

भारत का उच्चायोग
पोर्ट मोर्सबी
**HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA
PORT MORESBY**



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PRESS RELEASE

The 64th Republic Day of India was celebrated with enthusiasm and fanfare in Port Moresby, capital of Papua New Guinea. The main celebration was organized at the India House, official residence of the Indian High Commissioner. Despite inclement weather, the small but enthusiastic Indian community in Port Moresby, in their colorful attire, came for the flag hoisting ceremony. The decked up India House was overflowing with colour, laughter of playful Indian children and pride amongst the gathering about the strides India made as well the path that lay ahead.

The High Commissioner, Dr A.M.Gondane, welcoming the guests, expressed his pleasure and gratitude for such enthusiastic participation. He unfurled the national Flag, followed by singing of the national anthem. The children, who had learnt the anthem by heart, were the most enthusiastic. The High Commissioner also read the President's Address to the nation emphasizing gender, the imperative of shared growth and the provision of education to everyone so they become cocreators of development. All participants took the copy of the Address for their record and deliberation.

The High Commissioner hosted a Reception at India House in the evening. The elite of Port Moresby, including politicians, businessmen, diplomats, officials, academics, Indian professionals working in various institutions attended the Reception. The chief guest HE Sir Michael Ogio, Governor General of Papua New Guinea, expressed his profound good wishes for the development and prosperity of India and its hardworking people. The first couple were given the traditional India welcome by the ladies of the Indian Community. Similarly, other dignitaries like Hon. Frank Awesa, Works Minister, and Hon. Noah Kool, Governor of Chimbu Province, also graced the occasion.

The High Commissioner, extending his warm welcome to the dignitaries and guests, said that Indian engagement with PNG had been tangential so far and actual cooperative programs have just started. In the days to come, substantive increase in investment and trade is to be seen as well as growth in people to people contacts and sharing of skills and expertise for the development of PNG, including in infrastructure development, capacity building in governance for effective delivery of services as well as provision of tertiary health and education. The ongoing cooperation in defense sector will also grow substantially.

After the traditional toasts, the guests were served with Indian cuisine at the buffet dinner.

Port Moresby

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