



Embassy of India
Jakarta

Press Release

Embassy of India, Jakarta, Celebrates International Women's Day with 'Extraordinary Women Awards 2025'

Jakarta, March 9, 2025 – On the occasion of International Women’s Day, the Embassy of India, Jakarta, in collaboration with Indo Indians, organized the prestigious 'Extraordinary Women Awards 2025' at BINUS University, Jakarta on March 08, 2025. This inspiring event brought together nine phenomenal women who are shaping the future and uplifting communities through their remarkable contributions in various fields.

The awards honored **Pushpa Vatvani** (Lifetime Achievement) – a pioneer of yoga in Indonesia, dedicated to spreading wellness and spiritual growth; **Sanjana Bhat** (Woman of the Year) – an education visionary empowering future generations through inclusive learning; **Aparna Saxena** (Entrepreneurship) – a leader in sustainable business, creating impact through ethical entrepreneurship; **Ayu Pratiwi Muyasyaroh** (Environment & Sustainability) – a passionate SDG advocate mobilizing youth for climate action; **Julia Suryakusuma** (Social Impact) – a fearless journalist and author advocating for democracy and equality; **Rani Pramesti** (Leadership) – a champion of women's empowerment, paving the way for future generations; **Sindhu Raj** (Art & Culture) – a celebrated Bharatanatyam dancer preserving classical arts in Indonesia; **Sonia Lakhiani** (Social Impact) – a humanitarian uplifting lives through meditation and mentorship; and **Yanti Nisro** (Leadership) – a dynamic leader fostering change through community empowerment.

The event was graced by Ambassador Shri Sandeep Chakravorty, who expressed his deepest appreciation for the outstanding achievements of these extraordinary women. He emphasized the importance of recognizing their invaluable contributions to society and their role in inspiring future generations.

A special highlight of the event was the Lifetime Achievement Award, presented to Ms. Pushpa Thakurdas Vatvani, a pioneering figure in the introduction and expansion of yoga in Indonesia. Practicing yoga since the early 1970s, she was the first Indian yoga teacher in the country, playing a crucial role in popularizing the discipline at a time when it was relatively unknown. Her teaching journey spanned various institutions, including embassy offices, schools, and temples, with a notable ten-year tenure at Bina Graha, the presidential office, during President Soeharto’s administration. Through her dedication, yoga gained widespread recognition and acceptance in Indonesia. Today, she takes pride in seeing yoga flourish across Indonesia as one of the most respected practices for holistic well-being.

The 'Extraordinary Women Awards 2025' served as a platform to celebrate the resilience, dedication, and trailblazing spirit of these women, reinforcing the significance of their contributions to society. The event concluded with a heartfelt note of gratitude to all attendees, partners, and supporters who made this celebration of women's achievements a resounding success.
