

Embassy of India
Jakarta

Press Release

**Sahabat India – The Festival of India at Prambanan Amphitheatre,
Yogyakarta**

PT Taman Wisata Candi (TWC) joined hands with Embassy of India, Jakarta, in celebrating “Sahabat India-the Festival of India in Indonesia 2015” in Yogyakarta. The Festival of India was inaugurated on 13 March at Prambanan Temple Complex, Yogyakarta by H.E. Sripaduka Paku Alam IX, Vice-Governor of Yogyakarta, H.E. Mr. Gurjit Singh, Ambassador of India to Indonesia & Timor Leste and Ms. Lailly Prihatiningtyas, President Director, PT TWC. Indian artists from Charkula Art Academy, Mathura(India) performed the traditional folk dance on the theme of " Krishna and Radha", while the Indonesian artists performed the Ramayana ballet, which was enacted in Ramayana International Festival in India in February 2015.

2. The performances by the artists from both countries at the Prambanan Amphitheatre was symbolic in bringing to a full capacity audience, the cultural similarities and linkages between the two countries. The vigor, vibrancy and grace of the performers against the backdrop of the historic Prambanan Temple left everyone in the audience mesmerized.

3. In his opening remarks HE Mr Gurjit Singh, Ambassador expressed his gratitude to the Government of Yogyakarta and Temple authorities in bringing together, on a common stage, artists from two countries, to celebrate bonds of friendship. He specifically noted the historical linkages between India and the city of Yogyakarta and in particular during the struggle for independence by the two countries. He proposed that both countries should take initiative to host "International Ramayana Festival" alternately. Ambassador also suggested that there should be a twining arrangement between a city in India and Yogyakarta.

4. H.E. Sripaduka Paku Alam IX, Vice-Governor read out the message on behalf of the Governor and appreciated the effort of the Government of India to bring various facets of Indian culture to Indonesia through Festival of India.

5. The programs of “Sahabat India – the Festival of India in Indonesia” were performed by the artists of Charkula Arts Akademi, Mathura (India). The first act of evening was “Mayur Nritya” or ‘Peacock Dance’ which was based on the theme of

platonic love between Lord Krishna and Radha. The artists danced with huge peacock feather fan on their back which appeared as if peacocks were dancing with their wings spread. The exquisite beauty of peacock feather spread symbolized tender feelings of love and affection that were shared between Lord Krishna and Radha.

6. The artists from Prambanan Temple enacted the Ramayana ballet, which conveyed the story of Sita being kidnapped by Ravana; Garuda fighting with Ravana to save Sita; the search of Sita by Ram; Hanuman helping to find Sita; the fight between Ram and Ravana and the final unification of Ram and Sita. The graceful performance of the Indonesian artists was hugely appreciated.

7. The Indian artists also performed “Phoolon Ki Holi” (‘Holi of flowers’). This variant of ‘Holi’ uses flower petals instead of water and colour. The artists danced in rhythm on the live music and folk songs based on the life of Lord Krishna. The flower petals which were frequently used during the play added colour, liveliness and beauty to the act. The colorful drama was a visual treat and was applauded by one and all. The audience later danced with artists and took photographs with the artists.

6. The function was successful in starting new chapter of cooperation between P.T. TWC and the Embassy of India, Jakarta. PT PWC's participation in the “Sahabat India – The Festival of India” complemented Embassy’s efforts to reach out to the people of Indonesia.

13.3.2015



H.E. Mr. Gurjit Singh, Ambassador of India to Indonesia and Timor Leste, addressing the gathering at the Prambanan Temple amphitheater during a function (Phoolon Ki Holi) organized under “Sahabat India – The Festival of India in Indonesia”



Artists of PT. TWC Borobudur Prambanan Ratu Boko performing Ramayana in Sahabat India –The Festival of India in Indonesia. Sahabat India is contributing in bringing the artists from India and Indonesia closer.



Shri Krishna and Radha being showered with flower petals in Phoolon Ki Holi



H.E. Mr. Gurjit Singh, Ambassador of India to Indonesia and Timor Leste, HRH Mr. Sri Paduka Paku Alam IX, Vice Governor of Yogyakarta, and Ms. Laili Preihatiningtyas, President Director of PT. TWC with artists of Phoolon Ki Holi