

FELICITATIONS BY THE CHAIR

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, on several occasions, when our country was challenged and down under, we rose as a nation to tide them over. Our fight against the Covid-19 pandemic is one such illustration. Reflecting this spirit, Team India scripted history on the tough cricketing terrains of Australia by winning the four test series 2-1 and stunned the world last month.

It was made possible by the 'never say die' attitude of the young and inexperienced cricketers. The depleted team disproved the forecasts, of a certain loss of series by a wide margin, by staging a remarkable recovery from down under demonstrating the indomitable spirit of grit and determination. It is a clear evidence of the promise 'Young India' holds for our nation.

Bundled out for the lowest ever test score of 36 runs in the second innings in the first test at Adelaide and losing by eight wickets, Team India came back snatching a victory by the same margin in the second match at Melbourne on December 29th, ending the last year on a happy note. The stand-in captain, Ajinkya Rahane, led by example with a gritty century knock.

In the series-deciding final test at Gabba, Brisbane, the spirited Indian scripted an epic win in a nail biting finish clinching the series. It was a great team effort with the youngsters in the forefront.

The 'spirit of Gabba' should inspire Young India to rise to new heights and fulfil their aspirations with grit and determination.

On behalf of the House, and on my own behalf, I place on record our deep appreciation to the captain and members of Team India, and in particular the youngsters and also the team management for their splendid performance in all forms of cricket in Australia during their recent visit and making our country proud with their performance.

OBSERVATIONS BY THE CHAIR

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I would like to remind you that this staggered sitting arrangement has been made after extensive discussions between the Speaker and me and also after holding discussions with the Health Ministry, the Home Ministry, the Parliamentary Affairs Ministry and other concerned people, and by and large, the information was also shared with the leaders. I noticed the other day that