RAJYA SABHA

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*SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

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(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

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Monday, January 31, 2022 / Magha 11, 1943 (Saka)

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PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

SECRETARY-GENERAL: I lay on the Table a copy (in English and Hindi) of the President's Address to both the Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 31st January, 2022.

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OBITUARY REFERENCES

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of Dr. Mahendra Prasad, a sitting Member, Shri Joyanta Roy, Shri Debendra Nath Barman, Shri M. Moses, Shri Ganeshwar Kusum, former Members of this House and Pandit Birju Maharaj, a world renowned Kathak dancer.

Dr. Mahendra Prasad passed away on the 27th of December, 2021 at the age of 81 years.

Born in January, 1940, in Govindpur village of Jehanabad district of Bihar, Dr. Mahendra Prasad was educated at the Patna College, Patna University.

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*This Synopsis is not an authoritative record of the proceedings of the Rajya Sabha.

An economist, industrialist and a social worker, Dr. Prasad had a humble beginning, starting his career as a school teacher. Motivated by a desire to succeed, his grit, determination and hard work led him to become a successful businessman and he went on to establish two pharmaceutical companies. Dr. Prasad also set up a college at Okari in Jehanabad, a rural and backward area of Bihar, to promote higher education among the poor, underprivileged and girls. Dr. Prasad was awarded a 'Certificate of National Record' by the publishers of Limca Book of Records for being the most travelled parliamentarian, having visited 209 countries (191 UN member countries and 18 other territories). He was also accorded the title of 'Atlantis Submariner' in 2002 for diving into the Caribbean Sea to a depth of 173 feet.

Dr. Prasad started his legislative career as a Member of the Seventh Lok Sabha in the year 1980. He served as a Member of this House for seven terms, six terms representing the State of Bihar, from 1985 to 1992, and from 2000 till his sad demise, and one term as a Nominated Member, from 1993 to 1994. Dr. Prasad also served as a Member on the Panel of Vice-Chairmen of this House.

In the passing away of Dr. Mahendra Prasad, the country has lost a compassionate industrialist, a dedicated social worker, and a distinguished parliamentarian.

Shri Joyanta Roy passed away on the 1st of May, 2021, at the age of 77 years.

Born in November, 1943, at Boharan in Burdwan District of West Bengal, Shri Joyanta Roy was educated at the Bankura Christian College, Bankura, West Bengal.

Shri Roy started his career as a school teacher. He strived for upliftment of weaker and deprived sections of the society and took keen interest in agricultural development and eradication of illiteracy. He was also very actively involved in organising agricultural labourers and small and marginal farmers in rural Bengal to further the cause of their rights.

Shri Joyanta Roy served as a Member of this House representing the State of West Bengal, from August, 1994 to April, 2000.

In the passing away of Shri Joyanta Roy, the country has lost a dedicated social worker and an able parliamentarian.

Shri Debendra Nath Barman passed away on the 18th of July, 2021, at the age of 77 years.

Born in November, 1943, at Balakuthi Village in Cooch Behar district of West Bengal, Shri Debendra Nath Barman was educated at the Nigam Nagar Junior B. T. College, Dinhata, West Bengal.

A teacher, Shri Barman had actively participated in the flood and famine relief work in Cooch Behar district. He also served as Secretary of the All India Kisan Sabha, Bashirhat Block, West Bengal.

Shri Debendra Nath Barman served as a Member of this House representing the State of West Bengal, from July, 1981 to July, 1987.

In the passing away of Shri Debendra Nath Barman the country has lost a dedicated social worker and a good parliamentarian.

Shri M. Moses passed away on the 17th of December, 2021, at the age of 92 years.

Born in October, 1929, at Nagercoil in Kanniyakumari distrtict of Tamil Nadu, Shri Moses was educated at the Madras Medical College, Chennai.

A Doctor of Medicine, Shri Moses was actively involved in providing free medical aid to the poor. He also worked for furthering the interests of the unorganized labour of the Kanniyakumari district of Tamil Nadu.

Shri Moses started his legislative career as a Member of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly in the year 1971 and served that Assembly for four terms.

Shri M. Moses served as a Member of this House representing the State of Tamil Nadu, from April, 1978 to April, 1984.

In the passing away of Shri M. Moses, the country has lost a dedicated social worker and a good parliamentarian.

Shri Ganeshwar Kusum passed away on the 24th of December, 2021, at the age of 87 years.

Born in March, 1934, at Talpatia in Sambalpur district of Odisha, Shri Ganeshwar Kusum was educated at the Jharsuguda High School and the Elementary Training Centre, Panchpara, West Bengal.

An agriculturist, Shri Kusum started his career as a school teacher. Inspired by his family's contribution to the freedom struggle and the call of national leaders, he sacrificed higher education to join the crusade against the oppression of depressed and backward classes at a young age. Shri Kusum also worked assiduously for the socio-economic development of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and was instrumental in championing their legal rights. He also served as the Chairman of Sundargarh Sadar Panchayat Samiti in 1977 and 1984.

Shri Ganeshwar Kusum served as a Member of this House representing the State of Odisha, from April, 1984 to April, 1990.

In the passing away of Shri Ganeshwar Kusum, the country has lost a champion of the rights of the depressed classes, a dedicated social worker and a good parliamentarian.

Pandit Birju Maharaj passed away on the 17th of January, 2022, at the age of 83 years.

Born in a family which had a long-standing association with the Kathak dance form, Birju Maharaj took to Kathak at a tender age of four under the guidance of his father and uncles. He was a child prodigy.

A doyen of Kathak dance form, Birju Majaraj took the Indian classical dance form to ethereal heights through his mesmerizing performances across the world. Belonging to Lucknow's 'Kalka-

Bindadin' Gharana of the Kathak, Birju Maharaj was known for his impeccable footwork and emotive, stylised storytelling, the Kathak way. He also created his own kathas, that is, stories and very skilfully blended them into Kathak to portray social issues through dance. Birju Maharaj was also proficient in the Hindustani classical music and percussion instruments.

He choreographed and composed music for many Indian movies and won the National Film Award for his choreography in 2012.

As an exceptional mentor and guru, Pandit Birju Maharaj stood true to the age-old Guru-Shishya Parampara of our country and nurtured and trained an impressive number of illustrious classical dancers, who continue to zealously carry the flag of Indian classical dance forms across the planet. He had started teaching the dance form at the age of thirteen years. Besides serving as the Head of Faculty and Director at the Kathak Kendra, New Delhi, a unit of Sangeet Natak Akademi, he also established Kalashram, a dance school, in Delhi.

Pandit Birju Maharaj was the recipient of several prestigious awards, notable being the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1964 and the Padma Vibhushan in 1986.

In the passing away of Pandit Birju Maharaj, the country has lost a legendary exponent of Kathak dance form, an exceptional mentor, and a pole star in the world of performing arts. Though the resonance of his radiant artistry will live through many generations to come, his passing away has left an irreparable void in the Indian cultural ethos.

We deeply mourn the passing away of Dr. Mahendra Prasad, Shri Joyanta Roy, Shri Debendra Nath Barman, Shri M. Moses, Shri Ganeshwar Kusum and Pandit Birju Maharaj.

(One Minute's silence was observed as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.)

OBSERVATION BY CHAIR

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members may kindly note that in view of the present situation due to Covid pandemic, the seating arrangement for Members has been made in the Rajya Sabha Chamber, Rajya Sabha Galleries (except Press Gallery) and the Lok Sabha Chamber. The fixed Seat/Division numbers for Members, as is done in the normal seating arrangement, has, therefore, been dispensed with in this Session. The number of seats for each party at different places, that is, Rajya Sabha Chamber, Rajya Sabha Galleries and Lok Sabha Chamber, has been fixed as per their numerical strength for allocation amongst their Members by the respective parties.

The Members sitting in the Galleries of Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha Chamber are requested to raise their hands, introduce themselves and also announce the place, that is, the Gallery number or the Lok Sabha Chamber clearly from where they are speaking before taking part in a discussion, as and when called, so that they could be identified easily. For the sake of reaching out to people through proper voice, Members are permitted to speak while sitting.

I may also inform the Members that the Economic Survey, 2021-22, which will be laid today on the Table of the House, would be made available to the Members on the Members' Portal soon after its laying.

I would like to make a request to the Members please, stick to the seats that are allotted to your party and to you. I have already asked the Secretary-General to speak to the leaders of different parties to see that their Members are informed about the seating arrangement so that Members can occupy those seats. Even today, I see some Members sitting closely to each other. This should be avoided at any cost.

P. C. MODY,
Secretary-General.

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