

Born on 1<sup>st</sup> of January, 1944, in the district of Srikakulam, in Andhra Pradesh, Shri Rajasekharam dedicated his life to the welfare of farmers, tribal communities and the marginalized sections of our society. His tireless commitment was reflected in his influential roles as Director of Andhra Pradesh Cooperative Central Bank and Chairman of Zila Parishad of Srikakulam. Further, Shri Rajasekharam served with distinction as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Andhra Pradesh, contributing significantly to the State's legislative governance.

In the passing away of Shri Palavalasa Rajasekharam, the country has lost a dedicated social worker, a champion of the rights of the marginalized and an able parliamentarian.

We deeply mourn the passing away of Shri Palavalasa Rajasekharam.

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.)*

**श्री रामजी लाल सुमन (उत्तर प्रदेश): सभापति जी, ... (व्यवधान)...**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. I have not even completed the obituary.

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

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#### OPENING REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, the 267<sup>th</sup> Session ... *(Interruptions)*... Let me have the Opening Remarks ... *(Interruptions)*... Nothing is going on record. Let me have the Opening Remarks.

Hon. Members, the 267th Session of the Rajya Sabha is a milestone in the constitutional journey of Bharat, being the first one convened as we march into the last quarter of the Century of adoption of our Constitution on November 26, 1949.

An occasion of expression of profound gratitude to visionary founding fathers, whose wisdom and foresight endowed us with a Constitution that has remarkably shaped the destiny of our Republic ... *(Interruptions)*...

In this journey of 75 years, we have embraced modernity without forsaking our timeless wisdom and heritage.

Our collective dreams and aspirations have enabled strides in digital innovation and sustainable development to space exploration and infrastructure. ...*(Interruptions)*...

Guided by the mantra of *Vikas* with *Virasat*, the march forward towards a *Viksit Bharat* by 2047 must be the North Star that anchors our collective efforts.

It is incumbent upon us, as Members of this august House, to rise to this calling with unwavering resolve. ...*(Interruptions)*...

As the Council of States — the House of Elders — we must serve as both guardians of constitutional values and torchbearers of progressive thought.

Let us emulate our founding fathers, and seize the moment in history to leave our indelible footprints upon the sands of time.

Our conduct must be exemplary; our deliberations, wise and constructive; and our actions, driven by the welfare of the 1.4 billion citizens who place their faith in us. ...*(Interruptions)*...

A vibrant and functional Parliament is the lifeblood of democracy. In this sacred Chamber, the voices of a pluralistic, dynamic, and aspirational society converge, particularly those of our youth, who represent our nation's boundless energy and dreams.

By empowering youth with education, opportunity, and a sense of responsibility, we can craft a more inclusive and sustainable future. ...*(Interruptions)*...

The great Mahakumbh, a resplendent celebration of India's spiritual and cultural essence, offers profound lessons for our journey — unity in diversity, collective well-being, and an abiding commitment to truth, tolerance, and harmony. ...*(Interruptions)*...

As we engage with the global community, let these principles remain the touchstones of our actions, ensuring that the well-being of every citizen remains at the heart of our endeavors.

Hon. Members, our task is monumental, so has to be our resolve. Let us pledge to uphold the sanctity and dignity of this House. Let our debates and decisions be guided by the noble aspirations of service to the nation. Let us work together, across all divides, to forge policies that elevate Bharat's standing on the global stage. ...*(Interruptions)*...

In the words of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, the architect of our Constitution, I quote, "Democracy is not merely a form of Government. It is primarily a mode of associated

living, of conjoint communicated experience. It is essentially an attitude of respect and reverence towards our fellow men.”

May we be ever mindful of this wisdom. ...*(Interruptions)*...

As we embark upon this Session, let us deliberate with purpose, cooperate with dignity, and legislate with vision—mindful always that we carry the hopes and dreams of a billion hearts.

Together, let us chart a course toward a future that fulfills the promise made in the Constitution.

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### THE PANEL OF VICE-CHAIRPERSONS

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

1. Shrimati Sunetra Ajit Pawar
2. Ms. Sushmita Dev
3. Shrimati Kiran Choudhry
4. Shrimati Sangeeta Yadav
5. Shri Ghanshyam Tiwari
6. Dr. Dinesh Sharma
7. Shri P. Wilson
8. Shri Vikramjit Singh Sahney

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### RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I have to inform that the Business Advisory Committee in its meeting held today, that is, on 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2025, has allotted time for Government Legislative and other Business, as follows:—

<b>BUSINESS</b>	<b>TIME ALLOTTED</b>
1. Discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.	<b>Fifteen Hours</b>
2. General Discussion on the Union Budget for the year 2025-26.	<b>Fifteen Hours</b>