



Samajwadi Party President Akhilesh Yadav takes a holy dip at Sangam during the ongoing Maha Kumbh Mela 2025, in Prayagraj



Kannada actor Shiva Rajkumar being welcomed by his fans upon his arrival in Bengaluru after undergoing cancer treatment in US



Former RAW chief AS Dulat speaks at a session during the ongoing eighth edition of Kerala Literature Festival (KLF), in, Kozhikode



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with Ambassador of Thailand to India Pattarat Hongtong during a meeting, in New Delhi

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President Droupadi Murmu and Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto leave after the 76th Republic Day parade, in New Delhi, on Sunday

Indonesian President Subianto witnesses India's grand Republic-Day parade

NEW DELHI: Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto watched India's 76th Republic-Day celebrations at the majestic Kartavya Path on Sunday, joining a select group of global leaders to have graced the nation's biggest ceremonial event in the last seven decades. As the chief guest at the ceremony, Subianto witnessed the grand military parade and cultural performances along with President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, members of the Union Cabinet, foreign diplomats and a host of other dignitaries. Sukarno, the first president of Indonesia, was the chief guest at India's first Republic-Day celebrations in 1950. Subianto, a former defence minister, is the fourth Indonesian president to attend India's Republic-Day celebrations. A 352-member marching and band contingent from Indonesia also participated in the Republic-Day parade. It was the first time that an Indonesian marching and band contingent participated in a national day parade abroad.

Eminent cardiac surgeon Dr K M Cherian dead CHENNAI: Eminent cardiac surgeon Dr K M Cherian, who performed the country's first coronary artery bypass here about 50 years ago, has died, sources said on Sunday. The city-based veteran, in his 80s, died in Bengaluru on Saturday after reportedly collapsing during a function. Prime Minister Narendra Modi described Dr Cherian as one of the most distinguished doctors of the country, while Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin said his "pioneering work" saved many lives. "Pained by the passing of Dr KM Cherian, one of the most distinguished doctors of our country. His contribution to cardiology will always be monumental, not only saving many lives but also mentoring doctors of the future," a post on the official PMO X handle said. "His emphasis on technology and innovation always stood out. My thoughts are with his family and friends in this hour of grief. PM @narendramodi," it added.

Manish Sisodia to return as Deputy chief minister if AAP wins: Kejriwal NEW DELHI: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday announced Manish Sisodia will assume the role of Deputy chief minister again if the party wins the February 5 assembly polls in Delhi. Kejriwal made the announcement during a public meeting in the Jangpura constituency, from where Sisodia is contesting this time. "He will become the Deputy chief minister in the government, and with him, all of you will also become deputy chief ministers," Kejriwal told the gathering, urging voters to elect Sisodia. Sisodia, who served as Kejriwal's deputy during a large part of the outgoing AAP government, was arrested in March 2023 in connection with the Delhi Liquor Excise Policy case. He is MLA from Patparganj, but is fighting this assembly poll from Jangpura. Kejriwal criticised BJP MLAs for allegedly obstructing development in their constituencies during this assembly. "Last time, BJP MLAs won in eight assembly constituencies. They did not let any work happen in their areas. All eight of them made their assembly a living hell. You people should not make such a mistake," he told the gathering.

Fire at 15-storey building in Mumbai's Kurla put out after two hours; no injuries MUMBAI: A fire that broke out in a 15-storey residential building in Mumbai's Kurla East area on Sunday evening was put out after two hours, a fire official said. As soon as the fire started in the Shivaji Nagar SRA building near Swastik Park, all residents were evacuated in time and no one was injured, the official said. The 'level one' fire (less intensity) broke out around 7 pm and was extinguished after about two hours. It was confined to the electrical duct from the ground floor to the 15th floor, the official said. The building was evacuated and nobody was trapped, he said. "Four fire engines, three jumbo tankers and scores of personnel were pressed into service to douse the flames," added the official.

India's military prowess on full display at R-Day parade

PTI, NEW DELHI: India celebrated its 76th Republic Day on Sunday with a grand display of its military might that included elite marching contingents, missiles and indigenous weapon systems, with Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto gracing the occasion as the chief guest.

In a first, a tri-services tableau, depicting the broader spirit of "jointness" among the armed forces, rolled down Kartavya Path, the centrepiece boulevard of the national capital.

It displayed a battlefield scenario, demonstrating a synchronised operation in land, water and air with the indigenous Arjun battle tank, Tejas fighter aircraft and Advanced Light Helicopter.

The theme of the tri-services tableau was "Shashakt aur Surakshit Bharat" (strong and secure India).

The first Army contingent leading the mounted column was 61 Cavalry, led by Lieutenant Ahaan Kumar.

Raised in 1953, 61 Cavalry is the only serving active horsed cavalry regiment in the world. It was followed by nine mechanised columns and nine marching contingents.

Tank T-90 Bhisma, NAG missile systems, the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile, the Pinaka multi-launcher rocket system, the Agni-baan multi-barrel rocket launcher, the Akash weapon system, the integrated battlefield surveillance system and all-terrain vehicle Chetak



Pralay Weapon System on display during the 76th Republic Day parade, at the Kartavya Path in New Delhi, on Sunday

were among the key displays by the mechanised columns.

Light specialist vehicle Bajrang, vehicle-mounted infantry mortar system Airawat, quick reaction force vehicles Nandighosh and Tripurantak and the short-span bridging system were also on display.

The Army's marching contingents included the Brigade of the Guards, the Jat Regiment, the Garhwal Rifles, the Mahar Regiment, the Jammu and Kashmir Rifles Regiment and the Corps of Signals.

The Indian Navy's contingent consisted of 144 personnel led by Lieutenant Commander Sahil Ahluwalia as the contingent commander and Lt Commander Indresh Choud-

hary, Lt Commander Kajal Anil Bharrani and Lt Devender as platoon commanders.

It was followed by the Naval tableau, depicting a strong "Aatmanirbhar" (self-reliant) Navy, capable of protecting India's maritime interests.

The tableau showcased the newly-commissioned indigenous front-line state-of-the-art combatants, including destroyer INS Surat, frigate INS Nilgiri and submarine INS Vaghsheer, highlighting India's rapid progress in indigenous warship design and construction.

The tableau showcased the Indian Navy's commitment to build a robust and self-sufficient

defence ecosystem.

The Indian Air Force's (IAF) contingent comprised four officers and 144 personnel, led by Squadron Leader Mahender Singh Garati. It was followed by a fly-past by three MiG-29 aircraft in "Bazaz formation".

In its tableau, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) displayed many home-grown critical systems and technologies developed by it.

The DRDO tableau, with the theme "Raksha Kavach" Multi-layer Protection against Multi-domain Threats" featured the quick reaction surface-to-air missile, the airborne early warning and control system, the 155 mm/52-calibre advanced towed artillery gun system and the drone detect, deter and destroy system.

It also showcased the satellite-based surveillance system, medium power radar Arudhra, advanced lightweight torpedo, electronic warfare system Dharashakti, the laser-based directed energy weapon, the very short range air defence system and the unmanned aerial system.

It was for the first time that the indigenously-developed Pralay missile system was showcased.

A 352-member marching and band contingent from Indonesia also participated in the Republic-Day parade. This was the first time that an Indonesian marching and band contingent participated in a national-day parade abroad.

Threat to India's democratic, pluralistic traditions: Cong

PTI, MHOW (MP): The country's democratic and pluralistic traditions face a 'triple threat', the Congress said on Sunday and accused Prime Minister Modi of flouting the values anchoring the Preamble to the Constitution.

The Congress will hold its 'Jai Babu, Jai Bhim, Jai Samvidhan' rally in this Madhya Pradesh town, the birthplace of BR Ambedkar, on Monday as it aims to boost its social justice narrative and corner the BJP over alleged insult of the Constitution's chief architect.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, former party chief Rahul Gandhi, general secretaries Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Jairam Ramesh and KC Venugopal, among other senior leaders, are set to attend the rally.

Rahul Gandhi, who has been unwell for the past few days and could not participate in the 'Jai Babu, Jai Bhim, Jai Samvidhan' rally in Karnataka's Belagavi last week as well as in campaigning for the Delhi Assembly polls, along with Kharge, will address the rally that marks the end of the first phase of the party's 13-month campaign to take the issues of Ambedkar's "insult" and "attack on the Constitution" to every corner of the country.

Portion of Delhi landfill collapses

PTI, NEW DELHI: A small portion of the Bhalswa landfill collapsed near Shradhanand Colony in the outer north district of Delhi on Sunday, police said.

No emergency calls were made to the Delhi Fire Services or Delhi Police regarding any rescue operations and no one received injuries in the incident.

"We got to know that some political leader visited there. We are also checking videos on social media to check if any incident took place. There was no PCR call even. Teams are checking the entire matter," a senior police officer said.

According to locals, they claimed that the incident occurred around 11:30 am when a small part of the landfill slid and fell onto

nearby houses, but no one received any injuries due to the incident.

Meanwhile, some local Congress Party leaders visited the site and interacted with residents living near the landfill.

Meanwhile, an official of the MCD said that incident like collapse has not happened, however some portion of fresh waste during levelling/stabilization slipped to downward from a height of approximately 24 feet.

Trapping of someone or casualty has not occurred as this was within the boundary of the dumpsite, it said, adding that the slipped portion has now been levelled by excavator and other officials are also on the site.

Doctors' body flags swift action on Saif's insurance claim

Claim approved within hours of submission, sparks accusations of preferential treatment for celebrities

AGENCY, NEW DELHI: The Association of Medical Consultants (AMC), representing over 14,000 medical professionals, has raised concerns over the swift sanctioning of a Rs 25 lakh cashless treatment claim for Bollywood actor Saif Ali Khan following his hospitalisation at Lilavati Hospital in Bandra.

The claim, which was approved within hours of submission, has sparked accusations of preferential treatment for celebrities, prompting the AMC to call for an investigation by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).

AMC expressed its disapproval in a letter to the IRDAI, criticising the speed at which the claim was processed. The association pointed out that such prompt approvals are rare for ordinary policyholders and suggested that celebrities and high-profile individuals benefit from preferential terms and treatment. This, they argue,

“The Insurance company sanctioned Rs 25 lakh within a few hours to Lilavati Hospital for the treatment of Saif Ali Khan. The normal process is to ask for an FIR copy in medicolegal cases. The insurance company waived this requirement and immediately approved the cashless request — Nikhil Jha, health insurance expert

leads to systemic inequality in the healthcare insurance system.

Health insurance expert Nikhil Jha echoed these concerns on X (formerly Twitter), emphasizing the unequal nature of the claim approval process. Jha highlighted that, in the case of a typical policyholder, the insurer would have required additional documentation - such as an FIR copy in medicolegal cases - before approving the claim. However, the insurance provider waived this requirement in Khan's case and approved Rs 25 lakh for his treatment without delay.

"The Insurance company sanctioned Rs 25 lakh within a few hours to Lilavati Hospital for the treatment of Saif Ali Khan. The normal

ADRENALINE RUSH



Participants during a state level bullock cart race, in Chikmagalur, Karnataka, on Sunday

Telangana CM demands withdrawal of draft UGC regulations

PTI, HYDERABAD: Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Sunday said he would see the draft UGC guidelines as an "attack on Constitution" and demanded that the Centre withdraw them.

Reddy, who said he is speaking to Chief Ministers of other southern states over the issue, vowed to put up a collective fight.

Reddy, who spoke after unveiling a statue of Ambedkar at the BR Ambedkar Open University here, also expressed strong dissatisfaction over the Centre allegedly ignoring the state government's recommendations in selection of Padma awards.

Though Ambedkar, the chief architect of the Constitution, had outlined in Constitution the subjects in state, Central and concurrent lists, the Centre was now trying to take away the existence of universities from the state in the name of amendments, he alleged.

Mumbai: Bridge work disrupts Central Railway services

PTI, MUMBAI: Train services on some Central Railway routes were disrupted on Sunday morning due to an extended mega block for a bridge girder launch here, causing inconvenience to people heading for Republic Day events and long distance travellers.

Commuters had to walk along the tracks on some of the affected routes and the disruption also led to huge crowds at various stations on the Central Railway suburban network, as per eyewitnesses.

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) is re-building the new east-west link Carnac Bridge between the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) and Masjid railway stations in south Mumbai, after the British-era structure was demolished due to its dilapidated condition.

The suburban services, which were supposed to normalise from the CSMT by 5.30 am on Sunday, resumed later at 10.09 am due to the 'block burst', as

per the officials. Earlier in the day, the Central Railway in a post on X said 11 long distance trains that depart from the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus in south Mumbai were rescheduled and nine trains which arrive at CSMT were short-terminated due to the block burst.

There were also reports of a labourer getting injured during the girder launch, an official said.

The six-hour-long mega block conducted for launching the girder of the under-construction Carnac Bridge was initially scheduled to end at 5.30 am, but it got delayed, railway officials said.

This caused inconvenience to passengers travelling by the local as well as long distance trains.

Many government employees, teachers and students could not reach for the Republic Day functions on time due to disruption of the local trains services on the Central Railway network, officials said.