100th birth anniversary of former Prime Minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee**.

Key Point

- ❖ This initiative is a part of the broader '**Prashasan Gaon Ki Aur**' campaign.
- ❖ **Purpose:** Strengthen grassroots governance by enhancing the capacity of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and promote equitable rural development.
- ❖ **Focus:** Equip elected representatives and officials with tools for effective governance and participatory planning.
- ❖ **Implementation:** Piloted in Odisha, Assam, Gujarat, and Andhra Pradesh.

Features:

- ❖ Utilizes e-learning platforms, AI-powered chatbots, and mobile apps.
- ❖ Aims to bridge knowledge gaps and improve service delivery.

Place in News

Van Vihar National Park



According to the Madhya Pradesh Forest Department, the Van Vihar National Park in Bhopal will get two Asiatic lions from Gujarat in exchange for two Bengal tigers.

Key Point

- ❖ Under an animal exchange programme two tigers have been relocated to the Junagadh zoo.
- ❖ Two pure-breed Asiatic (Gir) lions will be brought from Sakkarbaug Zoological Park in Junagadh to Van Vihar National Park in Bhopal as part of the exchange.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh plans to translocate 14 tigers to Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha under an animal exchange program to support conservation efforts and manage tiger populations."

Van Vihar National Park:

- ❖ It is located in Bhopal, and serves as a vital conservation area in the Madhya Pradesh capital.
- ❖ It is the only place in central India where its rescue centre harbours a number of Lions and Tigers rescued from the circuses, Sloth Bears rescued from the madaris, Tigers, Panthers and Bears rescued from the zones of human-wildlife conflict.
- ❖ It is also a designated co-ordinating zoo and Conservation Breeding Centre for the Hard Ground Barasingha, the state animal of Madhya Pradesh and two species of Gyps Vultures.

Kilauea Volcano



Hawaii's Kilauea volcano, one of the world's most active, is erupting again. It is located in Hawaii's Big Island within Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, USA.

Key point

- ❖ Kilauea is the youngest and most active shield volcano in Hawaii, known for frequent eruptions.
- ❖ Its eruptions occur from vents at its summit caldera or along rift zones.
- ❖ The central crater, Halemaumau, holds mythological significance as the believed home of the Hawaiian fire goddess Pele.

Sports

Omkareshwar Floating Solar Park



The Prime Minister inaugurated the Omkareshwar Floating Solar Project in Khandwa, Madhya Pradesh on 25 December, 2024.

Key Point

- ❖ Omkareshwar Floating Solar Park lies across the Narmada River at Khandwa in Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ This floating solar park is the biggest of its kind in India.
- ❖ The project forms part of India's net-zero emission plan by the year 2070 and is expected to cut carbon emission by 2,30,000 tonnes of CO₂ every year.
- ❖ They enable the avoidance of excessive loss of water in the form of evaporation from the reservoir.
- ❖ India had a total installed solar power capacity of 92.12 GW by October 2024, according to INSEDA.
- ❖ As of October 2024, renewable energy-based electricity generation capacity stands at 203.18 GW, accounting for more than 46.3 percent of the country's total installed capacity.
 - Wind power: 47.72 GW
 - Biomass/cogeneration: 11.32 GW

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Small hydropower: 5.07 GW ➤ Waste-to-energy: 0.59 GW ➤ Large hydropower: 46.92 GW.
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Short News

- ❖ **Parv Chaudhary** won two bronze medals at the Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships in Doha.
- ❖ The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, and UNDP, in partnership with Citi Foundation, launched the **7th Youth Co:Lab National Innovation Challenge for 2024-2025**.
- ❖ **Didi ki Libraries,** free-of-cost libraries, have been set up by Bihar state government under its **JEEViKA initiative**.
- ❖ On December 26, 2024, India's star cricketer **Virat Kohli** was penalized 20% of his match fee and given one demerit point for a shoulder barge incident involving Australian player Sam Konstas on the opening day of the Boxing Day Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG).
- ❖ Queen's University Belfast and Coventry University, both based in the UK, have submitted proposals to establish international campuses in Gujarat's GIFT City.
- ❖ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched the '**Atal Yuva Maha Kumbh**' in Lucknow to commemorate the **100th birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee**.
- ❖ **Spain** has officially terminated its Golden Visa programme, which allowed non-EU citizens to gain residency by investing in Spanish real estate.

Important Daily Current Affairs Question

1. Omkareshwar Floating Solar Project was inaugurated in which state recently?

- A. Madhya Pradesh
- B. Uttar Pradesh
- C. Bihar
- D. Jharkhand

Answer-A

2. NITI Aayog has launched Youth Co:Lab Initiative with which international organization?

- A. World Bank
- B. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- C. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- D. International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Answer-B

