

**Speech by Ambassador of India to Japan H.E. Shri Sibi George at the VCC
Semester Grand Finale, Embassy Auditorium on December 08, 2023**

Dear teachers and students of VCC, their families, ladies & Gentlemen!
A very good evening to you all!

I am delighted to note that 406 students have completed courses in various Indian performing Arts & Yoga at the Vivekananda Cultural Centre, in the July- December 2023 semester. I congratulate each one of them for their passion and their love for Indian Culture.

The diverse profile of the students in VCC classes is an encouraging factor for the growing India-Japan cultural ties. People of all age groups and professions in Japan, have show a deep & keen interest in learning about India. As the students graduate today, I am sure that they would agree that Indian Culture is indeed one of the richest and the most cherished intangible cultural heritage of humanity. I am also confident that many of you would have witnessed positive changes in your personality, thought & lifestyle during your journey in Indian Performing Arts, India Languages & Yoga.

In our ever-evolving world, it is easy to overlook the importance of traditions and heritage. However, Indian Arts and yoga offer us a glimpse into the rich tapestry of the cultural roots of India. They represent a harmonious blending of grace, strength, and self-expression. More than just physical disciplines, they invite us to explore the depths of our souls, connecting our mind, body, and spirit.

As you go forth from this day, remember the essence of what you have learned. Carry the spirit of Indian culture in your hearts and allow it to guide you through the various stages of life. Let it remind you to move with grace and strength, to breathe deeply in times of adversity, and to embrace the beauty of every moment.

In addition to the many physical and mental benefits, Indian performing arts and yoga have the power to bridge cultural divides and foster unity. As emissaries of these art forms, you have an incredible opportunity to share the wisdom and beauty of your experiences with the world. I must say that from now on you also have an additional responsibility of furthering the people to people ties and exchanges between India & Japan by sharing your knowledge and experiences , that you gained at VCC, with the other people of Japan.

Lastly, I want to acknowledge and express our heartfelt gratitude to your teachers, who have tirelessly nurtured your talents and guided you on this path. They have not only imparted their knowledge but have also shared their passion, love, and dedication for these art forms. Let us extend a round of applause to them for their unwavering

commitment and support.

Congratulations, graduates of Indian cultural classes! May you continue to dance & make music through life with grace, resilience, and boundless joy.

Thank you!
