



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addresses retiring Members of Rajya Sabha

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Parliamentary system gains immense strength from the concept of a second opinion; This second opinion is a massive contribution to our democracy that we must cherish: PM

The six years spent here are invaluable for shaping one's contribution to the nation and for self-growth: PM

The invaluable contributions of the retiring members to nation-building would continue to be felt whether they serve within the formal system or through independent social work: PM

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Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed retiring Members of Rajya Sabha today. Expressing heartfelt gratitude for the chance to honor retiring colleagues, the Prime Minister noted that such occasions allow the House to rise above party lines and share a common sentiment. PM Modi remarked that whether members return or move into broader social service, their accumulated experience remains an asset to the nation. He observed that in the dynamic field of politics, the journey never truly ends as the future always holds new opportunities for seasoned leaders. "In politics, there are no full stops; your experience and contribution will forever remain a part of the nation's life," asserted Shri Modi.

Highlighting the best contributions of the outgoing members, the Prime Minister suggested that the new generation of MPs should look to veterans like Shri Deve Gowda, Shri Kharge, and Shri Sharad Pawar as role models. He praised Deputy Chairman Harivansh Ji for his soft-spoken conduct and his ability to maintain the House's trust while handling complex crises.

Shri Modi pointed out that such dedicated service reflects a deep commitment to the responsibilities entrusted by society. "There is much to learn from these senior leaders about staying entirely committed to the responsibilities given by society," noted the Prime Minister.

Reflecting on the changing traditions of the House, PM Modi remarked that while the 24x7 media environment has made everyone more conscious, the legacy of humor and wit remains an essential part of parliamentary life. He highlighted that the departure of a group every two years allows for a continuous exchange of knowledge, ensuring that the House's rich legacy is preserved by the incoming members. Shri Modi observed that this institutional continuity is a significant advantage that strengthens the democratic process. "The legacy here is a continuous process that enriches our parliamentary system," remarked the Prime Minister.

Highlighting the unique institutional value of the Rajya Sabha, PM Modi pointed out that the parliamentary system gains immense strength from the concept of a "second opinion." He noted that the transition of decisions between the two Houses adds a critical new dimension to the legislative process, ensuring more refined outcomes for the country. This democratic heritage, according to him, fosters a sense of openness and thoroughness in national decision-making. "This second opinion is a massive contribution to our democracy that we must cherish," said Shri Modi.

The Prime Minister pointed out that the retiring cohort holds the rare distinction of having served in both the old and the new Parliament buildings during their tenure. He remarked that being part of the historic transition to the new House would serve as a fresh and significant memory in their public service careers. Shri Modi described the House as a "Great Open University" that provides members with a unique education in the complexities of national life. "The six years spent here are invaluable for shaping one's contribution to the nation and for self-growth," emphasized the Prime Minister.

Concluding the address, Shri Modi expressed confidence that the members' vision and capacity have expanded manifold through their years of parliamentary experience. He noted that their invaluable contributions to nation-building would continue to be felt whether they serve within the formal system or through independent social work. PM Modi once again glorified the long and dedicated service of the retiring representatives, thanking them for their commitment. "I once again salute and glorify the contributions of all the retiring members," emphasized Shri Modi.

Speaking in the Rajya Sabha. <https://t.co/TV2X34E4D1>

— Narendra Modi (@narendramodi) March 18, 2026

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