

PRESS RELEASE

71th Independence Day celebrated in Indonesia

The 71th Independence Day was celebrated 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. Mr. Manish, Charge d'Affaires in the Embassy of India to Indonesia and Timor-Leste hoisted the National Flag in Jakarta as large gathering of Indian nationals and persons of Indian origin watched with pride and joy. Similar ceremonies took place at the Indian Consulates in Bali and Medan.

The President's address to the nation on the eve of Independence Day was read out by Mr. Manish, Charge d'Affaires, in Jakarta and the Consuls General in the respective places. The address recalled the contributions of the great leaders of freedom struggle and people of India and stressed on issues like partnership between citizens and government, individual and society, and spirit of empathy and social service. The participation of citizens and government is essential for full implementation of government's ambitious programs such as Swachchh Bharat, Digital India, Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao scheme and Goods and Services Tax system. The President's address called for building a New India by 2022 which is more compassionate and egalitarian society. It also highlighted use of technology for empowering people and for elimination of poverty. The address thanked armed forces for guarding India's frontiers and ensuring freedom.

Nearly 500 members of the Indian community, Persons of Indian Origin and Friends of India participated in the ceremony. About 100 school children from three Indian schools - Gandhi Memorial International School, the Rama Global School and Texmaco DPS School - sang the National Anthem and patriotic songs. The students of Jawaharlal Nehru Cultural Centre (JNICC) recited poems and performed patriotic songs and a dance on the occasion.

Later, Charge d'Affaires interacted with members of Indian community to ascertain their welfare and gave a broad overview of various functions which Mission is going to organize to celebrate India@70. He also requested people to visit website <u>www.indianew.in</u> and to make 'Sankalp to Siddhi' movement a success. A sumptuous feast of Indian delicacies was served to the vast gathering at the end of program.

Jakarta: 15 August 2017







