

**No.2/4/2026-Public
Government of India/Bharat Sarkar
Ministry of Home Affairs/Grih Mantralaya**

**Kartavya Bhavan-3, New Delhi
Dated: 10th August, 2026**

To

**The Chief Secretaries of all State Governments and Administrators of all
Union Territory Administrations**

Subject: Independence Day Celebrations on 15th August, 2026 - Instructions

Sir/Madam,

Every year, the Independence Day is celebrated with grandeur, gaiety, fervour and enthusiasm. This year also, the Independence Day will be celebrated in a manner befitting the occasion.

2. The Independence Day Celebrations in Delhi shall consist of the following:-

(i) The Ceremony at Red Fort consisting of the presentation of a Guard of Honour by the Armed Forces and the Delhi Police to the Prime Minister (Pradhan Mantri), singing of National Song, unfurling of the National Flag accompanied by singing of National Anthem and firing of 21-Gun Salute, showering of flower petals by the helicopters of Indian Air Force, speech by the Prime Minister, singing of the National Song followed by National Anthem immediately after PM's speech, and release of tri-coloured balloons at the end.

(ii) "At Home" reception at Rashtrapati Bhawan.

3. The celebration of Independence Day Ceremony/unfurling of National Flag at State Capitals/ District Headquarters/ Sub-Division/ Block/ Gram Panchayat/ Villages etc. should commence in the morning after 09:00 a.m.

4. The Independence Day in States/UTs may be celebrated as under:-

(a) At State level

Singing of the National Song, unfurling of National Flag by the Chief Minister; followed by National Anthem; presentation of Guard of Honour by the State Police/Para Military Forces/Home Guards/NCC/ Scouts; address to public by the Chief Minister followed by singing of National Song followed by National Anthem.

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(b) At District level

Singing of the National Song, unfurling of National Flag by Minister/ Commissioner/District Magistrate followed by National Anthem; parade by State Police personnel; Home Guards/NCC/Scouts followed by address to public by the Minister/ Commissioner/District Magistrate and singing of National Song followed by National Anthem.

(c) At Sub-Divisional level/Block level

Singing of the National Song, unfurling of National Flag by Sub Divisional Magistrate/Sub Divisional Officer/ Block Development Officer as the case may be; singing of National Anthem followed by address to public by the Sub Divisional Magistrate/Sub Divisional Officer/ Block Development Officer and singing of National Song followed by National Anthem.

(d) At Panchayat Headquarters/Villages

Singing of the National Song, unfurling of National Flag by the Sarpanch/Gram Pradhan followed by National Anthem followed by address to public by the Sarpanch/Gram Pradhan and singing of National Song followed by National Anthem.

5. Swachh Bharat campaign in prominent locations

- (a) Identify most prominent location of each district in the State/UT and carry out a fortnight/ month long campaign to keep it Swachh through voluntary civil action. School students, NSS, MY भारत, NCC, youth organizations and social groups may be associated with this effort.
- (b) Plantation of Trees campaign be held by Government Departments and Educational Institutions to spread awareness for conservation of environment, thereby making a contribution to mitigate climate changes on Earth and preserve natural environment.

6. Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Programme

On the lines of Republic Day Ceremony 2026, some food/cultural events etc. may be planned in the State/UT Capitals on the occasion of Independence Day Ceremony. The State/UT should invite participation from five other States/UTs for their Independence Day Ceremony. These Guest States may send their contingent for food/cultural events etc. to promote engagement among people of different States and UTs so as to enhance mutual understanding and bonding between people of these States/UTs.

7. Efforts should be made by the States/UTs for propagating the patriotic/national integration messages and songs through the speech of the dignitaries, social media platforms etc. for Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.

8. **'At Home' function**

(a) 'At Home' function at Governor/LG House may be commenced in the evening (after 18:00 hrs). This function represents a diverse set of invitees apart from usual protocol based invitees, on this occasion, the following indicative categories of guests could be invited:-

- Divyangjans
- Achievers in different fields
- People who made exemplary contribution to society, including during the time of Covid.
- Eco-warriors, people who performed exemplary for environmental conservation.
- Swacchagrahi.
- References from the State/UT in PM's Man ki Baat.
- Padma awardees from the State/UT.
- NoKs of martyrs.
- Participants/winners of Olympics and other important sports events of National/ International standards.
- Exceptional educators.
- Frontline health workers.
- Children bravery awardees.
- Women Sarpanches etc.
- Student toppers
- Best researchers/innovators

(b) At least 25-50 invites may be reserved for such achievers. The names of such invitees should be announced in advance to enable the invitees to prepare for the occasion.

(c) The majority of the gathering could be under the category of special invitees under different categories. A system whereby the invitee list is generated afresh every year should be instituted, so that the opportunity is given to a broad set of people. It could be considered that a person gets an invite just once.

(4)

- (d) Special attention may be paid to the band at Governor/LG House. It should play patriotic songs and not simply songs from movies. A system of competition among school bands should be instituted whereby the winners get to perform at the Governor House during 'At Home' reception.
- (e) The invitation card for Governor/LG 'At Home' should be created in a way that these are treasured for life as souvenir by the invitees, marking it as a special occasion once in life.
- (f) If some good innovation has been done by the State the same can be exhibited during the 'At Home' function.

9. **Band Performance across the Nation:**

To promote patriotic fervor among citizens during the Independence Day Ceremony-2026, Band Performance will be conducted throughout the country in around 343 prominent locations, like last year. Local administrations may be instructed to provide all the necessary support for the same.

Yours faithfully,


(Kamlesh Rabidas)
11.8.26

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India

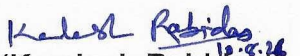
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11. NITI Aayog, Sansad Marg, New Delhi.
12. Election Commission of India
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14. Office of Comptroller & Auditor General of India
15. Central Vigilance Commission
16. University Grants Commission
17. National Commission for Scheduled Castes
18. National Commission for Scheduled Tribes
19. National Commission for Backward Classes
20. National Commission for SafaiKaramcharis
21. National Commission for Minorities
22. National Commission for Women
23. National Human Rights Commission
24. Manager, State Bank of India, Parliament Street, New Delhi
25. Manager, Reserve Bank of India, New Delhi
26. All attached & subordinate offices of the Ministry of Home Affairs located at Delhi/New Delhi
27. Ad.III Section, MHA


(Kamlesh Rabidas)

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India