

### 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 29<sup>th</sup>, 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.

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### 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

some Members, though their seats are not here, were occupying the seats. Please try to avoid such situation. We have already given the flexibility to Parties and the total number of seats allotted to a particular Party is known. If the Leaders want to allow so and so Member, they can allow him provided they follow it. Otherwise, it will be difficult to recognise the Member and also there will be difficulty in coverage. Each Party has been allotted seats in proportion to their strength in Rajya Sabha Chamber and concerned Parties and Groups have already allotted seats to their Members in different places. I am happy about that. It is necessary that Members occupy the seats allotted to them at the designated places. So, that is one appeal to all of you.

Some Members are worried about Zero Hour. We will extend it also. Then, hon. Members are aware that sittings of the House from 2<sup>nd</sup> February to 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2021, will be from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Rule 180(5) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Rajya Sabha provides for admitting Call Attention notices and states that they should be raised at 2 p.m. and no other time during the sitting of the Council. That is the rule. So, in view of the change in the time of the sittings of the House, it is not possible to take up the Calling Attention at 2 p.m. Accordingly, the Calling Attention shall be raised in the House at such a time as may be decided. Similarly, Rule 180(C)(1) provides that the time for submitting notices for Special Mentions shall be up to 5 p.m. on a day for raising the matter on the next day of sitting. Again, in view of the change in timing, it has been decided that the time for submitting notices of Special Mentions shall be up to 12 noon on a day for raising the matter on the next day of sitting. I hope the House accepts these modifications and then move on.

Regarding Zero Hour, I have one submission. In Zero Hour, keeping in view the time constraint because it is for half-an-hour now, I appeal to the Members that instead of taking three minutes, please take two minutes so that more and more Members will get an opportunity.

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#### **ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIR**

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** With regard to the Papers to be laid on the Table, Statements related to the Reports of the Department-related Standing Committees listed in the Business for the day in the name of other Members, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs may accordingly make available in Rajya Sabha and ensure the presence of