

**Speech by Ambassador of India to Japan H.E. Shri Sibi George on Ikebana
monthly event at the Embassy – November 15, 2023**

Madam, **Mrs. Yuko Hayashi**, Mrs. Miyoko Watanabe, the president of Ikebana International Tokyo Founding Chapter, members of Ikebana International TFC and Kamakura Chapters, spouses of resident ambassadors. Ladies and Gentleman!

A very Good Morning to all !

It gives me immense pleasure to host the monthly meeting of the Ikebana International at the Embassy of India Tokyo. Ikebana symbolises “harmony among the different elements”. In the same way, I am sure you all will agree when I say that India-Japan relations have witnessed an increasing harmony over the period of time. Our people-to-people ties have maintained their vibrancy with the two nations achieving new frontiers under the rubric of “Special Strategic and Global Partnership”. We are now closely working on ‘Connecting Himalayas with Mount Fuji’.

2. Ikebana’s origin in Japan coincides with the arrival of Buddhism in the country. This sublime art form has a connection to India as the Buddhist monks were the first to practice it, and Buddhism originated in India spreading to Japan. Translated into English as “*bring life to the flower*”, it’s an art form that reverses life.

3. Friends, Ikebana teaches us that nature is not anguish; it is blissfulness and a lot more than an art of arranging flowers. During the process, one falls silent and de-stresses in a unique way. To sum it up, Ikebana changes your philosophy of thinking. This art is more like meditation.

4. I am also happy to note that all of you had expressed great interest in learning

about Indian culture and Yoga. We are delighted to present a specialised Yoga workshop and some vibrant Indian Cultural performances to give you an authentic taste of Indian Culture.
