



**Consulate General of India
Sao Paulo**

71st Republic Day of India celebration

The 71st Republic Day of India was celebrated by the Consulate General of India, Sao Paulo on 26 January 2020, with usual fervor at a function organised at Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre. The celebration was attended by about 200 persons from Indian community, including Persons of Indian Origin, and Brazilian Friends of India.

2. The function started with unfurling of Tricolor by Consul General Shri Amit Kumar Mishra, which was followed by singing of the Indian National Anthem. Consul General Shri Amit Mishra then read out the Hon'ble President's Address to the Nation on the eve of 71st Republic Day. In his remarks afterwards, Consul General spoke about the Government initiatives to connect with Indian Diaspora. S

3. Speaking on India-Brazil relations, Consul General mentioned that the State visit of Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro to India as the Chief Guest of Republic Day opens a new chapter in bilateral relations and signing of multiple cooperation agreements ranging from trade and investment to culture & science & technology broadens the canvas of engagement between the two countries.

4. Acknowledging the people-to-people ties as important element of any bilateral relationship, Consul General Shri Amit Mishra announced that the same was reflected in the decision of Government of India to award Padma Shri, India's fourth highest civilian award, to two Brazilian women, Ms. Gloria Arieira and Prof Lia Diskin for their work in promotion of Sanskrit & Vedanta and Gandhian philosophy and values respectively. Consul General honored

Prof Lia Diskin, who also attended the Republic Day celebration event. In her remarks, Prof Diskin thanked India and its people for the honor and talked about relevance of Gandhian philosophy of non-violence in context of high rates of crimes and violence in Latin American countries.

5. The cultural program at the celebration included Yoga demonstrations by the students of the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre and Bharatanatyam performances by Brazilian artists from Sao Paulo-based *Natyalaya* group. Light refreshments were served after the cultural performances.

6. Consul General Shri Amit Kumar Mishra and Mrs. Meenakshi Mishra also hosted Republic Day reception on 24 January 2020 at Rooftop Berrini, Hotel Transamérica Berrini, which was widely attended by the officials of the State of Sao Paulo and City of Sao Paulo, representatives from political, business, cultural and academic community, media persons, Consular corps and members of Indian community. Secretary of International Relations, City of Sao Paulo Mr. Luiz Alvaro Salles Aguiar de Menezes was Chief Guest at the occasion. In his remarks, Consul General highlighted the strategic partnership between India and Brazil, especially highlighting the presence of Indian companies in Brazil. Chief Guest Mr. Luiz Alvaro Salles Aguiar de Menezes expressed hope for further expansion of engagement between Sao Paulo and India in commercial and cultural space. Bharatanatyam dance performance by Brazilian artist Ms. Barbara Malavoglia was hugely applauded by the audience.

7. Some pictures of the flag hoisting event on 26 January 2020 and Republic Day reception on 24 January 2020 are shared below:

Flag Hoisting ceremony (26 January 2020)









Republic Day Reception (24 January 2020)





