

Embassy of India
Tokyo

**Remarks by Ambassador of India to Japan Shri Sibi George at the
Sakura Tree Plantation Ceremony on April 24, 2023**

HE Mr Hiroshi Zengo, Mayor of Inawashiro Town
Mr Choji Suzuki, Chairman, International Cherry Blossoms Planting
Festival Executive Committee
Ms Masako Mori, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister, Member of the
house of Councillors
Mr Ichiro Kanke, Member of the house of representatives
Ms Emiko Takagai, Member of the house of representatives
Mr Wakamatsu Kaneshige, Member of the house of Councillors
Members of the Japan Sakura Foundation and the International
Friendship Sakura Festival Committee
Ladies & Gentlemen!

A very Good Morning to all !

I am so happy to be here today.

Thank you for inviting me and my colleagues to this beautiful occasion. I consider this year as one of most blessed years of my life. Reason, I have the great occasion to enjoy the love of nature in the form of cherry blossom festival. The cherry blossom festival that I attended in the Month of March at my Embassy in Chiyoda in Tokyo was indeed memorable.

I was born and brought up in a small town in Kerala, which lies in the southern part of India, between the Western Ghats mountain ranges and the Arabian sea. Kerala is one of the most beautiful lands anywhere in the world. With love we call it God's Own Country.

When I walked in Tokyo last month under the beautiful cherry blossom trees, I was reminded of my home State of Kerala. At this age, nothing is more memorable than thinking about your childhood and your time spend with nature.

Today, when I stand here again I am reminded of my beautiful childhood, playing with trees and nature. Kerala is not the only place that I can offer in India. India is full of such beauties. The mighty Himalayas to the beautiful beaches, the best forests to historical monuments and the flora and fauna makes one nostalgic.

This year we have declared as India - Japan year of tourism, with the theme, Connecting Himalayas with Mount Fuji. I invite you all to visit India this year.

Once again, thank you for inviting me to this beautiful event.
