

**Embassy of India**

**Thimphu**

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**Press Release**

**Celebrations of the 75th Republic Day of India in Bhutan**

The 75th Republic Day of India was celebrated with patriotic fervour at a ceremony held at India House on 26 January 2024. Ambassador of India to Bhutan Shri Sudhakar Dalela led the Indian community to unfurl the tricolour at the India House followed by singing of the National Anthem.

The Ambassador read out the President's Address to the nation on the eve of Republic Day, highlighting that the nation is in the early years of Amrit Kaal, the period leading to the centenary of India's Independence. This is the time of an epochal transformation, and a golden opportunity is presented to take the country to new heights. The contribution of every citizen will be crucial to achieving national goals.

Addressing the gathering, Ambassador Sudhakar Dalela shared that India and Bhutan enjoy long-standing close and unique ties of friendship and cooperation, anchored in spiritual and cultural linkages, mutual trust and understanding, and cemented by strong people to people connect. He emphasised that India is committed to working together with the Government and people of Bhutan to harness the full potential of bilateral partnership, and exploring newer avenues of cooperation that align with the vision of His Majesty, The King of Bhutan and the priorities of the Royal Government.

From the Royal Government of Bhutan, Dasho Ugyen K Namgyel, Gyalpoi Zimpon to His Majesty, the King of Bhutan along with the Cabinet Secretary Aum Kesang Deki, Foreign Secretary Aum Pema Choden and the Chief of Protocol Ugen Chuzom graced the celebrations.

The ceremony was followed by a melodious rendition of patriotic songs by Bhutanese and Indian artists from the Nehru-Wangchuck Culture Center and Royal Academy of Performing Arts (RAPA), Thimphu. An ICCR dance troupe led by Ms. Poushali Chatterjee performed the Manipuri dance form. The cultural performances witnessed enthusiastic participation by the members of the Indian community and friends of India in Bhutan. The ceremony was attended by over four hundred members of the Indian community, and friends of India.

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*Thimphu, 26 January 2024*