

**EMBASSY OF INDIA
TOKYO

**Remarks by Ambassador Sibi George
on the occasion of Parakram Diwas on Jan 23, 2023**

Good Afternoon Everybody,

Greeting to all on the occasion of the Parakram Diwas to commemorate birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose one of the greatest sons of India. Parakram Diwas, meaning “the Day of Courage” or “the Day of Valor”.

No words can fully describe Netaji’s towering personality. He was a great orator, prolific writer and an epitome of simple living and great thinking, he was known as a man who practiced what he preached. He had so much morale and courage even in a formidable situation that the world’s greatest challenges could not deter him.

The daring steps that he took to fulfil his fierce commitment to the idea of a free India - Azad Hind - make him a national icon. He shook the foundation of the foreign rule by organizing the youth with his extraordinary patriotism, indomitable courage and stunning speech. His ideals, unparalleled sacrifices, tenacity and struggle for the motherland will forever inspire every Indian and many people across the world. We all salute him for his valor.

Netaji had a very deep connection with Japan. The lasting legacy of Netaji - The Indian National Army or the

Azad Hind Fauz was founded in Japan. His slogan "Give me blood and I will give you freedom" energized an entire generation of India. The positive sentiments for Netaji, amongst the people of Japan can be seen in the eyes and hearts of each one of you present here today, to commemorate his birth anniversary.

It is a matter of great happiness and satisfaction that the ideals and sacrifices of Netaji have been well preserved and revered by every Indian. In this year when we celebrate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav it is important that we remember and pay homage to our national heroes who sacrificed their lives for our freedom. The freedom that we Indians enjoy as an independent country, as the largest democracy of the world' is the outcome of the sacrifices of millions of our freedom fighters. A life size statue of Netaji was unveiled at the India Gate, on his 125th Birth Anniversary, by Hon'ble Prime Minister, last year. Today, on the occasion of Parakram Diwas, Hon'ble Prime Minister will also be dedicating 21 islands in the group of Andaman & Nicobar Islands after 21 Param Veer Chakra awardees, as a tribute to our real life heroes for their bravery and courage.

Once again, I thank you all for joining me today in celebrating Parakram Diwas. I invite you all to join me for the Republic Day celebrations on January 26, 2023. Let's together unveil our tricolor and sing our national anthem.

Thank you.
