



WELCOME
MR. CHAIRMAN, SIR





Welcome
MR. CHAIRMAN, SIR

RAJYA SABHA SECRETARIAT
New Delhi

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PREFACE

Shri Krishan Kant assumed the office of the Vice-President of India on Thursday, August the 21st, 1997. As the Constitution makes the Vice-President of India also the *ex officio* Chairman of the Rajya Sabha — the Council of States, Shri Krishan Kant became the tenth Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, in succession to Shri K.R. Narayanan, now the President of our Republic. —

On Tuesday, August the 26th, 1997, when Shri Krishan Kant came to the Rajya Sabha to occupy the Chair of the Presiding Officer, he was accorded a customary welcome by the members of the House. In their felicitations, members led by the Prime Minister, the Leader of the House and the Deputy Chairperson, paid fulsome tributes to Shri Krishan Kant's long years of selfless service to the country, his and his family's participation in the struggle for India's independence, his internment in British jails, and his Gandhian upbringing and simplicity. Many recalled his association with the Rajya Sabha as its member for several years, during which he acquired a reputation for his hard work and alertness and, especially, his capacity for asking sharp questions during the Question Hour. Members also spoke about Shri Krishan Kant's unwavering commitment to honest and value-based politics, his crusade against money and muscle power and for electoral reforms; the sufferings he endured in upholding liberty and freedom, and his deep sense of pride in the Indian culture and values.

This publication is a compilation of the speeches delivered by the members on that occasion and, Shri Krishan Kant's response to the felicitations. The texts have been edited.

New Delhi
November, 1997

R.C. TRIPATHI
Secretary-General
Rajya Sabha

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SHRI KRISHAN KANT
Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha

KRISHAN KANT : A PROFILE

<i>Father's Name</i>	Late Lala Achint Ram
<i>Date of Birth</i>	28 February 1927
<i>Place of Birth</i>	Kot Mohd. Khan, Distt. Amritsar (Punjab)
<i>Marital Status</i>	Married on 11 December 1958
<i>Spouse's Name</i>	Shrimati Suman
<i>Children</i>	Two sons and one daughter
<i>Educational Qualifications</i>	M.Sc. (Tech.) Educated at D.A.V. College, Lahore and Banaras Hindu University
<i>Profession</i>	Scientist and Social Worker
<i>Present Address</i>	Vice-President's House 6, Maulana Azad Road New Delhi-110011
<i>Positions Held</i>	
1961-70	Founder Secretary, Indian Parliamentary and Scientific Committee Convener, Study Group on Science Education in Schools and Population Control and Family Planning of the Indian Parliamentary and Scientific Committee
1966-75	Member, Haryana Pradesh Congress Committee Member, All India Congress Committee
1966-77	Member, Rajya Sabha (Haryana State) Member, Joint Committee on the Government (Liability in Tort) Bill, 1967 Member, M.Ps. Advisory Committee on Press Council
Nov. 1969	Spokesman and in-charge of publicity for the All India Congress Committee session in Delhi
1969-71	Member, Executive Committee, Congress Parliamentary Party

1971-72	Secretary, Congress Party in Parliament
1972-76	Chairman, Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Prevention of Water Pollution Bill Chairman, Committee on Railway Reservation and Booking
1974-76	Member, Committee on Petitions
1977-78	Member, Committee on Estimates Member, Committee of Privileges (Rajya Sabha) Member, Consultative Committee on Atomic Energy, Space and Electronics
1977-79	Member, Executive Committee, Janata Parliamentary Party
1977-80	Member, Lok Sabha (Union territory of Chandigarh)
1977-87	Member, National Executive of the Janata Party
1987-89	Member, National Executive of the Janata Dal
7 Feb. 1990-21 Aug. 1997	Governor of Andhra Pradesh
22 Dec. 1996-25 Jan. 1997	Governor of Tamil Nadu (Additional Charge)
21 Aug. 1997 onwards	Vice-President of India and <i>ex officio</i> Chairman of Rajya Sabha
<i>Books Published</i>	<i>Editor</i> , "Science in Parliament" Journal of the Indian Parliamentary and Scientific Committee
<i>Social and Cultural Activities, Literary, Artistic and Scientific Accomplishments and other Special Interests</i>	Has contributed to prominent dailies and periodicals on issues relating to national and international politics, social, defence, electoral and science policy issues; Urdu poetry, reading, writing and promotion of science
<i>Countries Visited</i>	United Kingdom, France, West Germany, G.D.R., Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, Switzerland, Italy, Senegal, Malaysia, Mauritius, Egypt, Turkey, Maldives, Jordan, South Africa, Morocco, Tanzania, Bangkok, Mongolia, Kyrgyzstan, Bulgaria, Slovakia and Greece

(ii)

Other Information

Was arrested during the "Quit India" Movement and interned for two years; *General Secretary*, Students' Federation, Jhelum (now in Pakistan), 1940-42; *Vice-President*, Lahore Students' Congress, 1945-46; Elected to Banaras Hindu University Students' Parliament and was member of its Cabinet; *Convener*, Group of the Constructive Workers' Lodge at Banaras Hindu University; All India Lala Lajpatrai Centenary National Integration Camp and Punjab Lala Lajpatrai Centenary Camp; *represented* the Indian Parliament at the meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Union held at Dakar, Senegal in 1968; *associated* with Congress Forum for Socialist Action; *Convener*, Congress Party Standing Committee on Science and Technology; expelled for a period of ten years from the Congress on 26 June 1975 after the declaration of the emergency; *Founder Secretary*, People's Union for Civil Liberties and Democratic Rights, 1976; *Visitor*, Makhanlal Chaturvedi National University Institute of Journalism, Bhopal; *Member*, Council of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, 1968-74; Punjab University Senate, Chandigarh, November 1968 to October 1980; Executive Committee of the Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses, April 1978 to January 1988; Science and Spirituality Committee of the All India Sarva Seva Sangh; Managing Committee, Lajpatrai Institute of Physical Education for Women; Managing Committee, Institute of Psychic and Spiritual Research, New Delhi; Working Group on Land Reforms, Agricultural Commission, undertook Surplus Land-distribution to the Landless in Rupoli Prakhanda in Purnea District of Bihar; Board of Management of the Gandhian Institute of Studies, Varanasi; India International Centre, New Delhi; *Life Member*, the Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses; *Trustee*, Punjab Khadi Gramodyog Sangh, Adampur; *President*, Indian Red Cross

(iii)

(Andhra Pradesh Branch), 1990-97, Servants of the People Society since 3 July 1991, Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi and Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Cultures, Calcutta; *Chancellor*, Delhi University, Punjab University, Pondicherry University, North Eastern Hill University, Shillong and Gandhigram Rural Institute (Deemed University), Chennai; *Chairman, Jury*, the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding, Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development, Indira Gandhi Paryavaran Puraskar, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar National Award for Promotion of Social Understanding and Uplift of Weaker Sections, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar International Award for Social Change, G.D. Birla Award for outstanding contribution to Humanism, Preservation of India's Heritage and Culture and for Upliftment of Rural & Tribal Communities; *Jury* for International Gandhi Award for Leprosy, Communal Harmony Award and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad International Award; *Chairman*, Selection Committee for the appointment of the Chairman of the Press Council of India and Selection Committee for the appointment of the part time and whole time members of the Prasar Bharati Board; *Patron*, the Institute of Constitutional and Parliamentary Studies, New Delhi; Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament Society and Centre for Study in Civilizations; *Chief Patron*, Kabir Samaroh Samiti, New Delhi; *National Patron*, International Award for Young People-India

**FELICITATIONS
TO
HONOURABLE CHAIRMAN**

NOT NEW TO THE HOUSE

Inder Kumar Gujral
Prime Minister of India

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is an extremely happy privilege on my part to felicitate your coming here. This Chair, Sir, from the beginning has been occupied by personalities of great eminence. I am glad and I hope that the whole House joins me in saying this, that your coming to adorn this Chair is again in keeping with the same tradition. We welcome you.

We are also happy that you had the privilege of being a Member of this House for several years. It has been only twice — this is the second time — that an honourable Member of this House has been elevated to this Chair. The first was Dr. Zakir Husain, and, I notice, you are the second coming here in the same tradition. Therefore, I share the joy of the entire House in felicitating you.

This House is familiar to you. Most of the Members are known to you personally. Therefore, I am certain that under your leadership this House will gain a lot in its prestige and also in the contribution it makes to run our democracy. We feel extremely happy that you occupy this Chair with the background of the tradition of freedom struggle, particularly in this fiftieth year of our Independence. Therefore, I felicitate you not only on my behalf but also on behalf of the whole House. We will be very happy to cooperate with you always. We look up to you for leadership of the House.

CUSTODIAN OF THE HOUSE

*Dr. (Shrimati) Najma Heptulla
Deputy Chairman
Rajya Sabha*

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is my proud privilege to welcome you to this august Assembly of which you were a Member. Now you will be the custodian of this House, as the honourable Prime Minister has said, in the fiftieth year of India's Independence.

It is our privilege to have you as the custodian and Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. I personally feel happy that you come from the same faculty of science as I do. You worked for the C.S.I.R. and I also worked for it. In a way I have a double relationship with you.

This House, I am sure, has changed, if not quantitatively, definitely qualitatively, and it will be a happy thing for you to know, and we would also like to know what change you have found since you left the House and now that you have re-joined it.

As far as I am concerned, Sir, I have worked with three Vice-Presidents and you will be the fourth one. I assure you all the assistance that you would require from the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

I am sure your Chairmanship of the House will enrich the House, the contributions of the Members and it will go down in history as we celebrate the Golden Jubilee of India's Independence. Thank you.

भरपूर तजुर्बेकार शख्स

*सिकन्दर बख्त
सदन में विपक्ष के नेता*

सदर साहब, खुशामदीद। आपका इस्तकबाल करता हूँ, स्वागत करता हूँ। मैं यह मानता हूँ कि यह सदन की खुशनसीबी है कि आप जैसे भरपूर तजुर्बेकार शख्स ने राज्य सभा की चेयरमैनशिप की जिम्मेदारी संभाली है। आपने सियासत को हर रंग में देखा है, सियासत के हर रंग में हिस्सा लिया है। 1947 से पहले जंगे-आजादी में आपके कदम अव्वल सफ़ों में रहे। 1947 के बाद मुल्क के तामीरी कामों में मुख्तलिफ़ पहलुओं में आपके कदम पेश-पेश रहे हैं। अपनी जिन्दगी का बेहतरीन हिस्सा आपने मुल्क और कौम की खिदमत में लगाया है। मैं यह समझता हूँ कि आप अपने किरदार और तजुर्बे की रोशनी लेकर इस सदन में आए हैं तो आपने इस सदन की रोशनी में इजाफ़ा किया है। नारायणन साहब को जब विदाई तकरीब दी जा रही थी तो मैंने यह कहा था कि यह सदन एक चमन है और इस सदन के मैम्बर बुलबुलें हैं, जो मुख्तलिफ़ सुरों में चहचहाती हैं। हम लोगों का ताल्लुक अलग-अलग सियासी जमातों से है। बहुत सारे अहम मसलों में हम मुख्तलिफ़ राय रखते हैं, हम लोग सियासी सफर में हमसफर नहीं हैं, न सही। हम अपनी बातचीत में हमनवा भी नहीं हैं। लेकिन दो रिश्ते बहुत मज़बूत हैं, जिसमें हम सब उन रिश्तों की डोर से बंधे हैं और ये रिश्ते हमवतनीयत से ताल्लुक रखते हैं और हमनशीनी से ताल्लुक रखते हैं। हम लोगों में खट-पट भी होती है, लेकिन हम कभी माकूलियत के दायरों से तजावुज़ नहीं करते।

सदर साहब, यह सदन आपके हवाले है, आप इसके रखवाले हैं। हमें यकीन है कि जो रिवायतें आपने अपनी तबील सियासी जिन्दगी में कायम की हैं, उन रिवायतों के ज़रिए से आप इस सदन का काम चलाएंगे।

मैं अपनी तरफ से, अपनी पार्टी की तरफ से आपको भरपूर तआव्वुन का यकीन दिलाना चाहता हूँ। अगर मुझे यह सदन इजाज़त दे कि उस रिश्ते की रोशनी में जिसका मैंने अभी जिक्र किया हमवतनीयत और हमनशीनी का रिश्ता तो मैं यह हिम्मत करना चाहता हूँ कि पूरे सदन की तरफ से आपके लिए पूरे तआव्वुन का यकीन दिलाऊँ।

सदर साहब, आपको एक बहुत अच्छा सेक्रेटेरियेट मिला है, बड़ा एफिशियेंट और स्मार्ट सेक्रेटेरियेट मिला है, एक बहुत जहीन और तजुर्बेकार डिप्टी-चेयरमैन मिली हैं। मुझे इन डिप्टी-चेयरमैन साहिबा के नाम पर ऐतराज़ रहता है हमेशा, बहुत ही अफसोसनाक है, पता ही नहीं लगता कि "हैपुल्ला" क्या है? अगर मैं कोई कुफ़्र की बात नहीं कर रहा और नाऊजुविल्ला कहकर यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि अगर मैं अल्लाह होता तो मैं इनसे नाराज़ हो जाता। यह अल्लाह के नाम से "हैप्ट" जोड़ रखा है, इसका कोई मतलब नहीं है। न "हैत" है, न "हैबत" है, "हैपुल्ला" है।

अच्छा देखिए, इनका नाम है “डा. नजमा हिब्तुल्ला”, “हिब्तुल्ला” यानी गॉड्स गिफ्ट यानी अल्लाह का तोहफ़ा। अब यह अलहदा बात है कि यह अल्लाह का तोहफ़ा अकबर साहब के हिस्से में आ गया है। मैं तो यह उम्मीद करता हूँ कि यह “हिब्तुल्ला” यानी अल्लाह का तोहफ़ा आपको भी रास आएगा।

सदर साहब, एक दफ़ा फिर मैं आपको तहेदिल से मुबारकबाद देता हूँ, खुशामदीद कहता हूँ, आपका खैर-मकदम करता हूँ और दुआ करता हूँ आपकी कामयाबी के लिए। जिस तरह से कामयाबी के परचम आप लहराते रहे हैं, राज्य सभा के चेयरमैन की हैसियत से भी आप कामयाबी के परचम लहराएं। शुक्रिया।

समन्वित व्यक्तित्व

सीताराम केसरी
कांग्रेस (इ)

आदरणीय सभापति महोदय, आज हमें हार्दिक आह्लाद, आनंद और हर्ष हो रहा है आपके इस गरिमामय स्थान पर आने से। मैं आपके व्यक्तित्व की ओर झांक रहा हूँ। आपकी भावना और आपकी निर्भीक वाणी आज भी सदन में प्रतिध्वनित हो रही है। स्वाधीनता के पचासवें वर्ष में आप इस स्थान पर आए हैं और उपराष्ट्रपति बने हैं। आपने हमेशा भारत और उसके हित में तथा स्वाधीनता के संग्राम में कुरबानी दी है। आपके इस आसन पर आने का हमें हार्दिक आनंद है।

महोदय, स्वाधीनता संग्राम के अवसर पर एक बार गांधीजी ने कहा था कि हम चाहते हैं कि देश के दलित वर्ग का आदमी राष्ट्रपति हो। जो इस स्थान से गए हैं श्री नारायणन, वे आज राष्ट्रपति हैं, हमें इस बात की हार्दिक खुशी है। आज मैं हिंदुस्तान की आजादी की लड़ाई के इतिहास के पन्नों में झांककर देख रहा हूँ कि श्री कृष्णकांत जो इस गरिमामय स्थान पर बैठे हैं, उनकी वाणी आज भी प्रतिध्वनित हो रही है। उनके व्यक्तित्व की गरिमा को मैं जानता हूँ। मैं जानता हूँ कि राष्ट्रहित में हमेशा इस सदन में आपकी वाणी प्रतिध्वनित होती रही है। आपका व्यक्तित्व समन्वित व्यक्तित्व है और वह भारतीय राष्ट्रीय कांग्रेस की संस्कृति का प्रतीक है।

मैं जानता हूँ कि सदन में विभिन्न विचारधाराओं के लोग रहते हुए भी जहां तक राष्ट्रहित का सवाल है, हम सब एक हैं। विचारों में टकराव अस्वाभाविक नहीं है। हम लोगों के बीच विवाद के विषय भी होते हैं लेकिन जब राष्ट्र का हित सामने आता है तो टूटने का विषय नहीं बनता। मेरा विश्वास है कि राष्ट्रहित में जो आपने बलिदान दिया है और आपके परिवार ने बलिदान दिया है, उसी पृष्ठभूमि में आप आने वाले समय में भी राष्ट्रहित को सामने रखेंगे।

इन्हीं संभावनाओं के साथ हमें आज गर्व है कि आप इस स्थान पर आए हैं। इस सदन के आप सभापति हैं। आप गरिमापूर्ण हैं और आप इसकी गरिमा रखेंगे, यह मेरा विश्वास है। क्योंकि सदन का सभापति पद स्वयं एक गरिमापूर्ण पद है इसलिए हिन्दुस्तान की आजादी की पचासवीं वर्षगांठ के अवसर पर आप सरीखे स्वतंत्रता सेनानी को इस आसन पर पाकर हमारा दल, हमारे साथी, सभी दलों के लोग, जैसा मैंने कहा कि चाहे भाषा कोई भी बोलें, विचार चाहे कोई भी रखें, सबका हित राष्ट्रहित है। इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं आपका हार्दिक अभिनंदन और स्वागत करता हूँ। जयहिंद।

AN EXPERIENCED PERSON

*E. Balanandan
Communist Party of India (Marxist)*

Sir, this is a solemn occasion for me to welcome you as the honourable Chairman of this House. We know that you have been upholding certain values without caring for the consequences. We also know that you stood for democratic values. This forum, that is, Rajya Sabha, is a place where we have to practise democracy. Under your able guidance, we will be able to practise democracy in this House. Though we are called elders, at times, we will be behaving like youngsters. We may behave in an extraordinary manner. But you, with your experience of a long political life, will be able to lead this House to uphold democracy to the extent possible. From our side, our party will be extending full cooperation to you. I once again congratulate you on assuming this high office.

A SIMPLE AND DYNAMIC PERSON

*Dr. Alladi P. Rajkumar
Telugu Desam*

Sir, on behalf of the Telugu Desam Parliamentary Party and our leader, Shri Chandrababu Naidu, I welcome you as the tenth Chairman of this august House. Sir, as former Governor of Andhra Pradesh, you have won laurels from the people of Andhra Pradesh. Sir, you have got a special place in the hearts of the people of Andhra Pradesh. Your simplicity and dynamism will enhance the prestige and glory of the great temple of democracy. I once again welcome you, Sir. Thank you.

विद्वान और उद्भट चिन्तक

सोमपाल
राष्ट्रीय जनता दल

सभापति महोदय, हमारे लिए अत्यंत सौभाग्य और गौरव का विषय है कि आप भारत के उपराष्ट्रपति चुने गये हैं और साथ ही हमारे इस माननीय उच्च सदन के सभापति भी। मैं अपने दल की ओर से, पूरे सदन की ओर से, सभी सांसदों की ओर से और अपने व्यक्तिगत रूप में आपका स्वागत करता हूँ, आपको बधाई देता हूँ और अभिनंदन करता हूँ। देश को स्वतंत्र कराने में जिन महान परिवारों ने बलिदान और आहुति दी, उनमें से आपका परिवार अग्रणी परिवार रहा है। कौन नहीं जानता कि आपके पिता लाला अचिन्तराम जी न केवल स्वतंत्रता से पहले विशाल संयुक्त पंजाब प्रान्त के अपितु पूरे देश के अग्रिम नेताओं की पंक्ति में से एक व्यक्ति थे। आपने उस गौरवशाली परम्परा का बखूबी निर्वाह किया है। आप देश के न केवल जाने-माने और सुलझे हुए राजनेता अपितु एक निष्ठावान समाजसेवी और गांधीवादी ही नहीं बल्कि अन्य विषयों और देश के महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दों के ऊपर आप एक विद्वान और उद्भट चिन्तक माने जाते हैं, हमारा सौभाग्य है कि आपका मार्गदर्शन हमको मिलेगा और यह गौरवशाली परम्पराएं, आदर्श और जीवन-मूल्य और अधिक पुष्ट होंगे और देश को न केवल आपके नेतृत्व में सम्मान प्राप्त होगा अपितु उसको विकास की ऊँची से ऊँची सीढ़ियों पर अग्रसर होने का अवसर भी प्राप्त होगा। मैं व्यक्तिगत रूप से सौभाग्यशाली मानता हूँ अपने आपको क्योंकि आप मेरे पिताश्री स्वर्गीय रघुवीर सिंह शास्त्री के व्यक्तिगत अनन्य मित्रों में से रहे हैं और वह पितातुल्य वात्सल्य, स्नेह और मार्गदर्शन आपका मुझे सदैव ही मिलता रहा है। अब क्योंकि मेरे सदन के आप अध्यक्ष रहेंगे तो यह सान्निध्य और अधिक घनिष्ठ होगा। मैं पुनः आपको शुभकामना और बधाई देना चाहता हूँ और आपकी दीर्घ आयु की कामना इस भाव के साथ करता हूँ कि आपके नेतृत्व में देश और ऊँचे-ऊँचे कदम विकास के पथ पर रखता रहेगा। पुनः आपको बधाई।

A VETERAN PARLIAMENTARIAN

G. Swaminathan
All India Anna Dravida
Munnetra Kazhagam-I

Mr. Chairman, Sir, on behalf of the AIADMK party to which I belong and also on my own behalf I am very happy to associate myself with this felicitation and to say a few words on this occasion. I am also thankful for the time given to me. A few days ago, after your election as the Vice-President of India and Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, the former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Mr. Janardhan Reddy, who was also a former Member of the Rajya Sabha — I learnt it from *The Hindu* — gave you a party in Hyderabad to felicitate you. I read that during the eleven years when you were a Member of this House you had been in the forefront in putting questions in this House and you were among the three persons who had been asking the first three questions in the Rajya Sabha in those days. At that time you were embarrassing the Ministers with questions and you never allowed them to leave without answer and you never spared them. I came as a Member in 1986. At that time, one of the Members, Shri A.G. Kulkarni, continued that process and we were happy with the same. There is a reason why I am mentioning this here. I am sorry to say — I think the Prime Minister and those who are sitting on the Treasury Benches will not mistake me, if I say so — that as Members of the Opposition and as leaders of our political parties we are not very happy with the answers given by some of the Ministers or by many of the Ministers. When we put pointed questions, they say evasively something which is very vacillating or something different or something not up to the point. Many times the Chairman of the House had to come to our rescue and to direct the Ministers to come better prepared and to answer the questions properly. Why I am mentioning this is, we are very happy that we have now an honourable Chairman, who had been in the forefront in putting questions in the House when he was a Member of this House. I am sure that you will fully sympathise with the Opposition and see to it that whenever the Ministers do not give proper answers, you will look into that and you will direct them to give proper answers. Why I am mentioning this today is that they should be careful hereafter and without your directing them to be so.

Another point is this. I am also happy to read in the newspapers, as has already been mentioned by Dr. Rajkumar, an honourable Member of the House, that the honourable Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Mr. Chandrababu Naidu,

had felicitated you. One former Congress Chief Minister had felicitated you and Mr. Chandrababu Naidu, who is the present Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, had also felicitated you. I was really surprised to see a Chief Minister felicitating a Governor. There is a proverb in Tamil:

Marumagal machiya mamiar illai

It means that 'no daughter-in-law appreciates the mother-in-law'. Sir, it has always happened that the Chief Minister and the Governor are at loggerheads in most of the States in India. I have also seen cases where the Chief Minister refused to talk to the Governor. There had been occasions when, for months, the Chief Minister never met the Governor, never briefed the Governor. It has also happened, I may say, that there had been differences of opinion between the Prime Minister and the President. There had been occasions when the Prime Minister even refused to meet the President. I do not want to quote who did that and why. The point is, the Chief Minister of a particular State appreciates the Governor and gives a farewell party to him, not for leaving the place! There had been Chief Ministers giving fabulous parties either on the retirement or on the transfer of the Governor, not because they were in love with the Governor but because the Governor was leaving the State. Here is a Chief Minister who not only gave a party but also saw to it that you were elevated as the Vice-President. That speaks greatly of the rapport that you have acquired with the Chief Minister.

I would like to say one more thing, Sir. Both you and the honourable Prime Minister Shri Gujralji hail from West Punjab which is now in Pakistan. Both of you come from a territory which was originally the land belonging to the whole of India. Why I am saying this is, a good rapport between the Prime Minister and the Vice-President is also very necessary. Now that you are here, I am sure you will have a very good rapport so that in these days of escalation of animosities all around — which I hope will come down — your counsel to him and his counsel, his advisory capacity, and the conversations between you, may go a long way to see that everything goes on well.

Finally, I would wish to say two things. Sir, I have heard that during your period you were a champion of electoral reforms and you were a champion against criminalisation of politics. You also wanted that the issues of reforms and black money be taken up. I understand that you retired in 1977. After so many years in Parliament, in the Lok Sabha and in the Rajya Sabha, the main debate is on electoral reforms and criminalisation of politics and corruption about which the honourable Prime Minister has also mentioned recently. We are now trying to bring in the Lokpal Bill. I also know from the papers that during your period as a Member, you went to Bihar when one of your supporters said, "I appreciate that you are fighting against black money in elections and corruption. It is not only the Ganga that is to be purified; the Gangotri is also to be purified. Black money starts not later but during the elections". These are three or four most important points today and I hope that you will give full advice for their deliberations.

I came to this House in 1986. And, as a Member, during my period, I have already seen three Chairmen. One was Mr. R. Venkataraman. He was the Chairman and then he was elevated as the President. The second was Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma. He was also the Chairman and was then elevated as the President. The third was Mr. K.R. Narayanan. He was also the Chairman and then was elevated as the President. They were all very eminent persons and I had the occasion to felicitate them. I am happy that I have yet another occasion to felicitate a person of your eminence. I am all the more happy that all the three before you were elevated to be the Presidents. I hope that you will also be elevated as the President. The Chair you occupy is also lucky. This is the luckiest Chair I have seen. Thank you.

ASSURING FULLEST COOPERATION

*Dr. D. Masthan
All India Anna Dravida
Munnetra Kazhagam-II*

Honourable Chairman, I rise to felicitate you, on behalf of the Members and leaders of the AIADMK-II party from Tamil Nadu. Sir, I attach a lot of significance and importance to your elevation as the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha and the Vice-President of India when this country is celebrating the Golden Jubilee of its Independence. I am sure this House takes up a lot of reforms which will take the country forward towards a bright future. Sir, just now our honourable Member, Swaminathanji, mentioned that there is no mother-in-law who is appreciated by the daughter-in-law. But as far as we, the Members of the AIADMK, are concerned, let me assure you, we will be daughters-in-law who will definitely be appreciated by the mother-in-law and we assure the fullest cooperation and I am sure our country will definitely march forward under your leadership. Once again, let me convey my heartiest felicitations on behalf of the Members and leaders of the AIADMK-II party from Tamil Nadu. Thank you.

स्वाधीनता संग्राम के सेनानी

*संजय डालमिया
समाजवादी पार्टी*

सभापति महोदय, आपके उपराष्ट्रपति पद ग्रहण करने व राज्य सभा के सभापति के पद ग्रहण करने पर, मैं आपको अपने दिल की ओर से बधाई देना चाहता हूँ। आप जिस जमात से आए हैं वह स्वाधीनता संग्राम के सेनानियों की जमात है। हमारे लिए यह बड़े सौभाग्य की बात है कि हिन्दुस्तान की स्वाधीनता की पचासवीं वर्षगांठ पर हम लोगों ने आप जैसे महानुभाव को चुनकर अपना उत्तरदायित्व पूरा किया है। मुझे पूर्ण विश्वास है कि जो स्वाधीनता की लड़ाई आपने व आपके अन्य सहयोगियों ने जिन मुद्दों के लिए लड़ी है, उनको पूरा करने के लिए राज्य सभा में हमारे योग्य जो भी काम करने हेतु आयेगा, हम आपके नेतृत्व में उस पर ध्यान देकर, अपने कर्तव्य का पालन करते हुए पूरा कर सकेंगे। हमारी आजादी के जो पहले पचास साल गुजरे हैं, आगे के जो पांच या दस साल हैं इनमें हम पहले पचास साल से ज्यादा तरक्की करके दुनिया को दिखा देंगे। आजादी की पचासवीं वर्षगांठ पर हमने ऐसे-ऐसे लोगों को राष्ट्रपति व उपराष्ट्रपति पद के लिए चुना जिनके नेतृत्व में भारत को आगे बढ़ाने में हम पूर्ण सफल होंगे। इसी के साथ मैं पुनः अपने तथा अपने दिल की ओर से आपको बधाई देना चाहता हूँ।

ARDENT ADVOCATE OF DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES

*J. Chitharanjan
Communist Party of India*

Respected Chairman, I am extremely happy to welcome you to the seat of honourable Chairman of this House and also to that of the Vice-President of the Republic. Sir, you have participated in the freedom struggle and afterwards you have had a very long political career and throughout your political career you have been known to be a person who was an ardent advocate of democracy and democratic principles. In the same way, you have upheld the principles of secularism and you have always stood for progressive policies and views. Sir, during this period, politicians as a whole are under a cloud because a large number of scams have taken place. Generally, it has been considered that politicians are not above corruption. But it is a generally accepted fact that you have always been above corruption and you have always fought against corruption and you have fought for electoral reforms against criminalisation of politics and such other things. Therefore, when you are occupying this Chair, I am sure and confident that you will uphold all these causes. While you are the Chairman of this House, I am sure you will uphold the honour and dignity of this House, you will recognise and protect the rights of the Members of this House. As some of my colleagues have pointed out, your advice and counsel will be very helpful to the Government also. I don't want to speak more.

Once again, on my personal behalf and on behalf of my party, I heartily welcome you to the high seat that you are occupying at the moment. Thank you, Sir.

उसूलों पर चलने वाले

*सतीश प्रधान
शिव सेना*

महोदय, मैं शिव सेना और युनाइटेड पार्लियामेंटरी ग्रुप की तरफ से आपको बधाई देता हूँ। महोदय, इस कुर्सी पर हमारे देश के बहुत सारे नेता, महानुभाव बैठे हैं और उन्होंने यहां से इस देश की गरिमा को बढ़ाया है और सदन की एक गौरवशाली परम्परा स्थापित की है। ऐसी जगह पर आप आज स्थापित हुए हैं, इसका मुझे अभिमान है और गर्व भी है। आपने आज तक जिन्दगी में अपनी खुद की परम्परा डाली है और अपने उसूल खड़े किए हैं और किसी भी हालत में उनको आपने आगे बढ़ाने की कोशिश की है। ऐसे व्यक्ति के, इस स्थान पर आने के बाद मुझे पूरा विश्वास है कि इस सदन की गरिमा और बढ़ेगी, सदन की गौरवशाली परम्परा और बढ़ेगी। इस सदन में सदस्यगण भी इसको आगे बढ़ाने के लिए ठीक ढंग से बर्ताव करेंगे, यह भी मैं आशा करता हूँ। धन्यवाद।

AN EXPERIENCED BACKBENCHER

*Dr. Karan Singh
Jammu and Kashmir
National Conference*

Mr. Chairman, Sir, while warmly felicitating you on your election as the Vice-President and Chairman of Rajya Sabha, I would like to draw your mind back to thirty years when as a Cabinet Minister I began coming to this House regularly, every week to answer questions. My friend and colleague, Shri Inder Kumar Gujral and I would probably be the two people who could bear out what Mr. Swaminathan has said that when you were sitting where I am now, you used to ask us very well-informed, most pointed and often embarrassing questions. It is, therefore, a matter of particular pleasure to see you now elevated to this high office. We are sure that with your vast background and experience as a backbencher—as far as I know, you were always sitting in the backbench or in the Chair—you will be able to safeguard and maintain the interests of this entire House. My very warm felicitations to you.

ALERT AND FEARLESS

*Parag Chaliha
Asom Gana Parishad*

Sir, it becomes my duty on behalf of the AGP, the Asom Gana Parishad, to warmly felicitate you on your assumption of this high and very responsible office. My joy is more pronounced in the sense that you had your full share in our struggle for Independence. I am very glad that as one who staked his life for the cause of Indian Independence, I have with me at least one of the supreme personalities of this House who had his share brilliantly completed as a freedom fighter.

Sir, the North-East is very much in the news, not in an ideal connotation but certainly in a deplorable condition, in a deplorable context. And our present Government is wedded to the task of doing something which the North-East has never had so far. We hope that the neglect or the exclusiveness which the North-East has been complaining for long would be removed in not so distant a future.

Under your superb guidance we will be able to do whatever is entrusted to us. Sir, we have had the fortune to know you as a freedom fighter and as a Congressman in the sixties and the seventies and also your fearlessness and alertness in the House. Therefore, my joy knows no bounds in felicitating you, which I do very sincerely and with great expectations for the future. Thank You.

A CRUSADER FOR SOCIAL CAUSES

*Triloki Nath Chaturvedi
Bharatiya Janata Party*

Sir, I join my distinguished seniors in offering you felicitations on this happy occasion. All along you have been known as a crusader for all good social causes. You tried valiantly to ensure that there is accountability of the Government and a corruption-free society. One remembers very well the kind of public opinion you tried to create on various issues, apart from fighting valiantly on many issues in this very House.

I would also like to mention that I saw you as a Member of the other House in action in a particular place where I happened to occupy a small position. Your activities as a publicman of longstanding are well known, since you share the legacy of the freedom struggle and also the legacy of the best that this country represents through its civilization and culture. But as a local representative of that particular place I found that you did two very difficult things. The first one was of educating people about the problems and difficulties and as to where their responsibilities and duties lay. Secondly, you also tried to ensure that there was a proper rapport between the administration and people and there was a kind of mutual understanding which the country needed all along. I have no doubt that in this position of high dignity you represent the best of the essence of Indian culture. I look upon you as the custodian of public interest and dignity as well as the rights of Members of this House. I once again felicitate you, Sir, on the auspicious and happy occasion. Thank you.

PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF MEMBERS

*V. P. Duraisamy
Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam*

Sir, on behalf of D.M.K., I felicitate you on your elevation to the high office of the Vice-President of India and Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. We look upon you for guidance in the years ahead, as also for protection of our interests and rights in all ways. Thank you.

REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COMPOSITE CULTURE

M.P. Abdussamad Samadani
Muslim League

Sir, I join this august House in conveying my respects and regards on this very auspicious occasion when an eminent person like you is elevated to the post of Vice-President of the country.

Sir, in you we see the symbol of our traditions. As a freedom fighter, as a patriot, as a nationalist, as a politician with integrity, your personality will be able to do much for the strengthening of our national cause. Sir, you are a true symbol and a true representative of the composite culture of India. Coming from Lahore, which was once a great centre of our Hindustani culture, a land of Urdu language and literature and also very much connected with the history of our country, and having worked in South India for a long time and now being elevated to the office of Vice-President of the country, you will be able to make a great contribution to national awakening. Sir, I am aware of the fact that you are very much fond of *Allama Iqbal*. So, I would like to felicitate you by quoting a couplet of that great renowned poet of our great heritage:

तू शाही है परवाज़ है काम तेरा
तेरे सामने आसमां और भी हैं

Thank you, Sir.

CONSCIOUS OF THE HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY*

Krishan Kant
Vice-President of India and
Chairman, Rajya Sabha

Honourable Members, I am deeply grateful for the kind words that have been spoken about me. It makes me all the more conscious of the heavy responsibility that is cast on me.

One honourable Member asked me: What difference did I find in the House? One visible difference is the painting of Dr. Radhakrishnan just in front of me in the House. Many years before, as Chairman of the Rajya Sabha he sat on this Chair, with very great dignity and distinction and guided this House with utmost brilliance in the formative years of our Republic. I had the privilege of being a student in the University where he was my Vice-Chancellor — the Banaras Hindu University. I still possess his personal certificate to me. That certificate has been a perennial source of encouragement. At a personal level, I shall continue to draw inspiration from this portrait of my teacher and the first Chairman of this House and derive the strength to abide by the lofty standards he set for all of us. I shall always remain conscious that this Chair has been occupied by men of exceptional eminence, from Dr. Radhakrishnan to our present President. This is a humbling thought.

Some honourable Members mentioned about my being very active during Question Hours and in raising questions in the House, when I had the privilege of being its Member. Yes, that is so; and I thoroughly enjoyed every moment of it. The sight of a Minister struck dumb by the quality of a Member's question, or, a Member bowled over by the Minister's sharp wit, is an enduring spectacle of the parliamentary drama. It makes all — even the tallest, look so vulnerable, so fallible and so human. The right to ask question filled me with a sense of uplifting power — the power to hold the whole system accountable to the enquiry of the representative of the people. The atmosphere in this House pulsates with the energising power of democracy. No one is left untouched.

Life does strange things. I never wanted to become a Governor, I was persuaded to become one. Earlier, as a Member of Parliament, I never wanted to be on the panel of Chairmen either in this House or in the other House. And today, I stand here as the Chairman of this august House. I consider this to be

*Acceptance speech as Chairman, Rajya Sabha

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the continuation of a journey started and a role defined, several years ago, as an MP. Then, I asserted my identity by asking questions. Now, I will encourage you to assert your identity by never surrendering that essential prerogative of the MP — the right to ask questions. I assure you that I will protect your right to ask questions — regardless of whether you belong to the Opposition or the ruling party or the alliance. In return, all I ask of you is a promise, that you will never give up the MP's inalienable right to question the Government. I say this because, in the last few years, situations have arisen when Members themselves put forth the demand that the Question Hour be suspended on a given day. I found this somewhat paradoxical — Members wanting the Chairman's nod to give up a right, they always fought to protect. Suspending the Question Hour, as a political statement, may gain you a few momentary advantages, but is sure to impose a heavy cost in terms of the slow erosion of your rights as MPs. When you give up the Question Hour, you fritter away the sacrifices of all preceding generations who fought and suffered to secure for us the right to question the dictator which lurks behind every Government. The Question Hour is the life-breath of parliamentary democracy. When you give up the Question Hour, even for a day, you weaken the ongoing struggle to enforce higher accountability on the Government in power; you weaken the evolution of the parliamentary democracy.

I certainly hope you won't give up that precious right of yours or whittle it down for anything else. I promise that I will stand by you in enforcing these standards, whether you are in the Opposition or on the other side of the House.

I have always remained an admirer of the joint family system and I consider this House to be a large joint family. It has its faults and foibles, its traumas and weaknesses, its protagonists and its opponents — but the joint family functions so long as its members are united on the necessity to make it function. They are not expected to give up their self-interest in toto, but only enough to create that essential common space on which every member agrees. As Chairman, it shall be my primary responsibility to help find and, even enlarge, that common space in the midst of political, group, ideological, regional and even personal oppositions. With your cooperation, I hope to succeed.

During the seven and a half years that I served as the Governor of Andhra Pradesh, the State have had five Chief Ministers. Each was a unique personality with his own distinctive approach to politics. But it should be said to the credit of our constitutional arrangement, that it possesses enough flexibility to adapt to the new policy impulses and approaches. If we function according to the rules of the game and downplay our egos and self-interests, we have in our Constitution an excellent adhesive to keep the country together. It provides the motive force to strengthen national unity, and realise our potential to rise to those great heights, to which any nation can, and should, aspire.

My thoughts go to the titanic people's struggle that often preceded the victory of parliamentary institutions. Often these struggles coalesced with national

liberation struggles, like our own. In the fiftieth year of our Independence, it is wise to remind ourselves of our struggle for independence and the leadership of one of the most remarkable men in all history — Mahatma Gandhi.

Gandhi's was not just a struggle against imperialism, it was essentially a revolution in human character and social values. Gandhi gave us our freedom; but he also gave us our credo.

He reminded us of the virtues of orderly institutions and, discipline even in street actions. In 1918, when he was fasting in Ahmedabad jail on the labour issue, some workers said to him, "We will organise a *hartal* in Ahmedabad". Gandhiji shot back, "And how will you ensure everybody's support for the *hartal* when some are known to be opposed to it?" The workers confessed that they planned to enlist the support of some anti-social elements to intimidate the dissenters to fall in line. Gandhiji would have none of it. He sternly warned them: "If you hold a *hartal* or *bandh* with the support of anti-social elements now, India, when free, will be ruled only by anti-social elements. Never do such mindless acts". That was Gandhiji. "Means", for him, remained as important as the "ends". In his philosophy, "means" and "ends" were convertible. Both had to be moral.

I was always keen to know why the parliamentary system found favour with Gandhiji. The Congress bulletin of 1937 throws a flood of light on this. Gandhiji, as you know, was against office acceptance by the Congress. But after the 1937 elections he advised the Congress in favour of office acceptance. He considered it as a further stage in the development of non-violent experiment. His advice surprised many at that time. He explained: the acceptance of office was not to be a venture in the field of power politics, but a serious attempt, on the one hand, to avoid a bloody revolution and, on the other, to avoid mass civil disobedience.

Even though he himself was the progenitor of mass civil disobedience, he always held that 'satyagraha' and mass civil disobedience could not be resorted to everyday, or even frequently. He authorised mass civil disobedience, as a part of our freedom struggle, in 1920, then in 1930, again in 1932, eight years later in 1940 and, then in 1942. He used 'satyagraha' not as an over-the-counter medicine, but as a rare therapy. His 'satyagraha' enjoined the highest rectitude in the leader as well as in the follower, it was moral action to be employed to achieve only the highest goals and, not for temporary political benefits. What we see today in India may be some form of democratic protest — actions, but these are surely not 'satyagraha'. 'Satyagraha' was the end — result of Gandhiji's search for a non-violent process of power which would be inspired by truth and love and, thus could be a substitute for bloody revolution and mass civil disobedience. But look at what is happening today? 'Satyagraha' is becoming 'duragraha' and 'bandh' is becoming 'duragandha'. If we have to get this 'duragandha' out of our system, we will have to go back to Gandhi again. As 'satyagraha' cannot be organised frequently, had he been alive, Gandhiji would

have attempted to use every election as some form of 'satyagraha', where truth could be asserted and truthful men elected to public office. If we are able to translate this idea of Gandhiji into practice, it would go a long way in strengthening parliamentary democracy in India.

Happily, I find there is a unique convergence of Gandhiji's ideas and the ideas of the other outstanding son of India, Babasaheb Ambedkar. In his last speech to the Constituent Assembly, before it adopted the Constitution, Babasaheb referred to the Buddhist Bhikku Sanga and the political system of ancient India in which all the modern rules of parliamentary procedure were practised. He then raised a question: Why, in the march of history, did that democratic system lose out? Will we lose it a second time? That is the question — that warning, we must always bear in mind. Babasaheb referred at many places to the divisions in our society and its moral weaknesses. If we want to not to lose democracy, then our parliamentary institutions must necessarily become instruments of national unity and social cohesion. It was this unity of India that was the core of Babasaheb's philosophy and approach. In his last speech, he referred to the historical events where a Hindu betrayed a Hindu, a Muslim betrayed a Muslim, a Sikh betrayed a Sikh. Why, he asked, did that happen? Because of the pursuit of self-interest, as he himself answered. In this process, collectively we betrayed India. He remained, till the very end, deeply concerned about the unity of India. What is happening now? The dreaded phenomenon of caste-politics is eating into our vitals. Religion has become divisive. Gandhiji wanted to spiritualise politics. Unfortunately, a situation has arisen, where we have to spiritualise religion, because religion itself has become politics.

How do we go about correcting these aberrations? What are the parliamentary institutions to do in such a situation? At different places, at different times — Gandhiji, Jawaharlal Nehru, Dr. Ambedkar, Dr. Lohia, talked of transcendence, which, they rightly held, was the hallmark of the Indian civilization — the core of the Indian culture, indeed of the entire Asian culture. We have to ensure that parliamentary institutions become instruments of transcendence of unifying people, elevating them to a higher spiritual plane and making them more conscious of the higher goals they are to subserve.

Dr. Ambedkar was a strong advocate of Constitutionalism. He was basically against the concept of class war and class struggle. He disapproved of civil disobedience, because he thought, it could be the cause for chaos and anarchy. Gandhiji was of the view that non-violent struggles strengthened Constitutional processes and could avert violent action. In spite of this difference, both Gandhiji and Dr. Ambedkar, were for Constitutional and non-violent methods of change and even revolution.

Honourable Members, the new millennium is only three years away. As a nation, we have begun our preparations. We shall be discussing for four days, the new challenges that are awaiting us. Some members referred to the spectre of criminalisation, others referred to something else. I believe, that the greatest

challenge to us, along with ensuring the material well-being of our people, will be to ensure their moral and spiritual regeneration. The earlier civilizations, history tells us, rose and declined over distinct periods of time. Today, in the modern-age civilization, the rise in material prosperity is simultaneous with the spiritual and moral decline of the human race. The processes of rise and fall are going on simultaneously. That is why while addressing the economists in 1915 in Allahabad, Gandhiji raised two questions. Those questions remain valid even today for all Indians. His first question was: Does development mean development of man? Then he put his second question: Does economic development mean development of moral man? He believed, it did not. So, he gave a warning by citing historical examples; Rome suffered a moral fall when it attained high material affluence. So did Egypt and so, perhaps most countries of which we have any historic record. And lo and behold! Gandhiji who read the *Gita* daily, said, "The kinsmen of the royal and divine Krishna too, fell when they were rolling in riches". He warned us all about the consequences of such unbalanced growth. His warning has lost none of its relevance in our times.

The parliamentary institutions, are the moral fulcrum of our country. Pursuing economic and social development is no-doubt, an imperative; but so is moral regeneration of our people.

I have been overwhelmed by the kind words spoken by my friends here. It is difficult for me to express adequately my gratitude for their generosity. My father once told me, "In public life you will receive abundant, even excessive love and severe rebuke, all at the same time. If you are right, never get despondent with the rebuke. Keep the treasure of love as a precious fragrance in a little box close to your heart. Take a pinch everytime a rebuke saddens you or a criticism bothers you". Honourable Members the love showered on me today will be the precious reservoir from which I will draw solace during moments of despondency. I am grateful to you for vesting me with the valuable asset of your affection.

Before concluding may I say: parliamentary institutions are the temples of democracy. They are the Gangotri from which people expect purity and probity to flow incessantly to enrich the material and moral life of the country. I am sure that in the Rajya Sabha, the House of Continuity and in the Lok Sabha, a House of Change; we have a splendid blend of change and continuity in our Parliament. That is the Indian tradition, that is our *dharma*. It will set the moral tone and temper of our society while building a new India. In this task, I will be your first servant.