

(26<sup>th</sup> January 2026)

## International

### UNESCO announces emergency aid for storm-hit Vietnam.

UNESCO has announced an emergency assistance package worth about 740,000 US dollars to protect cultural heritage and support education in storm-affected regions of Vietnam. The aid follows severe damage caused by Typhoons Wipha, Bualoi and Matmo in November, which killed hundreds and destroyed thousands of homes. In coordination with Vietnam's Ministry of Culture, UNESCO is assessing damage and implementing emergency protection measures at World Heritage Sites in Hue and Hoi An and other affected cultural locations.

## Important Days

### International Customs Day: 26<sup>th</sup> January.

International Customs Day is being observed globally on January 26 to recognize the crucial role of customs administrations in facilitating international trade, ensuring border security, and supporting economic growth.

Led by the World Customs Organization, the day highlights efficiency, cooperation, and secure supply chains.

It also honours the dedication of customs officials in preventing illegal trade, collecting revenue, and strengthening global economic integration through effective customs governance.

## Obituary

### Veteran journalist & renowned broadcaster Mark Tully passes away.

Veteran Journalist and renowned Broadcaster Mark Tully passed away in New Delhi at the age of 90.

Mark Tully was born in Kolkata on 24 October 1935.

He joined the BBC in the 1960s and went on to serve as its India correspondent and then bureau chief in New Delhi for more than two decades.

## National

### IAF Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla Awarded Ashoka Chakra.

Indian Air Force Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla was conferred the Ashoka Chakra by President Droupadi Murmu during the 77th Republic Day celebrations at Kartavya Path.

Honoured for his courage and leadership, Shukla became the second Indian to travel to space after Rakesh Sharma, visiting the ISS in 2025 under the Axiom-4 mission. His work included scientific experiments and successful crop cultivation in microgravity, inspiring future generations.

### 131 distinguished personalities selected for this year's Padma Awards.

The Government has announced 131 Padma awards for the year 2026.

The awards comprise 5 Padma Vibhushan, 13 Padma Bhushan and 113 Padma Shri.

Among the awardees, 19 are women and 16 honours are being conferred posthumously.

#### **Padma Vibhushan (5)**

1. Dharmendra Singh Deol (Posthumous) – Art – Maharashtra
2. K T Thomas – Public Affairs – Kerala
3. N Rajam – Art – Uttar Pradesh
4. P Narayanan – Literature and Education – Kerala
5. V S Achuthanandhan (Posthumous) – Public Affairs – Kerala

#### **Padma Bhushan (13)**

6. Alka Yagnik – Art – Maharashtra
7. Bhagat Singh Koshyari – Public Affairs – Uttarakhand
8. Kallipatti Ramasamy Palaniswamy – Medicine – Tamil Nadu

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9. Mammootty – Art – Kerala
10. Nori Dattatreya – Medicine – United States of America
11. Piyush Pandey (Posthumous) – Art – Maharashtra
12. S K M Maeilanandhan – Social Work – Tamil Nadu
13. Shatavadhani R Ganesh – Art – Karnataka
14. Shibu Soren (Posthumous) – Public Affairs – Jharkhand
15. Uday Kotak – Trade and Industry – Maharashtra
16. V K Malhotra (Posthumous) – Public Affairs – Delhi
17. Vellappally Natesan – Public Affairs – Kerala
18. Vijay Amritraj – Sports – United States of America

### Padma Shri (113)

19. A E Muthunayagam – Science and Engineering – Kerala
20. Anil Kumar Rastogi – Art – Uttar Pradesh
21. Anke Gowda M – Social Work – Karnataka
22. Armida Fernandez – Medicine – Maharashtra
23. Arvind Vaidya – Art – Gujarat
24. Ashok Khade – Trade and Industry – Maharashtra
25. Ashok Kumar Singh – Science and Engineering – Uttar Pradesh
26. Asok Kumar Halder – Literature and Education – West Bengal
27. Baldev Singh – Sports – Punjab
28. Bhagwandas Raikwar – Sports – Madhya Pradesh
29. Bharat Singh Bharti – Art – Bihar
30. Bhikya Ladakya Dhinda – Art – Maharashtra
31. Bishwa Bandhu (Posthumous) – Art – Bihar
32. Brij Lal Bhat – Social Work – Jammu and Kashmir
33. Buddha Rashmi Mani – Others (Archaeology) – Uttar Pradesh
34. Budhri Tati – Social Work – Chhattisgarh
35. Chandramouli Gaddamanugu – Science and Engineering – Telangana
36. Charan Hembram – Literature and Education – Odisha
37. Chiranjeevi Lal Yadav – Art – Uttar Pradesh
38. Deepika Reddy – Art – Telangana
39. Dharmiklal Chunilal Pandya – Art – Gujarat
40. Gadde Babu Rajendra Prasad – Art – Andhra Pradesh
41. Gafruddin Mewati Jogi – Art – Rajasthan
42. Gambir Singh Yonzon – Literature and Education – West Bengal
43. Garimella Balakrishna Prasad (Posthumous) – Art – Andhra Pradesh
44. Gayatri Balasubramanian and Ranjani Balasubramanian (Duo) – Art – Tamil Nadu
45. Gopal Ji Trivedi – Science and Engineering – Bihar
46. Guduru Venkat Rao – Medicine – Telangana
47. H V Hande – Medicine – Tamil Nadu
48. Hally War – Social Work – Meghalaya
49. Hari Madhab Mukhopadhyay (Posthumous) – Art – West Bengal
50. Haricharan Saikia – Art – Assam
51. Harmanpreet Kaur Bhullar – Sports – Punjab
52. Inderjit Singh Sidhu – Social Work – Chandigarh
53. Janardan Bapurao Bothe – Social Work – Maharashtra
54. Jogesh Deuri – Others (Agriculture) – Assam
55. Juser Vasi – Science and Engineering – Maharashtra
56. Jyotish Debnath – Art – West Bengal
57. K Pajanivel – Sports – Puducherry
58. K Ramasamy – Science and Engineering – Tamil Nadu
59. K Vijay Kumar – Civil Service – Tamil Nadu

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60. Kabindra Purkayastha (Posthumous) – Public Affairs – Assam
61. Kailash Chandra Pant – Literature and Education – Madhya Pradesh
62. Kalamandalam Vimala Menon – Art – Kerala
63. Kewal Krishan Thakral – Medicine – Uttar Pradesh
64. Khem Raj Sundriyal – Art – Haryana
65. Kollakal Devaki Amma G – Social Work – Kerala
66. Krishnamurthy Balasubramanian – Science and Engineering – Telangana
67. Kumar Bose – Art – West Bengal
68. Kumarasamy Thangaraj – Science and Engineering – Telangana
69. Lars-Christian Koch – Art – Germany
70. Liudmila Viktorovna Khokhlova – Literature and Education – Russia
71. Madhavan Ranganathan – Art – Maharashtra
72. Maganti Murali Mohan – Art – Andhra Pradesh
73. Mahendra Kumar Mishra – Literature and Education – Odisha
74. Mahendra Nath Roy – Literature and Education – West Bengal
75. Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar – Literature and Education – Delhi
76. Mangala Kapoor – Literature and Education – Uttar Pradesh
77. Mir Hajibhai Kasambhai – Art – Gujarat
78. Mohan Nagar – Social Work – Madhya Pradesh
79. Narayan Vyas – Others (Archaeology) – Madhya Pradesh
80. Naresh Chandra Dev Varma – Literature and Education – Tripura
81. Nilesh Vinodchandra Mandlewala – Social Work – Gujarat
82. Nuruddin Ahmed – Art – Assam
83. Othuvaar Thiruthani Swaminathan – Art – Tamil Nadu
84. Padma Gurmet – Medicine – Ladakh
85. Palkonda Vijay Anand Reddy – Medicine – Telangana
86. Pokhila Lekthepe – Art – Assam
87. Prabhakar Basavprabhu Kore – Literature and Education – Karnataka
88. Prateek Sharma – Medicine – United States of America
89. Praveen Kumar – Sports – Uttar Pradesh
90. Prem Lal Gautam – Science and Engineering – Himachal Pradesh
91. Prosenjit Chatterjee – Art – West Bengal
92. Punniampurthy Natesan – Medicine – Tamil Nadu
93. R Krishnan (Posthumous) – Art – Tamil Nadu
94. R V S Mani – Civil Service – Delhi
95. Rabilal Tudu – Literature and Education – West Bengal
96. Raghupat Singh (Posthumous) – Others (Agriculture) – Uttar Pradesh
97. Raghuv eer Tukaram Khedkar – Art – Maharashtra
98. Rajastapathi Kaliappa Goundar – Art – Tamil Nadu
99. Rajendra Prasad – Medicine – Uttar Pradesh
100. Rama Reddy Mamidi (Posthumous) – Others (Animal Husbandry) – Telangana
101. Ramamurthy Sreedher – Others (Radio Broadcasting) – Delhi
102. Ramchandra Godbole and Suneeta Godbole (Duo) – Medicine – Chhattisgarh
103. Ratilal Borisagar – Literature and Education – Gujarat
104. Rohit Sharma – Sports – Maharashtra
105. S G Susheelamma – Social Work – Karnataka
106. Sangyusang S Pongener – Art – Nagaland
107. Sant Niranjana Dass – Others (Spiritualism) – Punjab
108. Sarat Kumar Patra – Art – Odisha
109. Saroj Mandal – Medicine – West Bengal
110. Satish Shah (Posthumous) – Art – Maharashtra
111. Satyanarayan Nuwal – Trade and Industry – Maharashtra
112. Savita Punia – Sports – Haryana

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113. Shafi Shauq – Literature and Education – Jammu and Kashmir
114. Shashi Shekhar Vempati – Literature and Education – Karnataka
115. Shrirang Devaba Lad – Others (Agriculture) – Maharashtra
116. Shubha Venkatesha Iyengar – Science and Engineering – Karnataka
117. Shyam Sundar – Medicine – Uttar Pradesh
118. Simanchal Patro – Art – Odisha
119. Sivasankari – Literature and Education – Tamil Nadu
120. Suresh Hanagavadi – Medicine – Karnataka
121. Brahmdev Ji Maharaj – Social Work – Rajasthan
122. T T Jagannathan (Posthumous) – Trade and Industry – Karnataka
123. Taga Ram Bheel – Art – Rajasthan
124. Tarun Bhattacharya – Art – West Bengal
125. Techu Gubin – Social Work – Arunachal Pradesh
126. Thiruvaarur Bakthavathsalam – Art – Tamil Nadu
127. Tripti Mukherjee – Art – West Bengal
128. Veezhinathan Kamakoti – Science and Engineering – Tamil Nadu
129. Vempaty Kutumba Sastry – Literature and Education – Andhra Pradesh
130. Vladimer Mestvirishvili (Posthumous) – Sports – Georgia
131. Yumnam Jatra Singh (Posthumous) – Art – Manipur

### **President Murmu honors 30 individuals with Jeevan Raksha Padak Awards.**

President Droupadi Murmu has approved the conferment of the Jeevan Raksha Padak Series of Awards-2025 on 30 persons. This includes the Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak to six persons, the Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak to six persons, and the Jeevan Raksha Padak to 18 persons. Six of the awardees are being honoured posthumously. Jeevan Raksha Padak Series of Awards is given to

individuals for meritorious acts of human nature in saving the life of a person.

The awards are given in three categories, namely, Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak, Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak and Jeevan Raksha Padak. Persons of all walks of life are eligible for these awards. The award can also be conferred posthumously.

### **Indian Navy's first Training Squadron visits Thailand.**

Ships of the Indian Navy's First Training Squadron, along with ICGS Sarathi, arrived at Phuket Deep Sea Port, Thailand, as part of a Southeast Asia training deployment.

The visit highlights growing India–Thailand maritime cooperation during the ASEAN–India Year of Maritime Cooperation.

Joint activities with the Royal Thai Navy aim to enhance professional exchange, interoperability, and regional maritime security under India's MAHASAGAR vision.

### **Business and Economy**

#### **PFRDA sets up expert panel to revamp NPS Investment Framework.**

The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority has constituted a high-level expert committee on Strategic Asset Allocation and Risk Governance (SAARG) to modernize the National Pension System's investment framework. Chaired by Narayan Ramachandran, the panel will review NPS investment guidelines, benchmark them with global pension systems, strengthen risk management, enhance diversification, introduce new asset classes, and improve long-term retirement wealth creation while expanding investment choices for subscribers.

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## **India's forex reserves jump USD 14.17 billion to near record high.**

India's foreign exchange reserves surged by USD 14.167 billion to USD 701.36 billion in the week ended January 16, according to RBI data.

The rise was driven by higher foreign currency assets and gold reserves.

Forex reserves are now close to the all-time high of USD 704.89 billion.

RBI said reserves are sufficient to cover over 11 months of imports, reflecting a resilient external sector.

## **CSIR-CRRI, JSW Steel partner to build eco-friendly steel slag roads in Tamil Nadu.**

CSIR–Central Road Research Institute and JSW Steel Limited, Salem Works, have entered into a strategic partnership to use steel slag in durable and sustainable road construction in Tamil Nadu.

The initiative promotes “Waste to Wealth” by converting industrial by-products into valuable resources. Aligned with India's circular economy and green infrastructure goals, the project will develop customized steel slag aggregates, construct a demonstration road near Salem, and validate long-term performance of Steel Slag Road technology.

## **Sports**

### **India clinch T20 series with dominant win over New Zealand.**

India secured a commanding eight-wicket victory over New Zealand in the third T20 at the ACA Stadium, Guwahati, taking an unassailable 3-0 lead in the five-match series. Chasing the target, India finished the match in just 10 overs, losing only two wickets. Abhishek Sharma hammered 68 off 20 balls, while skipper Suryakumar Yadav scored 57 off 26. Jasprit Bumrah was named Player of the Match.

### **Former BCCI President Inderjit Singh Bindra passes away.**

Former BCCI president Inderjit Singh Bindra passed away at the age of 84. A pioneer in modern cricket marketing in India, he served as BCCI President from 1993 to 1996 and led the Punjab Cricket Association for over three decades. In recognition of his contributions, the Mohali stadium was renamed I.S. Bindra Stadium in 2015. ICC Chairman Jay Shah paid tribute, calling him a stalwart of Indian cricket administration.