

Speech by H.E. Ambassador on Gandhi Jayanthi

Venue: Edogawa

Oct 2, 2024

His Excellency Takeshi Saito, Hon'ble Mayor, Edogawa City

Mr Murotani, Director, SW Asia Division

Mr. Kajimoto, Deputy Director, MoFA

Members of Indian Community

Distinguished guests

Teachers and School Children

Namaste and Konnichiwa !

It is my profound honor to stand before you today as we gather to celebrate Gandhi Jayanti, a day that holds deep significance not just for India but for the entire world. Today, we commemorate the birth anniversary of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, lovingly known as Mahatma Gandhi, the father of our nation, a global icon of peace, and a man whose philosophy of non-violence and truth transformed the course of history.

Standing here in the serene surroundings of Edogawa Park in Japan, I am reminded of the universal values that Gandhi lived and died for—values that resonate deeply in this land of harmony and respect. Japan, with its rich cultural traditions of peace and tranquility, provides the perfect backdrop for us to reflect on Gandhiji's teachings.

Gandhiji believed in the unity of all people, transcending boundaries of race, religion, and nationality. His message of "Ahimsa," or non-violence, is one that the world needs now more than ever. As we face global challenges—ranging from conflicts and violence to environmental degradation—his ideals stand as a beacon of hope. His belief that non-violence is not the weapon of the weak, but of the strong, reminds us that the path of peace and dialogue is the way forward.

The deep historical bonds between India and Japan also echo this spirit of mutual respect and non-violence. Our relationship is rooted in shared values. Buddhism, for instance, that traveled from India to Japan centuries ago, fostering a spiritual connection between our two peoples. The values that Gandhiji held dear—peace, harmony, and self-reliance—are principles that are cherished in Japanese society as well.

In Japan, where peace is deeply revered, we are reminded of the indomitable spirit of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, cities that have risen from the ashes of devastation to stand as symbols of peace and resilience. Gandhi himself drew inspiration from the teachings of the Buddha and expressed great admiration for Japan's culture of discipline and harmony.

Here in Japan, we also recognize the significance of cultural exchange and mutual learning. The statue of Mahatma Gandhi in this very park serves as a symbol of the friendship between our two nations—a friendship based on shared values and common aspirations for peace and prosperity.

Today, as we lay floral tributes at the feet of Gandhi's statue, let us not only honor his memory but also reflect on how we, in our own ways, can contribute to making this world a better place. Let us draw inspiration from his life and strive to follow his example of selfless service, truth, and justice.

I thank you all for being a part of this celebration and for your commitment to the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi. May we continue to spread his message far and wide, working together for a world of peace, unity, and understanding.

Domo arigato gozaimasu. Thank you.

Jai Hind!