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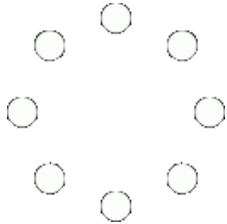
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Obama 'breaks' American and Indian traditions for Republic Day

PTI | Updated: Jan 26, 2015, 16:51 IST

01:22



NEW DELHI: US President Barack Obama on Monday broke secret service's sacred security protocol by remaining in the open for more than two hours when he graced the [Republic Day celebrations](#) in Delhi as the chief guest. He also departed from the tradition of not accompanying President of India and preferred to be driven to the venue in his own multi-layered bulletproof car 'The Beast'.

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Obama spent over two hours in the open as the chief guest of India's 66th Republic Day celebrations.

The security guidelines of secret service, the exclusive agency responsible for an American President's security, mandate that he does not spend more than 45 minutes at any open-air venue.



PM Narendra Modi, US President Barack Obama, President Pranab Mukherjee and Vice-President Hamid Ansari watch Republic Day parade. (Photo—PIB/Twitter)

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According to American media reports, the US President has never been on an outdoor event for more than 40 minutes.

He also reached the parade venue in his own car. The move is seen as a departure from tradition, as it's customary for chief guests at the event to arrive and depart with the Indian President in his car from Rashtrapati Bhavan.

President Pranab Mukherjee arrived separately at the venue shortly after.



The motorcade carrying US President Barack Obama makes its way down Rajpath Avenue moments before he arrives to attend Republic Day parade in New Delhi on January 26, 2015. (TOI photo by Piyal Bhattacharjee)

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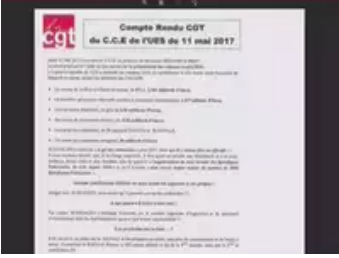
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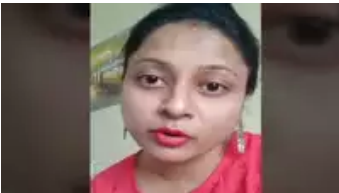
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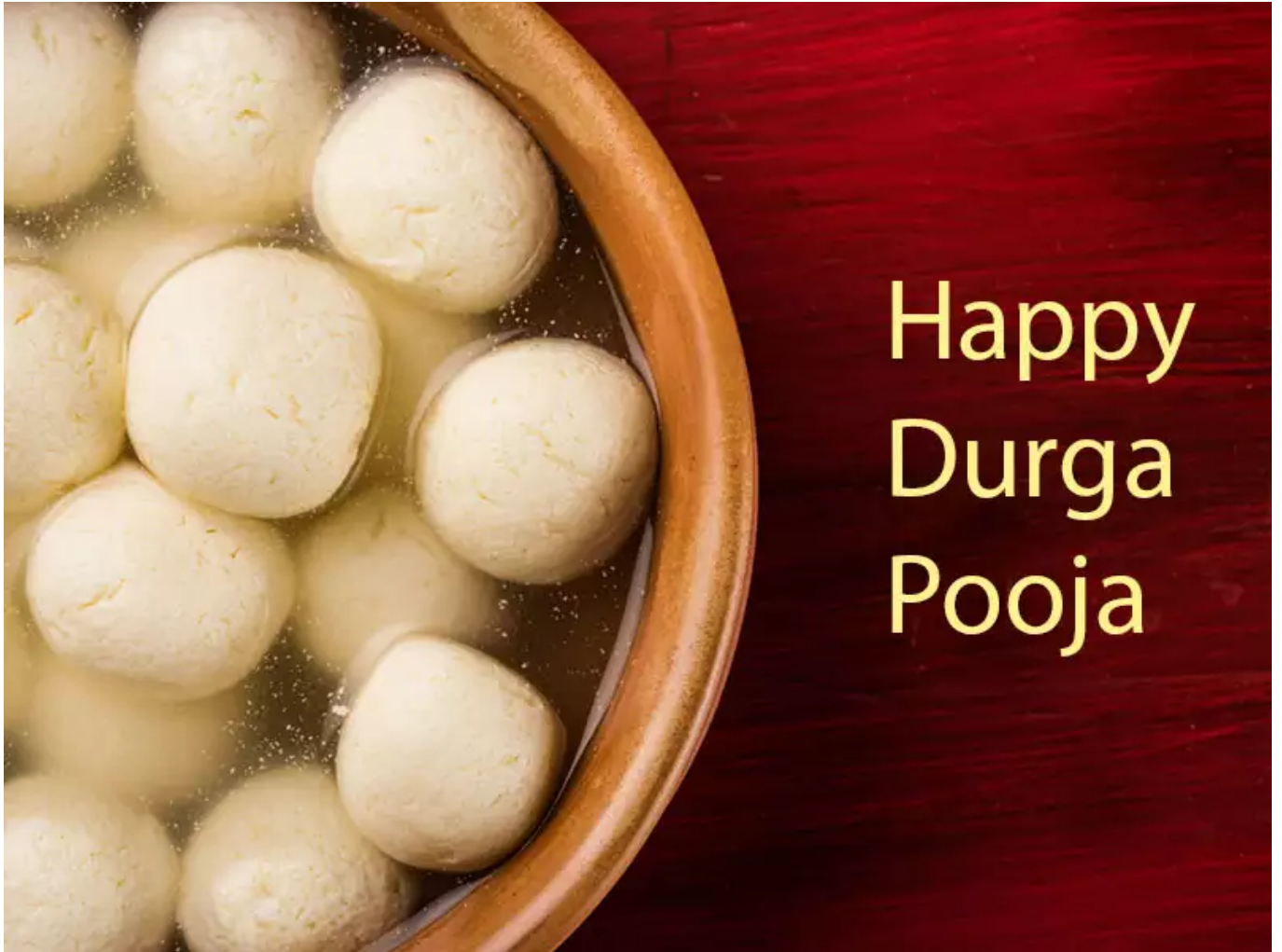


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Several firsts on Republic Day

PTI | Jan 26, 2015, 04.25 PM IST



Prime Minister Modi, US President Barack Obama, US first lady

Michelle Obama and President Pranab Mukherjee at... [Read More](#)

NEW DELHI: The 66th [Republic Day](#) celebrations on Monday were marked by many firsts.

- 1) It witnessed the first ever march by an all-women contingent drawn from the army, navy and air force.
- 2) A US President was the Chief Guest at the Republic Day parade for the first time.
- 3) The recently acquired long-range maritime surveillance and anti-submarine aircraft P-8I and the advanced air fighter MiG-29 K made their maiden appearance.
- 4) President Pranab Mukherjee and [Obama](#) arrived in different motorcades, a departure from the standard practice of arriving together.
- 5) CRPF's anti-naxal special forces Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA) marched on the Rajpath for the first time.

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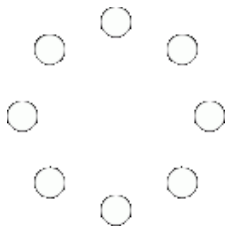
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