

**REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE OF INDIA**

**RAMALLAH**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Representative Office of India Celebrates 75<sup>th</sup> Independence Day of India**

The Representative Office of India in Ramallah celebrated the 75<sup>th</sup> Independence Day of India in Ramallah today. H.E. Dr. Nasri Abu Jaish, Minister of Labour, represented the Palestinian Government. The function was attended by Cabinet Ministers, Palestinian officials, the diplomatic community, Indian citizens, and friends of India.

In his remarks, Representative of India H.E. Mr. Mukul Arya, shared that the Government of India is making India's 75th Independence Anniversary through a celebration titled 'AzadiKaAmritMahotsav', which started 75 weeks prior to India's 75th Independence Anniversary in 2022, and will extend up to Independence Day, 2023.

He paid tribute to the sacrifices of several generations who participated in the Nation's freedom struggle.

Referring to India's progress, he highlighted the achievements of the country in social, political and economic spheres.

Referring to Indo-Palestinian relations, Representative of India affirmed their deep rooted foundations and reaffirmed India's support to Palestine's legitimate quest for a viable, independent and sovereign Palestine, including at the United Nations Security Council, of which it is currently a member.

Representative of India also highlighted the uniqueness of the Fifteenth of August in India-Palestine relations as 25 years ago, in 1996 India opened the Representative Office in Gaza. He also mentioned India's developmental assistance to Palestine which amounting to more than USD 139 million as developmental projects and capacity building. The Government of India is also currently in the process of providing a line of credit of USD 50 million to Palestine for the implementation of sustainable projects.

Representative of India also highlighted India's provision of vaccines and essential lifesaving medicines to Palestine in 2021.

The reception saw the screening of short films on Indian culture, history and economy, and on India-Palestine relations.

It is worth noting that to commemorate the 75 years of progressive India and the history of its people, culture and achievements, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi had called for a 75 week-long celebration titled 'AzadiKaAmritMahotsav' or the Grand celebration of the elixir of independence, as the embodiment of all that is progressive about India's socio-cultural, political and economic identity. It is considered the celebration of the spirit of the freedom struggle, the reflection of the feeling of sacrifice, a tribute to the martyrs of the country, and a resolve to build an India of their dreams that gives a glimpse of the pride of Ancient India and the glow of modern India as well.

**Ramallah**

**August 16, 2021**