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Patriotic musical evening set to enthral audience today

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By Hasan Kamoopuri

MUSCAT — Music lovers and those fond of patriotic songs have much to rave about during the current Republic Day celebrations of India.

The Embassy of India and Indian Social Club (Hindi Wing) will present today an evening of melody and *rubaiyaan* titled *Sare Jahan Se Achchhaa, Hindustan Hamara* as part of the celebrations of the 59th Republic Day at the embassy auditorium.

Vir Singh, Honorary Convenor, ISC, said it will be an evening of truly captivating musical performance by two renowned Indian artistes — Indraneel Mukherjee, a very versatile singer and musician, and Dr Surender Bhutani, a leading writer and poet in Urdu and English.

Anil Wadhwa, Indian Ambassador to the Sultanate, told the *Observer* that he will use this opportunity to release Mukherjee's album of patriotic songs *Mazhab Nahi Sikhata Apas Mein Bair Rakhna*.

The ambassador will also release Dr Bhutani's bilingual book *Rubaiyat* (in Hindi and Polish). Wadhwa fondly recalled his long-standing association with the two artistes and thanked the Hindi Wing for having put together such an imaginative event.

Mukherjee's presence and performance at the event will enliven the whole atmosphere. He is one of those rare singers who have shared the stage with legends like Anil Biswas, Salil Choudhary, Ghulam Ali and famous stars from Indian cinema such as Dilip Kumar, Hema Malini, Moushmi Chatterjee and great playback artistes like Meera Kapoor, Jagjit Singh, Anuradha Paudwal,



Usha Utthup and Manna Dey.

Mukherjee said he has dedicated his album of patriotic songs to former Indian president Dr A P J Abdul Kalam, whom he described as "a wonderfully intellectual, awe-inspiring and a great human being".

It was inspiration and encouragement from the former president that Mukherjee has put together this album.

Greatness of India

The album begins with Dr Allama Iqbal's famous song *Sare Jahan Se Achchhaa, Hindustan Hamara ...*, recorded fresh by Meena Kapoor Biswas.

All the songs in the album recapitulate the greatness of India through music and trigger the patriotic feelings "in us which is fast losing its meaning, lamentably among the youth of today", said Mukherjee.

Dr Bhutani, famous in the Arab world as a leading Arabist, has penned eight books and more than a thousand articles

on Arab affairs. He was the first executive director of the Arab Cultural Centre (League of Arab States) in New Delhi from 1978 to 1982. Dr Bhutani has taught at the University of Bombay, Warsaw, Poznan and Oxford.

Dr Bhutani has translated the works of great Urdu poets such as Mir, Ghalib, Firaq and anthology of eight modern Urdu poets, including Faiz, Parvin Shaqir, Qateel Shifai, Bashir Badr, Nida Fazli, Ibn-e-Insha and Jan Nissar Akhtar, into Polish.

In association with his friend Janusz Krzyzowaski, he has translated ghazal into a ghazal form, which is something very unique in Polish literary history.

Dr Bhutani has also penned songs for albums *Sunta tha Asman, Dil Ki Veeraniyan* and *Aur Sapne Jage* composed and sung by Mukherjee.

The musical event, open to invitees only, will be most certainly fondly remembered for a long time to come, said Vir Singh.