**Embassy of India**

**Tokyo**

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**Subject: Hanami Celebrations at Embassy of India, Tokyo**

Embassy of India, Tokyo is holding a week long celebration of Hanami ( Cherry Blossom viewing) parties to mark the Spring season in Japan. The celebrations were launched on 24 March 2023 with the participation of high level representation from Japanese Ministers, lawmakers and Government representatives.

2. The event on 24 March 2023, was graced by the presence of H.E Mr. HOSODA Hiroyuki, Speaker of House of Representatives, H.E. Mr HAYASHI Yoshimasa, Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Mr. NISHIMURA Yasutoshi, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, H.E Mr. KONO Taro, Minister for Digital Transformation, H.E Mr. WATANABE Hiromichi, Minister for Reconstruction and H.E. Mr. HAGIUDA Koichi, Chairperson, Policy Research Council of LDP. Important dignitaries included State Ministers, Parliamentary Vice Ministers, Special Advisors to Prime Minister, distinguished Members of Parliament, Governors, Mayors, Chiefs of Staff, Former Ambassadors of Japan to India, Vice Ministers and friends of India. Ambassador Sibi George, Speaker Hosoda and Foreign Minister Hayashi addressed the gathering on the occasion. Mrs. KISHIDA Yuko, spouse of the Prime Minister of Japan attended the second day of Hanami celebrations.

3. The Hanami celebrations were held in the backdrop of the recent visit of PM Kishida to India. The year 2023 is also being marked as the India – Japan Year of Tourism under the theme ‘Connecting Himalayas with Mount Fuji’. Japan is currently chairing the G7 and India is chairing the G20 offering opportunities for co-operation on common priorities. Both countries have been co-operating closely to deepen their economic and strategic partnership and work together towards a Free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific.

4. At the event, Embassy organised a photo exhibition highlighting the 70 years of establishment of Diplomatic relations between India and Japan .In addition, two exhibition Lounges for Millets and AYUSH (Ayruveda, Yoga, Sidda, Unaani and Homeopathy) also have been set up, showcasing International Year of Millets 2023 and healthcare and well-being benefits of AYUSH.

5. During the course of the celebrations between 26-29 March, participants in the Hanami celebrations include Senior officials of Government of Japan, Business community, Academia, Think Tanks, Media and Representatives of art & culture and famous performing artists.