

## **Republic Day Reception 2019 in Belgium**

The Embassy of India, Brussels hosted a reception on the occasion of India's 70<sup>th</sup> Republic Day on 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2019 at the prestigious Royal Museum of Art and History in Brussels.

2. The event was well-attended by high dignitaries – including European Parliament, senior officials of the EEAS and other EU Institutions, Belgian Foreign office, Ambassadors and diplomats of Russia to EU and Belgium, China, Britain, US, Canada and various other countries including Pakistan and members of the Indian Diaspora.

3. In her speech, Ambassador of India to the EU, Belgium and Luxembourg Smt. Gaitri Issar Kumar welcomed the guests and informed them of the progress made by the people of India in the all sectors and their commitment to pluralism, democracy and the philosophy of *Vasudhavi Kutumbkam*. Ambassador also referred to the EU's new strategy for India – launched in 2018 and conveyed that it would provide a broad policy framework for deeper and broader engagement between EU and India. Ambassador highlighted the launch of India's celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi's 150<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary.

4. In his address, Mr. Christian Leffler, Deputy Secretary-General for Economic and Global Issues, European External Action Service, spoke of the tremendous potential of growing trade relations between India and the EU and the EEAS's vision and strategy to work together to take it to new heights.

4. An exhibition of paintings of the Madhubani and Rajasthani style was displayed in collaboration with the Museum of Sacred Arts.

5. The programme was attended by more than 350 guests who enjoyed the music and dance presentations (Bhangra and Folk dance) with enthusiasm.