

7. Short News

1. Peacetime Gallantry Awards

Awarded on the eve of the 77th Republic Day (2026).

Recipient of Note- Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla (IAF) received the Ashok Chakra (highest peacetime decoration).

Space Mission- He became the first Indian to visit the International Space Station (ISS) in June 2025 aboard SpaceX's Dragon spacecraft.

Record- Second Indian in space (after Rakesh Sharma).

Experience- Over 2,000 flying hours across combat and transport aircraft.

Total 2026 Honours- 70 personnel recognized for bravery.

Award Categories-

- Ashok Chakra- Highest peacetime honour for "most conspicuous bravery" away from the battlefield.
- Kirti Chakra- Second-highest peacetime award.
- Shaurya Chakra- Third-highest, often for counter-insurgency.

Authority- Decided by the Central Honours & Awards Committee (Chaired by Defence Minister) and conferred by the President of India.

2. Wartime Gallantry Awards

Purpose- Recognizes bravery in the face of the enemy during war or conflict.

Hierarchy (Descending Order)

- Param Vir Chakra (PVC)
- Maha Vir Chakra (MVC)
- Vir Chakra (VrC)

Key Feature- Can be posthumous; announced on Republic Day or Independence Day.

3. Padma Awards 2026

Total Awards- 131 (including 2 duo cases).

- Padma Vibhushan- 5
- Padma Bhushan- 13
- Padma Shri- 113

Diversity Statistics-

- 19 Women awardees.
- 16 Posthumous honours.
- 6 Foreign/NRI/OCI recipients.

Notable Awardees- Padma Vibhushan (Posthumous)- V.S. Achuthanandan (Public Affairs), Shibu Soren (Public Affairs), Dharmendra (Art).

About the Awards

Established- 1954.

Rank- Second-highest civilian honour after Bharat Ratna.

Rules- Not a title (cannot be used as a prefix/suffix per Article 18(1)); limited to 120 awards annually (excluding posthumous/NRI).

4. Jeevan Raksha Padak Awards (2025)

Purpose- Recognizes civilians for saving lives from drowning, fire, electrocution, or natural calamities.

2025 Statistics- 30 individuals honoured (6 Posthumous).

Categories & Cash Awards

- Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak- ₹2,00,000 (For saving life in very great danger).
- Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak- ₹1,50,000 (For courage in great danger).
- Jeevan Raksha Padak- ₹1,00,000 (For prompt action with risk of injury).

5. Atlas of Climate Adaptation in Indian Agriculture (ACASA-India)

A web-enabled digital climate atlas for data-driven farming decisions.

Developers- ICAR-led NARES in collaboration with BISA and CIMMYT.

Functions- Provides district-level climate risk data. Integrates crop, soil, and climate data to help farmers anticipate stress.

Related Programme (NICRA) - NICRA (National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture)- A 15-year-old flagship programme.

Reach- Covers 151 climate-vulnerable districts across 200+ locations.

Goal- enhance adaptive capacity through resilient crops and technology.

6. Ammonium Nitrate

Security agencies seized 10,000 kg ahead of Republic Day.

Chemical Nature- White crystalline compound (NH_4NO_3); highly soluble in water.

Uses

Agriculture- High-nitrogen fertilizer (supplies 34% nitrogen).

Explosives- Mixed with fuel oil (ANFO) for mining; used in IEDs.

Regulation- Controlled under Explosives Act, 1884 and Ammonium Nitrate Rules, 2012 (license required for storage/sale).

7. Bactrian Camels

Two camels named 'Galwan' and 'Nubra' showcased at Republic Day Parade.

Distinct Feature- Double-humped (unlike the single-humped dromedary).

Habitat- Cold deserts; in India, found only in Ladakh.

Conservation Status- Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List.

Diet- Primarily

