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AIR Rising Stars: Akashvani Opens a National Platform for Young Musicians

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Why in the news?

Akashvani announced the inaugural season of AIR Rising Stars as part of its 90-year celebrations. According to PIB, musical concerts are to take place at 26 locations across India from 17 to 30 November 2026. The initiative is intended to give musicians below 30 a national platform.

Who can perform?

The concerts primarily feature Akashvani's graded young artists below 30. Where a suitable graded young artist is unavailable in a particular category, a deserving ungraded young artist may also receive an opportunity, subject to prescribed guidelines and selection by the station concerned. It is therefore neither automatic entry for every applicant nor an absolute exclusion of all ungraded artists.

Musical and regional diversity

Genres include Hindustani and Carnatic classical vocal and instrumental music, light and folk music, Western music and other regional forms appropriate to the participating stations. The 26 stations include Delhi, Lucknow, Varanasi, Jaipur, Bengaluru, Mysuru, Kolkata, Imphal, Mumbai, Guwahati and Jammu. Regional talent and national reach are linked elements of the programme.

More than a radio broadcast

The announced outreach combines the Akashvani station network, Doordarshan, Akashvani's Raagam YouTube channel, the channels of the 26 stations, the NewsOnAir mobile app and Prasar Bharati's WAVES OTT platform. It illustrates how public broadcasting can connect radio, television and digital audiences.

Basis of the prizes

PIB says cash prizes and certificates will go to the three participating artists whose performances secure the highest YouTube views by 15 January 2027. The announced amounts are ₹20,000, ₹15,000 and ₹10,000. These are the declared rules, not an announcement of winners. Do not replace the stated view-count basis with an assumed jury-scoring system.

Distinction from the Sangeet Sammelan

According to PIB, the Akashvani Sangeet Sammelan has completed 67 editions and provides a platform for Top Grade and A Grade artists. AIR Rising Stars is a distinct initiative focused on younger artists, not simply a new name for the established programme. For prelims, focus on the organiser, the strict "below 30" age condition, the conditional opportunity for ungraded artists and the multi-platform outreach.

Prelims Practice Questions

Question 1

Consider the following statements about AIR Rising Stars:

Statement 1: It forms part of Akashvani's 90-year celebrations.

Statement 2: Its first season is scheduled across 26 locations from 17 to 30 November 2026.

Statement 3: Performances will be available only through radio broadcasts.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

▼ **Answer and Explanation**

Correct answer: (a)

Statement 1 is correct: PIB links the initiative to Akashvani's 90-year celebrations.

Statement 2 is correct: These are the announced dates and number of locations.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Doordarshan, YouTube, NewsOnAir and WAVES OTT are also included.

Question 2

Which statement correctly describes participation by ungraded young artists in AIR Rising Stars?

(a) They are excluded in every case

(b) Every applicant is automatically admitted

(c) They may be selected under guidelines when suitable graded young artists are unavailable

(d) The platform is only for artists aged 30 or above

▼ **Answer and Explanation**

Correct answer: (c)

The focus is graded artists below 30. Deserving ungraded young artists may be selected by the relevant station under guidelines when suitable graded young artists are unavailable.

Question 3

Consider the following statements about the AIR Rising Stars prizes announced by PIB:

Statement 1: The announced basis is YouTube views by 15 January 2027.

Statement 2: The top three cash prizes are ₹20,000, ₹15,000 and ₹10,000.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

▼ **Answer and Explanation**

Correct answer: (c)

Statement 1 is correct: PIB specifies highest YouTube views by the stated date.

Statement 2 is correct: These are the announced first, second and third prizes.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Who organises AIR Rising Stars?

Akashvani, as part of its 90-year celebrations.

Does "below 30" include an artist aged exactly 30?

No. The announcement uses below 30, not 30 and below.

Can ungraded young artists participate?

Yes, conditionally: when suitable graded young artists are unavailable, subject to guidelines and selection by the station concerned.

What is the announced prize criterion?

The highest YouTube views for participating performances by 15 January 2027, for the top three artists.

Sources

- https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleseDetailm.aspx?PRID=2336674

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