

**Mrs. Nita M Ambani's opening address  
at the Opening Ceremony of the 141<sup>st</sup> IOC Session**

**Most Respected Prime Minister of India  
Mr Narendrabhai Modi,  
International Olympic Committee President  
Mr Thomas Bach,  
Distinguished guests and dear friends,**

**Namaskar. Swagatam.**

**Welcome to all of you!**

**आदरनीय प्रधान मंत्री जी,**

**On behalf of the International Olympic Committee,**

**And the Sporting Fraternity in India and the world,**

**I warmly welcome you.**

**Respected Prime Minister, we are filled with immense joy and gratitude that you have joined us today.**

**You are the leader of the world's largest democracy.**

**Architect of New India.**

**Your support to sport has made this Session in India a reality.**

**IOC President Mr Thomas Bach,  
Members and delegates of the IOC from over 80 countries,  
and friends of the Olympic Movement.**

**It is an absolute honour for us to host this historic IOC Session in India after 40 years,**

**and in Mumbai for the first time ever!**

***Aamchi* Mumbai – our Mumbai – welcomes all of you.**

**In our culture, we say 'अतिथि देवो भव'**

**It means: Our Guest is God.**

**You have arrived in India at an auspicious time.**

**On the eve of Navratri, a vibrant Hindu festival celebrated with song, dance, and festivity, that signifies the triumph of good over evil.**

**My dear Friends and Colleagues,**

**In this meeting of the IOC, I see the confluence of two wonderful forces.**

**One is the Olympic Movement, which unites humanity... and transcends all national, racial, religious, and linguistic barriers.**

**The other is India, the world's largest democracy as the host of this meeting.**

**The mantra and motto of our 5,000-year-old civilisation is 'वसुधैव कुटुंबकम्',**

**which our Prime Minister declared as the theme – at India's Presidency of the G20 Summit last month.**

**It means: "The Entire World Is One Family."**

**Today more than ever, our world needs to reunite in fraternity and solidarity.**

**This cannot happen on battlefields.**

**It can only happen on sports fields.**

**In all of human history, there has never been a more magical force to promote peace, friendship, health, fitness, motivation, and joy, than SPORT.**

**Sport energizes us, unites us, and binds us together in the most beautiful ways.**

**Friends,**

**India was always a great cultural and spiritual power.**

**Now, under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Modiji,**

**India is a rising economic power,  
technological power,  
a power in sustainable development,  
a philanthropic power...  
and also, a rising Sporting Power.**

**Our young girls and boys are exhibiting incredible talent in diverse sporting arenas around the world.**

**Most recently, they have made us all proud at the Asian Games in China.**

**Many of them come from very humble backgrounds.  
Some of them are in our midst today.**

**Let's give them a huge round of applause.**

**In conclusion, my dear friends from the IOC,**

**Let me say this with great humility –**

**India's potential is limitless.**

**In the years to come, young Indians will excel globally in every field of human endeavour, including sport.**

**This is the collective dream of 1.4 billion Indian hearts.**

**It is also the collective determination of 1.4 billion Indian minds.**

**Children are our hope.**

**Children are our future.**

**Today, we pledge to nurture and empower our 250 million school-going children through the Olympic values of friendship, excellence, and respect...**

**not just in Indian cities but also in the small towns and remotest villages of India.**

**This meeting of the IOC is truly a defining moment in the history of sport in India.**

**Today, let us recommit ourselves to the guiding principles of the Olympic Movement**

**and work towards**

**OLYMPICS OF ALL.**

**OLYMPICS BY ALL.**

**AND OLYMPICS FOR ALL**

**Our deliberations and discussions over the next three days will inspire and influence millions of young children...**

**in India and all over the world, to embrace the transformational power of Sport.**

**Our children are the ones who will help to shape a better, brighter, kinder, greener, happier, and more harmonious world.**

**A shared future that unites all the eight billion people on our beautiful and bountiful planet.**

**Dear Friends,**

**Today, we are about to witness history.**

**When our Prime Minister Narendrabhai Modi declares the hundred and forty first IOC Session open,**

**India will once again open its arms to the world, not just as a host but as a torchbearer for the Olympic Movement.**

**On that note, I wish you all a very wonderful session, and a very Happy Navratri.**

**Thank you. Dhanyawad.**

**Jai Hind!**