

Indonesian Govt honours Nehru, three others

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, Dec 12: The Indonesian Government today conferred its Order of Service *Bintang Republik Indonesia Adipurna* (First Class Star of the Republic of Indonesia) to late Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India, at a function at the Indonesian Embassy here. Ms Sonia Gandhi received the award on behalf of Pandit Nehru.

The former Orissa Chief Minister, Mr Biju Patnaik, the former Representatives of India to Indonesia, Mohd Yunus and Mr P R S Mani were also awarded the Order of Service *Bintang Jasa Utama* (First Class Star of Service).

The awards were given for "diplomatic and moral support" extended to Indonesia by these eminent Indian personalities dur-

ing the critical period after the country's independence attained exactly 50 years ago, which brought to an end Dutch colonial rule. These awards were given away by the Indonesian Ambassador in India, Mr Adolf Sahala Rajagukguk.

Mr Rajagukguk recalled that under Pandit Nehru's outstanding leadership, India together with Burma and other newly independent countries persuaded the UN Security Council to intervene and resolve the conflict between Indonesia and the colonial Dutch Government.

On his part, Mr Patnaik, a trained pilot, acted as an emissary of Pandit Nehru and flew several missions to Indonesia without caring for the Dutch military blockade. One of his most notable missions was to fly Indonesia's Vice President, Mohd Hatta, to New Delhi from Bukit Tinggi in West Sumatra.