

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I am pleased to extend greetings to the hon. Members of Parliament, Shri Sadanand Mhalu Shet Tanavade and Shri Saket Gokhale, on their birthdays today.

Shri Sadanand Tanavade, a Member of this august House since July 2023, has a long and distinguished political career. His journey is from Panchayat to Parliament. His journey is from a village panchayat sarpanch to that of a Member of this august House. He was first elected as the Sarpanch of Pirna Panchayat in Goa and later served as a Member of the Goa Legislative Assembly from 2002 to 2007. Shri Tanavade has held key positions, including Chairman of the Economic Development Corporation (2019-2023) and Goa Tourism Development Corporation (2002-2005).

He is married to Shrimati Snehal Shet Tanavade and the couple is blessed with sons - Mohit and Siddhant.

Shri Saket Gokhale, one of the energetic, younger and dynamic Members of this House since July 2023, is known and renowned for his activism and journalistic zeal. As a journalist, his pen has traversed the vast landscapes of foreign policy to the intricate currents of finance and politics, with an unwavering focus on societal progress. As an activist, he has tirelessly championed transparency and the sanctity of civil rights. Through his numerous interventions in this House, he has shown his care and compassion for the weaker and marginalized sections of the society. I sincerely and earnestly wish he would continue with the same spirit and zeal in what promises to be a long inning in public life.

Hon. Members, on my own and on your behalf, I wish the hon. Members a long, healthy and happy life and extend greetings to their family members.

OBITUARY REFERENCES

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of Dr. Manmohan Singh. ...*(Interruptions)*... Nothing will go on record. What is this? It is an obituary. You are an experienced Member.

Hon. Members, I refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of Dr. Manmohan Singh, former Prime Minister; Shri Om Prakash Chautala, former Chief Minister, Haryana; Shri Harvendra Singh Hanspal, Shri Shyam Benegal, Shri Pritish Nandy and His Excellency Mr. James Earl Carter Jr., former President of the United States of America.

Dr. Manmohan Singh was Prime Minister of India for two terms from 2004 to 2009 and from 2009 to 2014. He served as a Member of the Rajya Sabha for six terms from 1991 to 2024. He was also the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha from 1998 to 2004. ...*(Interruptions)*... Dr. Singh served as Union Minister of Finance from 1991 to 1996. Dr. Manmohan Singh had a significant contribution in the economic liberalization policy in India in the 1990s, which brought about unprecedented changes in the country's economy.

During his long, outstanding and highly dignified parliamentary tenure, he served as the Chairman of the Committee on Commerce and was also a member of the Committee on Finance, Rules Committee, Privileges Committee and the General Purposes Committee.

Dr. Singh is known throughout the world as a distinguished scholar in the field of economics and public policy. He also adorned a number of significant positions, such as Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, Deputy Chairman of the erstwhile Planning Commission.

Dr. Singh was awarded India's second highest civilian award Padma Vibhushan in 1987 and the Euromoney Award for the Best Finance Minister of the Year in 1993. He also received many honorary degrees from various prestigious institutions around the world, including the Oxford University and the Cambridge University. Apart from his contribution as an economic thinker and philosopher, he will always be remembered for his devotion to duty, sublimity, simplicity and humble behavior.

Dr. Manmohan Singh passed away on 26th December 2024, in New Delhi, at the age of 92.

Hon. Members, I will now put the following Resolution before the House for consideration and adoption:-

"This House expresses its deep condolences on the demise of former Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh, and appreciates his contribution to the progress and prosperity of the country. His life values and ideals will always be a source of inspiration for us."

I understand that the House adopts this resolution unanimously. This sentiment of the House will be conveyed as a message to the family of hon. Dr. Manmohan Singh Ji. It is a very satisfying moment for a great person. This unanimous Resolution is indicative of our maturity.

1.00 P.M.

Hon. Members, **Shri Om Prakash Chautala**, a distinguished leader and stalwart of Indian politics, passed away on December 20, 2024 at the age of 89. ...*(Interruptions)*... Nothing will go on record. ...*(Interruptions)*... We are following traditions. You will bear with me. Please take your seat.

Shri Om Prakash Chautala, a distinguished leader and stalwart of Indian politics, passed away on December 20, 2024 at the age of 89. He served as a Member of this august House, representing the State of Haryana, from August 1987 to April 1990.

Born on January 1, 1935 in the village of Chautala in Sirsa, he emerged as a towering figure in the political landscape of India carrying forward the political legacy of his father and former Deputy Prime Minister Chaudhary Devi Lal ji — an icon for farmers. Throughout his illustrious career, Om Prakash Chautala ji served as Haryana's Chief Minister for five terms and championed the cause of rural development, sustainable agriculture and social justice.

A passionate advocate for the well-being of farmers and the marginalized, he dedicated himself to uplifting underprivileged communities in his impressive seven terms in the Haryana Legislative Assembly. His exemplary leadership and unwavering dedication as a Parliamentarian inspired countless individuals and left an indelible mark on the fabric of Haryana's society and beyond. The contributions he made towards the State's growth and social welfare will forever be etched in the hearts of those he served.

In his passing, the nation mourns the loss of a formidable champion of farmers' rights and an eminent leader whose legacy will resonate for generations to come. We deeply mourn the passing away of Shri Om Prakash Chautala.

Hon. Members, **Shri Harvendra Singh Hanspal** passed away on December 21, 2024 at the age of 86. He served as a Member of the Rajya Sabha for two consecutive terms from 1980-1992 representing the State of Punjab.

Born on May 4, 1938 in Sialkot, undivided India, Shri Hanspal was a distinguished leader known for his significant contributions to strengthening Punjab's agricultural economy and advancing rural development. As Chairman of the Punjab Energy Development Agency (PEDA), he was instrumental in promoting renewable energy initiatives across the State.

He was also the President of Namdhari Darbar (International) and dedicated himself to the welfare of the Namdhari community. His impactful writings on Sikh

history further enriched the community's legacy, ensuring that his influence would be felt for generations to come.

In his passing, the nation has lost a committed social worker, a champion of communal harmony and an esteemed Parliamentarian. We deeply mourn the passing away of Shri Harvendra Singh Hanspal.

Hon. Members, **Shri Shyam Benegal**, a giant in Indian cinema, passed away on December 23, 2024, at the age of 90, leaving a lasting impact on filmmakers and audiences alike. He served as a Member of this august House from February 2006 to 2012.

Born on December 14, 1934 in Hyderabad, Benegal's cinematic journey began in the early days of his student life. As a key figure in the Indian New Wave, his films captured the essence of Indian life, addressing social issues with authenticity and depth. His contributions to the silver screen championed social realism, justice and human resilience. Beyond directing, he was also screenwriter, editor, teacher and mentor, shaping Indian filmmaking for generations.

One of his celebrated documentaries on our Constitution - 'Samvidhaan: The Making of the Constitution of India' - first telecast by Rajya Sabha Television, remains a master craft bringing the scholarly debates of our Constitution for the benefit to younger generation. Shri Benegal was honoured with several accolades for his outstanding contributions, including the Padma Shri in 1976, the Padma Bhushan in 1991, and the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 2005 — India's highest cinema award.

His passing is a profound loss to the nation. His commitment to artistic integrity and social progress will continue to inspire generations. We deeply mourn the passing away of Shri Shyam Benegal.

Hon. Members, **Shri Prithish Nandy** passed away on January 8, 2025 at the age of 74 years. He served as a Member of this House, representing the State of Maharashtra, from 1998 to 2004. Born on January 15, 1951, in Bhagalpur, Bihar, he was a distinguished poet, journalist and filmmaker whose creative brilliance later extended to public life as well. In Parliament, he contributed significantly to debates on cultural, social, and political issues. His eloquence and passion for arts has significantly contributed to the richness of debates in the House. Shri Nandy was also an acclaimed poet and a celebrated author, a fearless journalist and a visionary filmmaker. He received numerous accolades for his contributions to Indian cinema and literature, including the Padma Shri in 1977.

His passing away leaves an irreplaceable void in literature, media, cinema and public life.

Hon. Members, **His Excellency James Earl Carter Jr.**, former President of the United States, passed away on December 29, 2024 at the age of 100. Born to a humble farmer and a nurse, President Carter's extraordinary journey in public service began in 1943, when he entered the United States Naval Academy. His distinguished naval career saw him serve across both the Atlantic and Pacific fleets, earning accolades as a decorated lieutenant and joining the prestigious nuclear submarine program. Elected as Georgia's State Senator and 76th Governor, President Carter eventually ascended to the highest office and was elected as the 39th President of the United States of America in 1977. His historic visit to India in 1978 and the subsequent signing of the Delhi Declaration marked the beginning of a lasting bond between India and the United States anchored in shared democratic values. President Carter's tireless efforts through the Carter Center and his receipt of the Nobel Peace Prize underscored his unwavering, remarkable commitment to advancing global peace, harmony and humanitarian causes.

We pay tribute to President Carter's unparalleled contributions to the global peace and diplomacy and extend our deepest condolences to his family as well as to the Government and the people of the United States of America.

The House expresses its deep condolences on the demise of former Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh, our four former colleagues and former President of the United States of America Mr. James Earl Carter Jr.

The House will now observe silence as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed souls.

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

MR. CHAIRMAN: Secretary-General will convey to the members of the bereaved families our sense of profound sorrow and deep sympathy. ...*(Interruptions)*... Nothing is going on record. Please bear with me. ...*(Interruptions)*...

RESIGNATION BY MEMBER

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to inform hon. Members that Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy, Member representing the State of Andhra Pradesh, personally submitted a letter dated 25th January 2025 resigning his seat in the Rajya Sabha. I have accepted his resignation with effect from the said date.
