



Announcement of New Science Awards

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Why in News?

The Central Government has decided to introduce **56 prizes under the category of Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar** (3 Vigyan Ratna, 25 Vigyan Shri, 25 [Yuva Vigyan Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar](#), 3 Vigyan Team Awards) to felicitate scientists.

- The **awards will be announced annually on [National Technology Day](#)**, May 11 and will be **awarded on [National Space Day](#)**, August 23 in 2024.

Note:

- Akin to prestigious [Padma awards](#), **these awards will not include any cash component.**
- The **Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar shall be given in the 13 science-related domains.**

What are the Key Highlights About these Awards?

- **Included Awards:**
 - **Vigyan Ratna Awards:**
 - These awards will **recognise lifetime achievements & contributions made in any field of science and technology.**
 - **Vigyan Shri Awards:**
 - These awards will **recognise distinguished contributions** to any field of science and technology.
 - **Vigyan Team Awards:**
 - These awards are to be **given to a team comprising of three or more scientists/researchers/innovators** who have made an exceptional contribution working in a team in any field of science and technology.
 - **Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (VY-SSB):**
 - These awards are the **highest multidisciplinary science awards in India for the young scientists** (maximum 45 years).
 - They are named after **Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar**, the founder and director of the [Council of Scientific & Industrial Research \(CSIR\)](#), who was also a renowned chemist and visionary.
- **Awards Open to PIOs:**
 - [Persons of Indian origin \(PIOs\)](#) **will now be eligible for the new awards**, but only one PIO may receive the Vigyan Ratna.
 - Three PIOs each can be selected for the Vigyan Shri and the VY-SSB.
 - However, **PIOs will not be eligible for the Vigyan Team awards.**

What is National Technology Day?

▪ **About:**

- The day, which was first observed in **1999**, aims to commemorate the scientific and technological achievements of Indian scientists, engineers.
 - The **day was named by the former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.**
- Every year, the **Technology Development Board of India** under the Ministry of Science and Technology celebrates the day by awarding individuals with the National Award for their contribution to science and technology.

▪ **Significance:**

- It is the day India successfully tested nuclear bombs in **Pokhran** on 11th May, 1998.
- India successfully test-fired its **Shakti-1 nuclear missile in operation called Pokhran-II**, also codenamed as **Operation Shakti.**

UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims

Q. For outstanding contribution to which one of the following fields is Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize given? (2009)

- (a) Literature
- (b) Performing Arts
- (c) Science
- (d) Social Service

Ans: (c)

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