

Future'. I am confident that this august House will join me in commending Prime Minister's leadership, in recognising the enthusiasm of the people of India and appreciating the contribution of all organisations and individuals on this historic achievement.

Now, Papers to be laid on the Table. Secretary-General.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Statement showing the Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the Two Hundred and Sixtieth Session of the Rajya Sabha and assented to by the President

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I lay on the Table, a statement (in English and Hindi) showing the Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the Two Hundred and Sixtieth Session of the Rajya Sabha and assented to by the President:-

- (i) The Biological Diversity (Amendment) Bill, 2023
- (ii) The Multi-State Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2023
- (iii) The Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2023
- (iv) The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2023
- (v) The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Second Amendment) Bill, 2023
- (vi) The Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill, 2023
- (vii) The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2023
- (viii) The Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2023
- (ix) The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2023
- (x) The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2023
- (xi) The Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2023
- (xii) The National Dental Commission Bill, 2023
- (xiii) The Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2023
- (xiv) The Indian Institutes of Management (Amendment) Bill, 2023
- (xv) The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2023
- (xvi) The Anusandhan National Research Foundation Bill, 2023
- (xvii) The National Nursing and Midwifery Commission Bill, 2023
- (xviii) The Coastal Aquaculture Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2023
- (xix) The Inter-services Organisations (Command, Control and Discipline) Bill, 2023
- (xx) The Pharmacy (Amendment) Bill, 2023

- (xxi) The Central Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023
- (xxii) The Integrated Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023
- (xxiii) The Mediation Bill, 2023.

OPENING REMARKS BY THE CHAIR

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I extend warm greetings to you on the beginning of 261st Session of Rajya Sabha.

Hon. Members, this Session makes available a befitting opportunity to reflect and introspect on "Parliamentary Journey of 75 years starting from Samvidhan Sabha - Achievements, Experiences, Memories and Learnings". Traversing over seven decade journey, from Samvidhan Sabha to the present day in Amrit Kaal, these hallowed precincts have witnessed many milestones.

Hon. Members, this journey had historical moments - from 'Tryst with Destiny' at Midnight of 15th August, 1947 to unfolding of innovative, forward looking GST regime at midnight of June 30, 2017 and, now, this day.

Deliberations in the Constituent Assembly in various Sessions spread over three years exemplified decorum and healthy debate. Contentious and highly divisive issues were negotiated in a spirit of consensus. There is enough take away from this for us all.

Healthy debate is hallmark of a blossoming democracy. We must eschew confrontational posturing. Weaponising disruption and disturbance as strategy would never secure sanction of the people. We all are constitutionally ordained to nurture democratic values and must so justify and vindicate the trust of the people. We owe it to the nation to optimally utilise the opportunity and time to subserve public interest.

Hon. Members, this is also an occasion to recall and glorify - our tenacious freedom fighters -- they were the pioneers, in true sense, to fight for democratic rights; our erudite constitutional forefathers -- they were farsighted visionaries who, after much deliberations and discussions, provided us a Constitution which has stood the test of time; our statesmen and politicians -- they have time and again respected and abided by constitutional ideals and have democratised the Constitution itself by taking its essence to the masses; the Civil Service - the bureaucrats who have been steadfast day in and day out in ensuring that the state machinery works in a free and fair manner; and, finally, it is the masses whose deep faith and unflinching belief in the parliamentary democracy sustained it and thwarted the worst possible attempt to deny democratic values.