



The Embassy of India would like to thank all those who sent us messages regarding the terrible rape incident on December 16 in New Delhi. The whole country is saddened and shocked by what happened and there have been numerous public demonstrations and protests. There is a country-wide demonstration planned for tomorrow ie January 3, 2012.

The Prime Minister expressed his deep condolences at the death of the rape victim on December 29, 2012 and said, "I am deeply saddened to learn that the unfortunate victim of the brutal assault that took place on December 16 in New Delhi has succumbed to the grievous injuries she suffered following that attack. I join the nation in conveying to her family and friends my deepest condolences at this terrible loss.

I want to tell them and the nation that while she may have lost her battle for life, it is up to us all to ensure that her death will not have been in vain. We have already seen the emotions and energies this incident has generated. These are perfectly understandable reactions from a young India and an India that genuinely desires change. It would be a true homage to her memory if we are able to channelize these emotions and energies into a constructive course of action.

The need of the hour is a dispassionate debate and inquiry into the critical changes that are required in societal attitudes. Government is examining, on priority basis, the penal provisions that exist for such crimes and measures to enhance the safety and security of women. I hope that the entire political class and civil society will set aside narrow sectional interests and agenda to help us all reach the end that we all desire – making India a demonstrably better and safer place for women to live in.

I pray for the peace of the departed soul and hope that her family will have the strength to bear this grievous loss."