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**Embassy of India
Muscat**

Press Release

**Grand celebration of 75th Anniversary of India's Independence in Oman
Unique Twin-deck Reception onboard Indian Naval Ships**

The 76th Independence Day of India and the 75th Anniversary of India's independence was marked by a unique twin-deck Reception onboard Indian naval ships Chennai and Kochi at Port Sultan Qaboos, Muscat on August 15, 2022.

The Reception was attended by H.E Sheikh Khalifa Alharthy, Undersecretary for Diplomatic Affairs in the Foreign Ministry, Commodore Tariq bin Issa Al Raisi, Acting Commander Royal Navy of Oman, Members of the Royal family, senior Government dignitaries, distinguished Ambassadors resident in Muscat, Military attaches, and distinguished members of the Omani & Indian communities.

The two indigenously built Indian Naval Ships, Chennai and Kochi have anchored in Muscat on a special 4-day friendly visit. The deployment is part of Indian Navy's initiative of deploying a naval vessel in each of the 6 continents for raising of the national flag on the occasion of 75 years of India's independence, being celebrated worldwide as *Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav*.

The deployment of two of Indian Navy's latest and indigenously built modern ships in Muscat with Flag Officer Commanding Western Fleet of the Indian Navy embarked, is testimony to the special and unique bonds of friendship between the two countries and the special place for Oman in India's maritime and security outlook.

Speaking at the Reception, Ambassador of India to the Sultanate of Oman H.E. Amit Narang extended warm greetings to His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik and the people of Oman and lauded the special and privileged India-Oman relationship as a model of mutual trust and abiding friendship. He reiterated that

India will be a strong partner in realizing His Majesty's 'Oman Vision 2040'.

Ambassador highlighted India's proud journey as an independent nation during the past 75 years and notable achievements in various sectors - from economic growth and social inclusion, defense, sports, education and science to information & space technology and digital inclusion among others.

Earlier in the day, a special 'colors ceremony' was held onboard Indian Naval Ship Chennai during which Rear Admiral Sameer Saxena, Flag Officer Commanding Western Fleet and Ambassador H.E. Amit Narang witnessed the ceremonial raising of the Indian tricolor.

76th Independence Day of India was also celebrated by the Indian community at the Embassy of India, Muscat on the morning of August 15 with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervor. Ambassador Amit Narang hoisted the tricolor and read out excerpts from President of India's address to the Nation. He greeted the Indian Community in Oman and thanked them for their exceptional contributions to strengthening India's friendly relations with Oman. A soulful rendition of patriotic songs by Indian School Muscat (ISM) students added color to the celebrations.

Students of Indian Schools in Muscat also joined hands to celebrate this joyous occasion by a glittering cultural event held at the Indian School, Boushar. Children showcased the best of Indian culture through mesmerizing cultural performances recalling India's golden past and glorious future.

On the evening of 14th August, the Indian Social Club (ISC), in association with Indian Embassy, organized an exuberating cultural evening to celebrate India's 75 years of Independence. The event, held at Al Bustan Palace was graced by Ambassador Amit Narang and Rear Admiral Sameer Saxena. The audience was enthralled by an enchanting performance of the Naval Band.

Indian Social Club Salalah is also organizing a cultural program showcasing the diversity and richness of Indian culture on 18th August, which Ambassador Amit Narang will attend.

The celebrations in Oman were truly reflective of the greatness of India's civilization, unwavering commitment of all Indians to the nation's spirit of unity

and integrity, and India's transformative journey from its birth as a nation 75 years ago to a beacon of global growth and development. The celebrations also reflected the uniquely strong partnership between India and Oman and the abiding bonds of friendship between Indian and Omani people.

15 August 2022

Muscat