

RAJYA SABHA

Tuesday, the 10th December, 2024 / 19 Agrahayana, 1946 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I am pleased to extend birthday greetings to hon. Member of Parliament, Shrimati Mahua Maji, on her birthday today. Shrimati Maji has been representing the State of Jharkhand in this august House since July, 2022. She previously served as Chairperson of the Jharkhand State Commission for Women from 2013 to 2016, and President of the Women's Wing of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha from 2014 to 2021.

A doctorate in sociology and renowned writer, her debut novel, *Main Borishaila*, focussed on the Bangladesh Liberation War, while her work *Marang Goda Neelkanth Hua*, which addressed uranium mining issues, won critical acclaim in literary circles. She has received numerous awards, including the Akhil Bharatiya Veer Singh Dev Award by Sahitya Akademi, Madhya Pradesh. Shrimati Maji is married to Shri Subodh Kumar Maji and the couple has two sons, Somvit and Shomik.

On behalf of this House, I wish her a long, healthy life and extend my best wishes to her family.

OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of a former Member of this august House, **Shri S.M. Krishna**, today morning in Bengaluru at the age of 92.

Born in Somanahalli in Karnataka's Mandya district on May 1, 1932, Shri Krishna commenced his public service in 1962 by winning the Maddur Assembly seat as an independent candidate. Shri Krishna's illustrious career saw him don many hats -- Speaker of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly from 1989 to 1993, Member of 4th, 5th and 7th Lok Sabha and Member of Rajya Sabha for two terms from 1996 to 1999 and from 2008 to 2014, Member of both the Karnataka Assembly and Council, Deputy Chief Minister from 1993 to 1994, the Chief Minister of Karnataka from 1999 to 2004,

Governor of Maharashtra from 2004 to 2008 and India's External Affairs Minister from 2009 to 2012.

As External Affairs Minister, his tenure was marked by India's active engagement in global diplomacy with focus on strengthening India's position on the world stage. Shri Krishna's academic brilliance was shown early; he earned his law degree from Government Law College in Bengaluru and later pursued advanced education at Southern Methodist University in Texas and George Washington University in Washington, DC, as a Fulbright Scholar. He was awarded the Padma Vibhushan in 2023 for his illustrious contributions towards public life over six decades. Shri Krishna is credited by many for placing Bengaluru on the global map as India's Silicon Valley.

In the passing away of Shri S.M. Krishna, the country has lost a veteran statesman, an able administrator and a transformative leader.

We deeply mourn the passing away of Shri S.M. Krishna. I request the hon. 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)

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

REFERENCE BY THE CHAIR

Seventy Sixth Anniversary of the Adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, today, the 10th December, 2024, we mark the 76th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations in 1948. This document is a cornerstone for human dignity, equality, and justice worldwide, affirming the rights of all individuals, regardless of race, gender, nationality or belief. Its 30 Articles reflect humanity's shared aspirations, vision for freedom and equality.

Hon. Members, the theme this year, 'Our Rights, Our Future, Right Now', emphasizes the transformative power of human rights in building a more peaceful, egalitarian, just and sustainable future. Human rights guide us in addressing global