

High Commission of India

Nairobi

PRESS RELEASE

High Commission of India Celebrates the 80th Independence Day in Nairobi

The High Commission of India in Nairobi celebrated the 80th Independence Day of India with great patriotic fervour on 15 August 2026. More than **1,200 members** of the Indian diaspora and Friends of India attended the flag-hoisting ceremony held at India House.

2. High Commissioner Dr. Adarsh Swaika unfurled the National Flag, followed by the singing of the National Anthem. He thereafter read excerpts from the address of the Hon'ble President of India to the nation on the eve of Independence Day.

3. In her address, the Hon'ble President noted that India was moving forward towards the goal of building a *Viksit Bharat* by the centenary of Independence in 2047. Guided by the spirit of *Antyodaya*, she underlined India's resolve to ensure that the benefits of development reach every individual. She highlighted India's rapid and inclusive development, expansion of modern infrastructure, digital transformation, growing economic strength, women-led development and the increasing role of India as a voice of the Global South.

4. In his remarks, High Commissioner highlighted India's remarkable progress since Independence and called upon the diaspora to contribute meaningfully towards the national goal of *Viksit Bharat@2047*. Referring to the address delivered by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi from the ramparts of the Red Fort earlier that day, he drew attention to the vision of **"Shakti Ki Saptadhara"**—seven streams of national strength intended to propel India towards self-reliance and developed-nation status. The seven streams are:

- i. Manufacturing Power
- ii. Agriculture, Food Production and Food Processing
- iii. Technology and Innovation
- iv. Gati Shakti, with emphasis on seamless and modern connectivity and infrastructure
- v. Raksha Shakti, encompassing defence preparedness and national security
- vi. Green Economy and Blue Economy
- vii. India's Soft Power, including Yoga, Ayurveda, culture, tourism, cinema, creative industries and digital content.

5. Speaking about India-Kenya relations, High Commissioner described Kenya as one of India's foremost partners in Africa. He highlighted the growing

momentum in bilateral relations through high-level visits, institutional engagements, trade and investment, development cooperation and greater cultural appreciation.

6. The flag-hoisting ceremony in Nairobi also formed part of the **Surya Path Tiranga**, a global digital relay organised under the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign. The initiative traced the journey of the Tiranga across different time zones, with Indian Missions around the world joining the relay in sequence as the sun moved from east to west.

7. A special focus of the celebrations was the commemoration of the **150th anniversary of Vande Mataram**, the National Song of India. A group of community artists presented a soulful rendition of *Vande Mataram*, followed by mass singing by those present. A special exhibition on *Vande Mataram* was prominently displayed at the venue, highlighting its history, legacy and enduring role in India's freedom movement and national consciousness.

8. The celebrations also showcased India's rich cultural diversity through a series of performances by members of the Indian diaspora in Kenya. These included a band performance by Kalakshetra Kenya, a patriotic fusion dance by the Nairobi Women's Group, a Bastar folk dance by Dhoom Macha Le Group, a patriotic dance by Rangeela Group, Bharatanatyam by Anushiva Group, and patriotic musical performances by the Shree Kutch Satsang Swaminarayan Temple Band.

9. High Commissioner felicitated the winners of four competitions organised to deepen knowledge of India and encourage creative engagement with its heritage, development journey and future aspirations. These were the **Bharat Ko Janiye Quiz**, the **"My India Story Competition"**, the **India Through My Lens Photography Competition**, and the **Viksit Bharat@2047 Painting Competition**. The winning entries were displayed at the venue, showcasing the participants' creativity, experiences, perspectives and connection with India.

10. The celebrations concluded with refreshments, including a wide variety of Indian delicacies served through live food counters. The enthusiastic participation of the Indian diaspora and Friends of India reflected the strong community bonds in Kenya and the enduring friendship between the peoples of India and Kenya.

11. As part of the Independence Day commemorations, High Commissioner laid a wreath at the Nairobi South Cemetery and paid solemn tribute to the Indian soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice during the First World War.

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15 August 2026