

**High Commission of India
Nairobi**

Press Release

**India and Kenya Honour World War I Heroes with Joint Commemorative
Pillar at Mile 27, Taita Taveta County**

In a tribute to the brave Indian and African soldiers who sacrificed their lives in the East African Campaign of the First World War, the Joint India-Africa Commemorative Pillar was unveiled today at Mile 27, a site of historic military significance in Taita Taveta County, Kenya.

2. The unveiling ceremony was jointly led by Hon. Minister of State for Defence of the Republic of India, Shri Sanjay Seth, and Hon. Cabinet Secretary for Defence of the Republic of Kenya, Ms. Roselinda Soipan Tuya. The event brought together senior officials from the Kenya Defence Forces, Taita Taveta County government, and the Indian Ministry of Defence, along with other dignitaries and members of the public.

3. This memorial initiative was led by High Commission of India in Kenya and was realised through funding support from the Ministry of Defence of Government of India. The project received vital support from the Kenya Defence Forces, local authorities, and the Taita Hills Hotel team, whose contributions were key to bringing the vision to life.

4. During the First World War (1914-18), nearly 50,000 Indian Troops passed through East Africa in which more than 2,972 were killed, 2003 wounded and 43 missing/ taken prisoners of war, totalling 5018 casualties of the ranks. Nestled near the landmark Mile 27 milestone, the commemorative pillar is a timeless symbol of honour and remembrance, acknowledging the courage and sacrifices of countless unknown soldiers whose stories remain etched in the soil of East Africa.

5. The monument stands not only as a marker of the past but also as a beacon of friendship, shared heritage, and enduring solidarity between our two proud nations. It reflects the deep-rooted historical ties and growing defence and strategic cooperation between India and Kenya.

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