

[India's Independence Day Occasion for Goodwill]

INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE DAY OCCASION FOR GOODWILL

Friday, Aug. 15 marked the occasion of the 31st anniversary of India's independence. India's representative in R.C., the Consul General of India and his family opened the grounds of their house to several hundred invited guests. The 5 a.m. ceremony featured the raising of the flag of India on their front lawn while the rest of the breakfast to the nation by President Zail Singh was seen on the television.

The president noted "that this special occasion is a time to remember with gratitude the great sacrifices made by our people during the freedom movement". He went on, "we have reason to be proud of our achievements in various fields since independence. We have reached a stage where further educational efforts will ensure accelerated progress. Our aim should be to become a strong and prosperous nation in the near future."

Our younger generation has to defend and protect the independence and peace and goodwill among people. But their exploitation by opportunists, whether political or religious, is detrimental to the interests of the country. The elements who try to exploit the impressionable minds of our younger generation are only impair their future, but also do great disservice to the nation."

"Apart from the scheduled caste and scheduled tribes there are other backward classes seeking for opportunities half the population. A major endeavor is needed to provide the opportunities to these people for growth and development."

"India stands for peace and friendly relations with all countries. We have been a part of the establishment of a new international economic order based on justice and equity. Under the leadership of India the unaligned movement has taken firm stands towards cohesion and unity of people among the world."

While world countries the new mood has been stirring heart for development.

"It would not be correct to conclude by appealing to all my fellow citizens for peace in mind that the unity and integrity of the state are more and so we have to be big in preserve our independence."

A message from Premier Vashdev Zaini was also read. It said in part: "our beautiful province is indeed blessed with a rich cultural heritage, one that reflects the individual traditions and customs that our families have brought here from many areas. Today, that cultural mosaic is the birth right of all our children -- and one in which we can take considerable pride."

At 6 p.m. just as the sun was setting over West Vancouver, 250-300 guests began arriving for the annual Independence Day barbecue. The guests were seated up in several strings of tables, where the guests enjoyed hundreds of delicious, home-cooked Indian dishes and more Jalandhar.

Consul General Jagdish Sharma welcomed the guests before introducing the Hon. Bhai Prasad, who brought further greetings from the Premier of B.C.

As the guests mingled with one another and enjoyed the main feast, the guests were entertained first by an Indian dance who is currently appearing at a stage followed by some delightful children dancing in their colorful costumes. As the evening progressed, a show of

Indian musicians entertained the guests on the beautiful Indian flute and the other on the tabla drum.

These popular Independence Day functions are a time when all classes and creeds of Canadian citizens of Indian origin come together joyfully to celebrate the tremendous achievement of their homeland since independence and to express their hopes for a stronger and better future.

Indo Canadian
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IDENTIFIER

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