



**HIGH COMMISSIONER OF INDIA  
LILONGWE (MALAWI)**

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6 July 2020

Dear Friends,

Today I take this opportunity to convey my best wishes to you all on the occasion of the 56<sup>th</sup> Independence Day of Malawi.

You all are aware that how COVID-19 pandemic has been spreading and disrupted the life of billions of people across the world.

Keeping in view the fast-spread of pandemic, His Excellency, the President of Malawi took a well-appreciated initiative to cancel the large celebrations for the Independence Day and also his inauguration. He has very wisely stated that we all are at risk of this infection, none of us is immune to infection and all of us need to take this pandemic seriously. Let us all follow the guidelines of His Excellency to take necessary precautions and work for a healthy and COVID free Malawi.

I would also like to brief you about the initiatives of Government of India to fight this pandemic. While the Government of India is taking necessary measures to fight the pandemic within India, under the "Vande Bharat Mission", large number of Indian citizens stranded abroad have returned to India. Such evacuation flights continue to bring back citizens to India.

The world economies have been affected very badly with long lock downs. The pandemic has caused severe economic hardship to people all over world. The world has not seen economic contraction of this magnitude in many decades. As India enters Unlock 2.0, Indian government's efforts are geared towards further expansion of economic activities. In India a process of comprehensive reforms has been initiated in almost all spheres. A number of major policy announcements have been made. Prime Minister called for "Atmanirbhar Bharat" and introduced a stimulus package worth nearly Rs. 21 trillion (US\$ 270 billion) equivalent to around 10% of India's GDP, to aid the people worst hit by the pandemic and open up new avenues of trade, investment, and employment in the economy post pandemic.

As part of welfare measures, India launched one of world's largest food security programmes, Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojna (PMGKAY). This programme covers 800 million Indians and prioritizes nutrition for the most vulnerable sections of our society. Government is spending over US\$ 6.5 billion to generate employment in rural areas. The private sector participation has been given a big push in 8 areas, including coal, minerals, defence production, civil aviation, power distribution, social infrastructure, space and atomic energy. MSMEs, the backbone of India's industrial economy, have been provided with a massive economic relief package.

At this time, it is imperative that the world gets together to fight this pandemic and as individuals, we share the responsibilities with our governments to effectively fight this pandemic.

With my best wishes for your good health.

(Anurag Bhushan)  
High Commissioner