

**Embassy of India
Tokyo

**Opening Remarks for Ambassador Sibi George on the occasion
of Valedictory Ceremony for VCC Classes
Friday, December 16, 2022**

Mr Matsumoto Kenji, Director, Regional strategies division, Japan Foundation;

Teachers and students of VCC

Ladies and gentlemen!

A very good evening to you all .

I am delighted to note that 295 students have completed their courses in various performing arts and Yoga at the Vivekananda cultural Centre, in the July-December 2022 semester. I congratulate each one of them for their passion and dedication towards Indian culture . I would also like to place on record my appreciation for the teachers for their concerted efforts .

Today , as the students graduate , I am sure that they would agree that the Indian culture, including classical arts and performing arts & yoga is an elixir for one's physical , mental and spiritual elevation

Indian performing arts are the expression of the inner beauty and the divine in the person.They celebrate the soul and its yearning for union with the supreme being it the universal soul . The practice of Indian classical arts is akin to meditation , to discover one's best inner self .

Similarly , Yoga is a universal panacea and the only path to a holistic wellness . The power of Yoga has been truly realised during the pandemic , when Many people across the globe resorted to yoga to alleviate from traumatic effects of Covid.

On this occasion , I would like to quote the words of our honourable PM “India has a cultural legacy that the whole world is looking for “! The enthusiastic participation of Japanese friends in todays event is a testimony to the same !

I am happy to note that at a time , when India and Japan are celebrating 70 years of their diplomatic relations , the participation of such a huge number of Japanese students in the VCC activities is truly an ode to the indo -Japan friendship!

I once again congratulate all the participants and the teachers for a successful semester ! I also look forward to more collaborations between the VCC,EOI Tokyo and the Japan foundation for furthering the Indo - Japan cultural ties.

Thank you.
