

Speech by Ambassador Nagma M. Mallick at the International Gita Mahotsav, Japan; 14th November 2025

**Mr Hiroyuki Sato, Professor, Tokyo University of foreign Studies
Mr Kenji Takahashi, Professor, Toyo University
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Good evening, Namaste, konbanwa.**

A great pleasure to be able to interact with friends of India in Japan to celebrate the gift to humankind of the Bhagavada Gita.

We celebrate today the International Gita Mahotsav – the treasure that emerged in India but it is today the treasure of the whole world – the Bhagavada Gita. This sublime poem is sacred and beautiful poetry. The message of Lord Krishna to Arjuna, the charioteer about to enter battle – the sanguinary Mahabharata – upholds duty and rightful action without greed for a specific outcome in the most beautiful and memorable Sanskrit poetry. These values of devotion to duty, honesty and uprightness resonate with Japanese values as much as they do with Indian ones. Concepts such as (makoto) - sincerity, (wa) - harmony, (kinben) - diligence, and (sekinin) - responsibility, have shaped the Japanese way of life for generations. These are principles that India understands well.

Celebrating the Gita Mahotsav is therefore not only about honouring an ancient text, but about reaffirming the principles that guide India's progress even today. It is a moment to recognise the strength that comes from discipline, duty and a balanced mind.

This poem has meant many things to people around the world and has been translated into tens of languages and sometimes translated many times into the same language. My last posting – around ten translations of the Gita made in over a 100 years starting from the late nineteenth century.

While the International Gita Mahotsav is to be celebrated from November 24-25 in Kurukshetra, India, where the teaching of the Gita originated, it is heartening that we are also celebrating it here in Tokyo as well. I am pleased to know that Mr Hiroyuki Sato, present here, is going to attend the Mahotsav in

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Kurukshetra. I wish him all the very best for his visit. Such cultural exchanges deepen the human connections between our two countries and reinforce the people-to-people pillar that supports our close political ties and our expanding economic cooperation.

As we celebrate the Gita Mahotsav today, I look forward to many more occasions where our shared values and cultural exchanges bring India and Japan even closer and strengthen the understanding and goodwill between our peoples.

Thank You.
