

1. 77th Republic Day Celebrations

- **Context:** India celebrated its 77th Republic Day on January 26, 2026, showcasing its military might and cultural heritage at Kartavya Path.
- **Key Highlight:** The Chief Guests were **Ursula von der Leyen** (EU Commission President) and **António Costa** (European Council President), signaling strong India-EU ties.
- **Significance:** The parade featured a special tribute to **150 years of "Vande Mataram"** and a 100% indigenous 21-gun salute using 105 mm Indian Field Guns.

2. Padma Awards 2026 Announcement

- **Context:** The Ministry of Home Affairs announced **132 Padma Awards** on the eve of Republic Day.
- **Key Statistics:** The list includes 5 Padma Vibhushan, 17 Padma Bhushan, and 110 Padma Shri awards.
- **Significance:** Notable awardees include actor **Dharmendra (Posthumous)** for Padma Vibhushan and Tollywood's **Rajendra Prasad** for Padma Shri, recognizing diverse excellence.

3. 16th National Voters' Day (NVD)

- **Context:** Observed on **January 25, 2026**, to mark the foundation day of the Election Commission of India (established in 1950).
- **Theme:** "**My India, My Vote**" – emphasizing every citizen's role in strengthening democracy.
- **Significance:** President of India presented the National Awards for Best Electoral Practices to state and district-level officers.

4. 150 Years of Vande Mataram (1876–2026)

- **Context:** The year 2026 marks the 150th anniversary of the composition of India's national song by **Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay**.
- **Key Fact:** The theme of the 2026 Republic Day tableau was centered around this historic milestone.
- **Significance:** Aimed at reviving the spirit of the Indian freedom struggle among the youth under 'Viksit Bharat'.

5. National Tourism Day 2026

- **Context:** Celebrated annually on **January 25** to promote the importance of tourism for the country's economy.

- **Key Achievement:** India recorded a 15% growth in international tourist arrivals in 2025, with a focus on 'Sustainable & Responsible Tourism'.
- **Significance:** Highlights the "Dekho Apna Desh" initiative to boost domestic travel.

6. Padma Vibhushan for Justice K.T. Thomas

- **Context:** Retired Supreme Court Judge **Justice K.T. Thomas** was conferred with the Padma Vibhushan in the Public Affairs category.
- **Key Achievement:** Known for his landmark judgments and contribution to Indian jurisprudence and legal reforms.
- **Significance:** One of the highest civilian honors recognizing his lifelong dedication to the Indian judiciary.

7. All-Women Tri-Services Contingent at Kartavya Path

- **Context:** For the third consecutive year, a full **all-women contingent** from the Army, Navy, and Air Force marched at the Republic Day parade.
- **Key Detail:** Led by Captain Sandhya Mahla, highlighting 'Nari Shakti' in the Indian Armed Forces.
- **Significance:** Represents the increasing role and permanent commission of women in combat and leadership roles.

8. India as 'Partner Country' at Gulfood 2026

- **Context:** India was named the official partner country for **Gulfood 2026** in Dubai, the world's largest food exhibition (Jan 2026).
- **Key Achievement:** APEDA facilitated a record export of millets and organic products during the event.
- **Significance:** Boosts India's "Global Food Basket" status and strengthens trade ties with the Middle East.

9. Padma Shri for 'Nata Kireeti' Rajendra Prasad

- **Context:** Veteran Telugu actor **Gadde Babu Rajendra Prasad** was awarded the Padma Shri for his contribution to Art/Cinema.
- **Key Achievement:** Known for his versatile comedy and social-drama roles spanning over four decades in the Telugu film industry.
- **Significance:** Recognition of regional cinema's impact on Indian culture.

10. Wings India 2026 Curtain Raiser

- **Context:** The Ministry of Civil Aviation finalized preparations for **Wings India 2026**, starting Jan 28 at Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad.
- **Key Theme:** "Connecting India to the World: The Future of Aviation".
- **Significance:** It is Asia's largest event on Civil Aviation (Commercial, General, and Business Aviation).

11. 150th Birth Anniversary of Bhagat Singh (Commemoration Planning)

- **Context:** The Government of India announced a year-long celebration plan starting in 2026 for the **150th Birth Anniversary of Shaheed Bhagat Singh**.
- **Key Detail:** Special coins and stamps are to be released; "Inquilab" youth festivals will be organized across universities.
- **Significance:** Aimed at instilling patriotism and highlighting the intellectual contributions of Bhagat Singh to the freedom struggle.

12. "Viksit Bharat" Tableau - Republic Day 2026

- **Context:** The central theme for many state tableaus (shakatom) during the 77th Republic Day was "**Viksit Bharat @ 2047**".
- **Key Achievement:** Focus on Digital Infrastructure, Space Exploration (Gaganyaan), and Green Energy.
- **Significance:** Visual representation of India's roadmap to becoming a developed nation by its 100th year of independence.

13. Padma Shri for Deepika Reddy (Telangana)

- **Context:** Renowned Kuchipudi dancer **Deepika Reddy** from Telangana was conferred with the Padma Shri in the Art category.
- **Key Achievement:** A disciple of Dr. Vempati Chinna Satyam, she has been instrumental in promoting Kuchipudi globally for over 40 years.
- **Significance:** Highlights the preservation of South Indian classical dance forms and recognition of regional cultural icons.

14. First Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC) Vikrant's Full Operational Status

- **Context:** On the occasion of Republic Day 2026, the Indian Navy announced the **Full Operational Capability (FOC)** of **INS Vikrant** with its new air wing.
- **Key Fact:** It now operates with a mix of MiG-29K and the newly integrated naval version of Rafale-M.
- **Significance:** Strengthens India's dominance in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) and showcases 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' in defense.

15. International Customs Day 2026

- **Context:** Observed on **January 26** globally, coinciding with India's Republic Day.
- **Theme:** "Customs Engaging Traditional and New Partners with Purpose".
- **Significance:** Focuses on the World Customs Organization's (WCO) efforts to make cross-border trade more secure and efficient.

16. Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PMRBP) 2026

- **Context:** President Droupadi Murmu presented the awards to **19 exceptional children** on Jan 25, 2026.
- **Categories:** Art & Culture, Bravery, Innovation, Science & Technology, Social Service, and Sports.
- **Significance:** Recognizes children with exceptional abilities and outstanding achievements.

17. Padma Vibhushan for Dharmendra (Posthumous)

- **Context:** Legendary Bollywood actor **Dharmendra** was honored with India's second-highest civilian award, the Padma Vibhushan.
- **Key Achievement:** Known as the "He-Man" of Indian cinema, he contributed to over 300 films across six decades.
- **Significance:** Recognition of his immense contribution to the evolution of the Indian film industry.

18. Election Commission's 'E-EPIC' Push

- **Context:** On National Voters' Day (Jan 25), the ECI launched an upgraded version of the **Electronic Electoral Photo Identity Card (e-EPIC)**.
- **Key Feature:** Enhanced security with a non-editable PDF and a personalized QR code for instant verification.
- **Significance:** Promotes digital inclusion and eases the process for NRI and migrant voters.

19. Bharat Parv 2026

- **Context:** The Ministry of Tourism organized 'Bharat Parv' at the Red Fort, Delhi, from Jan 23 to Jan 31, 2026.
- **Key Highlight:** Showcasing the 'Dekho Apna Desh' initiatives and local handicrafts from 'One District One Product' (ODOP).
- **Significance:** Encouraging domestic tourism and supporting local artisans.

20. New Species of Madras Hedgehog Studied

- **Context:** Environmentalists and the Tamil Nadu Forest Department released a report on the Madras Hedgehog (*Paraechinus nudiventris*) on Jan 25.
- **Key Issue:** The species is facing habitat loss in the arid regions of South India.
- **Significance:** Important for Biodiversity and Conservation questions in UPSC/Group exams.

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