

**Embassy of India
Djibouti**

Press Release

1st Indian Food Festival

The Embassy of India in Djibouti organized 1st Indian Food Festival, Music Concert Karaoke Night under the Promotion of Cultural Ties with the Diaspora (PCTD) scheme of Government of India in three parts.

2. The 1st part of Food Festival was organized jointly with World Malyali Federation (WMF) on Tuesday 25th, August, 2026 at Bawadi Mall, Djibouti for celebration of Onam Festival. Apart from more than 100 Indian diaspora members, Heads/representatives of other Foreign Missions which include Ambassador of Japan, 1st Secretary of Embassy of Algeria and representative from Turkish Embassy attended the event. During his inaugural speech, H.E. Ambassador of India in Djibouti, M. Keivom, highlighted the importance of Indian Food Festival as well as Onam Festival. During the event, a multi-course vegetarian feast was served on a fresh banana leaf, featuring around 20 to over 30 traditional dishes including avial, thoran, and the dessert payasam.

3. The 2nd part of Food Festival was organized by Indian Embassy on Thursday, the 10th October 2025 at the India House premises. During this event, as a part of celebration of Indian Food Festival, Live Food stalls, Live Music Concert and Karaoke Night were attraction of the event. There was participation of more than 200 members of the Indian Diaspora with the large scale participation from Diaspora groups like Bhartiya Sanskritic Sangh (BSS), WMF and DIWA, Heads/representatives of other Foreign Missions (Ambassadors of Japan, Algeria, Egypt, Yemen and Sudan; 1st Secretary of Algeria; 2nd Secretary of Sudan, Commercial Counsellor of Egypt; country representative of UNDP, WHO, Chargé d'affaires of EU in Djibouti), Secretary General, Ministry of Youth and Culture, Djibouti; Deputy Director of MoFA, Djibouti; Chairman, Mahatma Gandhi Centre for Leadership and Entrepreneurship (MGCLE); the Head of credit Division Bank of Africa, Director General of national newspaper La Nation; local influencers; local artists and local Djiboutian food lovers attended the event.

4. During his inaugural speech, H.E. Ambassador of India in Djibouti, M. Keivom, highlighted the importance of festival to celebrate culinary connection between India and Djibouti which continues to be a living bridge and an abiding cultural link between the two nations. On this occasion, 150th anniversary of Vande Mataram was also observed with the mass singing of full version “*Vande Mataram*”

song led by the Embassy officials at the event in order to honour the song's historic significance.

5. The Food Festival was aimed at celebrating the culinary heritage of India, focusing on the rich and diverse flavors that reflect the cultural blend of India. The event was also aimed at promoting Indian culture, cuisine, traditions and music/songs among the Indian Diaspora & local population in order to foster stronger ties between India and Djibouti. The food festival brought together the full spectrum of India's diverse culinary traditions, with an extensive range of dishes from all regions including popular North Indian specialties like Biryani, Samosas, Chaat, Cutlets, Tandoori chickens etc. as well as South Indian dishes such as Idli, Dosa, Dahi/Dal Vadas and delicacies from East and West of India which include cakes, Dabeli, Vada Pao, Bread Pakoda, Mutton etc that was prepared by members of the Diaspora and Indian Restaurants established in Djibouti. Separately, Bhartiya Sanskritik Samagam (BSS) has organized lucky draw and distributed prizes on the occasion of Indian Food Festival. WMF has set live counter for delicious south Indian dishes and also arranged their stall showcasing charity work program for local Djiboutian schools. The Ayurveda counter showcased by local Djiboutian was also become attraction during the event.

6. The event also showcased the vibrant colors and flavors of Indian culture through traditional attire, live music and Karaoke performances. The main attraction of the Food Festival was Live Music Concert and Karaoke Night, which was spearheaded by Faqira Band alongside other Diaspora & Embassy officials/families who sang old/new Bollywood songs during the event. Visitors had the opportunity to show their singing talent that mesmerized the audience. More than 200 visitors attended the Festival. The Food Festival, Live Music Concert and Karaoke Night organized by Embassy of India was well received by the Indian Diaspora, representatives of Diplomatic corps and local community, with many attendees expressing their appreciation for the diverse flavors and aromas of Indian cuisine.

7. In the 3rd and concluding part of event, the Embassy in collaboration with WMF has organized cultural programs and Live Food stalls for celebrating Indian Food Festival and Onam festival at the Institut Français de Djibouti (IFD). The event witnessed participation from more than 200 Indian Diaspora including Diplomatic corps and local Djiboutians.

8. On this occasion, H.E. Ambassador of India in Djibouti, M. Keivom, highlighted the importance of Indian Food Festival and Onam Festival to celebrate culinary as well as cultural connection between India and Djibouti which continues to be a living bridge and an abiding link between the two nations. He thanked WMF

for continuing their work within Diaspora members and growing Indian culture among local Djiboutians. During the event, the diaspora members have given number of performances on Indian songs and Dance forms. There were live counters showcasing palatable south Indian food and also north Indian food.

9. The event was a successful endeavour in promoting Indian culture, music/songs and cuisine of India. It not only provided an opportunity for the community to experience the rich flavors of India but also contributed in strengthening the bilateral relations between the two countries.
















