## Mr. Nikunj Parekh conferred "The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays" by Government of Japan

"The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays" was conferred on Mr. Nikunj Parekh, President of Indo-Japanese Association by Mr. Yoshiaki Ito, Consul-General of Japan in Mumbai at a presentation ceremony held on Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2015 at the Consulate-General of Japan in Mumbai. Members of the Indo-Japanese Association, the Japanese Association in Mumbai, the Sakura-kai as well as the Bonsai Study Group attended the event.

The congratulatory message from Mr. Fumio Kishida, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan was read out by Mr. Ito, Consul-General of Japan in Mumbai after the playing of the National Anthems of India and Japan.

Mr. Ito in his speech appreciated Mr. Nikunj Parekh for his contribution to the promotion of Bonsai and the Japanese culture. Mr. Parekh responded by thanking the Consulate officials, and the members of the Indo-Japanese Association for the encouragement he received for over three decades.

After the ceremony, Mr. Ito hosted a luncheon reception in honour of Mr. Parekh.