**Independence Day Celebrations at Embassy of India, Moscow, 15 August 2014**

The 68th Independence Day of India was celebrated today at the Embassy of India in Moscow. About 500 Indian citizens, people of Indian origin and Russian friends of India attended the event. The Ambassador of India to the Russian Federation, Mr. P.S. Raghavan, unfurled the Indian National Flag. Following the National Anthem, the Ambassador read out the Address to the Nation of the President of India and then briefly addressed the gathering.

In his remarks, the Ambassador drew attention to the special and privileged strategic partnership between India and Russia, which covers virtually the entire range of human endeavour: politics, economics, defence, nuclear, space, energy, education, science & technology and culture. In today’s circumstances, the two countries are paying particular attention to further strengthening economic cooperation, educational and research linkages and tourism exchanges. These are areas where potential is enormous and not fully tapped. In preparation for the Annual Summit between the Russian President and the Indian Prime Minister in New Delhi in 2014, both sides are working to step up progress on ongoing projects of cooperation and to identify new areas of cooperation for the future. The Ambassador invited the participation of the Indian community in this effort to revitalize India-Russia bilateral relations.

India’s Independence Day was also celebrated at the Indian Consulates General in St. Petersburg and Vladivostok, besides other venues across Russia.

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