

Remarks by Ambassador Sibi George at the Horrors of Partition event at the Embassy, August 14, 2023

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to Embassy of India, Japan.

I thank you for joining us today to observe the Horrors of Partition Remembrance Day which is an annual national memorial day observed on 14 August remembering the victims and sufferings of people during the 1947 partition of India. It was first observed in 2021, after announcement by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

Dear Friends,

Tomorrow we will be celebrating our independence day. It is a joyous and proud occasion; however, let's never forget that with the sweetness of freedom came also the trauma of partition. The birth of the newly independent Indian nation was accompanied by violent pangs of partition that left permanent scars on millions of Indians. The partition caused amongst the largest migrations in human history affecting about 20 million people. Millions of families had to abandon their ancestral villages/towns/cities and were forced to find a new life as refugees. The pain and violence of partition continue to remain deeply etched in the memory of millions of Indians.

On August 14, 2021 Hon'ble Prime Minister said and I quote, "Partitions pains can never be forgotten. Millions of our sisters and brothers were displaced and many lost their lives due to mindless hate and violence. In memory of the struggles and sacrifices of our people, 14th August will be observed as Partition Horrors Remembrance Day, May the Partition Horrors Remembrance Day keep reminding us of the need to remove the poison of social divisions, disharmony and further strengthen the spirit of oneness, social harmony and human empowerment". Unquote.

While the country has moved on, to become the largest democracy and the third-largest economy of the world, the pain of partition suffered by the nation can never be forgotten. While celebrating our Independence, a grateful nation also salutes those sons and daughters of our beloved motherland who had to sacrifice their lives in the frenzy of violence. I request each of us present here to share our sentiments with our next generation as well. The exhibition here today is a reminder of what our nation faced during that difficult times.

Dear Friends,

We have a flag hoisting at 7.45 AM and an evening event at this auditorium. I invite you all to join me.

Thank you.

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