

Mauritius PM gets a rare honour

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI

In an unprecedented gesture, India on Saturday accorded the status of “special guests” to Mauritius Prime Minister P.K. Jugnauth and his wife, Kobita, at the Republic Day celebrations here, official sources said.

The couple witnessed the unfurling of the national flag by Maharashtra Governor C.V. Rao, inspection of the ceremonial parade and other events that were held at the State function in Shivaji Park.

An official said usually India hosted a foreign head of state or government or royalty as chief guest at the Republic Day function in New Delhi.

Special guests

However, this time, the Mauritius PM was in India for the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas and later on an official trip to Mumbai where he had a series of programmes to attend.

“The Government of India suggested they should be invited as ‘special guests’ at the function here,” an official requesting anonymity said.