

## Republic day celebrations

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India became a republic on 26<sup>th</sup> Jan. 1950. It was on this day that the Constitution of India came into force. Since then the day is celebrated with great enthusiasm throughout the country.

The main celebrations are held in Delhi. The place which is the center of attraction is the lawns from Vijaya Chowk to India Gate. Thousands of People from the capital and other cities and tourists from all over the world gather there to witness the procession. Those who can't come watch it over the T.V.

There is almost always one or the other foreign dignitary every year who is invited to attend the function. The President comes in a bullet proof car from the Rashtrapati Bhawan and is received by the Prime Minister. He hoists the flag and the National Anthem is sung by the school students.

The main attraction to the spectators is the cultural pageants of different States and folk dances of the tribals. The school children also march and dance for a short distance.

The jets and at the end of the month the sky and throw rose petals on the spectators and the process. Finally, gas balloons presenting the colors of the tricolor are released in the sky. Some of the important buildings like the Rashtrapati Bhawan the Central Secretariat and the India Gate are tastefully illuminated at night. There is the beat of the retreat on 27<sup>th</sup> Jan. when the tribals and others return to their home states.