

**Embassy of India
Jakarta**



PRESS RELEASE

High Energy Performance by the Chhau dancers

As part of Sahabat India – The Festival of India in Indonesia, a 17-member troupe of Chhau artists from Eastern India performed energetic and exciting dance drama based on Garuda and Vasuki legend in the Balaiung Soesilo Soedirman auditorium of Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy in Jakarta on 2nd May 2015. H.E. Mr. Gurjit Singh, Ambassador of India to Indonesia and Timor Leste, was Chief Guest on the occasion.

The Chhau dancers performed Mask dance drama based on legends of Mahanayak Garuda, Garuda-Vasuki, Garuda-Bhaskar, Garuda-Vahana and Narakasura-Vadh. The colourful masks worn by the artists, their graceful and nimble movements and folk music enthralled the audience. After the four dance dramas, the troupe also performed famous Chhau Durga dance.

Mr. Johar Ali, music teacher and ace violin player and music students of JNICC also performed in between the show. They sang ‘Tarana’ based on a traditional song composed by famous poetess Meera Bai.

The Chhau dancers have earlier performed in the Asian African Carnival held in Bandung from 23-26 April, where their performances and costume was widely appreciated. On 23 April, the group performed at Meet & Greet segment held at Chiampelas Walk Mall; on 25 April in the Asia Africa Parade and on 26 April at the Festival of Nations at Dego Street.

The group also participated in the Festival of India Celebrations at the Institut Agama Islam Negeri (IAIN) Sultan Maulana Hasanuddin Banten in the city of Serang on 28 April. IANI collaborated with Embassy of India in the day long celebration during which Chau Folk dance, Kathak Dance, Yoga demonstration, musical performance were performed by the artists from India and the Jawaharlal Nehru Indian Cultural Centre. Jakarta. The students from IANI also performed dance and music. Indian culinary were also on display for the IANI fraternity to sample 'Taste of India'. An exhibition "Islamic Monuments in India" was also on display. Bollywood film was screened and education & yoga workshop were held. Around 1000 students participated in the celebration.

On 30 April 2015, the Chhau dance group performed at Palembang at Sriwijaya University.

The artists will be performing in Bali on 4 May at 1900 hrs in Pura Taman Ayun Mengus and in Yogyakarta on 6 May at 1900 hrs in UGM and on 7 May at 1900 hrs in ISI.

The Chau troupe performance in “Sahabat India- the Festival of India in Indonesia has been supported by the Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi, and Ministry of Culture, Government of India.



