

**LOK SABHA**  
**SYNOPSIS OF DEBATES**  
(Proceedings other than Questions & Answers)

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**Saturday, February 10, 2024 / Magha 21, 1945 (Saka)**

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**DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193**

*Re: Construction of historic Shri Ram Temple and the Pran Pratishtha of Shri Ramlala.*

**DR. SATYAPAL SINGH** *initiating said:* I am fortunate enough to have been afforded an opportunity to speak on the construction of Ram temple and *Pran Pratishtha* of Shri Ram Lalla there on January 22, 2024. Shri Ram does not belong to Hindus Only, rather he is an entity of universal presence. Whereas He is the ancestral being of all of us, He is an epitome of sustained inspiration for all of us as well. As all of us are referring to Lord Rama in our discussion today, we are certainly about to add some virtue to our deeds. Ram is an abiding consciousness, Ram is the legacy, Ram is the civilization, Ram is the culture. Ram is omnipresent. The persona of Lord Ram is so wide-ranging and stupendous that one simply cannot afford to limit his presence to the geographical metrics of any denomination. To put it in perspective, I would like to submit that His presence is prevalent across several countries across the world. And '*Valmiki Ramayan*' is the solitary bibliographic authentic source to know Lord Rama, which finds mentions that Lord Rama was born in the 24th Treta Yuga. In the course of Struggle for the freedom movement, Mahatma Gandhi used to say that there would be Ram Rajya in independent India. What was so specific about the Ram Rajya? Goswami Tulsidas ji writes in the Ram charit manas that the Ram Rajya had no instance of disorder or disease and people would lead their lives driven by the jewel of love in a spirit of harmony. Ram temple is not a mere structure built of concrete and stones, it is the embodiment of the faith of crores of people of the country presented in tangible form. There is such a long history of struggle of 500 years. About 1 lakh 74 thousand people died in the struggle in pursuit of the construction of Ram temple. In a didactic discourse, Maharshi Vashishta tells Kaikeyi as a guide that one cannot think of a nation sans Ram and he further asserts that wherever there is existence of Ram there only there is an existence of a Nation. We are the vigilant custodians of the nation and we are obliged to keep Lord Rama in our living memory. We have to build this nation. Today, after

the construction of this Ram temple, the ever-vocal soul and consciousness of this country have awakened.

**SHRI GAURAV GOGOI:** This is a country characterised by devotion. This country is a country of faith. In this country, we bind our diversity with goodwill and cherish the society with a sense of service. Lord Rama belongs to everyone and he is with us all the time. When we meet each other, we exchange greetings by saying 'Ram-Ram' in North India or Western India. What is Mahatma Gandhi's definition of Ram Rajya? Where everyone is happy and no one is sad, this is his definition. Gandhi ji has also said that his Hindu dharma teaches him to respect all religions, the secret of Ram Rajya is inherent in this definition. We should ponder whether all the backward, deprived and minorities are happy, this was the definition of Ram Rajya by Mahatma Gandhi. But today we are seeing that crimes against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are on the rise. If we compare it with the year gone by, crime has gone up by around 50 percent in the year 2023. Is this Ram Rajya? Today the backward classes are demanding a caste census because they see that injustice is being meted out to them, and caste discrimination is taking place. Sita Mata has also been referred to in the Ramayana. Sita Mata never let her patience and strength diminish, but did the Dalit daughter of Unnao, our women wrestlers, have the same feeling when they were fighting for their rights? It is mentioned in the report of our own Parliamentary Committee that women belonging to the Scheduled Castes are being harassed on the basis of caste and gender and they are also sexually exploited. After this discussion in the Lok Sabha, when all the MPs go to their respective constituencies, they will see helplessness among the youth. Today, due to this unemployment, the helpless Indian youth has chosen the path of drugs and crime. Today, they helplessly arrange some funds and migrate to a foreign country. This is the reality. We cannot deny this truth. That is why our party has been doing social service for so many years. We are aware of the truth. We have done a lot, but still a lot remains to be done. We too have no objection in admitting that we have made mistakes. Whereas the Congress follows Gandhi's Ram Rajya, we walk on the path of justice. We believe in secularism. People living in India believe in different religions and we believe in equality of all religions. Not just scripture, but there is so much strength in the soil of this country that binds the different languages and faiths of 140 crore people with integrity, love and goodwill. Therefore, I would also like to caution the ruling party that it should desist from following the path of Nathuram. They should not allow the tradition of glorifying Nathuram either. You should not have any hesitation in this. I would like to say that one must refrain from exhibiting ego in one's conduct. Ravana was killed due to his ego. It is the egoistic approach of the government that keeps it from casting a look on rising inflation and instability in the country, whether it is in Manipur, Ladakh or along the border with

China. Your ego prevents you from perceiving the growing apprehension that exists in society today, particularly among minorities. This country did not come into existence when this Government came to Power in the year 2014, this country did not emerge on earth on January 22, 2024. Ram Lalla was always with us. He was with us even 500 years ago and is with us even today and when your Government is not in Power he will be with us tomorrow also. Ram is in our hearts. There should be love and goodwill in saying Jai Shri Ram. But bitterness and anger are always heard in your Jai Shri Ram, why is it so? The Indian National Congress Party has always worked to confer rights on the citizens of India in a spirit of service, inspired by the values of Gandhiji and the guidance of Dr. Ambedkar. We also expect you to work in a spirit of service in whatever time is left in your tenure. Let me remind you once again that in our country there are many religions, many scriptures, many prophets, but if there is any scripture of governance, it is only the Constitution.

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI):** I being associated with the Ram Janmabhoomi movement, support this motion in this new House and compliment the illustrious Prime Minister of the country on behalf of the saints and the people of the country. This was a struggle of 500 years. Although the name of any person from outside cannot be mentioned here, today when I stand to speak on this motion, I would like to recall the respected late Ashok Singhal Ji. The saints who never knew how to live under roofs, who used to live in forests, under the trees, they all gathered in the Kumbh of Prayagraj for the Ram Janmabhoomi on the request of Ashok Singhal ji. Now there was a lot of discussion from the opposition side. They talked about Bapuji. After independence, Mahatma Gandhi had also said that since independence had been achieved, Congress should be abolished. This was not accepted. But if anyone has truly implemented the idea of Ram Rajya, it has been implemented by the illustrious Prime Minister of the country. The people of the country are watching what the opposition did to Ram. Earlier in the year 2019, their counsel had appeared in court and submitted that a Judgment should not be passed in favour of the construction of the Ram temple. I respect the judges and congratulate the Hon. Prime Minister of the country. We have to change history now by reading the *Ramcharit Manas* and follow the path of Lord Ram. Hon. Prime Minister has added recognition to the poor in the society following the footsteps of Maryada Purushottam and houses have been allotted to 4 crore poor people. I was overwhelmed with emotion to see Lord Shri Ram being consecrated in the Grand temple at Ayodhya by the Illustrious Prime Minister of the country. The Hon. Prime Minister like Lord Ram has expressed concern for the poor and the backward.

**SHRI MADDILA GURUMOORTHY:** I would like to speak about Lord Rama and the importance of the eternal teachings of Lord Rama. As depicted in the Ramayana, his reign, termed as 'Ram Rajya' symbolized good governance, and epitomised justice, welfare and happiness for all. The leadership of Lord Rama was dedicated to fairness, compassion, and the welfare of his people above all else. The Lord Venkateshwara Temple in my parliamentary constituency at Tirupati is one of the most famous temples in our country. Anjanadri Hill, one of the seven Hills, is supposed to be the birthplace of Hanuman. Another location Lepakshi is referenced in the Ramaana which stands as a testament to the widespread reverence of Lord Rama's legacy. By developing these sites, we will enhance India's cultural heritage tourism as well as reinforce the bonds of unity and spirituality inspired by Lord Rama. We request the Government for comprehensive development and better connectivity to all religious sites nationwide to further enrich our cultural heritage and thereby strengthen the fabric of our society.

**SHRI RAMPRIT MANDAL:** I would like to express my gratitude to you for giving me the opportunity to participate in the discussion on the Construction of the Historic Shri Ram Temple and the consecration of Shri Ramlala. The name of Ram is unforgettable to all of us on every occasion of life and the unveiling of the idol of Ramlala and construction of the temple by our Hon. Prime Minister has been a historic work. I request the Hon. Prime Minister that just as the Ram Mandir was built in Ayodhya, similarly a grand temple should also be built at Sitamarhi in Bihar, which is the birthplace of Maa Janaki.

**SHRI PRATAP CHANDRA SARANGI:** Lord Ram is a symbol of dignity. Lord Shri Ram is the ideal of supreme character all over the world. He is also a symbol and ideal of social harmony and national unity. Lord Rama incarnated to organize society. He gave respect to the forest dwellers belonging to the neglected section of the society who joined his army and he displayed social harmony through his conduct and awakened the consciousness of love for the people. Some anti-social elements are trying to destroy the *Sanatan* values and create confusion. The king worships the people in the rule of the Hon. Prime Minister. The poor, mothers, youth and common people are worshipped here. Lord Shri Ramchandra is the epitome of our faith. He is the identity, pride and self-respect of this nation. On the basis of all the evidence, the Shri Ram temple has been constructed as per the decision of the Hon'ble Court. This temple is our National temple and Lord Shri Ram is a symbol of virtues. Matri Bhakti, Pitri Bhakti, Guru Bhakti, patriotism, sacrifice, and national effrontery all these find their basis in Lord Shri Ram. The previous Government had compromised the defence of the nation but our Government, be it Pulwama or Uri, responded through surgical strikes. We will not tease anyone, but we will not leave

anyone who teases us. The temple was built at the birthplace of Lord Rama by his son Kush. This temple was destroyed by a foreign invader in 1033. Then in 1528, the foreign invader Babar sent his commander called Mir Baqi Khan and got the temple demolished. Efforts were made to free this temple continuously for 500 years. Those supporting the Ram Temple never carried weapons with them. Hundreds of *Kar Sevaks* died in the Ram Mandir movement. It is impossible to imagine India without Ram. Only Ram can unite this country. When this country was divided on caste lines owing to the recommendations made by the Mandal Commission, Ram Temple ushered in unity to this country. It tied the country in the thread of unity. During the tenure of our Government, this temple was inaugurated and Lord Shri Ram was also consecrated. Lord Ram was completely non-communal, he emancipated the fallen and embraced everyone. Lord Shri Ram is the symbol of this universal sense of values. Our Government also works on the principle of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Prayas and Sabka Vishwas'.

**DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:** Today is a very historic moment for all of us. Today, after 75 years, we are discussing the Ram Temple in this august house. Lakhs and crores of people dreamt of the Ram temple and that dream was fulfilled on 22 January. The wait of centuries has ended with the construction of the Ram temple. Just as Independence Day symbolises millions of sacrifices and the spirit of freedom, similarly the construction of the Ram Temple symbolises the unbroken tenacity, sacrifice and determination of many generations. This Ram temple will now become a modern symbol of Indian culture, a symbol of national spirit. Congress leaders did not even attend the consecration of Ram temple. They did not want the Ram temple to be built, so how could they visit there? Whatever sin you have committed, you can atone for that sin by taking the darshan of Ramlala in the temple. The temple in Ayodhya is built on a peaceful path. We are not against any religion. Some people say that become the guardians of religion, do not become contractors of religion. I want to tell them that it is they who have done the contracting. They opened fire. A fake report was made through ASI, and they submitted in the court that both Lord Shri Ram and Ram Setu were imaginary. I would like to tell them that we are the custodians of religion. The Hindu Dharma teaches us secularism. None of our religious structures has been erected by demolishing a mosque or a church. Ours is the only country where there is cultural diversity. How can development happen without our culture and history? Today critics wonder what the need for the temple is, they can see here we have examples of the Kedarnath corridor, the Kashi corridor, the Ayodhya, and Ujjain Mahakal whenever renovation took place, the economy also revived there. Once again, I thank the Hon'ble Prime Minister of this country, because of whom today our generation and many coming generations will not have to see Ram Lala in a small hut, but in

the 'Rashtra Mandir'. 'A grand, divine temple has been built in Ayodhya, which will continue to provide energy to the coming generations.

**SHRI MALOOK NAGAR:** This temple was built by the orders of the Honourable Supreme Court. When the survey was being conducted in the year 1976, it was mentioned in K.K. Muhammed's Report that the remains of a temple were found beneath the structure of the mosque and it was built by Gurjara-Pratihara. The wave of happiness that spread across the country due to the construction of the temple and the festival that was celebrated across the country was a matter of great joy. I would like to tell my opposition colleagues that at least do not oppose this. If you oppose this then why do you go to temples when there are elections in the country? A mosque is also being built there by the orders of the hon. court. So tomorrow when the mosque is built there, we will welcome it too.

**SHRI HANS RAJ HANS:** We are fortunate that we were born in India and that Ayodhya is located in India. We deem ourselves to be lucky enough to belong to the tradition of chanting Rama's name. If one wishes to know Ram, harbouring love and compassion is a prerequisite for it. He is unintelligible and beyond comprehension if one is deficient in these two jewels. Prayers for the fulfilment of wishes and inherent desires of the people have been granted by Him. The day of 22nd January ensued at the altar of innumerable lives dedicated to this cause that enabled us to breathe a sigh of relief today. Lord Rama is the embodiment of love and humanity. If one is inquisitive to know Lord Ram and be familiar to Him, one will have to first espouse the essence of equality. The Socialism that we fondly refer to quite often is attributed to Lord Rama. Today we talk big but one must not consign it to oblivion that Lord Ram is such an entity that made sacrifices. India also needs Lord Rama at this time. Let's take this nation to be Rama and act like Hanuman. Our illustrious, vigorous and sage-like Prime Minister had fair and sacrosanct intentions, he had reverence for Lord Rama, which is why the most important role of carrying out of *PranPratishtha* was bequeathed to Him by the Almighty. If one really wishes to be an ideal son, brother and good human being and have to even emerge as an administrator steering the vehicle of good governance, one will have to adopt the philosophy and the patterns of His conduct in life.

**SHRI ARVIND SAWANT:** I am very happy that Lord Rama is being discussed in this House today. The first political slogan in this country - 'Say with pride we are Hindus' was given by the venerable Bala Saheb Thackeray. The history of 1992 is well known. The Karsevaks had a big role in this. We mustn't forget them. After the demolition of structure in 1992, Bala Saheb Thackeray ji was the only person in India who had taken this responsibility. We believe that the temple of Lord Ramchandra ji is our faith in this country, our identity, and the identity of this

country. All I would say is that Prabhu Ramchandra was the epitome of sacrifice, commitment and truth. Lord Ramchandra Ji was sent into exile. On the demand of His stepmother Kaikeyi, His father King Dasharath ordered Lord Rama Chandra to go to the forest. He renounced power and went into exile. Ravana abducted Sitaji, which led to the battle between Lord Ram and Ravana culminating in the killing of Ravana. Prabhu Ramchandra ji did not take the reign. He bequeathed the seat of power to Vibhishana. The battle of Kishkindha took place. He stood with Sugriva in the battle of Kishkindha. Kishkindha was won, however, Lord Ramchandra Ji handed over the reign to Sugriva. This example is very important. Through these precedents, I wish to highlight the critically important aspect that Lord Ram ruled the hearts of the people without assuming the seat of power and thus he became the soul of the whole of India.

**DR. AMOL RAMSINGH KOLHE:** The construction of the Ram temple is a historic event. On the occasion of this historic event, along with every person who has contributed to the temple construction work, I would like to congratulate the entire country. Ram Mandir and Maryada Purushottam Prabhu Shri Ram is not an issue of politics or election campaign, but it has been the glorious tradition of our country that there should be no politics in religion and religion should not come into politics. The history of the world is witness to the fact that religious fanaticism harms the nation. At the same time, religious liberalism and globalism elevate the nation and humanity to great heights. My Hindu religion is venerated in the world because of this generosity, globalism and tolerance. In the path of devotion, three things are very important, path, means and end. Ram temple is a means and to follow the ideals of Maryada Purushottam Shri Ram Chandra Ji in your life and to behave like Him should be the end. Prabhu Ram Chandra was the epitome of sacrifice, commitment and the ideal husband. Another very important quality of Prabhu Shri Ram ji is to treat every citizen with equal justice. The Ram temple has been built, but the Shiva memorial of Chhatrapati Shivaji, which is to be constructed in the Arabian Sea, is still waiting for construction. Along with the same Shiv Memorial, Shiv Sanskar Smarak should be built on the premises of Shivneri Fort in my constituency so that the youth of the country continue to be inspired to make a supreme contribution to the mother and motherland.

**SHRI SUNIL KUMAR PINTU:** The day of January 22, 2024 became historic because on this very day the temple of Ram lala was ready and Pran Pratishtha of Ram lala was performed in that temple. Every particle of Sitamarhi is sacrosanct. I consider myself to be blessed that I too was born in that land of Mother Sita. Today, if any temple should be built after the temple of Lord Rama, then there should be a grand temple of Mother Sita in Sitamarhi and the name of Sitamarhi

should not be Sitamarhi but Sita marhi Dham akin to Ayodhya Dham. I would like to say another thing that when Pran Pratishtha of Ram lala was being performed in the temple at Ayodhya on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January, then the people of Sitamarhi reached there from the maternal home of Mother Sita by loading goods on 21 trucks from Sitamarhi, as we believe that when our daughter's new house is built, the entire house is filled with the gifts from the maternal home, the people of Ayodhya said that the people of Sitamarhi are blessed that today they have brought so much gift to fill Lord Shri Ram's And Maiya Sita's house. All the residents of Ayodhya expressed gratitude to Sitamarhi. I want to say that we should not say Jai Shri Ram, it should be Jai Siyaram, because Ram is incomplete without His consort Sita.

**SHRI RAHUL RAMESH SHEWALE:** When there was a meeting of all party leaders before the beginning of this session, I had proposed on behalf of Shiv Sena that a congratulatory motion should be tabled in regard to the construction of Ram temple in this session. For this, I would like to thank the Government that the demand of Shiv Sena is being fulfilled today through this discussion under Rule 193. Today, after the construction of the grand Ram temple in Ayodhya, our mind is filled with emotion by remembering our adorable God Shri Ram. Many people question the existence of Lord Shri Rama. I would like to tell them that the name of Lord Rama has the power that even stones float in water, provided the name of Lord Rama is not taken with emotion but with full devotion. Lord Rama is not just a deity, not just the hero of an epic, He is the inspiration of India, Lord Rama is the ideal of India and Lord Rama is an honour of India. The reconstruction of Shri Ram temple in Ayodhya is the reconstruction of the ideals of this country. This is not just the construction of a temple, it is the beginning of the construction of a new India. The announcement of awarding 'Bharat Ratna' to honorable LK Advaniji, who played an important role in giving an edge to the Ram temple movement, is an honour to 140 crore people of the country. Along with Honourable Advaniji, former Prime Minister of the country Narasimha Rao ji also has an important contribution in the construction of Lord Ram temple in Ayodhya. By announcing the highest honour of the country i.e. 'Bharat Ratna', 130 crore Hindus of the country have been honoured. Shiv Sena founder Late Balasaheb Thackeray has also contributed a lot in paving the way for the construction of Ram temple. He played an important role in the demolition strategy. I would like to demand from the Government that the 130 crore Hindus of the country should be honoured by awarding Bharat Ratna to this great personality of the country, Shiv Sena chief Balasaheb Thackeray ji. There has been a huge contribution and sacrifice of karsevaks. I would like to demand from the Government that for the karsevaks, who have sacrificed their lives, if a pension scheme is introduced for their families by the Government, then their work will be greatly honoured.

**DR. UMESH G. JADAV:** It is not just a temple; it is a temple of faith of every person who has dreamt for it. This Ram Mandir is a symbol of trust in the judicial system. This Ram Mandir is the symbol of trust of crores of people who voted for this Government with the confidence that the Ram temple will be built. I come from the Banjara community whose people greet everyone by saying Ram-Ram. Many esteemed personalities of Banjara community were invited to the inauguration ceremony of historic Sri Ram Temple and Pran Pratishtha of Shri Ramlala. I would like to thank the respected Prime Minister and Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Tirtha Kshetra Committee for giving such a big opportunity to my Banjara community on this auspicious occasion. The day of Pran Pratishtha of Shri Ramlala was a historic day for every person and everyone has lived that moment and this auspicious occasion in his or her own way. There was a festival-like atmosphere among the people of the Banjara community. I thank the people of my Parliamentary Constituency Gulbarga who celebrated this historic day of Pran Pratishtha of Shri Ramlala with happiness and peace.

**SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU:** I would like to congratulate our 140 crore Indians on the Pran Pratishtha of Shri Ramlala in Ayodhya. Lord Ram has been a part of our country's identity for thousands of years. Lord Ram is omnipresent from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and from Somnath to Pasighat. He is celebrated not only in our country but also across various other countries like Indonesia, Myanmar, Vietnam, Thailand, Laos, etc. We remember Lord Ram in joy as well as in sadness. Even before I knew anything about politics, I knew about the virtues of Lord Ram and Ramayana. At the end of his great epic journey during his *vanvas* for 14 years, he brought the integration of North and South India. We the Telugu people of Andhra Pradesh have a very close association with the journey of Lord Shri Ram, especially with places like Bhadrachalam, which is also called as Dakshin Ayodhya. He showcased such qualities that people across religions and civilisations have a deep respect for him. His ideals and morals on governance which we dearly called 'Ramrajya' have long been considered to be the pinnacle of how a Government must work. When Lord Ram decided to go to Lanka to protect Maa Sita from the clutches of Ravana, his army did not consist only of one group. He chose to work collectively with Lord Hanuman to Jatayu and from Laxshman to Vibhishan. Even a small animal like a squirrel came in support of Lord Ram. They were all with him not merely because he was God but because he inspired them to come together and achieve collective greatness. Similarly, Ram Rajya speaks about the necessity of all parts of society working collectively together. A society cannot grow if there is no collective growth. Actually, Lord Ram is prevalent across all sections and religions of our country. His ideals are relevant from education to foreign policy and from governance to communal harmony.

**SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:** I stand against this Motion. I wonder how Lok Sabha can speak in different voices. The Lok Sabha should speak in one voice. Is this Government a Government of one community or one religion or is it the Government of the people of all religions of the country? I believe this country has no religion. I respect Maryada Purushottam Ram. Today, India's 17 crore Muslims are taking themselves to be strangers and alienated. I will never believe in false and deceitful things now and will continue to work within the ambit of the Constitution. When the Prime Minister replies, will he speak for 140 crore people of India or will he reply only to those who care about Hindutva? Let me stand as a tall Indian Muslim and say that the light of Indian democracy is at its dimmest today.

**THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COOPERATION (SHRI AMIT SHAH):** Today I want to place before this House the sentiment of the people of the country, which had been buried in court papers for years. January 22 is going to be a historic day for ten thousand years. It marks the end of a struggle and a movement to fight against injustice that began in the year 1528. Actually, this day is a day of hope, aspiration and accomplishment of millions of devotees and the revival of the spiritual consciousness of the whole India. We cannot imagine this country without Ram and Ram Charitra. Ram is not a person; Ram is a symbol of crores of people on how to lead an ideal life. That is why he has been called Maryada Purushottam. The Pran Pratishtha of Shri Ramlala has been done by the Hon. Prime Minister. We are all very fortunate to have the privilege of being witness to this day. A number of countries have accepted the Ramayana and reinforced it as an ideal epic. The Ramayana has been translated abroad into the languages of Nepal, Java, Indonesia, Cambodia, Tibet and people derive inspiration from it in all these countries. In our country, tribal life also abounds in different cultures and different traditions. In Oraon, Bodo, Santhal, Sankal, Vibhor and Chhota Nagpur, everywhere Ramayana was translated into local languages and people have made efforts to make their lives ideal on the basis of the Ramayana. The national aspiration has been fulfilled by the incumbent Prime Minister on 22nd January at the auspicious moment. The long movement that went on from the year 1528 till now has come to an end and the spiritual consciousness of the country has been awakened. All I want to say is that no one can read the history of this country without being aware of this movement. This matter kept lingering for a long time. Today, during the tenure of Modi ji, this dream had to be fulfilled and today the country has seen the dream coming true. Even before this movement took place in 1990, the Bharatiya Janata Party had made this promise to the people of the country. We had passed a resolution in the meeting of the Executive Committee, Palampur saying that the construction of the Ram temple is a movement for the revival of the consciousness of the country. Therefore, we will get the Ram Janmabhoomi freed

legally and then establish a Ram temple there. Be it Article 370, Ram Janmabhoomi, abrogating triple talaq, it is said that we make such promises to garner votes. When we deliver on our promises, they protest a lot. Even today I say that the Bharatiya Janata Party and our leader Narendra Modi ji do whatever they say. This is the character of our party and it is not a hidden thing. We have been saying since 1986 that a grand Ram temple should be built there; it should be built in a constitutional manner. If someone had defied the Supreme Court and built a temple there, you could have said anything, but when the division bench of the apex court of the country took this decision, then how can you ignore it? You accept the decision if you like it and respect the Supreme Court and if you do not like any decision, then it does not augur well to criticize the Supreme Court. The decision of the Supreme Court today has highlighted the secular character of India to the entire world. There is not a single country in the world where the majority community fought such a long legal battle to practise their faith. We have continued to wait, fought the legal battle in the Supreme Court and a grand Ram temple has been built there today after the judgement in the matter was delivered by the Supreme Court. Ultimately, when the court delivered justice, Modi ji started it by laying its foundation on August 5, 2020. Advani ji also started the journey from Somnath to Ayodhya. Along with this, Ashok Singhal ji took the fight started by Nihangs to its acme, Advani ji created public awareness and Modi ji awakened a spiritual consciousness by fulfilling the public aspiration. Whenever the history of the world will be written, this entire movement will be seen as a democratic value that a country, after being patient for so long to fulfil the religious beliefs of its majority society, kept appealing to the Supreme Court and after the judgement the Supreme Court comes, it should be executed in a cordial environment. Without having viewed the court's judgement as victory or defeat, the Modi ji's prescient thinking has caused a court order to be accepted by everyone. The trust gave him the opportunity to lay the foundation stone as a representative of the public, the entire conduct of Modi ji at that time should be carefully observed. The Prime Minister came forward to salute all those who contributed even like a squirrel to the cause of Ram. When the time came for Bhoomi Pujan of Ram temple, no political slogans were raised. The movement of Bhakti is not new to this country. All Bhakti movements have been instrumental in strengthening the country from time to time. They have deepened everyone's faith in Sanatan Dharma. Like a pole star in the pitch dark night, the Bhakti movement led the people of the country. It is my solemn request to those who are bent on creating fissiparous rhetoric even in such a conscious environment, that you recognize the time, accept the message of unity and start looking ahead, this is for the good of India and all of us. This very big message has been given by Modi ji, who is not a preacher of any sect or religion, yet such an example of devotion and spiritual consciousness of such a person will hardly be found anywhere in the whole

world. In the economic sector, he has taken the country out of the situation of policy paralysis and propelled our economy from 11th position to 5th position. The construction of Ram temple and the *Pranpratishtha* of Ram Lala led to an expression of the entire Indian culture through. This temple is a wonderful example of social unity and cultural renaissance.

**SHRI B.B PATIL:** As India moves towards a magical path of development and spirituality, here we enter a new era of spiritual harmony with the inauguration of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya. The construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya is a historic event in the history of India. It is expected that the Ram temple will contribute to developing Ayodhya as a major religious and cultural centre. Ram temple also has great economic importance. We hope that it will attract a large number of visitors and promote spiritual tourism in Ayodhya. This will not only create employment for the local people but will also attract new businesses around the temple. I would also like to mention here that there is Ketaki Sangameshwara Temple in my Lok Sabha constituency Zaheerabad, Telangana, which is known as Dakshin Kashi. Apart from this, there are many ancient temples, like Mirzapur Hanuman Temple, Sri Somalingeshwara Swamy Temple in Durki, and Kaal Bhairav Swamy Temple in Ramareddy for the development of which efforts need to be made by the Central Government.

**SHRI NABA KUMAR SARANIA:** Judgement on Ram Mandir has been delivered by the Supreme Court and Ram Mandir has been built under its guidelines. I just want to say one thing these tribal people of ours are physiolater. They also want whether it is Sarna wala or Batwa wala, their religion should also get equal respect. I would like the voices of those people to be heard as well. The history of Shri Ram ji is related to us also because the tribals supported Him in the battle. People think that Ram rajya is a dream kingdom where there will be justice, peace and brotherhood. We hope that there will be justice, peace and tranquility in India in the seeds of time.

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**UTPAL KUMAR SINGH**  
**Secretary General**

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\*\* Supplement covering the rest of the proceeding is being issued separately.

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**LOK SABHA**  
**SUPPLEMENT TO SYNOPSIS OF DEBATES**  
(Proceedings other than Questions & Answers)

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**Saturday, February 10, 2024 / Magha 21, 1945 (Saka)**

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**DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193**

*Re: Construction of historic Shri Ram Temple and the Pran Pratishtha of Shri Ramlala.*

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**SHRI DHAIRYASHEEL SAMBHAJIRAO MANE:** This is the only Parliament where we have got the good fortune of honouring Lord Ramchandra ji upon his arrival in Ayodhya. Today is an auspicious day when we all are progressing ahead through democratic ways. Two temples have been inaugurated viz. the temple of Lord Shri Ramchandra ji has been inaugurated at Ram Janmabhoomi and the biggest temple of democracy has also been inaugurated. The members who are present in this House are witness to the historic moment. Nepotism was mentioned in the House. One who progresses ahead through his own hard work should not be termed as resorting to nepotism. A king's son will not become a king; only the deserving person will become king.

**SHRI GIRISH CHANDRA:** Our country runs according to the Constitution. The Preamble of the Constitution is the basic soul of the Constitution. Keeping in mind the sovereignty, unity and integrity of the country, the Honourable Supreme Court awarded the disputed land to the Ram Temple as per the provision given in the Constitution. On the other hand, an alternate piece of land was provided to the Muslim brothers for the construction of a mosque.

**SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY:** Shri Ram is a symbol of faith for us. We feel immense pride when we talk of the construction of Lord Shri Ram's temple or about its consecration today. All of us dreamt of 'Ram Rajya'. We have got the opportunity to build the Ram temple and to have 'Darshan' of the temple. I would also like to speak about Lord Krishna because I hail from Jagannath Dham i.e. Puri Dham. Puri Dham or Jagannath Dham is one of the four Dhams. A few days back, on 17<sup>th</sup> January, the Government of Odisha celebrated the Parikrama Utsav of Lord Jagannath temple. It was a grand celebration of the Lord Jagannath Temple complex, which truly looks heavenly. The tagline of Odisha Tourism Department is "India's Best Kept Secret". I invite all of you to visit Puri or Srikshetra. I want to request hon. Minister of Railways to start a train from Puri to Ayodhya soon on a daily basis. Along with that, a train should also be started from Puri to Katra. Today is the last day of this 17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha in the House. I am also proud that we got an opportunity

to sit in the old Parliament building as well as in the new building. I am thankful to all. I would like everyone to be very happy, stay united and may social harmony always prevail in our country.

**SHRIMATI NAVNEET RAVI RANA:** Every citizen of the country started reading and writing about the Ram temple and its history for the last several years. The country built the grand temple and did not let our faith perish. The temple was built and Lord Ram is worshipped in the temple. Every person in the country who believes in Lord Ram believed that someone will come to build the said temple. On the day the Ram temple was being constructed or Lord Ram was worshipped, the eyes of the people in the country filled with tears thinking that all these time, they all had their own homes except Lord Ram who has been worshipped all over the country. The country has witnessed miracles and we will witness more miracles in the future.

**SMT. SANGEETA AZAD:** Lord Shri Ramlala has finally shifted to his house after spending 500 years in a tent. I, on behalf of my constituency Lalganj, Azamgarh, would like to convey my best regards to the Government and the Hon. Prime Minister. Azamgarh is surrounded by Kashi, Ayodhya and Gorakhnath and at its centre, lies Azamgarh which is the heart of Purvanchal. Azamgarh, symbolizes the composite culture of Ganga-Jamuna, where the bell of a temple and the azan of a mosque both resonate together in harmony. Here is the *Charan Paduka (footwear)* of Sri Guru Gobind Saheb, one of the Gurus of the Sikhs. The holy Palmeshwari Shaktipeeth is also situated here. Peace, love, happiness and brotherhood prevail at this place. Azamgarh has given this country many scientists, IAS, engineers, doctors, ministers and even a Chief Minister to Uttar Pradesh. I would like to request the Government to connect my city with Kashi and Ayodhya circuit, so that the doors of tourism and employment may open, migration of people could be checked and my city's progress be ensured. While congratulating the Government, I would like to demand that Bharat Ratna should also be conferred upon Manyavar Kanshi Ramji and Mulayam Singhji. Because, Baba Saheb made the provision of the right to vote in the Constitution, but Manyavar Kanshi Ram Saheb and Manyavar Shri Mulayam Singh Ji made the crores of Dalits, exploited, poor and the entire society realise the value of that single vote. I also thank the people of my Lok Sabha constituency, Lalganj who have chosen me to be their voice by electing and sending me here to

this August House.

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL):** The nation is incomplete without its cultural identity because our cultural identity gives us an opportunity to be proud of our past and only by taking pride in our past our country becomes complete. Lord Shri Ram is the symbol of Indian culture and symbol of National Consciousness. From Kartarpur Corridor to Buddhist Circuit, Vindhyaachal Corridor and the legacy of Kabir have been preserved. Our journey of cultural upliftment is paving the way for the progress of the country today, because religious tourism in itself has emerged as a sector that strengthens the country's economy. The consecration programme took place in Ayodhya. Now the way forward is the nation building. In the process of nation-building, every poor person has been provided with a pucca house to live in. Safe drinking water has been supplied to every household and electricity connection has been provided. Poor has been provided free of cost treatment. Along with political democracy, economic and social equality will truly empower the country.

**SHRI MOHAN MANDAVI:** While speaking on Ram Mandir, I would like to say that Lord Ram is not a mere imagination. Lord Ram incarnated 22 thousand crore years ago. Today *Ramayana* is more popular than *Ramcharit Manas*. I have distributed 51 thousand *Ramayana* in my Constituency and I have been awarded with the Golden Book of World Records. Only those who are pure can ultimately seek God. Hon. Prime Minister is a pure Soul and he is preparing human beings for living in Ram Raj. While working with keeping God in the conscious, every wish is fulfilled. It is the wish of the Hon. Prime Minister that responsible youth is groomed in every village.

*The discussion was not concluded.*

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### **ADDRESS BY THE SPEAKER**

**HON. SPEAKER:** Hon. Members, the construction of a grand, divine temple of Lord Shri Ram at His birthplace in the ancient holy city of Ayodhya is a historic and glorious achievement for the country. All of the MPs are participating

in the joy and enthusiasm of the countrymen on this occasion with full unity, reverence and devotion. Also, through this proposal, we appreciate the same. This is an unforgettable moment in the country's development journey, which is very important for India socially, culturally and historically. Lord Shri Ram, his consort Sita and the Ramayana are present in every particle of Indian civilization and culture. Our Constitution, dedicated to our democratic values and justice for all, has been inspired by the ideals of Ram Rajya. January 22, 2024, is such a historical date for the whole of India, remembering that our generations will remain overwhelmed for ages. Our Hon. Prime Minister has played a unique and unparalleled role in uniting the entire nation on this auspicious occasion associated with Lord Ram. He observed the difficult *Yam-Niyam* with absolute dedication to the ritual of consecration of the idol of Shri Ramlala. During this time, he also visited important pilgrimage places associated with Lord Shri Ram from Nashik to Lipakshi and Triprayar to Rameshwaram and gave the message of national unity. This visit has once again made the countrymen experience the power of unity in diversity. In the consecration ceremony on 22nd January, the Hon. Prime Minister spoke in great detail about the awakening of the spiritual consciousness of the country. Every section of the society has welcomed Lord Shri Ram wholeheartedly, showing complete unity and goodwill. The temple of Lord Shri Ram in Ayodhya is a direct symbol of the sentiments of '*Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat*'. People's faith in our law and democracy shows how strong and deep the foundation of our democratic institutions is. When the Supreme Court's decision came, the Hon. Prime Minister through his statement gave wonderful inspiration to the society to maintain peace instead of feeling victorious and defeated. The temple of Lord Shri Ram built in Ayodhya after centuries of penance has started a new era of good governance and public welfare in the country. Lord Shri Ram always respected all sections of society and dedicated his entire life to the welfare of the people. We all are feeling very proud to pass this motion related to the grand temple of Lord Shri Ram. We are confident that this historic achievement will send a message of hope, unity and values of collectivism to the coming generations.

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### VALEDICTORY REFERENCES

**SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE:** I take this opportunity to thank the

Hon. Speaker, the Treasury Benches and the entire Opposition. I don't even know how these five years went by. It seems as if the results came only yesterday. Everyone suffered a loss of two years due to COVID-19. The way you and your entire office worked is commendable. There were many disagreements during these five years, but the relationship remained intact. This batch of ours will be a batch which has worked in both old and new buildings. The place of development this country has reached in 70 years is due to everyone's hard work. I am deeply grateful to all of you for supporting us all. I am very grateful to all the people of my constituency. I cannot express my gratitude to the party right now, because the party is in a bit of a dilemma. When we come next time, you all should stay together. Political fights will continue, but there should never be differences and bitterness in our relations, this is the best thing about democracy.

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL):** This is the last day of the 17th Lok Sabha in the new Parliament House. We didn't even realise how five years passed by. For all of us MPs who have spent five years from the Samvidhaan Sadan to this new House, these are unforgettable moments of life for all of us, which are captured in our memories forever. Today on this last day, I would like to express my gratitude to you from the bottom of my heart. Hon. Speaker, during your tenure you have taken many innovative initiatives to increase the efficiency of MPs, particularly those MPs who are elected for the first time. Your new experiments and your new innovative initiatives helped them a lot. This is my second term. On the virtue of getting elected to this House, I gained a lot of experience. Representatives of many major and small political parties are elected in this House, from all the States of the country. There are many senior MPs who have served multiple terms in this Parliament. Today, on this occasion, I would like to express my gratitude to all of them as well, because we have learned a lot from them. In the Seventeenth Lok Sabha, our Parliament also saw many historic decisions of the Government. In this seventeenth Lok Sabha, this Parliament has done the work of amending the IPC, CRPC, and Indian Evidence Act, which were symbols of British slavery. The work of passing the Women's Reservation Bill with the aim of ensuring justice and participation for half of the country's population has been done by our NDA Government. During the term of this seventeenth Lok Sabha, we witnessed the terrible tragedy of Covid-19. When the whole world was struggling with the

pandemic, India, keeping its spirit of '*Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*' paramount, worked to supply vaccines and medicines to more than 100 countries under the '*Vaccine Maitri*' Initiative. All I would like to say is that at least in the 18th Lok Sabha, whoever members of different political parties are elected here, we all should try to make good use of every moment of the House. It is better to put the Government in the dock than to expose the House to an uproar. Questions should be asked to the Government. This is a system on which all parties need to collectively brainstorm. When we come here, we are accountable towards millions of people. Therefore, when we use our time for meaningful discussions and raise issues of public interest, we are able to do justice to our responsibility. If the uproar in the House cannot be completely ended, then at least there should be a resolution that the Question Hour should not be postponed at any cost, because the biggest weapon that the opposition has is the Question Hour itself.

**SHRI RITESH PANDEY:** This Lok Sabha term has been a very unforgettable period for me. Big issues like Women's Reservation, Article 370 etc. were discussed. In these five years, we have learned a lot here. I want to thank all the Members of our Treasury Benches As well as all our colleagues from the Opposition for everything. I was elected to this Lok Sabha for the first time. Everyone held my fingers and explained and taught the practice of this House. In the 17th Lok Sabha, we have had the opportunity to refine ourselves. We are elected here so that we can represent our people well and work with full force to fight for their rights in the biggest panchayat of the country, the biggest temple of democracy.

**SHRI PRINCE RAJ:** After being selected as a Member of this 17th Lok Sabha, I said in my first speech that my experience is just like that of a new student when he goes to a new class in school. It is a matter of our good fortune, a matter of pride that we have got the opportunity to become a Member of the House at a time when the House has taken such historic decisions, in which indigenous Parliament was constructed, Article 370 was removed and things like triple talaq were removed. During the COVID period indigenous vaccine was made and an important decision was taken on women's reservation and we got the privilege of being a part of it. It was a privilege to sit here with all the hon.Members.I would like to thank everyone from the bottom of my heart. Hon.SupriyaSuleji said that the differences should be political, not personal. I absolutely support it and we also go by the same ideology

that whatever difference you have, it should be political. A personal relationship is different and we feel that we have made a personal relationship here with everyone, we have a connection with everyone. I wholeheartedly thank the people of Samastipur Lok Sabha constituency for giving me the opportunity to be a part of this House with their blessings.

**SHRI RAHUL RAMESH SHEWALE:** Before being elected to this Lok Sabha, we contested elections with NDA and we were all elected MPs. But, unfortunately, our leadership took a different decision after the Lok Sabha polls. We didn't like that decision from that point on. Later, the Chief Minister of Maharashtra state decided to join the NDA once again. We have full faith that Hon'ble Prime Minister Modi will fully cooperate in taking forward the ideas of Balasaheb Thackeray Ji. He fulfilled that faith. He fulfilled Balasaheb Thackeray's dream of abrogating Article 370 and constructing a grand Shri Ram temple in Ayodhya. The 17th Lok Sabha is a historic Lok Sabha for us. In the tenure of five years, we have fulfilled all the promises made to the people like Article 370, Women's Reservation Bill. I would also like to thank the voters of South Central Mumbai who elected me here.

**SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY:** The way everyone was given an opportunity to speak in this House, I did not even know how five years of the seventeenth Lok Sabha passed. Our journey from the old Parliament building to the new Parliament building has been historic. We have seen so many historic bills being passed here. Whether it is the matter of triple talaq, the removal of Article 370, the reservation of women, or replacing British law with Indian laws, for the first time after so many years of independence, it is a matter of great pride for us. There have been many sessions in which if the House is disrupted, it causes a big problem and hurts the heart. The message that reaches the public, especially the youth and young children, is very sad. My party always believes that no one should come to the well, we always believe in debates and deliberations. I would like to thank all the leaders and workers of Biju Janata Dal who elected us here and the people of Kendrapara. I would like to assure all the people of Odisha who have placed so many expectations on us that in the coming times also we will work as hard as we have been working to date.

**SHRI SUNIL KUMAR PINTU:** We were elected to the 17th Lok Sabha under the leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister. Our name has been recorded in history

as we were the last Member in the old Parliament House and could become the voice of the people of our constituency as the first Member in the new House. I come from Sitamarhi, the birthplace of Mother Sita. I respectfully salute the people of Sitamarhi for giving me the opportunity to raise the problems of my area and get the Government to develop my area or solve their problems. I want to tell everyone in the House that just as we have witnessed the abrogation of Article 370, passing laws regarding triple talaq, women's reservation and construction of temples in the 17th Lok Sabha, in the same way, we can witness the construction of grand temple of Sitaji in the 18th Lok Sabha.

**SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY:** When I entered into the 12<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha, I felt very happy. That was about 26 years back. It is the temple of democracy. There are 140 crore people in this country and only 543 Members in this House. I must appreciate our hon. Prime Minister has actually brought India into the world map. We have worked like a family in this Parliament. The greatest opportunity for this 17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha's Members is the shift from the old Parliament to the new Parliament. There is no Central Hall here. I request you once again to create a Central Hall here. In these five years of the Lok Sabha period, the Government has brought a lot of valuable Bills also. I must thank our hon. Prime Minister for that. It was a good experience in the 17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha. I cannot forget this in my lifetime. I actually compliment my colleagues and everybody. When we used to meet outside the Parliament also generally, like a family we used to celebrate very happily everything.

**SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH:** I salute Hon. Prime Minister for conferring 'Bharat Ratna' on farmer leader Chaudhary Charan Singh ji and Shri M.S. Swaminathan, who made the country self-reliant in the agriculture sector.

**SHRI B.B. PATIL:** In the last five years, all of us have executed several historic works working together. I also hope that in the coming days, even better work will be performed in the Lok Sabha. Our State Government received a lot of help from the Union Government during the last five years, for which I once again thank all the Ministers of the Union Government and the hon'ble Prime Minister.

**SHRI GIRISH CHANDRA:** I thank the voters of the Nagina Parliamentary Constituency in Uttar Pradesh for giving me the opportunity to work for this temple

of democracy. I also thank the dynamic Prime Minister of this country, who has taken this country forward by taking several good steps for the welfare of the country. I would also like to thank Hon. Speaker Sir for giving me the opportunity to raise the problems and development issues related to the people of my Constituency.

**SHRI PINAKI MISRA:** Many thanks to the Hon. Speaker S for giving ample opportunity to all Members here to express their views during the 17th Lok Sabha. The Treasury Benches also deserve thanks for providing proper facilities to all the Members of Parliament.

**KUNWAR DANISH ALI:** Under the leadership of the Hon. Speaker, Zero Hour became very popular as he gave opportunities to all the Members to raise issues relating to their respective constituencies during the Zero Hour. I also thank the people of my Parliamentary Constituency Amroha, with whose blessings I am present here. The need for a Central Hall is felt in the new Parliament Building.

**SHRI HAJI FAZLUR REHMAN:** The way Hon. Speaker Sir has conducted the proceedings in this House, especially during the Covid period, is commendable. Everyone will remember him in the future because of his good behaviour.

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:** I especially thank Hon. Speaker Sir for inspiring the new Members of the Parliament and for giving them opportunities to express their views in the House. 17th Lok Sabha has added many pages of history during his term which will make our country more splendid.

**SHRI MALOOK NAGAR:** Unprecedented work has been done during the 17th Lok Sabha under the leadership of Hon. Speaker. We, the Members of all parties have done a very good job working together.

**SHRIMATI NAVNEET RAVIRANA:** Hon. Speaker Sir and the experienced Members of this House never allowed the new Members here to feel that we have been elected to the Lok Sabha for the first time. We were given a fair opportunity to raise issues pertaining to our constituency. We learnt a lot from the senior Members here. If the people of my Parliamentary Constituency Amravati continue to bless me, I will be able to serve them again in the coming time.

**SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY:** The coming to the close of the current Winter Session of the Seventeenth Lok Sabha, marks yet an eventful milestone in our Parliamentary history. The current Lok Sabha too has had its share of tumultuous and also epoch-making events. We have witnessed the inauguration, opening and shifting of our Parliamentary business to the new Parliament House. We have commenced the journey of our Parliament from this new Parliament House from 19th September 2023 onwards. I would like to recall the first Session of the current Lok Sabha when Shri Om Birla was elected as the Speaker, Lok Sabha. Right from the day of assuming Office, Shri Birla has been steadfastly taking and is continuing to take a number of initiatives for smoothening and improving the Parliamentary practices and processes and providing better amenities to the hon. Members be it accommodation, medical facilities, transport, or appropriate support mechanism for discharging one's Parliamentary duties. Being the Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee, I am particularly grateful to the Speaker for his leadership and guidance in holding the centennial celebrations of the PAC on a grand scale in December, 2021. The event was truly epoch-making in the history of the Indian Parliament and its Committees. While we have discussed, debated and voted upon a number of matters of public importance, we have also had a fair share of adjournments and loss of business time of the House. This is a part and parcel of our democratic process. Debate and discussion are the hallmarks of our Parliamentary system. Despite the pulls and pressures of the times, the hon. The speaker has always maintained his composure and tried to accommodate all sections of the House in expressing their viewpoints and conducted the proceedings of the House with diligence and dignity. The Opposition in the House played its role responsibly in raising and debating on issues of immense public interest and concern that included the fallout of the COVID pandemic on the common people, the threat posed to our nation's security, problems posed by pollution, rising levels of unemployment and the effect of increasing inflationary pressures on the lives of common people. In the previous Session, we witnessed an unfortunate incident of security breach in the Parliament House which obviously is not a good sign and does not augur well. I am sure that we will not be witnessing such incidents or face any form of security threat in future. In statistical terms, the 17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha has been very productive with a very significant number of legislations passed, questions posed, matters of public importance raised during the Zero Hour and under Rule 377 and discussions held on matters of public importance. As a responsible Opposition, we have always

endeavoured to strengthen our parliamentary system of governance and will continue to do so. My Party has always stood and fought for preserving, protecting and upholding our hard-earned freedom and democratic rights and we always continue to do so. I would like to place on record my appreciation for the immense amount of hard work and labour that the Secretariat staff, who work under the administrative control of the Secretary-General have put and ensured that the sessions of the House were held with precision and perfection. As the Leader of the largest Opposition Party in the House, I would take this opportunity to express my thanks and gratitude to the hon. Speaker for his help and support.

**HON. PRIME MINISTER (SHRI NARENDRA MODI):** It is a momentous day representing a great tradition of democracy. It is an occasion to dedicate the body of thoughts traversing through the last five years that enabled us to make our contribution in embarking on landmark decisions overcoming several challenges facing us in the course of steering the nation in the right direction during the 17th Lok Sabha. These five years have been an era focussed on three axial and centripetal ends viz Reform, Performance and Transformation in the country. Hon. Speaker guided us in the House in a very meaningful way maintaining equanimity against all odds and he deserves encomium for the same. In fact, he produced an example to the world through his managing acumen while the entire world was facing the onslaught of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was during the Covid era that he proposed to the Hon. Members to forego the funds under the MPLADS and all the hon. Members readily agreed to this proposal on the spur of the moment. Not just that, in a bid to send across a positive message in society the hon. Members decided to opt for a 30 per cent deduction from their salaries on their own. This move made the countrymen believe that their representatives were the first ones to make sacrifices. Today the country has got a new Parliament House. In the new building of Parliament, a heritage piece and the first moment of independence was always kept alive by placing Sangol here as our guide. Now every year a lot of work has been done under your leadership to make it a part of the ceremonial event. During this period, India got the presidency of G-20. Every State of the country presented India's strength and its identity before the world in its own way, whose impact is still on the minds of the world. In line with G-20 hon. Speaker organised the P-20 conference which was attended by Speakers of several countries and familiarised themselves with the essence of Indian democracy. What is a significantly crucial aspect of our

great tradition of earning the epithet of being a mother of democracy is that we have always moved forward carrying out our system maintaining democratic values for centuries together. Of course, there must have been transcendental changes with the flux and flow of time but interestingly our democratic mindset has always withstood all sorts of aberrations countenanced over time. Hon. Speaker has done a great service to the common man by providing access to the treasure of knowledge available in the Parliament Library to the common man. Aside from this, Paperless Parliament, digitalization and systematic adoption of modern technology have also been undertaken for the benefit of the common man. The productivity of the 17th Lok Sabha is almost 97 per cent, but I am confident that the 18th Lok Sabha will be more than 100 per cent productive. Indeed, the country celebrated 75 years of independence with full enthusiasm and our honourable MPs and this House have played a very big role in this. There were many reforms in this tenure and it is reflective of the strong foundation of India in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The country has moved forward towards a major change at a rapid pace and all the colleagues of the House have given very good guidance and participated as well. We can say with a sense of satisfaction that much such work has been transacted in the House during the 17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha that our generation has had been awaiting for a good many years. It was in this House that Article 370 was abrogated which led to the re-emergence of the Constitution with full illumination. The people of Jammu and Kashmir had been kept devoid of the benefits of Today we find it heartening that we are imbibing a sense of satisfaction that we have been able to equip our brethren of Jammu and Kashmir with the benefits of social justice by honouring our commitment. This House witnessed the enactment of stringent laws to deal with Terrorism. As a result, the whole of the country feels as if there were no sign of terrorism and I am sure, that dream shall also be actualised. For 75 years we had been following the penal code handed down to us by the British. Even though the country has continued to be governed by the penal code for 75 years, the posterity shall henceforth be governed by the Nyaya Samhita and this is democracy in the true sense of the term. The grandeur of the new House is there, but it has started with an act that reinforces the fundamental values of India and that is the Nari Shakti Vandan Act. This is going to give us a new strength and the result of this is that in the coming times when our mothers and sisters will be sitting here in large numbers, the country will feel proud. The practice of Triple talaq which had been subjected to a precarious fate to the huge disappointment of our women folk belonging to the Muslim community

was also done away with in the aftermath of the court judgment in their favour. Freedom from Triple Talaq and thus adding the woman power has really been a very important development. Today I can see that the spirit has arisen in the country that in every street, every locality, every child has come out with a resolve to transform India into a developed country in 25 years. Therefore, this period of 25 years is of great importance for the youth power of our country. Everyone has a dream, some people have made their dream a resolution. In these five years, very historic laws have also been made for the youth. By bringing transparency into the system, new opportunities have been given to the youth. Problems like paper leaks used to worry our youth. We have enacted a very stringent law on it to address the question marks in their minds and the anger they had with the system. It is true that no human race can move forward without research. This House has done a great job of encouraging research through legislation of the National Research Foundation, the results are going to be very far-reaching. This is the very important work that this 17th Lok Sabha has done. I firmly believe that thanks to this system of youth power of the country, our country can become a hub of research in the world. In the 21st century, our basic needs are changing completely. There is a discussion in the world about what the power of data. We have secured the entire future generation by bringing the Data Protection Bill. We have given them a new weapon through the enactment of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act. Our 21st-century generation and the people of the world also have an interest in this Act. The countries of the world are studying it and are trying to adapt the system in their respective countries. Water, land, sky – these areas have been discussed for centuries, but now the need has arisen to combat the three powers of sea power, the power of space and the power of cyber and the kind of crises the world is going through, the kind of thoughts that are trying to influence the world, then we have to create positive potential in these areas and we have to make more efforts to protect ourselves from negative forces. You also have to build the ability to take up challenges. For that, necessary reforms related to space are essentially called for. We have done the work of space reform with a very far-reaching vision. All the MPs of the 17th Lok Sabha have played a major role in the economic reforms that the country has done. In the past few years, thousands of compliances were unnecessarily in place and the public used to remain entangled in such things, such a perverse system of governance has developed, and we have done a great job of getting rid of it. We have removed the Companies Act, the Limited Liability Partnership Act, and more than 60 non-essential laws. This was a huge

requirement for Ease of Doing Business. To my mind, the Jan Vishwas Act has led to the decriminalisation of more than 180 provisions. The marginalized people have come to realize the government. He used to get free injections during the Covid pandemic, he or she sighed a sense of great relief when they recovered from ailments and it cemented their faith in the power that be. Members of Parliament of the 17th Lok Sabha also sympathised with transgenders and enabled them to lead a better life. Even the affluent countries of the world would be taken by surprise to learn that our mothers and sisters were granted 26 weeks of leave while they were in a family way. A slew of progressive decisions have been made here, in this 17th Lok Sabha. We have given an identity to transgender. So far, about 16-17 thousand transgenders have been given their identity cards, and they have started doing small business by raising funds under the Mudra Yojana. Transgender has been conferred upon the Padma Award. Now they are leading their life with dignity. We had to undergo a severely hard time for around one and a half to two years, COVID put a lot of pressure on us, but despite that, the 17th Lok Sabha has been very beneficial for the country. So many obligations have been remarkably taken care of in this Lok Sabha. The journey of democracy and India is open-ended. This country is for some purpose, it has a goal, and it is for the entire human race. Elections are an innately necessary aspect of democracy. We all acknowledge it with a sense of pride. I am confident that our elections will enhance the pride of the country. I firmly believe that our tradition of democracy will surprise the whole world. The resolution passed by this House today regarding the Ram temple will give constitutional power to the future generation of the country and the values of the country which they shall fondly recall. We will continue to deliver the best results with collective resolve and collective strength acting along the hopes and aspirations of the younger generation of India.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Hon. Prime Minister and Hon. Members, the tenure of this Lok Sabha is drawing to a close today with this session of the seventeenth Lok Sabha. The Seventeenth Lok Sabha is also distinct in itself since we carried out our responsibilities in both the old and New Parliament Buildings. We were afforded this opportunity and it will always remain in our photographic memory. The sacred *Sengol* installed in the New Building is a symbol of justice, good governance, national unity and political uprightness. As the presiding officer of this highest institution of our great democracy, I have been able to carry out my responsibilities

thanks to your sustained cooperation. Hon. Prime Minister has referred to so many things which one can draw inspiration from. This moment shall be recounted as historic as well as exciting for all of us. This democratic journey of ours shall be memorable all through our lives. In these five years, all the Hon. Members took endeavours to fulfil the hopes and aspirations of the people of their respective constituencies in order to foster public confidence in democracy and democratic institutions. Here they raised the matters relating to their constituencies as well as the ones of national concern. I would also like to thank the Government as it has been for the first time that the Government has established a new tradition by responding affirmatively to the issues raised in the zero hour. On June 19, 2019, I was unanimously elected the Speaker. I would like to extend my thanks to the Hon. Prime Minister and all the Members from the bottom of my heart for it. For me too, these five years are of great importance and they will remain unforgettable because the moments I have spent with you will always inspire me. This House has very high traditions and conventions. This House has also been held in high esteem. Before me, my predecessors who sat here have enhanced the dignity, prestige and honour of this House. I have also made a sincere effort to uphold the dignity of this office and the highest prestige of this institution with the cooperation of the leaders of all Parties and I would also like to thank you all for your cooperation. The tenure of the 17th Lok Sabha has been historic in many ways. When I was entrusted with the responsibility as the Presiding Officer of the august House, I made a sincere effort. I was an hon. Member of the House for the second time, I did not have the wealth of rich experience, but I got support from all of you. The House turned out to be productive without any disruption in the first session itself as all the hon. Members, especially 540 new and old Members attended the session and put forth their views which in itself shall be counted as a landmark achievement. People have been discussing the need for a new Parliament building for a long time. Previous Speakers also made efforts for this. All the Members of the House and I requested the Hon. Prime Minister to build a New Parliament Building. Hon. Prime Minister accepted the request put forward by both of the Houses and approved its construction. The completion of the construction of our new Parliament building within a short span of two years and five months is attributed to the visionary leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister and his amazing style of working coupled with the tireless efforts of our *Shramveers*. This period was fraught with challenges for us. Especially the challenge of the global pandemic Corona was before us. We had to fulfil our

constitutional responsibilities. We successfully discharged our constitutional responsibilities in our bid to keep the people of the country safe and to ensure their welfare with their cooperation. I can say today that even during those challenging times, all the hon. Members sat till late at night and carried out their constitutional responsibilities and the productivity was 167 percent. As the Hon. Prime Minister maintained the Corona period was serious, but I would like to thank the Hon. Prime Minister that he was concerned not only about the people of the country but also about each of his hon. Members. Whenever he received information, he would personally telephone and whether or not he talked to them, he would definitely express concern to the doctors.

This session of the Seventeenth Lok Sabha was historic in its productivity also. In the last five Lok Sabhas, the highest productivity in this Lok Sabha was 97 percent. Women have especially participated in this session and they also had active participation in the House. I used to see that women used to sit here till late at night. Our hon. Women Members used to sit here and express their views. They would express the sentiments of the people of her area. It was a matter of pride for us that the Nari Shakti Vandan Bill, 2023 was brought up for discussion on the very first day in the new Parliament House. All parties supported it and this Bill was passed. This Bill will be a remarkable achievement in so far as the empowerment of women is concerned. The Women's Reservation Bill was awaited in these houses for years together. But, only you got this opportune moment. This Woman's Bill was passed in your term. Besides, very important and historic Bills were passed in this House. We were following British laws. We legislated our own laws after our independence. The Bhartiya Nyay Samhita, the Bhartiya Sakshya Bill, Bhartiya Nagrik Suraksha Samhita and notably this House also passed the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill. Along with that, many such historic laws like Digital Personal Data, Muslim Women Bill, Consumer Protection Bill, Direct Tax Bill, Industrial Bill, etc. were passed. You should carry as a memory in your life also that you passed very historic Bills which will herald a paradigm shift in the economic and social milieu of the country for a long time. All of us have also got this opportunity. In the last five years, laws were passed especially to subserve the Indian school of thought. Over the last five years, this House also repealed such laws that were archaic and had become redundant. This House also passed three Constitution Amendment Bills. The Seventeenth Lok Sabha was constituted on May 25, 2019. The first meeting of this

House was held on June 17, 2019. A total of 274 sittings were held in the Seventeenth Lok Sabha, which lasted for 1355 hours. We sat and worked in the House for more than 346 hours in the stipulated time. Due to disruption in this Lok Sabha, 387 hours of time was also wasted. During these five years, we passed 222 laws after intensive discussion and dialogue. During this period, 202 Bills were introduced and 11 Bills were withdrawn by the Government. During the Seventeenth Lok Sabha, 4,663 Starred Questions were listed, out of which 1,116 questions were answered orally. During the same period, 55 thousand 879 Unstarred Questions were also asked, written replies to which were given in the House. There were two occasions in the same Lok Sabha when all the 20 questions listed were replied to. In this Lok Sabha, 729 Private Members' Bills were presented in the House. During the 17th Lok Sabha, the concerned Ministers laid 26,750 papers on the Table of the House. During this Lok Sabha, 5,568 matters were raised in the Zero Hour, while 4,869 matters were raised by the Hon. Members under Rule 377. On July 18, 2019, 161 issues were raised during Zero Hour and hon. Members participated till late at night. In the first session of the 17th Lok Sabha, 1,066 matters were raised in the Zero Hour, which is a record in itself. As I said, for the first time the answers to Rule 377 and Zero Hour have come here at the right time from the executive. In the same Lok Sabha, the success of the Chandrayaan Mission and the achievements of the country in the field of space were also discussed. A resolution was passed on this subject by the House. The topic 'Indian Economy and its impact on the lives of the people of India' was also discussed by the House under Rule 342. In this House, the Hon. Prime Minister had announced the establishment of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust on February 5, 2020. It is a matter of pride for the country that now the construction of Shri Ram Temple has been completed. This matter has been discussed in the House today. All the hon. Members expressed their views meaningfully and after discussion, we also passed a resolution to build a developed and inclusive India by the year 2047. 534 statements were made by the Hon. Ministers on various issues. During this Lok Sabha, discussion on 12 issues was also held under Rule 193. The Standing Committees of Parliament did excellent work in this Lok Sabha and presented 691 Reports. More than 69 percent of the recommendations of Parliamentary Committees were accepted by the Government.

The G-20 summit was successfully held under the leadership of Hon. Prime Minister. This showcased India's leadership capability and after that, the P-20

summit of the G-20 countries involving the Presiding Officers of their parliaments was also held. Through this, all the Presiding Officers experienced the journey of our democracy in the world. While addressing the P-20 conference, the Hon. Prime Minister laid out the vision of our country's journey of democracy. He talked about our election system along with democracy and how we have a fair election system in this country. He urged that all the democratic countries should come to see this festival, a celebration of democracy here. The number of voters exercising their franchise exceeds the total population of the other democratic country. It is also an inspiration in itself. With the inspiration of the Hon. Prime Minister, Mission LiFE-Lifestyle for Environment was also discussed at the parliamentary forum in the P-20 conference, in which a resolution was taken for a green future in harmony with nature. All the participating countries supported this program and the Speakers of all the Parliaments pledged that they would take a similar resolution, and propose and discuss it within their respective countries. In this Lok Sabha, the Constitution Day program was held in the Parliament House in the year 2019 and 2021. A special program was organised in the Central Hall on the occasion of the completion of 100 years of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of Parliament on December 4, 2021. On September 19, 2023, a special discussion was held in the Central Hall of the Samvidhan Sabha on "Parliamentary Journey of 75 years starting from Samvidhan Sabha—Achievements, Experiences, Memories and Learnings".

I would like to specifically raise some issues germane to the vision of the Hon. Prime Minister. Lok Sabha TV channel and Rajya Sabha TV channel used to function separately. Under the guidance of the Hon. Prime Minister, Sansad TV became a channel which also resulted in financial savings of crores of rupees. Likewise, the topic of subsidy always kept arising with us. Now the subsidy has been completely eliminated, resulting in annual savings of Rs 15 crore. I would like to give you an example. Lakhs of rupees were spent on lighting the Parliament House on national festivals. Hon. Prime Minister had the vision and guidance and he said that permanent light should be installed here like a facade light. Façade lights were installed here and in a brief period, lakhs of crores of rupees were saved in this Parliament, which is still being installed since its 75th year. Through all these arrangements, about Rs 875 crore was saved within these five years, which accounts for 23 percent of the Budget. During the Corona period, Hon. MPs donated their funds to the PM Cares Fund and also chose to forgo their MPLADS funds. I thank

the MPs for that as well. To make this entire campus green, all the Hon. Members planted trees after their respective names, which will remain a lifetime memory to them. Whenever they come, and see their plants growing, they shall recall that moment. There was meaningful debate and discussion on all the Bills and everyone expressed his or her views in the proper manner. We made some new efforts by organising frequent programs to give information about the Bills, Statement of Objects and Reasons contained therein and their impact on the Hon. Members through briefing sessions before the Bills. A lot of Hon. Members may be aware that 24-hour research assistance is available to the Hon. Members on any Bill or any topic. Along with this, we started a new system for home delivery of library material and did the work of digitization of the entire library. Till now, the work of digitization of all the debates in Parliament has been done. You can view the entire debate using metadata, subject, name and topic. This innovation was also done by this Parliament. The rich library has been made accessible to the public.

With the efforts of you all, this House has become paperless. At present, more than 97 percent of the questions are asked electronically by the Hon. Members. Along with this, an effort has also been made to provide interpretation services in ten other Indian languages other than Hindi and English in the New Parliament Building. Moreover, we have also tried to develop the Digital App, Digital Parliament and your speech is now available on your mobile on WhatsApp within half an hour. Hon. Members, the MP Quarters have become very old. The Hon. Prime Minister gave guidance and now 112 new Quarters have been built and construction work of 184 houses is going on so that when our Hon. Members come, they get new accommodation and an effort was also made to this end as well. In order to ensure that youth participate in democracy and our future generations come to know about the independence of our country, leaders who contributed after independence, learn about their lives, for this purpose, under the guidance of the Hon. Prime Minister, a program was held. The program is organised on the Birth Anniversary of every great personality and freedom fighter. In the Samvidhaan Sadan, people from different States across the country first discuss those great men in their respective States and when they pass it, they visit the Parliament House and put forward their views so that our future generations can learn about our great men, know about their duty towards the Nation and Country so that they too may draw new inspiration.

I being the Presiding Officer of the Lok Sabha, organised six conferences of Presiding Officers and we tried to ensure that in all the democratic institutions of the country, be it the Legislative Assembly or the Lok Sabha, words, dignity and conduct of our Hon'ble members should be such that people have more faith and trust in democracy and democratic institutions. For this, we have unanimously considered that in order to enhance the dignity and prestige of the House, all of us should conduct ourselves in such a way that the people at large may repose more faith in our institutions and we can do the welfare of the people through the institutions in a more dignified manner. The Hon'ble Prime Minister gave a new vision at that time - 'One Nation, One Legislation Platform.' Today we can say that a novel initiative has been made that whatever debate, discussion, budget of the Legislative Assemblies of the entire country and the proceedings of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha takes place, we will be able to see them on one platform in the coming time. During this Lok Sabha, parliamentary delegations from 16 countries visited India and 42 delegations visited many other countries from India. This has increased our participation in many organizations on international fora and hon. Members have been elected and nominated to many committees. This has increased India's power and prestige at the global level.

I got a lot of support and positive cooperation from all of you and Hon. Prime Minister. I met all the party leaders and tried to maintain the dignity and prestige of this House. I had to take some tough decisions to uphold the dignity and decorum of the House. But while taking tough decisions, I was never of the opinion that I would have to take action against any Member. In future, we will make more efforts to enhance the dignity and prestige of this House. Our productivity should not only be 97 per cent but it should always be above 100 per cent. Our conduct and behaviour should be exemplary. Disagreement and agreement are the strengths of our democracy. This should also happen. It is our collective responsibility to maintain the dignity of the House and I hope that we will make efforts for this in the times to come. All the Members here come from different parties, different ideologies and different areas, but in these five years, everyone appears to be like a family to me and it will always remain unforgettable in my life. I had a family-like relationship with all my Members. It does not matter whether one is from the Treasury Benches or from the opposition, everyone is a Member to me. I have maintained respect for all the members. I had to take harsh decisions, but they had to be taken for the

dignity and prestige of the House. Today, as we are coming to the end of the Lok Sabha, we will go to our respective Lok Sabha constituencies and the experiences we have gained in Parliament will be used in our public life and the cooperation we have provided to enhance the prosperity and prestige of Indian democracy. We will also pass this information to the public. Besides, I especially thank the Government for the issues we raised, and how positively the Government took up those issues and resolved them. I thank the Hon'ble Vice President, from whom I have always received positive support. I especially thank the Hon'ble Prime Minister, from whom I always received guidance and who always tried to maintain the dignity and prestige of the House. The reputation that India has earned for democracy is a guiding force to the world and he always guided that the prestige and dignity of the Parliament should be upheld. People will come and go, but I always got his guidance to maintain the dignity of the House and the House, for this, I thank the Prime Minister. I am very thankful to the entire Panel of Chairmen who sat here for a long time and conducted the proceedings of the House. I also thank the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and all the hon'ble members of the Council of Ministers, who provided positive cooperation in running the House. I also thank the friends of the Press and Media, who played an important role in conveying the message of the House to the public. I also place on record my appreciation for our energetic Lok Sabha Secretary General, officers and staff for their dedicated and prompt service to the House, who sat late in the night and facilitated the functioning of the House. I express my gratitude to all the people in the Parliament complex right from our security personnel to the *Shramveers* who stayed here till late night and supported our hon'ble Members. I also thank all the agencies for the services rendered by them in transacting the Business of the House. I also thank the leaders of different parties who have expressed their views for this Chair and for me. I hope the future of all of us should be prosperous, healthy, efficient and in this way, we can dedicate our lives to promoting the values of democracy and the experience we have gained here will be shared with the people of the country. Through our efforts, we continue to dedicate our lives and render our services to transform the lives of the last person in the queue awaiting meaningful transformation in his or her life. I thank you all very much again.

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## **NATIONAL SONG**

*The National Song was played.*

*(Thereafter, Lok Sabha adjourned sine die)*

**UTPAL KUMAR SINGH**  
**SecretaryGeneral**

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NOTE: It is the verbatim Debates of the Lok Sabha and not the Synopsis that should be considered authoritative.

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