



NOWRUZ FESTIVAL 1397

Nowruz is an ancestral Festivity marking the first day of spring and the renewal of nature. International Nowruz Day was declared by the United Nations General Assembly in 2010. Nowruz promotes values of peace and solidarity between generations and with families as well as reconciliation and neighbors, thus contributing to cultural diversity and friendship among people and different communities. Considering the precious and valuable virtue of the Nowruz, The Embassy of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in New Delhi and Indian Council for Cultural Relations Government of India (ICCR) jointly celebrated the International Day of Nowruz on March 20, 2018 at Jawarlal Nehru University. To bring together the academicians and cultural performers at the same platform to reflect the uniformity in the culture of the both countries the India-Afghanistan Foundation was co-sponsor to this program.



The event was inaugurated and attended by H.E. Riva Gangly Das, Director General of ICCR, Dr. Shaida Mohammad Abdali, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to India, Prof. Chintamani Mahapatra Rector JNU, Prof. Syed Ainul Hasan Chairperson, Centre for Persian and Central Asian studies JNU, diplomats, Indian Government officials, academics and Journalists.

H.E. Ambassador Abdali addressed about the red flower festival which is called in Persian (Milla Gole Sorkh) that are growing in hills and people from all over the country travel to Mazar Sharif for celebrating the event, where the blue Mosque exists. He also mentioned on the day of former that people gathering in the capital, Kabul, displaying their crafts.



The Afghan food stall was catered for and served to all invitees and participants of the event. The stall was also decorated with Afghan handicrafts and products as well as *Haft Seen* (Haft Mewa) tabletop to further showcase the Afghan culture and the way Afghan celebrate Nowruz.

The program was further enlightened with Afghan musicians, Dandia performance, Attan and Qarsak by groups of Afghan and Indian students.



The Nowruz celebration was a jubilant moment for both the countries and has been witnessing a strengthened relation of people-to-people contact spreading across the globe.

