

Daily Defence Current Affairs

26 December 2025

Veer Bal Diwas 2025

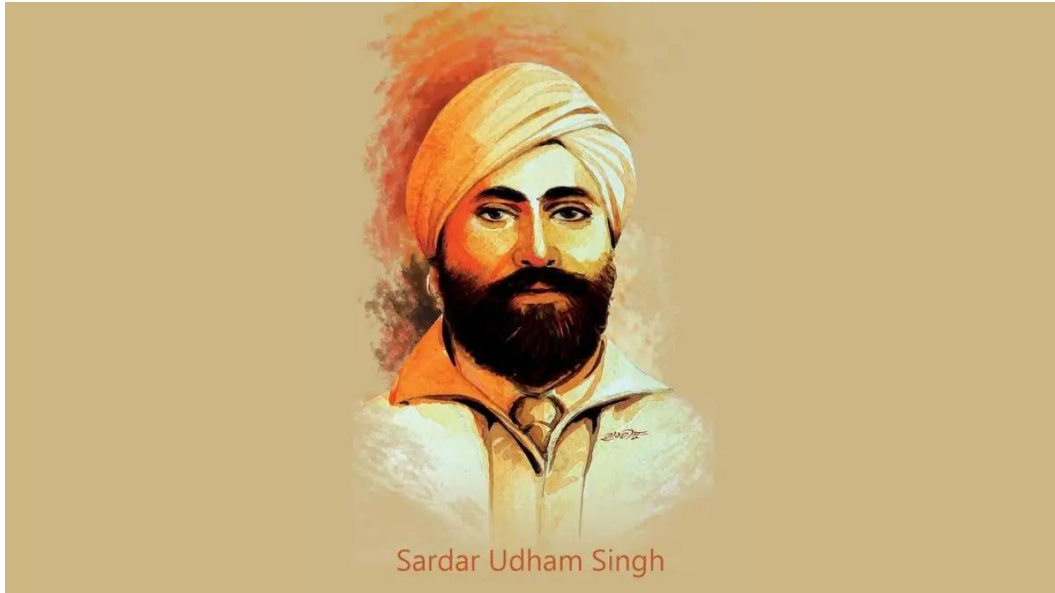
- Veer Bal Diwas is a nationally observed day in India that reminds us of the extraordinary courage shown by young children in Indian history.
- Day honors the sacrifice of the Sahibzadas the sons of Guru Gobind Singh Ji who laid down their lives to protect their faith and principles. The observance is especially important for the India's history.
- Veer Bal Diwas is celebrated annually on 26 December across India.
- The date marks the martyrdom of the two younger sons of Guru Gobind Singh Ji Sahibzada Zorawar Singh and Sahibzada Fateh Singh.
- Who were executed by the Mughal authorities in 1705 for refusing to abandon their faith.
- The observance was officially announced by the Government of India in 2022, with the aim of educating children and youth about the values of dharma (righteousness) courage, and sacrifice.
- Guru Gobind Singh Ji, the tenth Sikh Guru, was a spiritual leader, warrior, poet, and philosopher. He founded the Khalsa Panth in 1699
- He had four sons, collectively remembered as the Sahibzadas,
 - Sahibzada Ajit Singh
 - Sahibzada Jujhar Singh
 - Sahibzada Zorawar Singh
 - Sahibzada Fateh Singh



126th Birth Anniversary of Sardar Udham Singh

- The 126th birth anniversary of Sardar Udham Singh, observed on 26 December 2026, is a solemn reminder of India's relentless struggle for justice during the colonial era.
- Remembered as a revolutionary who dedicated his life to avenging the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, Udham Singh occupies a unique place in the history of the Indian National Movement. His life reflects sacrifice, patience, and an unwavering commitment to justice against imperial oppression.
- Sardar Udham Singh was born on 26 December 1899 in Sunam, located in the Sangrur district of Punjab. Orphaned at an early age he grew up in the Central Khalsa Orphanage in Amritsar, where he was exposed to nationalist ideas and the harsh realities of British rule.
- One of the most defining moments in Udham Singh's life was his presence during the Jallianwala Bagh massacre on 13 April 1919. On that day, British troops under Reginald Dyer opened fire on thousands of unarmed civilians gathered peacefully in Amritsar.
- Udham Singh's most defining act came years later. On 13 March 1940, after waiting patiently for over two decades, he assassinated Michael O'Dwyer during a public meeting at Caxton Hall in London.

- This act was not impulsive but a carefully planned symbolic gesture to hold accountable one of the principal figures responsible for the Jallianwala Bagh massacre.



Khelo India Tribal Games Logo and Mascot

- For the India's inclusive sports development with the unveiling of the logo, theme song, and mascot of the inaugural Khelo India Tribal Games in Bilaspur.
- The ceremony held at the Late B. R. Yadav Sports Stadium marked the formal countdown to the first-ever national-level sports event dedicated exclusively to tribal athletes, scheduled to begin on February 14, 2026.
- **Morveer Mascot and Its Cultural Significance**
- 'Mor', meaning mine or our own, and '**Veer**', symbolizing bravery and valour.
- Morveer represents the collective pride, resilience, and courage of tribal communities, making it more than a sporting symbol.
- Khelo India Tribal Games are exclusively dedicated to tribal athletes.
- The first edition begins on February 14, 2026, hosted by Chhattisgarh.
- Morveer mascot symbolizes tribal pride and courage.
- Top athletes receive ₹5 lakh annual scholarships for eight years.
- The Games operate under the Khelo India Scheme, an Event of National Importance.



Santhali Joins the Constitutional Languages

- Honorable President of India Droupadi Murmu released the Constitution of India in the Santhali language at a special function held at Rashtrapati Bhavan on December 25, 2025.
- The Constitution has been published in Ol Chiki script, enabling Santhali speaking citizens to read, understand, and connect with India's supreme law in their mother tongue.
- The Santhali language is one of the most ancient living tribal languages of India.
- It is widely spoken by tribal communities across **Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, and Bihar.**
- Recognising its cultural and demographic significance Santhali was included in the **Eighth Schedule** of the Constitution through the **92nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003.**
- Making the Constitution available in Santhali aligns with the spirit of Article **350A** and **Article 29**, which emphasize protection of linguistic minorities and promotion of cultural heritage.
- It also strengthens constitutional literacy, a key pillar of participatory democracy.



25 Years of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana

- On 25th December, 2025 The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) completed 25 years in 2025. It is one of India's most important rural development schemes.
- PMGSY aims to provide all-weather road connectivity to unconnected rural habitations, helping villages connect with markets, schools, hospitals, and economic opportunities.
- Since the inception PMGSY has achieved remarkable physical and institutional progress.
- As of December 2025, a total of 8,25,114 km of rural roads have been sanctioned under the programme, of which 7,87,520 km have already been completed, reflecting nearly 95 to 96% physical progress.
- This scale makes PMGSY one of the largest rural road programs in the world.
- Budgetary support continues to reinforce the scheme's importance.
- For the FY 2025 – 26, PMGSY has been allocated ₹19,000 crore, underscoring the government's sustained commitment to strengthening rural connectivity and economic opportunities.



Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana

Global Food City Rankings 2025–26

- Food is now one of the biggest drivers of global travel. According to recent travel trends, many tourists plan restaurant visits even before booking flights. Reflecting this shift, the World's 10 Best Food Cities of 2025-26 list highlights destinations where cuisine defines culture, identity, and experience.
- In the latest rankings released by Taste Atlas, Italian cities dominate the global food scene, while Mumbai proudly ranks 5th best food city in the world, putting India on the global culinary map.
- **Top 10 Rankings**
 - Naples – Famous for Pizza Margherita
 - Milan – Known for Risotto alla Milanese
 - Bologna – Home of Tagliatelle al ragù
 - Florence – Iconic Bistecca alla Fiorentina
 - Mumbai – Celebrated for vibrant street food
 - Genoa – Famous for pesto-based dishes
 - Paris – Classic French cuisine
 - Vienna – Known for Wiener Schnitzel
 - Rome – Pasta classics like Carbonara
 - Lima – Renowned for Ceviche
- India had six cities featured among the world's top 100 food cities,
- Delhi – Rank 48

- Amritsar – Rank 53
- Hyderabad – Rank 54
- Kolkata – Rank 73
- Chennai – Rank 93



First Anti-Terror Policy

- First Anti-Terror Policy currently in its final stages, is expected to offer a unified framework for states and central agencies to prevent, investigate, and respond to terror-related incidents more effectively.
- A major emphasis of the new policy is on emerging and non-traditional terror threats.
- One of the most critical concerns is digital radicalization, where extremist groups use social media and encrypted platforms to recruit and indoctrinate individuals, particularly youth.
- The policy also addresses the misuse of open borders especially along the Nepal frontier, which has been exploited by terror modules for movement and logistics.
- Another important focus is on foreign-funded conversion and radicalization networks, which pose risks to internal security and social harmony.



Japan to Restart World's Largest Nuclear Plant

- Japan is set to resume operations at the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa Nuclear Power Plant, the world's largest nuclear facility, marking a major shift in its energy policy. This will be the first restart of the plant since the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster which led to a nationwide shutdown of nuclear reactors.
- **Location:** Kashiwazaki and Kariwa towns, Niigata Prefecture, on the coast of the Sea of Japan (Honshu Island)
- **Installed Capacity:** Nearly 8,200 MW (largest nuclear plant globally)
- **Operator:** Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO)
- The plant consists of multiple reactors and plays a critical role in Japan's power generation capacity.
- Japan faces major energy constraints,
- It is the 5th-largest carbon dioxide emitter globally
- Nearly 70% of electricity in 2023 came from coal, gas, and oil
- Japan imports most of its fossil fuel needs
- Energy security remains a national priority



India to Lead the Prestigious Kimberley Process

- India is set to assume the prestigious Chairpersonship of the Kimberley Process (KP) from 1 January 2026. Which is marking a significant milestone in the country's global economic and diplomatic engagement.
- The decision was taken at the Kimberley Process Plenary reaffirming India's growing stature as a responsible leader in ethical trade, transparency, and sustainable sourcing. This will be the third time India has been entrusted with the chair of this important international mechanism.
- The Kimberley Process is a tripartite international initiative involving governments, the global diamond industry and civil society organizations.
- Its primary objective is to prevent the trade in "conflict diamonds" also known as blood diamonds.



Rashtra Prerna Sthal Inaugurated in Lucknow


- PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the Rashtra Prerna Sthal in Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh, on 26 December 2025. The day marking the 101st birth anniversary of former Prime Minister and Bharat Ratna awardee Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- The Rashtra Prerna Sthal has been developed across 65 acres in the Vasant Kunj area of Lucknow. Designed as a national inspiration site the memorial symbolises India's ideological journey and political thought rooted in nationalism and public service.
- A major attraction at the Rashtra Prerna Sthal is the state-of-the-art lotus-shaped museum, spread over nearly 98,000 square feet. The museum symbolically reflects the lotus, a motif deeply associated with Indian culture, resilience, and growth.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Veer Bal Diwas is observed annually on which date in India?

- A. 25 December
- B. 24 December
- C. 26 December
- D. 30 December

 **Answer: C. 26 December**

2. Veer Bal Diwas commemorates the sacrifice of which Sikh Gurus' sons?

- A. Sahibzada Ajit Singh and Jujhar Singh
- B. Sahibzada Zorawar Singh and Fateh Singh
- C. Guru Gobind Singh Ji and Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji
- D. Banda Singh Bahadur and Bhai Mani Singh

 **Answer: B. Sahibzada Zorawar Singh and Fateh Singh**

3. Veer Bal Diwas was announced by the Government of India in which year?

- A. 2020
- B. 2021
- C. 2022
- D. 2023

 **Answer: C. 2022**

4. The 126th birth anniversary of which freedom fighter is observed on 26 December 2026?

- A. Bhagat Singh
- B. Subhas Chandra Bose
- C. Sardar Patel
- D. Sardar Udham Singh

 **Answer: D. Sardar Udham Singh**

5. What is the official mascot of the inaugural Khelo India Tribal Games held in Bilaspur?

- A. Veera
- B. Adiveer
- C. Morveer
- D. Tribal Tiger

 **Answer: C. Morveer**

6. Who released the Constitution of India in the Santhali language?

- A. Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- B. Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar
- C. President Droupadi Murmu
- D. Home Minister Amit Shah

☒ **Answer: C. President Droupadi Murmu**

7. The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) completed how many years in 2025?

- A. 20 years
- B. 22 years
- C. 24 years
- D. 25 years

☒ **Answer: D. 25 years**

8. Which city is ranked among the Top 10 Best Food Cities in the World 2025–26 and is famous for Pizza Margherita?

- A. Rome
- B. Milan
- C. Naples
- D. Bologna

☒ **Answer: C. Naples**


9. Which country is set to resume operations at the world's largest nuclear power plant, Kashiwazaki-Kariwa?

- A. China
- B. South Korea
- C. Japan
- D. France

☒ **Answer: C. Japan**

10. From which date will India assume the Chairpersonship of the Kimberley Process (KP)?

- A. 1 January 2025
- B. 26 January 2026
- C. 1 January 2026
- D. 15 August 2026

 **Answer: C. 1 January 2026**