

**Speech by Ambassador Nagma M. Mallick at the
Event: Celebrating Ambedkar Jayanti
14th April, 2026**

Distinguished guests, members of the Indian diaspora, friends of India, and well-wishers,

Good evening and a warm welcome to all of you.

Today, we gather here at the Embassy of India in Japan to celebrate the birth anniversary of one of India's greatest visionaries - Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, affectionately known as Babasaheb. Ambedkar Jayanti, is not just a commemoration of his birth, but also a reaffirmation of the values he stood for: equality, justice, liberty, and fraternity. His ideas are not confined to any one community or nation—they are universal values that continue to echo across societies striving for inclusivity and fairness. His life and legacy continue to inspire not just India, but the entire world.

Dr. Ambedkar's life was a remarkable journey—from a humble beginning marked by social discrimination to becoming the principal architect of the Indian Constitution. His contribution to the socio-political fabric of modern India is profound. As a jurist, economist, social reformer, and political leader, he was a tireless advocate for the rights of the marginalized and oppressed.

His vision of an inclusive and democratic India continues to inspire millions, not only in our country but around the world. His emphasis on education as a tool for empowerment, his unwavering fight against caste discrimination, and his call for unity and dignity for all resonate deeply with the values we hold dear.

Here in Japan, we are reminded of how global Dr. Ambedkar's thinking was. His deep interest in Buddhist philosophy and his admiration for the teachings of the Buddha—many of which find deep roots in Japanese culture—form a unique spiritual and intellectual bridge between our two nations. His journey toward Buddhism was not only a personal spiritual decision, but also a political and moral stand for dignity, equality, and compassion.

India and Japan share a unique and time-tested partnership rooted in these very values. Today, our nations collaborate not just in the fields of

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economics and technology, but also in culture, education, and philosophy. The spirit of inclusivity, mutual respect, and social advancement - central to Dr. Ambedkar's teachings - guides our bilateral cooperation in areas such as digital innovation, sustainable development, and human capital building.

Programs like the India-Japan Skill Development Initiative, academic exchanges, and technological collaborations are empowering our youth and creating opportunities across borders - resonating strongly with Dr. Ambedkar's own belief that "education is the most powerful means for social mobility and empowerment."

Let us also remember that our shared Buddhist heritage is not only a cultural link but also a source of moral guidance in our pursuit of peace and harmony in today's complex world. As Japan and India deepen their strategic and people-to-people ties, Dr. Ambedkar's vision continues to be a guiding light in promoting inclusive growth, democratic values, and social justice.

As we celebrate his life today, let us rededicate ourselves to these ideals. Let us take inspiration from Babasaheb Ambedkar to work for a more equitable, educated, and enlightened world, wherever we may be.

Jai Bhim. Jai Hind.

Thank you.
