

**Speech by H.E. Mr. Sibi George, Ambassador of India to Japan
On the Occasion of the National Day of India (Independence Day)
Expo 2025, Osaka – Kansai, Japan
August 15, 2025**

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Friends,
Good Afternoon.

It is my great honour and privilege to welcome you all to the celebration of the National Day of India—our Independence Day—here at Expo 2025, Osaka – Kansai. On behalf of the Government and people of India, I extend my warmest greetings to each one of you.

2. Seventy-eight years ago, on 15 August 1947, India regained its freedom after a long and determined struggle led by visionary leaders and countless brave men and women. Our Independence Day is not only a celebration of our sovereignty—it is a reaffirmation of our democratic values, our unity in diversity, and our resolve to shape a future of peace, prosperity, and progress for all. Every year, the Indian diaspora and friends of India in Japan celebrate this occasion with great pride and enthusiasm. I had hoisted the tricolor today morning at Indian Embassy in Tokyo.

3. This year's Independence Day celebration in Japan is especially significant because of the presence of the India Pavilion – Bharat, at Expo 2025 Osaka. Managed by the India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) and curated by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), the Pavilion is a vibrant showcase of India's cultural heritage, economic achievements, technological advancements, and investment potential.

4. Since its opening, the India Pavilion has been ranked among the top five pavilions at the Expo, alongside those of the United States, Italy, Japan, and France. It now welcomes over 20,000 visitors each day and crossed the milestone of 2 million visitors last week, making it one of the most visited and admired at the Expo. We hosted the International Day of Yoga at the Pavilion, which saw enthusiastic participation from over 1,300 individuals. We have also had the privilege of welcoming many dignitaries from Japan including Governors from Japanese Prefectures, who have expressed their appreciation for the Pavilion's unique blend of tradition and modernity.

5. Through immersive exhibits, cultural performances, and business engagements, and with the participation of various Indian States and Ministries

showcasing their products, innovations, and development milestones, the Pavilion offers a compelling vision of a confident, modern India. An India that is ready to partner with the world for a sustainable and inclusive future.

6. Today, as we mark India's National Day at Osaka Expo, we also celebrate the deep and enduring friendship between our two countries. India and Japan share a Special Strategic and Global Partnership that is as strategic as it is spiritual, as pragmatic as it is principled. This relationship is anchored in mutual respect, shared values, and centuries-old cultural exchange. From the spiritual ties of Buddhism to modern collaboration in advanced technologies, our nations have enriched and supported each other in remarkable ways.

7. In recent years, our partnership has expanded to embrace cooperation in economic security, critical and emerging technologies, clean energy, connectivity, and cultural exchange. Japan is a valued partner in India's development journey, just as India is a trusted friend in Japan's growth and prosperity.

8. The National Day celebration here at the Expo is more than a ceremonial occasion. It is an opportunity to share the soul of India with the world. Today's performances, parade, music, dance, crafts, and cuisine are not only artistic expressions but also living embodiments of India's unity in diversity. This gathering reflects the essence of our friendship with Japan, a friendship built not just by governments, but by the people themselves.

9. As we celebrate India's 79th Independence Day at Expo 2025 Osaka, let us honour the sacrifices of the past, take pride in the achievements of the present, and commit ourselves to a future of peace, sustainability, and shared prosperity.

10. I thank all our partners, especially Government of Japan, Expo Authorities, ITPO, IGNCA, our State and Ministry delegations, our performers, and Japanese friends for making this day possible. May the spirit of Expo 2025 "**Designing Future Society for Our Lives**" continue to inspire us to build bridges of friendship and cooperation between our nations and peoples, connecting Himalayas with Mount Fuji.

Thank you.
