

## 69th Republic Day Celebrated - India, UAE Soldiers March in Unison



Republic Day was celebrated on 26 January 2017 across the nation.

This was the 68th Republic Day of India.

- The Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces of the UAE Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan was the Chief Guest at the 68th Republic Day parade.
- First Republic Day was celebrated on 26 January 1950 when India became a Republic with Constitution of India coming into force.
- This year Republic Day Parade on Rajpath witnessed tableaux from 17 States and six Ministries of the Central Government.
- The tableaux showcased varied themes starting from country's rich cultural heritage and socio-economic development.
- The tableaux also showcased nation's progress in key areas like IT, women, empowerment and environment protection.

## India, UAE ink 14 pacts in key areas



India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on 25 January 2017 signed 14 agreements to boost bilateral relations. The agreements were signed after successful talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces of the UAE Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

The crown prince is the chief guest of Republic Day celebrations on 26 January

2017.

Some of the agreements signed are –

- Agreement on Comprehensive Strategic Partnership
- Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the field of defence industry
- MoU on institutional cooperation on maritime transport
- MoU on mutual recognition of certificates of competency
- MoU on bilateral cooperation in the road transport and highways sector
- MoU on cooperation in prevention and combating of human trafficking
- MoU on agriculture and allied sectors

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- MoU for cooperation in programme exchange
- Agreement on oil storage and management
- MoU on cooperation in energy efficiency services
- MoU on trade remedial measures to promote cooperation in areas of mutual interest

### **Hangpan Dada Receives Ashok Chakra Award Posthumously**



President Pranab Mukherjee posthumously awarded Ashok Chakra to Havildar Hangpan Dada, who was killed near in Jammu and Kashmir in May last year while fighting terrorists.

The Ashoka Chakra is India's highest peacetime military decoration awarded for valour, courageous action or self-sacrifice away

from the battlefield

- Dada's sobbing widow Chasen Lowang received from the President the highest peacetime military award given for awarded for valour, courageous action and self-sacrifice.
- The Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the guest of honour and Prime Minister
- Narendra Modi, watched in silence as Mukherjee saluted the courage of the dead soldier of Assam Regiment.
- Dada was killed on the night of May 26 after he first fought three terrorists in close combat in Naugam sector.

### **NASA's Opportunity Becomes First Teenage Rover to Signalize 13<sup>th</sup> Birthday on Mars**



Who would have thought that NASA's Mars rover Opportunity would go on functioning for over a decade after it landed on the Red Planet and on January 24, 2017 the rover entered her teenage years by spending 13 years on Mars.

- These 13 years of constant drive, work and scientific observations started off with the launch of the spacecraft on July 7, 2003 as part of NASA's Mars Exploration Rover program.
- Opportunity's 13 years on Mars makes it the first teenager on Mars and mission scientists are optimistic that there is much more life left in the rover and many more discoveries to be made.
- On January 24, 2004, Opportunity rover landed on Mars' Meridiani Plan

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- just three weeks after its twin Spirit (MER-A) touched down on the other side of the planet. NASA has an original mission timeline of just 90 sol duration of activity – slightly more than 90 earth days – but the mission continues even after 13 years.

### **GSLV's Cryogenic Upper Stage Tested Successfully**



The Indian Space Research Organisation's Propulsion Research Complex at Mahendragiri, about 60 km from here, successfully conducted the stage level test of GSLV MK III's cryogenic upper stage C-25 on Wednesday night.

- Accompanied by his colleagues at IPRC, ISRO Chairman A.S. Kiran Kumar witnessed the test that lasted about 50 seconds from 8.40 p.m.
- "The 50-second long test of C-25 of the country's most powerful launch vehicle that can carry satellites weighing 4,000 kg was successful," said sources.
- The cryogenic upper stage of the GSLV is the large C-25, the most difficult component of the launch vehicle to be developed.
- It will be powered by the indigenously developed CE-20 engine.

### **World's First Stable Semi-Synthetic Organism created**



In a breakthrough, scientists have created the first stable semi-synthetic organism - a single-celled bacterium - that may play important roles in drug discovery and other applications.

- Life's genetic code has only ever contained four natural bases. These bases pair up to form two base pairs - the rungs of the DNA ladder - and they have simply been rearranged to create all life as we know it, from bacteria to humans.
- Building on earlier research in which they synthesised a DNA base pair, scientists at The Scripps Research Institute (TSRI) in the US created a new bacterium that uses the four natural bases (called A, T, C and G), which every living organism possesses, but that also holds as a pair two synthetic bases called X and Y in its genetic code.
- Researchers have now shown that the single-celled organism can hold on to the synthetic base pair as it divides.

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## India's 8-Point Climate Change Plan to add 3 more Missions



India's eight-point plan to fight climate change will soon become an 11-point plan with new missions to address the impact of climate change on health, coastal zones and waste-to-energy on the anvil.

- Since 2012, the Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change India has instituted a National Action Plan on Assessment, Adaptation and Mitigation of Climate Change, that has specified eight national missions.
- These include a National Water Mission, Green India Mission, National Solar Mission, National Mission on Sustainable Habitat, National Mission on Enhanced Energy Efficiency, National Mission for Sustaining Himalayan Ecosystem, National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture, and a National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change.

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### On This Day



On 26 January 1957, the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir came into force. The whole episode had started a long time back when Pashtun tribes at the behest of the Pakistani government, invaded Kashmir in October 1947. Maharaja Hari Singh of Kashmir had then signed the Instrument of Accession on 26 October 1947 and was accepted by India on 27 October. India then sent its troops to Kashmir to defend from the Pashtun attacks and thus led to the Indo-Pak War of 1947. Polls were conducted in Indian administered Kashmir in August–September 1951. The Jammu & Kashmir National Conference party won and Sheikh Abdullah became the Chief Minister. In 1954 the assembly members who were present cast a unanimous vote ratifying the state's accession to India. Constitution was drafted which came into force on 26 January 1957.

**ON THIS DAY**