

Remarks by Ambassador H.E. Shri Sibi George
on Parakram Divas organized by Embassy of India, Japan
on January 23, 2024

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

A very good afternoon and greeting to all on the occasion of the Parakram Divas to commemorate the birth anniversary of a towering figure in the annals of India's history, a true patriot, and a relentless freedom fighter - Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose!

2. The Parakram Divas meaning "Day of Courage" or "Day of Valor," is celebrated on 23 January every year to acknowledge Netaji's sacrifice and immense contribution to India's independence movement. He is remembered as a fearless leader, a passionate advocate for freedom, and a symbol of India's unwavering pursuit of self-governance. His charisma, strategic thinking, and unwavering commitment to freedom made him a revered figure in India's history.

3. He led the Indian National Army (INA), also referred to as 'Azad Hind Fauj', which Rash Behari Bose had founded in 1942, to secure independence for India from British rule. His leadership of INA inspired millions of Indians and instilled a sense of hope and determination among those fighting for independence. His famous call to the nation, "Tum Mujhe

"Khoon Do, Main Tumhe Azadi Dunga" (Give me blood, and I shall give you freedom), resonated deeply with the masses and became a rallying cry for India's freedom fighters.

4. Netaji's courage, determination, and unwavering commitment to India's freedom continue to inspire generations, reminding them of the sacrifices made to achieve self-governance. We wholeheartedly salute him for his valor.

5. As we reflect on Netaji's life and contributions, let us not only remember the sacrifices he made but also internalize the values he stood for. Let us strive to uphold the principles of justice, equality, and freedom that Netaji envisioned for our great nation

6. As we celebrate Parakram Divas, let us also express our gratitude to the brave men and women of our armed forces who continue to safeguard our borders, ensuring that the freedom for which Netaji fought is preserved for future generations. The freedom we, as Indians, cherish in our status as an independent nation and the world's largest democracy is a direct result of the sacrifices made by millions of our freedom fighters. Let us pledge to contribute positively to our nation and strive towards building the India that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose dreamt of – an India that stands tall, united and free.

7. Let me conclude by quoting what the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji had tweeted on Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's last birthday, "Today, on Parakram Diwas, I pay homage to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and recall his unparalleled contribution to India's history. He will be remembered for his fierce resistance to colonial rule. Deeply influenced by his thoughts, we are working to realise his vision for India."

8. Once again, I thank you all for joining me today in celebrating the Parakram Divas.

Thank you