

**Embassy of India**  
**Tokyo**  
\*\*\*\*

**Press Release**

**Reception held on the occasion of the 70th Republic Day of India**

A reception to mark the 70th Republic Day of India was hosted at the landmark Okura Hotel in Tokyo on 28 January 2019 by H.E. Mr. Sanjay Kumar Verma, Ambassador of India to Japan. H.E. Mr. Yasutoshi Nishimura, the Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary, Government of Japan graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and addressed the audience.

2. The reception was attended by over 500 guests. The august gathering included Mr. Hiroyuki Hosoda, President of Japan-India Parliamentary Friendship League; Former Prime Minister Mr. Yasuo Fukuda, other members of the India-Japan Parliamentary Friendship group, captains of the business community, senior officials from various Ministries, heads of cultural organizations, representatives of think-tanks, the scientific community, academia, media, the Indian community and the diplomatic corps.

3. Ambassador Verma welcomed the Chief Guest, Mr. Nishimura after the playing of the National Anthem of both the countries. In his remarks, Mr. Nishimura greeted the guests and expressed his heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of India's Republic Day and also conveyed his appreciation to the hosts, Ambassador Verma and Mrs. Verma, for bringing together such a large gathering to celebrate an event of such great significance for India.

4. Mr Nishimura expressed the intention of the Japanese government to invite Prime Minister Modi to Japan on the occasion of the G20 summit. He added that this year, it is Prime Minister Abe's turn to visit India. He said that the people of Japan are looking forward to it. Mr. Nishimura said that Japan and India share universal values and strategic interests and that throughout history, have maintained close ties. He added that Japan and India are playing important roles for the stability and prosperity of the region. The two countries also hold the key to the free and open India-Pacific region.

5. Ambassador Verma, in his speech pointed out that over 60% of Indians are below the age of 35 and therefore India intends to upgrade and enlarge the education system to benefit them. He said that owing to continuous reform, India's economy has been climbing new heights. India and Japan are economic partners and Japanese economy has benefitted from partnership with India as well. He remarked on the close and friendly civilizational ties between India and Japan which has now developed into a special strategic and global partnership.

6. A photo exhibition showcasing memorable moments from the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Japan in October 2018 and "Gandhi 150" was showcased at the reception. The 'Gandhi 150' collection included photos from the life of Mahatma Gandhi. A cultural performance organized by the mission included the rendition of Gandhi's favorite bhajan "Vaishnav Jan To Tene Kahiye Ji" in Gujarati by Japanese friends. A video of the Republic Day

Parade, 2019 at Raj Path, New Delhi was also showcased. The inaugural edition of the new Indian Embassy Newsletter, "The Indian Connection", published in Japanese was released during the reception as well. And finally, Mrs. Gunjan Verma, Spouse of Ambassador Verma awarded two return tickets sponsored by Air India to the winner of a lucky draw held during the event. Mr. Motoyuki Negishi won the prize.

\*\*\*