

### Slew of activities to mark R-Day

**Ahmedabad:** Govt and civil society organisations will mark the 76th Republic Day on Sunday with a number of activities in the city and state. The majority of the state organisations will hold flag-hoisting events on Sunday morning.

Schools and colleges have organised rangoli competitions, face-painting, patriotic song, and drawing competitions among other activities. In some organisations, the events will take



place on Monday. Ahmedabad Police will host the event in Shahibaug

"We invite an achiever, a role model, or a senior citizen for flag-hoisting on Aug 15 and Jan 26 annually to motivate the young members of society and also organise gatherings of society members. This year, we will also organise a music event and activities for children on the theme of the importance of the Constitution and patriotism in India," said the secretary of a Bopal-based housing society. TNN

# Coldplay live! Fans dive into Adventure of a Lifetime

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**A**Sky Full of Stars descended upon Ahmedabad as Coldplay worked its Magic for fans at the Motera stadium in Ahmedabad on Saturday evening. The British pop-rock band made their much-anticipated debut in the Gujarati heartland, drawing fans from every corner of the country for a night they would remember Viva La Vida-style.

The energy and enthusiasm was electric as fans from the city and across India brought their dazzling sparkle. People of all ages turned up in style. While many rocked Coldplay-themed T-shirts and jackets, others landed in full-on party mode wearing sequins, off-shoulder tops and even sky-high stilettos paired with denim jeans or shorts.

As the band hit the stage at 8pm to create a Paradise with their electrifying tunes, the stadium transformed into a Kaleidoscope of lights, colours and pure euphoria. The roads leading to the venue were All Yellow, metaphorically speaking.

The city's metro services ran extra trips, while over 3,800 policemen ensured the evening remained all about the Adventure of a Lifetime for fans without a hitch.

Rohan Bhatt, a food entrepreneur from the city, said, "I have never seen a stadium concert so huge ever! I am ab-



Pics: Yogesh Chawda



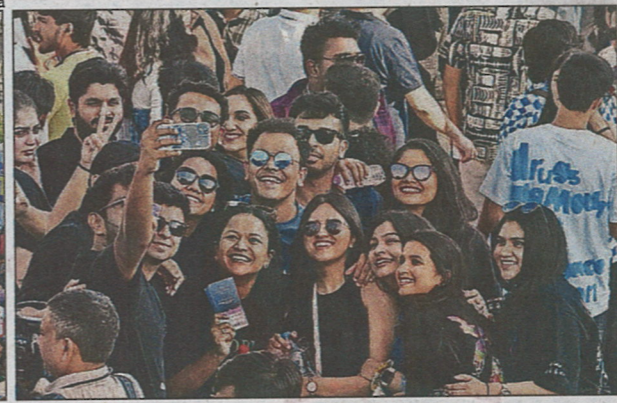
AJAJE TAME BADHA BAHU SUNDAR LAGO CHHO!

solutely thrilled to be here, and the vibe is amazing. A few friends of mine arrived from Bengaluru especially for this performance, and we expect magic when the show begins."

The air was charged with excitement as Ahmedabad prepared to host what is probably its most historic concert to date. "My friends and I took the Metro. There's was a lot of rush, but it is an experience I will cherish. We faced hassles getting a place, but we really lo-

### Rush hour at Metro stations

**A**total of 18 metro trains were operational for people heading to Motera. Six more metro trains were kept on standby to meet the rush. Unaware of the app which offered online booking facility for Ahmedabad Metro, many visitors were seen in long queues at ticket counters around 3pm. Paper tickets were made available especially for the concert. Several metro stations were issuing return tickets as well so that fans exiting the venue need not line up at the ticketing booth. But thanks to the unprecedented rush, some of the stations ran out of ticketing paper rolls. Police were deployed to ensure people queued up and did not overcrowd the trains. TNN



**CHRIS MARTIN ENJOYS A TWO-WHEELER RIDE:** Coldplay lead singer, Chris Martin, enjoyed a two-wheeler ride in Ahmedabad soon after he landed in the city. The musician-singer posted a short video on his social media handle announcing his arrival in Ahmedabad with this picture. TNN

**AIRTIGHT SECURITY:** Gujarat Police rolled out rigorous security measures for the concerts on Jan 25 and 26. Over 3,800 policemen, supported by an NSG contingent, are on duty. Over 400 CCTV cameras cover the venue, while metal detector-equipped teams ensure thorough checks. Bomb detection squads and quick response teams are on standby, with 10 dedicated teams carrying out proactive sweeps. TNN

**“**This is my first Coldplay experience. All decked up, my friends and I reached the venue by 5pm. We look forward to the beautiful performance and the chance to sing along with the band



**Sagar Shah** | CO-FOUNDER, EVENTS DESIGN FIRM

**“**I came especially to enjoy the performance of a band

I cherish. The vibe at the stadium is beautiful indeed, and the energy is high

**Deep Murzello** | ADVOCATE, MUMBAI

**“**This is my first-ever concert, and what a sonic boom of energy!

The crowd's vibe is electric. I couldn't have dreamt of a better experience. Still soaring at the Speed of Sound!

**Vatsala Rao** | NURSE

