

We express our deepest condolences to the people and leadership of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on the passing away of General Secretary, His Excellency Mr. Nguyen Phu Trong. We send our deepest sympathy to his bereaved family and to the people of Vietnam. We also express our solidarity with the people and leaders of Vietnam in this time of grief.

I request Members to rise in their places and observe silence as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.

(Hon. Members then stood in silence for one minute)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Secretary-General will convey to the members of the bereaved family our sense of profound sorrow and deep sympathy.

OPENING REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, this Session, the 265th Session of Rajya Sabha, marks a significant moment with the consideration of the maiden Budget by the newly elected Government now serving its third consecutive term after over six decades under Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi.

Hon. Members, I am confident that this august House will expectedly lead the nation by example to calibrate the political path forward marked by moderation of discourse, pledging to serve the nation and rising above partisan interests. Undeniably, there is need to lower the temperature in our polity. This House must reflect highest standards of sanctity, propriety and protocol of parliamentary traditions that would be motivational for legislatures in the largest democracy and outside as well. World is looking up to us. Let us live up to that expectation.

Hon. Members, I have every hope that the proceedings of the House would be marked by enriching and informed debates optimally utilizing the time for national benefit. Let us uphold the principles of 'Dialogue, Discussion, Deliberation and Debate' fostering an environment conducive to robust parliamentary discourse and set an example before the nation.

Hon. Members, I seek to draw your attention to another important and concerning aspect. Many a time, Members' communications to the Chairman find way in public domain and sometimes even before the same reaches the addressee. This inappropriate practice of garnering public attention is at best avoided.

Hon. Members, there is nothing beyond Bharat which we cannot achieve. Let us dedicate to ever keep nation first relegating partisan interests. There is no better place than this temple of democracy to begin. Let us all commit to act in togetherness for welfare of our people.

RESIGNATION BY MEMBER

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to inform Members that I had received a letter, dated the 4th of July, 2024, from Dr. K. Keshava Rao, Member, representing the State of Telangana, resigning his seat in the Rajya Sabha. I have accepted his resignation with effect from 5th July, 2024.

PANEL OF VICE-CHAIRPERSONS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I have to inform Members that the Panel of Vice-Chairpersons has been reconstituted with the following Members.

1. Shrimati S. Phangnon Konyak
2. Ms. Kavita Patidar
3. Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu
4. Dr. Medha Vishram Kulkarni
5. Dr. Bhagwat Karad
6. Shri Vivek K. Tankha
7. Shri Ayodhya Rami Reddy Alla
8. Shri Subhasish Khuntia

We continue to give fifty per cent representation to our lady Members.

MOTION FOR ELECTION TO THE RAJGHAT SAMADHI COMMITTEE (RSC)

आवासन और शहरी कार्य मंत्री (श्री मनोहर लाल) : महोदय, मैं निम्नलिखित प्रस्ताव उपस्थित करता हूँ :

"कि राजघाट समाधि अधिनियम, 1951 (1951 का 41) की धारा 4 की उपधारा (4) के साथ पठित धारा 4 की उपधारा (1) के खंड (घ) के अनुसरण में, यह सभा उस रीति से, जैसा