

Independence Day Celebrations 2026 to honour '150 Years of Vande Mataram' & 'Yuva Shakti for Viksit Bharat@2047'

**In a first, 'Vande Mataram' to be sung from the ramparts of
the historic Red Fort**

Prime Minister to hoist the National Flag & address the Nation

**Approx. 5,000 Special Guests invited to witness the grand
celebrations**

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The Nation will mark its 80th Independence Day on August 15, 2026, with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi leading the celebrations from the historic Red Fort in Delhi. Addressing a press conference in New Delhi on August 10, 2026, Defence Secretary Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh stated that as 2026 marks 150 years of 'Vande Mataram', the National Song that inspired millions during the freedom struggle will be sung from the ramparts of the Red Fort for the first time as a tribute to its enduring legacy.



'Vande Mataram' will be sung upon the Prime Minister's arrival at Red Fort. Thereafter, he will hoist the National Flag and deliver the customary address to the Nation. The celebrations this year will also commemorate Yuva Shakti, acknowledging the contribution of young India in building a Viksit Bharat by 2047, the Defence Secretary added.

150 years of Vande Mataram

The floral decoration will showcase 'Vande Mataram', with a total of 2,500 boy & girl cadets of NCC and My Bharat volunteers forming 'वंदे मातरम्' on Gyanpath opposite the Rampart. A Mi-17 helicopter of the Indian Air Force will carry a banner commemorating 150 years of 'Vande Mataram', and shower flower petals over the people gathered at Red Fort.

Military Band Performances

Paying tribute to the anthem that united and inspired generations during the freedom struggle, a number of band performances are being held pan-India from August 08, 2026. The performances by the bands of Army, Navy, Air Force, Indian Coast Guard, NCC, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), Border Security Force (BSF), Integrated Defence Staff (IDS), Railway Protection Force (RPF) and Assam Rifles at 343 prominent locations will continue till August 15, 2026. Entry to these band performance venues is open to the public to promote patriotic fervour among citizens.

Yuva Shakti: Leading the journey to Viksit Bharat @2047

The Independence Day Celebrations 2026 will acknowledge the success of youth in different spheres. Achievements of 19 medalist students of International Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Mathematical Olympiad 2026 is an example of the success of Yuva Shakti in the field of science. They have been invited for the function and will be seated on the rampart.

View cutters in the backdrop will showcase India's progress in nuclear and space technology, with the floral decoration at the Guard of Honour area depicting India's journey to Viksit Bharat @ 2047.

Special Guests

Approx. 5,000 Special Guests, who are achievers from different walks of life and are guiding the country in its Viksit Bharat journey, have been invited as Special Guests for the celebrations. The categories include:

- Youth innovators under National Innovation Programmes
- Best interns under Prime Minister Internship Scheme
- Best performing startups supported under various schemes
- Best performing Youth trained under PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana
- Best performing startups supported under Startup India Seed Fund
- Best performing MY Bharat Volunteers
- Beneficiaries under NAMASTE, PM AJAY, SEED
- Students of Delhi government schools, selected from various quizzes, competitions

Saluting the contribution of entrepreneurs, innovators and grass root workers towards Viksit Bharat@2047, special guests have been invited from the following categories:

- International Yoga Day Volunteers
- Women Entrepreneurs under PM Mudra Yojana
- Best performing beneficiaries of PMAY(U)
- Innovators/Scientists in different fields
- Sarthi/Cab Driver/Taxi Drivers of Bharat Taxi in Delhi
- PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana beneficiaries
- Artisans under PM Vishwakarma scheme
- Best performing beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PM-SYM) Yojana
- Best performing farmers under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY)

The Special Guests also include the silent warriors, who work hard round-the-clock to assist others in achieving their goals. As Independence Day is a celebration to recognise their contributions as well, special guests from the following categories have been also invited:

- Street vendors under PM SVANidhi
- Urban sanitation workers under Swachh Bharat Mission
- Best performing Delhi Metro workers
- Best performing workers of Kartavya Path/Central Vista workers
- Nursing Orderlies (Ward Attendants) and other staffs of Government Hospitals in Delhi

Over 1,500 Delhi-based people from various States/Union Territories dressed in traditional attire have also been invited to witness the grand ceremony. They will demonstrate a microcosm of India at Red Fort.

Involving Children through Competitions

In the run up to Independence Day, quizzes and competitions were conducted by Ministry of Defence in collaboration with My Gov. These include Essay Competition on ‘Role of AI in building a Viksit Bharat by 2047’; Painting Competition on ‘India 1947 vs India 2047’; and a series of online quiz contests namely Constitution of India – Fundamental rights, duties, key articles and makers, Women in India’s Freedom Movement – From Rani Lakshmibai to Sarojini Naidu and beyond, Major milestones of Modern India : Technological progresses and achievement in Space Technology, and India’s success story in Nuclear Technology. Around 600 winners of the competitions will also be part of the celebrations.

Other Ministries/Departments, Govt of NCT of Delhi and Delhi Police are also organising various online and offline quizzes and activities to engage citizens in the celebration of this national festival.

Public Convenience

- **Provision of cloak room:** Availability of cloak rooms was applauded by visitors during previous Republic Day and Independence Day Celebrations. For the ease of the people, 25 cloak rooms at six locations have been installed for the forthcoming celebrations.
- **Volunteers at helpdesk:** 200 volunteers - 100 from MY Bharat & 100 from NCC - will assist visitors along with the police personnel in reaching the enclosures. The volunteers can be identified on the way to Red Fort.
- **Provision of Wheelchair:** NCC cadets will be present at metro station and parking areas for all the visitors who need assistance of 20 wheelchairs.
- **Metro Services:** Metro will be operational from 4 AM on 15th August for people to reach the venue. Metro Services will be provided free of cost to all invitees. Metro QR codes will be provided with e-invitation.
- **Parking facility at Parade Ground:** Parking facility will be available for visitors with valid parking/labels.
- **Ramp facility for pedestrians:** To facilitate smooth movement of pedestrians from upper Subhash Marg to lower Subhash Marg, robust ramps and stairs have been installed.
- **Use of Google & Mappls Maps:** On the day of the main event, traffic restrictions will be visible on Google & Mappls Maps for the people.
- **Rain Ponchos:** Owing to the unpredictable weather conditions, rain ponchos will be provided to all invitees in Madhav Das Park and August 15 Park in addition to the dignitaries at the rampart.

Invitation Card: Public Service & Commitment to Duty

The Prime Minister, while dedicating ‘Seva Teerth’ to the nation, said that ‘Seva Teerth’ stands as a radiant and powerful symbol of duty, compassion and commitment to the principle of Nation First. It will inspire generations to walk the path of selfless service and tireless dedication to the welfare of all. With this spirit,

the invitation cards for the main event this year showcase ‘Seva Teerth’ to motivate the people to move forward with dedication for the well-being of every citizen. Dharm Chakra on the invitation card symbolises the eternal movement of righteous duty and continuous selfless action.

Swachhta Campaign

With the sense of commitment to duty, this year’s post-event Swachhta Campaign is being organised at Red Fort involving NCC cadets and MY Bharat Volunteers. The objective of the campaign is to ensure systematic plogging and prompt removal of garbage after the dispersal of spectators on the same day and send a message of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. The campaign will ensure that Red Fort is available after the function for visitors coming from all over the country.

Names of Enclosures

To end VIP culture and underscore the importance of water conservation, the seating enclosures were named after rivers in Republic Day 2026. For the Independence Day Celebrations, the names of the seating enclosures have been named after major lakes of India.

Drainage Management

In view of potential rainfall during the Independence Day Ceremony, several measures have been taken to prevent water overflow. Consequently, drainage and sewage systems in and around the Red Fort and nearby premises are being thoroughly cleaned.

VK/SR/Savvy

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इस विज्ञप्ति को इन भाषाओं में पढ़ें: Punjabi , Telugu , Manipuri , Bengali , Odia , Urdu , हिन्दी , Marathi , Tamil , Kannada , Malayalam