

**Speech of Ambassador at Reception on the occasion of the
67th Republic Day of India, 28 January 2016 at Hotel Intercontinental, Almaty**

Your Excellency Mr. Rymtai Karibzhanov, Deputy Head of the Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan at Almaty, distinguished guests, ladies & gentlemen.

It gives me an immense pleasure to welcome you all on the occasion of the celebration of 67th Republic Day of India in Astana.

This is the historic day on which the Indian Constitution came into force in 1950. The Indian Constitution is the longest written constitution in the world. It provides comprehensive and dynamic framework to guide and govern the country. This year's Republic day has a special significance since India is celebrating the 125th birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. B. R Ambedkar, who was the Principal architect of India's Constitution.

India's Constitution laid the vision of building a new India by declaring India to be a Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic committed to secure justice, liberty, equality and fraternity to all its citizens. We are proud that these values have served us well and would continue to guide us in the future.

Over the last 66 years, India has made great strides in ensuring the economic and social wellbeing of its people and contributed to the global peace, security and prosperity. Our economic growth has been steady, India today is the third largest economy by purchasing power parity and seventh largest economy by nominal GDP, our currency has remained stable, and we have made rapid progress in various scientific fields from agriculture to space and information technology.

The last one year has been particularly remarkable for India for many reasons. Following Prime Minister Modi's landmark initiative "Make in India", to promote India as a global manufacturing hub, the country has scored several "firsts". To cite a few examples: India is now 1st amongst the world's most attractive investment destinations; it is 1st amongst world's fastest growing economies and; 1st among 100 countries on the growth, innovation, and leadership index.

Brand India emerged as the 7th most valued national brand in the world. India's rank jumped 12 positions in World Bank's Ease of Doing Business and 16 places in the Global Competitiveness Index.

In contrast to other major developing countries, growth in India remained robust at 7.3% in 2015. The World Bank Global Economic Prospects Report released this month forecasts India's growth at 7.8% in 2016 and 7.9% each in 2017 & 18. Moody's

