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CONTENTS

PAGE

ADDRESSES

Addresses Delivered by the Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Om Birla at the Eighty-Fifth Conference of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India (Aipoc), Held At Patna, Bihar from 20 th to 21 st January 2025	119
Address by the President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu to the Joint Sitting of both Houses of the Parliament, New Delhi, 31 st January 2025	126
<i>Address Delivered by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla during Orientation Programme Organized by Pride for Newly Elected Members of Maharashtra Legislature on 10th February 2025</i>	146
<i>Address Delivered by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla during Orientation Programme Organized by Pride for Newly Elected Members of Haryana Legislative Assembly on 14th February 2025</i>	151
<i>Address Delivered by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla during Orientation Programme Organized by Pride for Newly Elected Members of Delhi Legislative Assembly on 18th March 2025</i>	157

PARLIAMENTARY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Conferences and Symposia	162
Birth Anniversaries of National Leaders	165
Exchange of Parliamentary Delegation	166
Parliamentary Research & Training Institute for Democracies (PRIDE)	168
Members' Reference Service	171

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

172

PARLIAMENTARY AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

173

DOCUMENTS OF CONSTITUTIONAL AND PARLIAMENTARY INTEREST

177

SESSIONAL REVIEW

Lok Sabha	196
Rajya Sabha	237
State Legislatures	252

RECENT LITERATURE OF PARLIAMENTARY INTEREST	258
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APPENDICES

I.	Statement showing the work transacted during the Fourth Session of the Eighteenth Lok Sabha	263
II.	Statement showing the work transacted during the 267 th Session of the Rajya Sabha	267
III.	Statement showing the activities of the Legislatures of the States and Union Territories during the period from 1 st January to 31 st March 2025	271
IV.	List of Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament and assented to by the President during the period from 1 st January to 31 st March 2025	277
V.	List of Bills passed by the Legislatures of the States and the Union Territories during the period from 1 st January to 31 st March 2025	278
VI.	Ordinances promulgated by the Union and the State Governments during the period from 1 st January to 31 st March 2025	288
VII.	Party position in the Lok Sabha, the Rajya Sabha and the Legislatures of the States and the Union Territories.	291

**ADDRESSES DELIVERED BY THE LOK SABHA SPEAKER, SHRI OM BIRLA AT THE
EIGHTY-FIFTH CONFERENCE OF PRESIDING OFFICERS OF LEGISLATIVE
BODIES IN INDIA (AIPOC), HELD AT PATNA, BIHAR
FROM 20TH TO 21ST JANUARY 2025**

The 85th Conference of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India was held at Patna, Bihar from 20th to 21st January 2025. The Lok Sabha Speaker and Chairman of the Conference, Shri Om Birla delivered the Inaugural and the Valedictory Addresses on 20th and 21st January 2025, respectively.

We reproduce below the text of the Addresses delivered by the Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Om Birla.

Welcome Address



Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Om Birla delivering the Inaugural Address at the 85th All India Presiding Officers' Conference (AIPOC) in Bihar Legislative Assembly, Patna, Bihar, on 20th January 2025.

I Welcome and greet all the Presiding Officers present here at the 85th All India Presiding Officers Conference.

Bihar has been the land of social, economic and spiritual movements. This land gave the world its first democracy, i.e., the Licchavi Republic of Vaishali. Buddha preached the message of peace from this land only which spread far and wide.

In the current global scenario, the message of global peace and non-violence propagated by Lord Buddha has assumed even more significance. This is the land of Mahatma Buddha and Lord Mahavira who gave the message of peace and harmony to the world.

This is the land where the tenth Guru of Sikhs, Guru Govind Singh ji was born. He established the Khalsa Panth at Patna Sahib. Mahatma Gandhi led his first Satyagraha movement from here only namely the Champaran Satyagraha.

The ancient seats of learning were established here. Nalanda and Vikramshila were the oldest universities of the world where people from all over the world came to receive education. Today we are reviving Nalanda and re-establishing it as a centre of education and innovation in the world.

This land has given great politicians and social reformers to our country. This land gave us the first President of our country, Dr. Rajendra Prasad; the first Chairman of the Constituent Assembly, Shri Sachidanand Sinha and stalwarts like Loknayak Jaiprakash Narayan and Bharat Ratna Karpuri Thakur who gave a new direction to the society.

As presiding officers, it is our responsibility to conduct our Houses in accordance with the spirit of the Constitution and its values. We should establish good traditions and practices in our Houses.

Our focus should be on strengthening democratic institutions and ensuring that our Houses are fully accountable to the people and working towards fulfilling the expectations and aspirations of the people through our Houses.

It is a matter of great satisfaction that our legislative institutions have established good traditions and conventions and have adapted their Houses to the changing times.

It is a matter of happiness that technology is increasingly being used in our Houses. Social media is bringing the Houses closer to the public. As a result of your efforts most of the country's Legislative Assemblies are becoming paperless.

Our conference has completed 104 years. During this period, we have taken important decisions to enhance the dignity and prestige of our Houses and make them more accountable to the people.

In the present context, we are facing some challenges regarding democratic institutions. It is of utmost importance to maintain and uphold the dignity and prestige of our Houses.

Apart from this, the decreasing number of sittings of our legislatures is also a matter of concern for us.

Our endeavor should be to ensure that there are no disruptions in our Houses; and notwithstanding assent and dissent, we should create a conducive environment for our Houses to function so that we are able to deliver better results through our Houses.

The efficiency, efficacy and productivity of our Houses should be enhanced, accountability of the government should be fixed, and transparency should be ensured through our Houses.

In order to increase the efficiency of our Parliamentary Committees, there should be dialogue between the committees of all the legislatures and the work of the committees should be based on ground reality so that public money is utilized in a better way and maximum welfare of the people could be achieved.

The role of public representatives is most important in a democracy. The more efficient our public representatives are, the better our institutions will function. We should focus on training and capacity building of the Members of our respective legislatures.

The theme of this conference is "*75th Anniversary of the Constitution- Contribution of Parliament and State Legislatures in strengthening the Constitutional Values*".

Our Constituent Assembly constituted of Honourable Members who believed in different ideologies. They discussed extensively, interacted with each other and researched continuously for about three years to frame our great Constitution. In this process, despite assent and dissent, every aspect was discussed in detail and the result of this endeavour was our great Constitution.

Today we are known as the world's largest and most successful democracy and our great Constitution is the cornerstone of our success. We are celebrating the 75th anniversary of our Constitution.

We should adopt this tradition of holding meaningful dialogues in our Houses. Ideological differences apart, the ultimate goal of all of us is the welfare of the people.

It is our responsibility to ensure that our democratic institutions function according to constitutional values. Constitutional provisions should be followed in letter and spirit.

It is our responsibility to ensure that the government functions in accordance with the spirit and provisions of the Constitution. We must ensure that our country is governed by the people and for the people.

Both the Centre and the States should work together with the spirit of cooperative federalism. This is the crux of our Constitution. Optimum welfare of the people will be ensured only when all the organs of the government work together in an integrated manner.

Just as we organize these AIPOC annual conferences of Parliament and State Legislatures, similarly, all State Legislatures should organize conferences of Panchayati Raj Institutions and Municipal Bodies of their States and provide them with requisite training and ensure their capacity-building.

I urge you that the Presiding Officers of the legislatures should see to it that the capacity building and training programmes are organised regularly for public representatives of local bodies to ensure that the third important tier of democracy is strengthened.

Under the constitutional system, each legislature has its own autonomy, but at the same time, it is our collective responsibility to work together to strengthen democracy in the country.

Today, we will discuss how to make our democratic institutions more effective as we celebrate 75 years of the Constitution.

We will discuss ways in which we can increase our efficiency to make our institutions more result oriented. We will contemplate ways to ensure that the laws and the rules under those laws are formulated within the stipulated time and their efficiency is further improved.

Our Members and concerned officials should be given proper training in legislative drafting so to enable them to draft better laws with a long-term perspective.

We must always remember that our Constitution is not just a document but a continual source of inspiration that leads us towards building an inclusive, just, equitable and progressive society. It is our responsibility to not only uphold its ideals but to strengthen it further as well.

Valedictory Address



Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Om Birla delivering Valedictory Address on conclusion of the 85th All India Presiding Officers' Conference (AIPOC) in Bihar Legislative Assembly, Patna, Bihar, on 21st January 2025.

Hon'ble Governor of Bihar, Shri Arif Mohammed Khan ji;

Hon'ble Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha, Shri Harivansh ji;

Hon'ble Speaker of the Bihar Legislative Assembly, Shri Nand Kishore Yadav ji;

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker of the Bihar Legislative Assembly, Shri Narendra Narayan Yadav ji;

Hon'ble Leader of Opposition, Bihar, Shri Tejashwi Prasad Yadav ji;

Hon'ble Presiding Officers of Legislatures of States and Union Territories of India;

Hon'ble Ministers;

Hon'ble Members of Parliament;

Hon'ble Members of Legislative Assemblies and Legislative Councils;

Distinguished Delegates; and

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I deeply appreciate each one of you for your constructive participation in this conference in Bihar, which is the sacred land of knowledge, spirituality and democracy.

Pataliputra is the fountainhead of the eternal Indian cultural values, and has a glorious history, tradition and culture. It is also the cradle of knowledge, education, civilization and democracy.

The last two days have seen your active participation, and you have made insightful contributions.

I have full faith that this Presiding Officers' Conference will have a lasting impact. The implementation of the resolutions taken here will make the legislative institutions of our country more accountable to the people.

We will strive to bring transparency in our legislatures. To keep up with the changing needs of the time we will introduce innovations and frame new rules for legislatures. Deliberations held in this conference in Patna will pave the way for resolving the challenges of the present times.

You have shared your knowledge and experiences about the innovations in your respective Legislative Assemblies and this sharing of best practices is the most important achievement of this conference. This has inspired all of us to implement appropriate innovations in our respective Houses.

Our legislatures are forums for formulation of laws, policies and plans. These are the forums where ways to fulfill the expectations and aspirations of the people are discussed, the difficulties and deprivations of the people are discussed. We should strive to make them centres of meaningful discussion and dialogue.

We have resolved to make the functioning of democratic institutions more efficient in accordance with the spirit of the Constitution and to continuously enhance their efficacy and productivity.

Our aim should be to ensure that our Legislatures do not come to a standstill due to disruptions, there is comprehensive discussion on laws despite ideological differences; and the policies of the executive are scrutinized so that we can ensure greater accountability and transparency in governance.

In this age of technology, we must increase efficiency of our democratic institutions. I am happy that our Parliament is ahead of the parliaments of other countries of the world regarding the use of technology.

Our Parliament has the facility of simultaneous interpretation in 10 out of 22 official languages. Soon, this facility of interpretation will also be made available in all these 22 languages to the Hon'ble Members of Parliament.

All types of parliamentary papers are being provided to the Members of Parliament in 10 regional languages through Artificial Intelligence.

India is the only democracy in the world wherein we are moving towards translating all our debates through AI into multiple languages other than the floor language.

We are making extensive use of metadata and other emerging technologies to increase the efficiency and productivity of Lok Sabha.

We will also share the AI based *Sansad Bhashini* tools developed for use in the Parliament with the States so that these can be used in the state assemblies for digitization of their debates. This will also enhance the capacity, efficiency and productivity of members.

The Hon'ble Members of Legislative Assemblies will benefit from going through the old debates and be able to contribute more constructively in the House.

Today, on this historic land of Patna, we are taking this collective pledge that we will increase the efficiency and competence of our democratic institutions and enhance the capacity of the members so that our democratic institutions can be more accountable towards the people, fulfill their expectations and aspirations and become a vehicle of building a developed India.

I once again express my gratitude to the Hon'ble Governor of Bihar, Shri Arif Mohammad Khan, the Hon'ble Speaker of the Bihar Legislative Assembly, Shri Nand Kishore Yadav, all the Presiding Officers, all the dignitaries who participated in this conference and all those people who are associated with organising this conference.

I convey my special thanks to Hon'ble Shri Nand Kishore Yadav Ji, Hon'ble Shri Awadhesh Narayan Ji and officers/staff of Bihar Legislative Assembly for organizing the conference successfully!

Jai Hind!

ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA, SMT. DROUPADI MURMU TO THE JOINT SITTING OF BOTH HOUSES OF THE PARLIAMENT, NEW DELHI, 31ST JANUARY 2025

The President of India addresses both the Houses assembled in the Parliament, at the commencement of the first Session each year. In an election year, the President addresses the Parliament at the commencement of the First Session after each General Election (after constitution of the new Lok Sabha).

The provision for an Address by the Head of the State to the Parliament goes back to the year 1921 when the Central Legislature was set up for the first time under the Government of India Act, 1919. Under article 86(1) of the Constitution, the President may address either House of Parliament or both Houses assembled, and for that purpose require the attendance of the members. Article 87(1) provides that at the commencement of the first Session of each year, the President shall address both Houses of Parliament assembled and inform the Parliament of the causes of its summons.

The Address by the President is a statement of policy of the Government. It contains a review of the activities and achievements of the Government during the previous year and sets out the policies which it wishes to pursue regarding important national and international issues. It also indicates the main items of legislative business which are proposed to be brought before Parliament during the sessions to be held that year.

The President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, addressed members of both the Houses of Parliament assembled in the Lok Sabha Chamber of Parliament House on 31st January 2025 at the commencement of Fourth Session of Eighteenth Lok Sabha.

We reproduce below the text of the Address¹.



The President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu arriving in Parliament House to address members of both the Houses of Parliament assembled in the Lok Sabha Chamber on the first day of the Fourth Session of the 18th Lok Sabha and 267th Session of Rajya Sabha, on 31st January 2025.

¹ <https://presidentofindia.gov.in/speeches/address-honble-president-india-smt-droupadi-murmu-parliament-1>

Hon'ble Members,

It gives me immense pleasure to address this session of Parliament.

Just two months ago, we celebrated the 75th anniversary of adoption of our Constitution, and only a few days ago, the Indian Republic completed 75 years of its journey. This occasion will elevate India's pride as the mother of democracy to new heights. On behalf of all the citizens of the country, I pay tribute to Babasaheb Ambedkar and all the framers of the Constitution.

Hon'ble Members,

The historic festival of Mahakumbh is also underway in the country. Mahakumbh is a festival of India's cultural tradition and social consciousness. Millions of devotees from across the country and the world have taken the holy dip at Prayagraj. I express my sorrow over the unfortunate incident that occurred on Mauni Amavasya and wish for the speedy recovery of the injured.

A few days ago, we lost the former Prime Minister of the Country, Dr. Manmohan Singhji. He served the nation as Prime Minister for ten years and was a long-time member of Parliament. I offer my heartfelt tribute to Manmohan Singhji.

Hon'ble Members,

My Government is infusing new energy through unprecedented achievements in this *Amrit Kaal* of India's development journey. The pace of work has tripled in this third term. Today, the nation is witnessing major decisions and policies being implemented at an extraordinary speed, with the highest priority given to the poor, the middle class, the youth, women, and farmers.

In the third term of my Government, concrete steps have been taken to achieve the goal of providing "Housing for All". Extending the *Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana*, we have decided to provide new homes to an additional three crore families. A budget of 5,36,000 crore rupees has been allocated for this purpose.

My Government is committed to granting ownership rights of residential land to the rural poor and promoting financial inclusion. Under the SVAMITVA scheme, we have issued 2.25 crore property cards so far, of which approximately 70 lakh property cards have been distributed in the last six months alone.

Under the *PM Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme*, 41,000 crore rupees has been disbursed to crores of farmers in recent months. The "*Dharti Aaba Tribal Village Utkarsh*" campaign has been launched for the upliftment of five crore people from tribal communities, with an allocation of 80,000 crore rupees for this initiative.

Under the Ayushman Bharat scheme, six crore senior citizens aged 70 years and above will receive health insurance, with a health cover of 5 lakh rupees per year.

For small entrepreneurs, the loan limit under the MUDRA scheme has been increased from 10 lakh rupees to 20 lakh rupees. My Government has placed special focus on education for the youth and creating new employment opportunities for them. The PM Vidyalakshmi scheme has been introduced to provide financial assistance to meritorious students for higher education. Additionally, one crore youth will be given internship opportunities in the top 500 companies. A new law has been enacted to prevent incidents of paper leaks and ensure transparency in recruitment. Following the spirit of prosperity through cooperation, the government has approved the proposal to establish the 'Tribhuvan' Cooperative University.

Under the fourth phase of the *Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana*, the Government has sanctioned 70,000 crore rupees to connect 25,000 habitations. As the country celebrates the centenary year of Atal Ji's birth, the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana continues to embody his vision.

Currently, 71 Vande Bharat, Amrit Bharat, and Namo Bharat trains are operational across the country, with 17 new Vande Bharat trains and one Namo Bharat train added in the past six months. The Government has also made swift progress on critical issues like "One Nation-One Election" and the "Waqf Act Amendment."

Hon'ble Members,

The decade-long tenure of my Government has infused new energy into the journey of a '*Viksit Bharat*'. In the vision of a '*Viksit Bharat*'... there is the collective strength of public participation, a roadmap for the nation's economic progress, the power of technology in the form of a digital revolution, and the foundation of modern infrastructure.

The Government is steering India towards becoming the world's third-largest economy.

To ensure that the journey towards ‘Viksit Bharat’ continues to be guided by the ideals of our Constitution, the Government has placed four key principles—service, good governance, prosperity, and pride—at the core of its governance.

The Government is making rapid advances in its commitment to reform, perform, and transform.

The guiding mantra of my Government is “*Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas*” and its goal is the creation of a ‘Viksit Bharat’.

Hon’ble Members,

Development is truly meaningful when its benefits reach the person standing at the last rung of society. This is the essence of *Antyodaya*, to which my Government has been unwaveringly committed.

When poor people are provided with a dignified life, it instills a sense of empowerment that helps them fight poverty.

Initiatives like the construction of 12 crore toilets under the *Swachh Bharat Abhiyan*, 10 crore free LPG connections under the *Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana*, ration for 80 crore needy citizens, the *Saubhagya Yojana*, and the Jal Jeevan Mission have given poor the confidence that they can live with dignity. Due to such efforts, 25 crore people have overcome poverty and are moving forward in life. They have formed a Neo Middle Class, a group that is infusing new energy into India’s growth journey.

Hon’ble Members,

The economic progress of a nation like India is defined by the aspirations of the middle class and the fulfillment of those aspirations. The bigger the dreams of the middle class are, the higher the nation soars. It is my Government that has, for the first time, openly acknowledged and appreciated the contributions of the middle class on every occasion.

Government employees are also significant representatives of the middle class. Recently, my Government decided to constitute the Eighth Pay Commission for the welfare of Government employees. This decision will lay the foundation for substantial salary increase for Government employees in the coming years.

Additionally, the Central Government has decided to provide 50% assured pension to lakhs of employees under the Unified Pension Scheme, which has been widely welcomed.

My Government is equally committed to fulfilling the middle class's dream of owning a home. Laws like RERA have been introduced to safeguard their dreams. Subsidies on home loans are being provided.

Through the UDAN scheme, about 1.5 crore people have fulfilled their dream of flying in airplanes. *Jan Aushadhi Kendras*, offering medicines at 80% concessional rates have helped save more than 30,000 crore rupees for citizens. The multifold increase in the number of seats for education in various disciplines has significantly benefited the middle class.

Acknowledging the role of taxpayers in nation-building, my Government has simplified tax-related processes. The introduction of faceless assessments has enhanced transparency and reduced tax disputes.

Senior citizens aged 75 years and above who get only pension now have the choice of deciding about filing their income tax returns.

Hon'ble Members,

My Government firmly believes in empowering the nation through women-led development.

The *Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam*, which provides reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies, is a significant step in this direction.

Under the National Rural Livelihood Mission, more than 91 lakh self-help groups (SHGs) are being empowered, connecting over 10 crore women across the country. These groups have received over 9 lakh crore rupees through bank linkages.

My Government has set a goal of 3 crore Lakhpati Didis. Today, over 1.15 crore Lakhpati Didis are leading dignified lives, with about 50 lakh becoming Lakhpati Didis in just the past six months.

These women are contributing to their family incomes as entrepreneurs.

With the spirit of "Insurance for All," the Bima Sakhi campaign was launched a few months ago. Our Banking and Digi-Payment Sakhis are playing a crucial role in connecting remote areas with the financial system. Meanwhile, Krishi Sakhis are promoting natural farming, and Pashu Sakhis are strengthening our livestock resources.

The *Drone Didi Yojana* has become a medium for the economic and technological empowerment of women.

It is a matter of pride for this Parliament that India's daughters are now flying fighter jets, joining the police force, and leading corporate companies. Following my Government's decision, girls have started enrolling in National Military Schools and National Defence Academy as cadets.

Our daughters are also making the nation proud by winning medals in the Olympics.

Through this Parliament, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the 'Nari Shakti'.

Hon'ble Members,

Over the past decade, India's youth have come forward to take up the responsibility of driving every major national effort. Today, our youth are making the country proud in every field, from start-ups and sports to space exploration. Lakhs of young people are actively participating in nation-building efforts through the MY Bharat Portal.

Initiatives like Make in India, *Atmanirbhar Bharat*, Startup India, Stand-Up India, and Digital India have created numerous employment opportunities for the youth. In the past two years, the Government has provided a record 10 lakh permanent government jobs.

To enhance skills and create new opportunities for the youth, my Government has approved a 2 lakh crore rupee package.

An internship program for 1 crore youth will provide them with hands-on experience in real-world work environments. India now has over 1.5 lakh start-ups, which are emerging as pillars of innovation.

To boost the space sector, a 1,000 crore rupees venture capital fund has been launched.

In the QS World Future Skills Index 2025, India has risen to second place globally, showcasing leadership in AI and digital technology adoption in the Future of Work category.

Similarly, India's rank in the Global Innovation Index has improved significantly, moving up from 76th to 39th position.

Hon'ble Members,

Through the National Education Policy, my Government is establishing a modern education system for students.

To ensure no one is deprived of education, opportunities for learning in mother tongues are being provided. Additionally, various recruitment exams are being conducted in 13 Indian languages, eliminating language barriers.

To foster innovation among children, over 10,000 Atal Tinkering Labs have been established in schools.

For enhancing the Ease of Doing Research, the One Nation-One Subscription Scheme has recently been introduced, offering free access to international research materials.

Over the past decade, the number of higher education institutions has increased significantly, and their quality has also improved. In the QS World University Asia Rankings, 163 Indian universities have been included.

The inauguration of the new Nalanda University campus has revived India's ancient glory in education.

The day is not far when an Indian citizen will travel to space aboard the indigenously developed Gaganyaan spacecraft. The recent success in space docking has further paved the way for India to establish its own space station.

Just a few days ago, ISRO conducted its 100th launch, successfully placing the satellite in orbit. I congratulate ISRO and all the citizens of the country for this achievement.

Hon'ble Members,

My Government has taken significant steps to create a world-class sports ecosystem in the country. Initiatives like the Khelo India Scheme, the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS), and the establishment of the National Sports University are contributing to this vision.

A special sports centre for Divyang athletes has been opened in Gwalior.

India's teams, whether at the Olympics or the Paralympics, have consistently delivered outstanding performances. Recently, India also achieved remarkable success at the World Chess Championship.

Through the Fit India Movement, we are building a strong and empowered youth force.

Hon'ble Members,

In building a '*Viksit Bharat*', the role of research along with the role of farmers, soldiers and science is of immense importance. Our goal is to establish India as a global innovation powerhouse.

To promote research in educational institutions, the National Research Foundation has been established with an outlay of 50,000 crore rupees.

Additionally, 10,000 crore rupees is being invested to foster innovation in science and technology under the *Vigyan Dhara Yojana*.

India's contribution in the field of Artificial Intelligence is being elevated through the launch of the India AI Mission.

The National Quantum Mission aims to position India among the leading nations in the field of frontier technology.

My Government has introduced the BioE3 Policy to boost bio- manufacturing.

This policy will serve as the facilitator for the next industrial revolution. The focus of bio-economy is on the efficient utilization of natural resources to create new employment opportunities while preserving the environment.

Hon'ble Members,

My Government has worked with strong determination to lift the economy out of a state of policy paralysis. Despite global concerns such as the COVID-19 pandemic, its aftermath, and war-related uncertainties, the Indian economy has demonstrated remarkable stability and resilience, proving its strength.

My Government has implemented several significant measures to promote Ease of Doing Business.

With the spirit of 'One Nation, One Tax', the GST system was introduced, which has been benefiting all states across the country.

Due to policies like Make in India, many major global brands now proudly display the label 'Made in India' on their products.

Hon'ble Members,

India's small traders, from villages to cities, play a vital role in driving economic progress. My Government considers small entrepreneurs as the backbone of the economy and is committed to providing them with new opportunities for self-employment. The Credit Guarantee Scheme for MSMEs and the establishment of e-commerce export hubs are promoting various industries. During this third term, the loan limit under the MUDRA scheme has been increased from 10 lakh rupees to 20 lakh rupees, benefiting crores of small entrepreneurs.

My Government has made credit access easier, thereby democratizing financial services. Today, products like loans, credit cards and insurance are easily accessible to everyone.

For decades, our brothers and sisters earning their livelihoods as street vendors remained excluded from the formal banking system. Today, they are benefiting from the *PM SVANidhi Yojana*, which allows them to access additional loans to expand their businesses based on their digital transaction records.

The ONDC initiative has made digital commerce more inclusive. Small businesses now have equal opportunities to grow in the online shopping ecosystem.

Hon'ble Members,

My Government, in the past ten years, has written new chapters of progress, one of which is the golden milestone of India's digital revolution.

Today, India has emerged as a major global player in the field of digital technology. The launch of 5G services in India, alongside other leading nations, stands as a significant milestone in this journey.

India's UPI technology has also impressed many developed countries. More than 50% of the world's real-time digital transactions now take place in India.

My Government has utilized digital technology as a tool for social justice and equality. Digital payments are no longer confined to select individuals or classes. Today, even the smallest shopkeepers in India benefit from this facility.

Banking services and world class technology such as UPI are now accessible in villages as well. Over the last ten years, more than 5 lakh Common Service Centres have been established, providing citizens with access to dozens of government services online. To minimize government

interference in people's daily lives, my Government has emphasized e-governance. For instance, DigiLocker has enabled individuals to access and display their important documents anytime, anywhere.

However, in an increasingly digital society, cybersecurity has become a crucial issue of national importance. Digital fraud, cybercrime, and emerging technologies like deep fakes pose challenges to our social, economic, and national security. My Government has taken numerous measures to control these cyber threats, creating opportunities for employment in the field of cybersecurity for the youth.

My Government is continuously working to ensure competence in cybersecurity. As a result of these efforts, India has achieved Tier-1 status in the Global Cybersecurity Index.

Hon'ble Members,

The modern infrastructure of any country not only provides its citizens with a better quality of life and gives the nation a new identity but also instills a renewed sense of confidence in the country. Over the past decade, India has achieved several milestones in constructing world-class infrastructure. This modern infrastructure has strengthened India's image globally, increased investors' trust in the nation, boosted industries, and created new employment opportunities.

My Government is working in mission mode to connect every part of the country with highways and expressways. The *PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan* has accelerated the pace of project completion.

Ten years ago, the budget for capex was around 2 lakh crore rupees, which has now increased to over 11 lakh crore rupees in the last budget.

Continuing the progress of the last decade, my Government has made record investments in the past six months in infrastructure for the future.

The foundation has been laid for India's first deep-water mega port at Vadhavan. This port, being built at a cost of 76,000 crore rupees, will rank among the top ten ports in the world.

I am pleased to inform you that the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail link project has been completed, connecting the nation from Kashmir to Kanyakumari through railway line. Under this ambitious project, the Chenab Bridge has been constructed, which is the highest railway bridge in the world. Additionally, India's first rail cable bridge, the Anji Bridge, has been completed.

Work on the Shinkun La tunnel is also progressing successfully. Upon completion in the near future, it will be the world's highest tunnel, ensuring year-round connectivity between Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh.

India's aviation sector is growing rapidly. The country's airline companies have placed orders for more than 1,700 new aircraft. We are expanding airports to operate such a large fleet. Over the past decade, the number of airports in the country has doubled.

Hon'ble Members,

To accelerate the journey towards a Viksit Bharat, it is essential to make our cities future-ready.

In this direction, my Government has focused on modernizing urban amenities and making them energy-efficient. Simultaneously, the foundation is being laid for the development of new cities.

My Government has decided to invest approximately 28,000 crore rupees to establish 12 industrial nodes and build 100 industrial parks near cities across the country.

Efforts to streamline urban transportation are continuously underway. Metro projects in Delhi, Pune, Thane, and Bengaluru, along with the recently launched Namo Bharat Rapid Rail Services on the Ahmedabad-Bhuj route, are shaping the cities of a Viksit Bharat. Just a few weeks ago, work began on the Rithala-Narela-Kundli corridor in Delhi, which will be one of the major sections of the Delhi Metro network. The metro routes in Delhi are expanding rapidly due to my Government's continuous efforts. In 2014, the total metro network in Delhi-NCR was less than 200 kilometres. Now, it has more than doubled.

Today, I am extremely pleased to share that India's metro network has crossed the milestone of 1,000 kilometres. India has now become the third largest country in the world in terms of metro networks.

Additionally, the decision to deploy 52,000 electric buses in the country, at an estimated cost of 8,000 crore rupees, will provide smooth and clean urban transportation. This initiative will also create numerous employment opportunities. To enhance connectivity and promote urban tourism, work is also underway on 15 ropeway projects across the nation.

Hon'ble Members,

My Government has consistently worked on policies of multi-dimensional and inclusive development. Therefore, while emphasizing on physical infrastructure, equal efforts have also

been made by my government for a social infrastructure revolution. Providing affordable, accessible, and quality healthcare to every section of society is a top priority for my government. With improved hospital facilities, treatment options, and the availability of medicines, healthcare expenses for ordinary families are steadily decreasing.

To ensure that better healthcare services reach citizens, 1,75,000 *Ayushman Arogya Mandirs* have been established across the country.

Considering the rising number of cancer patients and the high cost of treatment, several cancer drugs have been exempted from customs duty.

Nearly 9 crore women have been screened for cervical cancer. Due to the efforts of my government, significant progress has been made in combating encephalitis, with the mortality rate due to this disease reduced to 6%.

Under the National TB Eradication Programme, the number of TB patients has also decreased. I urge all citizens and Hon'ble MPs to contribute towards the success of the TB-free India campaign.

India has also seen substantial improvements in maternal and infant mortality rates.

To ensure tracking of vaccination programmes for pregnant women and children, the U-WIN portal has been launched. So far, around 30 crore vaccine doses have been recorded on this platform.

Through telemedicine, over 30 crore e-teleconsultations have provided healthcare benefits to citizens.

The Government is also working on creating 75,000 new seats in medical colleges over the next five years.

The Government is boosting health infrastructure and medical equipment manufacturing. New bulk drug and medical devices parks are being developed in the country, creating numerous employment opportunities.

Hon'ble Members,

A modern and self-reliant agricultural system in India is our goal. My Government is working with dedication to ensure fair prices of crops to farmers and to increase their income.

In 2023-24, India achieved a record production of 332 million tons of food grains. Today, India is the largest producer of milk, pulses, and spices in the world.

The Government has consistently increased the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for both Kharif and Rabi crops.

Over the past decade, spending on the procurement of rice, wheat, pulses, oilseeds, and coarse grains has tripled.

In the past six months, 109 climate-resilient, bio-fortified, and high-yielding advanced crop varieties have been released to farmers. To strengthen agricultural infrastructure, the scope of the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund Scheme has been expanded. This initiative will boost employment opportunities in rural areas. To enhance oilseed production and achieve self-reliance in edible oils, a National Mission on Oilseeds has been approved.

A National Mission is also being implemented to promote Natural Farming.

Earlier this year, the duration of the special package for ensuring availability of DAP fertilizer at affordable rates to farmers was extended.

To promote fisheries, 11 Integrated Aqua Parks are being established.

Hon'ble Members,

A few weeks ago, the India Meteorological Department completed 150 years. To build a weather-ready and climate-smart India, my government has launched the "*Mission Mausam*" at a cost of 2,000 crore rupees, which will also benefit our farmers. Following the vision of Babasaheb Ambedkar, my government has made headway on two historic river interlinking projects to provide irrigation and drinking water in the drought-affected areas of the country.

The Ken-Betwa Link Project, with a cost of over 44,000 crore rupees, will benefit millions of brothers and sisters in rural areas of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

The revised Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal Link Project will address irrigation and drinking water needs in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

An additional 12,000 crore rupees has been sanctioned to expedite the completion of the Polavaram Irrigation Project.

Hon'ble Members,

Our 8 lakh cooperative societies and their 29 crore stakeholder members represent nearly 90% of rural India. In recent years, cooperative societies have also expanded in urban areas.

Various initiatives taken for economic empowerment of the cooperative sector are creating numerous employment opportunities.

The year 2025 is being celebrated as the International Year of Cooperatives, and India will play a significant role in this global initiative.

Hon'ble Members,

When we discuss the nation's development and achievements, we are essentially highlighting the capabilities and accomplishments of its citizens. Today, there is collective participation of all in the development of the nation and that is why we are able to realize its true potential.

The greatest beneficiaries of my government's efforts have been the Dalit, backward, and tribal communities.

For decades after independence, our tribal communities faced neglect. My Government has prioritized their welfare.

The "*Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan*" and the "PM- JANMAN Yojana" are direct examples of this initiative. Nearly 1.25 lakh tribal children are receiving quality education through more than 470 Eklavya Model Residential Schools. In the last 10 years, 30 new medical colleges have been established in tribal-dominated areas.

A special National Mission is addressing health issues related to sickle cell within tribal communities, with screening of around 5 crore individuals already completed.

My Government has undertaken several initiatives to preserve tribal heritage. This year, the 150th birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda is being celebrated across the country as *Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh*.

Hon'ble Members,

A significant measure of '*Viksit Bharat*' is balanced development of the country. No region should feel left behind in the journey of progress.

My Government is conscious of the aspirations of the people of the North-East and has worked to eliminate their sense of alienation. Through more than 10 peace agreements, several factions have been brought onto the path of peace.

To showcase the potential of the eight states of the North East to the entire country, the first-ever *Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav* was organized.

Along with the development of the North-East, the Government has initiated a comprehensive development plan for the “*Purvodaya*” or the eastern states, which will also create new employment opportunities.

In Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep, several developmental projects have been launched, according these regions a crucial role in the nation’s progress.

After the abrogation of Article 370, there is a conducive environment for development in Jammu & Kashmir. Both the Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha elections were conducted in a peaceful manner in Jammu & Kashmir. The people of Jammu & Kashmir deserve commendation for this achievement.

Hon’ble Members,

The success of a nation or society is inclusive and all-encompassing only when it is guided by principles. Therefore, my Government has always placed the fundamental principles outlined by our Constitution at the core of its policies. In the light of the Constitution, the primary ideological inspiration of my government is ‘Service’.

My Government firmly believes that serving 140 crore citizens is its foremost duty, and it is working with utmost sensitivity in this direction.

To provide easy loans to the backward sections of society and sanitation workers, the scope of the PM-Suraj Yojana has been expanded.

To ensure the benefits of government schemes reach differently-abled individuals, over 1 crore Divyang ID cards have been issued. The “*Namaste Yojana*”, launched for sanitation workers, has been extended to include all those who take up the noble responsibility of cleanliness.

With the goal to ensure that no one is left behind in the journey of a ‘*Viksit Bharat*’, my Government is working with a saturation approach.

Hon'ble Members,

The past decade has been a period of revival of India's cultural consciousness. With pride in our heritage and dedication to progress, we are shaping a future where culture and development move forward together.

This year, we will celebrate the 125th birth anniversary of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, who said, "True nationalism lies not only in the physical unity of India but in strengthening its cultural unity."

In the same spirit, the 2,550th Nirvana Mahotsav of Lord Mahaveer was celebrated with reverence, and the 525th birth anniversary of Sant Mirabai was enthusiastically observed across the country. Cultural centres are being established in several countries in memory of the great poet-saint Thiruvalluvar.

My Government is promoting national unity through cultural initiatives like Kashi-Tamil Sangamam, Kashi-Telugu Sangamam, and Saurashtra-Tamil Sangamam.

Hon'ble Members,

Our manuscripts are a priceless heritage, containing vast knowledge that needs to be studied, researched, and utilized for the benefit of humanity. The process of digitizing and preserving these manuscripts using advanced technology is being initiated on mission mode.

A significant pillar of the nation's heritage is our rich linguistic culture. I am pleased to inform you that the Government has granted Classical Language status to Assamese, Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, and Bengali. For easy communication in all languages of India, the language platform *Bhashini* powered by AI is being widely used by the citizens of the country.

Hon'ble Members,

Through the efforts of my government, India has established its identity as a global leader on the cultural stage.

To connect all Asian Buddhist countries, my government organized the first Asian Buddhist Conference. Last year, India also hosted the World Heritage Committee's meeting, with participation from 140 countries.

Through the celebration of International Yoga Day, the entire world is now embracing India's rich tradition of yoga.

Hon'ble Members,

To take the grand edifice of progress to new glories, strong pillars are required. For India's development, my Government has established three strong pillars of Reform, Perform and Transform. Today, these words have become synonyms of India's new governance model across the world.

The Government has conducted an extensive review of laws enacted before the Constitution came into force. Many laws are being repealed or amended to ensure that the entire system can meet the current social and economic challenges.

So far, the government has repealed more than 1,500 obsolete laws. By removing colonial-era laws, a '*Nyaya Sanhita*' has been introduced in place of the Penal Code.

With '*Jan Vishwas*' (public trust) and '*Jan Bhagidari*' (people's participation), my Government is working to make the lives of citizens better. The "*Vivad se Vishwas*" initiative has been launched to resolve disputes.

In the same spirit, over 40,000 regulations have been simplified or reduced, and 3,500 provisions have been decriminalized.

My government has initiated the Aspirational Districts Programme in the country's most backward areas, implementing a unique experiment in good governance. This programme has led to remarkable progress in health, nutrition, agriculture, social development and education in these districts. A UNDP report has praised this initiative. Inspired by this success, the government has now launched a campaign for the holistic development of 500 aspirational blocks.

Focusing on good governance, thei-GOT Karmayogi Digital Platform has been created, encouraging government employees to enhance their skills and become true Karmayogis. This platform offers 1,700 courses, and more than 2 crore course completions have taken place.

Hon'ble Members,

This year, the country is celebrating the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Inspired by his vision, my Government is moving ahead with the principle of "Nation First". To ensure defence of the country's borders and internal security, the Government has undertaken historic initiatives.

We have seen highly encouraging results in achieving self-reliance particularly in the defence sector.

From Make in India, we have transitioned to Make for the World, which is also generating new employment opportunities across the country.

In a historic moment, two warships and a submarine built in India were recently commissioned into the Indian Navy.

We are strengthening self-reliance and self-employment by establishing the Defence Industrial Corridor and promoting defence start-ups.

Along with securing the borders, the development of border areas is also a key component of our strategy. Roads in border areas, along with modern infrastructure like the Atal Tunnel, Sela Tunnel, and Sonamarg Tunnel, have enhanced both defence capabilities and tourism. The Vibrant Villages Programme has been launched in the country's first villages located along the border.

The final phase of eliminating Left-wing Extremism has also begun. Due to the Government's efforts, the number of districts affected by Left-wing Extremism has reduced from 126 to 38 today.

Hon'ble Members,

In an environment of global instability, India is emerging as a pillar of economic, social and political stability, setting an example for the world. Whether it is the G7 Summit, QUAD, BRICS, SCO, or G20, the world has placed its trust in India's strength, policy and intent.

Today, India firmly presents its interests even on the largest global platforms. The successful hosting of the G20 Summit and the Delhi Declaration are prime examples. At the Third Global South Summit, India-ASEAN Summit, and the India-CARICOM Summit, we have raised the voice on issues related to the Global South. We have also presented India's "Vision for the Future" at the Summit of the Future.

Earlier this month, my Government organized the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in Bhubaneswar.

The welfare and convenience of our brothers and sisters of the diaspora remain a priority, which is why my Government has decided to open six new embassies and four new consulates. Strengthening India's image as a '*Vishwa Bandhu*', the country has extended immediate assistance to many disaster-stricken areas across the world.

India has shared its Digital Public Infrastructure with several nations and set up Jan Aushadhi Kendra.

Hon'ble Members,

My Government is making decisions keeping in mind not only the present generation but also the future generations. We are steering the nation towards a green future and green jobs.

Several significant decisions have been taken in the last six months towards achieving the target of 500 GW non-fossil fuel energy capacity by 2030.

Under the *PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana*, rooftop solar systems are being installed at a cost of 75,000 crore rupees. So far, over 7.5 lakh homes have installed rooftop solar systems, creating numerous job opportunities.

The National Green Hydrogen Mission will have an investment of 8 lakh crore rupees and generate over 6 lakh jobs.

We are also accelerating efforts to expand nuclear energy.

My Government has introduced the Vehicle Scrapping Policy to ensure scientific disposal of old vehicles, which will also generate new employment opportunities.

In line with this, the '*Ek Ped Maa ke Naam*' campaign was launched on World Environment Day 2024. Millions of citizens have enthusiastically participated, and this initiative has been appreciated worldwide.

Hon'ble Members,

Our Bharat is a country of 140 crore people. We have diverse states, diverse regions, and diverse languages, yet as one nation, we have only one identity – Bharat.

And we have only one resolution, one goal – '*Viksit Bharat*'! We are all firmly committed to making India a developed Nation in the coming years.

This resolution is inspired by the sacrifices of the martyrs of the nation, the compassionate ideals of revered Bapu, and the oath of unity administered to us by the sons of Mother India like Sardar Patel. We must carry forward these inspirations and, with the strength of unity, fulfill the commitment of a Viksit Bharat. Let us once again reaffirm our resolution of unity and commit ourselves to realizing the dreams of India!

When we move forward together, our future generations will surely witness a developed, empowered, capable and prosperous Bharat in 2047.

I wish you all the very best.

Thank you.

Jai Hind!

Jai Bharat!

**ADDRESS DELIVERED BY THE SPEAKER, LOK SABHA, SHRI OM BIRLA DURING
ORIENTATION PROGRAMME ORGANIZED BY PRIDE FOR NEWLY ELECTED
MEMBERS OF MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATURE ON 10TH FEBRUARY 2025**

An Orientation Programme was organized by the Parliamentary Research and Training Institute for Democracies (PRIDE) for the newly elected members of the Maharashtra State Legislative Assembly/Council. We reproduce below the text of the Address delivered by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla, at the Orientation Programme on 10th February 2025.



Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Om Birla inaugurated a two day Orientation Programme for members of the Maharashtra Legislature in Parliament Premises on 10th February 2025.

I extend my best wishes and congratulations to all the Members of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council. You have to live up to the trust and faith the people of Maharashtra have reposed in you by electing you to the Maharashtra legislature and fulfill your responsibilities to the best of your ability.

This State has been at the forefront of the freedom movement that has shaped modern India. The great personalities, freedom fighters and leaders of social movements from Maharashtra continue to inspire all of us even today.

The Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council of Maharashtra was established in 1937, before India gained independence. Since then, the Legislative Council has played a significant role in fostering socio-economic changes within the country. All of you have the privilege of representing this esteemed democratic Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly.

Legislature has the most important role in a democracy. We all know that these legislative bodies have been crucial in driving substantial social and economic changes across the country and the states through parliamentary democracy. They have enacted new laws and brought about transformative changes improving the life of the last person in the line in the country. This year commemorates the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution.

We are proud that our Constitution is not just a document, it is an inspiration for all of us and continues to guide us even today. We are proud that India is the largest democracy in the world, our Constitution is the world's largest constitution. It plays an important role in guiding us, giving equal rights, ensuring freedom of expression.

My congratulations to Shri Rahul Narvekar ji on being re-elected as Speaker of this legislative assembly and Prof. Ram Shankar Shinde on becoming Chairman of the Legislative Council.

I also welcome the Deputy Chairperson of the Legislative Council, who has been guiding the Legislative Council for a long time.

During this two-day training programme, you will learn about parliamentary procedures, traditions, conventions, and the working of Parliament. You will also learn about the proceedings, procedures and working of Legislative Assemblies and Legislative Councils across various states.

It is true that the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly has had a glorious history, but teaching, training and learning should always be a part of life. Curiosity and perseverance in learning will provide a better opportunity to fulfil our parliamentary responsibilities.

State Legislatures are autonomous. Every legislature has its own rules, procedures, conventions. All legislatures follow a similar code of conduct. The responsibility of following this decorum lies upon the representatives in the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council.

The legislative assembly members interact directly with the public. They frequently engage with citizens. Therefore, the public has more expectations from them. Your hands-on experience makes you more familiar with the expectations of the people as well as the challenges and difficulties being faced by your state.

The Legislature is a democratic medium that extends beyond the Legislative Assembly, playing a crucial role in the state's social and economic development and lawmaking.

A public representative represents not only his own constituency but also the state as a whole and hence should be aware about the aspirations, expectations and challenges of the entire state. You should have knowledge of the challenges in the state, the aspirations of the people, the geo-political and economic situation of the area. Public representatives play an important role in bringing about transformative changes in their states. This is why parliamentary democracy is considered the most effective system for governance globally.

We need to understand the people's social and economic problems, difficulties and challenges. Hence, I believe that we should study the previous proceedings and conventions of the Legislative Assembly. The number of laws that have been enacted in the Legislative Assembly and the discussions and debates thereon should be given careful consideration. The discussions regarding the challenges and calamities faced by the state should be studied. In this digital era all the legislatures have also made efforts to make the proceedings of their respective assemblies available in digital form so that we can study the proceedings of those assemblies online on a subject-wise basis.

I am distressed to note that the attendance of members in Parliament and Legislative Assemblies is declining. The number of sittings of Legislative Councils and Legislative Assemblies is also decreasing. In this scenario, I commend the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly for logging the highest number of sittings amongst all the legislatures in the country. And in view of this fact your responsibility also becomes more onerous. The proceedings of your Assembly should be based on discussion, dialogue, meaningful exchange, and rational arguments.

It is my firm belief that planned obstruction of legislative proceedings undermines parliamentary democracy. It is our duty to maintain discipline in the Legislative Assembly for better discussions and debates, which will make us better legislators. Studying the rules and procedures of the Legislative Assembly will empower us to raise issues effectively.

It is true that different Legislative Assemblies follow different procedures. However, understanding how and when topics can be raised, along with the applicable rules and procedures, allows for more effective discussions. It is our responsibility to ensure meaningful discussions in the House and to scrutinize the Government's policies, programmes and schemes.

While members may agree or disagree in the House, our focus should be on providing positive guidance to the Government and the Executive. Question Hour is especially important in this context. Questions should be concise and clear cut. We should be well-prepared before putting up

the question. The Question Hour is crucial for holding the government accountable and it is obligatory for the Ministers to furnish a reply to the questions. We must ask well-prepared questions. Additionally, when making or amending laws, we should review previous debates and discussions.

It is our duty to understand the purpose and consequences of new laws. We should ask constructive questions and advise the Government because even minor errors in drafting can have far reaching impact on the people of the state.

Therefore, while formulating laws, we should hold extensive debates and discussions and make constructive contributions. We should be present for longer hours in the Legislative Assembly and listen to its proceedings to understand the rules and procedures. Often our colleagues present their views logically and rationally. We can learn from their constructive criticism, excellent presentation and in-depth research.

You should sit in the House whether your turn to speak comes or not. The best MLA and MP is the one who sits in the House for a long time, listens to the proceedings of the House, learns from it, supports his arguments in the legislature with research every time and suggests solutions for the challenges being faced by the region and state.

In the same way, our parliamentary committees are also important. Parliamentary committees work like a mini parliament. We should actively participate in parliamentary committees. We should thoroughly research and hold extensive debates and discussions regarding the matters under consideration of the committee. Particularly, members of the Public Accounts Committee or Estimates Committee should examine the allocation of funds and the social and economic impact of these expenditures. The more you study these matters, the more positive and impactful your contributions will be.

All of you are experienced and have long years of experience in social and political spheres. We have been elected to this august house of democracy. We should strive to put in our best efforts as MLA in this house. Our efforts should be to focus on constructive dialogue and discussion. You should be aware about the major problems, difficulties and challenges of not only your constituency but also the entire state. Your constructive suggestions can herald transformational social and economic changes in the state.

You have come to the Parliament today to witness the Question Hour. It is going to start soon. We will meet again someday in the Legislative Assembly of Maharashtra to continue our discussions.

I once again welcome you to the Parliament. I hope that you will also visit the Parliament Library to explore the old debates. I have also informed the Speaker of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly that we will digitize all debates with meta-data and keywords within a year. You will be able to access all information and contribute meaningfully to the discussions in the House. Heartiest congratulations and a warm welcome to all of you.

ADDRESS DELIVERED BY THE SPEAKER, LOK SABHA, SHRI OM BIRLA DURING ORIENTATION PROGRAMME ORGANIZED BY PRIDE FOR NEWLY ELECTED MEMBERS OF HARYANA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ON 14TH FEBRUARY 2025

An Orientation Programme was organized by the Parliamentary Research and Training Institute for Democracies (PRIDE) for the newly elected members of the Haryana Legislative Assembly. We reproduce below the text of the Address delivered by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla, at the Orientation Programme on 14th February 2025.



Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Om Birla inaugurated two-day Orientation Programme for members of Haryana Legislative Assembly in the Vidhan Sadbha premises in Chandigarh on 14th February 2025.

Haryana is known for its rich historical and cultural heritage. Haryana Legislative Assembly having a robust governance system is committed to ensure the multifaceted development of the state while maintaining democratic values. I extend my warm welcome to Shri Nayab Singh ji, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Haryana who is present here in this programme. He has vast experience of working in State Assembly and the Parliament as well.

I also welcome Hon'ble Speaker of Haryana Legislative Assembly, Shri Harvinder Kalyan ji; Hon'ble Speaker of Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Shri Satish Mahana ji who has long experience of being a Member of State Assembly and cabinet minister. Being an experienced Legislator, he has enlightened the participants in several training programs organized in various state Assemblies from time to time. I also extend warm welcome to Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Shri Krishan Lal Middha ji, Leader of Opposition, Ministers of Haryana Government and Members of Legislative Assembly.

Haryana is known for its unique history, culture, spirituality, freedom fighters and brave people it has given to the country. Despite being a small State, it has contributed significantly in the development of the Country. This is the land at which Lord Krishna enlightened Arjuna about Karmayoga and spread the message of spirituality in entire world.

Despite being small state, Haryana has contributed a lot by bestowing the country with brave soldiers to secure our borders, excellent athletes and freedom fighters. Haryana has a proud legacy of rich culture and spirituality. Haryana Legislative Assembly has a unique model of development which sets an example for other states.

I am happy that Haryana is making rapid development under the able guidance of Sri Nayab Singh Saini ji. The state is consistently making progress in the field of infrastructure, social welfare, economic reforms along with agriculture, industries and education. The Members of Legislative Assembly have contributed significantly to it.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt greetings and congratulations to all the newly elected Members of Haryana Legislative Assembly. Your election to the Assembly is a testimony to the faith and trust the people of Haryana have reposed in you. I am happy to see that 40 Members have been elected for the first time. I especially congratulate them for this achievement. You have been entrusted with the task of fulfilling the hopes and aspirations of the people and for this you have to strive hard.

As a member of the legislative Assembly, you will have to directly interact with the people to know about their needs and aspirations. The more, people repose their trust and faith in you, greater the responsibility you have to fulfill. It is the collective responsibility of the Legislative Assemblies to resolve the issues and problems of their electorates as people have elected you as a member to represent them in Assembly. You are not only representing your constituency but the entire state.

Therefore, it is our duty to not only fulfill the hopes and aspirations of the people but also to work towards the development of the state along with formulating policies, schemes for this purpose and make a proper assessment and evaluation thereof.

The state Legislative assemblies are entrusted with task of making laws. Extensive discussions should be held while formulating laws. Discussions, deliberations along with Assent and Dissent

are integral parts of democracy. We need to study and analyse the debates that took place in the house from time to time.

During the last All India Presiding Officers Conference, we decided to digitize the old debates held in Legislative Assemblies during formulation of important policies and enacting laws and make them available to Hon'ble Members and future members to enable them to participate in fruitful discussions.

The proceedings, debates held on budget and discussion held on other laws of all Legislative Assemblies of the states will be made available at a single platform in the Assembly.

In my view, positive suggestions of Hon'ble members should be obtained while preparing draft of a legislation.

As per the present system the Legislative draft is prepared by the bureaucrats which is laid in the Legislative Assemblies and Lok Sabha. The loopholes in the Legislative drafting leave a deep impact on the public and the functioning of the Government. Therefore, the Legislative draft should be circulated to Hon'ble Members. Training programs will be organized in Legislative drafting for members to enable them to participate in the process of Legislative drafting and enact laws which are beneficial for both public and the Government.

By witnessing the discussion held either in Parliament or in Legislative Assemblies while enacting any law will enable you to have a fruitful debate and dialogue. A good legislator is the one who presents positive views in the discussions held in Legislative Assemblies based on his experience and knowledge. We are living in the age of technology and innovations so use them to be an effective legislator.

We can become state leaders only through Legislative Assemblies. This is the platform that gives you this opportunity. You have been elected to this House, and it is your responsibility to work towards the betterment of the people. Extensive discussions and comprehensive reviews are held in the Legislative Assembly on the policies and schemes. You should be aware of the issues of your state to raise them in the Assembly. You should also be well versed with the rules and procedures of the house as it will help you raise your issues in a procedural manner and bring positive change.

I think that democratic Institutions like Parliament and Legislative Assemblies are such platforms where legislators of different states and regions raise their concerns and make the Government

aware of the current issues. The Government should take cognizance of such issues in a positive manner to ensure good governance.

The involvement of people in a democracy ensures transparency and accountability of the executive. A public representative is helpful in making the executive accountable and to ensure the timely implementation of policies, schemes and programs as he is directly in contact with the people at the grass root level.

A public representative can evaluate whether a scheme is effective or not. In such a manner, a public representative is responsible for the implementation and assessment of policies, programs and schemes and to make the Government accountable.

I believe that the members of the State Legislative Assemblies have a huge responsibility in this. The present time is the time of technological innovations. While technology innovation gives us knowledge about Parliamentary system of different countries, it also ensures us access to quality debate and discussions. The Legislative Assemblies will pave the way to find the solutions for the problems and challenges we are facing.

As Mahanaji has rightly said that we should always try to learn new things. You should acquire knowledge from whatever sources are available. At times an ordinary worker can also teach you something valuable. You will experience that even a small incident can have a deep impact and meaning. This experience and knowledge will help you become a better public representative.

A member of Legislative Assembly is closer to the public than a Member of Parliament and this fact enhances his responsibility and accountability. We should try to express the concerns and aspirations of the people of our constituencies and find their solutions in assemblies. Debates, Dissent and assent are strength of a democracy and time and again we have proved that parliamentary democracy is the best form of governance.

Democracy has kept us united despite our diversity. Therefore, I request you to improve your leadership qualities. Legislative Assembly provides you a platform to hone your leadership skills.

Some of the members in this House are very experienced and some are new. We have a very strong democratic form of government, and the speakers of the Legislative Assemblies do their best to smoothly run the House. Since, Hon'ble Chief Minister has also been a Member of

Parliament earlier, he has always made his best efforts to ensure smooth functioning of the House and strengthening the committees.

Parliamentary Committees play an important role in the functioning of the parliamentary system and act as mini-Parliament. The more we discuss different issues in the Legislative Assemblies and Parliamentary committees, the more beneficial it will be for the functioning of the Government.

We should try to build consensus cutting across party lines and engage in positive discussions in the Parliamentary Committees based on our experience, knowledge and public inputs. We should refer the bills to the Parliamentary Committees for comprehensive examination. The suggestions and the experiences of the Members of the Parliamentary Committee should be incorporated in the bills. The state Legislative Assembly should also emulate such efforts.

During my last visit, Hon'ble Chief Minister had told me that we hold a comprehensive discussion on budget before presenting it in the House. Opinion of the general public are invited and taken into consideration. Schemes, programs, policies and allocation of funds are examined by the Public Accounts Committee and other committees to find out the impact of the said budget on the socio-economic life of the people.

The Parliamentary Committees are well equipped to evaluate the impact of budget on education, health and social welfare scheme. A public representative can refer to these assessments. The views of a government official can vary from that of a public representative. A public representative is well informed of the issues as he is directly in contact with the people.

The committees of the Legislative Assemblies should also examine as to whether the funds allocated to the various sectors have been properly utilized or not after they have been examined by the parliamentary committees.

I hope that during this two-day training program you will be enlightened by the lectures of scholars and experts. It will prove to be beneficial to you. This program will help you to understand the functioning of the Legislative assembly and become a better legislator to fulfill your duties and responsibilities.

I hope that you will strengthen the democracy by upholding the faith and trust people have reposed in you.

It should be your effort to ensure the smooth functioning of the Legislative Assembly. We might have differences but interrupting the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly is not considered a healthy practice in a democracy.

It is better for the democracy that Legislative Assemblies become an eminent centre for discussions and debates. Assent and dissent in a balance manner are welcome. Extensive debates should be held which will enable us to work for the betterment of society.

I congratulate and give my best wishes to all of you for your new role as a member of the Legislative Assembly. You will be contributing to the remarkable history and democratic values of Haryana.

Thank you very much.

**ADDRESS DELIVERED BY THE SPEAKER, LOK SABHA, SHRI OM BIRLA DURING
ORIENTATION PROGRAMME ORGANIZED BY PRIDE FOR NEWLY ELECTED
MEMBERS OF DELHI LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ON 18TH MARCH 2025**

An Orientation Programme was organized by the Parliamentary Research and Training Institute for Democracies (PRIDE) for the newly elected members of the Delhi Legislative Assembly. We reproduce below the text of the Address delivered by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla, at the Orientation Programme on 18th March 2025.



Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Om Birla delivering Inaugural Address at the Orientation Programme for members of the Delhi Vidhan Sabha, in Delhi Legislative Assembly premises on 18th March 2025.

Hon'ble Speaker of Delhi Legislative Assembly, Shri Vijender Gupta ji; Hon'ble Chief Minister of Delhi, Smt. Rekha Gupta ji; Leader of Opposition and former Chief Minister, Smt. Atishi ji; Deputy Speaker of Delhi Legislative Assembly, Shri Mohan Bisht ji; Hon'ble Union Minister, Shri Harsh Malhotra ji; Hon'ble Members of Parliament; Hon'ble Ministers of the Government of Delhi; and Hon'ble MLAs of Delhi Legislative Assembly:

I warmly welcome you all to this Orientation Programme for the newly elected Members of Delhi Legislative Assembly. The people of Delhi have entrusted you all with a huge responsibility.

The building in which we are sitting has been a witness to our freedom struggle. This building has been the house of expression of great freedom fighters and great thinkers. We have started the democratic process with the freedom struggle from this building. Therefore, this building is of great importance.

All of you have been given very important responsibilities. As Rekha ji said, Delhi is the capital of the country and we have to think about how we can meet the expectations of the people while improving the infrastructure and ensuring social welfare, education and health services in Delhi.

All the elected representatives of Delhi Vidhan Sabha come from different assembly constituencies of Delhi. Delhi is the capital of the country, and people from all the States of India live here. Therefore, there are linguistic, religious and cultural diversities here. Hence Delhi is also known as Mini India.

People come here in search of employment to earn their living. Therefore, it becomes a big responsibility for us to fulfill their expectations and aspirations. At the same time, we have to promote meaningful discussion and dialogue in the Delhi Legislative Assembly and strengthen democratic traditions so that we can give a message to our country. Always keep in mind that you are not only the representative of your constituency, but you represent the entire State.

Since you represent the entire State, your vision, your thoughts and your thinking should be aimed at the development of the entire State. You have the responsibility of looking after the welfare of the people of the entire State and bringing about a change in their condition.

This House has the responsibility of fulfilling the expectations of crores of people. Therefore, I believe that the people of Delhi have elected you with great expectations. People have high expectations from the new government.

When the expectations of the people are high, we have to work very dedicatedly. In this orientation program, for the next two days we will discuss on how you can successfully discharge your responsibilities as legislators. During this period there will be an exchange of ideas and brainstorming on various issues, so that we can find a way to solve all the challenges faced by the people of Delhi.

Therefore, I believe that we should try to be the best listeners during the proceedings of the Assembly. We should sit for a longer period in the Assembly, and even if we do not get a chance to speak, we should listen to other speakers and learn from their experience. The more we take advantage of listening opportunities, the better we will be able to discuss and communicate. Only a good listener can be a good speaker. That is why, you should watch videos of past proceedings of the Assembly, study old debates and discuss on laws that have been enacted. You need to work with a new and innovative approach.

It should be our endeavour to be aware of all the rules and procedures of the Legislative Assembly. We should also have good knowledge of Constitution of India. You should be well-versed about the articles of the Constitution, particularly relating to your responsibilities and duties and the conduct of the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly. The more you have the knowledge of rules and procedures of the Legislative Assembly, the better you will be able to effectively criticise the sittings of the Legislative Assembly.

Whether it is the Question Hour or any other subject being discussed, we should be able to express our views effectively in the House and participate in meaningful discussions. Our language, our thought and our approach should be comprehensive. It is from the chamber of this Assembly that you can become the best leader of Delhi. Therefore, your language and your conduct in the Assembly should be parliamentary, and you should present your viewpoints logically.

In the near future, Vijender Ji will ensure the digitization of all debates of the Delhi Legislative Assembly. A subject-based search option will enable you to easily find the desired debates. Lok Sabha Secretariat will also help Delhi Legislative Assembly in this task.

I believe that orientation programmes are important in enhancing your efficiency, your skills and your working capacity. Given the need of changing times, you have to use technology and artificial intelligence. The more we use technology, the better we will be able to communicate. Therefore, we should try to make maximum use of technology.

At the same time, when we discuss a bill or an important issue related to Delhi in the Assembly, we should also have experience in legislative drafting. Only those members who have experience in legislative drafting will be able to seriously discuss the Bill. Sometimes, there is a lack of legislative drafting in the Bills introduced.

Legislators who acquire proficiency in legislative drafting will be able to work in better way to solve the problems of the State. You should have an important role in formulation of Laws with legislative drafting. There should also be periodic discussions on how to increase your efficiency and skills. We should try to achieve efficiency in all the legislative instruments available.

I noted that in Parliament and Legislative Assemblies, MPs and MLAs who are proficient in legislative rules and procedures, are able to put their viewpoints on the table of the House in a better way. Therefore, you should also try to achieve proficiency in legislative rules and procedures. The more efficient you become, the more you can ensure the accountability of the

Executive. A good MLA can bring transparency in the functioning of the executive of the State and can also solve the problems of his area in a better way.

The challenges faced by the people of Delhi can be solved through this Assembly. Therefore, it is important that there should be transparency and honesty in your actions and you should be accountable towards your people. As an MLA of Delhi, the whole country looks towards you. You have the distinction of becoming an MLA of the National Capital Territory of Delhi. Therefore, your efforts should be to solve every problem of the people of your area. All of you should share your ideas and experiences with each other and compete to come up with new innovations that can solve the problems of the people of your constituency.

As an MLA of Delhi, the better you solve the problems of the people, the more you will guide the members of the Legislative Assemblies of other States.

People from different parts of the country having different castes, religions, languages and cultures live in Delhi. So, whatever efforts you make for the welfare of these people, the whole country will follow it. We should try to find innovative ways to solve the problems of our people. This is the speciality of democracy.

The Opposition also has an important role to play in democracy. The role of the Opposition should be positive. Consensus is the strength of democracy and that is why there should be a place for discussion, dialogue, assent and dissent in our democracy. In the last 75 years of journey of our democracy, we have worked to take the country forward. It should be our endeavour that the House should become a platform for discussion and dialogue. There should not be a deadlock in the House. You should express your views in the House in a dignified manner. Your language should be parliamentary. If you participate in any debate on any issue or make allegations or counter allegations, you should follow legislative rules and procedures. In a democracy, the roles of both the Government and the opposition are important and we should play our respective roles well.

We need to keep communicating with the public. The more you interact with the people, the better you will be able to raise their problems and issues in the Assembly and find solutions to them. You should also keep an eye on how the Executive is dealing with the issues raised by you.

I hope that through continuous discussion and dialogue, we will set new benchmarks of development in Delhi. In the coming five years, our aim should be to solve every small problem

of Delhi. The aim of every MLA of Delhi should be to make their constituency the best constituency.

You must make every possible effort to improve the infrastructure in your constituency, ensure the social and economic well-being of the people and improve the lives of the people of your constituency. You have to work with new ideas and new perspective. You have to find new ways to solve the problems of the people. The people of your area should feel that our MLA raises our issues in the Assembly and makes serious efforts to resolve them.

I hope that in this two-day programme, you all will share your thoughts and your experiences. In this program, you will also be given information about the methods, rules and procedures of legislative institutions and the Constitution. A session on technology will also be there in this programme. I hope Vijender Guptaji will make the Delhi Assembly a model Assembly.

I hope that technology will also be used to increase the efficiency and skills of the legislators in the Delhi Legislative Assembly.

I hope that through fruitful and brainstorming discussion, dialogue and debates you will make Delhi Assembly a model for the country, and other State Assemblies will adopt this model.

I once again wish you all the very best for your new assignment. I hope that you will fulfill your responsibility well and live up to the expectations of the people. Together we have to make Delhi the best capital of the world.

Thank you very much.

PARLIAMENTARY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION RELATED EVENTS

Visit of Indian Parliamentary Delegation to the United Kingdom for Bilateral Meetings:

An Indian Parliamentary Delegation led by the Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Om Birla, visited the United Kingdom (UK) for Bilateral Meetings from 6th to 9th January 2025. The visit included bilateral engagements at the House of Commons; meeting with the Rt. Hon. Lindsay Hoyle, Speaker, House of Commons; meeting with the Rt. Hon. Pat McFadden, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster; meeting with the former Prime Minister the Rt. Hon. Rishi Sunak; interaction with Indian Community; interaction with Indian students in the UK and visit to Scotland. During his visit to Scotland, the Lok Sabha Speaker had meeting with the Rt. Hon. Alison Johnstone MSP, Presiding Officer of Scottish Parliament and the Rt. Hon. John Swinney MSP, first Minister of Scotland.

Meeting of the Standing Committee of the Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of Commonwealth (CSPOC): The meeting of the Standing Committee of the CSPOC was held at Guernsey on 10th January 2025. The Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Om Birla attended the meeting as the Chairperson of the Standing Committee of CSPOC since India will be hosting the 28th CSPOC in January 2026.

The meeting was attended by Hon. Milton Dick, Speaker, Australia; Hon. Greg Fergus, Speaker, Canada; Rt. Hon. Moses Wetang'ula, Speaker, Kenya; Hon. Papali'i Li'o Oloipola Ta'eu Masipau, Speaker, Samoa; Lord Fatafehi Kinikinilau Lolmanaia Fakafanua, Speaker, Tonga; Rt. Hon. Sir Lindsay Hoyle, Speaker, UK; and Sir Richard McMahon, Bailiff of Guernsey (Host of the Standing Committee meeting). Besides, Shri Utpal Kumar Singh, Secretary-General, Lok Sabha and Officers of Lok Sabha Secretariat and Ministry of External Affairs also attended the meeting.

The Lok Sabha Speaker invited all the members of CSPOC to attend the 28th CSPOC Conference to be held in January 2026 in India and also announced that foreign language interpretation facility will be arranged for the foreign dignitaries using AI technology.

The 85th All India Presiding Officers' Conference (AIPOC): The 85th All India Presiding Officers' Conference (AIPOC) was held from 19th to 21st January 2025 in Patna, Bihar.

On 20th January 2025, the Lok Sabha Speaker and Chairperson, AIPOC, Shri Om Birla inaugurated and addressed the Conference. The welcome address was delivered by Shri Nand Kishore Yadav, Speaker, Bihar *Vidhan Sabha*. This was followed by screening of a documentary film on heritage and development of Bihar. Shri Harivansh, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Sharwan Kumar, Minister, Rural Development Department, Government of Bihar, Shri Awadesh Narain Singh, Chairman, Bihar Vidhan Parishad and Shri Samrat Choudhary, Deputy Chief Minister, Bihar also addressed the gathering. The Lok Sabha Speaker and Chairperson AIPOC, Shri Om Birla delivered the inaugural address and also released the “8th Edition (English)” and 5th Edition (Hindi) of Practice and Procedure of Parliament by M.N. Kaul and S.L. Shukla- Edited by Shri Utpal Kumar Singh, Secretary General, Lok Sabha”. The Vote of thanks was proposed by Shri Narendra Narayan Yadav, Deputy Speaker, Bihar Vidhan Sabha. The Conference was attended by 41 Presiding Officers (including Speakers/Chairmen /Deputy Chairmen/ Deputy Speakers) of the State/Union Territory Legislatures.

Extensive deliberations were held on the agenda topic “75th Anniversary of Constitution: Contribution of Parliament and State Legislative bodies in strengthening Constitutional values” during the Conference. In addition, five (5) Resolutions were adopted during the Conference.

The Valedictory function of the Conference was held on 21st January 2025 at the Central Hall, Bihar Legislative Building, Patna. The Governor of Bihar, Shri Arif Mohammed Khan chaired the Valedictory function and addressed the distinguished gathering. The Lok Sabha Speaker addressed the Session. The function was also addressed by Shri Awadesh Narain Singh, Chairman, Bihar Vidhan Parishad, Shri Nand Kishore Yadav, Speaker, Bihar Vidhan Sabha, Shri Vijay Kumar Sinha, Deputy Chief Minister, Bihar and Shri Harivansh, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha. The Vote of Thanks was proposed by Prof. (Dr.) Ram Vachan Rai, Deputy Chairman, Bihar Vidhan Parishad.

On 20th January 2025, the Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Om Birla was accorded a warm welcome and a Guard of Honour was given to him at the Bihar Vidhan Mandal, which was followed by group photograph of the Presiding Officers. This was followed by meeting of the Standing

Committee of AIPOC at the Central Hall, Bihar Legislative Extension Building, Patna. Six (06) Members of the Standing Committee of AIPOC and 25 Presiding Officers from State/UT legislatures attended the meeting. Shri Utpal Kumar Singh, Secretary-General, Lok Sabha and Secretary to the Standing Committee of AIPOC, and Shri P.C. Mody, Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha also attended the meeting.

61st Conference of Secretaries of Legislative Bodies of India: The 61st Conference of Secretaries was held on 19th January 2025 in Patna on the theme “Adoption of modern technologies in our legislative bodies for greater efficiency, effectiveness and productivity”. Shri Utpal Kumar Singh, Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri P.C. Mody, Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha and 25 Secretaries-General/Principal Secretaries/Secretaries from State/UT legislatures attended the meeting. The Conference was chaired by the Secretary General, Lok Sabha and Chairperson of the Conference.

Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) International Steering Committee virtual meeting: The Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) International Steering Committee virtual meeting was held on 18th February 2025 to discuss various issues such as update on CWP activities, Gender Strengthening Funds 2026, proposed dates for 2025 CWP Steering Committee meetings, etc. Dr. D. Purandeswari, Member of Lok Sabha & Member of CWP International Steering Committee, attended the said meeting from the CPA India Region.

INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION RELATED EVENTS

Third World Summit of the Committees of the Future: The Parliament of Chile, in collaboration with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), hosted the Third World Summit of the Committees of the Future held in Santiago from 13th to 14th January 2025. An Indian Parliamentary Delegation comprising Shri Jagdambika Pal, Member of Lok Sabha and Shri Sujeet Kumar, Member of Rajya Sabha participated in the Summit.

The overall theme of the Summit was *“For innovative anticipatory governance that brings the future into parliamentary work”*.

15th Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) and Executive Council Meeting of APA: The 15th Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) and Executive Council Meeting of APA was held in Baku, Azerbaijan from 17th to 21st February

2025. Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tasa, Member of Lok Sabha and Smt. Kiran Choudhry, Member of Rajya Sabha attended the Plenary Session and Executive Council Meeting of APA.

IPU Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights: The Parliament of Argentina and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) jointly organized a Conference on 17th March 2025, with the theme “*Illegal International Adoption*”.

Dr. Sasmit Patra, Member of Lok Sabha as a co-rapporteur for the next resolution of the IPU Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights, participated in the above mentioned Conference (Virtually).

BIRTH ANNIVERSARIES OF NATIONAL LEADERS

On the birth anniversaries of national leaders whose portraits adorn the Central Hall of the *Samvidhan Sadan* (old Parliament House), and also on the birth anniversaries of former Speakers of Lok Sabha, functions are organized under the auspices of the Indian Parliamentary Group (IPG) to pay tributes to the leaders. Booklets containing the profiles of these leaders, prepared by the Library and Reference, Research, Documentation and Information Service (LARRDIS) of the Lok Sabha Secretariat, are distributed on the occasion.

The birth anniversaries of the following leaders were celebrated during the period from 1st January to 31st March 2025:

Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, a function was held on 23rd January 2025 in the Central Hall of the *Samvidhan Sadan*. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi; Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Om Birla; Several Union Ministers; Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Shri Mallikarjun Kharge; Members of Parliament and former Members of Parliament paid floral tributes at the portrait of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.

Lala Lajpat Rai: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Lala Lajpat Rai, a function was held on 28th January 2025 in the Central Hall of *Samvidhan Sadan*. Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Om Birla; Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Shri Mallikarjun Kharge; Deputy Chairman, Rajya, Shri Harivansh, Members of Parliament and former members paid floral tributes at the portrait of Lala Lajpat Rai.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, a function was held on 4th February 2025 in the Central Hall of *Samvidhan Sadan*. Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Om Birla; Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Harivansh, Members of Parliament, former members and other dignitaries paid floral tributes at the portrait of the former Speaker of Lok Sabha, Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar.

Smt. Sarojini Naidu: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Smt. Sarojini Naidu, a function was held on 13th February 2025 in the Central Hall of *Samvidhan Sadan*. Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Om Birla; Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Harivansh, Members of Parliament, former members and other dignitaries paid floral tributes at the portrait of Smt. Sarojini Naidu.

Shri Morarji Desai: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Shri Morarji Desai, a function was held on 28th February 2025 in the Central Hall of *Samvidhan Sadan*. Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Om Birla; Members of Parliament, former members and other dignitaries paid floral tributes at the portrait of Shri Morarji Desai.

Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, a function was held on 23rd March 2025 in the Central Hall of *Samvidhan Sadan*. Members of Parliament, former members and other dignitaries paid floral tributes at the portrait of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia.

EXCHANGE OF PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS

Foreign Parliamentary Delegation visiting India

Indonesia: On 25th January 2025, the Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Om Birla welcomed H.E. Mr. Prabowo Subianto, President of the Republic of Indonesia at the Parliament House. The President of Indonesia, who was on a State visit to India to attend the 76th Republic Day celebrations as the Chief Guest, expressed keen interest and appreciation for the architecture of the new Parliament building and various artworks, cultural heritage and installations. Both the leaders discussed India's rich Parliamentary system and 75 years of India as a Republic.

Russia: A Parliamentary Delegation led by H.E. Mr. Vyacheslav Volodin, Chairman of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, visited India from 2nd to 4th

February 2025 under bilateral exchange. The Russian delegation arrived in Delhi on 2nd February 2025.

On 3rd February 2025, the Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Om Birla and the visiting Chairman held a Bilateral Dialogue. The Lok Sabha Speaker hosted a Banquet Lunch in honour of the visiting delegation.

The delegation also witnessed the proceedings of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha from the 'Special Box' and a show round of the Parliament House Complex was organized for them. On the same day in the evening, the delegation left for Mumbai. On 4th February 2025 the delegation called on Shri C.P. Radhakrishnan, Governor of Maharashtra, and also visited Mumbai University.

Maldives: A Parliamentary Delegation led by H.E. Mr. Abdul Raheem Abdulla, Speaker of the People's Majlis of Maldives, visited India from 10th to 14th February 2025 under bilateral exchange. The Maldivian delegation arrived in Delhi on 10th February 2025.

On 11th February 2025, the Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Om Birla and the visiting Speaker held a Bilateral Dialogue. The Lok Sabha Speaker hosted a Banquet Lunch in honour of the visiting delegation. The delegation also witnessed the proceedings of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha from the 'Special Box' and a show round of Parliament House Complex was organized for them. On 12th February 2025 the delegation called on the Vice-President of India and Chairman of Rajya Sabha, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar. Besides Delhi, the delegation also visited Agra.

Madagascar: A Parliamentary Delegation led by H.E. Mr. Justin Tokely, President of the National Assembly of Madagascar, visited India from 10th to 14th March 2025 under bilateral exchange. The delegation arrived in Delhi on 10th March 2025.

On 12th March 2025, the Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Om Birla and the visiting Speaker held a Bilateral Dialogue. The Lok Sabha Speaker hosted a Banquet Lunch in honour of the visiting Delegation. The delegation also witnessed the proceedings of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha from the 'Special Box' and a show round of Parliament House Complex was organized for them. Besides Delhi, the Delegation also visited Agra.

Call-on Meeting with the Speaker, Lok Sabha

Vietnam: A delegation led by H.E. Mr. Nguyen Duc Hai, Vice Chairman of the National Assembly of Vietnam called on the Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Om Birla on 17th March 2025 in the Parliament House.

Australia: A delegation led by the Hon. Peter Malinauskas, MP, Premier of South Australia called on the Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Om Birla on 25th March 2025 in the Parliament House.

Show Round of Parliament

Show-round of Parliament was arranged for (i) Shri Rishi Sunak, former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom on 18th February 2025; (ii) the Delegation from Argentina led by H.E. Mr. Raul Jalil, Governor of Catamarca (Argentina) on 21st February 2025; (iii) the Delegation from Meridian International Center, USA on 25th February 2025; (iv) the Delegation of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs of Swedish Parliament on 4th March 2025; (v) the Delegation from Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) Seychelles on 4th March 2025; (vi) a Delegation from Vietnam led by H.E. Mr. Nguyen Duc Hai, Vice Chairman of the National Assembly of Vietnam on 17th March 2025. The delegation also witnessed the proceedings of both the Houses; (vii) the Delegation of Diplomatic Cadets from Israel on 20th March 2025; (viii) Mr. Noah Jeremy Arbit, Member of the Michigan House of Representatives on 25th March 2025. He also witnessed the proceedings of both the Houses; and (ix) the Delegation from Australia led by the Hon. Peter Malinauskas MP, Premier of South Australia on 25th March 2025. The delegation also witnessed the proceedings of the Lok Sabha.

PARLIAMENTARY RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRACIES (PRIDE)

During the period from 1st January to 31st March 2025, the Parliamentary Research and Training Institute for Democracies (PRIDE) had organized the following Courses/Programmes/Events for Members/Delegates/ Probationers/Dignitaries/Officials:

I. Orientation Programme for MLAs/MPs: Four Orientation Programmes were organized for (i) Eighty-five Newly Elected Members of Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly from 9th to 11th January 2025; (ii) Forty-five newly Elected Members of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council from 10th to 11th February 2025; (iii) Ninety Members of Haryana

Legislative Assembly from 14th to 15th February 2025; and (iv) Thirty-five Members of Delhi Legislative Assembly from 18th to 19th March 2025.

II. International Women`s Day: One hundred seventy-five women participants attended the Programme “Exhibition to mark the International Women's Day” on the occasion of International Women's Day on 8th March 2025.

III. “Panchayat Se Parliament 2.0”: Six hundred forty-three scheduled tribe women representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions attended the Programme “Panchayat Se Parliament 2.0” organised by PRIDE in collaboration with ICPS, National Commission for Women (NCW) and Ministry of Tribal Affairs on 6th January 2025.

IV. Know Your Leader Programme: Seven hundred sixty-two youths/students/participants attended the Programme, “Know your Leader - Participation of Youth of our Country in Paying Homage to our National Leader on the Birth Anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose in the Central Hall of *Samvidhan Sadan* on 23rd January 2025.

V. Appreciation Courses: Six (06) Appreciation Courses in Parliamentary Processes and Procedures were organized for: (i) Fifty-nine Probationers of Indian Statistical Service (ISS) and Indian Corporate Law service. (ICLS) from 6th to 7th February 2025; (ii) Sixty-four Probationers of Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS); Indian Defence Accounts Service (IDSA); Indian P&T Accounts and Finance Service (IP&TAFS) and Indian Railway Management Service (Accounts) (IRMS(A)) from 10th to 12th February 2025; (iii) Twenty-seven Officer Trainees (OTs) of Indian Economic Service (IES) and Indian Defence Estates Service (IDES) from 17th to 19th February 2025; (iv) Twenty-two Officers of Indian Navy Armament Service (INAS) & Officers of Indian Postal Service (IPoS) from 25th to 28th February 2025; (v) Thirteen Officer Trainees of Indian Naval Material Management Service (INNMS) from 11th to 12th March 2025; and (vi) Twenty-nine Officer Trainees of Indian Information Service (IIS) from 18th to 19th March 2025.

VI. Capacity Building/Training Programme for officials of Lok Sabha/ Rajya Sabha and State Legislature Secretariats: Two hundred eighty-eight Officials of Haryana Legislative Assembly attended Capacity Building Programme at Haryana Vidhan Sabha, Chandigarh, from 8th to 9th January 2025.

VII. Training Programme for Government Officials: (i) One hundred eighty-eight Stenographer Direct Recruits (SDRs) undergoing training at ISTM, New Delhi attended one day Training Programme on 2nd January 2025; (ii) Seventy-two Officers of the Indian Forest Service

attending Line Ministry Module of Mid-Career Training at the Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy (IGNFA), Dehradun, Uttarakhand attended one day attachment programme on 13th February 2025; (iii) Two hundred twenty-five officials of Central Secretariat Stenographers Service (CSSS) of Central Secretariat Service (CSS), and other Central Services undergoing training at ISTM, New Delhi, attended one day Training Programme on 19th February 2025 (First Batch) and 20th February 2025 (Second Batch); (v) One hundred forty-nine IRS Probationers of the 78th Batch from National Academy of Direct Taxes (NADT), Nagpur, attended one day Training Programme on 3rd March 2025; and (vi) Two hundred thirty-two Stenographer Direct Recruits (SDRs) undergoing training at ISTM, New Delhi, attended one day Training Programme on 5th March 2025 (First Batch) and 6th March 2025 (Second Batch).

VIII. Study Visit/Training Programme (International): (i) Seventy-two Diaspora youths of India Origin from different countries attending 80th and 81th Edition of the Know India Programme (KIP) at Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Govt. of India, attended Study Visit on 3rd & 15th January 2025; (ii) Fifty-one member delegation of 30 winners of Bharat Ko Janiye (BKJ) Quiz from across the world and 21 Content Creators from 7 countries organised under the Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India, attended Study Visit on 13th January 2025; (iii) Thirty-six ITEC delegates undergoing an International training programme on “Information Systems Audit & Audit of e-Governance” at iCISA, Noida, Uttar Pradesh attended Study Visit on 13th January 2025; (iv) Twelve Staff Members from The National Assembly of the United Republic of Tanzania attended Training on Parliamentary Structure and Practices on 4th February 2025; (v) Thirteen Members of Parliament of Sweden-India Friendship Group of the Swedish Parliament, Sweden, attended Study Visit on 7th February 2025; (vi). One hundred ten members of the Harvard Alumni Association attended Study Visit on 12th February 2025; (vii) Twelve Members of Specialized Committee on Finance and Economic Planning of Transitional National Legislative Assembly, Republic of South Sudan attended Study Visit from 17th to 19th February 2025; and (viii) A ten-member delegation of ‘Diplomatic Cadets’ from Israel attended Study Visit on 20th March 2025.

b. Study Visit (National): Seventy-one Study Visits (National) were organized during the period.

MEMBERS' REFERENCE SERVICE

Members Reference Service caters to the information needs of Members of Parliament, primarily in connection with their day-to-day parliamentary work. The Service brings out Reference Notes and Legislative Notes on important issues and Bills/Ordinances before the House.

During the period from 1st January to 31st March 2025, a total of 887 Reference requests were received from the Members of Parliament and disposed of, out of which 770 References were Offline and 117 References were Online. Three Legislative Notes, ten Reference Notes and twenty-three information folders were prepared and uploaded on the Lok Sabha website, and shared with Members of Parliament through the Members' Portal as well.

During this period, four Briefing Sessions were organized for Members of Parliament on important Legislative Business before the House.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

LOK SABHA

Instances when the Chair allowed Members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House: On 4th February 2025, during discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, the Chair permitted members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House. Accordingly, 92 members laid their speeches on the Table of the House.

On 11th February 2025, during discussion on the Union Budget for 2025-26, the Chair permitted members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House. Accordingly, 92 members laid their speeches on the Table of the House.

On 19th March 2025, during discussion on the Demands for Grants Nos. 62 and 63, for 2025-26, under control of the Ministry of Jal Shakti, the Chair permitted members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House. Accordingly, 71 members laid their speeches on the Table of the House.

On 21st March 2025, during discussion on the Demands for Grants Nos. 1 and 2, for 2025-26, under control of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, the Chair permitted members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House. Accordingly, 102 members laid their speeches on the Table of the House.

PARLIAMENTARY AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

(1st JANUARY TO 31st MARCH 2025)

Events covered in this Feature are based primarily on the information available in the public domain, including the official websites of the Union and the State Legislatures, the Election Commission of India, and also reports appearing in daily newspapers. As such, the Lok Sabha Secretariat does not accept any responsibility for their accuracy, authenticity or veracity.

INDIA

DEVELOPMENTS AT THE UNION

Parliament Session: The Fourth Session of the Eighteenth Lok Sabha and the Two Hundred and Sixty Seventh Session of the Rajya Sabha (the Budget Session of Parliament) commenced on 31st January 2025 with the Address by the President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu to the Members of both the Houses assembled in the Lok Sabha Chamber of the Parliament House. The Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha were adjourned for recess on 13th February 2025 to enable the Departmentally-related Parliamentary Standing Committees to examine the Demands for Grants of various Ministries/Departments assigned to them and submit their reports to the House. The Second Part of the Budget Session began on 10th March 2025. Both the Houses were adjourned *sine die* on 4th April 2025. The President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu prorogued both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on 5th April 2025.

Resignation of Rajya Sabha Member: On 25th January 2025, Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy of the Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party from Andhra Pradesh, resigned.

AROUND THE STATES

BIHAR

Oath of Governor: On 2nd January 2025, Shri Arif Mohammed Khan was sworn in as the Governor of Bihar.

Expansion of Cabinet: On 26th February 2025, the Chief Minister, Shri Nitish Kumar inducted seven new Ministers in the Council of Ministers. The Governor, Shri Arif Mohammed Khan administered oath of office and secrecy to seven newly-inducted Ministers, namely, *Sarvashri* Jibesh Kumar, Sanjay Saraogi, Raju Kumar Singh, Krishan Kumar Mantoo, Vijay Kumar Mandal, Moti Lal Prasad and Dr. Sunil Kumar.

DELHI

Legislative Assembly Election Results: The Assembly Elections for 70 seats of Delhi Legislative Assembly were held on 5th February 2025. The results were announced on 8th February 2025. The party position following the election was as follows:

Name of the Party	Seats
Bharatiya Janata Party	48
Aam Aadmi Party	22
Total	70

Oath of Chief Minister: On 20th February 2025, Smt. Rekha Gupta was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Delhi, along with six ministers.

Appointment of New Speaker: On 24th February 2025, Shri Vijender Gupta was elected as the Speaker of the Delhi Legislative Assembly.

KERALA

Oath of Governor: On 2nd January 2025, Shri Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar was sworn in as the Governor of Kerala.

MANIPUR

Resignation of Chief Minister: On 9th February 2025, the Chief Minister, Shri N. Biren Singh resigned.

President's Rule: On 13th February 2025, the President's Rule was imposed in Manipur.

MIZORAM

Oath of Governor: On 16th January 2025, Shri General (Dr.) Vijay Kumar Singh was sworn in as the Governor of Mizoram.

TAMIL NADU

Assembly Bye-election Result: On 8th February 2025, Shri Chandhirakumar V.C of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam was declared elected from Erode (East) Assembly Constituency in the bye-election held on 5th February 2025.

UTTAR PRADESH

Assembly Bye-election Result: On 8th February 2025, Shri Chandrabhanu Paswan of the Bharatiya Janata Party was declared elected from Milkipur Assembly Constituency in the bye-election held on 5th February 2025.

UTTARAKHAND

Resignation of Minister: On 16th March 2025, the Minister of Finance, Shri Premchand Aggarwal resigned.

EVENTS ABROAD

BELARUS

Oath of President: On 25th March 2025, Mr. Aleksandr Lukashenko was sworn in as the President of Belarus.

CANADA

Oath of Prime Minister: On 14th March 2025, Mr. Mark Carney was sworn in as the Prime Minister of Canada.

CROATIA

Oath of President: On 18th February 2025, Mr. Zoran Milanovic was sworn in as the President of for the second term.

GREENLAND

Oath of Prime Minister: On 28th March 2025, Mr. Jens-Frederik Nielsen was sworn in as the Prime Minister of Greenland.

LEBANON

Appointment of Prime Minister: On 14th January 2025, Mr. Nawaf Salam was appointed as the Prime Minister of Lebanon.

NAMIBIA

Oath of President: On 21st March 2025, Ms. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah was sworn in as the first female President of Namibia.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Oath of President and Vice-President: On 20th January 2025, Mr. Donald Trump and Mr. J.D. Vance were sworn in as the President and the Vice-President, respectively.

VANUATU

New Prime Minister: On 11th February 2025, Mr. Jotham Napat was elected as the Prime Minister of Vanuatu.

DOCUMENTS OF CONSTITUTIONAL AND PARLIAMENTARY INTEREST

[This Section covers some important Bills assented to by the President of India (after the same were passed by Parliament) during the period - 1st January 2025 - 31st March 2025]

The Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025: The matters relating to foreigners and immigration are presently administered through the Foreigners Act, 1946 (31 of 1946) and the Immigration (Carriers' Liability) Act, 2000 (52 of 2000). The Foreigners Act, 1946 was enacted to confer upon the Central Government certain powers in respect of foreigners. The Immigration (Carriers' Liability) Act, 2000 was enacted to make the carriers liable in respect of passengers brought by them into India in contravention of the provisions of the Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920 (34 of 1920) and the rules made thereunder and matters connected therewith. The other relevant Acts relating to foreigners and immigration are the Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920 and the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (16 of 1939). These two Acts were enacted with a view to take power to require passports of persons entering into India; and to provide for the registration of foreigners in India.

The Acts, namely the Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920, the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 and the Foreigners Act, 1946 were not only of pre-Constitution period, but also, they were brought into extraordinary times of the First and the Second world wars. While there was an underlying continuity and commonality of objectives among the four Acts, there were some overlapping provisions among the said Acts.

In view of the reasons mentioned in the preceding paragraphs, there was a necessity to repeal all the aforesaid four Acts and to enact a new comprehensive legislation, namely, the Immigration and Foreigners Bill, 2025. The proposed legislation is to be enacted with a view to confer upon the Central Government certain powers to provide for requirement of passports or other travel documents in respect of persons entering into and exiting from India, and for regulating matters related to foreigners including requirement of visa and registration and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The proposed legislation is being enacted to avoid multiplicity and overlapping of laws on the same or related subject and to comply with the Government of India's policy of simplification of laws.

The Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025, *inter alia*, provides for the following, namely:— (i) the matters relating to immigration, namely the functions of Immigration Officer, the requirement of passport and visa and other matters; (ii) the matters relating to foreigners and their registration; (iii) the provisions relating to obligation of universities and educational institutions admitting any foreigner; (iv) the obligation of hospital, nursing home or any other medical institution admitting the foreigners; (v) the provisions relating to foreigners whose movements are restricted; (vi) the power of civil authority to control places frequented by foreigners; (vii) the provisions relating to liability of carriers and its obligations; (viii) the offences and punishment for contravention of certain provisions of the proposed legislation and composition of offences; (ix) the power of Central Government to issue orders for removal of foreigners, to delegate and exempt; and (x) to repeal the existing four Acts relating to foreigners and immigration.

The Immigration and Foreigners Bill, 2025, which sought to achieve the above objectives was passed by the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on 27th March 2025 and 2nd April 2025, respectively. The President of India assented to it on 4th April 2025.

THE IMMIGRATION AND FOREIGNERS ACT, 2025

An Act to confer upon the Central Government certain powers to provide for requirement of passports or other travel documents in respect of persons entering into and exiting from India and for regulating matters related to foreigners including requirement of visa and registration and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Seventy-sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

CHAPTER I

PRELIMINARY

1. Short title and commencement. (1) This Act may be called the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025.

(2) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

2. Definition. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

(a) "accommodation" means a temporary or permanent premises of any nature, where a foreigner is accommodated;

(b) "carrier" means a person or entity, including any association of persons or company, whether incorporated or not, who is engaged in the business of transporting passengers or cargo by air, water or land by aircraft or ship or any other mode of transport;

(c) "civil authority" means such authority as may be appointed by the Central Government in this behalf for such area as it thinks fit;

(d) "entry" means entry by air, water or land;

(e) "exit" means exit by air, water or land;

(f) "foreigner" means a person who is not a citizen of India;

(g) "immigration function" means any one of the functions relating to—

(i) the visa issuance and regulation or entry into'

(ii) transit through;

(iii) stay in; or

(iv) movement within and exit from,

India, under the provisions of this Act or rules or orders or directions made thereunder;

(h) "Immigration Officer" means any officer authorized by the Central Government to carry out immigration functions or such other functions as may be prescribed and includes the Chief Immigration Officer;

(i) "immigration post" means the point of entry into and exit from India for the purpose of immigration functions as may be notified by the Central Government;

(j) "keeper of accommodation" means the person in charge of the management of an accommodation and includes any person authorized by him to perform the duties of the keeper of the accommodation;

(k) "notification" means a notification published in the Official Gazette and the expressions "notify" and "notified" shall be construed accordingly;

(l) "order" means the instructions issued under any of the provisions of this Act or the rules made thereunder'

(m) "other travel document" means the Emergency Certificate or Certificate of Identity or such other travel document which has been issued by or under the authority of the Central Government or Government of a foreign country or any other organization as may be recognized for this purpose by the Central Government, subject to such conditions as may be prescribed;

(n) "passport" means a passport issued or deemed to have been issued under the provisions of the Passport Act, 1967 and includes a passport which have been issued by or under the authority of the Government of a foreign country subject to such conditions as may be prescribed;

(o) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act;

(p) "Prohibited place" means any place as the Central Government may, by order, specify in this behalf;

(q) "Protected area" means any area contiguous with India's international border or any other area, as the Central Government may, by order, specify in this behalf;

(r) "Registration Officer" means a Registration Officer authorized by the Central Government in this behalf for such area as it thinks fit and includes such officer authorized by him with the approval of the Central Government to perform the duties of the Registration Officer on his behalf;

(s) "Registered area" means any area within India and outside the protected area, as the Central Government may, by order, specify in this behalf;

(t) "visa" means an authorization by such authority as may be prescribed in this behalf, permitting a foreigner to enter into or transit through or stay in or exit from the territory of India.

CHAPTER II

MATTERS RELATED TO IMMIGRATION

3. Requirement of passport or other travel document and visa. *(1)* No person proceeding from any place outside India shall enter, or attempt to enter, India by air, water or land unless he is in possession of a valid passport or other travel document, and in case of a foreigner, also a valid visa, and any foreigner while present in India shall also be required to possess valid passport or other valid travel document and valid visa, unless exempted under section 33 or through intergovernmental agreements:

Provided that notwithstanding anything contained in this sub-section, no foreigner shall be allowed to enter into or stay in India, if he is found inadmissible to do so on account of threat to national security, sovereignty and integrity of India, relations with a foreign State or public health or on such other grounds as the Central Government may, specify in this behalf:

Provided further that the decision of the Immigration Officer in this regard shall be final and binding.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in section 3 of the Passports Act, 1967, no person shall depart or attempt to depart from India by air, water or land unless he is in possession of a valid passport or other travel document and in case of a foreigner, also a valid visa:

Provided that notwithstanding anything contained in this sub-section, no person shall be allowed to depart or exit from India, if his presence is required in India by any authorised agency or on such grounds as the Central Government may, by order, specify in this behalf:

Provided further that the decision of the Immigration Officer in this regard shall be final and binding.

(3) The Immigration Officer may examine the passport or other travel document and visa of a foreigner during his entry into, transit through, stay in, movement within India and also require him to furnish such information as may be necessary and appropriate.

(4) The Immigration Officer may seize a passport or other travel document of any person which has been declared as lost or stolen or considered as damaged or forged or fraudulently obtained or on the direction of the passport issuing authority or courts.

(5) The overall supervision, direction and control on visa and related matters shall vest in and be exercised by the Central Government.

4. Immigration posts for entry and exit. (1) The Central Government may notify the designated immigration posts for entry into or exit from India at such places as may be specified.

(2) A designated immigration post for entry into or exit from India shall be manned by an Immigration Officer or such other officers as may be specified by the Bureau of Immigration constituted under section 5.

5. Bureau of Immigration. (1) There shall be constituted a Bureau called the Bureau of Immigration for performing the immigration functions and such other functions as may be prescribed.

(2) The Bureau of Immigration referred to in sub-section (1) shall consist of such number of officers appointed by the Central Government in such manner as may be prescribed.

(3) The general supervision, directions and control of the Bureau of Immigration, shall vest in and be exercised by the Central Government and the overall supervision of the immigration functions and such other functions as may be prescribed, shall vest in the officer appointed by the Central Government as Commissioner of Bureau of Immigration.

(4) The Commissioner, Bureau of Immigration shall, in discharge of his duties under this Act, be assisted by the Foreigners Regional Registration Officers, Foreigners Registration Officers, Chief Immigration Officers and such Immigration Officers as may be authorised by the Central Government in this behalf.

CHAPTER III

MATTERS RELATED TO FOREIGNERS

6. Registration of foreigners. The foreigners on arrival in India shall be required to register with the Registration Officer concerned, subject to such conditions and in such manner as may be prescribed.

7. Power to issue orders, directions or instructions. (1) The Central Government may, by an order or direction or instruction, make provisions, either generally or with respect to all foreigners or with respect to any particular foreigner or any specified class or description of foreigner, for prohibiting, regulating or restricting the entry of foreigners into India or, their departure there from or their presence or continued presence therein.

(2) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, the orders or directions or instructions issued under this section may provide that the foreigner—

(a) shall not enter India, or shall enter India only at such times and by such route and at such port or place and subject to the observance of such conditions on arrival as may be specified;

(b) shall not depart from India, or shall depart only at such times and by such route and from such port or place and subject to the observance of such conditions on departure as may be specified;

(c) shall not remain in India or in any specified area therein;

(d) shall, if he has been required by order or direction or instruction under this section not to remain in India, meet from any resources at his disposal the cost of his removal from India and of his maintenance therein pending such removal;

(e) shall remove himself to, and remain in, such area in India as may be specified;

(f) shall comply with such conditions as may be specified—

(i) requiring him to present himself for examination, for such information in such manner, at such time, as may be required;

(ii) requiring him to reside in a particular place;

(iii) imposing any restrictions on his movements;

(iv) requiring him to furnish such proof of his identity and to report such particulars to such authority in such manner and at such time and place as may be specified;

(v) requiring him to allow his photograph and biometric information, as may be specified, to be taken and to furnish specimens of his handwriting and signature to such authority and at such time and place as may be specified;

(vi) requiring him to submit himself to such medical examination by such authority and at such time and place as may be specified;

(vii) prohibiting him from association with persons of a specified description;

(viii) prohibiting him from engaging in activities of a specified description;

(ix) prohibiting him from using or possessing specified articles;

(x) regulating his conduct in any such particular as may be specified.

(3) In addition to the foregoing, the Central Government may make provision for any matter which is to be or may be specified and for such incidental and supplementary matters as may be expedient or necessary for giving effect to this Act.

(4) Any authority specified in this behalf may, with respect to any particular foreigner, issue order or direction or instruction under clause (f) of sub-section (2).

8. Obligation of keeper of accommodation and others to furnish particulars. (1) It shall be the duty of the keeper of accommodation to submit to the Registration Officer such information in respect of foreigners accommodated in such accommodation and in such manner as may be prescribed:

Provided that subject to provisions of sub-section (3), provisions of this sub-section shall not be applicable to residential premises of non-commercial nature.

(2) Every foreigner accommodated in such accommodation shall furnish to the keeper of accommodation thereof such particulars as may be required by him.

(3) If in any area as may be specified in this behalf, the civil authority so directs, it shall be the duty of every person occupying or having under his control any residential premises to submit to the Registration Officer in such manner such information in respect of foreigner accommodated in such premises as may be specified.

9. Obligation of Universities and Educational Institutions. Every University and Educational Institution or any other institution admitting any foreigner shall furnish information to the Registration Officer in respect of such foreigner in such manner as may be prescribed.

10. Obligation of hospital, nursing home or any other medical institution. Every hospital, nursing home or any other such medical institution providing medical, lodging or sleeping facility in their premises shall furnish information in respect of any foreigner taking indoor medical treatment or their attendant for whom such lodging or sleeping facility has been provided to the Registration Officer in such manner as may be prescribed.

11. Visit to Protected or Restricted area or Prohibited places. No foreigner shall enter or stay in Protected area or Restricted area or Prohibited place without a special permit or permission granted by such authority as may be specified by an order published in the Official Gazette in this behalf and subject to such conditions as specified therein.

12. Change of name of foreigner in India. (1) No foreigner who was in India on the date on which this Act came into force shall, while in India after that date, assume or use or purport to assume or use for any purpose, any name other than that by which he was ordinarily known immediately before the said date, except where a specific permission for change of name has been granted by such authority in such manner as may be prescribed.

(2) No foreigner who has entered into India after the date on which this Act came into force shall, while in India after the date of his entry, assume or use or purport to assume or use for any purpose, any name other than that by which he was ordinarily known immediately before the said date of entry, except where a specific permission for change of name has been granted by such authority as may be prescribed.

(3) For the purpose of this section—

(a) the expression “name” includes a surname; and

(b) a name shall be deemed to be changed if the spelling thereof is altered.

(4) Nothing contained in this section shall apply to the assumption or use by any married woman, of her husband’s name.

13. Foreigners whose movements are restricted. (1) Any foreigner in respect of whom there is in force an order under clause (f) of sub-section (2) of section 7 requiring him to reside at a place set apart for the residence under supervision, for a number of foreigners, shall, while residing therein, be subject to such conditions as to maintenance, discipline and the punishment of offences and breaches of discipline as the Central Government may from time to time by order determine.

(2) No person shall—

(a) knowingly assist such a foreigner to escape from custody or the place set apart for his residence, or knowingly harbour any such foreigner; or

(b) give such a foreigner any assistance with intent thereby to prevent, hinder or interfere with the apprehension of such a foreigner.

(3) The Central Government may, by order, provide for regulating access to, and the conduct of persons in, places in India where such a foreigner whose movements are restricted is lodged, and for prohibiting or regulating the dispatch or conveyance from outside such places to or for such a foreigner therein of such articles as may be prescribed.

14. Power to control places frequented by foreigners. (1) The civil authority may, subject to such conditions as may be prescribed, direct the owner or keeper having control of any premises frequented by any foreigner—

(a) to close such premises either entirely or during specified periods;

(b) to use or permit the use of such premises only under such conditions as may be specified; or

(c) to refuse admission to such premises either to all foreigners or to any specified foreigner or class of foreigners.

(2) A person to whom any direction has been given under sub-section (1) shall not, while such direction remains in force, use or permit to be used any other premises for any of the aforesaid purposes, except with the previous permission in writing of the civil authority and in accordance with any conditions which that authority may think fit to impose.

(3) Any person to whom any direction has been given under sub-section (1) and who is aggrieved thereby may, within thirty days from the date of such direction, appeal to the Central Government, and the decision of the Central Government in the matter shall be final.

15. Foreigner who is national of more than one foreign country. When a foreigner, while in India with a valid passport or other travel document and valid visa, is recognised as a national by the law of more than one foreign country, the civil authority or Immigration Officer may, after due verification of all available documents and inquiry, treat that foreigner as the national of the country on whose passport or travel document he had entered into India or with which he appears to be most closely connected for the time being and the decision of civil authority or Immigration Officer in this regard shall be final:

Provided that the Central Government, either of its own motion or on an application by the foreigner concerned, may revise any such decision.

16. Burden of proof. If in any case, not falling under section 15, any question arises with reference to this Act or any rule or order made or direction given thereunder, whether any person is or is not a foreigner of a particular class or description, the onus of proving that such person is not a foreigner or is not a foreigner of such particular class or description, as the case may be, shall, notwithstanding anything contained in the *Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam*, 2023, lie upon such person.

CHAPTER IV

LIABILITY OF CARRIERS

17. Obligation of carriers and like. (1) The carrier landing or embarking at a port or place in India shall furnish to a civil authority or Immigration Officer—

(i) the passenger and crew manifest;

(ii) the advance passenger information data of passengers and crew on board of such aircraft, vessel or other mode of transport, as the case may be; and

(iii) the passenger name record information of passengers arriving or departing, in such form, containing such particulars, in such manner and within such time, as may be prescribed.

(2) For the purposes of sub-section (1), the expression “passenger name record information” means the records prepared by an operator of any aircraft or vessel or other mode of transport or his authorised agent for each journey booked by or on behalf of any passenger.

(3) Where the information referred to in sub-section (1) is not furnished to civil authority or Immigration Officer within the prescribed time and manner or false information is furnished and if civil authority or Immigration Officer is satisfied that there was no sufficient cause for such delay in furnishing the information or in the manner prescribed, the carrier shall be liable to such penalty specified in section 18 for each such information: Provided that no penalty shall be imposed without giving the carrier an opportunity of being heard in the matter.

(4) Any person aggrieved by the penalty imposed under sub-section (3), may prefer an appeal to such authority in such form, manner and accompanied by such fee as may be prescribed.

(5) Every such appeal shall be preferred within a period of thirty days from the date of the order appealed against:

Provided that the appellate authority may, if it is satisfied that the appellant was prevented by sufficient cause from preferring the appeal within the said period of thirty days, permit the appellant to prefer the appeal within a further period not exceeding thirty days.

(6) On receipt of any such appeal, the appellate authority shall, after giving the parties an opportunity of being heard and after making such inquiry as it deems proper, make such order, as it may think fit, confirming, modifying or reversing the order appealed against.

(7) Any District Magistrate or any Commissioner of Police or, where there is no Commissioner of Police, any Superintendent of Police or the civil authority or Immigration Officer may, for any purpose connected with the enforcement of this Act or any rule or any order made thereunder, require the carrier to furnish such information as may be prescribed in respect of passengers or members of the crew on such aircraft, vessel or other mode of transport, as the case may be.

(8) Any passenger on such carrier and any member of the crew of such carrier shall furnish to the carrier, any information required by him for the purpose of furnishing the information referred to in sub-section (1) or for furnishing the information required under sub-section (7).

(9) If any foreigner whose entry has been refused, such foreigner shall be handed over to the carrier by the Immigration Officer and it shall be the responsibility of that carrier to ensure his removal from India without delay.

(10) If any foreigner enters into India in contravention of any provisions of this Act or any rule or order made thereunder, the civil authority or Immigration Officer may, within two months from the date of such entry, direct the carrier on which such entry was effected to provide accommodation, otherwise than at the expense of Central Government, on such aircraft

or a vessel or any other mode of transport for the purpose of removing the said foreigner from India.

(11) The carrier which is about to carry passengers from a port or place in India to any destination outside India, if so directed by the Central Government and on tender of payment therefor at the current rates, shall provide on the aircraft or vessel or any other mode of transport, accommodation to such port or place outside India, being a port or place at which the aircraft or vessel or any other mode of transport is due to call, as the Central Government may specify, for any foreigner ordered under section 7 not to remain in India and for his dependents, if any, travelling with him.

(12) The carrier shall not cause or permit the aircraft or vessel or any other mode of transport to depart from a port or place in India until a clearance has been obtained from the Immigration Officer on submission of general declaration in such form, manner and with such particulars, as may be prescribed.

(13) For the purposes of this section,—

(a) “carrier” shall also include pilot of aircraft, master of vessel, or company representative or station manager or operator of such aircraft or vessel or any other mode of transport or any person authorised by such carrier to discharge on his behalf any of the duties imposed on him by this section;

(b) “passenger” means any person not being a bona fide member of the crew, travelling or seeking to travel on an aircraft or a vessel or any other mode of transport.

CHAPTER V

OFFENCES, PENALTIES AND APPEAL

18. Liability of carrier to pay penalty. The carrier, for contravention of the provisions of section 17, shall be liable to a penalty which may extend to fifty thousand rupees.

19. Liability of carriers for passengers brought into India. (1) Where the civil authority or Immigration Officer is of the opinion that any carrier has brought a person, in contravention of the provisions of section 3 and rules or orders made thereunder, into India, he may, by order impose a penalty which shall not be less than two lakh rupees, but may extend to five lakh rupees, on such carrier:

Provided that no order shall be passed without giving the carrier an opportunity of being heard in the matter.

(2) Any person aggrieved by an order made under sub-section (1), may prefer an appeal to such authority in such form, manner and accompanied by such fee as may be prescribed.

(3) Every such appeal shall be preferred within a period of thirty days from the date of the order appealed against:

Provided that the appellate authority may, if it is satisfied that the appellant was prevented by sufficient cause from preferring the appeal within the said period of thirty days, permit the appellant to prefer the appeal within a further period of thirty days.

(4) On receipt of any such appeal, the appellate authority shall, after giving the parties a reasonable opportunity of being heard and after making such inquiry as it deems proper, make such order, as it may think fit, confirming, modifying or reversing the order appealed against.

(5) Where any penalty imposed under this section is not paid, the civil authority or Immigration Officer may recover the penalty so payable by—

(a) seizing or detaining the aircraft or the ship or any other mode of transport of the carrier;

(b) seizing, detaining or selling any goods or properties belonging to the carrier; or

(c) such other means as may be notified.

20. Contravention or attempts to contravene provisions of Act. (1) Any person who contravenes or attempts to contravene, or abets or attempts to abet, or does any act preparatory to a contravention of, any of the provisions of this Act or of any rule or order made or direction given thereunder, or fails to comply with any direction given in pursuance of any such order, shall be deemed to have contravened the provisions of this Act.

(2) Any person who, knowing or having reasonable cause to believe that any other person has contravened the provisions of this Act or of any rule or order made or direction given thereunder, gives that other person any assistance with intent thereby to prevent, hinder or otherwise interfere with his arrest, trial or punishment for the said contravention shall be deemed to have abetted that contravention.

(3) The carrier, by means of which any foreigner enters or leaves India in contravention of this Act or any rule or order made thereunder, or direction given in pursuance of section 7 shall, unless he proves that he exercised all due diligence to prevent the said contravention, be deemed to have contravened this Act.

21. Penalty for entry without valid passport or other travel document. Any foreigner who enters into any area in India without a valid passport or other travel document, including visa required for such entry in contravention of provisions of section 3 of this Act or of any rule or order made thereunder or any direction given in pursuance thereof, shall be punishable with an imprisonment for a term which may extend to five years or with fine which may extend to five lakh rupees or with both.

22. Penalty for using or supplying forged or fraudulently obtained passport or other travel document and visa. Whoever knowingly uses or supplies a forged or fraudulently obtained passport or other travel document or visa for entering into India or staying in or exiting from India, shall be punishable with an imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than two years, but may extend to seven years and shall also be liable to fine which shall not be less than one lakh rupees, but may extend to ten lakh rupees:

Provided that any attempt for above mentioned use of forged or fraudulently obtained passport or any other travel document or visa found for such entry or exit from India shall also be treated as an offence under this section.

23. Penalty for contraventions of other provisions of this Act. Whoever,—

(a) being a foreigner, remains in any area in India for a period exceeding the period for which the visa was issued to him or stays in India without a valid passport or other valid travel document in contravention of provisions of section 3 or does any act in violation of the conditions of the valid visa issued to him for his entry and stay in India or any part thereunder;

(b) contravenes any other provisions of this Act, other than sections 17 and 19, or of any rule or order made thereunder or any direction or instruction given in pursuance of this Act or such order or direction or instruction for which, no specific punishment is provided under this Act,

shall be punishable with an imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years or with a fine which may extend to three lakh rupees or with both.

24. Penalty for abetment. (1) Whoever abets any offence punishable under sections 21 or 22 or 23 shall, if the act abetted is committed in consequence of the abetment, be punishable with the same punishment as provided for those offences.

(2) For the purposes of this section,—

(i) an act or offence is said to be committed in consequence of the abetment, when it is committed in consequence of the instigation, or in pursuance of the conspiracy, or with the aid which constitutes the offence;

(ii) the expression “abetment” shall have the same meaning as assigned to it under section 45 of the *Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023*.

25. Compounding of certain offences. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in the *Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023*, any offence punishable under sections 21, 23 or section 24 whether committed by an individual or a company or an organisation or any officer or employee or a representative thereof, may, either before the institution of prosecution or during

trial, be compounded by such officers or authorities and for such sums as the Central Government may, by notification, specify in this behalf:

Provided that the sum so specified shall not, in any case, exceed the maximum amount of the fine which may be imposed under sections 21 or 23 for the offence so compounded.

(2) Nothing contained in sub-section (1) shall apply to an offence committed, by an individual or a company or an organisation or any officer or employee or representative thereof within a period of three years from the date on which a similar offence committed by it or him was compounded under this section.

(3) Every officer or authority referred to in sub-section (1) shall exercise the powers to compound an offence, subject to the directions, control and supervision of the Central Government.

(4) Where any offence is compounded before the institution of any prosecution or before commencement of trial, no prosecution shall be instituted in relation to such offence, against the offender in relation to whom the offence is so compounded.

(5) Where the compounding of an offence is made after the institution of prosecution or during trial, such compounding shall be brought by the authority specified for such compounding in writing, to the notice of the court in which the prosecution or trial is pending and on such notice of the compounding of offences being given, the individual or the company or the organisation or any officer or employee in relation to whom the offence is so compounded shall be discharged.

(6) For the purposes of this section, any second or subsequent offence committed after the expiry of a period of three years from the date on which the offence was previously compounded, shall be deemed to be a first offence.

26. Power to arrest. Any officer of police, not below the rank of a Head Constable may arrest without warrant any person who has contravened or against whom a reasonable suspicion exists that he has contravened section 3 or any rule or order made thereof and the provisions of section 58 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 shall, so far as may be, apply in the case of any such arrest.

CHAPTER VI

MISCELLANEOUS

27. Power to give effect to orders, directions, and like. (1) Any authority empowered by or under or in pursuance of the provisions of this Act or rule or order made thereunder to give any direction or to exercise any other power may, in addition to any other action expressly

provided for in this Act, take or cause to be taken such steps and use, or cause to be used, such force as may, in its opinion, be reasonably necessary for securing compliance with such direction or for preventing or rectifying any breach thereof, or for the effective exercise of such power, as the case may be.

(2) Any police officer, not below the rank of Head Constable, may take such steps and use such force as may, in his opinion, be reasonably necessary for securing compliance with any rule or order made or direction given under or in pursuance of the provisions of this Act or for preventing or rectifying any breach of such rule or order or direction.

(3) The power conferred by this section shall be deemed to confer upon any person acting in exercise thereof a right of access to any land or other property whatsoever.

28. Power to delegate authority. The Central Government may, by notification, direct that any power or functions which may be exercised or performed by it under this Act or by any rule or order made thereunder, subject to such conditions, if any, as it may specify in such notification, be exercised or performed—

(a) by such officer or authority subordinate to the Central Government;

(b) by any State Government or by any officer or authority subordinate to such Government or any officer or authority authorised by such Government.

29. Power of removal. The Central Government may, by general or special order, direct the removal of a foreigner from India for contravention of any of the provisions of this Act or any rule or order made thereunder or an adverse security report, and thereupon any officer of the Government shall have all reasonable powers necessary to enforce such directions.

30. Power to make rules. (1) The Central Government may, by notification, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

(2) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:—

(a) such other functions to be carried out by Immigration Officer under clause (h) of section 2;

(b) the conditions subject to which the other travel document issued under clause (m) of section 2;

(c) the conditions subject to which the passport issued under clause (n) of section 2;

(d) the authority authorised to grant visa under clause (t) of section 2;

(e) such other functions to be performed by the Bureau of Immigration under sub-section (1) of section 5;

(f) the manner of appointment of officers of the Bureau of Immigration under sub-section (2) of section 5;

(g) the other functions which shall vest in the officers appointed by the Central Government as Commissioners of the Bureau of Immigration under sub-section (3) of section 5;

(h) the conditions and the manner subject to which the foreigners on arrival in India shall be required to register with the Registration Officer under section 6;

(i) the manner of submission of the information of foreigners to the Registration Officer by the keeper of accommodation under section 8;

(j) the manner of submission of the information of foreigners to the Registration Officer by the Universities and Educational Institutions under section 9;

(k) the manner of submission of the information of foreigners to the Registration Officer by the hospitals, nursing homes and other medical institutions under section 10;

(l) the authority and the manner for change of name of a foreigner subject to a specific permission under sub-sections (1) and (2) of section 12;

(m) the restriction of the dispatch of such articles to or for a foreigner under sub-section (3) of section 13;

(n) the conditions subject to which the civil authority may exercise the power to control places frequented by foreigners under section 14;

(o) the form, particulars, the manner and the time within which the information to be furnished by carrier to the civil authority or Immigration Officer under sub-section (1) of section 17;

(p) the appellate authority, form, manner and the fee to be accompanied for filing an appeal under sub-section (4) of section 17;

(q) the information to be required by District Magistrate or any Commissioner of Police from the carrier under sub-section (7) of section 17;

(r) the form, manner and such particulars to be submitted by the carrier to the Immigration Officer under sub-section (12) of section 17;

(s) the appellate authority, form, manner and the fee to be accompanied for filing an appeal under sub-section (2) of section 19;

(t) any matter which is to be or may be prescribed or in respect of which provision is to be made by rules.

31. Rules to be laid before Parliament. Every rule made under this Act shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament, while it is in session for a total

period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule or both Houses agree that the rule should not be made, the rule shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect as the case may be; so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule.

32. Protection of action taken in good faith. No suit or any other proceeding shall lie against any person for anything done, or intended to be done in good faith under this Act or any rule or order made thereunder.

33. Power to exempt in certain cases. (1) The Central Government may, by order published in the Official Gazette, declare that all or any of the provisions of this Act or of any rule or order made thereunder shall not apply, or shall apply only in such circumstances or with such exceptions or modifications or subject to such conditions as may be specified in such order, to or in relation to—

- (a) the citizens or class of citizens of any such country as may be so specified; or
- (b) any other individual foreigner or class or description of foreigner.

(2) The Central Government may, if it is of the opinion that it is necessary or expedient so to do in the public interest or to fulfil the international obligation, by order published in the Official Gazette and subject to such conditions as may be specified therein, exempt any carrier or class of carriers from the operations of all or any of the provisions of this Act and may, as often as may be necessary, revoke or modify such order.

(3) A copy of every order made under this section shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament.

34. Application of other laws not barred. The provisions of this Act shall be in addition to, and not in derogation of the provisions of any other law for the time being in force.

35. Power to remove difficulties. (1) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Central Government may, by order published in the Official Gazette, make such provisions not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act as may appear to it to be necessary or expedient for removing the difficulty:

Provided that no such order shall be made under this section after the expiry of a period of three years from the date of commencement of this Act.

(2) Every order made under this section shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament.

36. Repeal and saving. (1) The Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920, the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939, the Foreigners Act, 1946 and the Immigration (Carriers' Liability) Act, 2000 (hereinafter referred to as repealed Acts) are hereby repealed.

(2) Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or any action taken or purported to have been done or taken, including any rules, orders, directions, instructions, regulations or any proceedings made or issued or taken or given or any penalty or fine imposed under the repealed Acts shall, in so far as it is not inconsistent with the provision of this Act, be deemed to have been done or taken under the corresponding provisions of this Act.

(3) The mention of the particular matters referred to in sub-section (2) shall not be held to prejudice or affect the general application of section 6 of the General Clauses Act, 1897 with regard to the effect of repeal.

SESSIONAL REVIEW

EIGHTEENTH LOK SABHA

FOURTH SESSION

The Fourth Session (Budget Session) of the Eighteenth Lok Sabha was held in two parts. The First Part of the Session commenced on 31st January 2025 and was adjourned on 13th February 2025 to enable the Departmentally Related Standing Committees to examine the Demands for Grants of various Ministries/Departments and to submit their Reports. The Second Part of the Budget Session began on 10th March 2025 and concluded on 4th April 2025.

During the Session, the House had a total of 26 sittings spread over 160 hours and 48 minutes. During the Session, the House sat late for 46 hours and 49 minutes to discuss various important issues and recorded 118 per cent productivity. The House was prorogued by the President of India on 5th April 2025.

A brief account of the important discussions and other business transacted during the Eleventh Session is given below.

A. DISCUSSIONS/STATEMENTS

President's Address to the Parliament: On 31st January 2025, the President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu addressed Members of both the Houses assembled in the Lok Sabha Chamber of Parliament House. As a statement of policy of the Government, the Address outlined the activities and achievements of the Government during the previous year. It also underlined the policy priorities that the Government wishes to pursue in the forthcoming year.

Motion of Thanks on President's Address to Members of Parliament: The Motion of Thanks to the President's Address was moved by Shri Ramvir Singh Bidhudi (BJP) on 3rd February 2025 and was seconded by Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad (BJP). The discussion took place on 3rd and 4th February 2025. The discussion lasted for 17 hours and 23 minutes. 173 members participated in the discussion.

Moving the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, Shri Ramvir Singh Bidhudi (BJP) said that the country is on the path of all-round development. India has established a paradigm of progress and development during the last ten years and policies for public welfare are

being implemented at a rapid pace. Mentioning the steps taken by the Union Government, he said that the decision to exempt tax on annual income up to Rs. 12 lakh in the General Budget is a historic decision for the middle-class people. The Government has also constituted the Eighth Pay Commission. India is going to be the third-largest economy in the world. He further said that under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi, more than three lakh crore rupees have been transferred to the Bank accounts of crore of farmers in the country, and the income of the farmers of the country has increased. The country continues to be the world's largest producer of milk, pulses and spices. The Minimum Support Price (MSP) given to farmers has continuously been increased. 2.75 crore houses have been constructed under the *Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana* during the last ten years. Around 10 crore women in Delhi have benefited from the Ujjwala Scheme and 14,000 Jan Aushadhi Kendras have been opened across the country. While mentioning the steps taken by the Union Government for the development of Delhi, he said that the Union Government has built the world's largest eco-park in Badarpur in South Delhi; a 1.5 km long tunnel has been built in Pragati Maidan to solve the traffic problem in Delhi, and a sixlane highway from Sarai Kale Khan to Baroda-Mumbai highway via Kalindi Kunj, Mithapur, Faridabad, Palwal and Sohna has been constructed at a cost of Rs. 6,500 crore which is helpful in removing longer traffic jams on Mathura Road. A world-class convention centre has been built at Yashobhoomi Dwarka at a cost of Rs. 6,500 crore. The Union Government has constructed Asia's largest convention centre at Pragati Maidan. In the year 2014, the total metro network in Delhi-NCR was only 200 km long. Now this network has doubled. He said that under the guidance of the Government, an International Sports Complex has been set up in Dwarka on which Rs. 572 crore has been spent. An education hub has been approved in Narela City. With the support and guidance of the Government, international sports stadium and cricket stadium are being established at Narela. Under the guidance of the Union Government, 12 diversity parks have been developed on the banks of Yamuna. While stating that there are about 1700 unauthorised colonies in Delhi, where about 60 lakh people live therein, most of whom are from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, he said that the Union Government has decided that all these 1700 unauthorised colonies in Delhi will be regularized, and civic amenities will be provided therein and all the residents there will also be conferred ownership rights.

Seconding the Motion, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad (BJP) said that everyone was proud of the Prime Minister due to the fact that he made a capable leader of a deprived tribal society, the President of India. Recalling that ever since she became the President, she has given a new height to the post of the President with her dignity and decency. Shri Prasad further said that after

winning for the third time, the pace of development of the government has got a new direction. He said that in 2014, India's economy was a Fragile Five, but today, India's economy has reached the top five from the Fragile Five. Shri Prasad mentioned that the President has talked about India's digital transformation in her Address. Programmes like Digital India, Make in India, Startup India, Standup India, etc. have been launched. Shri Prasad further said that money is being transferred to the accounts directly through Aadhaar today, and the entire country utilized digital infrastructure during the Corona pandemic. India's digital payments account for 50% of the world's digital payments. Today, Make in India is not only making Defence Products but is also exporting Defence Products worth rupees twenty thousand crore to other countries. Roads have been built from Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh and army vehicles run on them. Shri Prasad further said that the Prime Minister has made a very important point of establishing the cultural centres of India, wherein the birth anniversary of Lord Mahavira; many cultural programmes in the memory of the great poet Saint Thiruvalluvar; the Kashi-Tamil Sangam, the Kashi-Telugu Sangam, the Saurashtra-Tamil Sangam etc. will be organised. While expressing confidence that the country will now progress by seeking inspiration from the concept of cultural nationalism, he added that the President's Address has reflected the inclusiveness, and confidence of India's economic development and a new resolve for defence and security, and the country has now moved forward with positive thinking, creative thinking, Indian values, inspiration, and culture.

²*Participating* in the discussion, Shri Rahul Gandhi (INC) said that the future of this country is going to be decided by the youth of this country. He lamented that the youth of the

² **Others who participated in the discussion:** *Sarvashri* Sribharat Mathukumilli, Dileshwar Kamait, Arvind Ganpat Sawant, Shrirang Appa Chandu Barne, Rajesh Verma, Ujjwal Raman Singh, Sunil Dattatreya Tatkar, Virendra Singh, E.T. Mohammed Basheer, Balashowry Vallabhaneni, Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi, S. Venkatesan, Varun Chaudhry, Saumitra Khan, Raja Ram Singh, Ganesh Singh, Balya Mama Suresh Gopinath Mhatre, Pushpendra Saroj, Abhay Kumar Sinha, Sanjay Uttamrao Deshmukh, Rajkumar Roat, Asaduddin Owaisi, Sasikanth Senthil, Rampriti Mandal, Vishaldada Prakashbapu Patil, Pratap Chandra Sarangi, Murari Lal Meena, Rodmal Nagar, Nilesh Dnyandev Lanke, Akhilesh Yadav, P.V. Midhun Reddy, Charanjit Singh Channi, Rajesh Ranjan, K. Subbarayan, N.K. Premachandran, Vijay Kumar Hansdak, Hanuman Beniwal, Kishori Lal, Mohamad Haneefa, Umeshbhai Babubhai Patel, Rajkumar Chahar, Matheswaran V.S., Dhairyasheel Sambhajirao Mane, Joyanta Basumatary, S. Spongmeren Jamir, Ummeda Ram Beniwal, Putta Mahesh Kumar, Kota Srinivasa Poojary, Appalanaidu Kaliseti, C.N. Annadurai, Daggumalla Prasada Rao, Ramashankar Rajbhar, V.K. Sreekandan, Anup Sanjay Dhotre, G. Kumar Naik, D.M. Kathir Anand, Ram Prasad Chaudhary, Navaskani K., Mahesh Kashyap, Jaswantsinh Sumanbhai Bhabhor, Rao Rajendra Singh, Arun Nehru, Mitesh Patel (Bakabhai), Hasmukhbhai Somabhai Patel, Raju Bista, Jugal Kishore, Ashish Dubey, Matheswaran V.S., Arun Kumar Sagar, G. Selvam, Hibi Eden, Naresh Ganpat Mhaske, Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka, Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy, Vishnu Dayal Ram, Manoj Tiwari, Ravindra Dattaram Waikar, Madhavaneni Raghunandan Rao, Bidyut Baran Mahato, Ravindra Shukla *alias* Ravi Kishan, Janardan Singh Sigriwal, Sunil Kumar, Bhartruhari Mahtab, Shankar Lalwani, Rajpalsinh Mahendrasinh Jadav, Lavu Srikrishna Devarayalu, G.M. Harish Balayogi, Tamilselvan Thanga, Vinod Lakhamshi Chavda, Vijayakumar *alias* Vijay Vasanth, B.K. Parthasarathi, Lumba Ram, Yaduveer Wadiyar, Dilip Saikia, Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri,

country is yet to get a clear-cut answer to the problem of unemployment, and introduction of the much-hyped Make-In-India led to a decline in the manufacturing sector. Shri Gandhi further said that given the level of unemployment across the country, the Government must come up with some alternative vision to fuel the growth of the manufacturing sector as it has huge potential to generate employment for the youth. While noting that the world is transforming completely today because of technological innovation across sectors, he said that there are four technologies that are driving this entire change in mobility- electric motors, batteries, optics and AI which are predominantly data-driven. Expressing his concerns, Shri Gandhi said that in India, data is owned by companies and social media entities which doesn't augur well for the security of the nation let alone other aspects. To all intents and purposes, he opined that we have to start building a production network so that we can get access to production data and thus mark our prominent presence across the world. Besides, we must guide our youngsters how to tread the path of technological revolution in the offing. For our security, for the future of our children, and for the future of our country, he further said that we have to build a production system, and we cannot allow this revolution to go by. Regarding Indo-US partnership, Shri Gandhi is of the opinion that the partnership should focus on how India and the United States can work together to take advantage of this revolution. He suggested that young people in India should be encouraged to become partners in this revolution. Concerning the Caste census, he said that it has been carried out in Telangana and certain appalling facts have come to light that simply belie the tall claims made by the power-that-be over a decade. He further said that once the caste census is placed on the table, it will be exactly clear as to how much of this country's wealth, power, and institutions are owned by 90 per cent population of this

Damodar Agrawal, Rahul Kaswan, Bastipati Nagaraju, Amarsing Tisso, Balabhadra Majhi, Harendra Singh Malik, Chandra Prakash Joshi, Sudhakar Singh, S. Jagathratchakan, Khagen Murmu, Jagdambika Pal, Dineshbhai Makwana, Ashok Kumar Rawat, Adv. Chandra Shekhar, Adv. Gowaal Kagada Padavi, Adv. Dean Kuriakose, Adv. Adoor Prakash, Captain Brijesh Chowta, Captain Viriato Fernandes, Dr. Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, Dr. Amol Ramsing Kolhe, Dr. Faggan Singh Kulaste, Dr. Angomcha Bimol Akoijam, Dr. Kalanidhi Veeraswamy, Dr. Rajkumar Sangwan, Dr. Alok Kumar Suman, Dr. Raj Kumar Chabbewal, Dr. Indra Hang Subba, Dr. Thol Thirumaavalavan, Dr. Nishikant Dubey, Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal, Dr. Byreddy Shabari, Dr. Sambit Patra, Dr. Hemang Joshi, Dr. Prashant Yadaorao Padole, Dr. T. Sumathi (A) Thamizhachi Thangapandian, Dr. Manna Lal Rawat, Dr. Bachhav Shobha Dinesh, Dr. Hemant Vishnu Savara, Dr. D. Ravi Kumar, Dr. Shiv Pal Singh Patel, Dr. Rani Srikumar, Dr. K. Sudhakar, Dr. Shrikant Eknath Shinde, Dr. Namdeo Kirsan, Dr. Vinod Kumar Bind, Dr. Mallu Ravi, Dr. Mohammad Jawed, Dr. Prabha Mallikarjun, Dr. Lata Wankhede, Prof. Sougata Ray, Smt. Kanimozhi Karunanidhi, Smt. Malvika Devi, Smt. Pratibha Suresh Dhanorkar, Smt. Lovely Anand, Smt. Manju Sharma, Smt. Supriya Sule, Smt. Smita Uday Wagh, Smt. Bharti Pardhi, Smt. Sangeeta Kumari Singh Deo, Smt. Roopkumari Choudhary, Smt. Shambhavi, Smt. Joba Majhi, Smt. Pratima Mondal, Smt. Anita Nagarsingh Chouhan, Smt. Daggubati Purandeswari, Smt. Geniben Nagaji Thakor, Smt. Kalaben Mohanbhai Delkar, Smt. Ruchi Vira, Smt. Poonamben Maadam, Sushri Iqra Choudhary, and the Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Smt. Anupriya Patel.

country. Whether it is economy, weapons, production or healthcare, India should participate in this revolution. India should become the master of the electric motor, master of the battery, master of optics, and master of AI applied on top of that production system. Regarding elections in Maharashtra State, he said that there has been a massive difference in the number of electorates in the General Election and the election for the State Assembly seats in Maharashtra which apparently raises several questions. Expressing his concern for changing the rules for selecting Election Commissioner, Shri Gandhi said that earlier, the Election Commissioner used to be chosen by the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition and the Chief Justice. Now, the Chief Justice has been removed from the Committee.

Joining the discussion, Shri Naresh Chandra Uttam Patel (SP) paid tribute to all the devotees who got injured or lost their lives during the Mahakumbh. He further said that they had resolved to take a holy dip with all the faith and devotion of their life, but unfortunately, they met their fate due to administrative mismanagement and negligence. While stating that Maha Kumbh is not just a religious event, but a symbol of India's cultural and spiritual heritage, he lamented that the kind of chaos that prevailed this time is not only unfortunate but also exposes the insensitivity and administrative mismanagement of the government. Shri Patel said that there is a long list of failures of this Government. Expressing his concerns regarding education, he said that it is the foundation of a nation but has today gone into neck-deep corruption and every competitive exam has become a joke. All the tall claims made by the government on setting up the NTA (National Testing Agency) turned out to be hollow. Raising the issues pertaining to farmers and agriculture sector, Shri Patel said that there was no mention of MSP guarantee for prices of farmers' crops in the President's Address. Today, the farmers of the country are stumbling from pillar to post. The kind of despair prevailing among the farmers in the country is very shameful for democracy. Today, there is a huge shortage of fertilizers at the time of sowing in Uttar Pradesh, DAP (Diammonium Phosphate) is not available, urea is available in black, and farmers are not getting water, but the Government has not paid any attention to it. Crops of the farmers in the State are ruined by stray animals, but they do not get any benefit under crop insurance. Prices are rising but the amount of five lakh rupees on accident insurance for the farmer remains the same today. He demanded to increase the amount of accident insurance for the farmer to Rs. 15 lakh. He further lamented that there is no free irrigation facility in Uttar Pradesh, electricity has become expensive, and the prices of diesel and fertilizers have increased, due to which the farmers are frustrated. Paddy farmers are suffering in the case of paddy crops. Their paddy is being procured at a price lower than the cost price. Farmers are forced to commit suicide. Regarding MGNREGA, he said

that, today, the MGNREGA workers are suffering the most. They do not get MGNREGA wages on time and their wages have not been increased. Shri Patel said that the value of the rupee is continuously declining in the country and that the rupee is very weak, foreign debt is constantly increasing and there is also no mention in the Address about how to reduce foreign debt. He concluded by saying that the reservation of those who are backward, Dalit, minority and tribal has also been tinkered with, and there was also talk of implementing the '*Nari Shakti Vandan Act*', but it has not yet been implemented.

Replying to the discussion, the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi said that the President's Address has strengthened the resolve for a *Viksit Bharat* that creates new confidence and has the potential to inspire the common man. Shri Modi, highlighting the Government's steps for citizens' welfare and the country's development, said that the whole host of studies having been undertaken, bear testimony to the massive endeavours taken by the Government in pursuit of service to the common man in a bid to enable 25 crore countrymen to overcome the vice of poverty. He said that the Government has alleviated the pangs and sufferings of sisters and daughters by constructing over 12 crore toilets across the country, and the Government has equipped 12 crore households with tapped water over the last 5 years and the work is still underway in full swing. The Government started direct benefit transfer employing the Gem trinity taking together Jan Dhan, Aadhaar and Mobile. Shri Modi further said that while heavily embarking on the application of Direct Benefit Transfer, the Government took a bold step of eliminating as many as 10 crore dubious and duplicate names without lending a thought to its political repercussions and launched a scheme to ensure that the benefits reached the real beneficiaries. The Prime Minister further said that the Government took an important decision to go for ethanol blending which led to a reduction in the price of petrol and diesel and because of that one step there was a margin of Rupees 1 lakh crore and the entire amount reached the farmers. The Prime Minister also informed that since Jan Aushadhi Kendras have been set up, people have saved around 30 thousand crore rupees in their medical expenses as these Kendras offer discounts up to 80 per cent. Wherever *PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana* has been implemented, the households concerned are saving around 25 to 30 thousand rupees in their electricity charges. As a result of the scientific application of the Soil Health Card, farmers have saved Rs 30 thousand per acre. While stating that over the last 10 years, the Government has reduced the income tax burden on the Assesses, he informed that from April 1, 2025, the salaried class will not have to pay income tax on the income of 12 lakh 75 thousand rupees per annum. Mentioning the steps taken for the youth of the Country, the Prime Minister said that the Government emphasized the

aspirations of the youth and created maximum avenues for them. The Government opened several sectors which led to their empowerment beyond measure and now they are making their mark across sectors. He further said that the Government developed a conducive ecosystem for Startup India and a very important decision has been taken in this Budget also. The Government has motivated the youth of the nation to channelize their energy and creativity in the field of gaming creation with an ambition to make India the capital of the world in this field. Shri Modi further said that prior to the year 2014, there were 387 medical colleges in the country which has now gone up to 780 medical colleges. Before the year 2014, he said that there were 7700 seats for the SC students in MBBS and this number has now been exponentially increased to 17000. Likewise, MBBS seats for the ST have also been increased from 3800 to 9000. As far as MBBS seats for the OBCs are concerned it was fewer than 14,000 earlier which has gone up to around 32,000. Regarding the steps taken in the Health Sector, the Prime Minister said that the Government is working in the direction of providing better health care facilities to the citizens of the country. As many as 30,000 hospitals are covered under the Ayushman including specialized private hospitals where Ayushman card holder receives free treatment, The government is demonstrating its full commitment to providing cancer treatment and is taking the matter seriously by ensuring that treatment begins promptly after the clinical investigation of cancer patients. He also informed that this Budget provides for the creation of 200 Day Care Centers for the treatment of Cancer patients. Highlighting the steps taken for Women, Shri Modi said that today, the country is moving forward with the mantra of Women-led development. Over the last ten years ten crore women have become associated with the Self-Help Groups. These women come from deprived and mediocre rural backgrounds. The women at the lowest hierarchy of status have edified their ability and their social status has also gone up and the Government has increased their amount of health up to 20 lakh rupees in order that they may move forward with their professional ambition with enhancement in their working capacity, efficiency and scale. The Prime Minister said that in the current scenario, this move has a very positive impact on our rural economy. He also said that so far around 1 crore 25 lakh women have become *Lakhpati Didis* and that the Government aims at turning 3 crore women into *Lakhpati Didis* and financial schemes shall invariably be emphasized to that end in mind. In numerous villages of countries, Drone Didi Yojana is the talk of the day. Mudra Yojana is also playing a pivotal role in the empowerment of women. For the first time, crore of women have entered the industrial sector by availing themselves of the benefits offered under the Mudra Yojana. Out of 4 crore accommodation given to households women happen to be the owners of around 75 percent of accommodation. This paradigmatic change is laying a foundation for an empowered India. Regarding infrastructure development in the Country, the Prime Minister said

that the expansion of infrastructure leads to an avalanche of opportunity. Wherever there is a rise in connectivity, it essentially leads to the growth of potential. He further said that he had an opportunity to travel by NaMo Rail linking Delhi and UP and the Government is looking forward to having this kind of connectivity in place across all major cities of the country somewhere down the line. The Prime Minister also said that India's metro network has crossed the stretch of 1000 km today, and work on further extension of the metro network of 1000 km is already underway. Regarding the MSME sector, the Prime Minister said that the MSME sector is substantially contributing to the economy of the country, and the Government is clear in its policy that the MSME sector must be facilitated with ease, convenience and promotion. The Government is moving forward with an ecosystem entailing a great fillip to the manufacturing sector, and MSME sector, creating avenues of employment for several youths through the MSME. Over the last 10 years, the Government has upgraded the criteria for the MSME on two occasions. It first happened in the year 2020 and it is for the second time that the MSMEs have been given a major boost in this Union Budget. The Prime Minister said that there are several examples in the world where many countries have achieved the status of developed nations within a timeline of 20-25 years. The Prime Minister concluded by saying that India is endowed with limitless potential, and we have demography, democracy and demand. With this confidence within ourselves, he exhorted that we must move forward and in the year 2047 when we shall be celebrating 100 years of our independence, we will certainly achieve the goal of *Viksit Bharat*, come what may.

All the amendments moved, were negatived. The Motion was adopted.

The Union Budget - 2025-2026: On 1st February 2025, the Minister of Finance and Minister of Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Union Budget 2025-2026.

General Discussion on the Budget

General Discussion on the Interim Union Budget for 2024-2025 took place on 7th, 10th and 11th February 2025, and lasted for 16 hours and 13 minutes. In all, 169 Members took part in the debate.

Initiating the discussion, Dr. Dharamvira Gandhi (INC) said that India, as per our Constitution, is a union of States, and this Budget itself and the entire budgetary process is not federal in nature. It is unitary in nature and the States have neither been consulted exhaustively nor are allowed to participate in the Budget-making process. He opined that this was against the spirit of federalism and the spirit of the Constitution. Expressing his concern regarding the agriculture

sector in the country, Dr. Gandhi said that agriculture still remains the employer for 45 per cent of the population; almost half of the population relies on agriculture for their livelihood, yet this sector has been neglected very badly, and the Government has little to offer to the farmers and the farming community or the labour community of this country in this Budget. He further said that the present regime did not offer any relief to the farmers in regard to the legal guarantee on MSP, waiving off loans of farmers and the farming labourers. Dr. Gandhi further said that the Government is not withdrawing GST from farming equipment and machinery and not giving a robust farm insurance or crop insurance scheme in the Budget. Regarding the Unemployment and MSME sector, Dr. Gandhi said that there has been an all-time high unemployment for the last 60 years in the country, and this government, which promised two crore jobs every year, has failed on this front very badly. MSMEs are the backbone of the economy in a country like India. While stating that there are jobs in Ludhiana in Punjab, in Kanpur in UP and in hundreds of such towns and cities across the country where the MSME sector can play a role, he lamented that it has been continuously neglected and is dying gradually. Raising the issues related to education in the country, he questioned as to why the Government is not spending enough on education as compared to the US, China and other advanced economies. He further said that there is continuous neglect due to which private institutions from schools to colleges to universities, from medical to engineering institutions are mushrooming which has rendered education very costly. Even the middle classes cannot afford the private education of medical or engineering universities and colleges. But the Government did not increase the budget for education in a significant way. Regarding Research & Development in the country, he said that a very paltry sum of the budget is allotted to Research and Development in key sectors and in the important sectors like new technologies, which is 0.64 percent of GDP. While stating that the private sector is not doing enough to augment the development story of India, he noted that in the last 10 years, no corporate sector has invested significantly in R&D or in the development of standard institutions of engineering technology and other new technologies to take India forward. Dr. Gandhi also expressed his concerns relating to health facilities in the country. While quoting the WHO, he stated that according to WHO, 'Health is a state of complete physical, social, and psychological well-being.' He then emphasized that, considering all three parameters of health, the situation in India is quite severe. He further said that because of chronic hunger, poverty and malnutrition, lakhs of people die every year due to communicable diseases like TB, water-borne diseases like gastroenteritis, dehydration and many other ailments. The Government has talked of cancer care centres in 170 districts and increasing it in a phased manner. However, there is no mention of preventive cancer detection centres which will mitigate cancer in the first stage when treatment is

possible. Instead of just focusing on the curative approach, he suggested that we focus on the preventive approach to diseases like cancer and other such ailments including lifestyle diseases like high blood pressure, hypertension, coronary artery disease, and heart attack. He further suggested that given the hardships people are facing today, the first thing a government should do is increase spending on the social sector, particularly on health and education. Dr. Gandhi said that India has the strongest demographic dividend for being the youngest nation in the world. It is this young India which has the potential, and it is this aspirational India which can open the floodgates of development if given an opportunity to utilise its potential at the optimal level.

³*Participating* in the discussion, Shri Rao Rajendra Singh (BJP) said that given the kind of provisions made over the last ten years, this year's Budget is the most outstanding among them.

³**Others who participated in the discussion:** *Sarvashri* Daggumalla Prasada Rao, Dinesh Chandra Yadav, Tariq Anwar, Omprakash Bhupalsinh *alias* Pavan Rajenimbalkar, Sudheer Gupta, Naresh Ganpat Mhaske, Arun Govil, Benny Behanan, Rajeev Rai, Darshan Singh Choudhary, Pradyut Bordoloi, Chandan Chauhan, Gopal Jee Thakur, Balwant Baswant Wankhade, Sudama Prasad, Harendra Singh Malik, Brajendra Singh Ola, Eatata Rajender, Dayanidhi Maran, Manish Tiwari, Anurag Singh Thakur, Lavu Srikrishna Devarayalu, Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer, P.V. Midhun Reddy, Kalyan Banerjee, Subbarayan K., Navaskani K., Amrinder Singh Raja Warring, Amra Ram, Durai Vaiko, Tangella Uday Srinivas, Mian Altaf Ahmad, G. Kumar Naik, Jugal Kishore, Rajabhau Parag Prakash Waje, Kaushalendra Kumar, Asaduddin Owaisi, N.K. Premachandran, Pradan Baruah, Ramasahayam Raghuram Reddy, Abhay Kumar Sinha, Gajendra Singh Patel, Rajkumar Roat, Akhilesh Yadav, Saleng A. Sangma, Rajesh Ranjan, Yaduveer Wadiyar, Vishaldada Prakashbapu Patil, Jayant Basumatary, Khagen Murmu, Umeshbhai Babubhai Patel, Hanuman Beniwal, Phani Bhusan Choudhury, Shreyas M. Patel, Amar Sharadrao Kale, Jagdambika Pal, Lumba Ram, Kota Srinivasa Poojary, Eswarasamy K., Vinod Lakhamshi Chavda, C.N. Annadurai, Sunil Kumar, Vishnu Dayal Ram, Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi, Chhotelal, Anto Antony, Raju Bista, Ramashankar Rajbhar, V.K. Sreekandan, Shrirang Appa Barne, Mukeshkumar Chandrakant Dalal, Dilip Saikia, Suresh Kumar Kashyap, Anup Sanjay Dhotre, Chhatrapal Singh Gangwar, Sukanta Kumar Panigrahi, Mitesh Patel, Hasmukhbhai Somabhai Patel, Ravindra Dattaram Waikar, Ashish Dubey, Shankar Lalwani, Arun Bharti, Janardan Mishra, Ashok Kumar Rawat, Arun Kumar Sagar, Bidyut Baran Mahato, Ananta Nayak, Ramesh Awasthi, Pushpendra Saroj, Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri, Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka, Naveen Jindal, Suresh Kumar Shetkar, Ganesh Singh, Hibi Eden, Tamilselvan Thanga, G. Selvam, Zia Ur Rehman, Vijayakumar *alias* Vijay Vasanth, Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy, Awadhesh Prasad, Vijay Kumar Dubey, Gyaneshwar Patil, Utkarsh Verma Madhur, Ram Shiromani Verma, Sudhakar Singh, Ravindra Shukla *alias* Ravi Kishan, Dileshwar Kamait, Bhajan Lal Jatav, Bhausahab Rajaram Wakchaure, Chandra Prakash Joshi, Vamsi Krishna Gaddam, Rahul Kaswan, Laxmikant Pappu Nishad, Janardan Singh Sigrwal, Neeraj Maurya, Haribhai Patel, Adv. Chandra Shekhar, Adv. Francis George, Adv. Adoor Prakash, Adv. Priya Saroj, Captain Brijesh Chowta, Captain Viriato Fernandes, Dr. Shiv Pal Singh Patel, Dr. Alok Kumar Suman, Dr. T. Sumathy *alias* Thamizhachi Thangapandian, Dr. D. Ravi Kumar, Dr. Shrikant Eknath Shinde, Dr. Prabha Mallikarjun, Dr. K. Sudhakar, Dr. C. N. Manjunath, Dr. Amol Ramsing Kolhe, Dr. Thol Thirumaavalavan, Dr. Jaswantsinh Sumanbhai Bhabhor, Dr. Lata Wankhede, Dr. Mallu Ravi, Dr. Hemant Vishnu Savara, Dr. Rajesh Mishra, Dr. Bachhav Shobha Dinesh, Dr. Prashant Yadaorao Padole, Dr. Mohammad Jawed, Dr. Manna Lal Rawat, Dr. Rajkumar Sangwan, Dr. Namdeo Kirsan, Kumari Sudha R., Sushri Iqra Choudhary, Smt. Satabdi Roy Banerjee, Smt. Lovely Anand, Smt. Anita Nagarsingh Chouhan, Smt. Supriya Sule, Smt. Shambhavi, Smt. Aparajita Sarangi, Smt. Joba Majhi, Smt. Hemamalini, Smt. Bharti Pardhi, Smt. Smita Uday Wagh, Smt. Malvika Devi, Smt. Sangeeta Kumari Singh Deo, Smt. Kalaben Mohanbhai Delkar, Smt. Daggubati Purandeswari, Smt. Ruchi Vira, Smt. Krishna Devi Shivshankar Patel, Smt. Pratima Mondal, Smt. Poonamben Maadam, Smt. Manju Sharma, and Smt. Mahima Kumari Mewar.

Talking about the developmental steps taken by the Government, Shri Singh said that the Prime Minister has worked to make the farmers prosperous by enabling them to come out of their present situation. He further said that this Budget tried to upgrade the system of farming in a corrective manner through the *Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhanya Yojana*, and highlighted that out of 1 trillion dollar foreign investment in the last 25 years, 62 per cent of the investment has come in the last 10 years. Of that, the inflow of investment worth 45 billion dollars has taken place this year alone. Mentioning about tax benefits given by the Government, the Member said that the present government has provided several concessions and benefits to the middle-income groups. In the last 5 years, individual taxpayers have been given a total incentive and relief of Rs 8,70,907 crore, while the corporates got relief of Rs 4,53,329 crore. He thanked the Government for the fact that this time the Budget has exempted personal income up to Rs 12 lakhs per annum from tax. Regarding the economic situation of the country, Shri Singh said that India's economy has been remarkably resilient against the deteriorating external environment, and strong macroeconomic fundamentals have placed it in good stead *vis à vis* the other emerging market economies. The Government has also introduced investor-friendly reforms like allowing 100 per cent FDI in most of the sectors and amending the Income Tax Act, 2024, to reduce taxes and abolish the Angel Tax. India's Current Account Deficit (CAD) stands at 1.2 per cent of the GDP in Quarter 2 of FY25. Fiscal Deficit and Revenue Deficits are at a staunch 4.8 per cent and 1.9 per cent which is estimated to be 4.4 per cent and 1.5 per cent in the upcoming Financial Year 2026. The capital and revenue expenditure ratio, a key marker to judge the quality of fiscal spending, is budgeted to be increased to 28.4 per cent. Outstanding liabilities had declined from 52 per cent of GDP in 2013-14 to 49 per cent of GDP in 2019. He further noted that all through the last 11 years of the Government, there has been a consistent rise in the contribution of direct taxes as a share of the total tax revenue of the Government. Regarding Tourism Sector, the Member said that the tourism sector is witnessing a remarkable recovery in the post-pandemic era. Para 75-76 bears detailed accounts of the hospitality industry and tourism. The harmonised main list refers to managing the hotel and hospitality industry. Cities with a population of 10 lakh or more shall be covered in the list of infrastructure activities. The travel and tourism sector has generated over 42 million jobs and this is poised to touch the 45 million mark somewhere down the line. Regarding Aviation Sector, he said that by the year 2030, 1700 new aircraft will be introduced. The purchase of one aircraft directly employs 100 people and creates jobs for 600 people who are allied with it. Regarding the space industry and space economy, Shri Singh said that India holds the distinction

of being the first one to have a Space policy in place. He concluded by saying that the year 2023 is the year when we had a space policy, a year where we have launched the 100th satellite, and these are the things which the budget has actually adhered to.

Joining the discussion, Shri Abhishek Banerjee (AITC) said that the Budget presented by the NDA Government is a master-class in half-truths, half-accountability, half-delivery of schemes, and half-hearted governance. Infrastructure projects remain half-finished. Expressing concerns regarding farmers, Shri Banerjee said that before the elections, the Government promised a legal guarantee for MSP. After the elections, the promise has disappeared without a trace. Instead of waiving farm loans, the Government has increased the Kisan Credit Card loan limit which essentially means handing farmers more debt. He further said that since 2014, in the last ten years, there have been one lakh farmer suicides, that is one suicide every hour. The Member said that more than 50 per cent of the children under the age of five suffer from chronic malnutrition with 17 per cent underweight, 36 per cent stunted, and 6 per cent wasted and yet the budget for PM POSHAN remains dejectedly inadequate. 1.2 crore households could not afford even a single refill in 2022-23 because of exorbitant price hikes of LPG cylinders. In 2019, the Cabinet approved Rs. 8,574 crore for the Census but only Rs. 570 crore has been allocated in this year's Budget. Shri Banerjee said that the Government's half-federalism policy has led to less allocation of funds to the State of Bengal where an amount of Rs. 1.7 lakh crore is still due under various heads. West Bengal's spending due on MGNREGA to the tune of Rs. 7,000 crore still remains unpaid depriving 59 lakh poor workers. The State Government is paying 51 lakh workers from its own funds to provide employment opportunities. The Central Government has not cleared Rs. 8,140 crore in housing dues for rural Bengal under the *Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana* depriving 12 lakh beneficiaries. Mentioning the welfare steps taken by the State Government of Bengal, the Member said that the State Government's *Banglar Bari* project benefits around 12 lakh beneficiaries. Bengal has more than doubled its exports in the last 10 years. 57 lakh new MSMEs have been added employing over one crore people. Bengal's handloom industry employs over five lakh workers. The State's Broadband Policy brought in an investment of Rs. 7,500 crore in the telecom sector alone. Almost three lakh direct employments have been generated in IT companies. Bengal has over 88 lakh MSMEs wherein 36 per cent of workers are females. The Member said that India is spending a mere three per cent of its GDP on health care which is far behind China's five per cent and the United States of America's 16 per cent. He asked the reason for cutting budget for programmes like the National Tele Mental Health Programme and NIMHANS (National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences). Raising issues regarding railway accidents, he asked as

to how many kilometres have been covered under KAVACH. He further said that between 2015 and 2024, there have been 678 consequential railway accidents, where more than 784 people have lost their lives, leaving more than 2000 injured. Shri Banerjee questioned the reason for cutting budget for LPG connections to poor households by 30 per cent over Revised Estimates and for crop insurance schemes by 25 per cent over Revised Estimates. He also asked as to why the Data Protection Board of India has been given only Rs. 5 crore and budget allocation for Minority Affairs has been slashed by 57 per cent, decreasing significantly from Rs. 1,575 crore in 2024-25 to Rs. 678 crore in 2025-26. Shri Banerjee said that the Government promised of over 100 smart cities, but most projects remain on paper or are rather incomplete.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Finance and Minister of Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman said that the Government's main goals in this Budget are to accelerate growth, secure inclusive development, integrate private-sector investments and uplift household sentiments. She further said that the Budget likes to reveal new schemes and reforms in promotion of agriculture, MSMEs, investments and exports as growth engines in building rural prosperity and resilience. The Government also wants to have employment-led development spurring domestic consumption and boosting manufacturing in India, including export promotion. Continuing public capital expenditure and rekindling the animal spirits in the private sector to step up investments, and most importantly, investing in people, investing in the economy and investing for innovation -- these are actually the points on which the Union Budget is focusing in order to balance the national development priorities with fiscal imperatives. Smt. Sitharaman further said that in the Budget of 2025-26, the effective capital expenditure is projected at Rs.15.48 lakh crore as against Rs.13.18 lakh crore in the RE of 2024-25. It indicates that the Government is using almost the entire borrowed resources for financing effective capital expenditure. The sectoral outlays in the year 2025-26 include agriculture and allied activities which get Rs. 1.71 lakh crore; rural development gets Rs. 2.67 lakh crore; urban development and transport, Rs. 6.45 lakh crore; health and education, Rs. 2.27 lakh crore, defence which excludes defence pension, Rs. 4.92 lakh crore. These data from the current Budget show that capital expenditure outlays have not come down at all, they have gone up. Across all schemes, the transfer of resources to the States has been growing by the year. In this Budget, it is Rs. 25.01 lakh crore, which is Rs. 2.1 lakh crore more than the previous year. So, the amounts going to the States have not come down at all. The Minister said that the Food Corporation of India has continuously maintained off-budget borrowings. In 2020-21, the Government took a major step of bringing all the off-budget borrowings of FCI, which totalled Rs.1.2 lakh crore, onto the Budget. So, that enabled better public understanding and discourse on

Government debt and also brought a sense of credibility to the Budget documentation itself. The Minister informed that in 2021-22, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs' off-budget borrowing was also taken on board. The Government has taken these initiatives to ensure the Budget's transparency and nothing outside of the Budget will be done. For just-in-time release and transparency in the flow of funds to the States, the Single Nodal Agency model was introduced. The Government commenced financing of capital outlay of Railways and Highways from the Union Budget that time in 2022-23. This allowed for debt consolidation. As borrowing by the Government is cheaper than borrowing by agencies, so there was efficient use of money. In 2023-24, one big step was recognising the taxpayers by easing tax rates. This year, it has gone to Rs. 12 lakhs. Addressing the issue raised regarding rising unemployment, the Minister highlighted that according to the 2023-24 Annual Periodic Labour Force Survey, the Labour Force Participation Rate has increased from 49.8 per cent in 2017-18 to 60 per cent in 2023-24, reflecting a rise of about 10.3 percentage points. The Worker Population Ratio has increased from 46.8 per cent in 2017-18 to 58.2 per cent in 2023-24, reflecting a rise of 11.4 percentage points. The unemployment rate has declined from six per cent in 2017-18 to 3.2 per cent in 2023-24. Over 9.25 lakh appointment letters have been issued for the Central Government jobs under *Rozgar Mela*. Addressing the concerns regarding high inflation, especially food inflation, the Minister said that overall retail inflation is within the notified tolerance band of 2-6 per cent. She highlighted the fact that food inflation which was affected because of adverse weather conditions or supply chain disruptions has all been attended to. As per RBI's latest meeting of the MPC that they held on 7th February, CPI inflation for 2025-26 is projected to lower at 4.2 per cent. Addressing the issues raised by the members, pertaining to the Agriculture Sector, Smt. Sitharaman said that in this Budget, the Government has taken steps to ensure better productivity in agriculture, so that the supply-side problems can be better administered. *PM Dhan Dhanya Krishi Yojana* Developing Agricultural Districts Programme is a very important one where a hundred low productivity agricultural districts are being focused. Addressing the concerns related to declining household savings, the Minister said that the household savings consist of net financial plus physical savings, increased by a compound average growth rate of 8.9 per cent CAGR from 2019-20 to 2022-23. There is a reallocation of savings by households to real assets. In the post-COVID period, household real estate investments have increased considerably. The share of savings in physical assets in gross household savings has steadily increased from 30.8 per cent in 2015-16 to 42.7 per cent in 2022-23. According to the National Account Statistics, household savings in physical assets have increased by a compound average growth rate of 15.6 per cent from 2019-20 to 2022-23. Addressing the issue raised by members regarding the slash in public spending, the Minister

said that the total expenditure of the Union Budget in 2025-26 is to be about Rs. 50.65 lakh crore, which is higher by about Rs. 2.44 lakh crore and Rs. 3.49 lakh crore than 2024-25 BE and RE of 2024-25. Regarding capital expenditure, she said that the capital expenditure was Rs. 11.11 lakh crore last time, and now it is Rs. 11.21 lakh crore. So, it has only gone higher and the effective capital expenditure for 2025-26 is pegged at Rs. 15.48 lakh crore. The net additional expenditure of Rs. 2.44 lakh crore, which is higher in BE 2025-2026 over 2024-2025, is mainly going to finance three major items, which are, interest payments – Rs. 1.13 lakh crore; Central sector schemes – Rs. 1.06 lakh crore; and Centrally sponsored schemes – Rs.0.35 lakh crore. The Minister further said that public spending outlays in health, education, social welfare, and rural development have increased from Rs. 4.16 lakh crore to 5.54 lakh crore between 2020-21 to 2025-2026. So, there is no cut in any of these. The Minister highlighted that with respect to social welfare, the budget has increased from Rs. 56,501 crore in 2024- 2025 to Rs. 60,052 crore in 2025-2026; with respect to education, the budget has increased from Rs. 1.26 lakh crore in 2024-2025 to Rs. 1.29 lakh crore in 2025-2026; with respect to health, the budget which was Rs. 89,287 crore in 2024-2025 has gone to Rs. 98,311 crore in 2025-2026. Addressing the concerns related to debt, Smt. Sitharaman said that on account of the pandemic, the Central Government fiscal deficit reached 9.2 per cent, and 61.4 per cent was the debt level to the percentage of GDP. But the Government has made strides and efforts to bring down both fiscal deficit and also the debt to GDP. Since then, the fiscal deficit and debt percentage have been brought down. Currently, 4.4 percent of the fiscal deficit target for 2025-2026 has already been established. And for debt to GDP, the Government has said that it will bring it down to 50 per cent plus minus one per cent by 2030-31, clearly showing that the debt of the country will come down. Regarding MSME, the Minister said that MSME is the backbone of the Indian economy. It is among the foremost engines for driving the Indian economy. The MSME is providing employment to over 25 crore people during the same period. With regard to micro-enterprises, she highlighted the fact that currently, its allocation is Rs. 1 crore and the revised one is Rs. 2.5 crore. The current turnover of micro-enterprises is Rs. 5 crore and the revised one is Rs. 10 crore. For small enterprises, the current investment is Rs. 10 crore, and now, the Government has revised it to Rs. 25 crore, and likewise, the current turnover is Rs. 50 crore and has been revised to Rs. 100 crore. Similarly, for medium enterprises, the Government has revised it from Rs. 50 crore to 125 crore, and for turnover, revised it from Rs. 250 crore to 500 crore. Regarding Kisan Credit Card, the Minister said that the loan per capita ceiling of KCC has since been increased from Rs. 3 lakhs to 5 Lakhs lest they should be compelled to borrow from the middleman. Nearly, eight crore farmers will be benefiting from this short-term lending which will begin from 1st April 2025. About the GDP of the Country, Smt.

Sitharaman said that three years prior to 2024-25, the country's GDP growth rate averaged at about eight per cent. Only in two out of last twelve quarters, has the growth rate touched 5.4 per cent or remained below it. On account of a strong economic foundation, a speedy rebound is happening and the Government will take measures which will going forward help in keeping the economy growing fastest as in the last few years. India will continue to remain the fastest-growing economy.

The discussion was concluded.

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

The Bills of Lading Bill, 2024: On 10th March 2025, the Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal moving the motion for consideration of the Bill, said that this Bill is very much important for the shipping sector, particularly to enhance the trading and commercial activities. This Bill seeks to replace the pre-Constitutional Indian Bill of Lading Act, 1856. This law was also examined elaborately to assess the need for its repeal. The Minister further said that it has a new provision which empowers the Central Government to issue directions for carrying out the provisions of the Bill. The repeal and savings clause added to the Bill while repealing the 1856 Act will also ensure that any action taken in line with the provisions of the repeal statute are legitimised as long as they are not in contravention of the provisions of the new law. It will enable ease of understanding and also facilitate ease of doing business in the contemporary global maritime sector.

Initiating the discussion, Shri Hamdullah Sayeed (INC) said that this Bill has great ramifications and consequences on Lakshadweep because unlike any other State and Union Territory in the country, this Bill directly affects Lakshadweep. Beypore Port and Mangalore Port are the two major ports from where the goods are transported to Lakshadweep, whether it is the public distribution system, essential commodities, essential items or construction items. It totally relies on shipping as there are no railways or roadways there. Lakshadweep has been granted the status of Scheduled Tribe area because of the social and economic backwardness and geographical isolation from the mainland. The Member asked as to why all the ships are not plying at the moment when passenger ships and exclusive barges have been earmarked for transport. He further said that there are five ships which have been under the possession and ownership of Lakshadweep Administration, and being a Union Territory, it is directly under the Central Government. The Member raised the concern that cargo movement from Calicut Port has been stopped for the last four years and it has not been started till now. He noted that in addition, only one ship out of five ships is currently operational, and the remaining four ships are lying in dry dock. He requested the

Government to pay attention to the public sector undertakings like Cochin Shipyard Limited, Shipping Corporation of India, and also suggested the Government to give directions to the Chairman of CSL, the Lakshadweep Administration and the Port Department to coordinate and help the people both in Ease of Doing Business and Ease of Transportation.

⁴*Participating* in the discussion, Shri Bibhu Prasad Tarai (BJP) said this Bill seeks to replace the Indian Bill of Lading Act, 1856. He further said that it retains all the provisions under the Act. The Bill adds that the Central Government may issue directions for carrying out the provisions of the Bill. He further said that in the year 2009, one Mongolian vessel, 'MV Black Rose' carrying a cargo of 20,847 metric tonnes of iron ore and 920 metric tonnes of furnace oil, sank near Paradip Port in Odisha under mysterious circumstances. It was engaged in illegal transportation with forged documents. The erstwhile Government could not trace out the owner of that ship and to this day and it is under investigation. That is why this Bill is required. The Government of India has taken many steps to carry out business relating to the sea. So many ports will be established by the Government all over India, including Odisha through the PPP mode of investment. This Bill will help in enhancing the business by sea route, which will strengthen the economy.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal said that modern legislation is very important for us to cope with the rising challenges and circumstances. This Bill has been brought to replace and repeal the Pre-Independence Institute and after detailed discussions with all the stakeholders and legal experts, this Bill has been placed in this form. Addressing the issue raised about Clause-5, the Minister said that the basic goal of the provision under Clause-5, which allows the Union Government to issue directions, is to ensure that none of our stakeholders face trouble under any circumstances. The Minister explained that the Bills of Lading Bill relates to the transfer of rights of suit and liabilities to endorsees and consignees of the bills of lading. The Bill does not seek to slash any existing provisions of the Indian Bills of Lading Act, which have been substantively retained in the Bill with simplification of language. The Bills of Lading Bill does not provide any legal recognition to e-bills of lading, which will require a detailed framework. He further said that this Bill neither

⁴**Others who participated in the discussion:** *Sarvashri* Sribharat Mathukumilli, Virendra Singh, Arvind Ganpat Sawant, Ravindra Dattaram Waikar, Bhaskar Murlidhar Bhagare, Abhijit Gangopadhyay, Maddila Gurumoorthy, Sachithanantham R., Raja Ram Singh, N.K. Premachandran, Anil Yeshwant Desai, Darshan Singh Choudhary, Hanuman Beniwal, Vishaldada Prakashbapu Patil, Selvaraj V., Anand Bhadauria, Adv. Chandra Shekhar, Captain Viriato Fernandes, Dr. Kalanidhi Veeraswamy, Dr. Alok Kumar Suman, Dr. Pradeep Kumar Panigrahy, Dr. Nishikant Dubey, Dr. Hemant Vishnu Savara, Prof. Sougata Ray, Smt. Pratima Mondal and Smt. Supriya Sule.

relates to the contract of carrier between shipper and carriers nor does it relate to the safety of vessels. Therefore, issues such as insurance and freight are not relevant to this Bill. By extension, the Bill does not relate to major ports for which other statutes exist. Some new provisions have been added which are important for the smooth implementation and enforcement of the provisions of the Bill which did not exist in the 1856 Act. This Bill only relates to bills of lading. The provisions of the Bill are not subject to the quantity or nature of goods being shipped. Highlighting the initiatives taken in this sector by the present Government, the Minister said that in the last 10 years, the total expenditure in this sector, for developing infrastructure facilities in the different national waterways, is more than Rs. 5,000 crore. Till 2014, the cargo handling capacity was limited to 18 million metric tonnes per annum, but in the last 10 years, it went up to 133 million metric tonnes. Now JNPA (Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority) has improved its capacity for container handling up to 10 million. Many other ports are coming up like Paradip and Kandla; they are all going to become mega ports because of the cargo handling capacity increasing at a very fast pace.

The Bill, as amended, was passed.

The Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill, 2024: On 12th March 2025, the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, moving the motion for consideration of the Bill, said that the economic growth and the size of GDP are heavily dependent on the utilisation of energy. The Minister further said that the country's journey to become *Viksit Bharat* by 2047 or to become a US \$ 30 to 40 trillion economy by 2040 or thereabout will require large amounts of energy in all forms. The Minister further said that the oil and gas sector is a heavily capital-intensive sector, which has a long gestation period and any decision taken will begin to show results only five or even seven years later. Mentioning the measures taken by the Government in this regard, Shri Puri said that India is not only an importer but also an exporter, and India is today occupying a very important place in the global energy market on all fronts. The country moved in 2016 from a production sharing to a revenue sharing agreement. In 2018, the government reformed policies to promote coal bed methane and enhanced oil and gas recovery methods. In 2022, the Government opened up 99 per cent of the no-go areas. The Minister further said that the Government is re-engaging with international oil and gas giants to fully help us and jointly explore our E&P. The Government has successfully awarded 144 blocks to a competitive bidding process covering 2.5 lakh square kilometres and secured a commitment investment of USD 3.37 Billion under OLAP from rounds one to eight, of these, 131 blocks are under active exploration, and some discoveries have been made. The Government is introducing a single permit

system for all types of mineral oil exploration, be it exploration, development, or production of conventional oil and gas or unconventional hydrocarbons like shale gas, shale oil, tight oil, or tight gas. The Minister further said that the Bill also aims to resolve one of the biggest grievances of global oil companies interested in investing in India by providing stability in operations, both in terms of tenure of the lease and conditions. The Government also proposes to substitute an acrimonious mode of dispute resolution with fast and efficient alternate dispute resolution mechanisms which will ensure disputes can be resolved in a timely, fair and cost-effective manner.

Initiating the discussion, Shri Manish Tewari (INC) said that in the year 2014-15, the country's production of crude and natural gas was 37.461 million metric tonnes, the import in 2014-15 was 189.432 million metric tonnes of crude oil. The average price of crude was about USD 84.20 per barrel. In 2023-24, the crude oil production has actually declined to 29.4 million metric tonnes. The crude oil import has actually risen to 243.3 million metric tonnes. Shri Tewari also said that the unfortunate situation today is that in the year 2023-24, we imported 87.8 percent of our crude oil and natural gas needs. He asked as to what the Government has been doing over the past 10 years to reduce import dependency on oil and natural gas. Shri Tewari noted that the production under Mumbai High crude oil and natural gas oil fields has declined. Similar is the case with shale oil and gas. He mentioned that according to estimates, there is 96 trillion cubic feet of gas and one billion barrels of shale oil in Cambay, Krishna Godavari and the Kaveri Basin. He asked what the Government has done in the past 10 years to tap the potential of shale oil, and expressed concern that, in addition to a law, the country requires a clear roadmap to make India energy-sufficient. The Member also asked the Government about its plans to encourage independent oil explorers. He also asked about the International Energy Forum in Riyadh and the extent of India's proactive role in the forum to ensure dialogue between energy consumers and producers—especially considering that India imported approximately 87.8% of its oil needs in 2023–24. Shri Tewari requested the Government to develop a comprehensive strategy that addresses hydrocarbons, intermediates, and renewables in a holistic manner, given that the Indian economy remains hydrocarbon-dependent. He emphasized the need for a clear roadmap toward energy self-sufficiency by 2050 or 2060.

⁵*Participating* in the discussion, Shri Dilip Saikia (BJP) said that the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill, 2024 will surely enhance the investors' confidence in India's

⁵**Others who participated in the discussion:** Sarvashri Ramashankar Rajbhar, D.M. Kathir Anand, Krishna Prasad Tanneti, Kaushalendra Kumar, Ravindra Dattaram Vaikar, E.T. Mohammed Basheer, Jagdambika Pal, Adv. Gowaal Kagada Padavi, Dr. Gumma Thanuja Rani and Smt. Pratima Mondal.

oil and gas sector. He further explained that the Bill aims to boost investment in India's oil and gas sector by providing stable lease terms enabling arbitration and streamlining operations, thereby addressing longstanding industrial demands for policy stability and regulatory clarity. Shri Saikia highlighted that India is Asia's second-largest refinery capacity country amounting to 256 MMTPA with 22 oil refineries. India is the third largest oil consumer amounting to 233 MMTPA in the financial year 2024. Paradip – Numaligarh Crude Oil Pipeline (PNCOP) and Crude Oil Import Terminal (COIT) have been almost completed. The project will be commissioned in September, 2025. The project cost is Rs. 11,407 crore. India's aggressive economic growth is swelling its energy demand, which is predicted to nearly double to 1123 Million tonnes of oil. The Member also said that the first Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy has been started by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi. Production of gas under the non-nominal fields has shown an increase during the last few years and its share has increased to almost 30 percent of gross production. Shri Saikia also noted that petrol and diesel prices have come down by about 15 per cent and 10 per cent respectively, and India has been one of the very few major economies in the world where the prices of petrol and diesel have come down.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri Hardeep Singh Puri addressing the issue raised for the long-term strategy for energy security, said that the long-term strategy for energy security revolves around the trilemma of availability, affordability and sustainability. The Government has navigated all three—availability, affordability and sustainability—very successfully under the Prime Minister's bold, upfront and decisive leadership. He apprised that while the Government previously imported oil from 27 countries, today it is importing from 39 countries, and has recently started sourcing from a 40th country as well. The Minister clarified that the Government does not differentiate between the sources of supply. Whoever wins the tender is eligible to supply to the country. Regarding availability of the oil in the global market, he assured that there is more oil in the world coming onto the global market, particularly from the Western Hemisphere. There are countries like Guyana, Suriname, Canada, and the U.S, which are bringing on another 1.6 million barrels. The U.S. is the world's largest producer. There is no shortage of supply. Shri Puri highlighted that India is the only country in the world where over the last three-year reference period, the price of petrol and diesel has actually come down while in the other countries their prices have gone up. He informed that the Government's overall strategy is not only to increase domestic exploration and production, but also to increase the clean energy. The biofuel blending at the Centre was part of that effort. The

Minister also informed that the Government had a target of 10 per cent biofuel blending till 2022 and achieved it five months in advance. The Government had a target of 20 per cent biofuel blending up to 2030. The Government has already achieved 20 per cent blending, 19.6 per cent in the last one month, six years in advance.

The Bill, as amended, was passed.

The “Tribhuvan” Sahkari University Bill, 2025: On 26th March 2025, the Minister of Home Affairs; and the Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah moved the Bill for consideration.

Initiating the discussion, Smt. Geniben Nagaji Thakor (INC) said that as a Gujarati, she feels proud of the establishment of the country's first Tribhuvan Cooperative University in Anand, Gujarat. She highlighted that today more than 8 lakh cooperative societies are functioning in villages of this country and these societies are working for welfare and economic upliftment of rural people. Gujarat also gave the father of the cooperative movement like Tribhuvan Patel. Tribhuvan Patel and other leading farmers made efforts to establish dairies on cooperative basis. As a result, Kheda District Milk Producers' Union was formed and on 14th December 1946, Amul Dairy was established. Dr. Verghese Kurien started producing various milk products through Amul and made Gujarat and India famous in the world. She suggested providing 50 percent reservation for women, as well as for SC, ST, and OBC communities, in all cooperative sector institutions, and that priority should be given to those who have traditionally contributed to strengthening cooperatives and those with inherited experience. Expressing her concern, Smt. Thakor said that in the present time, due to the system of giving mandates in the elections of the cooperative sectors in a State like Gujarat, cooperative activity is dying. People without experience or contribution come to power in cooperative organizations. The cooperative sector has become a center of corruption. Regarding the recruitment process, the Member suggested to the Government that recruitment should be carried out according to regular rules, rather than on a contract basis as mentioned in sub-clause 1 of clause 41. It is necessary to make a provision in this Bill so that if any employee faces injustice while performing his duty, he can go to the relevant court and get justice by pleading his case. Activities of cooperatives should be transparent and people centric. Smt. Thakor suggested the government to fix MSP for the fair prices of organic products. Lab facilities should be provided in every taluka for promoting organic farming. She also demanded that whenever a cooperative college is opened, Banaskantha district should be given priority for that. Subjects related to cooperatives should be introduced and this college should be approved under cooperative university.

⁶*Participating* in the discussion, Shri Mitesh Patel (BJP) expressed his gratitude to the Prime Minister of India, and the Home and Cooperative Minister for introducing a Bill to establish the country's first cooperative university and naming it after the hero of the cooperative sector, late Shri Tribhuvandas Patel. Shri Patel further said this university aims to become an institution of national importance with a focus on cooperative education and training which will promote technical and management education in the cooperative sector, provide specialized training, promote research and development, meet the need for qualified professionals in the cooperative sector and the university will strive to achieve global standards in cooperative education. As the country celebrates the *Amritkaal* of independence, the Government is set to open the first institute dedicated to the concept of 'Prosperity through Cooperation.' Shri Patel said that this institute will assist women, villagers, and farmers with training, technology, and research, helping them become self-reliant and prosperous through cooperation. Expressing confidence, the Member stated that this initiative will undoubtedly strengthen India's cooperative movement. He further said that the university plans to set up sector-specific schools covering dairy, fisheries, Banking and other sectors, and these schools will also cater to the needs of various cooperative sectors across India. The establishment of Tribhuvan Cooperative University is expected to create a strong framework for cooperative education. It aims to ensure a steady supply of qualified professionals for various roles within cooperative societies. This initiative is in line with the Government's broader vision to strengthen the cooperative movement in India.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Home Affairs; and the Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah said that Cooperative is a sector that touches every family in the country in some way or another. There exists a unit in every village which is engaged in agricultural development, rural development and self-employment through cooperatives and contributes to the development of the country. The Minister further said that after the passage of this Bill, it will empower the rural economy, promote self-employment and develop small entrepreneurship. There shall be an elbow room for social inclusion other than an avalanche of opportunities paving a pathway to create many new standards in innovation and research. Shri Shah said that for 75 years, the farmers, rural people and cooperative leaders of the country had been making a demand for Ministry of Cooperation under the aegis of the Union Government in the country and after it came

⁶**Others who participated in the discussion:** *Sarvashri* Virendra Singh, K.E. Prakash, Sribharat Mathukumilli, Dileshwar Kamait, Bhaskar Murlidhar Bhagare, Arvind Ganpat Sawant, Naresh Ganpat Mhaske, M.K. Raghavan, Arun Govil, Abhay Kumar Sinha, Aditya Yadav, Ganesh Singh, Sachithanantham R., Rajesh Ranjan, N.K. Premachandran, Janardan Mishra, Balashowry Vallabhaneni, Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer, Eatata Rajender, Vishaldada Prakashbapu Patil, Chhotelal, Adv. Francis George, Dr. Kadiyam Kavya, Dr. Gumma Thanuja Rani, Dr. M.P. Abdussamad Samadani, Dr. Prashant Yadaorao Padole, Dr. Jayanta Kumar Roy and Prof. Sougata Ray.

into existence, there are eight lakh cooperatives societies in the country, 30 crore people have become its members and in a way, one person from every family is connected and every fifth person in the country is associated with cooperatives. He mentioned that there was a movement of unequal co-operatives across the country and if it has to be developed, first of all, the gaps have to be spotted. The Minister informed that the first thing the Government did was to prepare a database of cooperatives in tandem with the State governments in two-and-a-half-year span of time. A complete database of cooperatives was developed, and today, on the Ministry's site, the cooperative database provides detailed information about dairy cooperatives, PACS, marketing, fisheries, housing, etc. The Minister highlighted that the Income Tax Cess on cooperatives has been reduced from 12 per cent to 7 per cent. Aside from this, many other kinds of financial reliefs have been provided to them. The Minister also informed that the Government has formed three new cooperative committees, which would work as backwards and forward linkages. A national cooperative organization called National Cooperative Export Limited has been formed, under which about 8 thousand PACS have been covered so far. The produce of the farmers of the country is being exported through it. Through *Bhartiya Jaivik Sahakari Beej Limited*, the organic products produced by the farmers are procured, tested, packaged and sold in the market today in the name of the trusted brand viz. Bharat Brand. Through *Bhartiya Jaivik Sahakari Beej Limited*, non-hybrid seeds have been preserved by collecting and harvesting them. Shri Shah informed that the Government has formed an organic cooperative for the Bharat Organic brand through which people can buy trusted organic products. The NCDC (National Cooperative Development Corporation) has given loans worth Rs 1,28,000 crore to cooperative institutions since 2024-25. The net profit of NCDC has also gone up and its net NPA is zero percent. Cooperative Banks have been allowed to open new branches up to 10 percent. Now Urban Co-operative Bank can deliver services through doorstep banking. A nodal officer has been appointed in the RBI to address the problems of cooperative Banks. The National Cooperative Finance Development Corporation has formed an umbrella organization, and in case any cooperative bank runs into losses, it will finance the Bank concerned and thus insulate it from being closed down. The Government has also increased the insurance coverage of depositors from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 5 lakhs. With regard to the cooperative sugar mills, Shri Shah said that the problem of their assessment has been eliminated. Loans worth Rs. 10,000 crore have been sanctioned to 84 mills. The Government has gone for the reduction of the GST rate on molasses from 28 per cent to 5 per cent. The Minister informed that the Government has computerized the entire office of the CRCS (Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies) and the State Registrar as well as all the branches of Rural Development Banks. There are 23 State-level associations, 240 district-level associations and 28 marketing dairies. Primary

milk producer committees have also been formed in as many as 2.30 lakh villages. In the field of dairy, the government has made arrangements to ensure that all profits, from animal dung to bones and skin, benefit poor farmers engaged in animal husbandry. He also informed that the Union Government will procure 100 per cent of the three pulses at the MSP. The Government has created the Cooperative Ranking Framework in Cooperatives for the first time. Now excellence awards will also be given at the district level, state level and national level and based on their ranking, they will also get loans from cooperative banks. With regard to the University, the Minister said that although the university is located in Gujarat, the university covers the whole of India. As so many cooperatives are developing, there is a need for trained human resources and trained people everywhere and we will have them through this university. After setting up a Sahkari university, only those having diplomas and degrees will get jobs on a merit basis. Poor children will get jobs. All the needs related to co-operatives will be satisfied by this university. He mentioned that the Government began designing its courses even before the university was established. This university will offer degree as well as diploma courses. The Ph.D. will also be awarded and a one-week certificate course will also be offered to the existing employees. Through this Bill, cooperative principles will be expanded. Cooperative activities will expand. Co-operatives will reap the benefits yielded by new technology. Research and innovation will also receive a wide fillip. This will also strengthen the rural economy. There will also be courses for 10th and 12th passed individuals. Large-scale progress will be made through e-learning and SWAYAM, which is an initiative of the Prime Minister. In line with the National Education Policy, a flexible entry and exit system will also be available alongwith a multidisciplinary curriculum. Expressing his confidence, the Minister stated that when eight lakh people pass out every year either armed with a certificate or a diploma or a degree, a new energy will be infused into the cooperative movement leading to the creation of a symmetrical cooperative structure.

The Bill was passed.

The Immigration and Foreigners Bill, 2025: On 27th March 2025, the Minister of Home Affairs; and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah moved the motion for consideration of the Bill.

Initiating the discussion, Shri Manish Tewari (INC) said that it is very important to control the arrival of foreigners and prevent infiltration, but at the same time, protecting the civil rights enshrined in the Constitution and a check and restraint in national security and the penal system attached to it are very important. As far as national security and India's sovereignty are concerned,

there is no objection to it. But the omnibus power that is being given to the Government in the first proviso to clause 3 of this Bill and the kind of flexibility that is being included in this Bill opens the possibility of misuse of this law. Shri Tewari said that the second proviso provides that the decision of the immigration officer in this regard will be final and binding. This means that no appeal, no plea, no lawyer, and what the immigration officer has decided is universal. He urged the Government to make a provision in this law to institutionalize an appeal process. The Member further said that Under clause 3, sub-clause 4 of the same Bill, the immigration officer has the right to seize the damaged passport, but there is no description of what a damaged passport is. Raising another concern, he said that under clause 14, the Government is being given the power to stop any foreigner from going to any place. This provision is also against Article 19(1)(g) and Article 14 of the Constitution of India. Raising concern with regard to clause 21 of the Bill, Shri Tewari said that according to clause 21, if one person is a foreigner or a so-called foreigner, that person will be punished for a period of two to seven years. There is no objection to that, but this section 21 is read along with section 16, it becomes oversensitive, because the Government can accuse anybody. He will be told to authenticate it. If a person cannot authenticate that and if he is a citizen of India, then that would be a big miscarriage of justice. He further said that according to clause 29, if one violates any visa condition, he will be picked up and thrown out. This is against the law laid down by the Supreme Court. In the end he said that nobody is against controlling foreigners, nor stopping infiltrators, but balance is necessary, so this law should be sent to a Joint Parliamentary Committee so that the Bill is properly examined clause by clause.

⁷*Participating* in the discussion, Smt. Aparajita Sarangi (BJP) said that there are crore of illegal immigrants in the country today. Between January, 2024 and January, 2025, around 2,601 Bangladeshi immigrants entering through the Indo-Bangladesh border were nabbed by the Railway Protection Force. The Government is concerned about this and that is why the Bill was needed. She further said that the matters concerning foreigners and the immigration are administered by four laws at this point of time - the Foreigners Act 1946, the Immigration (Carriers' Liability) Act, 2000, the Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920 and the Registration of Foreigners Act 1939, but most of them are pre-Constitution laws. There are many overlapping provisions and they were drafted during extraordinary times during the first and the second World Wars. Therefore, this Bill

⁷**Others who participated in the discussion:** Sarvashri Rajeev Rai, Putta Mahesh Kumar, Anil Yeshwant Desai, Shrirang Appa Chandu Barne, Sukhdeo Bhagat, Abhijit Gangopadhyay, Sudhakar Singh, Maddila Gurumoorthy, Navaskani K., K. Radhakrishnan, Kamakhya Prasad Tasa, Manoj Kumar, Malvinder Singh Kang, Raja Ram Singh, Tangella Uday Srinivas, Madhavaneni Raghunandan Rao, N.K. Premachandran, Umeshbhai Babubhai Patel, Ramashankar Rajbhar, Rajesh Ranjan, Darshan Singh Choudhary, Adv. Francis George, Dr. Namdeo Kirsan, Dr. Rabindra Narayan Behera, Prof. Sougata Ray, Smt. Kanimozhi Karunanidhi and Smt. Lovely Anand.

has been brought to ensure efficiency in the Governance of immigration and foreign nationals and other related matters. The aim of this Bill is to formulate a simple, comprehensive and clear law that determines who can enter our country, who can stay here and who can leave the country and under what circumstances. Smt. Sarangi said that the Bill incorporates a good provision which mandates that all the hospitals, educational institutions and other institutions in the country will have to report the number of foreigners in their institutions. This step will not only ensure strictness in checking the documents, but will also ensure strict action against those who violate the rules. She also informed that before drafting the Bill, the Ministry of Home Affairs drew upon the recommendations of various parliamentary standing committees and the Law Commission. The Parliamentary Committee on Estimates in 1992 identified a lot of gaps in the implementation of the laws pertaining to immigration and foreign nationals and it recommended that the laws governing immigration should be very stringent. The 175th Report of the Law Commission had very strongly recommended the overhauling of the said four laws. Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs categorically stated in 1998 that there was a requirement of in-depth study of the status of effectiveness of all the said laws that were in operation. Therefore, keeping in view the Supreme Court judgment of 1970, the recommendations of various Parliamentary Standing Committees, and 175th Report of the Law Commission, this Bill has been brought in a very good shape. This Bill clearly states that no individual shall be allowed to enter India *via* air, water or land without a valid travel document. No foreigner should be allowed to enter or stay in India if his or her staying here will be a threat to the national security. The Bureau of Immigration is being strengthened. The Bill places the onus on an individual to prove his or her legal status in India. It also proposes much needed stricter penalties for violation of laws. Giving examples of countries like the United States, Hong Kong, Singapore and Australia, the Member said that these countries have gone for very stringent laws in this regard long ago. Referring to the figures from the Ministry of Home Affairs, she said that 98,40,000 foreign nationals visited India between April 1, 2023, and March 31, 2024, but 3,93,341 of them overstayed their permitted duration. She stated that the Government will take strict action against those who violate the laws.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Home Affairs; and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah said that at present, this entire system is divided into four Acts. There is an overlap of many provisions in the four Acts and despite having four Acts, these suffer severe infirmities due to loopholes. With this one Bill, these four Acts will be repealed and a law will be formulated, which will eliminate all the loopholes and will also end the repetition. A robust immigration policy is very important in our goal of building a 'developed India' by the year 2047.

This Bill is going to simplify, streamline our system and will make it systematic and safe. Along with this, it will also become transparent, track-driven, time-bound and reliable, trustworthy. In this, not only will the database of the tourists coming to India be automatically created, but there will be an exponential increase in India's tourism potential and tourism sector. The Minister further said this Bill will play a very important role in promoting various types of tourism, such as medical tourism, eco-tourism, heritage tourism, business tourism, hospitality sector and India's global branding. It will also be very beneficial in terms of attracting investment and employment generation. By extension, it will also go a long way in increasing GDP. Shri Shah said that from the security point of view, through this, the Government has made arrangements to uproot drug cartels, infiltrators and arms cartels from abroad and those who are emaciating the country's economy and doing hawala business. The Government has eliminated the lack of coordination between agencies through the Bill and also eliminated the complexity of data management and verification, and the dual process of documentation. The Government has also clarified the scope of rights by eliminating the contradictory provisions amidst the laws. The Minister noted that there were various penalties for the same crime in different laws, this has also been streamlined and incorporated into a single law. The Bill provides for compounding the increased financial penalty for various crimes. He explained that the existing laws relating to immigration and foreigners have been integrated and simplified in the Bill and after a lot of study, efforts have been made to make it consolidated, concise, simple and concrete. The Minister informed that there was a total of 45 sections in the four laws, and now there will be 36 sections in the Bill, out of which 26 are old sections and 10 are new ones. The full particulars of the migration will be made available within these 36 sections. He also said that if someone enters the country without notification from anywhere other than the designated ports and airports, whether it is land border or sea border, maritime border or aviation border, he or she will be treated as illegal. The Government has made it legal to gather biometric information and, in a way, have scientifically connected the entire system in a law. In the year 2010, there began the process of giving tourist visas online to the citizens of 5 countries. Now the Government has extended this facility to 169 countries, but for this, registration will have to be done. The Minister informed that the Government has started giving 'Visa on Arrival' at 31 designated international airports and 6 major ports. The number of categories of Ayush visa has also been increased. A system for tracking immigration visas and foreigner registration – IVFRT (Immigration, Visa and Foreigners Registration & Tracking)– has also been given a legal tender to monitor illegal migrants and overstays. The Government has completed the end-to-end integration of Indian missions, FRROs (Foreign Regional Registration Officers) and FROs (Foreign Registration

Officers) at all immigration posts. The Government has also started the District Police Module (DPM) in more than 750 districts across the country, which is known as the Foreigners Identification Portal. The Minister concluded by saying that the Bill has filled all the loopholes in the four laws, and it has removed the overlapping.

The Bill was passed.

The Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill, 2024: On 28th March 2025, the Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal moved the Bill for consideration.

Initiating the discussion, Shri Vijayakumar *alias* Vijay Vasanth (INC) said the Bill was significant as it aimed to align India's maritime law with international standards, but there are several concerns that need to be addressed before the Bill is passed. He further said that one of the primary concerns is the lack of adequate protection for shippers and consignees. He noted that the Bill does not sufficiently address the risks associated with discrepancies in weight declaration, and further said that there were certain provisions which grant the Government unchecked powers to make amendments without adequate consultation with industry stakeholders. He opined that this could lead to arbitrary decisions that may not reflect the interests of all the parties involved, and the Bill could unintentionally disadvantage the Indian carriers, making it more difficult for them to compete in the global market. Raising concerns of his constituency - Kanyakumari, the Member said that the constituency has a significant number of marine engineers working abroad in merchant ships. He urged the Government to create more employment opportunities within the maritime sector, particularly for our talented youths. Raising another issue, he said that Kanyakumari constituency has a lot of fishermen who depend on fishing for their livelihood. But often their boats get involved in accidents with merchant ships in the middle of the sea. These accidents lead to significant damage to their fishing boats. Unfortunately, the fishermen are unable to claim compensations for these losses and injuries. He requested the Minister to address this issue through the Bill so that those fishermen receive adequate compensation.

⁸*Participating* in the discussion, Shri Krishna Prasad Tenneti (TDP) said that over the past decade, the Sagarmala Programme has been a game-changer, driving port-led development, reducing logistics cost, and boosting coastal trade. Cargo handling capacity at major ports has

⁸**Others who participated in the discussion:** *Sarvashri* Aditya Yadav, Dileshwar Kamait, Arvind Ganpat Sawant, Ravindra Dattaram Waikar, Maddila Gurumoorthy, Sudama Prasad, N. K. Premachandran, Vishaldada Prakashbapu Patil, Sagar Eshwar Khandre, Sudhakar Singh, Dr. Nishikant Dubey, Dr. Mallu Ravi, Smt. Pratima Mondal And Smt. Supriya Sule.

doubled, reaching 1,630 million tonnes per annum by March 2024 compared to just 800.5 million tonnes per annum in 2014. He said that nine Indian ports are ranked among the top 100 ports globally today, and these achievements reinforce India's position as a rising maritime powerhouse. He further said that the Bill empowers the Central Government to update these rules through notifications in the Official Gazette. This meant that our shipping laws can quickly respond to new challenges. Shri Tenneti also said that the Bill strikes a good balance between flexibility and accountability, and helps to tackle new shipping challenges effectively. It also requires carriers to handle goods safely during transit, which protects shippers' interests. Additionally, the introduction of a Liability Cap will lower the risks for carriers and create a more stable working environment. While the Bill was enacted with a view to establishing the responsibilities, liabilities, rights of carriers and shippers, he said that it is important to extend these principles to the ports themselves. The handling of ports by unethical operators can harm the safety and security of both carriers and shippers. The implications of these actions extend far beyond financial discrepancies. They threaten the integrity and trust essential for our maritime operations and such activities have to be curtailed by the Central Government. The Member urged the Government to introduce electronic bills of lading in line with the Rotterdam Rules. This would streamline documentation, reduce delays, and enhance India's competitiveness in global maritime trade.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal said that the Merchant Shipping Bill and the Coastal Shipping Bill aimed to strengthen India's global maritime presence. With increase in trade, the inclusion of terms of contract on Bill of Lading for the delivery to and receipt of goods by ship became a customary trade practice. In the Schedule of the Act, rights, immunities, liabilities and responsibilities of the carrier have been laid down which is based on the provision of the Hague-Visby rules that India has accepted. The Act is applicable when ships are carrying goods from an Indian port to foreign port or from an Indian port to any other Indian port. The Minister further said that the main objective of this new Bill is to simplify the language of the provision to ease of understanding. He further said that Clause 8 has been incorporated to give general power to the Central Government to issue directions for carrying out all or any provision of the new Act within the framework of the Act once it is enacted as a law. The Bill also introduces a provision as Clause 9 empowering the Central Government to amend the Schedule by notification, which may facilitate modification of the Schedule of the Bill. The Bill also introduces Clause 10, which states that every notification issued under the Act shall be laid before Parliament to ensure proper legislative control over executive action. The Minister said that the Bill is expected to make India's law for the carriers of

goods by sea simpler and more effective, and the purpose of the Bill was to position India's maritime trade practices at par with global standards by retaining this globally most prevalent Hague-Visby Rule regime in its Schedule. He concluded by saying that through fostering greater transparency, simplicity and commercial efficiency, this legislation will significantly enhance the functioning of our maritime transport system.

The Bill, as amended, was passed.

The Coastal Shipping Bill, 2024: On 1st April 2025, the Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal moving the motion for consideration of the Bill, said this Bill offers the maritime sector a much-needed push with a dedicated legal framework for coastal trade. The increase in the share of coastal transport in the modern days of the country will lead to reduction in pollution caused by the logistics sector in the country. The provisions of the existing Act do not provide a holistic or forward-looking framework suited to today's commercial realities in line with globally prevalent practices. Given that, an urgent need was felt to give due weight to a statutory provision related to the coastal shipping sector for dedicated focus on the growth. He further said that it is necessary to enact a separate legislation that consolidates, updates, and simplifies the coastal shipping framework in line with the needs of a modern logistic economy and global best practices. Mentioning the features of the Bill, the Minister said the Bill has six chapters which introduce several forward-looking provisions. The key provisions of the Bill eliminate the requirement of a general trading licence for Indian ships to engage in coastal trade, significantly reducing compliance burden and promoting ease of doing business for Indian shipping companies, in line with the Government of India's mission. This Bill supports Indian shipyards, generates employment for Indian seafarers, and protects long-term strategic maritime interests. The Bill mandates the preparation of a National Coastal and Inland Shipping Strategic Plan, to be revised every two years, assessing shipping routes, forecasting future traffic, identifying areas for improvement, and promoting synergy with inland waterways. This Bill also gives impetus to the long-term vision of developing coastal and inland waterways transport in States such as Odisha, Karnataka, and Goa. Another major step is the creation of the National Database of Coastal Shipping bringing transparency, enhancing coordination, and enabling data-driven and timely decision-making for regulators, shipping companies, and the broader logistic ecosystem. The Government aims to grow the coastal cargo traffic further to 230 million metric tonnes by 2030. This Bill will reduce logistic costs, promote green transport, support Make in India, and create thousands of jobs in shipbuilding, port services, and manning of vessels. The Minister said that the

Bill aligns local aspirations with national goals and provides a framework for the next 25 years of coastal economic growth under the '*Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047*'.

Initiating the discussion, Shri B. Manickam Tagore (INC) said the Bill promises a maritime revival by envisioning Indian vessels in our waters, unleashed trade, and reborn ports, and today the Bill places the safety and future of fishermen at stake. The fishermen's fight is India's fight. On behalf of his Party, the Member demanded safety for fishermen in the form of modern boats, weather alerts, life vests for every fisherman from Kanyakumari to Puri. The Member further demanded for livelihood to fishermen and requested the Government to certify their boats for trade under this Bill; to train them as the Cholas trained their navy; and scrap the 30 per cent wage tax foreign crews escape. He also demanded the Government to take measures to end Sri Lankan and Pakistani assaults and free Indian fishermen's boats. The Member also requested the Government to curb pollution and climate change and also to consult the fishermen and form a Committee with MPs from every coastal State to rewrite this Bill.

⁹*Participating* in the discussion, Shri Arun Govil (BJP) said that the aim of the Bill was to increase India's coastal trade and allow Indian flag marine ships to carry out coastal trade without any major formalities or licenses. While noting that presently, coastal shipping is dominated by foreigners, he said that the Prime Minister had announced in the Global Maritime Summit 2023 that an investment of Rs 80 lakh crore would be made to improve India's maritime infrastructure by the year 2047. Today India is going to become a big center of global trade and the Government is paying full attention to enhance our maritime prowess. Shri Govil further said the Bill comprises a provision to stop other ships, except ships from Indian ownership, from doing shipping without license in the Indian waters. As per the Bill, Indian ships are being allowed to trade by following certain rules. In this way, there will be huge employment opportunities for Indian people in this sector and shipbuilding in India will also get a boost. Regarding the coastal shipping in the country, the Member said that there are immense possibilities of coastal shipping in India, because India's coastline is about 7,500 kilometers and this coastal border is close to the major international sea routes of the world. It is much cheaper for India to trade through coastal shipping as compared to other means of trade. Coastal shipping is very helpful in carrying heavy cargo from one coast to another. He noted that coastal shipping is environment friendly where as road transport causes

⁹**Others who participated in the discussion:** *Sarvashri* Naresh Chandra Uttam Patel, D.M. Kathir Anand, Lavu Srikrishna Devarayalu, Anil Yeshwant Desai, Ravindra Dattaram Waikar, Mukesh Kumar Chandrakaant Dalal, Maddila Gurumoorthy, Sudhakar Singh, Tangella Uday Srinivas, Raja Ram Singh, Navaskani K., Anand Bhadauria, Dr. Rani Srikumar, N.K. Premachandran, Darshan Singh Choudhary, Adv. Francis George, Captain Viriato Fernandes, Dr. Alok Kumar Suman, Dr. D. Ravi Kumar, Prof. Sougata Ray, Kumari Sudha R. And Smt. Supriya Sule.

pollution, and said that the passage of the Bill will change the situation in favour of Indian shipping companies, red-tapism will be curtailed and the participation of Indian shipping companies in local and foreign trade will also increase. Shri Govil concluded by saying that the Bill seeks to increase the participation and employment of domestic shipping companies in the shipping sector, and this serves the national interest.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal said the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways has achieved tremendous success in collaboration with various Ministries in the last 10 years and as the Prime Minister always says, "Without transportation, there cannot be transformation". The Minister further said that this Ministry handles a total of 95 percent of Exim cargo by volume and 75 percent by value. It plays a key role in strengthening the country's economy. Shri Sonowal highlighted that the country's growth in cargo handling has reached 103 percent. Country's cargo handling capacity of 800 million metric tons in 2014 has now increased to 1,630 million metric tons. At the same time, container dwell time has been reduced to three days, outperforming several advanced countries. Because of the successful implementation of modern policies and programs, country's ranking in port ranking and performance has improved from 54 to 38 today. In the international shipments category, India's position was 44 in 2014, but today, have successfully reached the 22nd place. With regard to achievements of the shipping sector, the Minister said that in 2014 our seafarer appointment was limited to 1,17,000 only, but now it has increased to 2 lakh and 85 thousand. There has been a 454 percent increase in cruise passengers. The construction of shipbuilding infrastructure and large ports has also progressed at various levels. In 2014, the inland waterway cargo handling capacity was 18 million metric tons, which has now increased to 130 million metric tons. The country has achieved remarkable success due to port modernization, mechanization, digitization, port-led connectivity enhancement, coastal community development, port-led industrialization, inland waterways, and coastal shipping. Regarding the legislative reform in this sector, the Minister said that the Government has enacted the Major Port Authorities Act, the Inland Vessels Act, 2019, and the Recycling of Ships Act, 2019, and in line with this, the Merchant Shipping Bill, 2014 was brought. The Government has brought legislative reforms to accelerate development, which has led to capacity enhancement. Today, in order to utilize the potential and possibilities in the coastal area in the right direction, the Coastal Shipping Bill has been brought. The Minister opined that the country's coastal shipping should be environment friendly as it will promote green transport, and to achieve the blue economy. In terms of the logistic cost, he said that this is a very cost-effective transportation, as compared to other modes of

transportation. To increase the modal share of freight transport, coastal shipping has to be made more popular and increase the commercial activity through coastal shipping. It will help boost the economy to create employment opportunities and income generation. The Coastal Shipping Bill, 2024 signifies not change of direction but course correction, to once again take a direction towards restoring and reviving India's ancient maritime supremacy by focusing on a sector which has been ignored since long. Shri Sonowal said that more than 15 percent of the nation's population, or approximately 22 crore people may be living in about 70 coastal districts of our nation. Approximately, 42 per cent of our nation's population, or about 60 crore people may be residing in our coastal States and Union Territories today, yet our modal share of coastal shipping of about six per cent is still very meagre as compared to other maritime nations. Maritime India Vision – 2030 has estimated that we would be able to save Rs. 9000 crore to Rs. 10,000 crore in logistic costs annually. The Coastal Shipping Bill, 2024 is a very important legislation, which has been introduced to consolidate and amend the law relating to regulation of coastal shipping, promote coasting trade, etc. The purview of the Bill is limited to issuance of licence and regulation of foreign vessels engaged in coasting trade of India and vessels chartered by Indian entities. 81 coastal community development projects at a cost of Rs. 11,572 crore have been undertaken for implementation out of which many have been completed. Addressing the concern regarding concentration of power with the DG (Director General) (Shipping), the Minister said that there is no concentration of power with the DG (Shipping). The DG (Shipping) is already the statutory administrator for merchant and coastal shipping in India. No additional new powers are proposed to be given to the DG (Shipping) under this Bill. On the issue of imposition of additional conditions on vessels by the DG (Shipping), the reasons have to be recorded in writing which will ensure that there is no discretionary use of power. With regard to marine pollution owing to coastal shipping, Shri Sonowal said that all obligations for mitigation of pollution are regulated by provisions of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 incorporated on the basis of International Conventions, which will also be applicable on the vessels engaged in coasting trade and licensed. The Bill has been drafted after a detailed analysis of the global best practices and dedicated laws of major maritime countries.

The Bill, as amended, was passed.

The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (as Reported by the Joint Committee) and The Mussalman Wakf (Repeal) Bill, 2024: On 2nd April 2025, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs; and Minister of Minority Affairs, Shri Kiren Rijiju moving the Motion for the consideration of the Bill said that in the Joint Committee, there were the most extensive deliberations on the Waqf

Amendment Bill in the parliamentary history of India. He informed that in all, 97,27,772 petitions have been received online, physically as well as in the form of memorandum, requests and suggestions, and the Government has looked into them thoroughly, whether it came through the JPC or have been given directly. Till date, such a large number of petitions have not been received on any Bill. A total of 284 delegations have put forward their views and suggestions before the Committee. The Waqf Boards of 25 State Governments and Union Territories have submitted their representations. Apart from this, a number of legal luminaries, scholars, community leaders, representatives of various religious institutions, charitable organizations, civil society, academicians, researchers, policymakers, etc. have put forth their views before the committee. The Minister mentioned that in the year 1954, the Waqf Act became an Act of independent India for the first time. At that time, the 1954 Act also provided for a State Waqf Board. Since then, in 1995 with a number of amendments, a comprehensive Waqf Act was enacted. In the year 1995, for the first time, a provision was incorporated for the setting up of a tribunal so that if anyone disagrees with the decision of the Waqf Board and if he wants to challenge it, he can move the Waqf Tribunal. The Minister clarified that the amendments brought by this Government are a provision for monitoring the administration of governing the Waqf property and for monitoring those who manage the Waqf property. It does not interfere with the Waqf Board and Waqf property management. The Government is not going to interfere in any religious system, any religious institution and any religious work, rather this Bill deals only with the management of property. Regarding the creation of Waqf, the Government has revived the provisions of the year 1995 and added that only a person who has been practicing Islam for a minimum of five years can create a Waqf. The Government wants to make Waqf Boards very secular and inclusive. Therefore, the provisions have also been made to include backward Muslim people, women and expert non-Muslims in it. Out of the total 22 members in the Central Waqf Council, there cannot be more than four non-Muslim members. It will consist of three Members of Parliament including the post of ex-officio, ten members from the Muslim community, two former judges as members, as well as one advocate of national eminence from the Supreme Court and High Court. There will be four persons of national eminence from various fields. One member will be the Additional Secretary or a Joint Secretary of the Government of India. It is mandatory to have two women members out of ten Muslim members. Similarly, out of 11 members in the State Waqf Board, there cannot be more than 3 non-Muslims in it. It will consist of a chairperson, an MP, an MLA including ex-officio member, four members from the Muslim community, two members with professional experience, a member of the Bar Council and a Joint Secretary to the State Government dealing with Waqf matters. Out of the four Muslim members, two will be women. Shri Rijiju highlighted that the

Waqf Board in our country holds the third-largest land bank. He raised the concern that, despite India having the highest number of Waqf properties in the world, no significant work has been done so far to support the education, medical treatment, skill development and income generation of poor Muslims. The Minister informed that the Bill was intended for the upliftment and welfare of the people through that property and this Waqf Amendment Bill is the need of the hour to cater to their needs. Today, the total number of Waqf properties in our country is 8.72 lakhs. If the 8.72 lakh Waqf properties are managed effectively, it will transform not only the destiny of Muslims but also that of our nation. Many recommendations from the Joint Parliamentary Committee have been incorporated in this Bill. There is extensive hope attached to this Bill, which is why it has been aptly named 'UMMEED'—Unified Waqf Management Empowerment, Efficiency, and Development. This Act aims to empower all sections of the Muslim community, including Shias, Sunnis, Bohras, Agha Khanis, and Pasmenda Muslims—especially marginalized groups such as women and children. Through the application of technology, the Government will enhance efficiency, establish a centralized database, and ensure comprehensive registration procedures. Additionally, provisions have been made to address bureaucratic challenges. Audits will be conducted by the State governments, as the ultimate authority over these properties' rests with them. The appointment board will also be constituted by the State Government, as the land falls under the State List. The Union Government is not assuming any additional powers; the entire framework remains under the jurisdiction of the State Governments. The Bill also outlines mechanisms for generating income through effective governance.

Initiating the discussion, Shri Gaurav Gogoi (INC) said that the Constitution of India guarantees every individual social, economic and political justice, along with the freedom of thought, expression, belief, religion, and worship. It also upholds the principle of brotherhood, ensuring the dignity of the individual and the integrity of the nation. This Bill strikes at the very foundation of our Constitution. While claiming to show sympathy towards minorities, the power that be has failed to provide them adequate representation in the Lok Sabha. Expressing concern, the Member said that today, the situation for minorities has deteriorated to the extent that they are required to obtain a religious certificate from the Government. He further said that India is a land rooted in Sanatan Dharma, where every religion, culture and tradition is respected. He also asked the Government if it would demand such certificates from people of other religions. Shri Gogoi complained that the Government has even removed clause 3r (i) and said that the rights of any person should not be taken away. Whether it is the protection of a widow or providing more support to women, all these provisions are already there in the law. Expressing concern, Shri

Gogoi said that the revenue outlined under Clause 33 has been reduced. The revenue share has been reduced from seven percent to five percent, thereby further weakening the Waqf Board. He suggested to increase the revenue from seven percent to eleven percent. Expressing his concerns, Shri Gogoi further said that some of the amendments proposed are controversial. The process of Waqf has a long history, dating back to the advent of Islam. The powers of the Waqf Board have been diluted significantly. For instance, section 110 has been completely removed. Section 110 deals with the power of the Board to make regulations. According to the Parent Act, the Boards can make some rules with the permission of the State Government. An attempt is being made to reduce the authority of the State Government through the present amendment. Furthermore, confusion has arisen regarding the role of the High Court, even though its responsibilities are clearly defined in sections 83(A) and 96 of the Parent Act. These sections should not be removed through amendments. He said that if there are mistakes or areas needing correction, we are sensitive towards that. However, the introduction of provisions from the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 for amendment under section 64, clause 29, adds to the confusion. He pointed out that the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) did not accept any amendments proposed by the opposition, and there was no clause-by-clause discussion; only a voting process has taken place. The current Bill also seeks to remove section 108(A), which grants overriding power, a provision that is still present in the Acts of different States.

¹⁰*Participating* in the discussion, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad (BJP) mentioning his State Bihar, said that in the State many backward Muslims reside. They are also there in Uttar Pradesh, and we refer to them as Pasmanda. This group consists of various categories. They do not get opportunities in the management of Waqf and in the light of Article 15 of the Constitution, a provision is being made in this Bill that backward Muslims will also be given representation in

¹⁰ **Others who participated in the discussion:** *Sarvashri* Ravi Shankar Prasad, Akhilesh Yadav, Kalyan Banerjee, A. Raja, Krishna Prasad Tenneti, Rajiv Ranjan Singh *alias* Lalan Singh, Arvind Ganpat Sawant, Nilesh Dnyandev Lanke, Imran Masood, Anurag Singh Thakur, Arun Bharti, Mohibullah, P.V. Midhun Reddy, Sudhakar Singh, K. Radhakrishnan, K.C. Venugopal, E.T. Mohammed Basheer, Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer, Vijay Kumar Hansdak, Subbarayan K., Tangella Uday Srinivas, Mian Altaf Ahmad, Tejasvi Surya, Raja Ram Singh, M. Mallesh Babu, Afzal Ansari, Amrinder Singh Raja Warring, Dileshwar Kamait, Hibi Eden, George Kurian, Rajesh Ranjan, Shyamkumar Daulat Barve, Abu Taher Khan, Dayanidhi Maran, N. K. Premachandran, Zia Ur Rehman, Rajkumar Roat, Hanuman Beniwal, Abdul Rashid Sheikh, Mohmad Haneefa, Abhijit Gangopadhyay, Asaduddin Owaisi, P.P. Chaudhary, Durai Vaiko, Chandra Prakash Choudhary, Jagdambika Pal, Adv. Francis George, Adv. Chandra Shekhar, Dr. Shrikant Eknath Shinde, Dr. Rajkumar Sangwan, Dr. Mohammad Jawed, Dr. Thol Thirumaavalavan, Dr. Sambit Patra, Dr. Nishikant Dubey, Smt. Kamaljeet Sehrawat, Smt. Smita Uday Wagh, Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Sushri Iqra Choudhary, Sushri S. Jothimani and the Home Minister; and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah.

the Waqf Board. The amendment that is being made in the Waqf Bill has been allowed under Article 15 of the Fundamental Rights. Shri Prasad pointed out that Waqf is not a religious body, it is just a statutory body. The Member also pointed out that the role of Mutawalli is only of a manager. He stated that if the properties associated with a Waqf are being misappropriated, the Government will not remain silent about it. He said that there are approximately eight lakh properties involved, these encompass both graveyards and mosques in it, and raised the questions as to how many schools were built on Waqf property, how many hospitals have been established, how many skill centers have been opened, how many orphanages have been opened or how many widows, daughters, and sisters have been imparted skills such as sewing and embroidery to improve their livelihoods. He further said that if the Government regulates Waqf land through this law, it can lead to better funding for these properties and lend credence to people from the community towards it. Regarding the role of the High Court, Shri Prasad also said the High Court did not have any direct power. The High Court can call for or file a complaint if it wishes. He further said that today, the Christian community and the churches are awfully disturbed by the encroachment of their property under the garb of Waqf. This Bill opens the way for those poor marginalized Muslims. This Government has acted in the spirit of 'SABKA SATH, SABKA VIKAS, SABKA PRAYAS' and has worked for the welfare of all people without discrimination in any form and structure.

Replying to the discussion and addressing an issue raised by some members, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs; and Minister of Minority Affairs, Shri Kiren Rijiju said that the removal of "waqf-by-user" from the Bill is due to inadequate documentation of ownership, which has led to numerous disputes pending in tribunals. Addressing another issue raised as to why provisions for Waqf-al-Aulad are being made for Muslims but not for Hindus, Shri Rijiju explained that such provisions already exist for Hindus, so there is no need for separate legislation. The Minister clarified that the Bill includes provisions to address the shortcomings in the practice of Islam concerning women and children. Regarding the suggestion that the contribution from the Mutawalli to the board, currently set at 7%, should be increased to 11%, the Minister said that the Government believes that instead of simply supporting the board, this money should be utilized more effectively for the welfare of the poor. Therefore, a provision has been made to increase it. Regarding concerns raised about the trustworthiness of the Collector, the Minister said that the Collector is responsible for revenue, administration, and other district-level functions. Instead of criticizing the Collector, constructive suggestions for the better management of Waqf properties are welcome. The Minister clarified that the Bill provides that any property-related matter can be

brought before the civil court, thus establishing a legal right. The law of limitation has been applied to ensure the timely resolution of cases. Removing it would allow indefinite claims, increasing pending cases. The Minister highlighted that the use of Waqf properties for welfare purposes is less than 1% nationwide. For instance, out of 1,389 acres of school land, only 0.037% is used for welfare. Similarly, out of 1,85,756 acres of madrasa land, 4.9% is used for welfare, and of 6,27,692 acres of agricultural land, only 16.7% is utilized for welfare. Concerning the safety of minorities, he highlighted the launch of the "*Jeeyo Parsi*" scheme for the Parsi community, the smallest community, to prevent its extinction. He further said that India has always been a safe haven for minorities. Whenever religious persecution occurred in neighbouring countries, minorities sought refuge in India. India is secular because the majority of its people uphold secular values. Expressing his confidence in the Bill, the Minister said that after the passage of this Bill, millions of poor people, women, children, and underprivileged Muslims will express their gratitude to the Prime Minister.

The Bills, as amended, were passed.

The Protection of Interests in Aircraft Objects Bill, 2025: On 3rd April 2025, the Minister of Civil Aviation, Shri Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu moved the Bill for consideration.

Initiating the discussion, Dr. M.K. Vishnu Prasad (INC) said that air travel has become a necessity today. And therefore, air travel should be made affordable and safe. To ensure safe and affordable travel, the Government must set a cap on fare determination. Therefore, this Bill should be presented without delay. Referring to his constituency, he mentioned a place called Neyveli, where there is a small airport that should be revived. He opined that the government applies different standards concerning the common man and corporations, while the government determines the prices of agricultural products, it does not regulate the fares of air tickets, which he deemed unfair.

¹¹*Participating* in the discussion, Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy (BJP) said that air travel has become very comfortable today, and to make this travel smooth, we have to follow certain international conventions. While noting that many airlines in India have closed down over the

¹¹**Others who participating in the discussion:** *Sarvashri* N.K. Premachandran, C.N. Annadurai, Lavu Srikrishna Devarayalu, Ramprit Mandal, Anil Yeshwant Desai, Naresh Ganpat Mhaske, Radhakrishna, Darshan Singh Choudhary, E.T. Mohammed Basheer, Tangella Uday Srinivas, Hanuman Beniwal, Ravindra Shukla *alias* Ravi Kishan, Vishaldada Prakashbapu Patil, D.M. Kathir Anand, Vijay Kumar Dubey, Kodikunnil Suresh, Jagadambika Pal, Adv. Francis George, Dr. Rajkumar Sangwan, Dr. D. Ravi Kumar, Smt. Ruchi Vira, Smt. Pratima Mondal and Smt. Supriya Sule.

years, which has affected fares, he said that it is the Government's responsibility now to manage the remaining operational airlines. He mentioned that the Parliament has a significant role in reducing leasing costs. In today's time, most aircraft are operated on lease. 80% of Indian aircraft are on lease. In the coming days, India will purchase the highest number of aircraft in the world, and there will be a need for 30,000 pilots. He emphasized the need to establish Flying Training Organizations across the country, and requested the Government to upgrade the existing airports in Bihar.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Civil Aviation, Shri Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu said that till the year 2014, 10 crore 40 lakh passengers used to travel by air and by 2024, the number of such passengers has increased to 22 crore 81 lakh. The Minister further said that till 2014, there were 74 airports in the country, and now this number has increased to 159 in 2024 and two more airports are ready to be opened. Thus, the number of airports has also doubled in the last 10 years. As regards the number of aircraft, which stood at 340 in 2014, it has increased to 840 in 2024. The Minister further said that the situation of civil aviation in the last 10 years was not so easy, and there were many challenges across the country. But even with these challenges, a growth of 12 percent CAGR in the country could be observed. Shri Naidu said that when the Cape Town Convention came in 2001, three different protocols were made - one protocol was about aircrafts, the second was about space technology and the third was about railways. In 2007, the Government of that time decided that the Cape Town Convention should be implemented here as well. The Law Ministry suggested at that time that India can accede to this Convention by giving a Cabinet approval. All the discussion happened and the Cabinet approval was also given. By 2008, a declaration had been developed based on the Convention and the Protocol, and was submitted to the International Civil Aviation Organization, and India has become a signatory to the Cape Town Convention, but only by Cabinet approval. After 2008 Cabinet approval, things were also going well. Aviation was still growing, but then some challenges came in the industry. The leasing business was going on in the year 2015. The power that comes with the Act was not available with the rules. So, the rules were changed in the year 2015 and in the year 2016 the Government thought of bringing the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code as well, which was aimed at giving protection to airline companies in case of default. India's compliance score in the AWG (Aviation Working Group) Outlook has improved after the enactment of the legislation, making Indian airlines eligible for CTC (Cape Town Convention) discounts, which will significantly reduce the lease cost by 8 to 10 percent. If the leasing score goes down, then such situations will arise which will create a number of problems in leasing. The Minister explained that where there are airports,

there should be connectivity. If there is better connectivity, there will be better airports. The second issue is that airfares are increasing. The basic problem regarding both these issues is that today there are not as many planes as there is demand in India. Currently, only 5 to 10 planes are being received every month as compared to the purchase order of 1700 planes. Therefore, leasing is the only option left through which aircraft can be brought immediately. The leasing premium has increased, hence the cost has increased. The Government has to keep the airfare reasonable and also increase the fleet of aircraft within the country. Keeping this in mind, the Government has brought this Bill. Regarding the Government's steps for development of Aviation Industry, the Minister said that the UDAN scheme has increased air connectivity in the country. Airports have been built in every state under the UDAN scheme, and connectivity has been initiated through viability gap funding provided under this initiative. The UDAN scheme is set to continue for the next 10 years, during which 120 new destinations will be developed across India. Additionally, helipad facilities will be established in the North Eastern and hilly states. Regarding the Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), Shri Naidu said that it is also an important aspect. It is a greener way of generating fuel. The ATF (Aviation Turbine Fuel) being used at present causes a lot of pollution and it has become a major issue at the international level. The Government will take this task further in the aviation sector. The country has 80 such airports which operate on the basis of 100 percent solar energy and renewable energy. The Minister informed that by the end of this year, the mark of 100 airports would be crossed. The Government is also trying to encourage the market more, and is proactively looking into this. This is being done in coordination with the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas which will help to further promote SAF in India. The challenge in doing this is, who will certify SAF because every country has its own process of certification. The internal process of certification is under discussion. He also said that the one good thing about SAF is that the raw material being used for it comprises feedstock. Whether it is the farmers' produce or farming waste or waste from cooking oil, all of them could be used to make SAF. Mentioning about its cost, the Minister said that at present, the cost of SAF is much more than the cost of ATF. The Minister concluded by saying that going forward, as this technology improves, farmers will also get its benefits and the cost of the SAF will also reduce, and that was why the Government is also promoting it.

The Bill was passed.

OBITUARY REFERENCES

During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Dr. Manmohan Singh, former Prime Minister of India; *Sarvashri* Kunar Hembram, Hasan Khan, P.R. Sundaram, A. Murugesan, Dr. Manda Jagannath, all former members of Lok Sabha; Dr. Devendra Pradhan, former Member and the Minister of State for the Ministry of Surface Transport and the Ministry of Agriculture; Mr. James Earl Carter Jr., former President of the United States of America; and pilgrims, who lost their lives during the Mahakumbh at Prayagraj.

Members stood in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.

RAJYA SABHA

TWO HUNDRED AND SIXTY-SEVENTH SESSION^{*†}

The Two Hundred and Sixty-Seventh Session (267th) (Budget Session) of the Rajya Sabha commenced on 31st January 2025. The Session was held in two parts. The first part concluded on 13th February 2025, and the second part, which commenced on 10th March 2025, concluded on 4th April 2025, as per the schedule. The sitting of the House for one day *i.e.* on 13th March 2025 was cancelled during the second part of the Session.

The Rajya Sabha had a total of 26 sittings in all spread over 159 hours and 35 minutes including 39 hours and 33 minutes beyond the scheduled time by sitting late and skipping lunch recess to complete the legislative and other business before the House. The House skipped lunch hour on 13 occasions to allow wider participation of Members to discuss matters such as discussions on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, Union Budget for the year 2025-26, Working of the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025 and the Mussalman Wakf (Repeal) Bill, 2025, etc.

A brief account of the important business transacted during the 267th Session and other significant developments are given below:

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

The President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu addressed both the Houses of Parliament in the Lok Sabha Chamber on 31st January 2025. The Rajya Sabha assembled at 12:50 p.m. after the conclusion of the Presidents' Address and a copy of the President's Address was laid on the Table of the House.

on 3rd February 2025, the discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address was moved by Smt. Kiran Choudhry and was seconded by Shri Neeraj Shekhar. The discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address took place for three days *viz.* on 3rd, 4th, and 6th February 2025 spanning over 17 hours and 28 minutes. The discussion concluded with the reply by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on 6th February 2025. Out of 88 amendments admitted by 14 Members, a total of 75 amendments were actually moved. All the amendments

^{*} As provided by LARRDIS, Rajya Sabha Secretariat.

moved were either withdrawn or negatived. The Motion of Thanks on the President's Address was adopted on 6 February 2025. A total of 71 Members participated in the discussion.

UNION BUDGET - 2025-26

On 1st February 2025, the House assembled at 1:27 p.m., after the conclusion of the Budget speech of the Minister of Finance and Minister of Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, in the Lok Sabha. The Union Budget 2025-26 was laid on the Table of the House by the Minister on 1st February 2025. The Fiscal Policy Statements, 2025-26 *viz.* (i) Medium-term Fiscal Policy cum Fiscal Policy Strategy Statement; and (ii) Macro Economic Frameworks Statements under the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003, were also laid on the Table of the House.

The General Discussion on the Union Budget for the year 2025-26 took place on 10th, 11th and 13th February 2025 spanning over 17 hours and 18 minutes. Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of Finance and Minister of Corporate Affairs replied to the discussion on 13th February 2025. A total of 89 Members participated in the discussion.

THE BUDGET (MANIPUR) - 2025-26

The Budget (Manipur), 2025-26 was laid on the Table of the House by the Minister of Finance and Minister of Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, on 10th March 2025. The Budget (Manipur), 2025-26, alongwith the related Appropriation Bill, was discussed on 17th March 2025. A total of 20 Members participated in the discussion. The Minister of Finance and Minister of Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman replied to the discussion on 18th March 2025.

OPENING REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE SESSION

On 3rd February 2025, the Chairman made the following opening remarks: The 267th Session of the Rajya Sabha is a milestone in constitutional journey of Bharat, being the first one convened as we march into the last quarter of century of adoption of our Constitution on 26th November 1949. It is a moment to express deep gratitude to our visionary founding fathers, whose foresight gave us a Constitution that has shaped our Republic's destiny. Over the past 75 years, India has embraced modernity while preserving its heritage, making significant strides in areas like digital innovation, space exploration, and sustainable development. Guided by the mantra of *Vikas* with *Virasat*, the march forward towards a *Viksit* Bharat by 2047 must be the North Star that anchors

our collective efforts. As Members of this august House, we must uphold constitutional values, engage in constructive deliberations, and focus on the welfare of its 1.4 billion citizens.

A vibrant and functional Parliament is the lifeblood of democracy. A functional Parliament, where diverse voices are heard, especially the youth, is essential for a thriving democracy. By empowering the youth with education and opportunities, India can build a more inclusive and sustainable society. The Chairman drew inspiration from the great *Mahakumbh*, a resplendent celebration of India's spiritual and cultural essence, unity in diversity, collective well-being, and an abiding commitment to truth, tolerance, and harmony. As we engage with the global community, these principles remain the touchstones of our actions, ensuring the well-being of every citizen remains at the heart of our endeavors. With a shared resolve to serve the nation, we must work together to elevate India's global standing, guided by the principles of democracy and service to the people, as envisioned by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar - "Democracy is not merely a form of government. It is primarily a mode of associated living, of conjoint communicated experience. It is essentially an attitude of respect and reverence towards our fellow men." The Chairman urged the Members to be ever mindful of this wisdom towards fulfilling the promises made in the Constitution.

SIGNIFICANT RULINGS/OBSERVATIONS BY THE CHAIR

On 11th February 2025, the Chairman observed that any changes to the Constitution can only be made by Parliament and must be officially incorporated into the authenticated version signed by the President in accordance with Article 111 of the Constitution. He further said that no changes, whether omissions or alterations in either digital formats (such as iPads) or printed editions are permissible unless they include the 22 original Constitution miniatures and strictly preserve the sanctified text.

On 13th February 2025, as regards the motion seeking removal from office of Justice Shekhar Yadav of Allahabad High Court under Article 124(4) of the Constitution received on 13th December 2024, the Chairman observed that the jurisdiction for the stated subject matter constitutionally lies in exclusivity with the Chairman, Rajya Sabha and in an eventuality with the Parliament and the President of India. The Chair further observed that taking note of public domain information and inputs available, it is expedient that the Secretary General, Rajya Sabha shares this, for information, with the Secretary General, Supreme Court of India.

On 25th March 2025, while reflecting on a situation where a decision of Parliament came into conflict with a judicial order, the Chairman emphasized the importance of the constitutional framework established in 2015. He noted that this framework was the result of a unanimous decision by Parliament, ratified by State Legislatures, and granted assent by the President under Article 111 of the Constitution. He described it as a visionary step taken by the Indian Parliament, which must remain the rule of law. He observed that there is no provision that allows amending or appealing of a constitutional amendment once it has been ratified by Parliament and the States. In light of this, he called for thoughtful reflection on the implications of such conflicts between legislative authority and judicial pronouncements.

On 26th March 2025, the Chairman conveyed that a collaborative discussion took place among prominent political leaders, including the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition, on a matter of significant public interest. The discussion emphasized upon ensuring harmonious functioning amongst all the three branches of the Government *viz.* the Executive, Legislature, and Judiciary, while upholding the principles of checks and balances. He further informed that both the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition had also agreed to engage in further consultations within their respective parties as well as with other stakeholders, before reconvening with the Chairman for further continued deliberation.

On 27th March 2025, under Rule 188 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States (Rajya Sabha), Shri Jairam Ramesh raised a Notice of Question of Privilege against the Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, for comments made about Smt. Sonia Gandhi and the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF), during a debate on the Disaster Management Bill. The Chairman expressed concern about the extensive media coverage of the privilege matter, noting that such communications should ideally remain within the House until a decision is made. The Chairman urged the Members to bear the responsibility of maintaining exemplary standards of morality, dignity, decorum and values in their public conduct. The Chairman assigned the task of reviewing the guidelines in light of modern challenges like social media and technology, and to evolve a fresh mechanism and guidelines for adherence of Members, to the Chairperson of the Ethics Committee.

On several occasions on 28th March, 1st April, and 3rd April 2025, the Chairman expressed his concern about the rapid spread of information through social media. He observed that while expunged remarks may disappear from official records, they can still spread on social media,

which diminishes the impact of the expunction. The Chairman called for the creation of a code of conduct to ensure careful speech on sensitive topics. He also recommended that Members be counseled and political parties conduct workshops to educate their Members to handle such situations in a responsible manner.

On 3rd April 2025, the Chairman announced that the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025 and the Mussalman Wakf (Repeal) Bill, 2025, as passed by the Lok Sabha, were laid before the Rajya Sabha. The Chairman admitted the notices received from the Minister of Minority Affairs to consider and pass these Bills in the Rajya Sabha, waiving the usual two-day notice period required under Rule 123 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States (Rajya Sabha).

**DISPOSAL OF THE DISQUALIFICATION PETITION UNDER RULE 6(2) OF THE
MEMBERS OF RAJYA SABHA (DISQUALIFICATION ON GROUND OF
DEFECTION) RULES, 1985**

On 21st March 2025, the Chairman informed the House that two petitions were received from Shri Praful Patel pertaining to Smt. Vandana Chavan and Dr. Fauzia Khan on 20th November 2023. Similar petition was received on 21st November 2023 from Smt. Vandana Chavan, concerning Shri Praful Patel. These petitions were submitted under the provisions of the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution, relating to disqualification on the grounds of defection.

Subsequently, certain developments occurred. Smt. Vandana Chavan ceased to be a Member of the House upon completion of her term on 2nd April 2024, and Shri Praful Patel, having been re-elected to the Rajya Sabha *w.e.f.* 3rd April 2024, resigned from his then-incumbent seat on 27th February 2024.

On 3rd February 2025, two communications, one from Shri Sharad Pawar, Leader of the NCP-SP, and the other from Shri Praful Patel, Leader of the NCP requesting that no further action be taken on the aforesaid petitions, were received. After due consideration of the submissions and having examined the tenability of the petitions, the Chairman deemed it appropriate to bring the matter to a close. Accordingly, both petitions were disposed off.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION UNDER ARTICLE 356 (1) OF THE CONSTITUTION

Statutory Resolution seeking approval of the Proclamation issued by the President of India on 13th February 2025 under Article 356 (1) of the Constitution, in relation to the State of Manipur, was adopted by the House on 3rd April 2025. Shri Amit Shah, Minister of Home Affairs; and Minister of Cooperation moved the Resolution and a total of 10 Members participated in the discussion.

DISCUSSION ON THE WORKING OF MINISTRIES

During the Session, the working of four Ministries viz. the Ministry of Education; the Ministry of Railways; the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; and the Ministry of Home Affairs were discussed.

On 11th March 2025, Shri Digvijaya Singh raised a discussion on the working of the Ministry of Education. The discussion concluded on the same day following the reply to the discussion by the Minister of Education, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan. A total of 29 Members took part in the discussion.

On 12th March 2025, Shri Samik Bhattacharya raised a discussion on the working of the Ministry of Railways. The discussion took place on 12th and 17th March 2025. On 17th March 2025, the Minister of Railways; Minister of Information and Broadcasting; and Minister of Electronics and Information Technology, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw replied to the discussion. A total of 35 Members participated in the discussion.

On 18th March 2025, Shri Tiruchi Siva raised a discussion on the working of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The discussion took place on 18 and 19 March 2025. Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda, Minister of Health and Family Welfare; and Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers replied to the discussion on 19 March 2025. A total of 38 Members took part in the discussion.

On 19th March 2025, Shri Saket Gokhale raised a discussion on the working of the Ministry of Home Affairs. The discussion took place on 19th and 21st March 2025. On 21st March 2025, the Minister of Home Affairs; and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah replied to the discussion. A total of 22 Members took part in the discussion.

GOVERNMENT LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

During the Session, the following Government Bills were introduced/passed/returned namely:

Introduced: The motion for introduction of the Protection of Interests in Aircraft Objects Bill, 2025 was moved by the Minister of Civil Aviation, Shri Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu, on 10th February 2025.

Passed: (i) The Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2024 passed on 10th March 2025; (ii) The Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill, 2024 passed on 25th March 2025; (iii) The Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024 passed on 26th March 2025; (iv) The Protection of Interests in Aircraft Objects Bill, 2025 passed on 1st April 2025; (v) The "Tribhuvan" Sahkari University Bill, 2025 passed on 1st April 2025; (vi) The Immigration and Foreigners Bill, 2025 passed on 2nd April 2025; (vii) The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025, passed on 3rd April 2025; and (viii) The Mussalman Wakf (Repeal) Bill, 2025 passed on 3rd April 2025.

Returned: (i) The Appropriation Bill, 2025; (ii) The Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2025; (iii) The Budget (Manipur), 2025-26; (iv) The Manipur Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2025; (v) The Manipur Appropriation Bill, 2025; (vi) The Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2025; and (vii) The Finance Bill, 2025.

The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025 and the Mussalman Wakf (Repeal) Bill, 2025¹²: On 3rd April 2025, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs; and the Minister of Minority Affairs, Shri Kiren Rijiju moved the motion for consideration of the Bills. The discussion on the Bills continued until 4:02 a.m. the following day on 4th April 2025. The Minister stated that the Ministry of Minority Affairs had extensive discussions with various stakeholders, including State Governments, Minority Commissions, Waqf Boards, officers, intellectuals, and religious organizations. Thereafter, the Bill was prepared and introduced in the Parliament, after which the Joint Parliamentary Committee was formed. In total, 284 organizations, stakeholders, people from different fields came before the JPC and presented their views and submitted more than 97 lakh memoranda.

He *inter alia* mentioned key Reports, including the 1976 Waqf Inquiry Report, the Sachar Committee Report (2006), and recommendations from the Joint Parliamentary Committee

¹² Discussed together

chaired by Shri K. Rehman Khan. These reports identified issues related to the appointment, removal and misuse of authority and power by mutawallis and proposed reforms such as strengthening the functioning of the Waqf, computerization of Waqf Boards and the adoption of sound and acceptable financial and budgetary practices.

The Minister traced the evolution of Wakf laws in India starting from the 1894 Privy Council ruling that invalidated the Wakf-al-Aulad - the Wakf created for children which later became a big issue. This led to the Mussalman Wakf Validating Act of 1913, followed by the Mussalman Wakf Act in 1923, the Mussalman Wakf Validating Act of 1930, and the Wakf Act of 1954 which was amended in 1959, 1964, 1969, and 1984. He stated that the most comprehensive law came in 1995, in which the Government is making amendments and clarified that these changes are not meant to hurt religious sentiments but to ensure transparency, accountability, efficiency and better governance through the use of technology. The Minister cited court rulings that clarified that the Waqf Board is a statutory body, not a representative body of the Muslim community, and the role of mutawallis as property managers rather than owners. The duties of a Mutawalli are purely of a secular character and not of a religious character.

The Minister also stated that complete arrangements have been made to address problem in registration, tracking, and compliance of Wakf property. He highlighted that the Wakf Board in India has the maximum land property in the world and assured that the lives of poor Muslims will improved within the next three-four years if the Wakf properties are developed in the right way. Referring to the increased misuse of Section 40, he informed that ‘Waqf by User’ and directly claiming of land as Waqf under Section 40 by Waqf Board have been removed. He further stated that archaeological sites and Special Protected Areas cannot be declared as Waqf property in order to protect the indigenous Scheduled Tribes in the country. In conclusion, the Minister appealed to all the Members to support the Bill, emphasizing that the Bill aims to stop any wrongdoing and ensures that no one usurps someone else's land in an illegal manner.

¹³*Participating* in the discussion, Shri Mohammed Nadimul Haque (AITC) stated that the Bill is not just a legal draft or a religious issue, but a matter related to the basic structure of the

¹³**Other Members who participated in the discussion were:** Sarvashri Tiruchi Siva, Sanjay Singh, Yerram Venkata Subba Reddy, Muzibulla Khan, Manoj Kumar Jha, Sanjay Raut, H.D. Devegowda, Praful Patel, Kapil Sibal, Haris Beeran, K.R. Suresh Reddy, Vaiko, Milind Murli Deora, P.P. Suneer, Manan Kumar Mishra, Jose K. Mani, Sanjay Kumar Jha, Kartikeya Sharma, Javed Ali Khan, Ramdas Athawale, Gulam Ali, Ram Nath Thakur, George Kurian, Ramji Lal Suman, Masthan Rao Yadav Beedha, Upendra Kushwaha, Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav, Dr. Syed Naseer Hussain, Dr. Radha Mohan Das Agrawal, Dr. John Brittas, Dr. Sarfraz Ahmad, Dr. K. Laxman, Dr. Medha Vishram Kulkarni, Dr. M. Thambidurai, Dr. Fauzia Khan, Smt. Jebi Mather Hisham, Smt. Kiran Choudhry, Ms. Sushmita Dev and Ms. Kavita Patidar.

Constitution and federalism. He emphasized that Waqf, traditionally a form of permanent charitable endowment, is being redefined in a manner that threatens its centuries-old identity by imposing excessive Government control. He highlighted the provision requiring an individual to have practiced Islam for five years before being eligible to establish a Waqf, and described it as a blatant violation of Articles 14, 25 and 26 of the Constitution. He questioned how this "practicing Muslim" status would be verified and who will certify it, raising concerns about potential discrimination and arbitrary enforcement. He further argued that the Bill disregards oral Waqf and Waqf by usage that would effectively strip thousands of waqf properties of legal recognition. Furthermore, he expressed concern over the reduced Muslim representation in Waqf Boards and the Central Waqf Council, which he claimed would weaken the community's ability to manage its religious institutions. He also highlighted flaws in the digitization of Waqf properties, noting that technical issues could jeopardize their legal validity. Additionally, he dismissed the Bill's provisions on women's representation as misleading, pointing out that women are already part of both the Central Waqf Council and State Waqf Boards. Finally, he warned that the Bill lacks legal safeguards, making Waqf properties vulnerable to illegal occupation, and criticized the broad discretionary powers granted to officials. He objected to removing the finality of Waqf tribunal decisions, cautioning, it would delay justice and overburden courts. He concluded by urging the Government to adopt recommendations from Parliamentary Committees, including establishing a National Education Board for Muslim education, returning Waqf properties held by government agencies, and applying the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Act, 1971, to protect Waqf assets.

Joining in the discussion, the Minister of Health and Family Welfare, and the Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda (BJP) stated that the Waqf Board Amendment Bill was introduced in Parliament following the Report submitted by the Joint Parliamentary Committee. He said that the Bill is in the interest of the nation, not of any particular political party. He also stated that the revised Bill aims to prevent the misuse of Waqf properties and to ensure proper management without violating constitutional rights. The Minister contended that the Bill promotes legal and transparent administration and marks a progressive step for the Muslim community that requires proper implementation. He highlighted that empowering the District Collector to determine property ownership and Waqf status prevents the Waqf Board from unilaterally identifying properties - an issue that previously led to significant losses for the Muslim community and benefited the land mafia.

Participating in the discussion, Dr. Abhishek Manu Singhvi (INC) argued that the Waqf (Amendment) Bill violates Articles 25 and 26 of the Constitution, particularly protections for religious traditions and institutions. Citing landmark Supreme Court judgments like *Shirur Mutt and Ratilal Gandhi*, he emphasized that religious practices integral to a faith are constitutionally protected and that laws curtailing the rights of religious institutions are unconstitutional. Dr. Singhvi criticized Clause 11, which allows state Governments to appoint all Members of regional Waqf Boards, thus limiting community autonomy. He also noted that the Bill permits only 3 of 11 Board Members to be Muslim, raising concerns about disproportionate representation. He further condemned Clause 14 for banning no-confidence motions against the Chairman, calling it undemocratic and objected to removing the requirement for the CEO of the Waqf Board and the two nominated Board Members to be Muslim. The Supreme Court has ruled that Waqf by User is legal and cannot be disregarded. He pointed out that Clause 3's reference to "contrivance" and the five-year Islam practice requirement could subject devout Muslims to arbitrary scrutiny. He also criticized the Bill for applying the Limitation Act to Waqf properties, which he argued benefits illegal occupants, including Government Bodies. The removal of protections for Waqf by User and provisions allowing claims over properties after 12 years of uninterrupted occupation, he warned, could lead to unconstitutional property usurpation.

Participating in the discussion, the Leader of the Opposition, Shri Mallikarjun Kharge (INC) stated that the Waqf (Amendment) Bill is creating an atmosphere of harassment and is an attempt to snatch away the rights of minorities. He highlighted new provisions, including appointing a Survey Commissioner, Additional Commissioner, and a senior government officer to conduct preliminary surveys of Waqf properties. He also stated that the Bill contains provisions stating that Government-owned property identified as Waqf will no longer be considered Waqf property and the District Collector will be responsible for determining ownership and updating revenue records. He pointed out that the original Act required Members of Parliament, former judges, and distinguished individuals appointed to the Central Waqf Council to be Muslims. However, the amended Bill removes this criterion and mandates the inclusion of two non-Muslim members. He asserted that the inclusion of non-Muslims in the Central Waqf Council is being viewed as a violation of constitutional provisions and a threat to communal peace and harmony.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs; and the Minister of Minority Affairs, Shri Kiren Rijiju (BJP) addressed concerns raised by the opposition Members and clarified the Government's stance on the proposed amendments. He emphasized that in a democracy, the majority's decision prevails, whether in the Government, Joint Parliamentary

Committees' (JPC), or any other Committee. He highlighted that the JPC incorporated several suggestions from Opposition Members, such as the inclusion of an officer above the rank of Collector, extending the six-month period for enforcing unregistered Waqf properties, and the request to have three members in the Tribunal (Central Waqf Council).

Addressing the structure of Waqf institutions, he detailed that the Central Waqf Council would consist of 22 members, with not more than four non-Muslims, including the *ex-officio* Chairman. Similarly, State Waqf Boards would consist of 11 members, with a maximum of three non-Muslims. He further clarified that the inclusion of non-Muslim members aimed at enhancing the Boards' functionality through diverse expertise and does not interfere with its religious aspects. He asserted that Waqf Boards are statutory bodies and, like all Government entities, should operate on secular principles. He stated that the Boards are managers, not owners, of Waqf properties, and their role is to ensure proper administration and utilization of these assets for the welfare of the Muslim community.

The Minister reassured that the Bill does not intend to harm Muslim interests. He emphasized that the management, creation, and beneficiaries of Waqf properties would remain exclusively within the Muslim community. He also highlighted that the Bill introduced provisions requiring proof of ownership before a property could be declared as Waqf, aiming to prevent arbitrary claims and ensure transparency. He mentioned that the Bill sought to address issues of mismanagement and illegal occupation of Waqf properties, ensuring that the assets serve their intended purpose of benefiting the Muslim community. While concluding, he urged all the Members to support the Bill, stating that it aimed at the upliftment of the poor and marginalized Muslims under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. He appealed for a unanimous passage of the Bill, emphasizing its potential benefits for the community.

The motion for consideration of the Bills was adopted. All the amendments moved were negatived. Clauses etc. were adopted and the Bills were passed.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

49 Private Members' Bills were introduced on 7th February 2025. The Prevention of Fraudulent Calls Bill, 2024 was withdrawn by Dr. Fauzia Khan on the same day. One Bill, namely, the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill, 2024 was moved for consideration by Dr. Fauzia Khan and was taken up for discussion on 7th February 2025. Five Members took part in the discussion. However, the discussion was not concluded.

On 28th March 2025, one Private Members' Resolution was moved by Shri Kartikeya Sharma urging the Government to institute a Council for Future Affairs (CFA) to provide a unified, strategic framework for research-driven innovation and product development in critical future domains such as AI, Blockchain, Quantum Computing, Small Nuclear Energy, Water Reuse, and other emerging fields; and other issues. The discussion on the Resolution took place on the same day. A total of seven Members participated in the discussion; however, the discussion remained inconclusive.

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

40 Special Mentions on Matters of Urgent Public Importance were made/laid during the Session and 252 matters (Zero Hour Submissions) were also raised with the permission of the Chair.

371 Starred Questions and 4000 Unstarred Questions were admitted and answered/laid. Out of these, 100 Starred Questions were orally answered on the floor of the House.

140 Reports/Statements of various Parliamentary Committees including those of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees were presented or/laid on the Table of the House.

In pursuance of the Direction of the Chairman of Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha Speaker issued in September 2004, 24 Statements were laid on the Table of the House regarding status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Reports of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees.

OBITUARY REFERENCES

The Chairman/Deputy Chairman made obituary references to the passing away of Dr. Manmohan Singh, former Prime Minister of India and former Member of Rajya Sabha, and *Sarvashri* Om Prakash Chautala, Harvendra Singh Hanspal, Shyam Benegal, Pritish Nandy, Palavalasa Rajasekharam and Shamsher Singh Manhas, all former Members of Rajya Sabha. The Chairman also made obituary reference to the passing away of His Excellency, Mr. James Earl Carter Jr., former President of the United States of America. The House observed silence, all Members standing, as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.

Rajya Sabha Pays Tribute to Former Prime Minister

On 31st January 2025, the House adopted a resolution expressing its deep condolences on the demise of former Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh and passed the following resolution:

"This House expresses its deep condolences on the demise of former Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh, and appreciates his contribution to the progress and prosperity of the country. His life values and ideals will always be a source of inspiration for us."

OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS

Panel of Vice-Chairpersons

On 3rd February 2025, the Chairman announced that the Panel of Vice-Chairpersons has been re-constituted consisting of the Members namely, Smt. Sunetra Ajit Pawar, Ms. Sushmita Dev, Smt. Kiran Choudhry, Smt. Sangeeta Yadav, Shri Ghanshyam Tiwari, Dr. Dinesh Sharma, Shri P. Wilson and Dr. Vikramjit Singh Sahney. The strength of the existing panel of Vice-Chairpersons was augmented with the nomination of two Members namely, Shri Rajeev Shukla and Dr. M. Thambidurai, on 10th February 2025; eight Members namely, Ms. Indu Bala Goswami; Smt. Kiran Choudhry; Smt. Sangeeta Yadav; Smt. Sunetra Ajit Pawar; Shri S. Niranjan Reddy; Shri Ghanshyam Tiwari; Shri Rajeev Shukla; and Shri P. Wilson, on 10th March 2025; four Members namely, Shri Pramod Tiwari; Dr. Sangeeta Balwant; Smt. Dharmshila Gupta; and Smt. Maya Naroliya, on 17th March 2025; and two Members namely, Shri Birendra Prasad Baishya; and Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla on 1st April 2025.

Birthday Greetings to Members

The Chairman, Rajya Sabha on his own behalf and on behalf of the House, extended wishes to 33 Members on their birthdays.

References from the Chair

During the Session, the Chairman made references on the two occasions namely, (i) 'World Autism Awareness Day' on 2nd April 2025 aligning with the global observance initiated by the United Nations. He emphasized the importance of inclusivity and support for individuals with autism, highlighting the theme "Advancing Neuro-diversity and the UN Sustainable Development Goals." The Chairman acknowledged the potential of every individual and the need to harness their talents for personal and societal development; and (ii) 'Rajya Sabha Day' on 3rd April 2025. This day marks the establishment of the Council of States in 1952, later rechristened as Rajya Sabha in the year 1954. The Chairman's remarks reflected on the role of the House of Elders in India's federal structure and its commitment to upholding democratic values.

Felicitations/Congratulatory Remarks by the Chair

On 10th March 2025, the Deputy Chairman on behalf of the entire House and on his own behalf congratulated the Indian Men's Cricket Team for winning the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 on 9th March 2025 in Dubai defeating New Zealand in the final.

On 18th March 2025, the Chairman on behalf of the entire House and on his own behalf offered heartfelt felicitations to Shri Ilaiyaraaja, nominated Member and a legendary music composer, for his unparalleled contributions in the field of music for over five decades.

On 21st March 2025, the Chairman congratulated Dr. Medha Vishram Kulkarni (elevated to the status of a panel member), Smt. Sunetra Ajit Pawar, and Smt. Phulo Devi Netam, Members of the Rajya Sabha, for being the proud voice of India and making significant contributions to the global gender equality and equity dialogue at the IPU Global Conference on Women Parliamentarians held in Mexico from 13th to 15th March 2025.

Resignation by Members

On 31st January 2025, the Chairman informed the House that he had received a letter dated 25th January 2025 from Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy, Member, representing the State of Andhra Pradesh resigning from his seat in the Rajya Sabha, and that he had accepted his resignation *w.e.f.* the said date.

Farewell to retiring Members

On 4th April 2025, the Chairman on his own behalf and on behalf of the House, bade farewell to Shri Birendra Prasad Baishya and Shri Mission Ranjan Das, members of Rajya Sabha representing the State of Assam, whose term of office will be expiring on 14th June 2025.

Statement by Minister

On 6th February 2025, Shri S. Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs made a *suo-moto* statement on the "Deportation of Indian Nationals from USA".

Marathon sitting of the House

On 3rd April 2025, the Rajya Sabha etched its name in the annals of legislative history with an unprecedented continuous sitting from 11:00 a.m. until 4:02 a.m. on 4th April 2025 - the longest in its history. During this marathon sitting, the House *inter alia* considered and passed the Waqf

(Amendment) Bill 2025 and the Mussalman Wakf (Repeal) Bill, 2025, bringing transparency and accountability to Waqf property management while modernizing legacy systems and upholding principles of equity and justice.

Familiarisation Programme/ Facilities for Members

IT Helpdesk for Members of Parliament: During the Session, an IT Help Desk was set up in the Members Lounge Area near the Rajya Sabha Chamber to facilitate the Members in Device Configuration and for resolution of their queries and concerns on IT related issues.

Kiosks/booths regarding new web-solution of MPLAD Scheme for all Members of Rajya Sabha: Kiosks/booths were set up at SBI Branch, 1st Floor, Parliament House Annexe (PHA), from 31st January 2025 to 13th February 2025 and 10th March 2025 to 4th April 2025 by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation to facilitate the provision of necessary information and material to Members and their PAs regarding a new web-solution of MPLAD Scheme and to resolve their queries thereof instantly.

Visits of Foreign Parliamentary Delegations(s)

The Chairman welcomed His Excellency, Vyacheslav Volodin, Chairman of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation on 3rd February 2025; His Excellency, Mr. Abdul Raheem Abdulla, Speaker of the People's Majlis of the Republic of Maldives on 11th February 2025; and His Excellency, Mr. Justin Tokely, President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Madagascar on 12th March 2025. The Members of the Parliamentary Delegations from the three countries witnessed the proceedings of the House from the Special Box.

Conclusion of the Session

The House was adjourned *sine die* on 4th April 2025 and was prorogued by the President on 5th April 2025. In the Valedictory Remarks made on the conclusion of the Budget Session, the Chairman said that the debate and discourse were exemplified by enlightened inputs and varying opinion shades. After a long gap, the House witnessed welcome wit, humour, sarcasm and repartee, apart from intellectual fusion while ensuring parliamentary decorum, cross-party collaboration, and legislative rigor.

SESSIONAL REVIEW

STATE LEGISLATURES

CHHATTISGARH¹⁴

The Fourth Session of the Sixth Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly commenced on 16th December 2024 and was adjourned *sine die* on 20th December 2024. There were 4 sittings in all.

Legislative Business: During the Session the following Six Bills were introduced, considered and passed: (i) *Chhattisgarh Vidhan Sabha Sadasya Vetan, Bhatta tatha Pension (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2024*; (ii) *Chhattisgarh Bhu-Rajasva Sanhita (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2024*; (iii) *Chhattisgarh Nagarpalika (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2024*; (iv) *Chhattisgarh Nagarpalik Nigam (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2024*; (v) *Chhattisgarh Maal aur Seva Kar (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2024*; and (vi) *Chhattisgarh Anadhikrit Vikas ka Niyamitikaran (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2024*.

Financial Business: On 16th December 2025, the Minister of Finance, Shri O.P. Choudhary presented the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Second Batch) for the Financial Year 2024-25. The Supplementary Demands were considered and passed by voice-vote. On 19th December 2025, the Appropriation (No.4) Bill, 2024 relating to the Second Batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants for the financial year 2024-25 was passed.

Obituary References: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri Shreegopal Vyas, former Member of the Rajya Sabha; and Shri Nanda Ram Sori, former Member of Madhya Pradesh (Undivided) Legislative Assembly.

DELHI LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY¹⁵

First Session

The First Session of the Eighth Delhi Legislative Assembly commenced on 24th February 2025 and was adjourned *sine die* on 3rd March 2025. There were 5 sittings in all.

Pro tem Speaker: On 24th February 2025, Shri Arvinder Singh Lovely was appointed as the Speaker *pro tem* by the Lieutenant Governor.

¹⁴ Material provided by the Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly Secretariat.

¹⁵ Material provided by the Delhi Legislative Assembly Secretariat.

Election of Speaker: On 24th February 2025, Shri Vijender Gupta was elected as the Speaker of the Delhi Legislative Assembly.

Address by the Lieutenant Governor: On 25th February 2025, the Lieutenant Governor, Shri V.K. Saxena addressed members of the State Legislative Assembly. The Motion of Thanks to the Governor for the Address was moved by Shri Manjinder Singh Sirsa. Sixteen members participated in the debate. The Chief Minister replied to the debate. The Motion of Thanks was unanimously adopted by voice vote the House on 27th February 2025.

Election of Deputy Speaker: On 27th February 2025, Shri Mohan Singh Bisht was elected as the Deputy Speaker of the Delhi Legislative Assembly.

Obituary References: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Dr. Manmohan Singh, former Prime Minister of India.

Second Session

The Second Session of the Eighth Delhi Legislative Assembly commenced on 24th March 2025 and was adjourned *sine die* on 2nd April 2025. There were 7 sittings in all.

Legislative Business: During the Session the following Bills were introduced, considered and passed: (i) The Delhi Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2025; and (ii) The Delhi Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2025.

Financial Business: On 25th March 2025, the Chief Minister, Smt. Rekha Gupta, presented the Budget for the Financial Year 2025-26. The General Discussion on the Budget was held on 26th & 27th March 2025. Thirty-six members participated in the discussion. The Chief Minister replied to the discussion.

The Chief Minister also presented the Demands for Grants for the Financial Year 2025-26 and the second and final batch of the Supplementary Demands for Grants for the Financial Year 2024-25. The Supplementary Demands were considered and passed by voice-vote.

Obituary References: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri S.K. Bagga, former Member of the Delhi Legislative Assembly.

GOA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY¹⁶

Eighth Session

The Eighth Session of the Eighth Goa Legislative Assembly commenced on 6th February 2025 and was adjourned *sine die* on 7th February 2025. There were 2 sittings in all.

Address by the Governor: On 6th February 2025, the Governor, Dr. P.S. Sreedharan Pillai addressed members of the State Legislative Assembly.

Financial Business: The Chief Minister, Dr. Pramod Sawant presented the Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 2024-25 (Second Batch). The Demands for Grants for the year 2024-25 were discussed, put to the vote and passed. The Goa Appropriation Bill, 2025 (relating to the Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 2024-25 (Second Batch) was introduced, considered and passed.

Legislative Business: During the Session the following six Bills were introduced, considered and passed: (i) The Goa Appropriation Bill, 2025; (ii) The Goa Provision of Water Supply (Amendment) Bill, 2025; (iii) The Goa Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2025; (iv) The Goa Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2025; (v) The Goa Legislative Diploma No. 2070 dated 15.4.1961 (Amendment) Bill, 2025; and (vi) The Goa Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) (Amendment) Bill, 2025.

Obituary References: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of leading personalities.

Ninth Session

The Ninth Session of the Eighth Goa Legislative Assembly commenced on 24th March 2025 and was adjourned *sine die* on 26th March 2025. There were 3 sittings in all.

Motion of Thanks to the Governor's Address: The Motion of Thanks to the Governor for the Address was moved by Shri Premendra Shet and seconded by *Sarvashri* Krishna Salkar and Sankalp Amonkar. The discussion on the Motion of Thanks was held on 24th and 25th March 2025. The Motion was adopted by the House on 25th March 2025.

Legislative Business: During the Session the following eight Bills were introduced, considered and passed: (i) The Employment Exchanges (Compulsory Notification of Vacancies)

¹⁶ Material provided by the Goa Legislative Assembly Secretariat.

(Goa Amendment) Bill, 2025; (ii) The Goa Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2025; (iii) The Goa Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2025; (iv) The Goa Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2025; (v) the Goa Homoeopathy Council (Amendment) Bill, 2025; (vi) The Goa Goods and Service Tax (Second Amendment) Bill, 2025; (vii) The Goa State Research Foundation (Amendment) Bill, 2025; and (viii) The Goa Private Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2025.

Financial Business: The Chief Minister, Dr. Pramod Sawant presented the Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 2024-25 (Third Batch). The Demands for Grants for the year 2024-25 were discussed, put to the vote and passed. The Goa Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2025 (relating to the Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 2024-25 (Third Batch) was introduced, considered and passed.

On 26th February 2025, the Chief Minister presented the Annual Financial Statement for the year 2025-2026. The Chief Minister presented the Vote on Account for the year 2025-26. The Statement of 'Vote on Account' for the year 2025-2026 was put to vote and passed. The Goa Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2025 was introduced, considered and passed.

Obituary References: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of leading personalities.

KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY¹⁷

The Thirteenth Session of the Fifteenth Kerala Legislative Assembly commenced on 17th January 2025 and was adjourned *sine die* on 25th March 2025. There were 22 sittings in all.

Address by the Governor: On 17th January 2025, the Governor, Shri Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar addressed members of the State Legislative Assembly. The Motion of Thanks to the Governor for the Address was moved by Shri T.P. Ramakrishnan. The discussion on the Motion of Thanks was held on 21st, 22nd and 23rd January 2025. The Motion was adopted by the House on 23rd January 2025.

Legislative Business: During the Session the following nine Bills were introduced, considered and passed: (i) The Kerala Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2025; (ii) The Kerala Finance Bill, 2025; (iii) The Kerala Appropriation Bill, 2025; (iv) The Kerala State Private Universities (Establishment and Regulation) Bill, 2025; (v) The University Laws (Amendment) (No.2) Bill, 2025; (vi) The University Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2025; (vii) The Kerala State Elderly

¹⁷ Material provided by the Kerala Legislative Assembly Secretariat.

Commission Bill, 2025; (viii) The Kerala Sports (Amendment) Bill, 2025; and (ix) The Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development (Amendment) Bill, 2024.

Financial Business: On 7th February 2025, the Finance Minister, Shri K.N. Balagopal, presented the Budget for the Financial Year 2025-26. The General Discussion on the Budget was held from 10th to 12th February 2025.

On 13th February 2025, the discussion and voting on the Final Batch of the Supplementary Demands for Grants for the Financial Year 2024-25 was held.

On 3rd March 2025, the Appropriation Bill relating to the Final Batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants in the Budget for the financial year 2024-25 was passed.

The debate and voting on the Demands for Grants in the Budget for the financial year 2025-26 were held on 4th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 17th, 18th and 20th of March 2025.

Obituary References: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Dr. Manmohan Singh, former Prime Minister of India; Smt. M.T. Padma, Shri K. Muhammadunni Haji and Shri P. Raju, all former members of Kerala Legislative Assembly; and Shri M.T. Vasudevan Nair, renowned author.

NAGALAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY¹⁸

The Sixth Session of the Fourteenth Nagaland Legislative Assembly commenced on 3rd March 2025 and was adjourned *sine die* on 8th March 2025. There were five sittings in all.

Address by the Governor: Being the First Session of the year, the Governor, Shri La Ganesan addressed members of the House on 3rd March 2025. The Motion of Thanks to the Governor for the Addressed was moved by Shri Imkong L. Imchen and seconded by Shri Nuklutoshi and Shri Y. Mhonbemo Humtsoe. Nine Members participated in the debate. The Chief Minister, Shri Neiphiu Rio replied to the debate. The Motion of Thanks to the Address of the Governor was adopted by the House.

Legislative Business: During the Session the following six bills were introduced, considered and passed. (i) The Nagaland Town & Country Planning (4th Amendment) Bill, 2025; (ii) Investment & Development Authority of Nagaland (Validation) Bill, 2025; (iii) The Rules for Administration of Justice and Police in Nagaland (5th Amendment) Bill, 2025; (iv) The

¹⁸ Material provided by the Nagaland Legislative Assembly Secretariat.

Nagaland Work-Charged and Casual Employees Regulation (2nd Amendment) Bill, 2025; (v) The Nagaland Goods & Services Tax (10th Amendment) Bill, 2024; (vi) The Nagaland Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2025; (vii) The Nagaland Appropriation (No.2) Bill 2025; and (viii) The Nagaland Appropriation (No.3) Bill 2025.

Financial Business: The Chief Minister, Shri Neiphiu Rio presented the Budget for the year 2025-26. Ten members participated in the discussion. The Chief Minister replied to the debate.

During the Session, the Chief Minister presented the Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 2024-25 and 2025-26. The demands were put to vote and passed by the House.

Obituary References: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Dr. Manmohan Singh, former Prime Minister of India; *Sarvashri* T.A. Ngullie, K. Zungkum, Bendangangshi Ao, Mhavil Khieya, and Kejong Chang, all former members of the Nagaland Legislative Assembly.

PUDUCHERRY LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY¹⁹

The Sixth Session of the Fifteenth Puducherry Legislative Assembly commenced on 10th March 2025 and was adjourned *sine die* on 27th March 2025. There were 13 sittings in all.

Address by the Lieutenant Governor: On 10th March 2025, the Lieutenant Governor, Shri K. Kailashnathan addressed members of the House. The Motion of Thanks to the Lieutenant Governor for the Address was moved by Shri A. Johnkumar, and seconded by Shri V. Aroumougame @ AKD. The Motion of Thanks to the Address of the Lieutenant Governor was adopted by the House on 13th March 2025.

Legislative Business: During the Session the Appropriation (No.II) Bill, 2025 was introduced, considered and passed.

Financial Business: On 12th March 2025, the Chief Minister, Shri N. Rangasamy, who also holds the Finance portfolio, presented the Annual Financial Statement for the year 2025-26, followed by the General Discussion on the Budget on 17th, 18th and 19th March 2025 and voting for the Demands for Grants on 19th, 20th, 21st, 24th, 25th and 26th March 2025.

¹⁹ Material provided by the Puducherry Legislative Assembly Secretariat.

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APPENDIX-I

STATEMENT SHOWING THE WORK TRANSACTED DURING THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE EIGHTEENTH LOK SABHA

1.	PERIOD OF THE SESSION	31.01.2025 to 04.04.2025
2.	NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD	26
3.	TOTAL NUMBER OF SITTING HOURS	160 Hours 58 Minutes
4.	TIME LOST DUE TO INTERRUPTIONS/FORCED ADJOURNMENTS	21 Hours 51 Minutes
5.	HOUSE SITTING LATE TO COMPLETE LISTED BUSINESS	46 Hours and 49 Minutes
6.	GOVERNMENT BILLS	
(i)	Pending at the commencement of the Session	11
(ii)	Introduced	10
(iii)	Laid on the Table as passed by the Rajya Sabha	01
(iv)	Returned by the Rajya Sabha with any amendment/ Recommendation and laid on the Table	03
(v)	Discussed	16
(vi)	Passed	16
(vii)	Withdrawn	Nil
(viii)	Negatived	Nil
(ix)	Part-discussed	Nil
(x)	Returned by the Rajya Sabha without any Recommendation	06
(xi)	Pending at the end of the Session	06
7.	PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS	
(i)	Pending at the commencement of the Session	65
(ii)	Introduced	Nil
(iii)	Discussed	Nil
(iv)	Passed	Nil
(v)	Withdrawn	Nil
(vi)	Negatived	Nil
(vii)	Part-discussed	01 ¹
(viii)	Pending at the end of the Session	65
8.	NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 184	
(i)	Notice received	70
(ii)	Admitted	Nil
(iii)	Discussed	Nil
9.	NUMBER OF MATTERS RAISED UNDER RULE 377	566
10.	NUMBER OF MATTERS RAISED ON URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE DURING ZERO HOUR	693
11.	NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 193	
(i)	Notice received	26

¹ At the end of Second Session

(ii)	Admitted	Nil
(iii)	Discussion held	Nil
(iv)	Part-discussed	Nil
12.	NUMBER OF STATEMENTS MADE UNDER RULE 197	01
13.	STATEMENTS MADE BY MINISTERS	32
14.	ADJOURNMENT MOTION	278
(i)	Notice received	Nil
(ii)	Brought before the House	Nil
(iii)	Admitted	Nil
15.	NUMBER OF MATTERS RAISED BY WAY OF CALLING ATTENTION	01
16.	GOVERNMENT RESOLUTIONS	
(i)	Notice received	Nil
(ii)	Admitted	Nil
(iii)	Moved	Nil
(iv)	Adopted	Nil
(v)	Negatived	Nil
(vi)	Part-discussed	Nil
17.	PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS	
(i)	Notice received	06
(ii)	Admitted	06
(iii)	Discussed	Nil
(iv)	Moved	Nil
(v)	Adopted	Nil
(vi)	Negatived	Nil
(vii)	Part-discussed	01 ²
18.	GOVERNMENT MOTIONS	
(i)	Notices received	Nil
(ii)	Admitted	Nil
(iii)	Moved & Discussed	Nil
(iv)	Adopted	Nil
(v)	Negatived	Nil
(vi)	Withdrawn	Nil
(vii)	Part-discussed	Nil
19.	PRIVILEGES MOTIONS	
(i)	Notice received	24
(ii)	Brought before the House	Nil
(iii)	Consent withheld by Speaker	Nil
(iv)	Observation made by Speaker	Nil
20.	TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITER PASSES ISSUED DURING THE SESSION	--
21.	TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS TO THE PARLIAMENT MUSEUM DURING THE SESSION	--
22.	TOTAL NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ADMITTED	--
(i)	Starred	--
(ii)	Unstarred	--

² At the end of Fourth Session

(iii)	Short Notice Questions	--
(iv)	Half-an-Hour discussions	--

23. WORKING OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

S.N.	Name of the Committee	No. of Sittings	No. of Reports
(i)	Business Advisory Committee	04	04
(ii)	Committee on Absence of Members from the Sitting of the House	03	01
(iii)	Committee on Empowerment of women	Nil	Nil
(iv)	Committee on Estimates	04	Nil
(v)	Committee on Ethics	Nil	Nil
(vi)	Committee on Government Assurances	01	Nil
(vii)	Committee on Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)	Nil	Nil
(viii)	Committee on Papers Laid on the Table	Nil	Nil
(ix)	Committee on Petitions	02	Nil
(x)	Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions	Nil	Nil
(xi)	Committee on Privileges	Nil	Nil
(xii)	Committee on Public Accounts	06	03
(xiii)	Committee on Public Undertakings	12	04
(xiv)	Committee on Subordinate Legislation	Nil	Nil
(xv)	Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes	04	01
(xvi)	General Purpose Committee	Nil	Nil
(xvii)	House Committee	03	Nil
(xviii)	Library Committee	Nil	Nil
(xix)	Railway Convention Committee	Nil	Nil
(xx)	Rules Committee	Nil	Nil
(xxi)	Committee on Welfare of OBCs	04	Nil

JOINT/SELECT COMMITTEE

S.N.	Name of the Committee	No. of Sittings	No. of Reports
(i)	Joint Committee on Offices of Profit	02	01
(ii)	Joint Committee on Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament	01	Nil

DEPARTMENTALLY RELATED STANDING COMMITTEES

S.N.	Name of the Committee	No. of Sitzings	No. of Reports
(i)	Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing	09	06
(ii)	Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers	08	03
(iii)	Committee on Coal, Mines and Steel	06	03
(iv)	Committee on Defence	04	04
(v)	Committee on Energy	04	03
(vi)	Committee on External Affairs	10	02
(vii)	Committee on Finance	11	06
(viii)	Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution	04	02
(ix)	Committee on Communication and Information Technology	08	06
(x)	Committee on Labour, Textiles and Skill Development	05	03
(xi)	Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas	05	01
(xii)	Committee on Railways	04	01
(xiii)	Committee on Rural Development and Panchayati Raj	12	03
(xiv)	Committee on Social Justice & Empowerment	07	04
(xv)	Committee on Housing and Urban Affairs	05	02
(xvi)	Committee on Water Resources	05	05

APPENDIX-II

STATEMENT SHOWING THE WORK TRANSACTED DURING THE TWO HUNDRED AND SIXTY SEVENTH SESSION OF THE RAJYA SABHA

1.	PERIOD OF THE SESSION	31.01.2025 to 04.04.2025
2.	NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD	27
3.	TOTAL NUMBER OF SITTING HOURS	159 Hours 35 Minutes
4.	NUMBER OF DIVISIONS HELD	02
5.	GOVERNMENT BILLS	
(i)	Pending at the commencement of the Session	22
(ii)	Introduced	01
(iii)	Laid on the Table as passed by the Lok Sabha	15
(iv)	Returned by the Lok Sabha with any amendment	02
(v)	Referred to Select Committee by the Rajya Sabha	Nil
(vi)	Referred to Joint Committee by the Rajya Sabha	Nil
(vii)	Referred to Department-related Standing Committee	Nil
(viii)	Reported by Select Committee	Nil
(ix)	Reported by Joint Committee	1
(x)	Reported by the Department-related Standing Committees	Nil
(xi)	Discussed	16
(xii)	Passed/Returned	16 ¹
(xiii)	Withdrawn	Nil
(xiv)	Negatived	Nil
(xv)	Part-discussed	Nil
(xvi)	Returned by the Rajya Sabha without any Recommendation	06
(xvii)	Discussion postponed	Nil
(xviii)	Pending at the end of the Session	22
6.	PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS	
(i)	Pending at the commencement of the Session	142
(ii)	Introduced	49
(iii)	Laid on the Table as passed by the Lok Sabha	Nil
(iv)	Returned by the Lok Sabha with any amendment and laid on the Table	Nil
(v)	Reported by Joint Committee	Nil
(vi)	Discussed	Nil
(vii)	Withdrawn	01
(viii)	Passed	Nil
(ix)	Negatived	Nil
(x)	Circulated for eliciting opinion	Nil
(xi)	Part-discussed	01 ²

¹ 8 Bills were passed, 6 Bills were returned; and Amendment made by Lok Sabha in 2 Bills earlier passed by Rajya Sabha During the 266th Session were agreed to by the Rajya Sabha.

² Motion for consideration of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill, 2024 was moved by Dr. Fauza Khan on 7th February 2025, but the discussion remained inconclusive.

(xii)	Discussion postponed/adjournment/deferred/terminated	Nil
(xiii)	Motion for circulation of Bill negatived	Nil
(xiv)	Referred to Select Committee	Nil
(xv)	Lapsed due to retirement/resignation/death of Member-in-charge of the Bill	07
(xvi)	Pending at the end of the Session	183
7.	NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 176 (MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE)	
(i)	Notice received	12
(ii)	Admitted	Nil
(iii)	Discussions held	Nil
8.	NUMBER OF STATEMENT MADE UNDER RULE 180 (CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE)	
(i)	Statement made/laid on the Table by Ministers	01
(ii)	Half-an-hour discussions held	Nil
9.	STATUTORY RESOLUTIONS	
(i)	Notices received	01
(ii)	Admitted	01
(iii)	Moved	Nil
(iv)	Adopted	01
(v)	Negatived	Nil
(vi)	Withdrawn	Nil
10.	GOVERNMENT RESOLUTIONS	
(i)	Notices received	Nil
(ii)	Admitted	Nil
(iii)	Moved	Nil
(iv)	Adopted	Nil
11.	PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS	
(i)	Received	07
(ii)	Admitted	07
(iii)	Discussed	01 ³
(iv)	Withdrawn	Nil
(v)	Negatived	Nil
(vi)	Adopted	Nil
(vii)	Part-discussed	Nil
(viii)	Discussion Postponed	Nil
12.	GOVERNMENT MOTIONS	
(i)	Notices received	Nil
(ii)	Admitted	Nil
(iii)	Moved & discussed	Nil
(iv)	Adopted	Nil
(v)	Part-discussed	Nil
13.	PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS	
(i)	Received	03
(ii)	Admitted	Nil
(iii)	Moved	Nil

³ The discussion remained inconclusive.

(iv)	Adopted	Nil	
(v)	Part-discussed	Nil	
(vi)	Negatived	Nil	
(vii)	Withdrawn	Nil	
14.	MOTIONS REGARDING MODIFICATION OF STATUTORY RULE		
(i)	Received	Nil	
(ii)	Admitted	Nil	
(iii)	Moved	Nil	
(iv)	Adopted	Nil	
(v)	Negatived	Nil	
(vi)	Withdrawn	Nil	
(vii)	Part-discussed	Nil	
(viii)	Lapsed	Nil	
15.	NUMBER, NAME AND DATE OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE CREATED, IF ANY NIL		
16.	TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED	3077	
17.	MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED ON ANY SINGLE DAY, AND DATE ON WHICH ISSUED	1621 on 03.04.2025	
18.	TOTAL NUMBER OFQUESTIONS ADMITTED		
(i)	Starred	371	
(ii)	Unstarred	4000	
(iii)	Short-Notice Questions	Nil	
19.	DISCUSSIONS ON THE WORKING OF MINISTRIES		
(i)	Ministry of Education		
(ii)	Ministry of Railways		
(iii)	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare		
(iv)	Ministry of Home Affairs		
20.	WORING OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES		
S.N.	Name of the Committee	No. of Sitzings	No. of Reports
(i)	Business Advisory Committee	05	Nil
(ii)	Committee on Ethics	02	Nil
(iii)	Committee on Government Assurances	02	Nil
(iv)	Committee on Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)	01	Nil
(v)	Committee on Papers Laid on the Table	01	Nil
(vi)	Committee on Petitions	01	Nil
(vii)	Committee on Privileges	01	Nil
(viii)	Committee on Subordinate Legislation	03	01
(ix)	General Purpose Committee	Nil	Nil
(x)	House Committee	Nil	Nil
(xi)	Committee on Information and Communication Technology Management in Rajya Sabha	02	Nil
(xii)	Rules Committee	Nil	Nil

21.	DEPARTMENTALLY RELATED STANDING COMMITTEES		
S.N.	Name of the Committee	No. of Sitzings	No. of Reports
(i)	Commerce	03	03
(ii)	Home Affairs	05	03
(iii)	Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports	11	06
(iv)	Industry	04	04
(v)	Science and Technology, Environment, Forests and Climate Change	04	07
(vi)	Transport, Tourism and Culture	07	05
(vii)	Health and Family Welfare	04	03
(viii)	Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice	03	07

22.	NUMBER OF MEMBERS GRANTED LEAVE OF ABSENCE	03
23.	PETITIONS PRESENTED	Nil

24.	NAME OF NEW MEMBERS SWORN IN WITH DATES		
S.N.	Name of Members sworn	Party Affiliation	Date on which sworn
NIL			

25.	OBITUARY REFERENCES	
S.N.	Name	Sitting Member/ex-Member
1.	Dr. Manmohan Singh	Former Prime Minister and Ex-Member
2.	Shri Om Prakash Chautala	Ex-Member
3.	Shri Harvendra Singh Hanspal	Ex-Member
4.	Shri Shyam Benegal	Ex-Member
5.	Shri Pritish Nandy	Ex-Member
6.	Mr. James Carter Jr.	Former President of the United States of America
7.	Shri Palavalasa Rajasekharam	Ex-Member
8.	Shri Shamsher Singh Manhas	Ex-Member

APPENDIX - III
STATEMENT SHOWING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE LEGISLATURES OF THE STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES
DURING THE PERIOD FROM 1ST JANUARY TO 31ST MARCH 2025

Legislatures	Duration	Sittings	Govt. Bills [Introduced (passed)]	Private Bills [Introduced (passed)]	Starred Questions [Received (admitted)]	Unstarred Questions [Received (admitted)]	Short Notice Questions [Received (admitted)]
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Andhra Pradesh L.A.	24.02.2025 to 20.03.2025	15	9(9)	-	(310)	(12)	25(25)
Andhra Pradesh L.C.	24.02.2025 to 20.03.2025	14	9(9)	-	273(221)	-	12(8)
Arunachal Pradesh L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Assam L.A.	17.02.2025 to 25.03.2025	15	29(29)	5	691(689)	378(377)	19(5)
Bihar L.A.	28.02.2025 to 27.03.2025	18	4(4)	-	3700(2639)	(285)	157(20)
Bihar L.C.	28.02.2025 to 27.03.2025	18	4(4)	-	1054(914)	3(3)	428(383)
Chhattisgarh L.A.	24.02.2025 to 21.03.2025	17	14(14)	-	1286(1096)	1218(1050)	-
Goa L.A.	06.02.2025 to 07.02.2025 & 24.03.2025 to 26.03.2025	2 & 3	6(6) & 10(8)	-	50(46) & 250(250)	191(188) & 580(580)	-
Gujarat L.A.	19.02.2025 to 28.03.2025	27	11(11)	3	2837(1780)	-	-
Haryana L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Himachal Pradesh L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jharkhand L.A.	24.02.2025 to 27.03.2025	20	5(5)	-	547(851)	(98)	726(246)
Karnataka L.A.	03.03.2025 to 21.03.2025	15	27(28)	2	195(195)	2583(2583)	-
Karnataka L.C.	03.03.2025 to 21.03.2025	15	28(28)	-	941(195)	668(1414)	-
Kerala L.A.	17.01.2025 to 25.03.2025	22	9(9)	4	6528	-	-
Madhya Pradesh L.A.	10.03.2025 to 24.03.2025	9	4(4)	-	1488(1386)	1491(1404)	-
Maharashtra L.A.	03.03.2025 to 26.03.2025	16	9(9)	22	6937(491)	109(81)	14
Maharashtra L.C.	03.03.2025 to 26.03.2025	16	3(3)	-	2256(525)	-	-

** Information not received from State/Union Territory Legislature

Manipur L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meghalaya L.A.	28.02.2025 to 13.03.2025	10	8(8)	-	121(109)	23	-
Mizoram L.A.	19.02.2025 to 20.03.2025	14	12(12)	-	933(931)	105(97)	-
Nagaland L.A.	03.03.2025 to 08.03.2025	5	8(8)	-	14(14)	-	-
Odisha L.A.	13.02.2025 to 02.04.2025	25	3(3)	-	3174(2763)	4261(5773)	-
Punjab L.A.	24.02.2025 to 25.02.2025 & 21.03.2025 to 28.03.2025	2 & 6	1(1) & 5(5)	-	534(391)	144(101)	9
Rajasthan L.A.	31.01.2025 to 24.03.2025	24	12(10)	-	4480(4454)	5302(5268)	18
Sikkim L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tamil Nadu L.A.	06.01.2025 to 11.01.2025 & 14.03.2025 to 29.04.2025	5 & 30	26(26)	-	(881)	(6930)	42
Telangana L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Telangana L.C.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tripura L.A.	10.01.2025 to 15.01.2025 & 21.03.2025 to 01.04.2025	3 & 7	2(2) & 6(6)	-	460(243) & 398(288)	188(277) & 405(332)	1(1) & 7(5)
Uttar Pradesh L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Uttar Pradesh L.C.	18.02.2025 to 05.03.2025	10	3(3)	-	175(161)	201(198)	26(26)
Uttarakhand L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
West Bengal L.A.	10.02.2025 to 20.03.2025	15	5(5)	-	959(605)	12(3)	-
UNION TERRITORIES							
Delhi L.A.	24.02.2025 to 03.03.2025 & 24.03.2025 to 02.04.2025	5 & 7	2(1)	-	80(80)	282(282)	-
Puducherry L.A.	10.03.2025 to 27.03.2025	13	1(1)	-	579(573)	263(262)	-

** Information not received from State/Union Territory Legislature

**COMMITTEES AT WORK/ NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD AND NUMBER OF REPORTS PRESENTED
DURING THE PERIOD FROM 1ST JANUARY TO 31ST MARCH 2025**

	Business Advisory Committee	Committee on Government Assurances	Committee on Petitions	Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions	Committee of Privileges	Committee on Public Undertakings	Committee on Subordinate Legislation	Committee on the Welfare of SCs and STs	Committee on Estimates	General Purposes Committee	House/Accommodation Committee	Library Committee	Public Accounts Committee	Rules Committee	Joint/Select Committee	Other Committees
State/ Union Territory	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Andhra Pradesh L.A.	1(1)	1	1	-	1	2	-	-	2	-	2	-	2	1	-	1 ^(a)
Andhra Pradesh L.C.	1(1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arunachal Pradesh L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Assam L.A.	3(3)	2(1)	2(1)	-	-	1(5)	-	1	-	-	-	-	3(4)	-	-	2(2) ^(b)
Bihar L.A.	1(1)	9	8	7	-	7(1)	11(4)	8	9	-	8	8	13	1(1)	-	11 ^(c)
Bihar L.C.	1	9	8	9(2)	-	-	8	8	-	8	8	8	-	-	-	88(1) ^(d)
Chhattisgarh L.A.	1(1)	1(7)	2(1)	3	-	1(4)	-	-	1	-	-	-	1(27)	-	-	1 ^(e)
Goa L.A.	1(1)	2(2)	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	1	-	2 & 1	-	-	-
Gujarat L.A.	2(2)	-	-	5(5)	-	2(1)	-	1	2(2)	-	2	-	2(2)	-	-	4(2) ^(f)
Haryana L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Himachal Pradesh L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jharkhand L.A.	-	3	1	-	-	3	-	4	4	3	3	2	4	-	-	59 ^(g)
Karnataka L.A.	1	8(1)	8	2(1)	8	8	9	9	10(1)	-	8	-	6	-	4(1)	34 ^(h)
Karnataka L.C.	1(1)	6	9	-	9(1)	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-
Kerala L.A.	2(2)	2	1	1(2)	2(1)	3(25)	1(5)	3(2)	2(3)	-	2	1	2(9)	1	-	68(57) ⁽ⁱ⁾
Madhya Pradesh L.A.	2(2)	3(6)	-	1(1)	1	(4)	1(2)	2(2)	3(3)	-	1	3	2(26)	-	-	8(14) ⁽ⁱ⁾

** Information not received from State/Union Territory Legislature

	Business Advisory Committee	Committee on Government Assurances	Committee on Petitions	Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions	Committee of Privileges	Committee on Public Undertakings	Committee on Subordinate Legislation	Committee on the Welfare of SCs and STs	Committee on Estimates	General Purposes Committee	House/Accommodation Committee	Library Committee	Public Accounts Committee	Rules Committee	Joint/Select Committee	Other Committees
State/ Union Territory	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Maharashtra L.A.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maharashtra L.C.	1	1	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Manipur L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meghalaya L.A.	-	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mizoram L.A.	2(2)	3(2)	2(1)	-	-	-	-	-	(1)	1	1(1)	-	2(2)	-	-	8(3) ^(k)
Nagaland L.A.	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1(2)	1(1)	-	-
Odisha L.A.	-	4	1	-	-	1	-	1	2	-	-	4	3	-	-	42(36) ^(l)
Punjab L.A.	1(1)	8(1)	8(1)	-	11(8)	17(3)	2(1)	9(1)	4(2)	-	2	8(1)	9(2)	-	-	35(10) ^(m)
Rajasthan L.A.	6(5)	8(3)	8(4)	-	-	8(3)	7	15	8(3)	-	5	6	9	3(1)	-	39(4) ⁽ⁿ⁾
Sikkim L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tamil Nadu L.A.	2	5(18)	1	-	-	7(11)	-	-	4	-	1	2	9(30)	-	-	4(4) ^(o)
Telangana L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Telangana L.C.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tripura L.A.	2(2)	1	(1)	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	3(2)	-	-	-
Uttar Pradesh L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Uttar Pradesh L.C.	2	3	10	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	-	79 ^(p)
Uttarakhand L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
West Bengal L.A.	7(6)	12	8	-	6	12	8	-	12	-	12	6	6(1)	-	-	267(15) ^(q)
UNION TERRITORIES																
Delhi L.A.	1(1)	-	-	1(1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

** Information not received from State/Union Territory Legislature

Puducherry L.A.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
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(a)	Committee on Ethics-1
(b)	Committee on Local Fund-1(2), Committee on Welfare of Women and Children-1
(c)	Question & Calling Attention Committee-9, Zila Parishad & Panchayati Raj Committee-8, Nivedan Committee-7, Internal Resource Committee-9, Women & Child Welfare Committee-23, Agricultural Development Industries Committee-9, Committee Regarding Tourism Industry-7, Zero Hour Committee-8, Ethics Committee-8, Bihar Heritage Development Committee-8, Minority Welfare Committee-7 and Environment Conservation and Pollution Control Committee-8
(d)	Paper laid on the Table -8, Question & Call Attention Committee-8, Human Rights Committee-8, Committee on Zila Parishad-8, Zero Hour Committee-8, Ethics Committee-8, Nivedan Committee-8(1), Rajbhasha Committee-8, Committee on Disaster Management and Rehabilitation-8, Financial Management and Internal Resources Committee-8 and Implementation Committee-8
(e)	Committee relating to the Exam. of the Papers laid on the Table-1
(f)	Panchayati Raj Committee-1, Welfare of Socially and Educationally Backward Classes Committee-2(1) and Papers Laid on the Table Committee-1(1)
(g)	Nivedan Samiti-7, Aantrik Sansadhan evam Kendriya Sahayata Samiti-3, Gair Sarkari Sankalp Samiti-3, Anagat Prashn Kriyanvayan Samiti-3, Prashna evam Dhyanakarshan Samiti-1, Pratyayukt Vidhan Samiti-7, Khadya Sarvajanic Vitran evam Upbhokta Mamle Samiti-3, Jila Prishad evam Panchayati Raj Samiti-4, Yuva Kalyaan Sanskriti evam Pryatan Vikaas Samiti-5, Sadaachar Samiti-4, Mahila evam Baal Vikaas Samiti-6, Pryavaran evam Pradooshan Niyantaran Samiti-5, Vidhayak Nidhi Anushravan Samiti-6 and Shunyakaal Samiti-2
(h)	Committee on Welfare of Women & Children-9, Committee on Papers Laid on The Table-9, Committee on Welfare of Backward Classes and Minorities-8 and Committee on Local Bodies and Panchayat Raj Institutions-8
(i)	Committee on the Welfare of Senior Citizens-2, Committee on Environment-3(1), Committee on the Welfare of Backward Class Communities-1(1), Committee on the Welfare of Women, Transgenders, Children & Differently Abled-(1)5, Committee on the Welfare of Fishermen and Allied Workers-2(4), Committee on the Welfare of Youth and Youth Affairs-2(12), Committee on Official Language-1(1), Committee on Local Fund Accounts-3(9), Committee on the Welfare of Non-Resident Keralites-3(3), Select Committee-1 and Subject Committee-50(21)
(j)	Committee on Yachika/Abhayaavedan-3(7), Committee on Welfare of Backward Classess-3(6), Question and Reference Committees-1, Agriculture Development Committee-(1) and Local Bodies and Panchayati Raj Accounts Committee-1
(k)	Committee on Paper Laid- 1(1), Subject Committee II-1, Subject Committee IV-4(1), Subject Committee V-1 and Committee on Papers Laid on the Table-1(1)
(l)	Member's Amenities Committee (NMA)-1, House Committee on Environment-1, House Committee on Women and Child Welfare-1, House Committee on Submissions-1, House Committee on Ethics-1, Special Committee on DRSC-1, Standing Committee-IV-4(5) , Standing Committee-V-3(4) , Standing Committee-VI-3(1) , Standing Committee-VII-2(7) , Standing Committee-VIII-5(4) , Standing Committee-IX-3(1) and Standing Committee-X-5(3)

(m)	Committee on Question & References-4(1), Committee on Local Bodies-6(1), Committee on Panchayati Raj Institutions-15(6), Committee on Co-Operation and Its Allied Activities-4(1), Committee of Agriculture and its Allied Activities for the Year 2024-2025-5(1) and Committee on Buddha Nala and Ghaggar River for the Year 2024-2025-1
(n)	Question & Reference Committee-6, Committee on Welfare of Backward Class-3(1), Committee on Welfare of Minorities-7, Committee on Local Bodies and Panchayati Raj Institution-8(2), Committee on Environment-8, Committee on Ethics-5 and Select Committee-2(1)
(o)	Committee on Delegated Legislation-2(3) and Committee on Papers Laid on the Table-2(1)
(p)	Committee on Question & Reference-3, Committee on Financial & Administrative Delayed-12, Committee on Parliamentary Study-9, Parliamentary & Social Welfare Committee-5, Committee on Control of Irregularities in Development Authorities, Housing Board, Jila Panchayats & Municipal Corporation-8, Committee on Enquiry of Provincial Electricity Arrangement-8, Committee on Regulation Review-2, Divine Disaster Management Investigation Committee-11, Committee on Commercialization of Education-12, Legislative Empowerment Committee-5 and Committee on Prevention of Health Problems of Life due to the Adulteration of Food Items and the Practice of Counterfeit Drugs-4
(q)	Committee on Bidhayak Elaka Unnayan Prakalpa-7, Committee on Local Fund Accounts-6, Committee on Papers Laid on the Table-6, Committee on Reforms and Functioning of the Committee System-6, Standing Committee on Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing and Food Processing Industries & Horticulture-8, Standing Committee on Industry, Commerce and Enterprises-12, Standing Committee on Fisheries and Animal Resources Development-12, Standing Committee on Higher Education-10(2), Standing Committee on School Education-9(1), Standing Committee on Environment, Forests and Tourism-6, Standing Committee on Finance and Planning-5(2), Standing Committee on Food & Supplies-6, Standing Committee on Health & Family Welfare-11(1), Standing Committee on Home, Personnel & Administrative Reforms, Correctional Administration, Law and Judicial-7(1), Standing Committee on Housing, Fire & Emergency Services and Disaster Management-6, Standing Committee on Information & Cultural Affairs and Youth Services & Sports-8, Standing Committee on Irrigation & Waterways and Water Resources Investigation & Development-8, Standing Committee on Labour-6(1), Standing Committee on Urban Development and Municipal Affairs-10(1), Standing Committee on Panchayats and Rural Development and Sunderban Affairs-12(1), Standing Committee on Power & Non-Conventional Energy Sources-9(1), Standing Committee on Public Works and Public Health Engineering-11(2), Standing Committee on Information Technology and Technical Education-11, Standing Committee on Self Help Group & Self Employment-10, Standing Committee on Women & Child Development and Social Welfare-6(1), Standing Committee on Transport-12, Standing Committee on Backward Classes Welfare-12, Standing Committee on Minority Affairs-6, Standing Committee on Land & Land Reforms-11(1) and Standing Committee on Co-Operation and Consumer Affairs-12
Select/Joint Committees:	
Karnataka LA	Joint Select Committee on the Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill, 2024 -4(1)

APPENDIX – IV

**LIST OF BILLS PASSED BY THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT AND ASSENTED TO BY THE
PRESIDENT
DURING THE PERIOD 1ST JANUARY TO 31ST MARCH 2025**

Sl. No.	Title of the Bill	Date of Assent by the President
1.	The Appropriation Bill, 2025	20.03.2025
2.	The Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2025	20.03.2025
3.	The Manipur Appropriation Bill, 2025	20.03.2025
4.	The Manipur Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2025	20.03.2025
5.	The Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill, 2025	28.03.2025
6.	The Finance Bill, 2025	29.03.2025
7.	The Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2025	29.03.2025
8.	The Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2025	29.03.2025
9.	The Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill, 2025	29.03.2025
10.	The “Tribhuvan” Sahkari University Bill, 2025	03.04.2025
11.	The Boilers Bill, 2025	04.04.2025
12.	The Immigration and Foreigners Bill, 2025	04.04.2025
13.	The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025	05.04.2025
14.	The Mussalman Wakf (Repeal) Bill, 2025	05.04.2025
15.	The Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2025	15.04.2025
16.	The Protection of Interests in Aircraft Objects Bill, 2025	16.04.2025

APPENDIX-V

**LIST OF BILLS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATURES OF THE STATES AND THE UNION
TERRITORIES
DURING THE PERIOD 1ST JANUARY TO 31ST MARCH 2025**

ANDHRA PRADESH	
1.	The Andhra Pradesh Lifts and Escalators Bill, 2025
2.	The Andhra Pradesh Rights in Land and Pattadar Pass Books (Amendment) Bill, 2025
3.	The Andhra Pradesh (Andhra Area) Ayurvedic and Homeopathic Medical Practitioners Registration (Amendment) Bill, 2025
4.	The Andhra Pradesh Metropolitan Region and Urban Development Authorities (Amendment) Bill, 2025
5.	The Andhra Pradesh Private Universities (Establishment and Regulation) (Amendment) Bill, 2025
6.	The Andhra Pradesh Appropriation Bill, 2025
7.	The Andhra Pradesh Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2025
8.	The Andhra Pradesh State Teachers' Transfers Regulation Bill, 2025
9.	The Andhra Pradesh Private Universities (Establishment and Regulation) (Second Amendment) Bill, 2025

ASSAM	
1.	The Assam Appropriation (No. I) Bill, 2025
2.	The Assam Appropriation (No. II) Bill, 2025
3.	The Assam Right to Public Services (Amendment) Bill, 2025
4.	The Assam Municipal Employees (Provincialisation) Bill, 2025
5.	The Assam Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2025
6.	The Mising Autonomous Council (Amendment) Bill, 2025
7.	The Bodo Kachari Welfare Autonomous Council (Amendment) Bill, 2025
8.	The Thengal Kachari Autonomous Council (Amendment) Bill, 2025
9.	The Deori Autonomous Council (Amendment) Bill, 2025
10.	The Sonowal Kachari Autonomous Council (Amendment) Bill, 2025
11.	The Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council (Amendment) Bill, 2025
12.	The Tiwa Autonomous Council (Amendment) Bill, 2025

13.	The Assam Panchayat (Amendment) Bill, 2025
14.	The Bongaigaon University (Amendment) Bill, 2025
15.	The Gurucharan University (Amendment) Bill, 2025
16.	The Jagannath Barooah University (Amendment) Bill, 2025
17.	The Nagaon University (Amendment) Bill, 2025
18.	The North Lakhimpur University (Amendment) Bill, 2025
19.	The Swahid Kanaklata Barua State University (Amendment) Bill, 2025
20.	The Sibsagar University (Amendment) Bill, 2025
21.	The Kokrajhar University (Amendment) Bill, 2025
22.	The Assam Private Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2025
23.	The Maa Kamakhya University Bill, 2025
24.	The Assam Coaching Institutes (Control and Regulation) Bill, 2025
25.	The Edtech Skills University Bill, 2025
26.	The Swami Vivekanand University Bill, 2025
27.	The Srimanta Sankaradeva University of Health Sciences (Amendment) Bill, 2025
28.	The Assam Cattle Preservation (Amendment) Bill, 2025
29.	The Assam Veterinary and Fishery University (Amendment) Bill, 2025

BIHAR	
1.	<i>Bihar Viniyog Vidheyak, 2025</i>
2.	<i>Bihar Viniyog (Sankhya-2) Vidheyak, 2025</i>
3.	<i>Bihar Kaashth Adhaarit Udyog(Ishthapana evm Viniyaman) Vidheyak, 2025</i>
4.	<i>Bihar Sahkari Society (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2025</i>

CHHATTISGARH	
1.	Chhatisgarh Panchayat Raj (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2025
2.	Chhattisgarh Viniyog (Kramank-1) Vidheyak, 2025
3.	Chhattisgarh Vidhan Sabha Sadasya Vetan, Bhatta tatha Pention (Sanshodhan) (Kramank-3) Vidheyak, 2025
4.	Chhattisgarh Viniyog (Kramank-2) Vidheyak, 2025
5.	Chhattisgarh Loktantra Senani Samman Vidheyak, 2025
6.	Chhattisgarh Lok Parisar (Bedakhli) (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2025

7.	Chhattisgarh Vidhan Sabha Sadasya Vetan, Bhatta tatha Pention (Sanshodhan) (Kramank-7) Vidheyak, 2025
8.	Bhartiya Stamp (Chhattisgarh Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2025
9.	Registrikaran (Chhattisgarh Sanshodhan), Vidheyak, 2025
10.	Chhattisgarh Shram Kanoon Sanshodhan aur Vividh Pravdhaan Vidheyak, 2025
11.	Chhattisgarh Aakasmita Nidhi (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2025
12.	Chhattisgarh Sehkaari Society (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2025
13.	Chhattisgarh Rajya Audhyogik Suraksha Bal Vidheyak, 2025
14.	Chhattisgarh Niji Vishwavidyalaya Ishthapana evm Sanchalan (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2025

GOA	
1.	The Goa Appropriation Bill, 2025
2.	The Goa Provision of Water Supply (Amendment) Bill, 2025
3.	The Goa Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2025
4.	The Goa Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2025
5.	The Goa Legislative Diploma No. 2070 dated 15.04.1961 (Amendment) Bill, 2025
6.	The Goa Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) (Amendment) Bill, 2025
7.	The Employment Exchanges (Compulsory Notification of Vacancies) (Goa Amendment) Bill, 2025
8.	The Goa Appropriation Bill, (No.2) 2025
9.	The Goa Appropriation Bill, 2025
10.	The Goa Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2025
11.	The Goa Homoeopathy Council (Amendment) Bill, 2025
12.	The Goa Goods and Services Tax (Second Amendment) Bill, 2025
13.	The Goa State Research Foundation (Amendment) Bill, 2025
14.	The Goa Private Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2025

GUJARAT	
1.	The Gujarat State Council for Physiotherapy Bill, 2025
2.	The Gujarat Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) (Amendment) Bill, 2025

3.	The Gujarat Professional Civil Engineers Bill, 2025
4.	The Gujarat Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2025
5.	The Gujarat (Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 2025
6.	The Gujarat Appropriation (Excess Expenditure) Bill, 2025
7.	The Gujarat Bovine Breeding (Regulation) Bill, 2025
8.	The Gujarat Land Revenue (Amendment) Bill, 2025
9.	The Gujarat Stamp (Amendment) Bill, 2025
10.	The Gujarat Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025
11.	The Gujarat Appropriation Bill, 2025

JHARKHAND

1.	Jharkhand Viniyog (Sankhya-01) Vidheyak, 2025
2.	Jharkhand Viniyog (Sankhya-02) Vidheyak, 2025
3.	Kaarkhana (Jharkhand Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2025
4.	Jharkhand Maal aur Sewa Kar (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2025
5.	Jharkhand Kara evam Sudharatmak Sevaein, 2025

KARNATAKA

1.	The Karnataka Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation and Development) (Amendment) Bill, 2025
2.	The Karnataka Pawn Brokers (Amendment) Bill, 2025
3.	The Karnataka Prohibition of Charging Exorbitant Interest (Amendment) Bill, 2025
4.	The Karnataka Money Lenders (Amendment) Bill, 2025
5.	The Bangalore Palace (Utilization and Regulation of Land) Bill, 2025
6.	The Karnataka Micro Loan and Small Loan (Prevention of Coercive Actions) Bill, 2025
7.	The Karnataka State Rural Development and Panchayat Raj University (Amendment), Bill, 2025
8.	The Karnataka Tax on Profession, Trades, Callings and Employments (Amendment) Bill, 2025
9.	The Karnataka Public Service Commission (Conduct of Business and Additional Functions) (Amendments) Bill, 2025
10.	The Karnataka Appropriation Bill, 2025

11.	The Karnataka Land Revenue (Amendment) Bill, 2025
12.	The Karnataka Stamp (Amendment) Bill, 2025
13.	The Registration (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 2025
14.	The Karnataka Village Officers Abolition (Amendment) Bill, 2025
15.	The Karnataka Land Grabbing Prohibition (Amendment) Bill, 2025
16.	The Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements (Amendment) Bill, 2025
17.	The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagra Palike (Amendment) Bill, 2025
18.	The Karnataka Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2025
19.	The Universities of Agricultural Sciences (Amendment) Bill, 2025
20.	The Karnataka Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 2025
21.	The Karnataka Animal Feed (Regulation of Manufacture and Quality Control) Bill, 2025
22.	The Karnataka Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2025
23.	The Notaries (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 2025
24.	Dr. H. Narasimaiah Science, Educational, Cultural and Tourism Development Authority Bill, 2025
25.	The Karnataka Legislature Salaries, Pensions and Allowances (Bill No. 25) (Amendment) Bill, 2025
26.	The Karnataka Legislature Salaries, Pensions and Allowances (Bill No. 26) (Amendment) Bill, 2025
27.	The Bangalore Palace (Utilization and Regulation of Land) (Amendment) Bill, 2025
28.	The Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill, 2024

KERALA	
1.	The Kerala Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2025
2.	The Kerala Finance Bill, 2025
3.	The Kerala Appropriation Bill, 2025
4.	The Kerala State Privation Universities (Establishment and Regulation) Bill, 2025
5.	The University Laws (Amendment) (No.2) Bill, 2025
6.	The University Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2025
7.	The Kerala State Elderly Commission Bill, 2025
8.	The Kerala Sports (Amendment) Bill, 2025
9.	The Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development (Amendment) Bill, 2024

MADHYA PRADESH	
1.	<i>Madhya Pradesh Viniyog Vidheyak, 2025</i>
2.	<i>Madhya Pradesh Viniyog (Kramank 2)Vidheyak, 2025</i>
3.	<i>Madhya Pradesh Nagar तथा Gram Nivesh (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2025</i>
4.	<i>Madhya Pradesh Sehkaari Society (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2025</i>

MAHARASHTRA	
1.	The Maharashtra Land Revenue Code (Amendment) Bill, 2025
2.	The Maharashtra (Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 2025
3.	The Maharashtra Settlement of Arrears of Tax, Interest, Penalty or Late Fee (Payable by Public Sector Undertaking Companies) Bill, 2025
4.	The Maharashtra Stamp (Amendment) Bill, 2025
5.	The Maharashtra Motor Vehicles Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2025
6.	The Maharashtra Public Trusts (Amendment) Bill, 2025
7.	The Maharashtra Highways (Amendment) Bill, 2025
8.	The Maharashtra Appropriation Bill, 2025
9.	The Maharashtra Private Placement Agencies (Regulation) Bill, 2025
10.	The Maharashtra Mathadi, Hamal and other Manual Workers (Regulation of Employment and Welfare) (Amendment) Bill, 2025
11.	The Maharashtra Private Security Guards (Regulation of Employment and Welfare) (Amendment) Bill, 2025
12.	The Maharashtra Krishna Valley Development Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2025

MEGHALAYA	
1.	The Meghalaya State Investment Promotion & Facilitation (Amendment) Bill, 2025
2.	The Meghalaya Police (Amendment) Bill, 2025
3.	The Meghalaya Fiscal Responsibility & Budget Management (Amendment) Bill, 2025
4.	The Contingency Fund of Meghalaya (Amendment) Bill, 2025
5.	The Meghalaya Ceiling on Government Guarantees Bill, 2025
6.	The Meghalaya Goods & Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2025
7.	The Meghalaya Appropriation (No.I) Bill, 2025

8.	The Meghalaya Appropriation (No.II) Bill, 2025
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MIZORAM

1.	The Mizoram Urban & Regional Development Bill, 2025
2.	The Mizoram Goods and Services Tax (First Amendment) Bill, 2025
3.	The Mizoram Private Placement Agencies (Regulation) Bill, 2025
4.	The Mizoram State University Bill, 2025
5.	The Mizoram Exhibition of Films on Television Screen through Video Cassette Players (Repeal) Bill, 2025
6.	The Mizoram Youth Commission Bill, 2025
7.	The Mizoram (Village Councils) Bill, 2025
8.	The Mizoram (Pension for Members of the Defunct Mizo District Council and of the Defunct Pawi-Lakher Regional Council) (Amendment) Bill, 2025
9.	The Mizoram Appropriation (Supplementary Demand for Grants 2024-2025) Bill, 2024
10.	The Mizoram Liquor (Prohibition) Amendment Bill, 2025
11.	The Mizoram Salaries, Allowances and Pension of Members of the Legislative Assembly (Amendment) Bill, 2025
12.	The Mizoram Appropriation (Demand for Grants 2025-26) Bill, 2025

NAGALAND

1.	The Nagaland Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2025
2.	The Nagaland Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2025
3.	The Nagaland Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2025
4.	Investment & Development Authority of Nagaland (Validation) Bill, 2025
5.	The Nagaland Goods & Services Tax Bill, 2025
6.	The Nagaland Town & Country Planning Bill, 2025
7.	The Nagaland Work-Charged and Casual Employees Regulation Bill, 2025
8.	The Rules for Administration of Justice and Police in Nagaland Bill, 2025

ODISHA

1.	The Odisha Appropriation Bill, 2025
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2.	The Odisha Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2024
3.	The Odisha State Highways Authority Bill, 2025

PUNJAB	
1.	The Punjab Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2025
2.	The Punjab Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2025
3.	The Indian Stamp (Punjab Amendment) Bill, 2025
4.	The Transfer of Prisoners (Punjab Amendment) Bill, 2025
5.	The Punjab Regulation of Crusher Units and Stockists and Retailers Bill, 2025

RAJASTHAN	
1.	The Rajasthan Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Bill, 2025
2.	The Rajasthan Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2025
3.	The Rajasthan Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2025
4.	The Rajasthan Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2025
5.	The Rajasthan Finance Bill, 2025
6.	The Rajasthan Universities Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2025
7.	The Rajasthan Land Revenue (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2025
8.	The Bharatpur Development Authority Bill, 2025
9.	The Bikaner Development Authority Bill, 2025
10.	The Rajasthan Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2025
11.	The Rajasthan Coaching Centers (Control and Regulation) Bill, 2025
12.	The Rajasthan Laws Repealing Bill, 2025
13.	The Rajasthan Fighters of Democracy Honour Bill, 2024

TAMIL NADU	
1.	The Tamil Nadu Borstal Schools (Repeal) Bill, 2025
2.	The Criminal Laws (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Bill, 2025
3.	The Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Harassment of Woman (Amendment) Bill, 2025
4.	The Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Amendment) Bill, 2025
5.	The Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage (Amendment) Bill, 2025
6.	The Tamil Nadu Forest (Amendment) Bill, 2025

7.	The Tamil Nadu Appropriation Bill, 2025
8.	The Tamil Nadu Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2025
9.	The Tamil Nadu Urban Local Bodies (Amendment) Bill, 2025
10.	The Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Second Amendment) Bill, 2025
11.	The Tamil Nadu Money Lending Entities (Prevention of Coercive Actions) Bill, 2025
12.	The Tamil Nadu Prevention of Dangerous Activities of Bootleggers, Cyber law offenders, Drug offenders, Forest-offenders, Goondas, Immoral Traffic Offenders, Sand-offenders, Sexual-offenders, Slumgrabbers and Video Pirates (Amendment) Bill, 2025
13.	The Tamil Nadu Fire and Rescue Services Bill, 2025
14.	The Tamil Nadu Urban Local Bodies (Second Amendment) Bill, 2025
15.	The Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Third Amendment) Bill, 2025
16.	The Tamil Nadu Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Bill, 2025
17.	The Tamil Nadu Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2025
18.	The Registration (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Bill, 2025
19.	The Kalaingar University Bill, 2025
20.	The Tamil Nadu Shops and Establishments (Amendment) Bill, 2025
21.	The Tamil Nadu Physical Education and Sports University (Amendment) Bill, 2025
22.	The Tamil Nadu Lifts and Escalators (Amendment) Bill, 2025
23.	The Tamil Nadu Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2025
24.	The Tamil Nadu Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2025
25.	The Tamil Nadu Appropriation (No.4) Bill, 2025
26.	The Tamil Nadu Appropriation (No.5) Bill, 2025

TRIPURA	
1.	The Tripura Appropriation Bill, 2025
2.	The Tripura Appropriation Bill, 2025
3.	The Societies Registration (Tripura Amendment) Bill, 2025
4.	The Tripura Co-operative Societies (Fifth Amendment) Bill, 2025
5.	The Tripura Excise (Fifth Amendment) Bill, 2025
6.	The Tripura Municipal (Ninth Amendment) Bill, 2025

UTTAR PRADESH	
1.	The Sanjay Gandhi Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (Amendment) Bill, 2025
2.	The Uttar Pradesh Urban Planning and Development (Amendment) Bill, 2025
3.	The Uttar Pradesh District Appropriation Bill, 2025

WEST BENGAL	
1.	The West Bengal Finance Bill, 2025
2.	Revocation of West Bengal Incentive Schemes and Obligations in the Nature of Grants and Incentives Bill, 2025
3.	The West Bengal Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2025
4.	The West Bengal Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2025
5.	The West Bengal Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (Amendment) Bill, 2025

DELHI	
1.	The Delhi Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2025
2.	The Delhi Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2025

PUDUCHERRY	
1.	The Appropriation Bill, 2025
2.	The Puducherry Good and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2025
3.	The Puducherry Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 2025
4.	The Appropriation (No.II) Bill, 2025

APPENDIX-VI
ORDINANCES PROMULGATED BY THE UNION AND
STATE GOVERNMENTS DURING THE PERIOD
1ST JANUARY TO 31ST MARCH 2025

Sl. No.	Title of Ordinance	Date of Promulgation	Date on which laid before the House	Date of Cessation	Remarks
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ANDHRA PRADESH

1.	The Andhra Pradesh Metropolitan Region and Urban Development Authorities (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025	09.01.2025	25.02.2025	--	--
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ASSAM

1.	The Assam Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 2024	04.12.2024	03.03.2025	06.03.2025	--
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CHHATTISGARH

1.	<i>Chhattisgarh Panchayat Raj (Sanshodhan) Dwitiya Adhyadesh, 2025</i>	--	--	--	--
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GOA

1.	The Goa Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 2024	10.10.2024	06.02.2025	06.02.2025	--
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2.	The Goa Legislative Diploma No. 2070 dated 15.04.1961 (Amendment) Ordinance, 2024	06.10.2024	06.02.2025	07.02.2025	--
3.	The Goa Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) (Second Amendment) Ordinance, 2024	10.10.2024	06.02.2025	07.02.2025	--

KARNATAKA

1.	The Bangalore Palace (Utilization and Regulation of Land) Ordinance, 2025	29.01.2025	04.03.2025	--	--
2.	The Karnataka Micro Loan and Small Loan (Prevention of Coercive Actions) Ordinance, 2025	12.02.2025	04.03.2025	--	--

MEGHALAYA

1.	The Meghalaya Town & Country Planning (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025	16.01.2025	--	--	--
2.	The Meghalaya Fiscal Responsibility & Budget Management (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025	03.02.2025	05.03.2025	13.03.2025	--
3.	The Contingency Fund of Meghalaya (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025	07.02.2025	05.03.2025	13.03.2025	--
4.	The Meghalaya State Investment	07.02.2025	03.03.2025	13.03.2025	--

	Promotion & Facilitation (Amendment) Ordinance No.4, 2025				
5.	The Meghalaya State Investment Promotion & Facilitation (Amendment) Ordinance No.5, 2025	08.02.2025	03.03.2025	13.03.2025	--

UTTAR PRADESH

1.	The Uttar Pradesh Urban Planning and Development (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025	05.02.2025	18.02.2025	--	--
2.	The Sanjay Gandhi Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Science (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025	06.02.2025	18.02.2025	--	--

VII. A. PARTY POSITION IN 18TH LOK SABHA (STATE/UT-WISE) (As on 31.03.2025)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	No. of Seats	BJP	INC	SP	AITC	DMK	TDP	JD(U)	SHSUBT	NCPSP	SHS	LJPRV	YSRCP	RJD	CPM	IUML	AAAP	JMM	JnP	CPI(ML) (L)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	25	3	-	-	-	-	16	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.	Assam	14	9	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4.	Bihar	40	12	3	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	5	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	2
5.	Chhattisgarh	11	10	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6.	Goa	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7.	Gujarat	26	25	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8.	Haryana	10	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9.	Himachal Pradesh	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10.	Jharkhand	14	8	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
11.	Karnataka	28	17	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12.	Kerala	20	1	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
13.	Madhya Pradesh	29	29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
14.	Maharashtra	48	9	13	-	-	-	-	-	9	8	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15.	Manipur	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16.	Meghalaya	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17.	Mizoram	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
18.	Nagaland	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
19.	Odisha	21	20	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20.	Punjab	13	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
21.	Rajasthan	25	14	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
22.	Sikkim	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
23.	Tamil Nadu	39	-	9	-	-	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-
24.	Telangana	17	8	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25.	Tripura	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
26.	Uttar Pradesh	80	33	6	37	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
27.	Uttarakhand	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
28.	West Bengal	42	12	1	-	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
29.	A & N Islands	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
30.	Chandigarh	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
31.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
32.	Jammu & Kashmir	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
33.	Ladakh	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
34.	Lakshadweep	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35.	NCT of Delhi	7	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
36.	Puducherry	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	TOTAL	543	240*	99	37	28	22	16	12	9	8	7	5	4	4	4	3	3	3	2	2

* including Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha.

Sl. No.	States/UTs	JD(S)	VCK	CPI	RLD	JKNC	UPPL	AGP	HAMS	KEC	RSP	NCP	VOTPP	ZPM	SAD	RLTP	BHR TAD VSIP	SKM	MDMK	ASPKR	ADAL	AJSUP	AIMIM	IND	Total	Vacancies
(1)	(2)	(23)	(24)	(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)	(33)	(34)	(35)	(36)	(37)	(38)	(39)	(40)	(41)	(42)	(43)	(44)	(46)	(47)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	-
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
3.	Assam	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	-
4.	Bihar	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	40	-
5.	Chhattisgarh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	-
6.	Goa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
7.	Gujarat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26	-
8.	Haryana	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-
9.	Himachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-
10.	Jharkhand	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	14	-
11.	Karnataka	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28	-
12.	Kerala	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	-
13.	Madhya Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	29	-
14.	Maharashtra	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	48	-
15.	Manipur	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
16.	Meghalaya	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
17.	Mizoram	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
18.	Nagaland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
19.	Odisha	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21	-
20.	Punjab	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	13	-
21.	Rajasthan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	-
22.	Sikkim	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
23.	Tamil Nadu	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	39	-
24.	Telangana	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	17	-
25.	Tripura	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
26.	Uttar Pradesh	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	80	-
27.	Uttarakhand	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-
28.	West Bengal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	41	1
29.	A & N Islands	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
30.	Chandigarh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
31.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-
32.	Jammu & Kashmir	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	-
33.	Ladakh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
34.	Lakshadweep	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
35.	NCT of Delhi	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-
36.	Puducherry	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	TOTAL	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7	542	1

ABBREVIATIONS USED FOR PARTIES:

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP); Indian National Congress (INC); Samajwadi Party (SP); All India Trinamool Congress (AITC); Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK); Telugu Desam Party (TDP); Janata Dal (United) [JD(U)]; Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) (SHSUBT); Nationalist Congress Party – Sharadchandra Pawar (NCPSP); Shiv Sena (SHS); Lok Jan Shakti Party (Ram Vilas) (LJPRV); Yuva Jana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YSRCP); Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD); Communist Party Of India (Marxist) (CPM); Indian Union Muslim League (IUML); Aam Aadmi Party (AAP); Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM); Janasena Party (JNP); Communist Party Of India (Marxist-Leninist) (Liberation) [CPI(ML)(L)]; Janata Dal (Secular) [JD(S)]; Viduthala Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK); Communist Party Of India (CPI); Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD); Jammu & Kashmir National Conference (JKN); United People's Party – Liberal (UPPL); Asom Gana Parishad (AGP); Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular) (HAMS); Kerala Congress (KEC); Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP); Nationalist Congress Party (NCP); Voice Of The People Party (VOTPP); Zoram People's Movement (ZPM); Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD); Rashtriya Loktantrik Party (RLTP); Bharat Adivasi Party (BHRTADVSIP); Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM); Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (MDMK); Aazad Samaj Party (Kanshi Ram) (ASPKR); Apna Dal (Soneylal) (ADAL); Ajsu Party (AJSUP); All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM); & Independents (IND).

B.PARTY POSITION IN RAJYA SABHA (As on 20th May, 2025)

SL. No.	States/Union Territories	Seats	INC	BJP	SP	CPI(M)	JD(U)	AAP	AIADM K	BSP	CPI	*Others	IND.	Total	Vacancies
1	Andhra Pradesh	11	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9(a)	-	11	-
2	Arunachal Paadesh	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
3	Assam	7	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2(b)	1	7	-
4	Bihar	16	1	5	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	6(c)	-	16	-
5	Chhattisgarh	5	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-
6	Goa	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
7	Gujarat	11	1	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	-
8	Haryana	5	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	-
9	Himachal Pradesh	3	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
10	Jharkhand	6	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3(d)	-	6	-
11	Karnataka	12	5	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1(e)	-	12	-
12	Kerala	9	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	2	3(f)	-	9	-
13	Madhya Pradesh	11	3	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	-
14	Maharashtra	19	3	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9(g)	-	19	-
15	Manipur	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
16	Meghalaya	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1(h)	-	1	-
17	Mizoram	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1(i)	-	1	-
18	Nagaland	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
19	Odisha	10	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7(j)	-	10	-
20	Punjab	7	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	7	-
21	Rajasthan	10	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-
22	Sikkim	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
23	Tamil Nadu	18	1	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	13(k)	-	18	-
24	Telangana	7	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4(l)	-	7	-
25	Tripura	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
26	Uttarakhand	3	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
27	Uttar Pradesh	31	-	24	4	-	-	-	-	1	-	1(m)	1	31	-
28	West Bengal	16	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	13(n)	-	16	-
	Union Territories														
29	The NCT of Delhi	3	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
30	Jammu & Kashmir	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	4
31	Puducherry	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
32	Nominated	12	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6(o)	-	8	4
	TOTAL	245	27	99	4	4	4	10	4	1	2	79	3	237	8

Others:

(Break-up of Parties/Groups)

- A. YSRCP-7, TDP-2
- B. AGP-1, UPP (L)-1
- C. RJD-5, RLM-1
- D. JMM-3
- E. JD(S)-1
- F. IUML-2, KC (M)-1
- G. NCP-3, SS-1, RPI (ATWL)-1, SS(UBT)-2, NCP(SCP)-2
- H. NPP-1
- I. MNF-1
- J. BJD-7
- K. DMK-10, MDMK-1, PMK-1, TMC(M)-1
- L. BRS-4
- M. RLD-1
- N. AITC-13
- O. Nominated-6

C. PARTY POSITION IN THE STATE/ UNION TERRITORY LEGISLATURES

State/Union Territory	Seats	INC	BJP	CPI (M)	CPI	NCP	BSP	Janata Dal (U)	Janata Dal (S)	Other Parties	Independent	Total	Vacancies
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Andhra Pradesh L.A.	175	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	167 ^(a)	-	175	-
Andhra Pradesh L.C.	58	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	52 ^(b)	5	58	-
Arunachal Pradesh L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Assam L.A.	126	26	64	1	-	-	-	-	-	34 ^(c)	1	126	-
Bihar L.A.	243	19	80	2	2	-	-	45	-	93 ^(d)	2	243	-
Bihar L.C.	75	3	23	-	1	-	-	21	-	20 ^(e)	7	75	-
Chhattisgarh L.A.	90	35	54	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 ^(f)	-	90	-
Goa L.A.	40	3	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	6 ^(g)	3	40	-
Gujarat L.A.	182	12	161	-	-	-	-	-	-	5 ^(h)	2	180	2
Haryana L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Himachal Pradesh L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jharkhand L.A.	81	16	21	-	-	-	-	1	-	43 ⁽ⁱ⁾	-	81	-

** Information not received from State/Union Territory Legislature

State/Union Territory	Seats	INC	BJP	CPI (M)	CPI	NCP	BSP	Janata Dal (U)	Janata Dal (S)	Other Parties	Independent	Total	Vacancies
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Karnataka L.A.	224	136	65	-	-	-	-	-	18	3 ^(j)	2	224	-
Karnataka L.C.	75	33	29	-	-	-	-	-	7	1 ^(k)	1	71	4
Kerala L.A.	139	21	-	62	17	2	-	-	2	34 ^(l)	1	139	-
Madhya Pradesh L.A.	230	65	164	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 ^(m)	-	230	-
Maharashtra L.A.	288	16	132	1	-	41	-	-	-	96 ⁽ⁿ⁾	2	288	-
Maharashtra L.C.	78	7	22	-	-	8	-	-	-	17 ^(o)	3	57	21
Manipur L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meghalaya L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mizoram L.A.	40	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	37 ^(p)	-	40	-
Nagaland L.A.	60	-	12	-	-	7	-	1	-	36 ^(q)	4	60	-
Odisha L.A.	147	14	78	1	-	-	-	-	-	51 ^(r)	3	147	-
Punjab L.A.	117	16	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	96 ^(s)	1	116	1
Rajasthan L.A.	200	66	119	-	-	-	2	-	-	5 ^(t)	8	200	-

** Information not received from State/Union Territory Legislature

State/Union Territory	Seats	INC	BJP	CPI (M)	CPI	NCP	BSP	Janata Dal (U)	Janata Dal (S)	Other Parties	Independent	Total	Vacancies
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Sikkim L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tamil Nadu L.A.	234	17	4	2	2	-	-	-	-	209 ^(u)	-	234	-
Telangana L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Telangana L.C.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tripura L.A.	60	3	33	10	-	-	-	-	-	14 ^(v)	-	60	-
Uttar Pradesh L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Uttar Pradesh L.C.	100	-	79	-	-	-	-	-	-	18 ^(w)	2	99	1
Uttarakhand L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
West Bengal L.A.	294	1	70	-	-	-	-	-	-	221 ^(x)	1	293	1
UNION TERRITORIES													
Delhi L.A.	70	-	48	-	-	-	-	-	-	22 ^(y)	-	70	-
Puducherry L.A.	33	2	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	16 ^(z)	6	33	-

** Information not received from State/Union Territory Legislature

(a)	Telugu Desam Party (TDP)-135, Janasena Party (JSP)-21 and Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YSRCP)-11
(b)	Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YSRCP)-32, Telugu Desam Party (TDP)-10, Janasena Party (JSP)-2 Nominated-8
(c)	AGP-9, UPPL-7, AIUDF-15 and BPF-3
(d)	Rashtriya Janata Dal-77, Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) (Liberation)-11, All India Majalis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen-1 and Hindustani Aavam Morcha (Secular)-4
(e)	Chairman-1, Deputy Chairman-1, R.J.D.-15, R.L.J.P.-1, HAM (Secular)-1 and C.P.I. (M.L)L.-1
(f)	Gondawana Gantatra Party-1
(g)	Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party-2, Aam Aadmi Party-2, Goa Forward Party-1 and Revolutionary Goans Party-1
(h)	Aam Aadmi Party-4 and Samajwadi Party-1
(i)	Speaker-1, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha-33, Rashtriya Janta Dal-4, Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) (Liberation)-2, AJSU Party-1, Lok Janshakti Party (Ramvilas)-1 and Jharkhand Loktantrik Krantikari Morcha-1
(j)	Kalyana Rajya Pragathi Paksha (KRPP)-1, Sarvodaya Karnataka Paksha (SKP)-1 and Speaker-1
(k)	Chairman-1
(l)	Kerala Congress(M)-5, Congress(Secular)-1, Kerala Congress (B)-1, Rashtriya Janata Dal-1, Janadhipathya Kerala Congress-1, Indian National League-1, National Secular Conference-1, Independents-4, Indian Union Muslim League-15, Kerala Congress-2, Kerala Congress(Jacob)-1 and Revolutionary Marxist Party of India-1
(m)	Bharat Adivasi Party -1
(n)	Shivsena Party- 57, Shivsena (Uddhav Blasaheb Thackeray)-20, Nationalist Congress Party –Sharadchandra Pawar-10, Jan Surajya Shakti-2, Samajwadi Party-2, Rashtriya Yuva Swabhimani Party-1, Rashtriya Samaj Paksha-1, Peasant's and Workers Party of India-1, All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen-1 and Rajarshi Shahu Vikas Aghadi-1
(o)	Shivsena Party- 7, Shivsena (Uddhav Blasaheb Thackeray)-7 and Nationalist Congress Party- Sharadchandra Pawar-3
(p)	Zoram People Movement (ZPM)- 27 and Mizo National Front (MNF)-10
(q)	Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP)-25, Naga Peoples Front (NPF)-2, Lok Janshakti Party(RV)-2, National People's Party-5 and Republican Party of India (A)-2
(r)	B.J.D.-51
(s)	Aam Aadmi Party- 93 and Shiromani Akali Dal-3
(t)	Bharat Adivasi Party-4 and Rashtriya Lok Dal-1
(u)	Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam-133, All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam-66, Pattali Makkal Katchi-5, Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi-4 and Speaker-1
(v)	I.P.F.T-1 and T.M.P-13
(w)	Samajwadi Party-10, Apna Dal (Soneylal) Party-1, Nirbal Indian Shoshit Hamara Aam Dal-1, Jansatta Dal Loktantrik-1, Rashtriya Lok Dal-1, Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party-1, Shikshak Dal (Non-Political)-1 and Independent Group-2
(x)	All India Trinamool Congress- 220 and Rashtriya Secular Majlis Party-1
(y)	Aam Aadmi Party-22
(z)	All India N.R.Congress-10 and Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam-6

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