

**Remarks by H.E. Ambassador Sibi George  
on Kochi Day, 22 August 2025, India Pavilion – Bharat  
at Expo 2025, Osaka**

**H.E. Mr. Seiji Hamada, Hon'ble Governor of Kochi Prefecture;  
Shri Chandru Appar, Consul General of India in Osaka- Kobe;  
Dr. Garima Mittal, Pavilion Director;  
Friends of India from Kochi Prefecture;  
Ladies & Gentlemen;  
Good morning,**

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the India Pavilion – Bharat at Expo 2025 Osaka for this special occasion dedicated to the growing partnership between India and Japan, with a focus on Kochi Prefecture.

I would like to begin by warmly welcoming His Excellency Mr. Seiji Hamada, Governor of Kochi Prefecture. I fondly remember welcoming the Governor at the Embassy of India for the Kochi Day celebration on June 5 this year. I also recall my visit to Kochi in February 2024, where I had the privilege of meeting the Governor and exploring avenues for cooperation. It was during that visit that the idea of “Kochi Day” was first proposed. I am glad to see that it has taken shape not only in Tokyo, but now also here at the India Pavilion in Osaka.

The Pavilion itself has emerged as one of the most vibrant and admired national spaces at Expo 2025. It presents India as both an ancient civilization and a modern, youthful, and responsible global actor. In recent months, it has welcomed a diverse and enthusiastic Japanese and international audience. Among our highlights was the celebration of the 11th International Day of Yoga at Maturi Arena, where over a thousand yoga enthusiasts joined in. On August 15, we also commemorated India's National Day with a spirited parade, flag hoisting, and a cultural performance that drew wide appreciation.

Over the past two and a half years, I have had the privilege of visiting all 47 prefectures of Japan. Among them, Kochi stood out for its blend of scenic beauty, rich cultural heritage, and progressive governance. Its commitment to community-led development and sustainability strongly resonates with India's values. With strengths in clean energy, agri-tech, marine innovation, and cultural vibrancy, Kochi offers several promising areas for deepening engagement.

Institutions like the Kochi University of Technology, which I had the opportunity to visit, can serve as key drivers of cooperation in research, education, and talent exchange. Strengthening such academic linkages will benefit both sides, especially as we work to foster people-to-people connections between Indian states and Japanese prefectures. Further, its cooperation with Tamilnadu and Nagaland , initiated through a sister-state agreement, is a fine example of subnational diplomacy rooted in mutual priorities.

Our shared priorities whether in sustainability, digital innovation, or human capital find strong alignment in this partnership. As we move forward, I am confident that Kochi will continue to play a leading role in regional cooperation between our countries.

The story of India–Kochi cooperation is one of shared vision, local leadership, and global relevance. It reminds us that when regions connect with trust and purpose, the outcomes can be both meaningful and enduring.

Once again I would like to thank His Excellency Mr. Seiji Hamada, Governor of Kochi Prefecture, for his continued support and leadership in deepening this partnership. We look forward to building on this foundation to create new opportunities in the years ahead.

Thank you.

\*\*\*\*\*