

**INDIA**  
INDEPENDENCE  
DAY 15 AUGUST



# Celebrating Independence Day

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lead the nation in celebrating the 74th Independence Day at the majestic Red Fort in New Delhi today. He will unfurl the National Flag and deliver the customary Address to the Nation from the ramparts of the iconic monument. On his arrival at 0718 hours in front of Lahore Gate of Red Fort, Narendra Modi will be received by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar. The Guard of Honour contingent for the Prime Minister will consist of one officer and 24 men each from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Delhi Police. The Guard of Honour will be positioned directly in front of the National Flag across the moat below the ramparts. This year, Army being the coordinating Service, the Guard of Honour will be commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Gaurav S Yewalkar. Army Contingent in the Prime Minister's Guard will be commanded by Major Palvinder Grewal, the Navy contingent by Lieutenant Commander K V R Reddy, while Squadron Leader Vikas Kumar will lead the Air Force contingent and the Delhi Police contingent by Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police Shri Jitender Meena.

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Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi

he will unfurl the National Flag. On unfurling the National Flag, the National Guard will give 'Rashtriya Salute' to the National Flag. The Army Grenadiers Regimental Centre Military Band will play the National Anthem during unfurling of the National Flag and the 'Rashtriya Salute'.

Major Shweta Pandey will assist the Prime Minister in unfurling the National Flag. The unfurling of the tri-colour will synchronise with the 21 Gun Salute fired by the valiant gunners of the elite 2233 Field Battery (Ceremonial).

After unfurling the National Flag, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the nation. After the speech of the Prime Minister is over, the National Cadet Corps cadets will sing the National Anthem. On this festival of national fervour, 500 NCC cadets (Army, Navy and Air Force) from different schools will be taking part.

Independence Day is celebrated annually on 15 August as a national holiday in India commemorating the nation's independence from the United Kingdom on 15 August 1947, the day when the provisions of the Indian Independence Act 1947, which transferred legislative sovereignty to the Indian Constituent Assembly, came into effect.

## CELEBRATION IN BAHRAIN

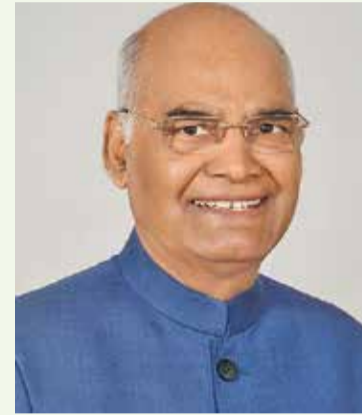
On the occasion of the 74th Independence Day of India a flag hoisting ceremony will be organised in the embassy complex today at 7.30am, followed by reading of the message of President of India by the Ambassador Piyush Srivastava. Due to social distancing norms and restrictions on large gatherings amid Covid-19, physical participation of the members of the Indian community and friends of India in the Kingdom of Bahrain in the flag hoisting ceremony would not be possible this year, the embassy stated. The embassy would be telecasting live the flag hoisting programme on its Twitter, Facebook and YouTube accounts.

## All Corona Warriors deserve high praise

On the eve of the 74th Independence Day, Indian President Ram Nath Kovind addressed the nation last evening. In his speech, President Kovind mentioned the steps taken by the government to tackle the coronavirus pandemic that has wreaked havoc around the world. "This year's Independence Day celebrations will be restrained as deadly virus has disrupted all activities, and taken huge toll," he said, and added, "It was a superhuman effort on part of the govt to respond effectively in meeting the challenges due to COVID pandemic." Here's the excerpt of the speech.

"The ethos of our freedom struggle forms the foundation of modern India. Our visionary leaders brought together a diversity of world views to forge a common national spirit. We are fortunate that Mahatma Gandhi became the guiding light of our freedom movement. As such a saint as a political leader, he was a phenomenon that could have happened only in India.

The celebrations of Independence Day this year will be rather restrained. The reason is obvious. The whole world confronts a deadly virus which has disrupted all activi-



Indian President Ram Nath Kovind

ties and taken a huge toll. The nation is indebted to doctors, nurses and other health workers who have been continuously on the forefront of our fight against this virus. Unfortunately, many of them have lost their lives battling the pandemic. They are our national heroes. All Corona Warriors deserve high praise. Committed to taking care of our people stranded anywhere in the world, the Government has brought back more than 10 lakh Indians under the 'Vande Bharat Mission'.

Confident of our strengths, we reached out to help other countries in their fight against COVID-19. In responding to calls from countries for supply of medicines, India has once again shown that it stands by the global community in times of distress. We have been at the forefront in evolving regional and global strategies for an effective response to the pandemic. The overwhelming support India got

at the elections for the non-permanent seat of the United Nations Security Council is a testimony to the goodwill we enjoy internationally.

We have learnt some tough lessons in the year 2020. The invisible virus has demolished the illusion that human being is the master of nature. I believe, it is still not too late for humanity to correct its course and live in harmony with nature. The pandemic, like climate change, has awakened the global community to our shared destiny. In my view, 'human-centric collaboration' is more important than 'economy-centric inclusion', in the present context. The greater this change, the better it will be for the humanity. The twenty-first century should be remembered as the century when humanity put aside differences and collaborated to save the planet.

With a view to providing futuristic education to our children and youth, the Central Government has decided to implement the National Education Policy. I am confident that with the implementation of this policy, a new quality education system will be developed and this will transform the future challenges into opportunities, paving the way for a New India. Our youth will be able to freely choose their subjects according to their interests and talents. They would have an opportunity to realise their potential. Our future generations will not only be able to get employment on the strength of such abilities but will also create employment opportunities for others.

The patience and wisdom being demonstrated by all of you in coping with the pandemic has been appreciated all over the world. I am confident that you will continue to maintain caution and act responsibly. We have a lot to offer to the global community, especially for intellectual and spiritual enrichment and promotion of world-peace. With this spirit, I offer a prayer for the well-being of one and all. Thank you.

