

**Embassy of India  
Thimphu**

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**Press Release**

**Celebrations of the 78th Independence Day of India in Bhutan**

1. The 78th Independence Day of India was celebrated with patriotic fervour at a ceremony held at India House on 15 August 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.
2. The Ambassador read out the President's Address to the nation on the eve of Independence Day, highlighting that the Amrit Kaal, the ongoing period of a quarter century leading to the centenary of our Independence, is going to be shaped by the youth of today. Their energy and enthusiasm will help the nation scale new heights.
3. 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 strong people to people ties. 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.
4. 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.
5. Ambassador Shri Sudhakar Dalela, along with distinguished dignitaries from Bhutan, participated in the planting of saplings at the India House, Thimphu. This initiative is part of the #Plant4Mother campaign, which was recently launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.
6. The ceremony was followed by a melodious rendition of patriotic songs and dance performances by members of the Indian community, artists from Bhutan and the Nehru-Wangchuck Culture Center, Thimphu. The ceremony was attended by over 1500 members of the Indian community, and friends of India.

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**Thimphu, 15 August 2024**