

Remarks by Ambassador Sibi George at the Vasudaiva Kutumbakam event at the Embassy of India, Tokyo on August 11, 2023

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Welcome to Embassy of India, Japan.

Today, we have assembled here to celebrate Vasudaiva Kutumbakam, One Earth, One Family, One World. This is the theme of India's G 20 Presidency, a position that India assumed in December last year.

Let me start with quoting from the speech that Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi delivered when he addressed the Bali G 20 summit in 2022. He said and I quote: "India is taking charge of the G-20 at a time when the world is simultaneously grappling with geopolitical tensions, economic slowdown, rising food and energy prices, and the long-term ill-effects of the pandemic. At such a time, the world is looking at the G-20 with hope.

"Today, I want to assure that India's G-20 presidency will be inclusive, ambitious, decisive, and action-oriented. Over the next one year, we will strive to ensure that the G-20 acts as a global prime mover to envision new ideas and accelerate collective action. The sense of ownership over natural resources is giving rise to conflict today, and has become the main cause of the plight of the environment. For the safe future of the planet, the sense of trusteeship is the solution. LiFE i.e. 'Lifestyle for Environment' campaign can make a big contribution to this. Its purpose is to make sustainable lifestyles a mass movement.

"The need today is that the benefits of development are universal and all-inclusive. We have to extend the benefits of development to all human beings with compassion and solidarity. Global development is not possible without women's participation.

We have to maintain priority on women led development even in our G-20 agenda. Without peace and security, our future generations will not be able to take advantage of economic growth or technological innovation. The G-20 has to convey a strong message in favour of peace and harmony.

“All these priorities are fully embodied in the theme of India's G-20 Chairmanship – "One Earth, One Family, One Future". It is a proud occasion for every Indian to assume the G-20 Presidency. We will organize G-20 meetings in different cities and states of our country. Our guests will get full experience of India's amazing diversity, inclusive traditions, and cultural richness. We wish that all of you will participate in this unique celebration in India, the 'Mother of Democracy'. Together, we will make the G-20, a catalyst for global change. Unquote

Dear Friends,

During the last one year, this is exactly what India sought to achieve. India's effective handling of G 20 presidency with over 200 events spread across India, with its One Family, One Earth, One World message indeed has an impact. Each one of Japanese friends who attended the G 20 meetings in India, whether it is G to G or B to B they all returned with a great appreciation of India's growth story, its amazing diversity, inclusive traditions, and cultural richness. As we are getting ready for the summit meetings next month, I thought it is appropriate and important that we meet together celebrate this eternal principle of Vasudaiva Kudumbakam.

It is also linked to India's vision of Amrit Kaal, a journey to the 100th anniversary of India's independence. A 25-year period journey, India at 100 in 2047. What is Amrit Kaal? Prime Minister spoke about Panch Pran of Amrit Kaal (five pledges). On August

15 this year all Indians will take a pledge of Panch Pran – our resolves: 1. Make India a developed nation; 2. Root out all traces of a slave mindset; 3. Be proud of India's rich culture and tradition; 4. Work for the unity and integrity of India; 5. Fulfill the duties of citizens; 6. Honour those who defend the nation; and 7. Work to fulfill the dream of a developed India in 2047.

In his address at the UNGA in September last year, External Affairs Minister Dr. Jaishankar ji highlighted the agenda of New India for our centenary which will be achieved through the five pledges, elaborating what each of the pledges meant for the world: One, we are resolved to make India a developed country in the next 25 years. For the world, that creates more capacities for global good. Two, we will liberate ourselves from a colonial mindset. Externally, this means reformed multilateralism and more contemporary global governance. Three, our rich civilizational heritage will be a source of pride and of strength. This includes care and concern for the environment, so ingrained in our traditional ethos. Four, we will promote greater unity and solidarity. This expresses a coming together on global issues, such as terrorism, pandemics or the environment. And five, we will instill consciousness of duties and responsibilities. This applies to nations, as much as it does to citizens. These five pledges affirm our age-old outlook that sees the world as one family. We believe that national good and global good can be entirely in harmony. This is the conviction that prompted us to chose the theme for G 20 Presidency, Vasudaiva Kutumbakam, World is One Family, - One Earth, One Family, One Future. This will continue to guide us in our engagement with the world, during the Amrit Kaal and beyond.

Dear Friends,

Next week we will be celebrating India's independence day. We have a flag hoisting at 7.45 AM on August 15, and an evening event at this auditorium. I invite you all to join me.

Before I conclude, I thank the cultural team, our renowned artistes – Ms. Nalini Toshniwal, Mr. Ghulam Waris, Mr. Pranshu Chaturlal, and Mr. Tadao Ishima, who are performing for us today. It is their immense contributions that kept India's rich cultural traditions alive. I also congratulate the winners of various competitions that we held in the Mission. Once again, thank you for joining us today.

Thank you.
