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## **PRESS RELEASE BY THE OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER**

### ***The High Commissioner of the Republic of India pays courtesy call on Speaker Farrugia***

Ms Gloria Gangte, the new High Commissioner of the Republic of India, paid a courtesy visit to Speaker of the House of Representatives Anġlu Farrugia.

After welcoming the high commissioner, Speaker Farrugia recalled the very friendly bilateral relations that exist between Malta and India, which relations had been established diplomatically on 10<sup>th</sup> March 1965. He said that these relations were strengthened further by various high-level visits, including that of the Indian Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu, whom Speaker Farrugia had met on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2018, during Vice-President Naidu's visit to Malta, and the visit of State Minister for External Relations Meenakshi Lekhi last August.

Speaker Farrugia referred to the Indian community in Malta, which has adapted itself very well to the Maltese life over the past decades, as well as the Indians working in the health sector, who are doing a fine job. He noted that over a hundred registered companies in Malta have an Indian shareholder or a beneficial owner.

High Commissioner Gangte expressed her admiration for the hospitality shown by the Maltese people to the Indian community and said that Malta and India could cooperate also in the tourism sector.

Speaker Farrugia and High Commissioner Gangte discussed issues of mutual interest, such as the relations between India and the EU and the role of Parliamentarians in brokering peace between Russia and Ukraine.

Ms Gloria Gangte, High Commissioner of the Republic of India, was accompanied by Mr Aniruddha Das, Deputy Head of Mission.