

Eighteenth Series, Vol. I No. 4

Thursday, June 27, 2024  
Ashadha 6, 1946 (Saka)

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

**(English Version)**

**First Session**

(Eighteenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. I Contains Nos. 1 to 7 )

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**

**NEW DELHI**

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## C O N T E N T S

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**OFFICERS OF LOK SABHA****THE SPEAKER**

Shri Om Birla

**PANEL OF CHAIRPERSONS\***

Shri Kodikunnil Suresh

Shri T. R. Baalu

Shri Radha Mohan Singh

Shri Faggan Singh Kulaste

Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay

**SECRETARY GENERAL**

Utpal Kumar Singh

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\* Nominated on 20.06.2024.

The following order was issued by the President of India on 20.06.2024.

I hereby appoint Shri Suresh Kodikunnil, Shri Thalikkottai Rajuthevar Baalu, Shri Radha Mohan Singh, Shri Faggan Singh Kulaste and Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay to be the persons before any of whom Members of the House of the People may make and subscribe the oath or affirmation in accordance with provision of article 99 of the Constitution of India.

Droupadi Murmu,  
PRESIDENT OF INDIA

## LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

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Thursday, June 27, 2024/ Ashadha 6, 1946 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Thirty-Eight Minutes past Twelve of the Clock.

**[HON. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]**

**OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER**

Usage of Lok Sabha Chamber as Venue of the President's Address  
Relaxing Rule 384

*[Translation]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Hon. Members, as you are aware, in accordance with Article 87 of the Constitution of India, at the commencement of the first Session after every General Election to the House of the People, the Hon. President addresses both the Houses assembled together. In order to enable all the Members of both the Houses to attend the President's Address without any inconvenience, on behalf of the House, I agree with the Motion to use this Chamber as the venue of the President's Address in relaxation of Rule 384 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha. I hope the House agrees to it.

**SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS:** Yes sir.

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**12.39 hrs**

**INTRODUCTION OF THE LEADER OF OPPOSITION**

*[Translation]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Hon. Members, I have to inform the House that in accordance with the terms of Section 2 of the Salary and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977, I have recognised Shri Rahul Gandhi, Leader of the Indian National Congress in Lok Sabha, as the Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha from 9th June, 2024. I heartily welcome and congratulate him.

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*[Translation]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Secretary- General.

... *(Interruptions)*

**12.39½ hrs**

**MEMBER SWORN –contd.**

*[English]*

**SECRETARY GENERAL:** Kerala - Shri Shashi Tharoor.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** There is a sanctity of swearing in, you are a senior Member, please don't speak anything.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**KERALA**

Shri Shashi Tharoor (Thiruvananthapuram)

*[Translation]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** You are just swearing in the name of Constitution.

*...(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** This is taking oath in the name of Constitution.

*...(Interruptions)*

**SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA (ROHTAK):** You should not have objected to it...*(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Please don't give your advice on what should I object to or and what to not. Please be seated.

*...(Interruptions)*

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*[Translation]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Secretary General.

**12.41 hrs**

**PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS \***

*[English]*

**SECRETARY-GENERAL:** Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the President's Address (Hindi and English versions) to both the Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 27th June, 2024.

*[Translation]*

\*\*Hon. Members, I extend my heartiest congratulations and best wishes to all the newly elected members of the 18th Lok Sabha. You all are here after winning the trust of voters of the country. Very few get this privilege to serve the nation and the people. I am confident that you will fulfill your responsibilities in the spirit of Nation First and will be a medium to fulfill the aspirations of 140 crore Indians. I wish Shri Om Birla Ji the very best

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\* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 02/18/24.

\*\* Her Excellency Shrimati Droupadi Murmu, President of India, delivered the Address in Lok Sabha Chamber, Parliament House of India (New building of Parliament) in Hindi and the English Text of the Address was read by His Excellency, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, Vice President of India.

for performing his exalted role as the Speaker of the Lok Sabha. He has vast experience in public life. I am confident that he will be successful in taking democratic traditions to new heights with his skills.

Hon. Members, I also express my gratitude to the Election Commission of India on behalf of crores of Indians today. This was the largest election in the world. About 64 crore voters performed their duty with enthusiasm and zeal. Women cast their votes in huge numbers this time also. A very heartening aspect of this election emerged from Jammu and Kashmir. The Kashmir Valley broke all records of voter turnout of many decades. In the last four decades, we had witnessed low voter turnout amidst shut downs and strikes in Kashmir. Enemies of India continued to spread false propaganda at global forums, projecting it as an opinion of Jammu and Kashmir. But this time the Kashmir Valley has given a befitting reply to every such element within the country and outside. For the first time, the home voting facility was made available in this Lok Sabha Election. I convey my appreciation for the work done by all the personnel associated with the Lok Sabha elections and also extend my congratulations to them.

Hon. Members, the whole world is talking about the Lok Sabha Elections 2024. The world is witnessing that the people of India have elected a stable Government with clear majority, consecutively for the third term. This has happened after six decades. At a time when the aspirations of people of India are at their highest level, people have

reposed faith in my Government for the third consecutive term. The people of India have full faith that only my Government can fulfill their aspirations. Therefore, this election of 2024 has been an election of trust in policy, intention, dedication and decisions:

Trust in a strong and decisive Government,  
Trust in good governance, stability and continuity,  
Trust in honesty and hard work,  
Trust in security and prosperity,  
Trust in Government's guarantees and delivery  
Trust in India's resolve to be Viksit Bharat.

It is a stamp of approval for my Government's mission of service and good governance undertaken in the past 10 years. It is a mandate that the work of making India a developed nation continues uninterrupted and India attains its goals.

Hon. Members, the 18th Lok Sabha is historic in many ways. This Lok Sabha has been constituted in the early years of Amrit Kaal. This Lok Sabha will also be witness to the 75th year of adoption of the Constitution of India. I am confident that this Lok Sabha will script a new chapter on decisions for public welfare. My Government will present its first budget in the forthcoming session. This Budget will be an effective document of the Government's far reaching policies and futuristic vision. Along with major economic and social decisions, many historic steps will also be seen in this Budget. The pace of reforms will be further accelerated in tune with

the aspirations of people of India for rapid development. My Government believes that there should be healthy competition among the states to attract investors from all over the world. This is the true spirit of competitive cooperative federalism. We will continue to move ahead with the belief that the development of the country lies in the development of the States.

Hon. Members, the resolve to Reform, Perform and Transform has made India the fastest growing economy in the world today. In 10 years, India has risen to become the 5th largest economy from being the 11th ranked economy. From 2021 to 2024, India has grown at an average rate of 8 percent annually. And this growth has not been achieved under usual circumstances. In recent years, we have seen the biggest pandemic in 100 years. India has achieved this growth amidst the global pandemic and despite ongoing conflicts in different parts of the world. This has been made possible due to reforms and major decisions undertaken in the national interest in the last 10 years. Today, India alone is contributing 15 percent of the global growth. Now, my Government is striving to make India the 3rd largest economy in the world. Achieving this goal will also strengthen the foundation of a developed India.

Hon. Members, my Government is giving equal importance to all the three pillars of the economy – Manufacturing, Services and Agriculture. PLI schemes and Ease of Doing Business have contributed to increasing investments and employment opportunities on a large scale.

Along with the traditional sectors, sunrise sectors are also being promoted on mission mode. Be it semiconductor or solar, be it electric vehicles or electronic goods, be it green hydrogen or batteries, be it aircraft carriers or fighter Jets, India is expanding in all these sectors. My Government is also making continuous efforts to reduce the cost of logistics. The Government is also strengthening the services sector. Today, India is emerging as a leader in every sector from IT to Tourism and from Health to Wellness. And this is creating a large number of new opportunities for employment and self-employment.

Hon. Members, in the last 10 years, my Government has placed great emphasis on every aspect of rural economy. Agro-based industries, dairy and fishery-based industries are being expanded in villages. In this also, cooperatives have been accorded priority. The Government is creating a large network of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and cooperative organizations such as PACS. A major problem of small farmers is related to storage. Therefore, my Government has commenced work on a scheme to create the world's largest storage capacity in the cooperative sector. To enable farmers to meet their small expenses, more than Rupees 3,20,000 crore have been disbursed to them under PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi. In the initial days of its new term, my Government has transferred an amount of more than Rupees 20,000 crore to farmers. The Government has also accorded a record increase in the MSP for Kharif crops.

Hon. Members, today's India is making changes in its agricultural system in line with its current requirements. Policies have been framed and decisions taken guided by the thought that we become more self-reliant and increase farmers' income through increased exports. For example, the Government is providing all possible assistance to farmers to reduce dependence on other countries for pulses and oilseeds. New strategies are being formulated, keeping in mind the kind of food products that are in high demand in the global market. Nowadays, the demand for organic products is increasing rapidly in the world. Indian farmers have ample capacity to meet this demand. Therefore, the Government is strengthening natural farming and the supply chain of its related products. With these efforts, expenditure incurred by farmers on farming activities will reduce and their income will also increase further.

Hon. Members, today's India is known not for adding to the challenges the world is facing, but for providing solutions to the world. As a Vishwa-Bandhu, India has taken initiatives in providing solutions to many global problems. We are providing various solutions for issues ranging from climate change to food security and from nutrition to sustainable agriculture. We are also running a campaign to popularise our coarse grains – Shree Anna - as a super food, across the world. On India's initiative, the year 2023 was celebrated as International Year of Millets across the world. You have also seen that International Yoga Day was recently celebrated as a global event. The prestige of this great legacy of

India is continuously rising in the world. By promoting Yoga and Ayush, India is helping in creating a healthy world. My Government has also increased renewable energy capacities manifold. We are achieving our climate related targets much ahead of schedule. Our initiatives towards Net Zero are an inspiration for many countries. A record number of countries have associated with us on our initiatives such as International Solar Alliance.

Hon. Members, the future is going to be Harit Yug or Green Era. My Government is taking all necessary steps in this direction. We are increasing investments in Green Industries, leading to increase in Green Jobs. Be it Green Energy or Green Mobility, we are working with ambitious goals on all fronts. My Government is also committed to making our cities the best living spaces in the world. Living in cities which are pollution free, clean and with amenities is the right of Indian citizens. Investments on an unprecedented scale have been made, particularly in small cities and towns, in last 10 years. India is the world's third largest domestic aviation market. In April 2014, India had only 209 airline routes. This number has increased to 605 by April 2024. This increase in the aviation routes has directly benefitted Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities. In 10 years, Metro has reached 21 cities. Work is going on in many schemes such as Vande Metro. My Government is working to make India's public transport system one of the best in the world.

Hon. Members, my Government is working on those modern parameters which will enable India to stand on an equal footing with developed countries. In this direction, Infrastructure development has emerged as the new face of a changing India. My Government has, in 10 years, constructed more than 3,80,000 kilometres of village roads under the PM Gram Sadak Yojana. Today, we have an expanding network of National Highways and Expressways in the country. The pace of construction of National Highways has more than doubled. Work on the High-Speed Rail Ecosystem between Ahmedabad and Mumbai is also progressing at a rapid pace. My Government has decided to conduct feasibility studies for bullet train corridors in the North, South and East of the country. For the very first time, work on inland waterways has started on such a large scale. The North-East will benefit immensely from this initiative. My Government has increased the allocation for the development of the North-Eastern Region by more than four times, in the last 10 years. The Government is working to make this region a strategic gateway under its Act East Policy. Connectivity of all kinds is being expanded in the North-East. Development works are being taken up in every field including education, health, tourism and employment. A semi-conductor plant is being established in Assam at a cost of Rupees 27,000 crore. The North-East will also be a hub of Made in India chips. My Government is continuously working for lasting peace in the North-East. In the last ten years, many old disputes have been resolved, many



important agreements have been signed. The work of withdrawing AFSPA from the disturbed areas of the North-East is also underway in a phased manner by accelerating development in those areas. These new initiatives in every aspect of development in the country are heralding the future of India.

Hon. Members, my Government which is committed to women-led development has started a new era of women empowerment. Women in our country had been demanding greater representation in Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha for a long time. Today, they stand empowered by the enactment of Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam. Over the past decade, various Government schemes have led to greater economic empowerment of women. As you are aware, during the last 10 years, majority of the 4 crore PM Awas houses have been allotted to women beneficiaries. Now, at the very start of the third term of my Government, approval for construction of 3 crore new houses has been accorded. Most of these houses will be allotted to women beneficiaries. Over the last 10 years, 10 crore women have been mobilized into Self Help Groups. My Government has started a comprehensive campaign to make 3 crore women Lakhpati Didis. For this, financial support to the Self Help Groups is also being increased. The endeavour of the Government is to improve skills and sources of income, and enhance respect for women. The NAMO Drone Didi Scheme is contributing towards achieving this goal. Under this Scheme, women belonging to thousands of Self Help Groups are

being provided with drones and also being trained as Drone Pilots. My Government has also recently started Krishi Sakhi Initiative. Under this initiative, till date, 30 thousand women belonging to Self Help Groups have been provided with Krishi Sakhi Certificates. Krishi Sakhis are being trained in modern agricultural practices so that they can help farmers in further modernization of Agriculture.

Hon. Members, the effort of my Government is also to maximise the savings of women. We are well aware of the popularity of Sukanya Samridhi Yojana under which a higher interest rate is being provided to girls on their bank deposits. Women are also immensely benefitting from the schemes providing free ration and affordable gas cylinders. Now my Government has also brought a scheme to bring down the electricity bill to zero and generate income by selling electricity. Solar panels are being installed on the rooftops of houses under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana. For this, my Government has been providing a support of upto Rupees 78,000 per family. More than 1 crore families have already been registered under this scheme within a very short time. The electricity bill of houses with rooftop solar installation has come down to zero.

Hon. Members, achieving the goal of Viksit Bharat will be possible only when the poor, youth, women and farmers of this country are empowered. Therefore, top most priority is being accorded to these four pillars in the schemes of my Government. Our effort is to ensure that the benefit of every Government Scheme reaches them. This is the saturation

approach. When the Government works with the intention that not a single person is left out of the Government schemes, it benefits everyone. It is because of the implementation of Government Schemes with the saturation approach over the last 10 years that 25 crore Indians have been brought out of poverty. This includes families of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes and all other social and regional groups. In the last 10 years, focus on last mile delivery has changed the lives of these sections. The change is more evident especially in the tribal communities. A scheme like PM JANMAN with an allocation of more than Rupees 24,000 crore is proving to be a means of development of the most backward tribal communities. The Government is also providing soft loans to the disadvantaged groups through PM-SURAJ portal for making livelihood opportunities available. My Government is developing affordable indigenous assistive devices for Divyang brothers and sisters. PM Divyasha Kendras are also being expanded to all parts of the country. This commitment to serve the deprived is true Social Justice.

Hon. Members, as a mark of respect for the country's labour force, the welfare and empowerment of workers are my Government's priority. My Government is integrating all the Social Security Schemes for workers. The coverage of accident and life insurance is being expanded by leveraging the networks of Digital India and the Post Offices. The scope of PM SVANidhi will be expanded and street vendors in rural and semi-urban areas will also be brought under its ambit.

Hon. Members, Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar believed that the progress of any society depends on the progress of the lower strata of the society. Empowerment of the poor has been the foundation of the achievements and progress of the nation in the last 10 years. For the first time my Government has made the poor realise that the Government is at their service. In the difficult times of the Corona pandemic, the Government started PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana to provide free ration to 80 crore persons. The benefit of this scheme is also being given to those families who have come out of poverty, so that they do not slip back into poverty. Swachh Bharat Mission has also made the dignity of the poor and their health a matter of national significance. For the first time, toilets were built for crores of poor people in the country. These efforts give us the confidence that today the nation is following the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi in the true spirit. My Government is providing free health services to 55 crore beneficiaries under Ayushman Bharat Yojana. The opening of 25,000 Jan Aushadhi Kendras in the country is also progressing at a fast pace. Further, the Government is going to take yet another decision in this area. Now all the elderly above 70 years of age will also be covered and get benefit of free treatment under Ayushman Bharat Yojana.

Hon. Members, often, due to adversarial mindset and narrow selfishness, the basic spirit of democracy has been greatly undermined. It affects the parliamentary system as well as the developmental journey of the nation. During the phase of unstable governments in the country that

lasted several decades, many governments, even if willing, were neither able to bring reforms nor take critical decisions. The people of India have now changed this situation by their decisive mandate. Many such reforms have taken place in the last 10 years which are greatly benefitting the nation today. Even when these reforms were being taken up, they were opposed and attempts were made to spread negativity. But all these reforms have stood the test of time. Ten years ago, to save India's banking sector from collapsing, the Government brought banking reforms and made laws like IBC. Today, these reforms have made India's banking sector one of the strongest banking sectors in the world. Our public sector banks are robust and profitable today. Profits of public sector banks have crossed Rupees 1.4 lakh crore in 2023-24 which is 35% higher than last year. The strength of our banks enables them to expand their credit base and contribute to the economic development of the nation. The NPAs of Public Sector banks are also continuously decreasing. Today SBI is earning record profits. Today LIC is stronger than ever. Today HAL is also giving strength to the country's defence industry. Today, GST has become a medium to formalise India's economy and is helping make business and trade easier than before. For the first time, in the month of April, GST collection has crossed Rupees 2 lakh crore. This has also strengthened the states economically. Today, the entire world is excited about Digital India and Digital Payments.

Hon. Members, modernisation of our armed forces is essential for a strong India. Reforms in our armed forces should be a continuous process so that our forces maintain their supremacy during wars. Guided by this, my Government has introduced many reforms in the defence sector in the last 10 years. Reforms like CDS have given new strength to our defence forces. My Government has taken many important steps to make the defence sector self-reliant. The defence sector has greatly benefitted from the reforms in ordnance factories. More than 40 Ordnance factories have been restructured into 7 Defence Sector Enterprises, resulting in improvement of their capacity and efficiency. It is due to such reforms that India is now manufacturing defence equipment worth more than Rupees 1 lakh crore. In the last decade, our defence exports have increased more than 18times to the level of Rupees 21,000 crore. The BrahMos Missile defence deal with the Philippines has strengthened India's standing in defence export sector. By providing encouragement to youth and their startups, the Government has been able to lay down a strong foundation for a self-reliant defence sector. My Government is also developing two defence corridors, in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. It is a matter of joy for all of us that last year nearly 70 per cent of the total procurement of the defence forces has been sourced from Indian manufacturers only. Our defence forces have decided not to import over 500 defence items. All these arms and defence related equipments are being procured only from Indian companies. My Government has always

given priority to the needs of the personnel in the armed forces. That is why after 4 decades One Rank One Pension has been implemented. Under this, Rupees 1,20,000 crore have been disbursed till date. In the honour of our martyrs, the Government has also established the National War Memorial at one end of Kartavya Path. These efforts are not only salutations from a grateful nation for its brave soldiers but also a source of constant inspiration of the ideal of Nation First.

Hon. Members, my Government is involved in creating an enabling environment for the youth of this country to dream big and realise those dreams. In the last 10 years, every such obstacle which caused trouble to our youth has been removed. In the past the youth had to run from pillar to post in order to get their certificates attested. Now their self-attestation is sufficient. Interviews for recruitment into Group-C and Group-D posts of the Central Government have been abolished. Earlier, the students who studied in Indian languages faced an unfair situation. With the implementation of the new National Education Policy, my Government has been able to remove this injustice. Now students can take up engineering courses in Indian languages. In the past 10 years 7 new IITs, 16 IIITs, 7 IIMs, 15 new AIIMS, 315 medical colleges and 390 universities have been established. It is the endeavour of the Government to further strengthen these institutions and increase their numbers as per requirement. The Government is working towards establishing a Digital University as well. Programmes like Atal Tinkering Labs, Start-up India

and Stand-up India, have helped improve the capacity of youth of the country. It is due to these efforts that today India has become the third largest Start-up eco-system in the world.

Hon. Members, it is the continuous endeavour of the Government to provide right opportunities to the youth of the country to demonstrate their talent. Whether it is competitive examinations or Government recruitment there should be no reason for any hindrance. This process requires complete transparency and probity. Regarding the recent instances of paper leak in some examinations, my Government is committed to a fair investigation and ensuring strict punishment to the culprits. Even earlier, we have witnessed many instances of paper leaks indifferent States. It is important that we rise above party-politics and undertake concrete measures nationwide. Parliament has also enacted a strict law against unfair means in examinations. My Government is working towards major reforms in examination related bodies, their functioning and all aspects of the examination process.

Hon. Members, for further increasing the participation of youth in nation building, my Government has launched 'Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat)' campaign. So far, more than 1.5 crore youth have registered for it. This initiative will inculcate leadership skills and seed the spirit of service among the youth. Today our youth is getting new opportunities to move forward in sports as well. Due to effective efforts of my Government, young Indian players are winning a record number of



medals at global platforms. The Paris Olympics is also going to start in a few days. We are proud of every athlete representing India at the Olympics. I convey my best wishes to them. To take these achievements further, the Indian Olympic Association is also preparing to host the 2036 Olympic Games.

Hon. Members, the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita will come into force in the country from the first of July. During the British regime, there was the mindset to punish the subjects. Unfortunately, the same penal system of the colonial era continued for many decades after Independence. The idea of changing this was much talked about for many decades, but it is my Government which has shown the courage to do it. Now justice will get priority over punishment, which also conforms to the spirit of our Constitution. These new laws will speed up the judicial process. Today, when the country is becoming free of the colonial mindset indifferent aspects, this is a big step in that direction. It is also a real tribute to our freedom fighters. My Government has started granting citizenship to refugees under the CAA. It has ensured a dignified life to many families who have suffered due to Partition. I wish a better future for the families who have been granted citizenship under CAA.

Hon. Members, while building the future, my Government is re-establishing the splendour and heritage of Indian culture. Recently, a new chapter has been added to it, in the form of the grand campus of Nalanda University. Nalanda was not just a university, but a testimony to India's

glorious past as a global knowledge hub. I am confident that the new Nalanda University will help in making India a Global Knowledge Hub. It is the endeavour of my Government to continue to inspire the future generations with our legacy of thousands of years. That is why places of pilgrimage and centres of faith and spirituality are being spruced up across the country.

Hon. Members, my Government is working with the same pride for heritage as it has been working for development. This resolve for pride in heritage is becoming a symbol of honour for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, the deprived and all communities. My Government started celebrating the birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda as Jan Jatiya Gaurav Divas. The 150th birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda will be celebrated across the country next year with great enthusiasm. The country is also celebrating the 500th birth anniversary of Rani Durgavati on a large scale. Last month, the country has started the year-long celebration to mark the 300th birth anniversary of Rani Ahilyabai Holkar. Earlier, the Government also celebrated the 550th Prakash Parv of Guru Nanak Dev Ji and the 350th Prakash Parv of Guru Gobind Singh Ji with great fervour. The tradition of celebrating festivals like Kashi Tamil Sangamam and Saurashtra Tamil Sangamam in the spirit of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' was also initiated by my Government. The new generations get inspiration for nation building from these events, and the sense of national pride is made stronger.

Hon. Members, our successes are our shared heritage. We should, therefore, take pride and not hesitate in embracing them. Today, India is performing well in various sectors. These achievements give us immense opportunities to make us feel proud of our progress and successes. We should feel proud when India performs well in digital payments globally. We should feel proud when our scientists successfully land Chandrayaan on the South Pole of the Moon. We should feel proud when India becomes the fastest growing economy in the world. We should also feel proud when India conducts such a large election exercise without any major violence and disorder. Today, the whole world respects us as the Mother of Democracy. The people of India have always demonstrated complete trust in democracy and expressed full faith in the electoral institutions. We need to preserve and protect this trust to sustain our robust democracy. We must realise that hurting the faith of people in democratic institutions and the electoral process is like cutting the very branch on which we all are sitting. We should collectively denounce every attempt to undermine the credibility of our democracy. We all remember those times when ballot papers were snatched and looted. To ensure the sanctity of the electoral process, it was decided to use EVMs. The EVM has passed every test, from the Supreme Court to the people's court, in the last few decades.

Hon. Members, I also want to share with you some of my concerns. I would urge you to introspect on these issues and give concrete and constructive solutions to the country. In this era of communication

revolution, disruptive forces are conspiring to weaken democracy and create fissures in the society. These forces are present within the country and are also operating from outside the country. These forces resort to rumour mongering, misleading the people and misinformation. This situation cannot be allowed to continue unchecked. Today, technology is advancing every day. In such a situation, its misuse against humanity can be extremely harmful. India has expressed these concerns at the international forums also and advocated for a global framework. It is our responsibility to stop this tendency and find new ways and means to address this challenge.

Hon. Members, the global order is taking a new shape in this third decade of 21st century. Due to the efforts of my Government, Bharat is giving anew confidence to the world as a Vishwa-Bandhu. Due to its human-centric approach, India today is the first responder in any crisis and has become a strong voice of the Global South. India has been at the forefront in safeguarding humanity; be it the Corona crisis or an earthquake or a war. The way the world now views India was evident during the G-7 summit held in Italy. India also brought the world together on various issues during her G-20 presidency. It was during India's presidency that the African Union was made a permanent member of the G-20. This has strengthened the confidence of Africa and the entire Global South. Following the Neighborhood First Policy, India has strengthened its relations with neighbouring countries. Participation of the leaders of

seven neighbouring countries in the swearing-in ceremony of the Union Council of Ministers on June 9 reflects this priority of my Government. India, in the spirit of Sabka Saath - Sabka Vikas, is also increasing cooperation with the countries of the Indo-Pacific region. Be it East Asia or Middle-East and Europe, my Government is giving great emphasis on connectivity. It is India's vision that has given shape to the India Middle East Europe Economic Corridor. This corridor will prove to be one of the biggest game changers of 21st century.

Hon. Members, in a few months, India is going to complete 75 years as a Republic. The Constitution of India has stood up to every challenge and every test in the past decades. Even when the Constitution was in the making, there were forces in the world who wished India to fail. Even after the Constitution came into force, it was attacked many times. Today is 27th June. The imposition of Emergency on 25th June, 1975, was the biggest and darkest chapter of direct attack on the Constitution. The entire country felt outraged. But the country emerged victorious over such unconstitutional forces as the traditions of the republic lie at the core of India. My Government also does not consider the Constitution of India as just a medium of governance; rather we are making efforts to ensure that our Constitution becomes a part of public consciousness. With this very objective in mind, my Government has started celebrating 26th November as Constitution Day. Now the Constitution has also fully come into force

in that part of India, our Jammu and Kashmir, where the conditions were different due to Article 370.

Hon. Members, achievements of the nation are determined by our sincerity in discharging our responsibilities. In the 18th Lok Sabha, many new Members have become part of the parliamentary system for the first time. Old members have also returned with new enthusiasm. You all know that the present times are very favourable for India in every way. In the coming years the decisions taken and policies framed by the Government and the Parliament of India will be keenly watched by the whole world. It is the responsibility of every Member of Parliament as well as of the Government, to ensure the country gets utmost benefits during this favourable period. With the reforms that have taken place in the last 10 years and the new confidence that has been infused in the country, we have gained a new momentum to make India a developed nation. We all need to always remember that making India a developed nation is the aspiration and resolve of every citizen of the country. All of us are responsible for ensuring that no obstacles come in the way of achieving this resolution. Opposition of policies and obstruction of parliamentary functioning are two different things. When Parliament conducts its business smoothly, when healthy deliberations take place here, when far-reaching decisions are taken, then the people repose confidence not only in the Government but also in the entire system. Therefore, I am confident

that every moment of Parliament will be fully utilised and public interest will be given priority.

Hon. Members, in our Vedas, our sages have inspired us with the message “**Samano Mantrah Samitih Samani**”. That is, we work together with a common idea and goal. This is the very spirit of this Parliament. Therefore, when India becomes the third largest economy, you will also be partners in this achievement. When we celebrate the hundredth anniversary of Independence in 2047 as a developed India, this generation will also get credit. The potential that our youth have today, The dedication we have in our resolutions today, Our seemingly impossible achievements, All these testify that the era to come is the era of India. This century is India's century, and its impact will last for a thousand years to come. Let us all together, with full devotion to our duties, get actively involved in fulfilling national resolutions and make India a developed nation.

Best wishes to all of you!

Thank You,

Jai Hind!

Jai Bharat!

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**12.42 hrs**

**ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER**

Notices of Amendments to Motion of Thanks on President's Address

*[Translation]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** As the hon. Members have already been informed by Bulletin part-2 of the Lok Sabha dated 26th June, 2024, notices of amendments to the Motion of Thanks on the Address of Her Excellency the President may be given till 5:00 p.m. today.

... *(Interruptions)*

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*[Translation]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Item No. 3. Secretary-General.

**12.44 hrs**

### ASSENT TO BILLS

*[English]*

**SECRETARY-GENERAL:** Sir, I lay on the Table the following eight Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the Fifteenth Session of Seventeenth Lok Sabha and assented to by the President since a report was last made to the House on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2024:-

- i. The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Bill, 2024
- ii. The Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2024
- iii. The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024
- iv. The Finance Bill, 2024
- v. The Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2024
- vi. The Appropriation Bill, 2024
- vii. The Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation Bill, 2024
- viii. The Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2024

I also lay on the Table copies, duly authenticated by the Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha of the following four Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament and assented to by the President:-

- i. The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill, 2024
- ii. The Jammu and Kashmir Local Bodies Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024
- iii. The Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024
- iv. The Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Castes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024

... *(Interruptions)*

***[Translation]***

**HON. SPEAKER:** The Cabinet is to be introduced in the Rajya Sabha, so he has gone there.

... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** The House stands adjourned to meet again on Friday, June 28, 2024 till Eleven of the Clock.

**12.45 hrs**

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, June 28, 2024/Ashadha 7, 1946 (Saka).*

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