

**Speech by H.E. Ambassador Sibi George**

**Event: Floral Tribute at Gandhi Statue, Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park  
on Aug 5, 2025, 1015 Hrs**

**HE Fumio KISHIDA, Hon'ble Member of the House of Representatives  
and former Prime Minister of Japan,**

**Mrs Kishida Yuko**

**HE Kazumi MATSUI, Mayor Hiroshima City**

**HE Koji NAKAHARA, Hon'ble Member of Hiroshima Prefectural  
Assembly**

**Mr Kazuhisa MATSUMOTO, President, India-Japan Association,  
Hiroshima**

**Ven Monks from Nihonzan Myohoji Temple**

**Members of Indian Diaspora**

**Friends of India in Japan**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

I would like to thank HE Mr Kishida and HE Mr Kazumi Matsui and all the dignitaries present here to attend this event today, despite their busy schedule and hot weather. It is a solemn honour for me to stand here today alongside you to pay floral tribute to Mahatma Gandhi - a timeless symbol of peace, non-violence, and human dignity.

The statue of Mahatma Gandhi here at Hiroshima symbolizes nonviolence and peaceful resistance. It acts as moral counterpoint to the violence of war, reminding all of us that peace is achievable through non-violent means. Gandhi statue at Hiroshima links India's message of peace with Japan's Commitment to nuclear disarmament. The statue educates visitors, especially younger generations, about the power of peaceful protest, the importance of human dignity and need to reject violence in all forms. It is not just a monument but it is a powerful symbol of peace, nonviolence and global unity, reminding us that even in the face of immense destruction, humanity can chose compassion and courage over hatred and war.

Mahatma Gandhi believed that peace is not merely the absence of war, but the presence of justice, compassion, and truth. His philosophy of Ahimsa - non-violence - was not passive. It was a powerful moral force that inspired movements across the world, from civil rights in the United States to anti-apartheid in South Africa. And in the aftermath of the atomic bombing in 1945, Gandhi's words - "An eye for an eye will make the whole world blind" - gained renewed relevance. Hiroshima and Gandhi are bound by a shared message to humanity: that violence, in any form, is a failure of the human spirit,

and that true progress can only come through peace, reconciliation, and remembrance.

India values its close and deepening relations with Japan, and especially with the city of Hiroshima. This statue of Mahatma Gandhi, installed in this city of peace, is a symbol of the enduring friendship between our peoples. It stands as a bridge - between India and Japan, between history and hope, between suffering and the shared commitment to never allow such tragedy again.

The people of Hiroshima have shown extraordinary resilience and compassion in transforming their city into a global beacon for peace. India deeply respects this spirit. Our two nations, both inheritors of ancient civilisations, have long cherished the ideals of peace and non-violence. Today, as partners in the Indo-Pacific and as contributors to global peacekeeping and sustainable development, our shared values guide our growing partnership.

Let this tribute today serve as a renewed commitment - from India, from Japan, and from all who cherish peace - to uphold the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi and carry forward his legacy not just in words, but in our actions, policies, and interactions - with one another and with the world.

At the end, I once again thank all of you who are present here to offer floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi, a World Icon of Peace. My deepest gratitude to the city of Hiroshima, to Honourable Mayor, and to the people of Japan, for preserving the memory of peace and for embracing the message of Mahatma Gandhi.

Thank you

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