

**Speech by H.E. Ambassador on Gandhi Jayanthi
at Hiroshima, Oct 2, 2024**

Excellency

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Members of Indian Community and friends of India in Japan

Namaste and Good Evening to all !

It is a great honor and privilege to stand before you today, on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, to commemorate the birth anniversary of one of the most extraordinary leaders in history—Mahatma Gandhi. I extend my warmest greetings to each and every one of you gathered here.

Mahatma Gandhi, lovingly known as the 'Father of the Nation' in India, was not just a leader for his time, but a beacon of peace, non-violence, and truth for all of humanity. Born on October 2, 1869, his life and teachings continue to resonate, not just in India, but around the world. Today, as we celebrate his legacy here in Japan, we honor a man who firmly believed in the power of peace over conflict, of dialogue over violence, and of compassion over hatred.

Gandhiji's philosophy of Ahimsa (non-violence) and Satyagraha (truth-force) were not just strategies for India's independence; they were,

and still are, universal principles that inspire movements for justice, equality, and freedom across the globe. His message transcended borders, cultures, and generations.

Gandhiji's connection to Japan was rooted in mutual respect and admiration. He held Japan in high regard for its industrial and technological advancements, but even more so for its rich cultural heritage and traditions of discipline and resilience. These qualities helped forge a relationship between our nations that has only grown stronger over the years. Today, India and Japan stand as steadfast partners, sharing a vision of peace, development, and cooperation.

As we stand here in Hiroshima, surrounded by symbols of peace and harmony, we are reminded that the values Gandhi cherished continue to guide us in our daily lives. In today's world, where divisions often overshadow unity, and conflicts arise in different corners of the globe, the need to return to Gandhiji's ideals is more urgent than ever.

In Japan, a country that understands the profound consequences of war and the precious value of peace, celebrating Gandhi Jayanti takes on an even deeper significance. Hiroshima and Nagasaki bear testimony to the horrors of nuclear destruction, yet Japan has emerged as a global advocate for peace and disarmament. This resonates with Gandhiji's dream of a world free from violence, where dialogue and understanding prevail over force and coercion.

On this special day, let us reflect on Gandhi's vision not just for India, but for the world—a vision of unity in diversity, where every individual, regardless of nationality, creed, or race, is treated with dignity and respect. Let us pledge to carry forward his legacy of service, compassion, and truth in our personal lives and in our roles as global citizens.

As we pay homage to the Mahatma today, let us also remember the timeless values he stood for—non-violence, peace, tolerance, and truth. Let us take inspiration from his life and strive to build a better, more just world for ourselves and for future generations.

Before I conclude, I would like to express my deep gratitude to the Japanese government, the people of Japan, and everyone here today for their continued support in strengthening the bond between India and Japan. Our friendship, built on mutual respect and shared values, grows deeper each day, and it is events like these that further reinforce our collective commitment to peace and harmony.

On this auspicious occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, I encourage everyone to reflect on the Mahatma's teachings and to practice his principles in our daily lives. Together, we can make his dream of a peaceful and just world a reality.

Thank you.

Jai Hind!

Long live India-Japan friendship!