

**REMARKS BY AMBASSADOR SIBI GEORGE ON THE OCCASION OF  
THE INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS OF INDIA IN JAPAN  
AUGUST 15, 2025**

My fellow citizens, Friends of India,

On the occasion of the independence day of India, I extend my greetings to all Indians in Japan. Let's join our 1.5 billion brothers and sisters in India and millions of Indian Diaspora abroad and billions of our friends across the world to celebrate this occasion.

Independence Day is an occasion to remember and pay homage to our freedom fighters and national heroes who sacrificed their lives for India. It is also an occasion to rededicate ourselves to the cause of protecting our freedom, our sovereignty, our independence, our strategic autonomy especially when we see multiple attacks on us including terror attacks from across the border. This year we faced the gruesome terror attack in Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir when innocent civilians were killed by Pakistani terrorists. As Hon'ble Rashtrapati ji said Operation Sindoor showed that our armed forces are prepared to meet any eventuality when it comes to guarding our nation. Operation Sindoor also made it clear that India has zero tolerance towards terrorism, terror and talks cannot go together, terror and trade cannot go together, and blood and water cannot flow together. Independence day is also an occasion for us to dedicate ourselves to continue to contribute to building an Aatmanirbhar Bharat during our Amrit Kaal journey of next twenty-five years when India marches to become a developed country by 2047.

Dear Friends,

It has been almost three years since I have assumed the charge of Ambassador of India in Japan. For me and my wife Joice this is an important occasion as this is the last independence day celebrations for us in Japan. I use this opportunity to say good bye to each one of you for all the support you extended to me in my efforts to build our bilateral relations with Japan. For us it has been a wonderful experience travelling the length and breadth of this beautiful country, covering all 47 prefectures and major cities multiple times. What I have witnessed during these visits and in my interactions at all level is a real momentum, an overwhelming enthusiasm, a spirit of partnership towards building a relationship with India. Wherever I went, I came across a large number of stakeholders, companies, big, medium and small eager to look at India. There is more coverage of India in Japanese media both national and local, indeed, there is a real momentum.

It is not just me and my wife who are saying good bye, I have some of our officers who played an important role in our building our bilateral ties are also saying good bye to Japan. Counsellor Shri Shishir Kothari, Counsellor Madam Nordon, Director of VCC Madam Kanika Aggarwal and our Defence Attaché Captain Majeesh Mathew would also be leaving Japan shortly. I thank them for their service and support extended to me.

Dear Friends,

Today we have an excellent relationship with Japan. A Special Strategic and Global Partnership. Today, India - Japan partnership within the bilateral and plurilateral framework like the QUAD is key to stability and freedom in Indo-Pacific which faces several challenges.

In the last three years, there have been several bilateral high-level exchanges. We had the visits from India of Hon'ble Prime Minister for the G 7 Summit in Hiroshima, External Affairs Minister, Finance Minister, Environment Minister, Railways and IT Minister, Health Minister, Textile Minister to mention a few. Similarly, we had from Japan visits of Prime Minister, Foreign Minister, METI Minister, Environment Minister, Finance Minister, Health Minister, Defence Minister and Speaker of Parliament to mention a few. We recall the unveiling of the statue of Mahatma Gandhi by Hon'ble Prime Minister in Hiroshima and the bust of Mahatma Gandhi at Edogawa in Tokyo at the park which has now been renamed as Gandhi Park. I recall the unveiling of statue of Sir C V Raman in Shimane University this year. We have a number of high-level visits including Hon'ble Prime Minister planned this year.

Dear Friends,

I would like to touch upon the significant progress we made in our political, economic and business relations, and also in expanding people to people connect. I am particularly happy to note the progress we made in our defence exchanges including in defence technology collaboration.

In our Amrit Kaal journey, we consider Japan as a reliable partner. The Mission has taken several steps to make Japan a key partner in our Aatmanirbhar Bharat and in our 3 Ts project – Trade, Technology and Tourism. We have been celebrating India in Japan every day. As Indians we have so much to celebrate, so many national heroes to remember and pay homage to. We celebrate all festivals of India in Japan. We also celebrate the contributions of all our national heroes. We endeavored to promote India in Japan, including our Ayurveda and our Yoga. This year our International Yoga Day celebrations witnessed over 2500 attendees and we had as Chief Guests the spouse of Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Japan. In 2023-25 we celebrated India – Japan Year of Tourism 2.0, with the theme Connecting Himalayas with Mount Fuji. This year we are celebrating India Japan Year of Science Technology and Innovation Exchanges. The three outreach platforms ICN, IPN, IBN that we set

up is contributing in promoting India in Japan. Similarly, our Thematic Library project continues to be active. I recall the twelve hours' continuous nonstop cultural event we organized in the Embassy last month. I thank you for joining us in these efforts.

I also invite you all to visit our India Pavillion Bharat at the Osaka Expo. Our pavilion has become one of the most visited pavilions in Osaka.

Dear Friends,

I invite you all to continue to join us in celebrating India in Japan. Always remember, Indian Embassy in Tokyo is a Home Away from Home for all our Indian Diaspora. All are always welcome to visit the Embassy. Let me conclude by thanking our children who are here to sing our national anthem and patriotic songs.

I thank you for joining us today. See you all again in 2047 when we become a developed country. Once again I wish you a very happy Independence Day. Jai Hind, Jai Hind, Jai Hind.

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