



Republic Day 2024

For Prelims: [Constitution](#), [National Cadet Corps](#), [Republic Day](#), Poorna Swaraj Declaration

For Mains: Significance of Republic Day, Indian National Movement

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Why in News?

India celebrated its **75th Republic Day** on 26th January 2024. The day is a celebration of the [Constitution](#), and building India as a republic instead of a colony or dominion of any nation.

What are the Key Highlights of the Republic Day 2024?

▪ French Contingent:

- The French military contingent participated in the Republic Day parade. The contingent belonged to the **Corps of French Foreign Legion**.
 - The French Foreign Legion is an **elite military corps that is open to foreigners** who want to serve in the French Army.
- It was the second time the French armed forces participated in India's Republic Day celebrations.
 - In 2016, French troops became the first foreign military contingent to participate in the Republic Day parade.

▪ Nari Shakti:

- The 75th Republic Day Parade at [Kartavya Path](#) showcased the themes of **'Viksit Bharat'** and **'Bharat- Loktantra ki Matraka'**, emphasising a women-centric focus.
- The Republic Day parade showcased India's military prowess and cultural diversity, with a special emphasis on Nari Shakti or women's empowerment.
 - For the first time, **an all-women tri-services contingent participated** in the parade.

▪ NCC Contingents:

- The [National Cadet Corps \(NCC\)](#) Directorate Maharashtra contingent secures the **Prime Minister's Banner at the Republic Day Camp 2024** for the **third consecutive year**.
 - **The Prime Minister's Banner** is a prestigious award given to the **best performing NCC state contingent at the Republic Day Camp**, which is an annual event where NCC cadets from all over India showcase their skills and talents.

▪ Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar:

- [Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar](#) are conferred on children with exceptional abilities and outstanding achievement in the fields of bravery, art & culture, sports, science & technology, innovation and social service.

▪ Veer Gatha 3.0:

- The third edition of Project Veer Gatha was organised as a part of Republic Day Celebrations 2024 to inspire and spread awareness among children about the gallant deeds

and **sacrifices of the Armed Forces.**

▪ **Anant Sutra:**

- The 75th Republic Day parade featured a unique installation called "**Anant Sutra**," which **showcased sarees and drapes from all over India.** As a tribute to the country's weaving and embroidery arts, as well as the women of India.

▪ **Beating Retreat Ceremony 2024:**

- The **Beating Retreat ceremony** took place on 29th January 2024 at Vijay Chowk in Delhi. The ceremony is a military tradition that marks the end of Republic Day celebrations.
- The ceremony features music bands from the **Indian Army, Navy, Air Force, and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF)** playing 31 Indian tunes.

What are Key Highlights of the Tableaus on Republic Day 2024?

▪ **Ministry of Culture's Tableau:**

- The tableau-themed '**Bharat: Mother of Democracy**' has bagged the first prize among tableaus that were part of the 75th Republic Day parade.
 - It showcased the **evolution of democracy from ancient India to modern times**, using anamorphic technique.

▪ **Defence Research and Development Organisation:**

- The **DRDO** tableau was themed "Self-reliance in Defence Technology".
- The DRDO-developed systems and subsystems that were displayed on the tableau: are Missiles like **Man Portable Anti-tank Guided Missile (MPATGM)**, **Anti-Satellite (ASAT) Missile**, and **Agni-5 Surface-to-Surface Ballistic Missile**, **Very Short Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS)**, Naval Anti-Ship Missile-Short Range (NASM-SR), **Anti-Tank Guided Missile 'HELINA'**, **Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile (QRSAM)**, **Astra**, **Light Combat Aircraft 'Tejas'**, 'Uttam' Active Electronically Scanned Array Radar (AESAR), **Advanced Electronic Warfare System 'Shakti'**, Cyber Security systems, Command Control Systems and the Semiconductor Fabrication Facility.

▪ **Army Tableau:**

- The Indian Navy tableau depicted the imposing **indigenously built aircraft carrier INS Vikrant** and INS Delhi, INS Kolkata and INS Shivalik, the **LCA**, the **ALH** and the **Kalvari-class submarine**.

▪ **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways:**

- **Sagarmala programme** and **Nari Shakti** in the maritime sector were showcased in the tableau.

▪ **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research**

- The **purple revolution** unfolding in the **lavender fields** of Baderwah in Jammu and Kashmir found a proud place on the tableau of the **CSIR**.

▪ **Indian Space Research Organisation:**

- The tableau featured the landing of the **Chandrayaan-3** spacecraft near the south pole of the Moon and the **Aditya L-1 mission**.
 - The lunar landing site of the spacecraft which was named **Shiv Shakti Point** was also featured.
- The tableau illustrated future missions such as **Gaganyaan** and **Bhartiya Antariksh Station** among others.

▪ **Arunachal Pradesh:**

- The state's tableau showcased its **Singchung Bugun Village Community Reserve**, a 17 square kilometre biodiversity hotspot created in 2017 to protect the **Bugun Liocichla**, a **critically endangered bird**.
 - The Bugun Liocichla is named after the Buguns community.
- Tableau was led by the **Bugun folk dance**.

▪ **Manipur:**

- Manipur's tableau showcased **the women-run Ima Keithel**, also known as the **Mother's Market**.
 - The 500-year-old Ima Keithel is the **only market in the world run entirely by women**.
- The Manipur tableau at the parade featured a woman weaving clothes using an "**Eyong**" **loom- a traditional loom from Manipur**.

▪ **Madhya Pradesh:**

- The tableau showed the **first woman fighter pilot of the Indian Air Force, Avani Chaturvedi** of Madhya Pradesh's Rewa district.
- It also featured the **Badal Mahal gate** and weavers of the globally renowned Chanderi, Maheshwari and Bagh print sarees.
 - The gate is said to have been built during the rule of **Sultan Mahmud Shah Khilji, the King of Malwa,**
 - The tableau featured **India's Millet Mission ambassador and 'Millet Woman of India Lahari Bai.**
- **Chhattisgarh:**
 - The tableau depicted the ancient tribal form of **Parliament in Bastar known as "Muria Darbar"**. It also depicted a place called "**Limau Raja**", situated in Bade Dongar, the ancient capital of Bastar.
- **Ladakh:**
 - The tableau depicted a **high hill in Ladakh, with the world's highest motorable road at Umling-La pass.**
- **Tamil Nadu:**
 - The tableau highlighted the historical significance of the **Kudavolai electoral system,** which emerged during the **10th-century Chola era** and marked an early stride towards democracy.
 - It also featured a scale model of the **Vaikunda Perumal Temple** in Uthiramerur where the **Kudavolai system** is practised, showcasing its integration into the local culture.
- **Odisha:**
 - The state's tableau featured a heritage hut of **Raghurajpur village,** where women play a pivotal role in crafting **Pattachitra and masks.**
 - **'Odisha Pattachitra' masks** are handcrafted from **leftover paper's Papier Mache paste.**
 - The **"War Horse of Konark Temple"** symbolised Odisha's rapid progress in shaping a developed India.
- **Meghalaya:**
 - The state's tableau featured a **unique freshwater scuba diving site** along the **Umngot River in Dawki.**
 - The tableau celebrated community-led cleanliness initiatives in **Mawlynnong, Asia's cleanest village.**
 - It also highlighted the state's rich reserve, displaying its flora, and endemic **species like the clouded leopard.**
- **Rajasthan:**
 - The tableau promoted the state's tourism potential, with the **"ghoomar" dance** and decorated camel icon.
 - Ghoomar, a traditional **Bhil tribe folk dance, is a symbol of womanhood.**
 - A statue of **Meera Bai was** displayed in the tableau, She was a great devotee of Lord Krishna and a Hindu poetess of the 16th century.
- **Telangana:**
 - The tableau honoured the legacy of tribal freedom fighters like **Komaram Bheem, Ramji Gond and Chityalallamma (Chakalillamma).**
 - **Bheem and Ramji advocated for the freedom,** dignity, and rights of indigenous tribal communities. They employed **guerrilla warfare tactics** to spread a powerful message of empowerment and justice.
- **Uttar Pradesh:**
 - Tableau symbolically represented the consecration ceremony that took place in **Ayodhya,** with an artistic model depicting Lord Ram in a young avatar (Ram Lalla).
 - It also depicted the first-ever operational high-speed **regional rapid transit system (RRTS)** of the country.
 - The tableau displayed the **world's fourth-largest international airport, Jewar Airport.**
 - A group of women artists accompanying the tableau perform traditional dances **'Charkula' and 'Wadhwa,** popular in the Braj region.
- **Gujarat:**
 - The tableau was based on the theme **Dhordo: Global Identity of Gujarat's Border Tourism.**

- Dhordo, located on India's western tip, is the gateway to the [Rann of Kutch](#).
- Women dressed in traditional attire played **garba** along the tableau.

▪ **Maharashtra:**

- [Shivaji Maharaj's](#) establishment of 'self-rule' and respect for women in his 'kingdom of the people' formed the highlight of Maharashtra's tableau.

▪ **Haryana:**

- The tableau highlighted the state's ambitious "**Mera Parivar-Meri Pehchan**" scheme.
- It also highlighted the benefits of the '**Parivar Pehchan Patra**' through a phone call such as the seamless procurement of ration, agricultural subsidies for farmer families, scholarships for young students, and pensions for the elderly.

▪ **Jharkhand:**

- The tableau showcased the skill of tribal women in the production of [Tasar silk](#) with **depictions of Tasar moth rearing**, [cocoon production](#), weaving and the modern journey of Tasar garments from design to global distribution.
 - Jharkhand "jhumar" folk dance was performed.

What is the History of Republic Day?

▪ **About:**

- Republic Day commemorates the adoption of the Constitution of India on 26th January 1950, and the country's transition to a republic which came into effect on 26th January 1950.
 - The constitution was adopted by the [Constituent Assembly of India on 26th November 1949](#) and came into effect on 26th January 1950.
- The Constitution of India repealed the **Indian Independence Act 1947** and **Government of India Act 1935** when it became effective on 26th January 1950. India ceased to be a dominion of the British Crown and became a **sovereign, democratic republic with a constitution**.

▪ **History:**

- **Declaration of Poorna Swaraj:**
 - The **Lahore Session of the INC in December 1929** passed the historic "**Poorna Swaraj**" resolution, calling for total **self-rule/sovereignty and complete independence from British rule**.
 - The Declaration of Independence was officially promulgated on 26th January 1930, and the Congress urged Indians to celebrate "**independence**" on that day.
- **Republic Day in Post-Independence India:**
 - From 1930 to 1947, **26th January** was celebrated as "**Independence Day**" or "**Poorna Swaraj Day**."
 - India gained independence on [15th August 1947](#), leading to a **reevaluation of the significance of Republic Day**.
 - The selection of **26th January for the promulgation of India's new constitution** was ideal due to its existing nationalist significance and alignment with the "**Poorna Swaraj**" declaration.

Note

- **On Republic Day every year**, the President of India, who is the **head of state**, '**unfurls**' the **tricolour**, while on **Independence Day** (August 15), the prime minister, who **heads the Union government**, '**hoists**' the national flag.
 - While the two terms are often used interchangeably, these represent different techniques of presenting the tricolour.
 - **On 26th January**, the flag is **folded or rolled, and attached to the top of a pole**. It is then unveiled ('unfurled') by the President, who does so without pulling it up.
 - 'Unfurling' is a symbolic gesture to **renew the commitment to principles laid down in the Constitution**, highlighting India's shift from being a British colony to becoming a sovereign, democratic Republic.

- **On 15th August**, on the other hand, the **flag, positioned at the bottom of the pole, is raised ('hoisted')** by the prime minister, from the bottom to the top.
 - Hoisting symbolises the rise of a new nation; patriotism, and freedom, from colonial rule.

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UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

Q. What was the exact constitutional status of India on 26th January 1950? (2021)

- (a) A Democratic Republic
- (b) A Sovereign Democratic Republic
- (c) A Sovereign Secular Democratic Republic
- (d) A Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic

Ans: (b)

Mains

Q. Discuss each adjective attached to the word 'Republic' in the 'Preamble'. Are they defensible in the present circumstances? (2013)

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