

**MOST IMMEDIATE**

**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**  
**D(CEREMONIALS)**

**Subject: Republic Day Celebrations, 2020 - Issue of invitation cards.**

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It has been decided that, as in the past, admission to the seating enclosures for the Republic Day Parade, 2020 will be regulated partly through invitation/admit cards and partly through priced tickets. Invitation/admit cards will be issued only to the entitled categories. Invitation/admit cards holders will be allowed to bring children below 10 years of age who will be seated in front on durries.

2. The Beating Retreat Ceremony will be held on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2020. It has been decided that the invitation cards for the main show on the 29<sup>th</sup> January will be issued to the officers of the rank of Directors in the Govt. of India, Brigadiers and equivalents in the Services and second-in-commands in the Foreign Missions in India including Military Attaches in addition to the dignitaries included in the Central Table of Precedence. For the 28<sup>th</sup> January show officers of the rank of Deputy Secretary/Colonel and equivalent in the Services will be invited besides the ticket holders.

3. For the issue of invitations for the Republic Day Parade and Beating Retreat Ceremony 2020, the Ministry of External Affairs are requested to forward four copies of their up-to-date Diplomatic List, in English to this Ministry as early as possible and in no case later than 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2019. It is, specially requested that the date may be adhered to, if need be, by sending corrected copies of an existing list, rather than awaiting any list which may be under print. This list may be sent to Under Secretary (Cer), Ministry of Defence, Room No.1, South Block, New Delhi.

4. The Ministry of External Affairs are requested to re-check the correctness of the Diplomatic list before it is despatched to Ministry of Defence. The list should reflect, as closely as possible the position that would hold good in various Missions in the last week of January, 2020.

5. Some important Diplomatic Officers and Delegations may be visiting Delhi at the time of Republic Day Celebrations. Names of persons from among the members of such Delegations (with which the Ministry of External Affairs are concerned) who should be invited for the functions, may also be intimated as soon as the information is available. The information about their status and whether they would be accompanied by their spouse, may also be furnished.

6. As in the past, Ministries/Depts. will project their requirement for invitation to the foreign guests viz. dignitaries and officers representing foreign Govt. through the Ministry of External Affairs (Protocol Division) in order to avoid duplication. The Ministry of Defence will issue invitations only in respect of those requirements, which have the approval of Ministry of External Affairs.

Contd...2/-

**As in the past, only those requests received through Ministry of External Affairs will be entertained.** All the Ministries/Depts. of the Central Govt. have been advised accordingly.

7. Number of requests from Diplomatic Missions are forwarded to us by the Ministry of External Affairs towards the later part of January for issue of invitation cards. It is requested that these lists may be forwarded to us after a thorough scrutiny. It has been observed in the past that non-diplomatic (i.e. non-entitled) Staff of the Missions have often been shown as guests of diplomats. Further, our experience is that sometimes, staff of the Diplomatic Missions approach this Ministry for invitation cards through more than one source, often through other Departments. Ministry of External Affairs are requested to kindly advise the Missions that recourse to such channels of communications should be avoided. A copy of the advice issued in this respect may also please be endorsed to Ministry of Defence.

8. Invitation cards for diplomats and their spouses will be sent to the Ministry of External Affairs, as usual, for vetting and despatch to various missions in Delhi.

9. Separate instructions will be issued regarding arrangements for the sale of tickets in due course.

  
(Satish Singh)  
Director(Air-I & Ceremonials)  
Tele: 23016304

**Ministry of External Affairs**  
**Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan.**  
*(Shri Nagesh Singh, Chief of Protocol)*

MoD ID No. 1(I)/13/2019/D(Ceremonials) dated 17 September 2019.

Copy forwarded for information to:-

**Army HQrs., DGMI**  
**Naval HQrs., DNI**  
**Air HQrs., DAI**  
**HQ IDS(Coord)**

It may be noted that the list of diplomats called for from the Ministry of External Affairs include names of Military Attaches/Advisors and their names need not be included in the list of Invitees to be furnished by the Services.

Copy also to:

OSD(Invitation)