High Commission of India Kuala Lumpur ***

<u>Press Release</u>

<u>100th Birthday Celebrations of INA Veteran, 2nd Lt Sundram</u>

High Commission of India, Kuala Lumpur in partnership with Netaji Welfare foundation & Netaji Service Centre organised the 100th Birthday celebrations of INA Veteran, 2nd Lt N Sundram, at Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Indian Cultural Centre, Kuala Lumpur on Friday, 5 April 2024

2. High Commissioner of India to Malaysia H.E.Mr.B.N.Reddy presided over the event and delivered the welcome address. Speaking on the occasion, H.E.Mr.B.N.Reddy welcomed the guests and highlighted the yeoman contribution of INA Veterans in Malaysia for India's struggle for independence under Netaji's leadership. He also highlighted the felicitation of 2nd Lt Sundram by H.E.Mr.Rajnath Singh, Hon'ble Defence Minister of India, in July 2023 and interaction with H.E.Dr.S.Jaishankar, Hon'ble External Affairs Minister of India, in March 2024.

3. Speaking on the occasion, 2nd Lt Sundram, who fought alongside Netaji in the Burma border in 1943 shared fond memories of his interaction with Netaji. High Commissioner H.E.Mr.B.N.Reddy felicitated 2nd Lt N Sundram with a souvenir on the momentous occasion and launched the book "The Journey of my life" written by 2nd Lt N Sundram.

4. Mr Ratha Krishnan, President, Netaji Welfare Foundation addressed the gathering on the occasion and felicitated 2nd Lt N Sundram on behalf of Netaji Welfare Foundation and Netaji Service Centre.

5. Ms. Aradhana Takthani, Journalist, The Times of India shared excerpts of her chapter on 2nd Lt N Sundram, from her upcoming book "Untold stories of Netaji's Soldiers".

6. Excerpts of 2nd Lt Sundram's speech from the video produced by High Commission of India, Kuala Lumpur titled "At the Altar of India's Freedom – INA Veterans of Malaysia" was screened on the occasion. The cultural programmes held as part of the occasion featured a dance and skit by SJK(T) Castlefield students and members of Netaji Welfare Foundation.

7. Netaji Welfare Foundation, as part of its effort to support education, handed over token financial assistance to 35 students from SJK(T) Castlefield.

8. The event was attended by over 120 guests which included Members of Netaji Welfare Foundation & Netaji Service Centre, family members of 2nd Lt Sundram, Members of Malaysia-India Heritage Society, GOPIO Malaysia, Malaysian Bengalee Association, Students from SJK(T) Castlefield and University Malaya, Members of Media and Officials from High Commission of India and Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Indian Cultural Centre.

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