



HISTORIC EVENT IN KUWAIT MARKS 70 YEARS OF INDIA INDEPENDENCE

MUSICAL TRIBUTE 'AAJ KI SHAAM DESH KE NAAM' REGALES AUDIENCE

Under the auspices of the Indian Embassy in Kuwait, a team of businessmen and active community members organized "Aaj Ki Shaam Desh Ke Naam" a musical tribute to celebrate the 70th anniversary of Indian Independence. The organizing committee, comprising Andrew Thomas, Reaven D'Souza, Rajpal Tyagi, E D Titus and Ashok Kalra representing the Mughal Mahal group in conjunction with the Indian Embassy created history by having an event for the first time ever in the evening on 15th August, the Indian Independence Day.

The beautiful red-stoned Indian Embassy building was also illuminated in tricolor hues of the Indian flag to mark this special occasion. Three talented singers, Dr Mrudula Joshi Dadhe, Nilesh Prakash Nirgudkar and Rakesh Khurana and a team of six musicians were specially flown in from India to be a part of the celebrations.

After a welcome address by Rajpal Tyagi representing the organizing committee, Sunil Jain, the Indian Ambassador to Kuwait spoke about the concept of the program and its significance to the Indian community in Kuwait. The organizing committee joined Tyagi and the Ambassador on stage to felicitate the artists for the



—Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

evening that included the singers and musicians Amey Thakurdesai, Digambar Mankar, Manoj Shrivling, Ashutosh Dange, Rohit Gaikwad and Suhas Katdare. Dr Gargi Jain, wife of the Indian Ambassador to Kuwait accompanied by Najida Reaven, Lorraine Thomas, Gauri Tyagi and Mamta Kalra did the honors of lighting the inaugural lamp.

The evening kicked off with an emotional and touching patriotic number by Joshi. The famous 'Ae Mere Watan Ke Logon' followed by 'Kar Chale Hum Fida' by Nirgudkar

and 'Hai Preet Jahan Ki Reet Sada' by Khurana. The patriotic numbers flowed into romantic classics, qawalis and other catchy tunes to keep the audience thoroughly entertained. Joshi's melodious songs were made even more meaningful with her explanation on the intricacies of tonality, pitch and emotions.

Nirgudkar gave glimpse of his talent for whistling songs through the beautiful number 'Yeh Shaam Mastani' while taking on challenging numbers like the male duet 'Ek Chatur Naar' single handedly. Khurana, a ver-

satile performer specializing in eclectic genres and singers, sang the Salman Khan song 'Tere Mast Mast Do Nain' with just as much ease as the classic 'Na Moonh Chupa Ke Jiyo'.

Kalra presented the vote of thanks showing his appreciation to all those that were involved in making the event a success including eminent dignitaries such as Prof. Dr Shamir Ally, Ambassador of Guyana, SM Abul Kalam, and Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan, Editor-in-Chief of Kuwait Times among others.

The evening was conducted fluidly

by the master of ceremonies, Nita Bhatkar Chogle and ended on a high note with a passionate rendition of 'Vande Mataram' by all the singers, accompanied by the audience joining

in proudly waving Indian flags. A fitting end to the patriotic event marking a truly historic occasion. All the guests were invited to dinner served courtesy the Mughal Mahal.



On behalf of the Indian Community, the social worker and member of the UN International Youth Council Pani J Anthony honored the Indian Ambassador to Kuwait Sunil Jain for the good Samaritan role played by the Indian Embassy for the Indian Community in Kuwait.



More than 120 children from LOYAC participated in a course for four days at the Cooking Academy of SAVECO that was presented by a group of international chefs. The young children enjoyed a fruitful time in developing their skills towards healthy nutrition and knowing the principles of cooking.