

PRESS RELEASE

Celebrations of the 73rd Republic Day of India

The High Commission of India, Abuja celebrated 73rd Republic Day of India on 26 January 2022 at the Chancery premises in presence in the of members of Indian community, Nigerian dignitaries, and friends from Media. In addition to Abuja, celebration were also held at Lagos, Kano, Port Harcourt and across Benin and Chad by Indian nationals and local friends.

- 2. Ambassador Yahaya Danjuma Faruk (Director, Region) represented Nigerian Foreign Minister H.E. Mr. Geoffrey Onyeama, Dr. Ezra Yakusak, Executive Director, Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC) was represented by Mr. Peter Njoku, Assistant Director, NEPC Representatives of Indian industries, Nigerian Ministry of Industry, Trade & Investment, Nigerian Chambers of Commerce and Nigerian company representatives also attended the celebrations. All COVID-19 related Protocols had been observed during the celebration.
- 3. Celebrations started by unfurling of the National Flag by Acting High Commissioner, H.E. Mr. V.S.D.L Surendra, followed by singing of the National Anthem. Acting High Commissioner addressed the gathering and read excerpts from the address of the President of India H.E Mr. Ram Nath Kovind to the Nation. Acting High Commissioner highlighted the importance of the 73rd Republic Day celebrations under the banner of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM).
- 4. A special AKAM Publication, showcasing the glorious history of India's people, culture and achievements was unveiled by the Acting High Commissioner and the President, Indian Cultural Association, Abuja. Cultural performances included Kathak Dance by Dr. Meenakshi Nailwal Joshi, Dance and Patriotic songs by Indian Cultural Association, Abuja, Indian Community members and Nigerian artists. A Yoga session led by Ms. Bhawna and Ms. Oluwabukunmi was also organized as the part of the celebrations. Presence of the Indian industries

in Nigeria was also exhibited by over ten industries by placing their stalls in the Chancery premises. Promotion of Indian states and tourism was also done during the celebrations by way of putting stalls of States at the venue of the celebrations. Winners of Rangoli competitions held on 14 January 2022 during the Makarsankranti celebrations, an AKAM event, were also awarded during the celebrations.

Abuja 26 Jan 2022