

## Republic day



*Republic Day is celebrated every year on 26 January to commemorate the date and moment when the Constitution of India came into effect. Although India attained independence on August 15, 1947 but till 1949 it didn't have a permanent constitution of its own and instead were functioning under the laws enacted and implemented by the British. And after many amendments the Constitution was approved and accepted on November 26, 1949 that came into force in a full-fledged fashion from 26 January, 1950. Thus, Republic Day is celebrated to remember the coming of the Constitution into effect.*

*The constitution gave India's citizens the power to govern themselves by choosing their own government. It declares India as a sovereign, socialist secular, democratic republic. The government thus became "of the people, by the people, for the people". The constitution provides equal rights to all the citizens irrespective of their sex, religion and caste.*

*Today, the Republic Day is celebrated with much enthusiasm all over the country and especially in the capital, New Delhi where the celebrations start with the Presidential to the nation. The beginning of the occasion is always a solemn reminder of the sacrifice of the martyrs who died for the country in the freedom movement and the succeeding wars for the defense of sovereignty of their country. Then, the President comes forward to award the medals of bravery to the people from the armed forces for their exceptional courage in the field*

*and also the civilians, who have distinguished themselves by their different acts of bravery in different situations.*

*To mark the importance of this occasion, every year a grand parade is held in the capital, from the Rajghat, along the Vijaypath. The different regiments of the army, the Navy and the Air force march past in all their finery and official decorations even the horses of the cavalry are attractively decorated to suit the occasion. The N.C.C cadets, selected from all over the country consider it an honor to participate in this event, as do the school children from various schools in the capital. They spend many days preparing for the event and no expense is spared to see that every detail is taken care of, from their practice for the drills, the essential props and their uniforms.*

*The parade is followed by a procession of spectacular displays from the different states of the country. These moving exhibits depict scenes of activities of people in those states and the music and songs of that particular state accompany each display. Each display brings out the diversity and richness of the culture of India and the whole show lends a festive air to the occasion. The parade and the following ceremony is telecast by the National Television and is watched by millions of viewers in every corner of the country.*

*The patriotic feeling of the people on this day brings the whole country together even in her essential diversity. Schools, colleges and offices also observe this day with flag hoisting ceremonies followed by colorful programs and sweet distribution. Every part of the country is represented in occasion, which makes the Republic Day the most popular of all the national holidays of India.*