



**Embassy of India
Jakarta**

Press Release

India celebrates 69th Independence Day

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 fervor today. The Ambassador of India, H.E. Mr Gurjit Singh hoisted the National Flag and read the President's message to the Nation at the Embassy premises and similar ceremonies took place at the Consulates. About 400 Indian nationals and PIOs including the famous actors who played role of 'Pandavas' in "Mahabharata" were present during the Independence Day ceremony in Jakarta. The students of three Indian schools viz. Gandhi Memorial International School, the Rama International School and Texmaco DPS School and Jawaharlal Nehru Indian Cultural Centre (JNICC) sang patriotic songs to mark the event.

Ambassador greeted the members of Indian community on the occasion of Independence Day, ascertained their welfare and gave a broad overview of initiatives being undertaken by the Government of India such as Make in India, Swachh Bharat and Digital India. Ambassador expressed his happiness over friendly relations between India and Indonesia. He mentioned about the recent meetings between Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi and President Joko Widodo in Nay Pyi Taw and at Singapore and participation of the External Affairs Minister of India, Mrs. Sushma Swaraj and Minister of State for External Affairs, Gen (Retd.) V.K. Singh, in the 60th Asian African Commemoration Conference held in Jakarta from 19-24 April 2015.

On the occasion of Independence Day, H.E. Ambassador Gurjit Singh, launched a book "Travels through Times – The story of India and Indonesia". The book describes the long history of cultural and civilizational links between India and Indonesia. Mrs. Neeru Singh, Ms. Tamalia Alisjahbana, well known social activist and friend of India, who collaborated with Ambassador Gurjit Singh to write this interesting book and Mr. Naveen Gupta, Chief Operating Officer of M/s Godrej Indonesia, who sponsored the designing and publishing of the book were also present on the occasion.

To mark the Independence Days of India and Indonesia, the Embassy of India presented a dance drama "Arjuna - Dibiasakti", based on Legong and Bharatanatyam dance traditions in the packed Balairung Soesilo Soedirman auditorium of the Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy in Jakarta on 15 August 2015. The dance drama which was collaboration between Bengkel Tari AyuBulan of Ibu Bulantrisna Djelantik and JNICC Students of Ms Sindhu Raj signified long standing cultural relationship between India and Indonesia. The dance drama was part of Sahabat India – The Festival of India in Indonesia.

Her Excellency Prof. Dr. Sri Adiningsih, Head, Presidential Advisory Council (Wantimpres) of the Republic of Indonesia was Chief Guest on the occasion. Ms. Esti Andayani, Director General of Public Diplomacy and Information, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ms. Listyowati, Director for South and Central Asian Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Indonesia; Ambassadors and diplomats of several foreign Missions stationed in Jakarta, senior Indonesian dignitaries and Indian businessmen and professionals were among the prominent people who watched the performance.

Speaking on the occasion, H.E. Mr. Gurjit Singh, Ambassador of India to Indonesia and Timor Leste, said that the dance drama is testimony of our common cultural heritage and friendship. He said that it was with the objective of strengthening our bilateral relationship and for making the younger generation aware of the great heritage that binds us together that the ‘Sahabat India – The Festival of India in Indonesia’ was organized in 18 different cities of Indonesia. Ambassador also read out the President’s message to the Nation on the occasion.

Her Excellency Prof. Dr. Sri Adiningsih, Head of Presidential Advisory Council (Wantimpres); Ambassador Gurjit Singh and Madam Neeru Singh felicitated the artists, sponsors of ‘Sahabat India – The Festival of India in Indonesia’ and winners of ‘Incredible India Selfie Contest’ at the end of the program. The winners of selfie contest got return tickets for journey to India, ITEC scholarships, mobile phones, Book Sets and DVDs of Bollywood movies in prizes.



Jakarta; 15 August 2015