

December - 27

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Indian Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of a ₹10,601 crore fertiliser plant at Namrup in Dibrugarh district, Assam.
- ❖ The Indian Coast Guard inducted its first Pollution Control Vessel (PCV) named Samudra Pratap.
- ❖ The Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Dehradun is going to prepare a district-wise report on hills qualifying as part of the Aravalli Range for mining purposes.
- ❖ The Vice-President of India released the book “*Sanatan Sanskriti Ki Atal Drishti*”, which was authored by Shri Vasudev Devnani, Speaker of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly.

NATIONAL NEWS

India's Dairy Policy in FTA



- ❖ India and New Zealand finalised a Free Trade Agreement (FTA).
- ❖ The FTA does not include any dairy products under tariff reduction or duty-free access.

- ❖ India has a stated policy of not opening the dairy sector in trade agreements.
- ❖ More than 80 million households in India depend on dairy farming for income.
- ❖ Most dairy producers in India are small farmers owning two to three animals.
- ❖ Dairy production in India is labour-intensive and spread across rural areas.
- ❖ India's per capita milk availability is higher than the global average.
- ❖ Around 70 % of the dairy workforce in India is female.
- ❖ The dairy sector functions as a livelihood and nutrition support, not as an export industry.
- ❖ New Zealand's dairy sector is export-oriented and capital-intensive.
- ❖ India's dairy sector is domestically focused and cooperative-based.
- ❖ The FTA allows duty-free access for dairy inputs only for re-export, not for domestic sale.
- ❖ The agreement includes a right-to-negotiate clause if dairy is opened in future trade deals.
- ❖ India follows the same dairy exclusion policy in trade talks with other countries.
- ❖ The FTA aims to expand trade without affecting rural income and nutrition security.

AI-Based Wildlife Protection 2025



- ❖ The Indian Railways has introduced Artificial Intelligence (AI) systems to prevent wildlife deaths on railway tracks.

- ❖ AI-enabled cameras detect animals near tracks and send alerts to loco pilots about 500 metres in advance.
- ❖ The system helps trains slow down or stop in forest and elephant corridor areas.
- ❖ A Distributed Acoustic System (DAS) is used to detect elephant movement through ground vibrations.
- ❖ The system is working on 141 route kilometres under the Northeast Frontier Railway.
- ❖ Indian Railways plans to expand the system to 1,122 kilometres across the network.

Internship Policy for the Sports Sector 2025

MYAS LAUNCHES COMPREHENSIVE INTERNSHIP POLICY EMPOWERING YOUTH TO STRENGTHEN INDIA'S SPORTS ECOSYSTEM

- ▶ STRUCTURED, LARGE-SCALE **INTERNSHIP PLATFORM**
- ▶ **HANDS-ON EXPOSURE TO SPORTS GOVERNANCE & ADMINISTRATION**
- ▶ **OPPORTUNITIES ACROSS MYAS & AUTONOMOUS**

- ❖ The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) has launched a Comprehensive Internship Policy.
- ❖ Under this policy, 452 internships will be offered every year across MYAS and its institutions.
- ❖ The internships will be held in bodies like the Sports Authority of India (SAI), National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) and National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL).
- ❖ The programme is open to college and university students.

- ❖ Internships will provide training in sports administration, sports science, anti-doping and event management.
- ❖ The policy is aligned with the Khelo Bharat Niti 2025 and the National Sports Policy.

India's Largest Hydropower Project

- ❖ Unit-2 of the Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project, with a capacity of 250 Megawatt, was commissioned in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ The Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project has a total installed capacity of 2,000 Megawatt with eight units of 250 Megawatt each.
- ❖ It is the largest hydropower project in India and is located in the North-East region.
- ❖ The project is a run-of-the-river hydropower scheme built on the Subansiri River.
- ❖ The project has the largest dam in North-East India, with a height of 116 metres.
- ❖ The dam also helps in flood moderation to reduce flood risk in downstream areas.



SHAKTI Scholars Fellowship

- ❖ The National Commission for Women launched SHAKTI Scholars fellowship.
- ❖ It is a six-month grant-based research fellowship to support the young Indian researchers aged 21–30.
- ❖ The fellowship provides ₹1 lakh for policy-oriented, multidisciplinary research on women-centric issues like safety, health, economic empowerment, leadership, cyber safety, and legal rights.

- ❖ Eligible candidates must have a graduation, and preference is given to those with post-graduation, M.Phil., or PhD in relevant fields.
- ❖ Funds are released in phases to ensure the accountability and progress-linked research execution.
- ❖ The fellowship aims to encourage evidence-based research and support policy and institutional reforms for women in India.



NCW Launches
'SHAKTI SCHOLARS'
Young Research Fellowship

The National Commission for Women invites applications for '**SHAKTI Scholars: NCW's Young Research Fellowship**', aimed at encouraging policy-oriented, multidisciplinary research on issues impacting women in India.

Eligibility

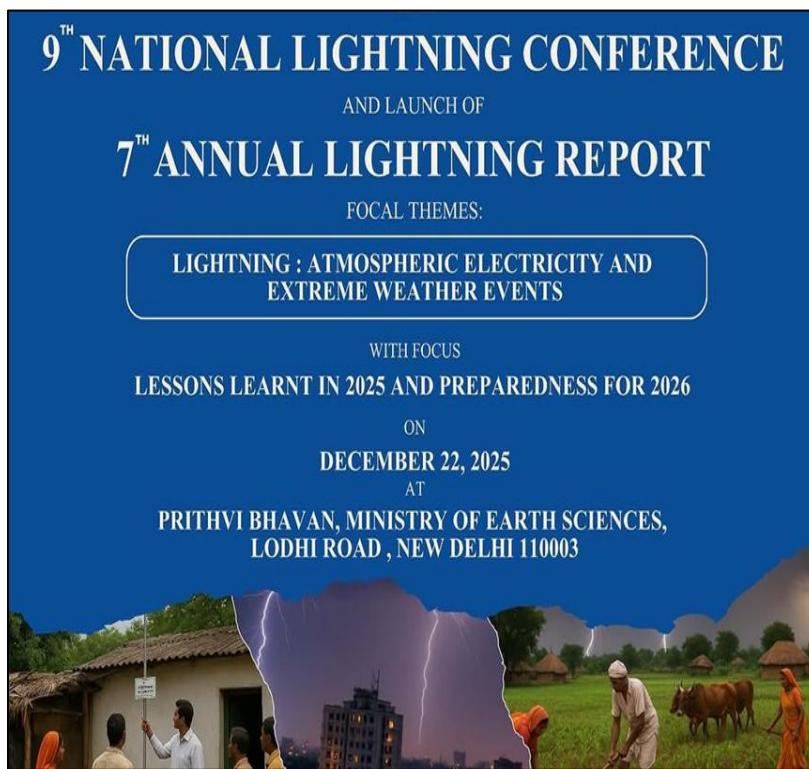
- Indian citizens aged 21-30 years
- Minimum Graduation from a recognised institution
- Preference to Postgraduates / Research Scholars
- Independent researchers with proven research capacity may apply

National Lightning Conference 2025

- ❖ The 9th National Lightning Conference was held in New Delhi to discuss lightning-related disasters.
- ❖ The conference has focused on lightning hazards, a major extreme weather risk in India.
- ❖ The theme was “Lightning: Atmospheric Electricity and Extreme Weather Events.”
- ❖ The 7th Annual Lightning Report was launched during the event.
- ❖ It was jointly organised by CROPC (Climate Resilient Observing Systems Promotion Council), IMD (India Meteorological Department), NRSC-ISRO

(National Remote Sensing Centre–Indian Space Research Organisation), and NDMA (National Disaster Management Authority).

- ❖ Lightning is a natural phenomenon caused by electric discharge between clouds or between clouds and the ground.
- ❖ Lightning causes more than 2,000 deaths every year in India.
- ❖ Lightning strikes in India increased by about 400% between 2019 and 2025.
- ❖ High-risk states include Rajasthan, Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Odisha.
- ❖ The India Meteorological Department (IMD) provides lightning warnings through the Damini, Mausam and Sachet mobile applications.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

New H-1B visa system 2025

- ❖ Under the revised rules, H-1B visas will no longer be issued through random draws.
- ❖ Instead, applications will be assessed based on wage levels and the skill requirements of the job.

- ❖ The new rules will come into force on February 27, 2026, and will apply to the FY 2027 H-1B cap registration season.
- ❖ Currently, the programme allows for 65,000 H-1B visas annually.
- ❖ Indian nationals currently account for over 70 per cent of H-1B visas issued annually.

Know about H-1B

- This is a non-immigrant visa.
- This visa allows foreign professionals with special technical skills to be appointed to specific positions.
- It is issued for professions like IT, architecture, and healthcare.
- Every year, the US grants 65,000 people the H-1B visa.
- Its validity is for 3 years.
- If required, it can be extended for another 3 years.

China-India WTO Dispute



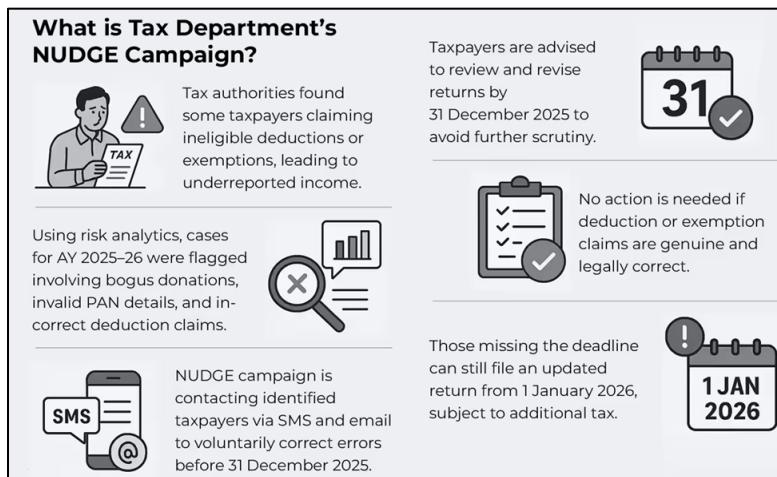
- ❖ China filed a complaint against India at the World Trade Organization (WTO) over solar sector policies.

- ❖ China sought consultations under the WTO framework on India's photovoltaic (solar) subsidies.
- ❖ It claimed that India's measures violated bound tariff commitments and national treatment rules.
- ❖ China has also alleged that the policies acted as import-substitution subsidies, favouring domestic firms.
- ❖ This complaint followed an earlier case in October 2025 on India's electric vehicle (EV) and battery subsidies.

ECONOMY NEWS

NUUDGE Campaign for AY 2025–26

- ❖ The Income Tax Department launched the NUDGE (Non-intrusive Usage of Data to Guide and Enable) campaign for Assessment Year (AY) 2025–26.
- ❖ The campaign asks taxpayers to voluntarily check and correct ineligible deductions and exemptions.
- ❖ It uses the data analytics and risk assessment to find mismatches in Income Tax Returns (ITRs).
- ❖ The campaign is advisory and non-penal in nature.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Akash-NG Missile 2025

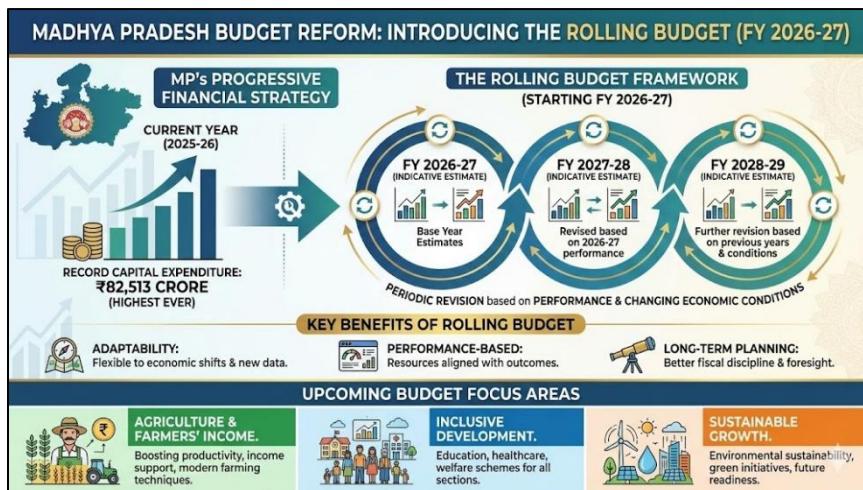
- ❖ The DRDO has completed User Evaluation Trials (UET) of the Akash-NG missile system.

- ❖ Akash-NG (Next Generation) is an indigenously developed surface-to-air missile.
- ❖ It is used to destroy aircraft, drones and cruise missiles.
- ❖ The missile has an indigenous Radio Frequency (RF) seeker for accurate targeting.
- ❖ It uses a dual-pulse solid rocket motor for a longer range and faster response.



STATES' NEWS

Budget Reform - Madhya Pradesh

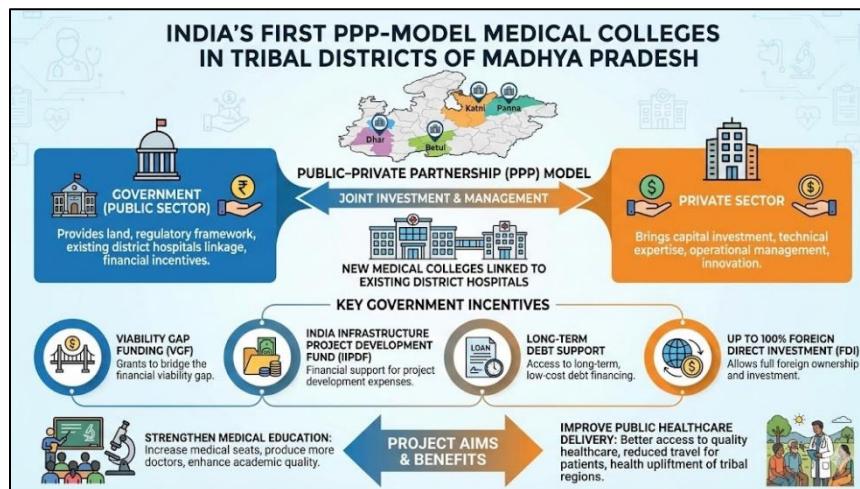


- ❖ Madhya Pradesh will introduce a rolling budget from the financial year 2026-27.
- ❖ The rolling budget will include indicative estimates for three consecutive years: 2026-27, 2027-28, and 2028-29.

- ❖ The 2025-26 capital expenditure is Rs 82,513 crore, the highest ever for the state.
- ❖ Rolling budgets allow periodic revision based on performance and changing economic conditions.
- ❖ The upcoming budget will focus on agriculture, farmers' incomes, and inclusive development.

PPP-Model Medical Colleges

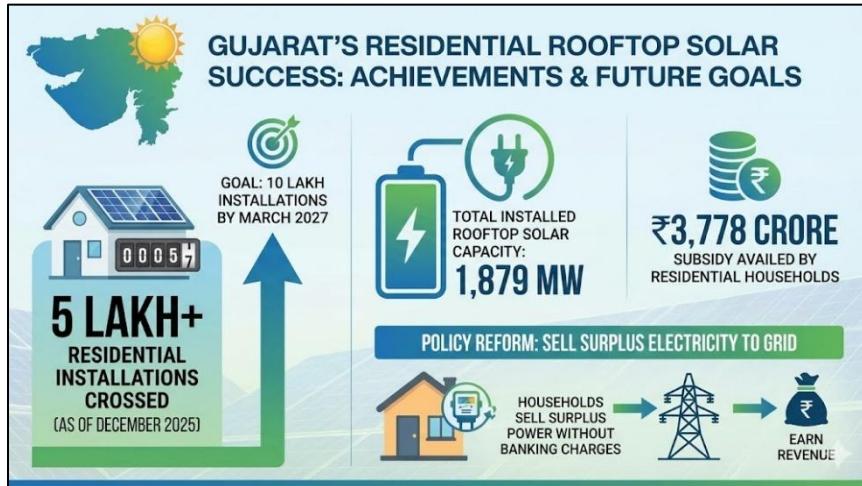
- ❖ India announced its first medical colleges under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model in the tribal districts of Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ Four colleges are planned in Dhar, Betul, Katni, and Panna, linked with existing district hospitals.
- ❖ The PPP (Public-Private Partnership) model allows joint investment and management by the government and private sector.
- ❖ Government incentives include Viability Gap Funding (VGF), India Infrastructure Project Development Fund (IIPDF), long-term debt support, and up to 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).
- ❖ The project aims to strengthen medical education and public healthcare delivery in tribal regions.



Rooftop Solar Installations 2025

- ❖ Gujarat crossed five lakh residential rooftop solar installations as of December 2025.
- ❖ The total installed rooftop solar capacity in the state is 1,879 MW.
- ❖ The state aims to reach 10 lakh installations by March 2027.

- ❖ Residential households have availed of ₹3,778 crore in subsidies under the rooftop solar scheme.
- ❖ Policy reforms allow households to sell surplus electricity to the grid without banking charges.



Rashtra Prerna Sthal



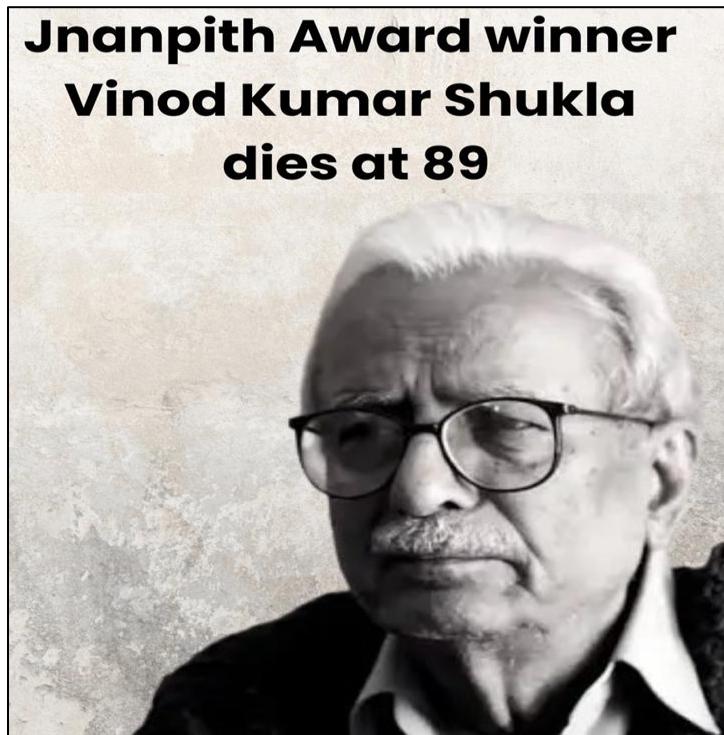
- ❖ Prime Minister inaugurated Rashtra Prerna Sthal in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- ❖ It marks the 101st birth anniversary of the former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- ❖ It featured 65-feet-high bronze statues of Vajpayee, Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, and Deendayal Upadhyaya.

- ❖ The lotus-shaped state-of-the-art museum displayed India's national journey, the formation of Bharatiya Jana Sangh (BJS), and the contributions of these leaders through digital and immersive technologies.
- ❖ It was developed under the Basant Kunj scheme of the Lucknow Development Authority (LDA), and construction began in 2022.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Vinod Kumar Shukla's demise

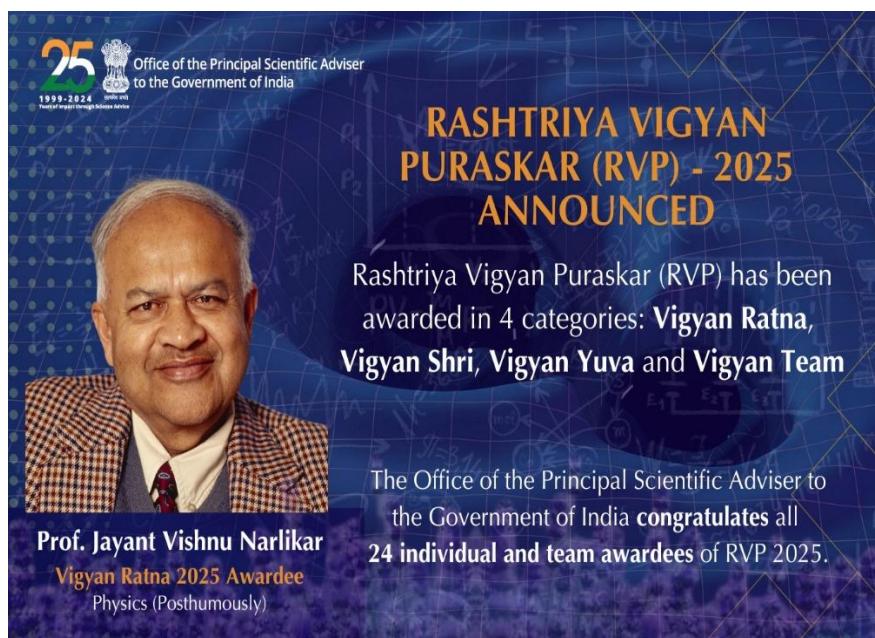
- ❖ Hindi poet and novelist Vinod Kumar Shukla, died in Raipur, Chhattisgarh.
- ❖ He was born in 1937 in Rajnandgaon (the present Chhattisgarh) and began his writing career in 1971.
- ❖ He won the Jnanpith Award in 2024 and was the first writer from Chhattisgarh to receive it.
- ❖ His well-known works include Naukar Ki Kameez and Deewar Mein Ek Khidki Rehti Thi.



Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar 2025

- ❖ President Droupadi Murmu conferred the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar 2025 at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.

- ❖ A total of 24 awards were given under four categories: Vigyan Ratna, Vigyan Shri, Vigyan Yuva and Vigyan Team.
- ❖ The awards recognise contributions across 13 scientific fields, including physics, chemistry, medicine, agriculture, atomic energy and space science.
- ❖ The Vigyan Ratna award was given posthumously to physicist Jayant Vishnu Narlikar for lifetime achievements.
- ❖ Eight scientists received Vigyan Shri, fourteen young scientists received Vigyan Yuva, and one team received the Vigyan Team award.
- ❖ Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar is India's highest national award in science and technology and is modelled on the Padma Awards.



MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Global Food Cities 2025–26

- ❖ Mumbai has been ranked as the 5th best food city in the world in 2025–26.
- ❖ The ranking is part of the TasteAtlas World Food Awards 2025–26.
- ❖ The Italian cities dominate the top 10, including Naples, Milan, Bologna, Florence, Genoa, and Rome.
- ❖ Mumbai is very famous for its vibrant street food, such as Vada Pav, Pav Bhaji, Bhelpuri, Ragda Pattice, and Modak.
- ❖ Six other Indian cities are featured in the global top 100: Delhi (48), Amritsar (53), Hyderabad (54), Kolkata (73), Chennai (93).

- ❖ The rankings are based on the authenticity of local food, the popularity of regional dishes, and ratings by global food lovers and experts.

Best Food Cities in the World

According to TasteAtlas Awards 24/25: 100 Best Dishes in the World

1	 Naples	11	 Madrid
2	 Milan	12	 New York
3	 Bologna	13	 Genoa
4	 Florence	14	 Nice
5	 Mumbai	15	 Lima
6	 Rome	16	 Jakarta
7	 Paris	17	 Kyoto
8	 Vienna	18	 Gaziantep
9	 Turin	19	 Ferrara
10	 Osaka	20	 New Orleans

