

Speech by H.E. Ambassador
Event : Memorial Gathering at Indian Fountain in Yokohama
September 1, 2024

Namaste Konichiwa

Mr Tadahiro Saegusa, Director General, Yokohama International Affairs

Mr Hanaue, Councillor, Yokohama City Council & Chairman Yokohama-Mumbai Friendship Committee

Mr Kazuo Tanoi, Councillor, Yokohama City Council

Mr Nobuyasu Kaneko, Chairman Discover India Club

Nalin Advani, Chairman Yokohama India Centre and other dignitaries.

Members of Indian Diaspora and Friends of India in Japan.

It is with deep reverence and gratitude that we gather here today at Yamashita Park to pay homage to 22 Indians who died during the Great Kanto Earthquake of September 1st, 1923. This beautiful Indian Memorial Fountain is a symbol of the enduring bond between the people of India and Japan. This fountain, though modest in size, stands as a testament to the rich history, shared values, and mutual respect between our nations. An annual function has been held since 1994, offering prayers to the departed souls, on this day.

The Indian Memorial Fountain, built here in this serene park, symbolizes more than just our friendship. It serves as a reminder of India's contribution to the rebuilding and peace efforts following the devastation of war. After World War II, as Japan rose from the ashes, India extended a hand of solidarity and support. This gesture is immortalized here, reminding us of the power of unity and compassion in times of hardship.

India and Japan, though separated by distance, have always been connected by a deep spiritual and cultural affinity. Our ancient ties trace

back to the spread of Buddhism from India to Japan, fostering a lasting cultural and philosophical exchange. Over the centuries, this bond has only grown stronger, and today, we are united by a shared vision of peace, prosperity, and cooperation.

Let this fountain serve as a beacon of hope and a reminder to future generations of the importance of peace, unity, and friendship. May it inspire us all to work together, hand in hand, for a world free of conflict, a world where nations come together not just in times of need, but in times of shared joy and success.

This September Embassy of India, Japan will be celebrating India Month in Japan beginning from September 02. The highlights of the event include Cultural programmes, Business seminars, Symposiums, ODOP exhibitions, Indian Film screenings, Indian corner in library and Namaste India. I welcome all to participate in these events. I would like to express our deep appreciation to the city of Yokohama, the people of Japan, and everyone who has made this memorial possible. I would like to thank Yokohama Mumbai Friendship Committee for organizing this memorial function. Together, let us continue to honor the legacy of friendship and collaboration that this fountain so beautifully represents.

Thank you.

Arigato Gozaimasita