

## Milan Message of the Ambassador of India

On the happy and auspicious occasion of Milan Festival 2011, I convey my warm greetings and best wishes to the Organizing Committee of this important and popular Festival. This Festival of togetherness, attracting large number of people from all walks of life and communities, has become synonymous with the celebration of shared values and cultural traditions. The wholehearted participation of the Surinami-Hindustani community in the Netherlands as also others of Indian origin and the Dutch people have contributed to progressive enrichment of this unique Festival since its inception in 1985. Over the years, Milan has grown into a multi-cultural event symbolising mutual respect and friendship.

We attach great importance to the close cultural links of the Surinami-Hindustani community in the Netherlands with India. The enthusiastic participation by the representatives of the community in Pravasi Bharatiya Divas and other events in the last few years has further strengthened these bonds.

As we celebrate Milan, I am pleased to share that the Government of India has decided to establish an Indian Cultural Centre in the Netherlands which would provide an important platform for enhanced cultural interaction and cooperation and bringing the various communities closer.

I wish the Festival all success.

*Bhaswati Mukherjee,  
Ambassador of India*



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