

Remarks by Ambassador of India to Japan Shri Sibi George on the occasion of celebration of Engineers' Day at Embassy Auditorium – September 15, 2023

Dear Guests

It is my pleasure to be amongst you on the occasion of Engineers' Day, which is celebrated every year on September 15 in India to commemorate the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya, who is considered as one of the foremost and best engineers and economic planner in India. Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya was an Indian civil engineer and administrator who served as Dewan of Mysore from 1912 to 1918. He is also often regarded as maker of modern Mysore and considered a popular figure in the Southern State of Karnataka. He implemented an intricate system of irrigation in the Deccan Plateau and designed and patented a system of automatic weir water floodgates that were first installed in 1903 at Khadakvasla Dam near Pune. He achieved celebrity status when he designed a flood protection system for the city of Hyderabad and was instrumental in protecting Visakhapatnam port from sea erosion.

He was instrumental as Dewan of Mysore in laying foundation of institutions and factories including Agricultural Universities, Polytechnics, Chambers of Commerce and other engineering institutions in India. He was conferred the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civil honour, in 1955.

Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya had a special connect with Japan, having visited the country in 1898 and later on he made laudatory references in his published works and speeches on Japan's earnest quest for modernization and transformation.

Friends,

We have recently savoured the success of India's engineering prowess when Indian Space Research Organization successfully soft landed a robotic lander and rover on the Moon's South Pole. This was followed in quick succession by launch of Aditya-L1, the spacecraft to study Sun and its surrounding atmosphere. India's success in space exploration have excited the engineering and scientific fraternity across the globe and we are waiting to push more boundaries in many other areas of Science, Technology and Innovation. I am also happy to note an ascending interest among the school students and Indian Diaspora in general in taking interest in our S&T forays like weekly India S&T Quiz, periodic science fairs and bimonthly Dialogue with Indian Students. Embassy of India has also decided to celebrate the year 2024 as India-Japan year of Science, Technology and Innovation exchanges.

As you also recently witnessed Indian big moment as the host of G-20 summit, which has now become a permanent forum for global cooperation as it has included the leadership of developing world. The success of the G-20 summit in the backdrop of global issues has demonstrated indispensability of our nation in addressing the

challenges of the mankind, which was also our central theme of One Earth, One Family, One Future under the G-20 summit.

I would like to once again specially thank the presence of school children, whom we shall shortly be felicitating for their enthusiastic participation in our forays and hope that today's event would be another milestone in India-Japan bilateral S&T relationship.

Thank you.
