



## HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA, BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

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### Exhibition of Islamic Calligraphy from India in Brunei Darussalam



An Exhibition of Islamic Calligraphy from the Rampur Raza Library was inaugurated today in Brunei Darussalam by His Excellency Yang Berhormat Pehin Dato Lailaraja Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd Yusoff, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports of the Government of Brunei Darussalam. This Exhibition consisted of 36 photographs of calligraphy including of verses from the Holy Quran, and poetry in Persian and Arabic, selected from the over 3000 calligraphy pieces in the Rampur Raza Library collection. The Exhibition was jointly hosted by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports of the Government of Brunei Darussalam and the High Commission of India in Brunei Darussalam and is the inaugural event of the Festival of India here.

At the inaugural event, Smt. Nagma M Mallick, High Commissioner of India to Brunei Darussalam, described the Exhibition as a gesture of solidarity and friendship of the Government of India to the Government and the people of Brunei Darussalam on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of His Majesty the Sultan. She described the calligraphy on display as another example of the syncretic culture that amalgamated the

ancient Indian artistic traditions with Islamic culture over hundreds of years to produce a cultural flowering under the Mughal Empire. The Exhibition of Islamic and other Monuments of India held in Brunei in December 2016 had also showcased the architectural aspects of the same syncretic culture. After providing some details of the practice of Islamic calligraphy in India, she informed the audience that the art of calligraphy was still a living tradition in India, where over 60 Departments of Arabic and Persian Studies flourished in Indian universities. Prof. Syed Hassan Abbas, Director of the Rampur Raza Library, described some of the treasures stored in the Library, including 17000 original manuscripts. He detailed the names and careers of some of the renowned calligraphers whose works formed part of the Rampur collection. The High Commissioner gifted an example of calligraphy in marble to the Minister.

Over one hundred distinguished guests attended the inaugural event including senior dignitaries of the Government of Brunei Darussalam, Director of the Islamic Da'wah Centre, Ambassadors and High Commissioners, Vice Chancellors of universities, artists and representatives of print and audio-visual media. An article by the High Commissioner on calligraphy in India and providing details of the Exhibition with photographs were carried by both the dailies in their editions of 8 November 2017. The Exhibition will stay open to the public until 25 November 2017.











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9 November 2017  
Brunei Darussalam