

INDIAN EMBASSY IN KABUL celebrates 59th R-Day in style



Indian Ambassador to Afghanistan Jayant Prasad reading out the President's Address to the Nation.

The Indian Embassy in Kabul celebrated the 59th Republic Day on January 26 with fervour and gaiety.

Although it was an unusually cold morning, over 200 Indians gathered in the courtyard of the Indian Embassy to attend the function. Ambassador Jayant Prasad unfurled the flag, read out the President's Address to the Nation, delivered on the eve of the Republic Day, and briefly spoke to the gathering. He said that the Indian citizens in Afghanistan were on a mission to forge and

nurture the closest possible friendship between India and Afghanistan and to promote the unity, integrity and progress of Afghanistan through the social and economic development of the Afghan people.

Besides members of the Mission and Indian nationals and persons of Indian origin in Kabul, Indian personnel working on different assistance projects and with the Government of Afghanistan attended the grand event.

The main function was followed by a ren-

dition of patriotic songs in the Embassy auditorium. With guidance from Ustad Inder Bawra, students of music at the Indian Cultural Centre, Kabul, participated in the programme. The Centre also organised a screening of the Bollywood film, 'Chak de! India', in the evening, which was well attended and appreciated.

Flag-hoisting functions and receptions were also held at the Indian Consulates General in Herat, Jalalabad, Kandahar and Mazar-e-Sharif. ■