

**High Commission Of India
Pretoria**

PRESS RELEASE

80th Independence Day of India National Day Reception

The High Commission of India, Pretoria hosted a National Day Reception on 17 August 2026 at the Chancery to commemorate the 80th Independence Day of India. The event was attended by the Hon'ble Chief Guest, Dr. Jack Bloom, Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation, South Africa, Ms. Leanne de Jager, Member of the Gauteng Provincial Legislature, members of the South African Government, diplomatic corps, Indian diaspora, friends of India and members of the media.

2. The reception commenced with the arrival of the Chief Guest, who was received by the High Commissioner of India H.E. Shri Prabhat Kumar. The national anthems of South Africa and India were played by the South African Air Force (SAAF) Band.

3. In his remarks, High Commissioner H.E. Shri Prabhat Kumar extended warm greetings on the occasion of India's 80th Independence Day and highlighted the deep-rooted bonds of friendship between India and South Africa. He underlined the shared historical experiences and enduring people-to-people ties between the two countries, as well as the expanding cooperation across political, economic, developmental, cultural and other spheres.

4. The High Commissioner also highlighted the importance of India-South Africa partnership in advancing shared priorities and strengthening cooperation between the two countries. He reiterated India's commitment to further deepening the close and mutually beneficial partnership with South Africa.

5. Hon'ble Chief Guest, Dr. Jack Bloom, Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation, South Africa, in his remarks, conveyed warm greetings to the people of India on the occasion of the 80th Independence Day and reaffirmed the strong bonds of friendship and cooperation between India and South Africa.

6. The Reception also featured a vibrant cultural programme showcasing India's rich classical dance traditions. Kathak was presented by Ms. Shika Haripaul from Darpan Dance Studio, followed by a Bharatanatyam performance by Tarang Dance Company.

7. The Reception concluded on a warm and celebratory note, bringing together friends and well-wishers of India to commemorate the 80th Independence Day and celebrate the rich heritage, achievements and enduring spirit of the nation.

**Pretoria
17 August 2026**