

**Embassy of India
The Hague**

Press Release

**71st Republic Day of India to be celebrated at India House, Wassenaar
on January 26, 2020**

The 71st Republic Day of India will be celebrated on 26th January 2020 at India House-the residence of Ambassador of India to the Netherlands at Backershagenlaan 21 in Wassenaar.

Since June 2017 when Ambassador Venu Rajamony assumed office, the Independence Day (15th August) and Republic Day (26th January) are celebrated as an open house for all members of the Indian Diaspora and friends of India in the Netherlands.

The celebrations will begin with hoisting of Indian national flag by the Ambassador at 10.00 a.m. The flag hoisting will be followed by singing of the National Anthem and reading out of President Ram Nath Kovind's address to the nation. This will be followed by a performance of patriotic songs and refreshments.

A large number of representatives of the Indian community and friends of India are expected to attend the celebrations. The Netherlands is home to the largest population of overseas Indians on mainland Europe.

India and the Netherlands have a long history of friendly bilateral relations. The Netherlands is one of the first three countries that established diplomatic relations with independent India in 1947. Year 2019 marked a high point in the bilateral relationship with the first State Visit to India by their Majesties King Willem-Alexander and Queen Maxima from October 14-18, 2019. The State Visit was followed by a visit by Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister of India to the Netherlands from 9-11 November 2019. Chief Ministers of Kerala and Himachal Pradesh visited the Netherlands in May and June 2019, respectively.

Economic and commercial relations provide a strong underpinning to bilateral relations. During the State Visit to India, the largest ever trade delegation comprising of 250 members from 140 companies and organizations accompanied the

Dutch Royals. The Netherlands was the third largest investor in India in FY 2018-2019 with investment worth US\$ 3.87 billion. The cumulative investments from the Netherlands to India in the period April 2000 - September 2019 amounts to about US\$ 29.7 billion. The Netherlands is also a major investment destination for Indian companies with total investment (ODI Stock) by Indian companies estimated at over US\$ 12 billion, as on March 2018.

The main sectors of cooperation between India and the Netherlands are Agriculture, Ports and Shipping, Water and Waste Management, Science & Technology, Urban Development etc.

January 22, 2020

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