**Address of Ambassador Guðni Bragason at the Presentation of Credentials Ceremony in New Delhi on 22nd September 2021.**

**Your Excellency.**

It is for me a great honor and pleasure to have been nominated Ambassador of my country to the Republic of India.

I convey to you the greetings of his Excellency, the President of Iceland, Guðni Thorlacius Jóhannesson, and his best wishes for the welfare and success of your country.

The President of Iceland and his wife, Mrs Eliza Reid, recall with fondness the official visit of you and your wife to Iceland in September in the year 2019. The visit was a success for the friendship of our countries, which in the coming year, 2022, will celebrate fifty years of diplomatic relations.

The anniversary gives a good opportunity to highlight the issues and ideals we have in common, such as emphasis on security, democracy, human rights, sustainable development and use of natural resources, free market economy, and draw attention, through events and cultural exchange, to our good relations.

Our countries, and indeed the whole world, have been facing enormous challenges in the last months through the COVID-19 pandemic. Allow me, Excellency, to say that it shows the strength our societies and culture that we have been able to live up to these challenges, and that we will over-come them.

Allow me also to wish you, Excellency, and your nation prosperity in the future, and declare my intention to do everything in my capacity to strengthen and foster the friendly relations between the Republic of Iceland and the Republic of India. For that purpose I have the full support of the President and the Government of Iceland.

**Thank you, Your Excellency.**