

【Ambassador's message】

It is my great honour to celebrate the conferral of Decoration of the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays upon you, Madame Indira Misra. I am delighted that your long-standing contribution for the promotion of Ikebana in India and the deepening of mutual understanding between Japan and India were complimented in the form of this Decoration. Respecting the COVID-19 protocols, the ceremony today has been restricted in various ways and the number of participants has to be limited, but I am pleased to confer this Decoration personally upon you.

Madame Misra, you have been earnestly dedicating yourself towards the promotion of Ikebana in India for over 30 years. Since you started learning Ikebana in 1972 in Osaka, you have been trained under the tutelage of many renowned Japanese Masters. After being introduced into the Ohara School in Tokyo in 1979, you successfully completed Assistant Teacher, Instructor and Associate Master's terms sequentially, and finally earned the First Degree Master Certificate in 2017. As a founding member and teacher of the Delhi Chapter of Ohara School, you have served in every possible capacity in teaching Ikebana to younger Indian people, and in establishing the Ohara School in Delhi.

Most of all, your contribution for establishing the Ikebana International Gurugram Chapter in 2003 is commendable. As former Secretary and President, you have dedicated yourself towards promoting Ikebana in Gurugram in cooperation with your colleagues from both Ohara and Sogetsu schools. I am delighted to learn that the Ikebana has been rooted steadily in the Gurugram community and Gurugram has become a pivot in spreading Japanese culture to younger Indian generations and accommodating Japanese Masters to interact mutually with Indian citizens.

Moreover, I thank you for your active and creative role as the Master of Ikebana in India. You have been engaged in excellent demonstrations and exhibitions in many events and have been publishing articles on Ohara School. As the President of Delhi Chapter of Ohara School, you have succeeded in the presentation of fragrant collaboration of Ikebana with Indian traditional music, which introduced the synthesis of sound and colour to the Indian society.

You have been always obliged to request from various schools and organizations to teach them the art of Ikebana. Also, you have continued to

contribute to the Embassy and Japan Foundation's activities, especially by bringing about your fantastic opus at His Majesty the Emperor's Birthday Reception held by the Embassy of Japan in India.

Madame Misra, it is my earnest hope that as a person who has made numerous accomplishments, you will continue to contribute to the expansion of the bilateral relations.

In celebration of Madame Misra's achievement, I would like to request everyone to kindly join me in giving her a big round of applause. Congratulations, Madame Indira Misra.