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PADMA AWARDS 2026



- The Padma Awards are one of the highest **civilian honours of India** announced annually on the event of **Republic Day**.
- They were instituted in **1954** along with the **Bharat Ratna**.

Categories:

- **Padma Vibhushan:** For exceptional and distinguished service (Second highest civilian award).
- **Padma Bhushan:** For distinguished service of a high order (Third highest).
- **Padma Shri:** For distinguished service in any field (Fourth highest).

Selection Process:

- The awards are conferred by **the President of India** at ceremonial functions held at Rashtrapati Bhawan.
- Recommendations are processed by the Padma Awards Committee, which is constituted by the Prime Minister every year.
- Committee is headed by the Cabinet Secretary and includes Home Secretary, Secretary to the President and four to six eminent persons as members. The recommendations of the committee are submitted to the Prime Minister and the President of India for approval.

- The awards recognize achievements in all fields of activities or disciplines where an element of public service is involved.
- Government servants including those working with PSUs, except doctors and scientists, are not eligible for these Awards.

Distinction from Bharat Ratna:

- Bharat Ratna is the highest civilian award for exceptional service/performance of the highest order in any field of human endeavour.
- Padma awards are graded based on the scale of service.

PADMA AWARDS 2026

- This year, the President conferred **131 Padma Awards** including **2 duo case** (in a duo case, the Award is counted as one).
- It includes **5 Padma Vibhushan, 13 Padma Bhushan, and 113 Padma Shri Awards.**
- **19** of the awardees are **women,**
- **6** persons are from the category of **Foreigners/NonResident Indians/Persons** of Indian Origin/Overseas Citizen of India
- **16** are **Posthumous awardees.**
- Normally not more than **120 Padma awards**(excluding posthumous, NRIs, Foreigner and Overseas Citizenship of India) are conferred in a year but exceptions can be made.

Padma Vibhushan (5)

S.N.	Name	Place	Field	Remarks
1	Shri Dharmendra Singh Deol (Posthumous)	Maharashtra	Art	Indian actor, producer and politician, Known as the "HeMan" of Indian Cinema
2	Shri K T Thomas	Kerala	Public Affairs	Former Judge of the Supreme Court of India (1996–2002).
3	Ms. N Rajam	Uttar Pradesh	Art	A legendary violinist of the Hindustani Classical tradition
4	Shri P Narayanan	Kerala	Literature and Education	Eminent Journalist
5	Shri V. S. Achuthanandhan (Posthumous)	Kerala	Public Affairs	Former Chief Minister of Kerala(2006-11)

Padma bhushan (13)

1. Ms. Alka Yagnik-Art –Maharashtra- Legendary playback singer and 7-time Filmfare winner.
2. Shri Bhagat Singh Koshyari- Public Affairs –Uttarakhand- Former Governor of Maharashtra and 2nd CM of Uttarakhand.
3. Shri Kallipatti Ramasamy Palaniswamy - Medicine - Tamil Nadu- Eminent Gastroenterologist.
4. Shri Mammooty – Art - Kerala -Malayalam cinema legend and 3-times National Film Award winner.
5. Dr. Nori Dattatreyyudu- Medicine -USA - World-renowned Radiation Oncologist (NRI/Foreigner).
6. Shri Piyush Pandey (Posthumous) - Art – Maharashtra- Known as the "Godfather of Indian Advertising".
7. Shri S KM Maeilanandhan - Social Work - Tamil Nadu - Founder of SKM Group and poultry industry pioneer.
8. Shri Shatavadhani R Ganesh – Art – Karnataka - Master of Avadhana, performing in 8 languages.
9. Shri Shibu Soren (Posthumous) - Public Affairs- Jharkhand - Founder of JMM and leader of Jharkhand statehood movement.
10. Shri Uday Kotak - Trade and Industry -Maharashtra - Founder of Kotak Mahindra Bank.
11. Shri V K Malhotra (Posthumous) - Public Affairs - Delhi - Former BJP leader associated with 1982 Asian Games.
12. Shri Vellappally Natesan - Public Affairs - Kerala - General Secretary of SNDP Yogam.
13. Shri Vijay Amritraj – Sports - USA - Indian tennis legend; only sportsperson in this list.

Padma Sri (113):

Notable Padma Shri Awardees:

Padma Awardees 2026 — From Telangana (7)

1. Shri Chandramouli Gaddamanugu – Science & Engineering
2. Ms. Deepika Reddy – Art (Kuchipudi dance)
3. Shri Guduru Venkat Rao – Medicine
4. Shri Krishnamurthy Balasubramanian – Science & Engineering
5. Shri Kumarasamy Thangaraj – Science & Engineering
6. Shri Rama Reddy Mamidi (Posthumous) – Animal Husbandry / Others
7. Shri Palkonda Vijay Anand Reddy – Medicine

Padma Awardees 2026 — From Andhra Pradesh (4)

1. Shri Gadde Babu Rajendra Prasad – Art
2. Shri Garimella Balakrishna Prasad (Posthumous) – Art
3. Shri Maganti Murali Mohan – Art
4. Shri Vempati kutumba Shastri - literature and education.

PADMA AWARDS 2026-SPORTS

Padma Bhushan:

- Vijay Amritraj (Tennis): Honoured for his pioneering role in putting Indian tennis on the global map during the amateur and early Open Era.
- He previously received the Padma Shri in 1983 and the Arjuna Award in 1974.

Padma Shri:

- Rohit Sharma (Cricket): Captain of the Indian men's team.
- Harmanpreet Kaur (Cricket): Captain of the Indian women's team.
- Praveen Kumar (Para athletics): Paralympic gold medal winning high jumper.
- Savita Punia (Hockey): Indian women's hockey team goalkeeper.
- Baldev Singh (Hockey): Veteran hockey coach.
- K. Pajanivel (Martial Arts): Exponent of the traditional art form Silambam.
- Vladimer Mestvirishvili (Wrestling): The Georgian coach who trained Olympic medalists Yogeshwar Dutt and Bajrang Punia, awarded posthumously.

REPUBLIC DAY 2026 - SHUBHANSHU SHUKLA AWARDED ASHOK CHAKRA

- On the occasion of the 77th Republic Day, President **Droupadi Murmu** conferred the Ashok Chakra, India's highest peacetime gallantry award, upon Group Captain **Shubhanshu Shukla** for his historic mission to **the International Space Station (ISS)** in June 2025.

KEY DETAILS OF THE AWARD:

- **Recipient:** Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla of the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- **Award Category:** Ashok Chakra (Peacetime equivalent to Param Vir Chakra).
- **Citation:** The award recognizes his exceptional courage, dedication, and technical prowess demonstrated during the 18-day mission to the ISS.

Historical Significance:

- He is the first Indian to board **the International Space Station**.
- He is the second Indian to travel to space, following Wing Commander **Rakesh Sharma** (1984).
- This marks the first time the Ashok Chakra has been awarded for achievements in human spaceflight, signaling an evolution in the definition of "**exceptional service**" to include space exploration.

MISSION DETAILS (AXIOM-4):

Mission Name: Axiom Mission 4 (Ax-4).

- **Launch Date:** June 2025.
- **Role:** Group Captain Shukla served as the Mission Pilot for the **Ax-4 mission**.
- **Collaboration:** The mission was a result of the India-US Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (ICET), facilitating cooperation between ISRO and NASA/Axiom Space.

Scientific Contribution:

- During his stay, he conducted over 60 scientific experiments.
- This included 7 specific experiments designed by ISRO, covering fields like microgravity, space agriculture, and human health, providing vital data for India's upcoming **Gaganyaan mission**.

OTHER NOTABLE AWARDEES:

Kirti Chakra:

- Group Captain **Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair**: Another Gaganyaan-designate astronaut, recognized for his contributions and readiness.
- **Major Arshdeep Singh** (1 Assam Rifles) and **Naib Subedar Doleshwar Subba** (2 Para SF) for counter-insurgency and counter-terror operations.

Shaurya Chakra:

- Awarded to **12** personnel (including one posthumous) and notably **two women Navy officers**, Lt Commander **Dilna K** and Lt Commander **Roopa A**, for their circumnavigation voyage.

GALLANTRY AWARDS IN INDIA:

ASHOK CHAKRA:

- **Established**: Instituted in **1952** (originally named **Ashoka Chakra Class I**).
- **Criteria**: Awarded for most conspicuous bravery, or some act of daring or pre-eminent valour or self-sacrifice otherwise than in the face of the enemy.

Design:

- **Obverse:** Circular gold gilt with a replica of the **Ashoka Chakra** in the centre, surrounded by a **lotus wreath**.
- **Reverse:** The words "**Ashok Chakra**" engaged in **Hindi** and **English**.
- **Precedence:** It is the highest peacetime military decoration. It is the peacetime equivalent of the Param Vir Chakra (PVC).
- **Ribbon:** Green colour ribbon with a vertical orange line in the centre.

GALLANTRY AWARDS HIERARCHY:

Wartime:

1. Param Vir Chakra (PVC)
2. Maha Vir Chakra (MVC)
3. Vir Chakra (VrC)

Peacetime:

1. Ashok Chakra (AC)
2. Kirti Chakra (KC)
3. Shaurya Chakra (SC)

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United States formally exits World Health Organization after 78 years, one year after Trump announced withdrawal



- **The United States (US)** has officially finalised its **withdrawal** from the **World Health Organization (WHO)**, one year after **President Donald Trump** announced the decision, ending America's **78-year membership** since WHO's founding in **1948**.
- Despite the announcement, the withdrawal remains financially incomplete as the **US owes over USD 130 million**, with **WHO officials** stating unpaid **2024 and 2025 dues** totalling about **USD 278 million**.
- As per **WHO bylaws**, a country must give **one-year advance notice** and **clear all outstanding dues** before withdrawal becomes fully effective.

- The **Trump administration** cited WHO's **mishandling of the COVID-19 pandemic**, failure to implement **urgent reforms**, and alleged **political bias** and **lack of independence**, particularly regarding **China's role**, as key reasons for exiting.
- The **United States** previously contributed nearly **20% of WHO's operational budget**, making it the **largest single contributor** to the organisation.
- The **US State Department** clarified that **no further payments** would be made before withdrawal, arguing that the cost to **US taxpayers and economy** outweighed benefits due to WHO's pandemic response.
- **Donald Trump** had earlier attempted to withdraw from **WHO** during his first presidential term, but the move was **reversed by President Joe Biden** on his first day in office in **2020**.
- The **United States** is the **only country** to have withdrawn from **WHO** since its establishment, highlighting the exceptional nature of the decision.
- **About World Health Organization (WHO) :**
- Headquarters : **Geneva, Switzerland,**
- **Director-General : Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus**
- It is a **specialised agency of the United Nations**, mandated to coordinate responses to **global health emergencies** and as **near-universal membership**.

Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2026



➤ **Recognition and Honorees**

➤ The award honors contributions in **disaster management**.

➤ Recipients for 2026 include **the Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority (SSDMA) and Lieutenant Colonel Seeta Ashok Shelke**.

➤ **Lieutenant Colonel Seeta Ashok Shelke's Contributions:**

➤ Led Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) during the **2024 Wayanad floods and landslips**.

➤ Coordinated evacuation, relief distribution, and restoration of essential services.

➤ Directed high-risk rescue missions, saving hundreds of civilians.

➤ Supervised the construction of a 190-foot Bailey Bridge at Chooralmala to restore connectivity.

➤ Implemented innovative engineering solutions under challenging conditions.

➤ Mobilized 150 tonnes of equipment for timely relief operations.

➤ Trained over 2,300 personnel in disaster response and humanitarian operations.

- Advanced **disaster risk reduction (DRR)** using Corps of Engineers skills.
- **Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority (SSDMA)**
- Established in **2005** to enhance disaster preparedness in **Sikkim**.
- Deployed **1,185 trained Aapda Mitras** as Disaster Management officials.
- Organized personnel in three tiers to enhance resilience:
 - **Disaster Management Assistants at the village level**
 - **Disaster Management Supervisors at block headquarters**
 - **Disaster Management Coordinators at district headquarters**
- Participated in planning and capacity-building initiatives.
- Enhanced resilience in **six districts** of Sikkim.
- Critical interventions during the **2016 Mantam landslide** and **2023 Teesta floods**.
- Institutionalized a community-centered disaster risk reduction approach.
- Focus on early warning, preparedness, and local capacity building.

Significance of Awards

- Highlight the exemplary disaster management efforts and leadership.
- Showcase the growing role of women in operational DRR.
- Create models of community-centered disaster resilience, particularly for other Himalayan and northeastern states.

UNEP Report: Global Spending on Nature Destruction 30 Times Higher Than on Protection



- The **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** released the report “**State of Finance for Nature 2026**”, highlighting that **global spending on nature destruction** far exceeds investment in protection.
- The report revealed that for every **USD 1** spent on **protecting ecosystems**, **USD 30** is spent on **environmentally harmful activities**.
- In **2023**, global spending on **nature protection** was **USD 220 billion**, whereas **USD 7.3 trillion** went into **nature-negative activities** such as pollution, biodiversity loss, and climate-damaging practices.
- Most **nature-negative spending** comes from the **private sector**, which accounts for about **10%** of investments in nature protection.
- Global investment in **nature-based solutions (NbS)** must increase **5 times** to **USD 571 billion per year by 2030** to meet the **Rio Conventions** commitments on **climate change, biodiversity, and desertification**.

- Trillions of dollars continue to flow into **nature-negative sectors**, particularly **energy, utilities, industrials, and basic materials**, and are reinforced by **public subsidies** for fossil fuels, agriculture, transport, and construction.
- Funding for **nature-based solutions** remains small and largely dependent on **public sources**, with limited private-sector participation.
- **UNEP** introduced the **Nature Transition X-Curve framework** to help governments and businesses reform **capital flows** and accelerate investment in **nature-positive solutions**.
- The framework focuses on **phasing out harmful subsidies**, scaling up **high-integrity nature-based solutions**, and integrating local ecological, cultural, and social realities, ensuring **inclusivity and equity**.
- Without a **fundamental shift in capital allocation**, global efforts to halt **environmental decline** are likely to remain ineffective.
- **UNEP**, headquartered in **Nairobi, Kenya**, coordinates the United Nations' environmental initiatives worldwide.

India Ranked 6th in Asia Manufacturing Index 2026



- **India has been placed 6th among 11 Asian countries in the Asia Manufacturing Index 2026, showing moderate progress but also revealing gaps in manufacturing competitiveness.**
- **India ranked sixth in the Asia Manufacturing Index 2026, highlighting intensifying competition in Asia and the need for faster and deeper manufacturing reforms.**
- **The Asia Manufacturing Index (AMI) is an annual assessment released by Dezan Shira & Associates, a pan-Asian advisory firm headquartered in Hong Kong.**
- **The index evaluates manufacturing competitiveness using eight key pillars: economy, political risk, business environment, international trade, tax policy, infrastructure, workforce, and innovation.**
- **These pillars are further divided into 43 sub-parameters, providing a data-driven comparison of manufacturing readiness and long-term potential across Asia.**

- **India's 6th position** places it in the **mid-tier of Asian manufacturing economies**.
- India's strengths include a **large domestic market, improving infrastructure, and a growing workforce**.
- However, India **lags behind leading economies in execution speed, policy stability, and depth of innovation**.
- The index emphasizes the need for continued focus on **ease of doing business, logistics efficiency, skill development, and technology adoption** to improve future rankings.
- **China retained the top position** in the Asia Manufacturing Index 2026 due to its **scale, strong infrastructure, and integrated supply chains**.
- **Malaysia ranked second for the first time, overtaking Vietnam, which slipped to third place**.
- Among developed economies, **Singapore climbed to fourth position, surpassing South Korea, which fell to fifth**.
- These ranking shifts underline **growing competition in Asia, with countries actively reforming policies and upgrading infrastructure** to attract global manufacturing investment.

Sikkim Police Conferred with President's Police Colour Award 2026

- In January 2026, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) announced that the **Sikkim Police** has been conferred the **President's Police Colour Award (Nishaan)**, one of India's highest police honours, for outstanding service, professionalism, and dedication, making Sikkim the 15th state and 3rd in the North East (NE) to receive the award.
- The announcement was made by Director General of Police (DGP) Akshay Sachdeva and Chief Minister (CM) of Sikkim **Prem Singh Tamang**.

About President's Police Colour:

- **Components:** The award includes a ceremonially decorated flag measuring 3 feet 9 inches × 3 feet with a 2-inch golden fringe and a special insignia worn on the left sleeve by all personnel.
- **Ceremony:** The flag and insignia will be formally presented in Sikkim during a Colour Presentation Parade (Alankaran Parade) led by a Superintendent of Police (SP) or Commandant, following protocols and coordination with the MHA.
- **Authority:** Only the President of India, the Prime Minister (PM), or the Union Minister of MHA can confer the award.
- **Previous Recipients:** Madhya Pradesh (MP) (1950), Uttar Pradesh (1952), Delhi Police (1954), Maharashtra (1961), Punjab (1992), Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) (2003), Tamil Nadu (TN) (2009), Tripura (2011), Assam (2014), Gujarat (2019), Himachal Pradesh (HP) (2019), and Haryana (2022).
- **Personnel:** The award is a collective honour for all approximately 6,500 serving and retired personnel of the Sikkim Police.



New OCA President: Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani Succeeds Randhir Singh

- **Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani** has been elected as the president of the Olympic Council of Asia.
- He replaces veteran Indian sports administrator **Randhir Singh** in this important position, whose term ended prematurely due to health reasons.
- Members of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) elected Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani as their new president during the General Assembly in **Tashkent**.
- In September 2024, Randhir had become the first Indian to be elected as OCA President for a four-year term until 2028 during the **44th OCA General Assembly in New Delhi**.



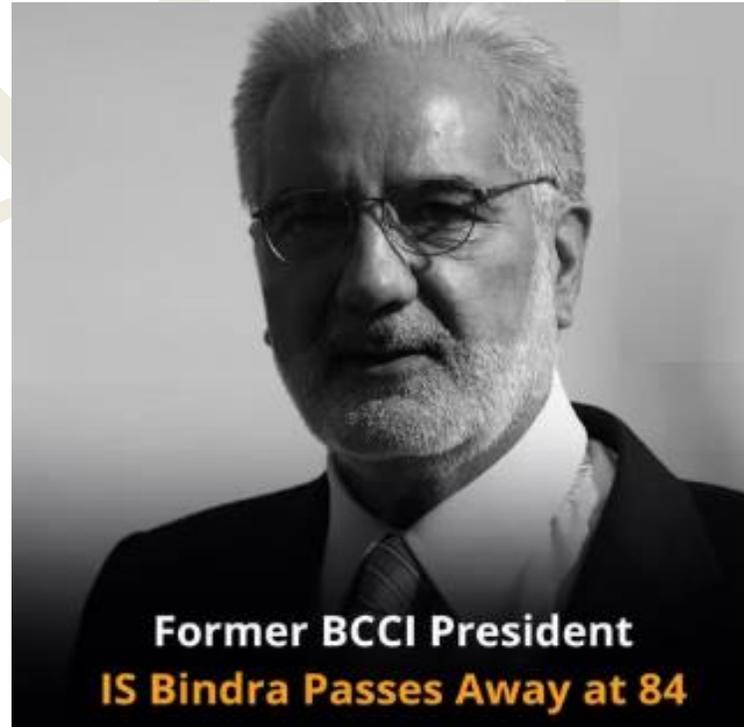
Uttar Pradesh Launches 'One District, One Cuisine' to Promote Local Delicacies

- The Uttar Pradesh government has launched a 'One District, One Cuisine' scheme to popularize the local delicacies of each district.
- The aim is to give a distinct identity to the traditional food and beverages of each district. This is similar to the state's flagship 'One District, One Product' (ODOP) program.
- Under this scheme, iconic state specialties such as **Agra's Petha, Mathura's Pedra, Lucknow's Malai Makhan, and Kanpur's Samosas** will be given GI-tag recognition and promoted globally.
- The ODOP initiative has already helped several unique products from Uttar Pradesh gain national and international recognition.
- This initiative is expected to benefit small food businesses and local workers, as it will help their unique dishes reach larger and even global markets.
- The ODOC program will also focus on improving the quality, hygiene, and food safety of local food products, ensuring they meet established food safety standards.
- Under the ODOC scheme, one unique, historical, and traditional dish will be identified from each district of Uttar Pradesh.



Former BCCI President Inderjit Singh Bindra Dies at 84

- Former President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), **Inderjit Singh Bindra**, has passed away at the age of 84.
- Inderjit Bindra served as the BCCI president **from 1993 to 1996**, a period considered crucial in the development of cricket administration in India.
- He was known for his decisive leadership and visionary administrative approach.
- One of Inderjit Bindra's most significant contributions was his role in the development of the **Punjab Cricket Association (PCA) Stadium in Mohali**.



Indian Railways Introduces Humanoid Robot 'ASC ARJUN' at Visakhapatnam Station



- **Indian Railways** has introduced a humanoid robot named “ASC ARJUN” at **Visakhapatnam Railway Station** to enhance **passenger safety, security, and service delivery**.
- This is the **first-of-its-kind initiative** on the Indian Railways network, reflecting the organisation’s focus on adopting **emerging technologies** for public convenience and safety.
- **ASC ARJUN** will operate alongside **Railway Protection Force (RPF)** personnel, particularly during **peak passenger movement**, to support station operations.
- The robot has been **fully designed and developed indigenously** in **Visakhapatnam**, with a dedicated team working for over a year, showcasing India’s **technological self-reliance**.
- It is equipped with **Face Recognition System (FRS)** for **intrusion detection**, **AI-based crowd monitoring**, and generates **real-time alerts** to **RPF control rooms** for quick response.

- **ASC ARJUN** can make **automated public announcements** in **English, Hindi, and Telugu**, guiding passengers and enhancing safety awareness.
- It features **semi-autonomous navigation with obstacle avoidance**, allowing it to **patrol platforms round the clock**, thereby **optimising manpower deployment**.
- The robot includes **fire and smoke detection systems** to enable timely **emergency response**.
- Designed for **passenger interaction**, **ASC ARJUN** offers gestures such as **Namaste** for passengers and **salutes** for **RPF personnel**, with an interface providing **information and assistance**.
- The initiative demonstrates **Indian Railways'** commitment to **innovation-led solutions, indigenous development**, and creating a safer, more secure, and **passenger-friendly railway environment**.

About Ministry of Railways :

- Cabinet Minister : **Ashwini Vaishnaw**
- Minister of State : **V. Somanna, Ravneet Singh Bittu**
- Chairman & CEO, Railway Board : **Satish Kumar**

Kavach 4.0, India's Indigenous Automatic Train Protection System, Launched on Gujarat's Bajwa (Vadodara)–Ahmedabad Route



- **Kavach 4.0** has been commissioned on **Gujarat's Bajwa (Vadodara)–Ahmedabad section (96 km)**, covering **17 stations** with infrastructure including **23 towers**, **20 Kavach buildings/huts**, **192 km optical fibre cable**, and **2,872 RFID tags**.
- The **maiden Kavach-enabled train** on this route was the **Sankalp Fast Passenger (59549/59550)**, operated with **WAP-7 locomotives** and **11 LHB coaches**.
- **Kavach 4.0** is designed to automatically **mitigate safety risks**, prevent **Signal Passed at Danger (SPAD)** incidents, enforce **automatic speed control**, and provide protection against **head-on and rear-end collisions**.
- Additional safety features include an **SOS facility** and **automatic whistling at level crossing gates**.
- **Kavach** has so far been implemented on more than **2,200 route kilometres** across India.
- **Kavach** is an **indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection (ATP)** system of **Indian Railways**, certified to **Safety Integrity Level–4 (SIL-4)**, reflecting world-class safety and reliability standards.

- The system assists **Loco Pilots** by **automatically applying brakes** when speed limits are exceeded or safety is compromised, preventing accidents and ensuring safe train operations, even in **adverse weather conditions**.
- **Kavach Version 4.0** was approved by **RDSO (Research Designs and Standards Organisation)** following continuous improvements and **independent safety assessments**.
- Key enhancements in **Kavach 4.0** include improved **location accuracy**, better **signal aspect information**, **station-to-station interface via optical fibre**, and integration with **electronic interlocking systems**.
- The system is certified by the **Independent Safety Assessor (ISA)** to meet **global safety standards**.
- Commissioning of **Kavach 4.0** on the **Bajwa–Ahmedabad section** reinforces **Indian Railways'** focus on **indigenous safety technologies**, **passenger safety**, **operational reliability**, and the vision of a **safer and smarter rail network** for India.

International Holocaust Remembrance Day 2026

- **International Holocaust Remembrance Day 2026** is observed every year on **27th January**.
- The day is commemorated to **remember the victims of the Holocaust** and to reaffirm the global commitment against **antisemitism, racism, and intolerance**.
- The **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** adopted **Resolution 60/7** on **1st November 2005**, officially designating **27th January** as International Holocaust Remembrance Day.
- The date **27th January** marks the **liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Nazi concentration and extermination camp in 1945**.
- The **first official observance** of International Holocaust Remembrance Day was held on **27th January 2006** at the **United Nations Headquarters, New York City**.
- Since 2006, the **UN Headquarters commemorates this day annually**, while **UN offices and government institutions worldwide** organize remembrance events and educational programmes.

