

**Embassy of India**

**Yangon**

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**Ambassador's remarks for National Day 26 January 2023**

- Hon'ble Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs His Excellency, U Kyaw Htut,
- Excellencies,
- Members of the diplomatic corps,
- Our Myanmar friends,
- My fellow Indians,
- Distinguished guests,
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

Namaskar, Mingalabar, Good Evening,

1. At the outset, let me extend a very warm welcome to you all for joining us in celebration of the 74<sup>th</sup> Republic Day of India.
2. It was on this day in 1950 that we the people of India implemented our new Constitution, making India into a democratic federal republic. The values of liberty, equality, and fraternity form the bedrock of our Constitution. These values has continued to inspire the succeeding generations of our people and their elected representatives to strive towards fulfilment of their aspirations towards the country's socio-economic development while contributing towards our ethos of Vasudaiva Kutumbakam, the whole world is one family.
3. As we complete 75 years of our independence, *Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav* as we call it, this year also marks the diamond jubilee of Myanmar's independence and 75 years of diplomatic relations between India and Myanmar. I would like to congratulate all our Myanmar friends from Myanmar on this occasion.

4. While diplomatic relations go back only 75 years, the friendship between the people of India and Myanmar are civilizational; be it religion or mercantile trade, our relations started prior to the beginning of any calendar.
5. Our countries have borne the burden of colonialism together and, post-independence, we have drawn inspiration from each other to strives towards meeting the aspirations of our people for a better life.

Friends,

6. India has been a steadfast and reliable developmental partner of Myanmar by sharing its own development experience. Our development cooperation is based on the principles of equality, mutual respect for sovereignty and freedom of action and choice. Our partnership is demand-driven, not extractive. Our partnership contributes to the local economic as we source the local material and use the local labour. Our partnership empowers the ordinary people and helps in their capacity building, thereby enabling them to afford a better and more prosperous life.
7. We provide numerous training programmes and scholarships for hundreds of our Myanmar friends every year, in diverse set of areas ranging from Information Technology, Big Data Analytics to English, Buddhism and Social Work at some of the best institutes across India. We have also partnered in setting up and equipping of advanced research and training centres like the Myanmar Institute of Information Technology in Mandalay, Advanced Centre for Agricultural Research and Education at Yezin University, Rice Bio Park at Nay Pyi Taw and Industrial Training Centres at multiple locations in the country.
8. As a neighbouring country with keen interest in peace, stability and prosperity of Myanmar, we stand ready to share our experiences as the Mother of Democracy with our Myanmar friends towards their aspirations for a federal democratic nation wherein all citizens live in peace and prosperity.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

9. Last but not the least, I would like to extend my gratitude to all of you for joining us today in celebration of our 74<sup>th</sup> Republic Day. We have a vibrant cultural programme and a spread of Indian cuisine. I invite you to enjoy the evening.

Thank you!

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