

THE TIMES OF INDIA

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STUDENT EDITION

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2022



HAPPY
REPUBLIC DAY

We, The People of India

NEW MEANING OF REPUBLIC

The republic is relevant

In a world which is increasingly becoming global day by day with boundaries blurring, it is imminent that the social, political and economic spheres would also change. However, despite globalisation, migration, internet along with the rise of importance of IGOs (inter-governmental organisation), INGOs (international non-governmental organisation) and TNCs (transnational corporations) the meaning of the word republic has not changed and it still is the tool that enables us to have power in our governing and also allows every capable individual to help in the progress of our country."

S M V KAREESMAA, class XI, Ryan International School, Kharghar, Mumbai

Evolved, not changed

The Constitution of India is about 5 major principles: Sovereign, Secular, Socialist, Democratic and Republic. Over the years, the term Republic has evolved but certainly hasn't changed in definition. "Republic" assures that the governance of the nation doesn't have an anomaly by making the head of the state hereditary. In a global world where boundaries are limitless, terms like 'Democracy' and 'Republic' unite the people of not only one nation, but the whole world.

BHOOMIKA CHAWLA, class XI, Bhavan Vidyalaya, Chandigarh

Strong Opposition is must

To me, the word "republic" means a state where the supreme power is held by the citizens and their elected representatives. However, in India the elected authorities wield political power. There is no strong Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha to maintain checks and balances. This is concerning as it is not a strong ruling party but strong opposition that is essential for a healthy democracy.

MADIHA KHAN, IBDP Year 2, The Heritage School, Kolkata

Evolves as mankind does

For me, privileged to be born in a Republic like India, it means that the rules are actually formed through popular opinion of its citizens, implemented by the elected representatives. With the changing times where boundaries do not apply, I believe the word "Republic" also has to undergo one more evolution to encompass what would be a common rule for the whole of mankind."

SHARIKA M, class VIII, Air Force School, Jalalahalli, Bengaluru

72 years ago when we institutionalised the Constitution of India with these very words, they were more than mere letters strung together. They were the hopes, dreams and aspirations of a newborn nation. But we have come a long way since. The world as we know it and India's position in it have all changed. We asked students to ponder over what it means to be a Republic today, the laws we need in place and what needs to be rethought - and they came back with much food for thought. Read on...

LAWS WE NEED

Right to chemical-free food

There should be a law against use of pesticides and chemical fertilisers in agriculture and the food packaging industries. In addition to making our food harmful for us all with chemical residue sprayed on it - fruits, vegetables and even grains - the use of pesticides and fertilisers are actually destroying soil fertility. It ought to be our right to get all our foods unadulterated, chemical-free, organic and naturally nutritious - that are not unnaturally processed.

MUKTA PACHPUTE, class IX, Sadhu Vaswani International School (SVIS), Pune

Limits to freedom of speech

In a country where there are laws for hateful speeches, caste discrimination, or to some extent, gender discrimination as well, there are so many other ways in which people look down upon others in jest. If it were up to me, I would make a rule that would prohibit people from making statements that are morally incorrect to say. All have the freedom to speak, but hardly are there any limitations on how not to use the tongue to poison one's personality. For instance, mocking someone for the way they look or the amount they earn should be prohibited."

UDISHA TIWARI, class XI, CMS Gomti Nagar 2, Lucknow



How about conscription?

Growing up in India is a blessing, because you are born with several rights to safeguard your interest and laws to protect you. However one law I feel, that needs to be implemented and which is a need of the hour is to make it a compulsory act of service for every young adult to get enrolled for the armed forces after graduation or once they reach adulthood for two years. These two years will teach every young adult the honour code, punctuality, respect, the spirit of trust and brotherhood which will transform each person to live and contribute to the society in a better way. These two years will teach each of us to build an ecosystem where these values are lived every day, to bring us all on the right track.

V NIKHILASREE, class X, Atkinson Senior Secondary School, Vijayawada

Data privacy

Even though there are laws governing privacy and protection, uncompromising laws on data protection according to me is something that should be part of our lives. We deal with data breaches and our private information being sent to and from various organisations. Lives of people are at stake when it comes to the data from our phones and computers. Unless there are severe laws in place, data breaches will keep increasing."

D. PURNIMA, class XI, SBOA Matriculation Hr. Sec. School, Coimbatore

WHAT NEEDS A RETHINK

Reservation, maybe

The reservation of certain communities based on their caste was introduced in the constitution of Republic of India in 1950. Initially it was for 10 years only so as to promote the development of these communities. However, even more than 74 years after independence the caste system continues to be present. The reservation has been used as a political tool to get votes. Further, based on their political agendas even more categories have been added over the years. This is counterproductive for the progress of the nation and should be curtailed.

NAINA MEHTA, class IX, DPS Mathura Road, New Delhi



Enforce secularism

I feel the existence of the right to freedom of religion has virtually no significance. Violations keep occurring, which is against the spirit of brotherhood and of the "secular" nature of the nation. India is a melting pot of cultures precisely because of the plethora of cultures and ethnicities it houses.

Communities being pit one against the other (by political parties) only leads to bloodshed and suffering, sucking away the many colours of this country, leaving it dull and grey."

AMOGH TARUN, class XII, Hyderabad Public School, Begumpet, Hyderabad

Child Labour Act

The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act of 1986 designates a child as a person who has not completed its 14th year and who is engaged in hazardous occupations identified in a list by the law. I see many child labourers wherever I go. From this, I conclude that this Article 24 of the Act, which comes under Right against Exploitation doesn't hold good."

S KAVIYA, class XI, John Dewey Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Panruti, Chennai



Some laws are not even needed

The Telegraph Wire (Unlawful Possession) Act, 1950 was enacted for regulating the possession of telegraph wires of specified dimensions. The act ensured that wires of the specified dimensions are not used for other purposes and to check theft. However, the Act in the present times makes no sense as telegraph services in India were completely shut down in 2013."

RAKSHIT DUBEY, class X, Zebar School, Ahmedabad

Repeal redundant laws

There are many rules/laws which are redundant now. Like the The Sarais Act, (a 145-year-old law which deals with regulating public sarais, rest houses). This law says sarais should also provide free drinking water to passersby. There's no need for a rule as such because the majority of the rest houses or hotels provide free water anyway.

MANINI SHAH, class X, Udgam School, Ahmedabad



➤ The Nation Makers: Celebrating men, women and moments that made India
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➤ THEN & NOW: 10 legislations that shaped India; Archival images; A walk through history
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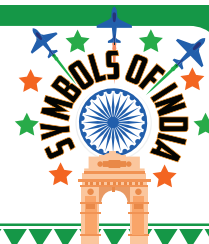


➤ Teens take virtual walk down the Republic Parade route to trace its roots
PAGE 4

Want to share your opinion and have your say? Post your comments on toistudent.com and be part of the discussion

Pic: AP





The makers of a Nation

On the occasion of Republic Day, we celebrate the men, women and the moments that had an incredible impact on the history of India, and that shaped the future of our country. May their vision, grit and perseverance continue to inspire us as we march towards the grand future

Meet the women of the drafting committee of the Indian Constitution



DURGABAI DESHMUKH

A freedom fighter, social worker and lawyer, Durgabai Deshmukh made significant contributions in the areas of women's emancipation, social welfare laws and literacy (winning a UNESCO award). She was a member of the Constituent Assembly of India and of the Planning Commission of India.

AMMU SWAMINATHAN

Drawn to the political and women's rights movement, Ammu Swaminathan, a social worker and political activist was elected to the Constituent Assembly from the Madras Constituency in 1946. She also set up Women's India Association in Adyar, Madras.

ANNIE MASCARENE

The activist, politician and lawyer from Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala participated in the Quit India movement and was one of the leaders of integration of the Princely States with the Indian nation. She was the first woman to join Travancore State Congress, and looked into the Hindu Code Bill as part of the Constituent Assembly.



KAMLA CHAUDHRY

An author, she was an active participant in the Civil Disobedience Movement of 1930. Later, she was the first research director of IIM Ahmedabad.

BEGUM AIZAZ RASUL

The only Muslim woman member in the Constituent Assembly, Aizaz Rasul won her first election from the non-reserved seat and became a member of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council in 1937. One of her most significant contributions was to popularise women's hockey in India.

DAKSHAYANI VELAYUDHAN

The first Scheduled Caste woman graduate in India and the first and only Dalit woman MLA, parliamentarian Dakshayani Velayudhan's life and politics was influenced and defined by her defiance of the rigid caste system in Kerala.

LEELA ROY

A progressive reformer, a freedom fighter and a close associate of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. Besides being only elected woman member from Bengal to the Constituent Assembly, Leela Roy started 'Jayasree' the first magazine entirely managed by women writers.



MALATI CHOUDHURY

Hailing from a family of politicians, Malati Choudhury worked extensively in Orissa for farmers, education and fought untouchability and casteism.

SUCHETA KRIPLANI

India's first woman chief minister who also sang 'Vande Mataram' in the Independence Session of the Constituent Assembly. Earlier, Sucheta Kripalani played a pivotal role in the Quit India Movement of 1942 and had established the women's wing of the Congress party in 1940.

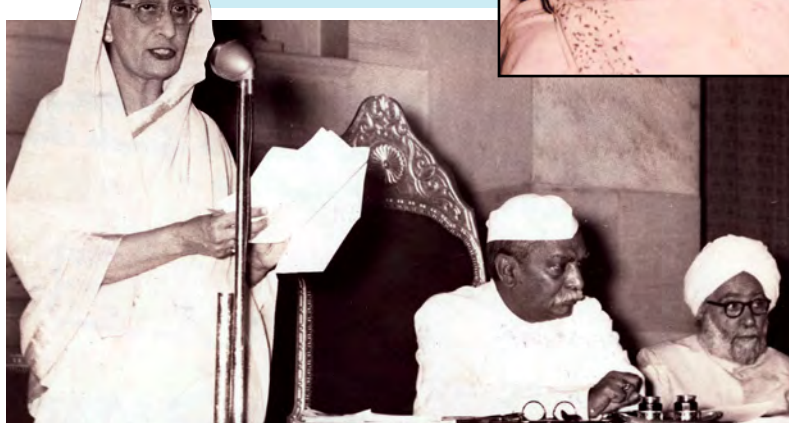


VIJAYALAKSHMI PANDIT

As an activist, minister, ambassador and diplomat she was among the few revolutionising the role of women in nation-building. The first woman cabinet minister in the British era, Pandit was one of the first leaders to call for an Indian Constituent Assembly to frame a constitution.

HANSA JIVRAJ MEHTA

A leading freedom fighter, champion of women's rights and writer, Hansa Jivraj Mehta was among the 15 women who were part of the constituent assembly that drafted the Indian Constitution. She was member of the fundamental rights sub-committee, the advisory committee and the provincial constitutional committee along with advocating for equality and justice for women in India.



RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR

An activist and politician who played a significant role in the independence movement. Post independence Amrit Kaur became India's first Health Minister and founded noteworthy institutions like All India Institute of Medical Sciences and the National Institute of Sports, Patiala.



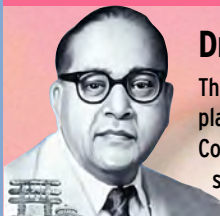
SAROJINI NAIDU

Popularly known as the 'Nightingale of India', Sarojini Naidu was a political activist, feminist, poet, and the first Indian woman to be president of the Indian National Congress and to be appointed an Indian state governor.



The heroes of India

While no list is perfect, we attempt to present a few greats who have done us proud through contributions to the nation

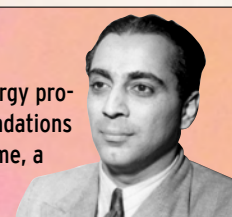


Dr BR Ambedkar

The social reformer and a politician who played a major role in drafting the Indian Constitution and also helped create a new system of writing, 'Devanagari'.

Homi Bhabha

As the architect of India's atomic energy programme, Bhabha's vision laid the foundations for India's thorium research programme, a field in which we are world leaders.



JRD Tata

The aviation pioneer founded India's first airline while also managing the rapid rise of India's largest industrial conglomerate, the Tata Group.

APJ Abdul Kalam

The 11th President of India, better known as the 'People's President', his contributions to society have been immense.



Vikram Sarabhai

The father of India's space programme founded 38 institutes, several of which are still important to the country's goals.



Verghese Kurien

The Indian engineer and entrepreneur led India's 'White Revolution', which transformed India into the world's largest milk producer through a farmer cooperative system.

MS Swaminathan

No other Indian endeavour has boosted national confidence as much as Dr Swaminathan's Green Revolution which transformed India into a food-surplus economy.

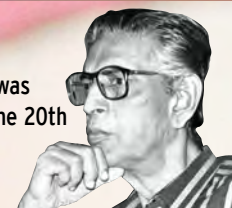


E Sreedharan

Sreedharan, a civil engineer and retired IRSE officer, is known as the 'Metro Man' for his contributions to the construction of the Konkan Railway and the Delhi Metro.

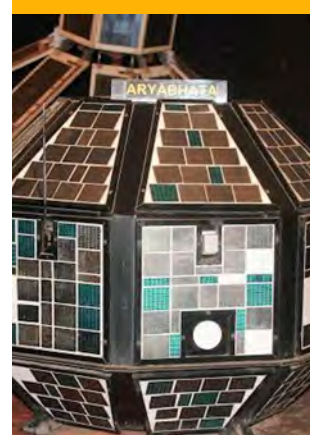
Satyajit Ray

The Bengali filmmaker and polymath was most highly regarded filmmakers of the 20th century. His first film Pather Panchali won eleven international awards.



EVENTS THAT SHAPED INDIA

Moments and establishments that are an integral part of our history



ARYABHATTA TAKES TO THE SKIES

India's first satellite was launched by Russians from Kapustin Yar on April 19, 1975. The 96.3-minute orbit had an apogee of 619 kilometres and a perigee of 563 kilometres, with a 50.7-degree inclination. The Indian Space Research Organisation created Aryabhata to undertake X-ray astronomy, aeronomics, and solar physics studies.



CHANDRAYAAN-1 AND 2

The ambitious space programme Chandrayaan-1 (to send a spacecraft to moon) was launched in 2008. It was followed by Chandrayaan-2, an exploration mission developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation which consisted of a lunar orbiter, Vikram lander, and the Pragyan lunar rover, which were developed in India.



THE FIRST IIT ESTABLISHED

India's first IIT (Indian Institute of Technology) was inaugurated on August 18, 1951, in Kharagpur. It was conceived in May 1950 in Hijli, Kharagpur. In the beginning, the IIT ran its operations from 5, Esplanade East, Calcutta and later shifted base to Hijli in September 1950.



FREEDOM FROM POLIO

In West Bengal, India's final polio case was recorded in January 2011, when a young girl was paralysed by the disease. There hasn't been another case since. The World Health Organization declared the South-East Asian area, which includes India, polio-free in March 2014.



OUR MANGALYAAN MAKES IT MARS

On November 5, 2013, India's first interplanetary mission was launched with the deployment of Mars Orbiter Mission spacecraft. On September 24, 2014, Mangalyaan entered Mars' orbit, making India the first Asian country and only the fourth country in the world to do so on its maiden attempt.



100 PER CENT ELECTRIFICATION

In 2018, India set a major milestone by electrifying 100 percent of its households in 25 states. Only roughly 10.48 lakh households in Assam, Rajasthan, Meghalaya, and Chhattisgarh are remaining to be electrified, according to a government announcement. According to government figures, 16 to 24 hours of supply is accessible in rural areas across India.



R-DAY SPECIAL

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2022

THE NATIONAL PLEDGE: The National Pledge 'India is my country....' was written in Telugu by Pydimarri Venkata Subba Rao in 1962. The Central Advisory Board on Education directed that the pledge be sung in schools and that this practice be introduced by January 26, 1965. It is commonly recited by Indians in unison at public events, especially in schools, and during the Independence Day and Republic Day celebrations.

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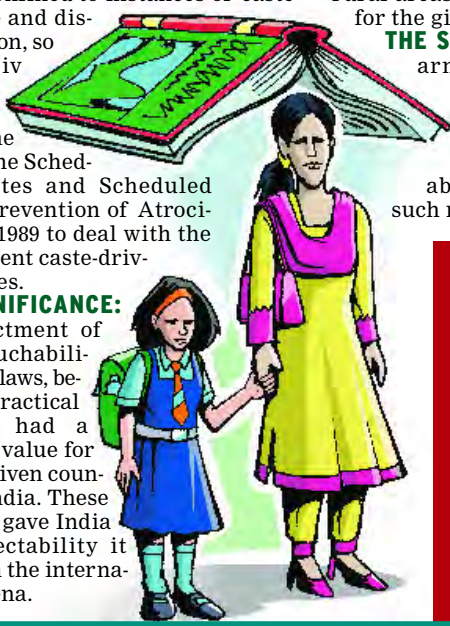
As our Republic matures, here's a look at the laws that have made it into one - from the basic laws passed initially to the recent more evolved amendments and judgements. These are the landmark legislations the young generation needs to know and be proud of

10 Laws & Legislations that shaped the Indian Republic

The Protection of Civil Rights Act 1955 - Made untouchability a crime

Even after India became an independent nation, it took the country five years to abolish untouchability with this law that penalises various manifestations of untouchability. It was though confined to instances of caste prejudice and discrimination, so the Rajiv Gandhi government came up with the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989 to deal with the more violent caste-driven offences.

THE SIGNIFICANCE: The enactment of two untouchability-related laws, besides its practical benefits, had a symbolic value for a caste-driven country like India. These laws also gave India the respectability it wanted in the international arena.



Child Marriage Act of 2006 - Made child marriage a criminal offence

The Indian Government enacted the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act of 2006 by replacing the earlier legislation of the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929, to ensure that child marriage is eradicated from the society. The object of the Act is to prohibit solemnisation of child marriage - that has been a common practice in many parts of India, especially in rural and semi-rural areas. It's been a gamechanger for the girl child in the country.

THE SIGNIFICANCE: This Act is armed with enabling provisions to prohibit child marriages and provide relief to victims and enhance punishment for those who abet, promote or solemnise such marriages.

73rd Constitutional Amendment - Brought panchayati raj

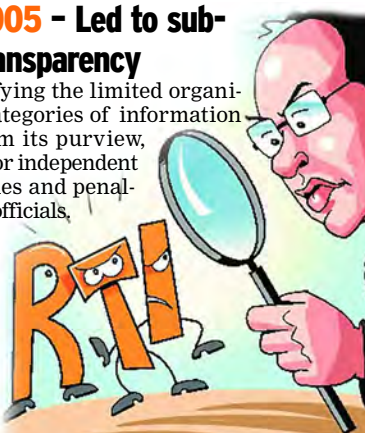
The Gandhian dream of Gram Swaraj or Panchayati Raj (village self-governance) became a reality in 1992 when the Narasimha Rao government made the 73rd Constitutional Amendment.

THE SIGNIFICANCE: Panchayati Raj was always around but was bereft of real powers and funds. With this amendment, it acquired constitutional trappings and became a force to reckon with.

RTI Act 2005 - Led to substantial transparency

Besides specifying the limited organisations and categories of information exempted from its purview, RTI provides for independent appellate bodies and penalties for errant officials.

THE SIGNIFICANCE: RTI has even made top government positions answerable for their actions!



Right to NOTA - Gave more agency to the voter

The Supreme Court, in 2013, ruled the right to register a 'none of the above' vote in elections to enable voters to exercise their right to reject all the electoral candidates. The ruling came about in the famous People's Union of Civil Liberties vs Union of India case that had challenged the validity of the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961.

THE SIGNIFICANCE: This legislation was empowering for voters and gave them the choice to 'reject all'.



End of Article 377 - Decriminalised same sex relationships

On July 2009, the Delhi High Court decriminalised sex between consenting adults of the same gender. Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) that criminalised homosexuality was introduced in 1861 during



the British rule in India.

THE SIGNIFICANCE: This much-awaited judgement is historic and one that truly steered India towards modernity, making it a more inclusive Republic!

R-DAY PARADE IN 1950s

Photos: Rashtrapati Bhawan

The Republic Day has always been a celebration of the goods, glory and grandeur the nation has acquired and achieved. Check out these sepia-toned moments from the celebrations in the 50s



1953

When the newly-independent nation had modest arms and artillery for the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force



1957

The custom of offering the Gallantry Awards to children was started for the first time on R-Day by the Government of India in 1957



1954

The then President of India Rajendra Prasad saluting one of the police battalions on the R-Day. It was a progressive year for the nation

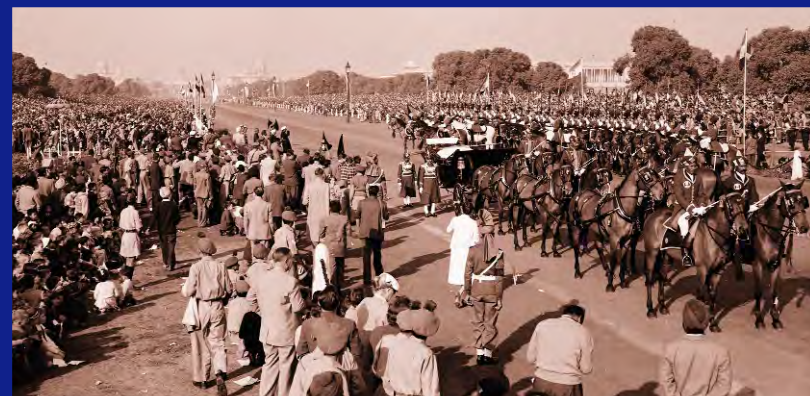


1955

This year saw R-Day parade from the first time at Rajpath (that continues till date). Earlier years saw the parade at other venues like Ramliha Maidan, etc

1959

The Chief Guest on the Republic Day this year was Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, UK. He was the guest of honour, who praised India's progress as a developing nation



Petrol @ 30 Paisa, 10 gm gold for ₹88 but life expectancy was 27 years!

India...then and Now

January 26, 1950, seems like a long time ago...it indeed was. Seven-and-a-half decades later, let's take a quick glance at what it was back then and how the narrative has shaped in the recent years

Average Per Capita Income

What was it then: Minoo Masani wrote in his book 'Our India', "A man with a family has to live on much less than ₹27." That was the overall average income.

The narrative now: The Economic Times reported that the average salary of a family per month now is ₹32,800.

Life span

What was it then: A per capita income of ₹27 per month and a life expectancy

of 27 years was by and large the norm back then. Although life expectancy increased to 32 years by the time India became a republic in 1950, but that 32 years was for the new India, 27 was for undivided India.

The narrative now: The life expectancy at birth in 2019 was 69.5 years for men and 72 years for women. It has dropped by two years since Covid-19 hit.

Literacy rate

What was it then: Census of 1951, with In-

dia geographically defined as it is now, only 18.3% of people were literate out of which male literacy was 27.2% and female literacy was 8.9%.

The narrative now: According to National Statistical Office (NSO) data, India's average literacy rate is 77.70%. male literacy at the India level in 2021 stands at 84.70% and female literacy is 70.30%.

Infant mortality rate

What was it then: The infant mortality rate was 146 for every 1000 live births.

The narrative now: The infant mortality rate for India in 2022 is 27.695 deaths per 1000 live births, a 3.74% decline from 2021.

Number of schools and colleges

What was it then: There were 2.10 lakh primary schools in 1950-51, 13600 middle schools and high and higher secondary schools were 7,416. There were 27 universities and 498 colleges in the country.

The narrative now: As per the latest Central Government record, 14,94,052 schools in India including government, govt aided and private schools. As of October 2021, there are around 1,013 universities.

Petrol price

What was it then: It was less than 30 paise per litre.

What is the narrative now: Petrol rate in New Delhi is around ₹96 for a litre.

Other costs

What was it then: A newspaper used to cost 13 paise, a movie ticket was priced at 30 paise, milk was for 12 paise but a raincoat was for ₹4.

What is the narrative now: A newspaper costs ₹4 on an average, movie ticket is priced at ₹250, milk costs ₹45 and raincoat is worth ₹250.

Phone and connectivity

What was it then: There were fewer than 1,20,000 telephones in all of India at the time of independence. In other words, there were just 300 phones per million people.

The narrative now: Today, there are 9,00,000 phones per million people!

Price of a ticket in Air India flight

What was it then: If someone wanted to fly from Mumbai to Delhi in 1950, he/she would have paid ₹140 for an Air India flight.

The Narrative now: The average cost of flying from Mumbai to Delhi in an Air India flight ticket ranges between ₹3,000 to ₹21,000.





Inaya Gala

class VIII, Springdales School, Pusa Road, Delhi

How is the chief guest selected?

The chief guest, who is always the head of state/ government from a country, is selected based on India's ties with that country. Factors include political, economic, and commercial relations, neighbourhood, military cooperation, prominence in regional groupings, or past association with the Non-Aligned Movement. The process begins 6 months ahead of Jan 26.

What happens after options are zeroed in?

The ministry of external affairs, after deliberations, seeks the Prime Minister's approval, after which the clearance of Rashtrapati Bhavan is sought. Thereafter, India's ambassadors in the concerned countries try to ascertain discreetly the potential chief guests' programme and availability for the Republic Day.

Who was the first foreign guest?

Indonesian President Sukarno was the first foreign guest. India and Indonesia had cultural relations dating back centuries, but Sukarno and Nehru shared similar ideals of anti-imperialism and secularism, and a deep friendship. Also, India played a key role in Indonesian National Revolution to suppress the Dutch attack.

Has there been any guest who has been invited more than once?

Former French President Jacques Chirac, the fourth King of Bhutan Jigme Singye Wangchuk, and the former Yugoslavian President Josip Tito are the three people who have been invited twice to the Republic Day as chief guest.

1 How arduous was India's journey to be a Republic?

It was difficult. Although India officially gained independence from the British on August 15, 1947, it remained a constitutional monarchy under King George VI, represented by Lord Mountbatten. To move forward as a republic, India needed to draft its own Constitution. It took three years for the Constituent Assembly to ratify it on Nov 26, 1949. The Assembly waited till Jan 26, 1950, to put it into effect.

2 Why was the date January 26 chosen?

During India's struggle for freedom, the Indian National Congress party voted for total independence (purna swaraj) from British rule, and this declaration was formally made on January 26, 1929. Hence, the date was a commemorative one.

Sushiana Sondhi

class IX, The Mother's International School, New Delhi



3 Has Pakistan ever been invited?

Pakistan has been invited twice. Governor General of Pakistan Malik Ghulam Muhammad in 1955, Rana Abdul Hamid, minister of food and agriculture, in 1965 were chief guests at the R-Day parade.

4 How many women guests have been invited?

Queen Elizabeth in 1961, Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra in 2012, and Aung San Suu Kyi, State Chancellor of Myanmar, in 2018, have been invited as guests for the R Day.

WHICH IS THE MOST-INVITED NATION FOR R DAY?
French President Francois Hollande has been the fifth head of state to have been invited from France making the country the 'most-invited' nation.

Aadi Vasudevan

class IX, Sardar Patel Vidyalaya, New Delhi

HOW MANY CONTINGENTS FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES HAVE TAKEN PART SO FAR?

Last year, the Bangladeshi contingent marched down the ceremonial boulevard on January 26, 2021. The members of the contingent were drawn mostly from units raised during the 1971 War, and several other units were raised before it. This was the third time that a contingent from a foreign country was taking part - the other two times being France (2016) and the UAE (2017).

WHEN DID THE BEATING RETREAT START?

In 1961, PM Nehru asked Maj G A Roberts to do 'something spectacular' in honour of Queen Elizabeth II & Prince Phillip's first visit post Independence.

HOW FAR ARE OUR WEAPONS INDIGENOUS?

In 2021, India showcased the progress made in indigenous defence technologies with the display of the Main Battle Tank, the T-90 Bhishma, Infantry Combat Vehicle Ballway Machine Pikate, etc

HOW LONG IS THE PARADE ROUTE?

For rehearsals, each group covers a distance of 12 km, but on Jan 26, they cover a distance of 9 km only

The parade on Jan 26 begins with the arrival of the President. First, the cavalier bodyguards of the President salute the National Flag, and during this time, the National Anthem is played and 21 Guns Salute is also given. But do you know that firing is not done with 21 canons? Instead, 7-cannons of the Indian Army, known as '25- Ponders' are used for firing in 3 rounds

TEENS

Take REPUBLIC

Route, Trace The Root

Our teenagers, **DONNING THE TIMES NIE REPORTER HATS**, decide to take the parade route virtually, and trace the journey that made India a powerful Republic over a span of 72 years - with 'Made in India' military equipment to diplomatic dominance in Asia, and of course, a colourful extravaganza of unity in diversity. Meet **AADI, SUSHIANA, ADVIKA AND INAYA**, who take you on the Republic Day parade route, posing questions and seeking answers on how India strengthened its Republic roots

FORMER KINGSWAY

Starting from 1955, Rajpath became the permanent venue for the 26th January parade. Rajpath was known by the name 'Kingsway' at that time

R-DAY 1950-1954

During these years, the parade was held at Irwin Stadium (now National Stadium), Kingsway, Red Fort, and Ramleela Maidan, respectively

1967: A FIRST

Prez S Radhakrishnan couldn't take the salute due to ill-health. Guest Md Zahir Shah, the king of Afghanistan, then arrived on Jan 28

Did you know

Four times, in 1952, 1953, 1966 and 2021, India had no foreign chief guests for R-Day. In 1966, India's former PM Lal Bahadur Shastri had passed away on Jan 11; In 2021, due to Covid-19, UK PM Boris Johnson cancelled trip

The 'Royal' prefix was dropped from the Indian Air Force on the Republic Day in 1950. More than 100 aircraft took part in the first parade

The Indian Constitution is the longest one to be written in the world, with 444 articles divided into 22 parts and 12 schedules

It took 166 days spread over 2 years, 11 months and 18 days to finish writing the Constitution. The work was headed by Dr BR Ambedkar

There are just two original hand-written copies of the Constitution, one in Hindi and the other in English. It has been preserved in helium-filled cases in Parliament

Advika Anil Thomas

class VIII, Apeejay SVRN Global School, Faridabad

What is the selection process of a tableau?

The ministry of defence constitutes a panel of distinguished persons from various fields of arts to help shortlist the proposals. The state governments and UTs have to send conceptualised proposals to the ministry by September-end. The ministry recommends that the tableau represents a historical event/ heritage/ development programmes/environment as themes.

If I were to design a tableau, what would be the criteria for the sketch?

The sketch design drawn on a scale of 1:1" should be simple, colourful, easy to comprehend and should avoid statistical data and unnecessary details. Writing or use of logos on tableaux is not allowed, except the name of state/ UT/ ministry/ department in Hindi, English and regional language.

And what if the sketch is approved and a model has to be prepared?

After the approval of the proposed sketch/ design by the expert committee in its preliminary meetings, a three-dimensional model of the proposed tableau has to be prepared on the lines of the suggestions given by the panel. Final approval would be accorded only after the models are finally shortlisted by the committee.

What are the parameters based on which tableaux are approved?

The panel takes six or seven rounds of meeting at each phase - from sketch to final development -in deciding the final shortlist. It is based on factors such as visual appeal, impact on masses, idea, detailing, performance accompanying the tableau etc.



Source: Government of India circulars, ministry of defence website, Wikipedia, TNN, ET, ministry of tourism, Delhi govt DOE