



PRESS RELEASE

National Day of India to be Celebrated at World Expo 2025 in Osaka, Kansai on 15 August

India will mark its National Day at the World Expo 2025 in Osaka, Kansai on 15 August 2025, coinciding with the country's Independence Day. On this day in 1947, India became a free nation, gaining independence through the path of peace and non-violence. This year marks the 79th Independence Day of India. Each year, the day is commemorated with the ceremonial hoisting of the national flag – the *Tiranga* (Tricolour) – at the historic Red Fort in New Delhi.

The Indian delegation to the National Day celebrations will be led by Mr. Pradeep Kharola, Commissioner General of the India Pavilion – Bharat, with remarks at the official ceremony by H.E. Sibi George, Ambassador of India to Japan.

A highlight of the day will be the National Day Parade, starting at 3:00 PM near the India Pavilion – Bharat. This vibrant procession will feature a diverse array of cultural troupes, including Bhangra, Rajasthani Folk Dance, Koli Dance, and an Indian wedding procession, showcasing the country's rich traditions and festive spirit.

Cultural Performances during the National Day Ceremony will include:

- **Kathak:** One of the eight major forms of Indian classical dance, Kathak traces its origins to the travelling bards (*Kathakars*) of ancient northern

India. Combining rhythmic footwork, graceful spins, and expressive storytelling, Kathak brings to life episodes from epics such as the *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata*, set to the intricate beats of Hindustani classical music.

- **Rajasthani Folk Dance:** A colourful blend of traditional forms such as Chari, Thaali, Ghoomar, and Kalbelia, Rajasthani folk dances reflect the vibrant culture of the desert state. These performances feature dynamic twirls, elaborate costumes, and joyous music, offering a glimpse into the celebratory spirit of Rajasthan.
- **Bhangra:** Originating in the state of Punjab, Bhangra is a high-energy folk dance characterized by powerful movements, leaps, and the rhythmic beats of the dhol. Traditionally associated with harvest festivals, Bhangra has grown into a symbol of joy and vitality, captivating audiences worldwide.

The National Day celebrations will serve as a showcase of India's cultural diversity, artistic excellence, and enduring spirit of unity in diversity. For further information, entry passes, or any assistance, please contact us at com1.osakakobe@mea.gov.in.
