



# The Young Chronicle<sup>®</sup>

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## Why is Republic Day Celebrated?

Written By Aradhana Tiwari



A republic is a nation that is self-ruled. Getting independence doesn't mean self-rule, in the truest sense of the word. India could only self-rule in the most efficient way, when the Constitution of India came into effect. The Constitution of India is a thick book that contains all the

laws, the rights and duties of the people, the role of the courts, the police, the military, the state and the central government. It is a very detailed document that covers the role of the Prime Minister, the President, the Governors of states, the Chief Ministers, the parliament etc. This detailed document became came into effect on 26th January 1950. The Constitution was approved by constituent assembly of India. Dr B.R Ambedkar is known as father of constitution.

It is because of this important document coming into effect on this day, that this day is celebrated every year. The republic day is celebrated at Rajpath in New Delhi. National flag is hoisted by president at Rajpath, while governors hoist it in their respective state capitals. States show their cultural arts on Rajpath. Military parades and activities are a very important part of the celebration. On this day, we also pay tribute to our freedom fighters and soldiers who laid down their lives for our safety. Awards such as Paramvir chakra, Ashok Chakra and Vir chakra are awarded to brave soldiers. Brave chil-

Scan this QR Code to Watch a Glimpse of the Republic Day Parade.



dren are awarded with the National Bravery Awards, and are honored and appreciated on this day.

## Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar

This year, the bravery awards were clubbed with other awards for children, under the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar. Children were given awards for Innovation, Scholastic, Sports, Art, Culture, Social Service, Bravery among other categories.



Image Source: India Today

These awards were given on children's day, earlier. This year, the awards were clubbed with the bravery awards, and given on 22nd Jan.

900 applications were received for the awards. 26 children were selected from among them. They were selected by a team of experts. This team was chaired by Women and Child development Minister, Meneka Gandhi.

Here are some of the awardees.

Eiha Dixit, a 6 year old, was the youngest among the all award recipients. She planted 500 saplings alone. Kartik Goyal and Adrika Goyal of Madhya Pradesh, won the bravery award for showing courage and providing food, water, medicine and first aid to the passengers of a train that had been raided by rioters in UP. They gathered courage and distributed the same, as they felt the pain of those stuck in the situation.

Esow, from Andaman and Nicobar Islands, won the award for excellence in sport.

Arunima Sen, a student of Class XII, in Bangalore, bagged the award for her contribution in the field of innovation and science.

Children, you have a year to take inspiration, do something great, and then apply for the awards. It is time to start NOW.

## Kumbh Mela

Written By: Nandini Kadyan



picture credit- thedispatch.in

Children, you must have attended a number of fairs like Diwali fest and Christmas carnival. Do you know the largest fair in the world? It is called the **Kumbh Mela**.

‘Kumbh’ means pot and ‘Mela’ means fair. It is an important part of India. A religious Hindu festival that is celebrated four times over a period of 12 years. Many Hindus believe that those who bathe in the holy rivers during this period are blessed by God. All their sins are washed away. The story behind this is – one day, gods and demons fought over a pot of nectar (Amrit). Nectar would give them immortality. Few drops of Amrit spilled at 4 places. These 4 places are the present sites of Kumbh Mela.

The site of mela rotates between 4 places –

- Ganga river in Haridwar.
- Kshipra river in Ujjain.
- Godavari river in Nasik.
- The union of Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswati at Prayagraj.

Celebration at these sites is based on the astronomical positions of Sun, Moon, and Jupiter. This is the largest human gathering. Millions of pilgrims, religious teachers and followers come to bathe in the sacred rivers.

This year “Maha Kumbh” is taking place at Prayagraj from 15th Jan till 4th March. Many stampedes have happened in the past due to lack of proper facilities. It has killed thousands of people. This time, U.P. Government has made proper arrangements for the smooth functioning of Kumbh Mela.

**Some of the important steps taken are:**

- Arrangement electricity and drinking water.
- Special trains for Prayagraj.
- Laser light shows and ferry rides.
- 5 pandals have been set up showcasing folk dance, art, and musical performance.
- Tents have been established equipped with all 5-star facilities.
- About 40,000 toilets and temporary hospitals have been built.

Our country is so rich in culture. We should be proud of our motherland. Kumbh Mela adds to our India's culture's richness.

Would you like to visit this grand mela?

Scan this QR Code to find meanings to the underlined words in this issue.



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## Making Seawater Drinkable Also Creates Brine

Written By: Preeti Kapoor



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Earth is also known as the 'blue planet'. Do you know why? It is because the Earth is the only planet in the solar system where there is water. 70% of the Earth's surface is covered with water but only 1% is fit for consumption. Rest is ocean water or salty water. Water, which is the source of life is limited. This has led to the search for new and alternative sources.

Millions of people do not get fresh water. In order to solve this problem, some nations have developed desalination plants. These plants remove salt from seawater. This method is becoming very popular. Many countries in North Africa and the Middle East are using such plants to solve their water problems. There are two such desalination plants in Tamil Nadu, India as well. But this technology has its own drawbacks. Researches show that the by-product of these desalination plants will soon become a big problem for the environment.

### How do these plants work?

The desalination plants take the seawater or brackish water and use different techniques to filter water. Brackish water is a mix of sea water and fresh water. These desalination plants produce water which is fresh. It is fit for drinking or can be used in irrigation. But what is left behind is super saline water or brine. Studies have found out that every one litre of fresh water leaves behind one-and-half litre of brine. This highly salty water is disposed of in the ocean.

### The Problem

This disposal of this brine is creating problems. Most of the desalination plants are near the coast and they throw the brine waste into the ocean. The brine settles down on the ocean bed. As a result, it causes harm to marine life. It might also contain harmful chemicals like copper or chlorine. These substances pose a great danger to the aquatic world. There is a whole world under the sea. It contains fishes, turtle eggs, larvae, and many tiny creatures. So, when that water is taken into desalination plant, all that gets killed. In this way, we will create an imbalance.

### The Solution

Most importantly disposal of this brine should be done properly. This brine can be used in irrigating plants species which are salt-tolerant. It can also be used for "mining" elements like bromine, lithium or uranium.

More studies need to be done on brine discharge. This will help in saving our aquatic friends. We must not forget that we humans have a responsibility towards nature. We must not harm Mother Earth in any way.







