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History, Art and Culture

Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar – 2025 (2nd edition)

Recently, President conferred the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar 2025 at a function held in New Delhi.

• It is the nation's highest recognition for exceptional contributions in the fields of science, technology, and innovation.

• **4 categories –**
- Vigyan Ratna,
- Vigyan Shree,
- Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar and
- Vigyan Team.

• **Aim –** To honour outstanding contributions of scientists, technologists and innovators working individually or in teams across the Science & Technology and technology-led innovations.

'Sanatan Sanskriti Ki Atal Drishti'

Vice-President releases book 'Sanatan Sanskriti Ki Atal Drishti'.

• **Authored by –** Shri Vasudev Devnani, Speaker of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly.

Vinod Kumar Shukla

• He is a renowned poet-author and the 2024 Jnanpith winner.

• **Born in –** 1937 at Chhattisgarh's Rajnandgaon.

• **Literary works –**
- **Poetries –** Lagbhag Jaihind (1st poetry collections), Kavita Se Lambi Kavita and several other poems.
- **Novels –** Deewar Mein Ek Khidki Rehti Thi and Naukar Ki Kameez.

• **Awards –**
- *Sahitya Akademi award* in 1999 for his novel, *Deewar Mein Ek Khidki Rehti Thi (A window lived in the wall).*
- In 2023, 1st Indian to receive the *PEN/Nabokov Award.*
- In 2024, 1st writer from the State to receive the *Jnanpith, India's highest literary honour.*

Sports

Comprehensive Internship Policy

• **Launched by –** Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS).
• **Objectives –**
  - To create a structured, large-scale platform for nurturing young talent and strengthening India's sports ecosystem.
  - To build a robust talent pipeline in sports governance, administration, sports science, anti-doping, event management and athlete support services.
• **Internship –**
  - A total of 452 internships will be offered annually across the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and its key institutions.
  - These institutions include the Sports Authority of India (SAI), National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA), and National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL).
• **Significance –** It aligns closely with the objectives of the National Sports Policy and Khelo Bharat Niti 2025.

Economy

Industrial Park Rating System (IPRS)

• **IPRS –** It is a comprehensive framework for assessing the performance and quality of industrial parks and business districts in India.
• **Built on –** 4 assessment pillars.
• It provides valuable insights to investors, developers, and policymakers while encouraging park authorities to improve services and infrastructure.



Agriculture

Agriculture and Allied Activities - Backbone of the Indian Economy

• **Economic Survey data 2024-25**
  - **Contribute to –** Approximately *16 % of the country's GDP* for FY24 (Provisional Estimates) at current prices.
  - **Livelihoods to –** Nearly *46.1 % of the population.*

Security

Akash missile (Akash-NG) System

DRDO has successfully completed the User Evaluation Trials (UET) of Next Generation Akash missile (Akash-NG) system.

• **Trails –** The missiles successfully intercepted aerial targets at different range & altitude including the *near-boundary-low-altitude and Long-Range, high-altitude scenarios.*

• **Equipped with –** *Radio Frequency (RF) Seeker.*

• **Propelled by –** Solid rocket motor, is a potent system for ensuring air defence against different types of aerial threats.

• **Indigenously developed –** All the systems & sub-systems including the Multi-Function Radar (MFR), Command and Control Unit, Missile Launch vehicle (MLV) etc. have been designed by various laboratories of DRDO with the help of Indian industries.

Science

Flagship National Conclave on AI Evolution

• **Held at –** Dr Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi.

• **Organised by –** Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University with All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and Outlook magazine.

• **Aim –** To Build a Scalable AI-Enabled Learning Ecosystem for India's Higher Education.

Virtual Reality Mine Simulator

• VRMS is India's 1st VR based mine simulator for coal mining safety and productivity.

• **Developed by –** IIT (ISM) Dhanbad, in collaboration with Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries Northern Coalfields Limited and Eastern Coalfields Limited.

• **Equipped with –** A 360-degree immersive virtual reality theatre,

• It uses real mine data and provides more than 20 training modules covering heavy equipment operation and critical safety SOPs.

• **Objectives –**

- To provide scenario-based assessment and certification for all levels of employees, from operators to senior managers.
- It is expected to cut training time by half, while ensuring improved safety preparedness.

Miscellaneous

National Consumer Day

• **Observed annually on –** 24th December.

• **Commemoration on –** The day that the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, received the President's assent, establishing a comprehensive set of rights for consumers.

• **Theme 2025 –** *"Efficient and Speedy Disposal through Digital Justice,"* reflecting India's continued focus on technology-enabled, accessible, and timely consumer grievance redressal.

• **Aim –** To highlight the significance of consumer rights and the broader framework of consumer protection.

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