

The week from 20 Jan 2025 to 26 Jan 2025

India celebrated its 76th Republic Day with nationwide public functions. At the Republic Day Parade in Delhi, Indonesian president Prabowo Subianto was Chief Guest. Captain Dimple Singh Bhati became the first woman officer to present a salute to the President, whilst standing on a 12-foot ladder on a motorcycle.

At the Australian Open 2025, at Melbourne, World No. 1, Italian tennis player Jannik Sinner beat Russian Alexander Zverev in the finals (6-3, 7-6, 6-3). In the semi-finals 24-time Grand Slam Champion Novak Djokovic retired hurt against Zverev. In the women's singles, Madison Keys (USA) beat Belarussian Aryna Sabalenka (6-3, 2-6, 7-5).

Donald Trump was sworn in as 47th President of USA in a ceremony at Washington DC. Trump has earlier served as 45th President. With his agenda of 'Make America Great Again' or M.A.G.A., Trump began his term with a series of controversial executive orders dealing with issues like American citizenship rights, illegal immigration, and deportations.

Nigeria became a partner member of BRICS — an acronym for the founding members of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. In total, the 10 BRICS member states make up 40% of the global economy and 55% of the global population. Other members include Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, and United Arab Emirates.

To reduce the number of private cars on the roads, to reduce air pollution, Bangkok has made all public transport in Bangkok free for a week. The city is facing extreme smog, while the government has ordered a ban on burning of stubble (leftover crops). Work-from-home is being encouraged whilst schools have been shut for now.

This week Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Uranus, Neptune, and Saturn are set to shine brighter in the sky. This astronomical alignment is known as a planetary parade. For a few days, all the planets line up on the same side of the Sun forming an expansive arc above Earth. Interestingly, most of these are visible to the naked eye if the night sky is clear.

Cases of Guillain-Barré Syndrome, a rare neurological disorder crossed 100 in and around Pune. This condition in which the immune system attacks the nerves, can be triggered by an acute bacterial or viral infection. Symptoms start as weakness and tingling in the feet and legs that spread to the upper body. Paralysis can occur. Special blood treatments (plasma exchange and immunoglobulin therapy) could relieve symptoms.

Compiled by
Seema Chari and
Kunal Savarkar

xpress minds