

# English rendering of the PM's address at the special session of Parliament

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Hon'ble Mr Speaker Sir,

In the backdrop of this occasion to remember the 75-year parliamentary journey of our country and those inspiring moments once again before entering the new House, we are bidding farewell to this historic building. Before independence, this House used to be called the Imperial Legislative Council. After independence, it was known as the Parliament House. It's true that the decision to build this building was made by foreign parliamentarians, but we can never forget the fact and proudly say that the sweat of my fellow countrymen was poured into the construction of this building, the hard work of my fellow countrymen was put into it, and the money was also contributed by the people of my country.

Our 75-year journey has brilliantly crafted numerous democratic traditions and processes. While being part of this House, everyone has actively contributed to it and also witnessed it with a sense of reverence. Although we may move to a new building, the old one, too, this House will forever inspire future generations. This building is a golden chapter in Bharat's democratic journey, and it will continue to acquaint the world with the strength of democracy flowing in the veins of Bharat.

Respected Mr Speaker,

The first rays of the 'Amrit Kaal' (golden era) are illuminating the nation with a new belief, fresh self-confidence, new enthusiasm, new dreams, new resolutions, and a renewed strength of the nation. Achievements of Indians are being discussed everywhere and with a sense of pride. This is the result of a collective effort in our 75-year parliamentary history. As a result, today, the echo of our accomplishments is being heard worldwide.

Respected Mr Speaker,

The success of Chandrayaan-3 has not only thrilled entire Bharat but also the entire world. It represents a new facet of Bharat's capabilities, one that is linked to modernity, science, technology, the prowess of our scientists, and the power of determination of 1.4 billion citizens. It is poised to create a new impact on the nation and the world. Through this House, assembly I once again extend my heartiest congratulations to the country's scientists and their colleagues.

Respected Mr Speaker,

In the past, when the NAM summit was held, this House had unanimously passed the resolution and the country had appreciated this effort. Today you have also unanimously appreciated the success of the G20. I believe that you have elevated the pride of the country, and I express my gratitude. The success of the G20 is the success of 1.4 billion citizens of Bharat. It is Bharat's success, not the success of any individual or party. Bharat's federal structure, its diversity, and its hosting of over 200 summits in more than 60 locations, each with its own unique flavour, have been done magnificently by different governments of the country. This impact has been felt on the global stage. This is an issue for all of us to celebrate. It enhances the glory of the nation. As you mentioned, Bharat takes pride in having chaired the G20 when the African Union became a member. I cannot forget that emotional moment when the announcement of the African Union's membership was made and the President of the African Union said that he thought he might break down while speaking as these were important moments in his life. You can imagine the fortune Bharat had to fulfil such huge hopes and expectations.

Respected Mr Speaker,

Doubting Bharat has been a characteristic of many people, and it has persisted since the time of gaining independence. It was the same this time as well. There may not be any declaration; it seems unlikely. However, this is Bharat's strength, and it happened with the world agreeing to a joint communiqué and taking it forward as a roadmap.

And Mr Speaker,

Since Bharat's presidency continues until the end of November, we are determined to make the best use of the time we have right now. Your announcement of a summit akin to a P-20 (Parliamentary-20) of speakers from around the world under your presidency has the full support and cooperation of the government.

Respected Mr Speaker,

It is a matter of pride for all of us that today Bharat has found its place as a 'Vishwamitra' (global friend). The entire world is seeking friendship with Bharat, and the world is experiencing Bharat's friendship. The root cause of this is our culture, the wisdom we have gained from the Vedas to Swami Vivekananda, and the mantra of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas" is uniting us with the world today.

Respected Mr Speaker,

Taking leave from this House is indeed an emotional moment. When a family moves to a new one leaving an old home, it encounters many memories, similarly, our minds and hearts are also filled with many memories as we bid farewell to this House. We have had sweet and bitter experiences, squabbles, conflicts and celebrations, all within the walls of this House. These memories are shared by all of us, these are our common heritage, and that's why our pride in them is also shared. We have seen many events related to the reconstruction of Independent Bharat taking place within this House over the past 75 years. Today, as we move from this House to the new one, we must also acknowledge the respect that has been given to the expression of the common citizens of Bharat.

And therefore respected Mr Speaker,

The moment I became a Member of Parliament for the first time and entered this building as a Member of Parliament for the first time, I bowed my head in reverence at the doors of this temple of democracy and stepped in with deep respect for this democracy. That moment was filled with emotions for me, and I couldn't have imagined it. But it is a testament to the strength of Bharat's democracy, a symbol of the reverence of an ordinary human being in Bharat for democracy, that a child from a humble family who grew up on a railway platform has reached the Parliament. I had never even imagined that the country would honour me so much, bless me so much, and love me so much, Mr Speaker.

Respected Mr Speaker,

Many of us do read what is inscribed inside the Parliament building, and sometimes we even mention it. Here, at the entrance of the Parliament building, there is a word from Changdev's teachings, which reads, "," which means "Open the door for the public." It signifies that we should open the doors for the public and see how they obtain their rights. This has been written by our sages and is inscribed at the entrance doors of Parliament. All of us, and those who have been here before us, bear witness to this truth.

Respected Mr Speaker,

As time changed, the structure of our Parliament has also continuously evolved and become more inclusive. In this Parliament, representatives from every section of society, filled with diversities, are visible. There are multiple languages, dialects, and culinary traditions present here. Inside the Parliament, everything is present, and people from all walks of life, whether social or economic, rural or urban, have gradually expressed the desires and aspirations of the masses in a fully inclusive environment. Whether one is Dalit, oppressed, tribal, marginalized, or a woman, everyone's contribution has gradually increased over time.

Respected Mr Speaker,

In the beginning, the number of women was very less, but slowly, mothers and sisters have also contributed to enhancing the dignity of this House. Their contribution has played a significant role in bringing about a

significant change in the prestige of this House.

Respected Mr Speaker,

From the beginning till now, a rough estimate shows that about 7,500 representatives have contributed in both houses combined over the years. During this period, about 600 women MPs have also contributed to enhancing the dignity of both houses in Parliament.

And respected Mr Speaker,

As we know that respected Indrajit Gupta, if I'm not mistaken, served in this House for a long time, approximately 43 years. He had the privilege of being a witness to this House for an extended period. This is the very House where Shafiqur Rahman ji continued to contribute to the proceedings despite being 93 years old. And, respected Mr Speaker, this is the strength of Bharat's democracy that Chandrani Murmu became a member of this House at the age of just 25. She was the youngest member, just 25 years old.

Respected Mr Speaker,

All of us have experienced disagreements, disputes, and exchanged sharp words – we all have initiated them and nobody can be singled out. Perhaps despite all of that, the familial sentiment that exists among us, which has persisted in our previous generations as well, those who perceive our public personas through the media and see us outside, still holds true. The sense of belonging, the sense of family, brings us to a different level. This is also the strength of this House. A sense of family, and despite differences, we never hold grudges. Even after many years, if we meet, we meet with the same warmth, we don't forget that affectionate time. I can feel that.

Respected Mr Speaker,

Despite facing numerous crises, both in the past and present, we have seen many times that Members of Parliament have come to the House and fulfilled their duty as representatives, even in the face of physical suffering or inconvenience. Many such instances are before us today. Despite serious illnesses, some have had to come in wheelchairs, and some had to come with doctors waiting outside, but all Members of Parliament have at some point fulfilled their roles in this manner.

The Corona period serves as an example before us. While the risk of death loomed in every household, despite that, our Hon'ble Members of Parliament in both Houses came to the Parliament during the Corona crisis and fulfilled their duty. We did not let the nation's work stop. We needed to maintain social distancing and undergo frequent testing. We came to the House but had to wear masks. The seating arrangement was different, and even the timings changed. With a sense of duty, all members of this House have considered it an integral part of their responsibility. They kept the Parliament running so that the nation's work was not stopped. I have seen that members have a special attachment to this House. People who may have been MPs thirty years ago or even thirty five years ago, but still, they will visit the Central Hall. Just as visiting a temple becomes a habit, similarly, they have developed a habit of coming to this House. There is an emotional connection, and many old-timers, even if they no longer are a Member of Parliament, still, feel an attachment to this House.

Respected Mr Speaker,

After independence, many eminent scholars had expressed deep concerns. They weren't sure about the fate of the country, whether it would succeed or fail, whether it would remain united or disintegrate, whether democracy would thrive or falter. But the strength of Bharat's Parliament silenced all doubts and proved the world wrong. This nation continued to progress with full capability. With the belief that we might have concerns and face challenges, but we will continue to achieve success, we, along with our predecessors, have demonstrated this commitment. This is an occasion to celebrate this achievement.

Respected Mr Speaker,

In this very building, the Constituent Assembly met for two years and eleven months. They provided us with the Constitution that still guides us today. The Constitution we received on 26th November 1949 came into effect on 26th January 1950. In these 75 years, the greatest achievement is the growing trust of the common people of this country in our Parliament. The biggest strength of democracy lies in the unshakable faith of the

people in this great institution, this noble institution, and this system. In these 75 years, our Parliament has become a symbol of expressing public sentiments. Here, the strong expression of public sentiments is seen, and we have benefited from the addresses of leaders like Rajendra Babu, Dr. Kalam, Ram Nath Kovind ji, and recently, from the address of Droupadi Murmu ji. Their guidance has been invaluable to both houses of our Parliament.

Respected Mr Speaker,

From Pandit Nehru ji, Shastri ji, to Atal ji, and Manmohan ji, there is a long line of leaders who have led this august House and have guided the nation through this House. They have worked diligently and put in immense effort to shape the country in new hues. Today is also an occasion to pay tribute to all of them.

Respected Mr Speaker,

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Lohia ji, Chandrashekhar ji, Advani ji, and countless other names have enriched this House. They have worked in this House to empower the voice of common people, enriching discussions, and giving strength to ordinary individuals in the country. Many world leaders have also addressed our Houses, and their words have shown respect for Bharat's democracy.

Respected Mr Speaker,

Amidst moments of excitement and enthusiasm, tears have also flowed from the eyes of this House. This House was filled with sorrow when the nation lost three of its Prime Ministers during their respective tenures. This House was bidding farewell to Nehru ji, Shastri ji, and Indira ji with moistened eyes.

Respected Mr Speaker,

Despite numerous challenges, every Speaker and every Chairman has effectively led both Houses and made exemplary decisions during their tenures. Whether it started with Mavalankar ji, during Sumitra ji's term, or Birla ji's, their decisions are still considered as reference points. This work has been carried out by nearly 17 Speakers, including our two female Speakers, from Mavalankar ji to Sumitra Tai and Birla ji. Each one of them had their distinct style, but they all worked together to keep this House energetic while adhering to the rules and regulations. Today, I extend my heartfelt greetings to all of these Hon'ble Speakers.

Respected Mr Speaker,

It's true that we, as public representatives, play our respective roles. However, the teams that work behind the scenes to support us have also evolved over the years. Their contributions, often running with papers to ensure that there are no mistakes in the proceedings and decisions, have been invaluable. Their work has greatly contributed to the quality of governance in this House. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all my colleagues, including those who served before us. The Parliament is not just limited to these chambers; it encompasses the entire surroundings. Many people here have contributed in various ways, from offering tea or water to preventing anyone from going hungry, providing various services when the Houses worked till late in night. Some have taken care of the environment outside, others have ensured cleanliness. Countless individuals have worked diligently to make it possible for all of us to work efficiently. I express my special appreciation for their efforts, both personally and on behalf of this House.

Respected Mr Speaker

This temple of democracy... a terrorist attack happened. Unlike attacks on buildings worldwide, this attack was on the 'mother of democracy,' in a way, an assault on our very soul. Our nation can never forget that incident. I also pay my respects to those who fought against terrorists and took bullets on their chests to save the Parliament, and ensure every member's safety. They may not be among us, but they performed a great service by defending us.

Respected Mr Speaker,

As we are preparing to leave this House today, I also want to remember those journalist friends who dedicated their entire careers to reporting on the Parliament. They were, in a way, living witnesses. They conveyed minute details from here to the nation, and back then, we didn't have all the technology that is available now. They were the ones who provided information and had the ability to provide news behind the news. They may

not be sought-after, but nobody can forget their work. I've seen that journalism, which helped the nation understand the developmental journey of Bharat from this Parliament building, and they spent all their energy for it. Even today, I meet old journalist friends who covered Parliament in the past but share stories that are astonishing, but real. It's like the strength that the walls of this House have; the same mirror effect is found in their pens, which carry the reflection of Parliament's importance, its members, and an empathetic feeling towards Parliamentarians. I'm sure it's an emotional moment for many journalists as well. Just as leaving this House is an emotional moment for me, I believe it must be even more emotional for these journalist friends because their affection for Parliament is more than ours. Some of these journalists may even be younger than us, but they have contributed to this significant democracy, so today is also an occasion to remember their contributions.

Respected Mr Speaker,

When we enter this House, our tradition invokes divine energy. Our scriptures mention that when the same mantra is chanted at a place multiple times, it becomes a sacred place. It emanates a positive vibe, and there's a resonating power that can transform a place into a spiritual ground. I believe that this House, through the words and debates of the seven and a half thousand representatives, whether we actively discuss or not in the future, has created an echo that turns it into a pilgrimage site, a place of awakening. Anyone who has reverence for democracy, even 50 years from today when they visit this place, will feel the resonance that once the voice of Bharat's soul echoed here.

And therefore Mr Speaker,

This is the House where once Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt displayed their bravery and strength by exploding a bomb to oppose British colonial rule. The echoes of that bomb have never let those who want the best for our nation rest.

Respected Mr Speaker,

This is the House where Pandit Nehru is remembered for various reasons, but we will always remember him. In this very House, Pandit Nehru's 'At the Stroke of Midnight' speech will continue to inspire us. And in this same House, Atal ji once said 'Governments will come and go, parties will be formed and dissolved, but this nation must remain' and his words continue to resonate here.

Respected Mr Speaker,

Pandit Nehru's initial cabinet included Babasaheb Ambedkar, who served as a minister. He emphasized incorporating international standards into Indian labour laws, which has had a significant impact on the country. Additionally, Babasaheb played a crucial role in formulating the water policy during Nehru ji's government. Babasaheb Ambedkar's contributions to shaping that water policy have been vital for Bharat.

Respected Mr Speaker,

Babasaheb Ambedkar consistently emphasized the importance of industrialization for social justice in Bharat. He believed that industrialization was crucial because many marginalized communities, especially the Dalits, did not have access to land, and thus, industrialization was necessary to uplift them. Babasaheb's vision influenced the Industry Policy of Bharat, particularly during the tenure of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, who served as the Commerce and Industry Minister in Pandit Nehru's government. Even today, no matter how many industry policies are made, its soul remains the same which was given by the first government which has left a lasting impact on the country's industrial development.

Respected Mr Speaker,

Lal Bahadur Shastri ji inspired the morale of our country's soldiers during the 1965 war and instilled complete confidence in their abilities, a source of national pride, right from this very House. It was right here that Lal Bahadur Shastri ji laid a strong foundation for the Green Revolution.

Respected Mr Speaker,

This very House also played a crucial role in supporting the Bangladesh Liberation War and extending its backing under the leadership of Indira Gandhi. This House also witnessed an assault on democracy during the

Emergency, and also witnessed the strength demonstrated by the people of Bharat which led to the restoration of a robust democracy. It has seen the national crisis of that period and also witnessed the resilience of the nation.

Respected Mr Speaker,

This House will always remain indebted to the fact that it was within these walls that our former Prime Minister Chaudhary Charan Singh established the Rural Development Ministry. It was in this House that the decision to lower the voting age from 21 to 18 was made, inspiring and motivating the country's youth to contribute. Our nation has witnessed coalition governments led by leaders like V.P. Singh, Chandrashekhar, and a series of coalition governments after that. For a long time, the country was heading in one direction, burdened by economic policies. However, the government of Narasimha Rao mustered courage and decided to abandon old economic policies and embark on a new path, which the country is reaping the benefits today.

We have also seen the government of Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji in this House. The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has become crucial for our country today. Atal ji established the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, and the Ministry of Northeast. The nuclear tests introduced Bharat's capability to the world. And it was in this House that we witnessed Manmohan ji's government and the Cash for Votes scandal.

Respected Mr Speaker,

The mantra of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas', many historic decisions, and issues pending for decades, have all found permanent solutions in this House. Article 370 - this House will always say with pride that it happened during its tenure. One Nation, One Tax - the decision on GST was also made in this House. One Rank One Pension (OROP) was also witnessed by this House. 10% reservation for the economically weaker sections was introduced in this country without any dispute.

Respected Mr Speaker,

In Bharat's democracy, we have witnessed numerous ups and downs, and this House has been the strength of democracy, a witness to the power of democracy, and a central point of public trust. Look at the uniqueness of this House; even today, the world is amazed that in this House, there were times when a party with only 4 members was in power, and another party with 100 members was in opposition. This is also a kind of capability. This House introduces the strength of democracy. This is the House where Atal ji's government was defeated with just one vote, and it elevated the dignity of democracy; this too happened in this House. Today, the representation of many small regional parties in our country's democracy has become an attractive center for our country's diversity and aspirations.

Respected Mr Speaker,

In this country, we had two Prime Ministers, Morarji Desai and V.P. Singh, who spent their life in the Congress, but led anti-Congress governments. This was also its uniqueness. And look at our Narasimha Rao ji, who was preparing to return home, had announced his retirement, but this is the strength of democracy, that he served as Prime Minister for 5 years.

Respected Mr Speaker,

We have seen that even the most challenging tasks can be accomplished with everyone's consensus. In the year 2000, during Atal ji's government, this House approved the formation of three new states with great enthusiasm and excitement. When Chhattisgarh was formed, it was celebrated by both Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. When Uttarakhand was formed, it was celebrated by both Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh. When Jharkhand was formed, it was celebrated by both Bihar and Jharkhand. This is the capacity of our House to create a consensus and a celebratory atmosphere. But there are also some bitter memories. There were efforts to suppress Telangana's rights, even blood was shed. Now, after its formation, neither Telangana nor Andhra Pradesh could celebrate. The seeds of bitterness had been sown. It would have been better if we had formed Telangana with the same enthusiasm and excitement, and it would have reached new heights today.

Respected Mr Speaker,

Such has been the tradition of this House that the Constituent Assembly members at that time reduced their

daily allowance from 45 rupees to 40 rupees because they felt that we should reduce it.

Respected Mr Speaker,

This is the same House where the subsidy provided in the canteen, which used to offer food at a very low cost, was discontinued by its members. Now, they pay the full amount and eat in the canteen.

Respected Mr Speaker,

During the Corona pandemic, when the need arose, these Members of Parliament gave up their MPLADS (Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme) funds and came forward to help the country in this crisis. Not only that, during the Corona period, the MPs from this House also voluntarily took a 30% cut in their salaries and discharged a significant responsibility in facing the challenges before the country.

Respected Mr Speaker,

We can proudly say and even the people sitting in this House can say, and those who were part of the previous sessions can also say that it was us who brought discipline here, who enforced strictness in our representation laws, who set the rules, and who decided that certain things could not happen in the life of a representative. I believe this is a great example of a vibrant democracy given by this House. It's the Hon'ble Members of Parliament and our previous generations of MPs who have set this example. I believe that sometimes we should remember those things as well.

Respected Mr Speaker,

For those of us who are current Members of Parliament, this is indeed a special opportunity. It is a special opportunity because we have the chance to become a part of both history and the future. We have the opportunity to connect with both the past and the present. With a new belief, new enthusiasm, and new energy, we are bidding farewell from here, ready to build the future.

Respected Mr Speaker,

The day today belongs exclusively to the seven and a half thousand Members of this House. It is a page of their illustrious journey. We take inspiration from these walls, and are ready to embrace the future. Many things within this House deserved appreciation from each and every member, yet politics seems to be encroaching there as well. If the pride of Nehru's contributions were to be acknowledged within this House, who would not feel like applauding? Nevertheless, despite this, it is essential for the country's democracy that we, under your guidance, Mr. Speaker, and with the capabilities of these experienced MPs, will enter the new Parliament with new confidence.

I once again thank all of you for providing an opportunity to refresh these old memories, and for remembering everyone in such a great atmosphere. I express my heartfelt gratitude to all of you. I urge all members to share such fond memories of their lives here so that they reach the nation and convey that this truly is our House, and that our representatives are genuinely committed to the nation. With this sentiment, I once again offer my salutations to this land, to this House. I bow to every brick of this building, which is built from the sweat of Bharat's labourers. I salute every teacher and that cosmic force which has given new strength and power to Bharat's democracy in the past 75 years. With this, I conclude my speech. Thank you very much.

**DISCLAIMER: This is the approximate translation of PM's speech. Original speech was delivered in Hindi.**

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