



MEDIA RELEASE

26 January 2021

Celebration of 72nd Republic Day of India

In celebration of the 72nd Republic Day of India, a flag hoisting ceremony was held at Consulate General of India, Sao Paulo. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, the participation was limited to the officials of the Consulate and Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre. Members of the Indian community and Friends of India joined the event virtually and saw the live telecast of the entire event on the Facebook pages of the Consulate and Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre.

2. Consul General Amit Kumar Mishra unfurled the National flag, followed by the singing of the national anthem. Consul General then read the address by Hon'ble President to the nation on the eve of the Republic Day. In his remarks afterwards, Consul General commended the members of the Indian community for their resilience in wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, and highlighted the support extended by the Consulate during the pandemic, including organising repatriation mission for stranded citizens. While talking about the leading role played by India in the global war against Covid-19, Consul General highlighted '*Vaccine Maitri*' initiative through which India is supplying Indian-manufactured coronavirus vaccines to partner countries. He mentioned about the supply of 2 million Covid-19 vaccines to Brazil, which has been appreciated by the Brazilian government and people. A short video on the '*Vaccine Maitri*' programme was played after the Consul General's address.

3. Mr. Rakesh Kanojia, Vice-President of Indian Association of Sao Paulo represented the Indian community at the Consulate and congratulated everyone on the occasion during his address. The other members of the Indian Community of Sao Paulo participated enthusiastically in the event from the confines of their homes through the virtual platform. A special cultural program was put together by the members of the Indian community.

4. The Cultural program started with the rendition of '*Vande Mataram*' by Ms. Ratnabali Adhikari. This year during the celebrations of Republic Day, special tribute was paid to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose on his 125th birth Anniversary through presentation of various cultural elements. Ms. Ratnabali Adhikari

presented a rendition of Netaji's favourite song '*Amara Desher Maati*' and Mr. Amitabh Ranjan, a member of the Indian Community read out excerpts from a speech of Netaji.

5. Expressing their respect to the National flag and faith in the Constitution, special presentations were made by the members on the Indian community. Ms. Nikita Kukreja made a presentation on the 'Evolution of the Indian National Flag' and Mr. Shobhan Saxena, President of Indian Association of Sao Paulo gave a brief talk on the 'Preamble to the Indian Constitution'.

6. The other cultural elements included recitation of Hindi poem by Mr. Vijay Bavaskar; singing of patriotic Bollywood song 'Ye Jo Desh Hai Tera' by Mr. Suraj Mohan and a dance presentation on a medley of patriotic songs by Ms. Gyaneshree Karahe.

Few photographs of the event are attached herewith.











EMBASSY OF INDIA
CONSULATE GENERAL
SAO PAULO



REPUBLICA DE
SANTO ESPRITO
GOVERNADOR
ANTONIO CARLOS ZANARDI

The National Flag of India



- ▶ Saffron indicates strength and courage of the country
- ▶ White indicates peace and truth
- ▶ Green is for showing the fertility, growth and auspiciousness of the land.
- ▶ The blue color Dharma Chakra at the center depicts the "wheel of the law." The chakra is the symbol of progress and movement.

