

renewable energy and agricultural sustainability, leaving a lasting impact on Rajasthan's development. In the passing away of Dr. Gyan Prakash Pilania, the country has lost a capable administrator, a dedicated social worker and an able parliamentarian.

**Shri Pravat Kumar Samantaray**, a former Member of this House, passed away on the 17<sup>th</sup> of October, 2024. He served as a Member of this House representing the State of Odisha from April 1992 to April 1996. Born on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 1950 at Shasanipara village in Kendrapara district of Odisha, Shri Samantaray's commitment to public service started from his student days. He worked tirelessly to improve the living conditions of workers and their socio-political empowerment. His exemplary contributions as the President of the Indian National Port and Dock Workers Federation are remembered even to this day. Shri Samantaray also served as a Member of 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha from 1998 to 2004, representing Kendrapara, Odisha. His numerous initiatives for the development of the district and the State made him a beloved figure among the common people. In the passing away of Shri Pravat Kumar Samantaray, the country has lost a veteran trade unionist, a committed social worker and a distinguished legislator.

Hon. Members, we deeply mourn the passing away of Shrimati Gurcharan Kaur, Shri K. Natwar Singh, Shri Sitaram Yechury, Shri Dharam Pal Sabharwal, Shri Dhaneshwar Majhi, Dr. Gyan Prakash Pilania and Shri Pravat Kumar Samantaray. 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.)*

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

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### OPENING REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, today marks the opening of the 266<sup>th</sup> Session of Rajya Sabha — a Session that coincides with the historic 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of adoption of our Constitution.

This Session comprises 19 sittings, including four days allocated for Private Members' Business. The newly reconstituted Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees have resumed their work and vital functions. Your active

participation in these Committees is essential for ensuring robust policy recommendations and executive accountability.

Our parliamentary democracy thrives on constructive dialogue and diverse perspectives—I urge all Members to uphold these principles with exemplary parliamentary decorum.

As the House of Elders, we bear a unique responsibility. The hopes of 1.4 billion Indians rest upon our deliberations. This session offers us the opportunity to fulfill their aspirations through measured wisdom and thoughtful discourse.

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### **PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Papers to be Laid on Table.

#### **Statement showing the Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the Two Hundred and Sixty-fifth 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 Sixty-fifth Session of the Rajya Sabha and assented to by the President:-

1. The Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2024
2. The Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2024
3. The Finance (No.2) Bill, 2024.

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### **MESSAGE FROM LOK SABHA**

#### **Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak, 2024**

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, with your kind permission, I rise to report that the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on 9<sup>th</sup> August, 2024, passed the Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak, 2024.

I lay a copy of the said Bill on the Table.

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