



Press Release

Celebration of 75th Independence Day

The 75th Independence Day of India was celebrated with great patriotic fervour and gaiety at the Consulate General of India in Johannesburg on 15 August 2021. After the flag hoisting ceremony and rendering of the national anthem, Consul General H.E. Mrs. Anju Ranjan read out the speech of the Hon'ble Rashtrapati on this occasion. This was followed by a short cultural performance by Consulate ladies and community children.

Despite Covid-19 restrictions, prominent community members attended the function. The event was also live-streamed. Friends from the media were present to cover the event.

The flag hoisting was preceded by a walk from the Constitution Hill to the Consulate by members of Mahatma Gandhi Remembrance Organisation. The walkers were welcomed with garlands and tilak upon their arrival at the Consulate. The walk was earlier planned from Tolstoy Farm to the Consulate with 75 people to commemorate 75th Independence Day. However, due to Covid-19 restrictions, the walk was curtailed to a symbolic one from Constitution Hill to the Consulate premises.

A seminar titled "The Contribution of Indian Diaspora in the Making of South Africa" was also organized by the Consulate in the evening of 15 August at the Country Club. The keynote speaker was H.E. Mr. Jaideep Sarkar, High Commissioner of India to South Africa. Other speakers included Prof ImraanCoovadia, Department of English Literary Studies, University of Cape Town; Prof DhiruSoni, Regent Business School, Durban; Dr. Ila Gandhi, grand daughter of Mahatma Gandhi & Founder of Gandhi Development Trust; Dr. Shanil Haricharan, Mandela School of Public Governance, University of Cape Town; Mr. Fakir Hassen, veteran South African Journalist. The concluding remarks were made H.E. Mrs. Anju Ranjan, Consul General of India in Johannesburg.

The seminar was followed by short cultural performances by children of the Consulate as well as Indian diaspora members & South African artists. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the number of guests was limited. The event was live-streamed on Facebook page of the Consulate.

The Consulate has also announced various competitions and activities to commemorate the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav - these include Quiz competition; vlogging competition; debate competition; Seminar on Celebrating Womanhood in Rainbow Nation; tree plantation drive; film festival and a panel discussion with Wits University throughout the month of August.

16 August 2021
Johannesburg

[For photos click here](#)