



PRESS RELEASE

Celebration of the 76th Anniversary of India's Independence

The Embassy of India, Paramaribo celebrated the 76th anniversary of India's Independence this morning (15 August 2023). This is the first celebration as India enters the period of Amrit Kaal – the next 25 years of freedom when in 2047 India aspires to be a developed country. Ambassador Dr. Shankar Balachandran hoisted the national flag at a ceremony at the Chancery premises followed by a reading of the address of the President of India to the Nation.

2. As a part of the ongoing Mission Life (Lifestyle for Environment - LiFE), - a visionary initiative introduced by the Honorable Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, during COP 26, the Ambassador Dr. Shankar Balachandran spoke on environment awareness, administered a Panch Pran (five vital goals) pledge to commit to environmental conservation. This was followed by a tree planting activity at the Chancery and the Embassy Residence. The Ambassador strongly encouraged all present to embrace the importance of Mission LiFE, adopting sustainable lifestyles by minimizing waste, rejecting single-use plastics, conserving energy and water, and promoting sustainable food systems.

3. To showcase India's 'Unity in Diversity', the diaspora presented songs and poem recitation in Hindi and Bengali languages. As part of a narrative on 'Mitti ki khushboo Mitti ke yaaden' (Smells and memories of soil), a PIO community member Mr. Bhagwan Panday recalled his visit to his ancestral village in UP and made a PowerPoint presentation with photos of his visit. H.E.Mr. Henry Ravindredath Ori, Hon'ble Minister of Education, Science and Culture was the Chief Guest. Dr. Dewanchandrebhose Sharman, Deputy Chairman of the National Assembly of Suriname was the guest of honor.

4. Over 150 guests including District Commissioners, senior officials of the Government, Indian nationals, friends of India, Indo-Caribbean Association members, Embassy officials and their family members participated. The Indian community in the concurrently accredited countries, Barbados, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines also marked the event with separate celebrations.

5. Some photographs of the Day's celebrations are enclosed.

Paramaribo
15 August 2023





























































