Remarks by Ambassador Sibi George at the Birth Anniversary celebrations of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in Japan, April 14, 2024

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Distinguished guests, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

Good Evening,

I welcome each one of you to this celebration to mark the birth anniversary of Babasaheb Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, who is remembered as the architect of the Constitution of India.

Let me begin by quoting Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi who said about Dr. B. R. Ambedkar in 2015. He said and I quote: "Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar is a yug purush who lives in the hearts and minds of crores of Indians. His life is characterized by unmatched determination and a firm commitment towards social justice. He made a mark as a bright lawyer, scholar, writer and intellectual who always spoke his mind. Who can forget Dr. Ambedkar's contribution in the making of our constitution? He served the nation and the people tirelessly and selflessly. Let's pledge to dedicate ourselves to creating the India that Ambedkar dreamt of....an India that will make him proud". Unquote.

Since its first meeting in December 1946, the Constituent Assembly took two years, eleven months and seventeen days to complete the task of finalizing the constitution. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Constitution, played a pivotal role in the preparation of the Constitution. What came out of these long deliberations by some of the best minds of the world is one of the most unique constitution which provided a frame work for peaceful governance of our motherland and its emergence as beacon of hope in the comity of nations.

Indian Constitution emerged as a model format to many new independent nations, all across the world. It is the framework within which India re-emerged as a major power overcoming the suppression imposed on $1/6^{th}$ of the humanity that spanned over hundreds of years. This constitution has also provided India the necessary framework to make notable achievements in diverse fields, including atomic energy, space science, agriculture, bio-technology and, of course, information technology, for which India is well-known the world over. It is a matter of pride for an Ambassador to say with confidence that the economic and scientific transformation India achieved was under a constitution which establishes a sovereign, secular, democratic, republic and guarantees Justice, social economic and political, liberty of thought expression belief faith and worship; equality of status and of opportunity.

India today is a land of billion opportunities. India has overtaken China as the most populous country in the world. But we are proud that we govern ourselves as a sovereign democratic republic. Every day it is the constitution of India that gets celebrated when a democratic election takes place in some part of India. Now we are witnessing the biggest election ever held in the history of the world. One billion electorate. A festival of democracy.

In this period of Amrit Kaal, when our nation is marching towards becoming a developed country by 2047, it is all the more important that we recall the contributions of the founding fathers of our constitution and pay homage to them. The best homage we can pay is to rededicate ourselves to the cause of our constitution and also to make our own contributions in our march towards Amrit Kaal.

Dear Friends,

2023 has been a great year in our India – Japan relationship. We began the 2024 with a series of meetings. We are currently celebrating India – Japan Year of Tourism 2024 with the theme 'Connecting Himalayas with Mount Fuji'. I would urge you all to make your own contributions in further developing the people to people connect between our two countries.

Let's keep celebrating India in Japan, let's continue to contribute in building our relationship with Japan, let's contribute towards building an Aatmanirbhar Bharat and also make our own contributions in Amrit Kaal. Once again, I welcome you all and thank you all for joining me today in celebrating Ambedkar Jayanti.

Thank you.

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