

Bihar Special

Goldi Kumari and Saurav Kumar



Why in the news?

Goldi Kumari and Saurav Kumar from Bihar have been awarded Pradhan Mantri Bal Puraskar.

They were awarded by the President of India on the occasion of “Veer Bal Diwas”.

Goldi Kumari

- ❖ She is a Divyang shot-put player, excelled in national and state competitions, earning numerous top honours.
- ❖ She secured 2nd position at the 13th Junior and Sub Junior National Para Athletics Championship organised by the Paralympic Committee of India (2024).
- ❖ She is from the Nalanda district of Bihar

Saurav Kumar

- ❖ He rescued three young girls — Muskan, Mehar, and Preeti Kumari — from drowning in a pond. Upon hearing their desperate cries for help, Saurav fearlessly jumped into the water and saved their lives.
- ❖ He is from Sheikhpura district of Bihar.

Economy

Committee on FREE-AI

Why in the news?

The Reserve Bank has constituted a committee to develop a Framework for Responsible and Ethical Enablement of Artificial Intelligence (FREE-AI) in the financial sector.

- ❖ The eight-member committee will be headed by Dr. Pushpak Bhattacharyya.

About the committee:

- ❖ The committee will be supported by the RBI's fintech department.
 - It will be required to submit its report within six months from the date of its first meeting.
- ❖ Its mandate will be to study the present level of AI adoption in financial services and review regulatory and supervisory approaches to AI with a focus on the financial sector globally.

- ❖ It will also recommend a framework including governance aspects for responsible, ethical adoption of AI models for the financial sector.
- ❖ The committee will also have to identify potential risks associated with AI and recommend an evaluation, mitigation and monitoring framework for regulated entities.

Defence And Security

SLINEX 24

Why in the news?

The bilateral Naval exercise between India and Sri Lanka, SLINEX 24 (Sri Lanka - India Exercise 2024) was conducted from 17 - 20 Dec 24 at Visakhapatnam.

- ❖ It was held under the aegis of the Eastern Naval Command in two phases.
- ❖ The harbour phase was held from 17 - 18 Dec 24 and the sea phase from 19 - 20 Dec 24.
- ❖ **History of this exercise:**
 - SLINEX series of bilateral exercises were initiated in 2005 and since then regular exercises have been conducted.
 - The current edition of the exercise has further strengthened the ties between the two maritime neighbors.

Objective:

- To contribute towards creating a safe and rule-based Maritime domain thereby taking forward the GoI's resolve and vision of Security And Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR).



Awards and Honors

Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar

Why in the news?

The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu conferred the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar on 17 children for their exceptional achievements.

About the award:

- ❖ The award honours extraordinary accomplishments in seven categories: art and culture, bravery, innovation, science and technology, social service, sports and environment.
- ❖ The honourees -- seven boys and 10 girls selected from 14 states and Union territories -- were presented with a medal, certificate and a citation booklet as part of their recognition.

❖ Famous Awardees:

Category	Winners
Art and Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Keya Hatkar, a 14-year-old author and disability advocate was recognised for her excellence in art and culture. ❖ Ayaan Sajad, a 12-year-old Sufi singer from Kashmir, was honoured for his soulful contributions to Kashmiri music and culture. ❖ Vyas Om Jignesh, a 17-year-old with cerebral palsy, was honoured for his dedication to Sanskrit literature, having memorised over 5,000 shlokas and performed in more than 500 shows across India. ❖ Janane Narayanan (14), a Harikatha artist and dedicated carnatic music student, has delivered over 100 Tamil, English, and Sanskrit performances, showcasing her storytelling and musical talents. ❖ Sanchi Aggarwal (8), excelling in Kathak, semi-classical dance, Shastri dance, and Sanskrit shlokas, holds two prestigious records in the International Book of Records: completing an extraordinary 80 rounds in 1 minute in semi-classical dance and reciting 13 Sanskrit shlokas in just 1 minute.
Bravery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Saurav Kumar, a 9-year-old, was awarded for saving three girls from drowning. ❖ 17-year-old Loanna Thapa was honoured for rescuing 36 residents of a flat from a fire, displaying quick thinking and courage. ❖ Kisen Wanniang (15), from Meghalaya, saved four children from drowning in the Maweitksar River during heavy rains.
Innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Sindhoora Raja (15 years) for her technological contributions, such as self-stabilizing devices for Parkinson's patients, which have had a positive impact on many lives. ❖ Cybersecurity entrepreneur Risheek Kumar, 17, was lauded for founding Kashmir's first cybersecurity firm and launching the "Hack Free Bharat" initiative.

Sports

- ❖ Hembati Nag, a judo player from a Naxal-affected region, was recognized for her silver medal at the Khelo India National Games.
- ❖ 9-year-old Saanvi Sood's record-breaking mountaineering feats, including summiting Mount Kilimanjaro was awarded.
- ❖ Chess prodigy Anish Sarkar, at just 3 years old, made history as the youngest FIDE-ranked player.



Obituary

Manmohan Singh

Why in the news?

India's former prime minister **Manmohan Singh** passed away at the age of 92 years on 26th December, 2024.

About Manmohan Singh:

- ❖ Dr. Manmohan Singh was born on **September 26, 1932**, in a village in the Punjab province of undivided India.
 - He completed his Matriculation examinations from Punjab University in 1948.
 - His illustrious academic journey took him from Punjab to the University of Cambridge, UK, where he earned a First Class Honours degree in Economics in 1957.

➤ Dr. Singh followed this with a D. Phil in Economics from Nuffield College at Oxford University in 1962.

- ❖ His book, **India's Export Trends and Prospects for Self-Sustained Growth** (Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1964), was an early critique of India's inward-oriented trade policy.
- ❖ Dr. Singh's academic credentials were further strengthened by his years on the faculty of Punjab University and the prestigious Delhi School of Economics.
 - He also served briefly at the UNCTAD Secretariat, presaging his later role as Secretary General of the South Commission in Geneva between 1987 and 1990.
- ❖ In 1971, **Dr. Singh** joined the Government of India as Economic Advisor in the Commerce Ministry.

- This was soon followed by his appointment as Chief Economic Advisor in the Ministry of Finance in 1972.
- Over his career, Dr. Singh held several significant positions, including Secretary in the Ministry of Finance, Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, Advisor to the Prime Minister, and Chairman of the University Grants Commission.
- From 1991 to 1996, Dr. Singh served as India's Finance Minister, marking a turning point in the nation's economic history.
- ❖ **Awards and Honors:**
 - Among the most prominent are India's second-highest civilian honour, the Padma Vibhushan (1987), the Jawaharlal Nehru Birth Centenary Award of the Indian Science Congress (1995), the Asia Money Award for Finance Minister of the Year (1993 and 1994), the Euro Money Award for Finance Minister of the Year (1993),

- the Adam Smith Prize of the University of Cambridge (1956), and the Wright's Prize for Distinguished Performance at St. John's College in Cambridge (1955).
- He was also conferred honorary degrees by esteemed universities, including Cambridge and Oxford.
- ❖ He led Indian delegations to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Cyprus (1993) and the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna in 1993.
- ❖ **Political Career:**
 - Dr. Singh served as a Member of India's Upper House of Parliament (the Rajya Sabha) from 1991 and was the Leader of the Opposition between 1998 and 2004.
 - He was sworn in as 14th Prime Minister on 22nd May 2004, following the general elections, and took the oath of office for a second term on 22nd May 2009.



News in Short

- ❖ RINL, the corporate entity of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant has won the prestigious “Gold Award” in the State Energy Conservation Award 2024 competitions for its significant initiatives towards Energy Conservation in Iron & Steel category.

- ❖ Following Australia, two universities from the United Kingdom --- Queen’s University Belfast and Coventry University -- - have filed applications to set up their respective international campuses at GIFT city in Gujarat.



PW Web/App: <https://smart.link/7wwosivoicgd4>

For more such content, subscribe to our Telegram Channel https://t.me/pw_upsc