



HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA  
MBABANE (Eswatini)



## **Republic Day of India 2023**

### **Press Release**

High Commission of India celebrated 74<sup>th</sup> Republic Day on 26 January 2023. Ms. Susan Joseph, Charge d’Affaires a.i. unfurled the Tricolor in the morning. She addressed the gathering on the occasion and read out the speech of the Hon’ble President of India telecast on the eve of Republic Day followed by singing of patriotic songs by members of the Indian Diaspora. On the occasion, the High Commission promoted the use of millets as a part of the International Year of Millets 2023 by serving a Mabele (Sorghum) based pudding. Members of Diaspora and friends of India participated in the celebrations.

2. On 27 January 2023, the Charge d’Affaires a.i. hosted a Reception at Hotel Sibane Sami, Ezulwini. His Royal Highness Prince Guduza graced the occasion as Representative of His Majesty King Mswati-III. Senator Thuli Dladla, Hon’ble Minister of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation; Mr. Moses Vilakati, Hon’ble Minister of Tourism & Environmental Affairs, Mr. Harries Madze Bulunga, Hon’ble Minister of Sports, Culture & Youth Affairs and senior officials attended the event. Members of the Diplomatic Corps and Diaspora also attended the event in good numbers.

3. The programme included messages of the Hon’ble Prime Minister of India and the Hon’ble Minister of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation on the International Year of Millets 2023. In addition, videos on unveiling of #G20India, activities of the High Commission, Tourism etc. were screened followed by cultural performances by Diaspora members.

4. Charge d’Affaires a.i. handed over visas and air tickets to the Hon’ble Minister of Sports, Culture & Youth Affairs for the 20-member Eswatini cultural and handicrafts team, which is scheduled to travel to India for the Surajkund Mela 2023 to be held from 03-19 February 2023. Since the establishment of High Commission of India in August 2019, Government of India has fully sponsored participation of Eswatini delegations in two Melas (Fairs) held in 2020 and 2022. While a 07-member Eswatini team participated in the 2020 Surajkund Mela, a 15-member Eswatini team participated in 2022. The 2022 Mela attracted participation of 29 countries from across the world and witnessed a footfall of about 800,000 visitors. This year, the Government of India is sponsoring a record number of a 20-member Eswatini team for Surajkund Mela 2023.

5. As part of promotional activities of Millets to celebrate the International Year of Millets 2023, the High Commission specially arranged delicacies like pudding and sweets balls made of locally available Mabele (Sorghum).

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27 Jan 2023