

EMBASSY OF INDIA, JAKARTA



PRESS RELEASE

66th Republic Day celebrations at Embassy of India, Jakarta

The 66th Republic Day was marked at the Embassy of India in Jakarta, the Consulate General of India in Bali and the Consulate General of India in Medan with traditional gaiety and fervour. H.E. Mr Gurjit Singh, Ambassador of India to Indonesia and Timor Leste hoisted the National Flag at the Embassy premises and similar ceremonies took place at the Indian Consulates in Bali and Medan. The President of India's address was read out by the Ambassador and the Consul Generals in the respective places.

In his remarks, Ambassador informed the gathering about the Festival of India in Indonesia with the slogan "Sahabat India", which will run from January to May 2015. He noted that the Festival will bring the vibrancy and vigour of India's social, economic and cultural engagement with the friendly country of Indonesia to a new level. Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador said, "India and Indonesia are civilizational friends who were brought together not merely by geography but commonality of cultural heritage and harmonious linkages over centuries. India and Indonesia are among the youngest countries in the world. Our youthful population, our pluralistic societies, our chosen democratic paths of development, all provide us similarities and commonalities which will hold us in good stead as we traverse the 21st century together. "Sahabat India" is a humble tribute to our steadfast partnership."

Talking about the Festival of India, Ambassador said that during the Festival of India, folk dances, dance drama, puppet show, musical shows, exhibitions, seminars, mall promotions, screening of Bollywood cinema, documentaries and the like will be held in several prestigious locations in Jakarta and fifteen other cities in Indonesia, including Bali, Yogyakarta, Bandung, Surabaya, Surakarta, Semarang, Bogor, Serang, Purwakarta, Makassar, Medan, Padang, Banda Aceh, Samarinda, Balikpapan and Palembang. Ambassador invited Indian community, Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) and Friends of India to actively join and participate in the Festival of India to celebrate India's long-standing and steadfast friendship with Indonesia.

The Republic Day flag hoisting ceremony was attended by about 400 members of the Indian community, PIOs and Friends of India. Over 100 school children from 3 Indian schools, Gandhi Memorial International School, the Rama International School and Texmaco DPS School sang the National Anthem and patriotic songs. This was followed by a recital of patriotic song and a dance performance by students of Jawaharlal Nehru Cultural Centre (JNICC).

Arrangements were made to show live telecast of Republic Day parade being held at Rajghat New Delhi at the Embassy auditorium. Indian nationals and PIOs who had come to attend the function watched the Republic Day parade with sense of pride.

H.E. Mr. Gurjit Singh, Ambassador of India to Indonesia and Timor Leste and Mrs. Neeru Singh released two books on the occasion – First on Festival of India which gave details of the program being held under the Festival of India and second ‘India sebuah Perjalanan Spiritual’ which is in ‘Bahasa Indonesia’ about various holy and religious places in India.

Ambassador also interacted with members of Indian community to ascertain their welfare and gave a broad overview of various functions scheduled to be held under the umbrella of the Festival of India in next few months. A sumptuous feast of Indian food and delicacies was served to the guests.





Jakarta
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