

## PRESS RELEASE

## Celebrations of the 74<sup>th</sup> Republic Day of India

The High Commission of India, Abuja celebrated 74<sup>th</sup> Republic Day of India on 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2023 at the Chancery premises in presence in the members of Indian community, Nigerian dignitaries, and friends from Media. In addition to Abuja, celebrations were also held at Lagos, Kano, Port Harcourt and across Benin and Chad by Indian nationals and local friends. Around 250 people participated in the event.

2. Celebrations started by unfurling of the National Flag by the High Commissioner of India, G. Balasubramanian, followed by singing of the National Anthem of India. High Commissioner addressed the gathering and read the address of the President of India H.E. Mrs. Droupadi Murmu to the Nation. High Commissioner highlighted the achievements and responsibilities of the Republic of India and how world looks up to it. Vibrant Cultural performances were presented by the members of Indian community and Nigerians. Culture performances included Bharatnatyam, dance performances by Kids and singing of patriotic songs. Winners of the poetry reciting competition held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023 on the occasion of World Hindi Day' were also awarded during the celebrations.

3. On the occasion of the 74th Republic Day of India an official grand reception was organized by the High Commissioner at the Chancery Premises in the evening of 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2023. Hon'ble Minister of Interior H.E. Ogbeni Rauf Aregbesola, Hon'ble Minister of Labour & Employment, Federal Republic of Nigeria, H.E. Sen Chris Ngige, Hon'ble Minister of State, Federal Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, H.E. Chief Henry Ikechukwu Ikoh, Several Ambassadors, local dignitaries, members of the Diplomatic Corps, officers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other Ministries of Government of Nigeria, representative of prominent business and prominent members of the Indian Community participated in the event. The High Commissioner welcomed the guests and delivered address briefly outlining the importance of the Republic Day and the highlights of India-Nigeria bilateral relations. Rich cuisine of India was offered in the reception that followed. witnessed the cultural performances Indian as well as Nigerian artists.

Abuja 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2023