

MOSCOW, APRIL 13, 2017

ESTEEMED MRS SWARAJ,

KINDLY ACCEPT CORDIAL GREETINGS ON AN AUSPICIOUS DATE – THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES.

THIS ANNIVERSARY PROVIDES A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO OVERVIEW THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PAST AND CHART OUT PLANS FOR THE FUTURE.

RUSSIA AND INDIA HAVE BEEN TRADITIONALLY BOUND BY STRONG, TIME-TESTED TIES OF FRIENDSHIP AND MUTUAL SYMPATHY. WE INVARIABLY VALUE THE SPECIAL MUTUAL ATTRACTION BETWEEN OUR PEOPLES AND CULTURES.

TODAY BILATERAL INTERACTION HAS REACHED A QUALITATIVELY NEW LEVEL OF SPECIAL AND PRIVILEGED STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP DEFINED BY INTENSIVE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ENGAGEMENTS, MUTUAL SUPPORT IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA, CONSISTENT DEEPENING OF HUMANITARIAN COOPERATION. COINCIDENCE OF LONG-TERM NATIONAL INTERESTS AND PROXIMITY OF APPROACHES TO KEY ISSUES OF MODERN WORLD POLITICS SERVE AS A RELIABLE PLEDGE OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF RUSSIAN-INDIAN RELATIONS.

WE EXPECT THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AMBITIOUS ROADMAP OF ANNIVERSARY RELATED EVENTS APPROVED BY OUR LEADERS IN GOA LAST OCTOBER, WOULD BE INSTRUMENTAL IN INTENSIFYING BILATERAL TIES IN VARIOUS SPHERES, IN GIVING FRESH IMPETUS TO BROADER MULTIFACETED COOPERATION BETWEEN MOSCOW AND NEW DELHI.

I AVAIL MYSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SINCERELY WISH YOU GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING, AND TO THE PEOPLE OF INDIA – PEACE AND PROSPERITY.

SERGEY LAVROV

HER EXCELLENCY

MRS SUSHMA SWARAJ,

MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA NEW DELHI

New Delhi