

PARLIAMENT HOUSE: --- FROM PAST TO FUTURE



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT, NEW DELHI

10 DECEMBER 2020



PARLIAMENT HOUSE : FROM PAST TO THE FUTURE

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PREFACE

The Parliament of India is a supreme expression of the will of the people of this great nation and, therefore, the Parliament building should serve as an architectural reflection of our pride in our nationhood, the maturity of our parliamentary democracy and the aspirations of a young, modern nation. The present Parliament building, an iconic architectural structure whose foundation was laid about a century ago in February 1921, has been witness to the efflorescence of Parliamentary democracy in the country and its transition to a modern state.

It is a testament to the faith that the country reposes in its Parliament that in the nine decades of its existence, the space requirement for conduct of Parliamentary duties has grown exponentially. In addition, the demands of modern technology, safety and security imperatives are no longer possible to be met with the resources that the present building has to offer. It was a recognition of such constraints that both the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha passed resolutions in support of a new Parliament building for the nation.

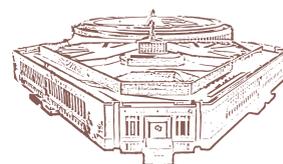
The foundation-stone of the new Parliament Building laid by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, on 10th December 2020 in the presence of the Hon'ble Speaker of Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla, will see the creation of a worthy sanctum sanctorum of our democratic nation in time for the 75th anniversary celebrations of the nation's Independence from colonial rule.

I am sure this booklet, brought out by the Lok Sabha Secretariat, containing messages of the Hon'ble President of India and the Hon'ble Vice-President of India on the historic occasion, speeches delivered by the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Hon'ble Lok Sabha Speaker, as well as useful information and photographs will serve as a valuable document for posterity.

New Delhi
December 2020



Utpal Kumar Singh
Secretary-General
Lok Sabha





^ Classic view of Parliament House reflected in water

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“The new building of Parliament will become a place that will work to ensure happiness in the lives of the countrymen and the welfare of the people.”

*Hon’ble Prime Minister,
Shri Narendra Modi*

“The new Building of the Parliament will adorn fine art, culture and diversity from across the country and will be an inspiration for all our countrymen.”

*Hon’ble Speaker, Lok Sabha,
Shri Om Birla*

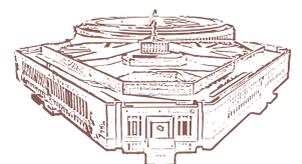


INTRODUCTION

In India, historically, great men from Gautama Buddha, Ashoka and Mahavira to Swami Vivekananda, Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. B. R. Ambedkar in modern times, have contributed to India's standing as a shining example of humanism, philosophy and peace that has enriched mankind's wisdom and knowledge. People in the country, since ancient times, have also had a culture of debate, discussion and deliberation. The ancient republics of India are examples of some of the oldest democracies in the world. This legacy of greatness is what gives strength and sustenance to Indian democracy and is the foundation of its growth, strength and stability.

The Parliament of India is the supreme representative institution of the world's largest democracy. It is the highest deliberative body that has been at the forefront of forging the destiny of India. It represents the hopes, dreams, aspirations and concerns of "We, the people".

In its sojourn of more than seven decades, the Parliament of India has witnessed and been a part of India's growth, from a newly independent nation to economic and cultural power that today has an increasing say in international matters.





^ Parliament House under construction



^ Parliament House after completion of construction

Structural Evolution of the Parliament House Complex

The Parliament House Estate comprises Sansad Bhawan (Parliament House), Reception Office Building, Sansadiya Soudha (Parliament House Annexe), Extension to Parliament House Annexe and Sansadiya Gyanpeeth (Parliament Library Building), surrounded by extensive lawns around it.

The construction of the Parliament House, one of the most magnificent buildings in the country, was undertaken under the supervision of renowned architects, Sir Edward Lutyens and Sir Herbert Baker. The foundation stone of Parliament House (the Council House as it was originally known) was laid on 12 February 1921 by the Duke of Connaught. The building was inaugurated on 18 January 1927 by the then Viceroy of India, Lord Irwin, thus marking the beginning of the journey of this great building, the solemn walls of which have witnessed significant moments of history in making.

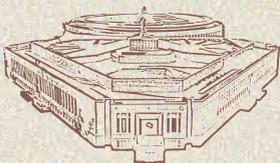
The construction of the building was completed in six years at a cost of Rs. 83 lakh. This was a massive undertaking in its time and the iconic structure has come to define the skyline of New Delhi ever since. The Central Legislative Assembly met for the first time in Parliament House on 19 January 1927, thereby marking the beginning of representative rule in India.

The extant Parliament House is a massive circular building, measuring 560 feet in diameter. Its circumference is one-third of a mile and it covers an area of nearly six acres. The open verandah on the first floor is fringed with a colonnade of 144 creamy sandstone columns, each standing 27 feet high, lending a unique grace and charm to the Building. The entire Parliament House is enclosed by ornamental red sandstone walls with iron gates, while the Building itself has twelve gates in all.

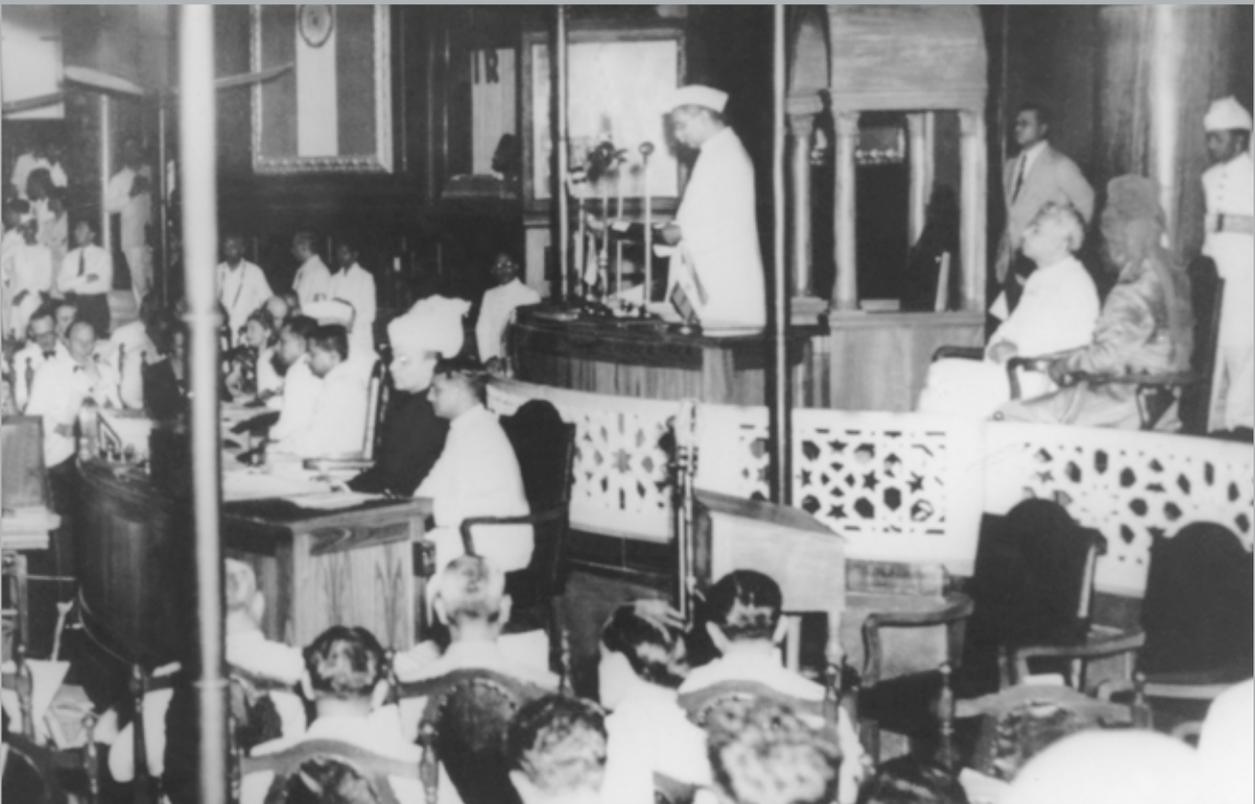




^ Parliament House

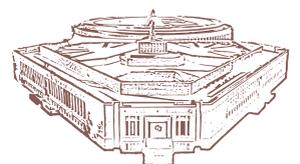


To enhance aesthetics of the Complex and as a tribute to the leaders and stalwarts who played an important role in the making of India, statues and busts of national leaders have been installed at various places such as Lawns, Courtyards and Entrance Halls of Lobbies of the Lok Sabha Chamber, the Rajya Sabha Chamber and the Members' Reading Room.



▲ Midnight Session of the Constituent Assembly on 14-15 August 1947

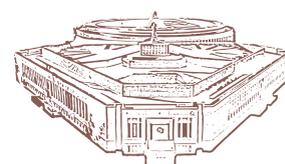
Parliament House has been privy to many historic events. It has been witness to the journey of the Indian Legislature which began in 1921, with the establishment of the Central Legislative Assembly and the Council of States. The transfer of power from Britain to India also took place within its precincts. The Constituent Assembly adopted the Constitution of India, which has shaped the destiny of millions of people, in the Central Hall of Parliament House.



Imperative for an Ultra-modern and Hi-tech Parliament Building

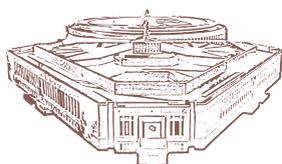
Indian democracy has withstood the test of time and has strengthened over the years. Peoples' faith in democratic institutions and processes has only deepened and consolidated. Historically, the Lok Sabha, the House of the People, was duly constituted for the first time on 17 April 1952. The First Lok Sabha had 499 members. Under the Constitution (Seventh Amendment) Act, 1956, the maximum number of seats for states was raised and fixed at 500. This was increased to 525 by the Constitution (Thirty-first Amendment) Act, 1973, and further increased to 530 by the Goa, Daman and Diu Reorganization Act, 1987. Out of the total 550 seats in the Lok Sabha, 530 belong to States and 20 belong to Union territories. Similarly, the number of seats in the Rajya Sabha too has increased from 204 in 1952, to 228 in 1966 and further to 233 in 1987. Thus, today there are a total of 245 seats in Rajya Sabha out of which 233 are elected and 12 are nominated. It may be mentioned, that after the process of delimitation of constituencies for the Lok Sabha and the State Legislatures is completed, the seats in both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, are likely to increase.

Over the years, the role and responsibilities of Parliament have diversified and multiplied. To fulfil the growing needs and demands of the nation and the Members of Parliament, three new buildings – the Parliament House Annexe; the Parliament Library Building; and the Extension to Parliament House Annexe –were added to the Parliament House Estate in the years 1975, 2002 and 2017, respectively. During the journey of parliamentary democracy, Parliament of India has all along been the friend, philosopher and guide to the people, taking the nation forward through the path illuminated by the guiding light of the Constitution of India.



At the same time, parliamentary activities and the number of people working therein, as also visitors, have increased manifold. The building has, of late been showing signs of distress due to over-utilization. Changing circumstances and advances in technology have necessitated a demand in terms of space, amenities and up-gradation of technology. The fire safety norms too have improvised with time and are creating their demands for upgradation on the extant heritage building. The electrical, air-conditioning, and plumbing systems also are costly to operate and maintain. Further, the Central Hall has a limited seating capacity. When Joint Sessions are held, many temporary seats have to be arranged in the aisles. This arrangement undermines the dignity of the august institution and poses challenges for evacuation during emergent conditions.

Studies have been undertaken by various agencies from time to time that indicate to carry out structural retrofitting, relaying of electrical and mechanical services, air-conditioning, removal of subsequent interventions and temporary structures, etc. the Parliament House Building will have to be vacated for 18-24 months. Further, as per constitutional requirements and in light of population increase, seating capacity of the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha Chambers may also have to be increased, which is not feasible in the existing building. Moreover, a large number of Members also have, over the years, expressed the need for modern and hi-tech facilities to ensure that they can meaningfully focus on the needs of their constituents and issues of public importance can be resolved on time. Thus, it was felt prudent to take up the construction of the new Parliament Building, adjoining the existing Parliament House.



Constitutional provision with respect to allocation of seats in the House of the People

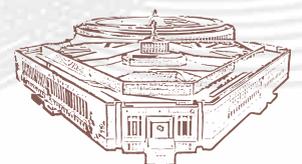
82. Readjustment after each census – Upon the completion of each census, the allocation of seats in the House of the People to the States and the division of each State into territorial constituencies shall be readjusted by such authority and in such manner as Parliament may by law determine:

Provided that such readjustment shall not affect representation in the House of the People until the dissolution of the then existing House:

Provided further that such readjustment shall take effect from such date as the President may, by order, specify and until such readjustment takes effect, any election to the House may be held on the basis of the territorial constituencies existing before such readjustment:

Provided also that until the relevant figures for the first census taken after the year 2026 have been published, it shall not be necessary to readjust–

- (i) the allocation of seats in the House of the People of the States as readjusted on the basis of 1971 Census; and
- (ii) the division of each State into territorial constituencies as may be readjusted on the basis of the 2001 Census under this article.

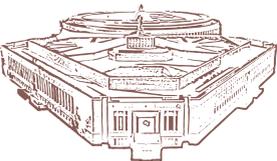


Proposal for a New Parliament Building

The proposal for the new Parliament Building was simultaneously made by the Hon'ble Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu and the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla on 5 August 2019 in the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha, respectively, with a request to the Hon'ble Prime Minister for a modern and hi-tech new Parliament Building.



▲ Hon'ble Vice-President and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu



Observation by the Hon'ble Vice-President and Chairman, Rajya Sabha

Hon'ble Members, the Parliament House, the largest temple of the Republic of India, has completed its 92 golden years. All the political decisions are taken in the Chambers of the temple of the world's largest democracy. The growing nature of democracy, since Independence, has increased the responsibilities of this most sacred and the great institution of the country thereby raising the expectations of the people. Therefore, it is our aspiration that the Parliament House of the world's largest republic and the largest democracy be most magnificent and impressive. For this, on behalf of all of us, I urge upon the Prime Minister and the Government that by 2022, on the completion of 75 years of India's Independence, the expansion and modernization of Parliament House should also be included in his resolutions of New India.

On behalf of all the Members of the House, I would like to assure the nation and the House that the sanctity and dignity of the Parliament will be kept intact.



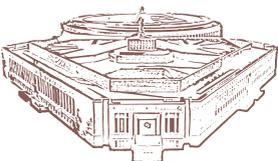
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^ Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla

Observation by the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha

Hon'ble Members, the biggest temple of Indian Republic, the Parliament House has completed 92 glorious years of its existence. All political decisions are taken in this hallowed building which holds the distinction of being the temple of the largest democracy in the world. The ever expanding horizons of democracy since Independence have increased the roles and responsibilities of this sacrosanct and great heritage,



thereby increasing the aspirations of our people. Thus, it is the ambition of all of us that the world's greatest Republic and the largest democracy has a Parliament House, which is the most magnificent, attractive and technologically well advanced. We have a dream to transact the proceedings of the Parliament sitting in a modern hi-tech building when we will be celebrating 75 years of our Independence.

Therefore, I would urge upon the Hon'ble Prime Minister to fulfil this resolve of a New India at the attainment of 75 years of Independence in the year 2022. I am hopeful that the vision which we all have will be fulfilled and the concerns which have been raised by some members, like their seating being behind a pillar or those relating to lack of latest technology, will soon be addressed.

This House urges upon the Hon'ble Prime Minister to translate our cherished dream of sitting in a completely transformed and modern Parliament by 2022, during the celebrations of 75 years of our Independence, so that our shared vision of witnessing Parliament of India as the most splendid temple of democracy in the world, is realized.

Subsequently, the matter was taken up by the General Purposes Committee chaired by the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, on 19 March 2020, which has Leaders from different political parties; Chairpersons of Parliamentary Committees and Ministers of Parliamentary Affairs. The 40-member Committee made detailed proposals to be incorporated in design, amenities and structure of the new Parliament Building. The Committee also recommended that artisans and sculptors from all over the country may contribute and showcase India's cultural diversity in the new Building.

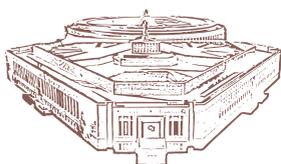


Recommendations of the General Purposes Committee



▲ Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha chairing the meeting of the General Purposes Committee on 19 March 2020

- The new Parliament Building should reflect Indian culture and ethos. Furniture, panels, construction materials to be used in the new building, especially inside the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, should give a traditional Indian look, in line with the rich history of Parliament.
- The Central Hall serves as an important place for undertaking informal consultations between MPs across party lines of both the Houses. Because of its historical significance and utility, a similar facility should be provided in the new Parliament Building as well.
- The new Parliament Building should appropriately reflect indigenous rich art forms from across the country.



- Avenues for retrofitting the current Parliament building to transform it into a modern building, as has been done in the UK and Germany, should also be explored.
- Since Parliament is a temple of democracy, adequate facilities should be provided to the public, who visit Parliament.
- Proper facilities should also be provided to the Parliament Staff, who play a key role in its efficient functioning.
- A separate Committee may be constituted, as a part of stakeholder consultation, on the development of the new Parliament Building to deliberate on all relevant aspects.
- Vedic Mantras should be inscribed on the walls of the new Parliament Building, as it exists in the present one.
- Electric cars for the transit of MPs, from the alighting point to the Chamber, through the tunnel could be a bottleneck. Some efficient system for commuting should be explored.
- Walkways could be provided inside the tunnel, to allow MPs to walk to the building.
- Circular Table to be provided in the Hon'ble Speaker's Chamber.
- Auditorium, Spiritual Blocks, Smoking areas, Reading Rooms, Lounges near the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha Chamber to be provided.
- The new Parliament Building should have the provision of rainwater harvesting.

▼ Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha chairing the meeting of the General Purposes Committee on 19 March 2020



Apart from the above-mentioned meeting of the General Purposes Committee, the Hon'ble Vice-President and Chairman of the Rajya Sabha and the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha together met on a number of occasions to discuss details with regard to the construction and profile of the new Building.

Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha also held several formal and informal meetings to review the preparations for the laying of the foundation stone of the new Parliament Building. This included a meeting held on 23 October 2020 with the Hon'ble Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Housing and Urban Affairs, Shri Hardeep Singh Puri and officials of the Ministry, Central Public Works Department and other agencies. The Hon'ble Speaker later visited the Parliament House Complex on 7 November 2020 and gave several directions to the agencies concerned.

▼ Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla giving directions to the concerned officials during visit to the Parliament House Complex on 7 November 2020



Laying of Foundation Stone of the New Parliament Building

Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the new Parliament Building in the Parliament House Complex on 10 December 2020 in the gracious presence of the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla. On this occasion, several Union Ministers, Hon'ble Members of Parliament and other distinguished guests were also present.

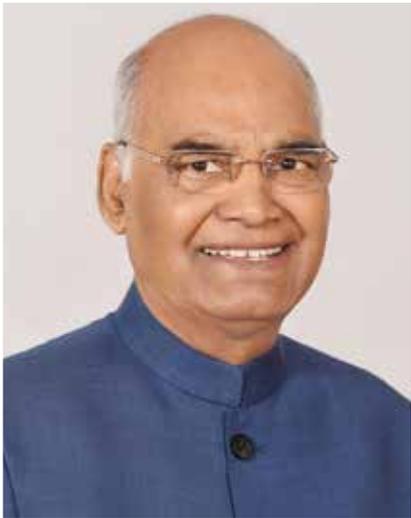
On the eve of laying of the foundation stone of the new Parliament Building, the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla had called on the Hon'ble President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind and requested him to give his goodwill message on the historic occasion.

On this occasion, the Hon'ble Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Harivansh read out messages of the President and the Vice-President of India.

▼ Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla calling on the Hon'ble President, Shri Ram Nath Kovind



Message by the Hon'ble President of India



“The new building will stand alongside the present Parliament House in harmony, joining our past with the future in a seamless manner.”



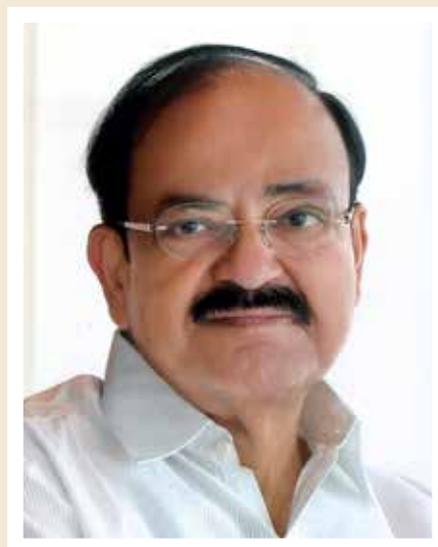
On this historic moment of laying the foundation stone for a new Parliament House, it is indeed a momentous milestone in the journey of our strong and vibrant democracy. In the process, the past will not be discarded—the heritage, if anything, will have a better chance of conservation. The new building will stand alongside the present Parliament House in harmony, joining our past with the future in a seamless manner. I am glad to note that the design and interiors of the new Parliament complex have been planned to capture the richness and diversity of our regional arts, crafts, textiles, architecture and culture. Thus, it will be an expression of Unity in Diversity, of our traditional ethos as well as values of the new India.

As the new building, a new symbol of our national identity, is expected to be completed in 2022, it will be a truly monumental gesture for the nation celebrating 75 years of its Independence. I compliment you for undertaking this project of such a scale and significance. My best wishes for the successful building of the new Parliament House, which will stand out as a creation of 135 crore Indians and will further cement India's place as the biggest and the most inspiring democracy in the world.

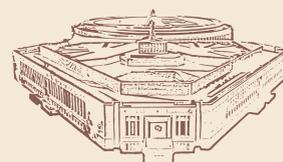
Message by the Hon'ble Vice-President of India

I am hopeful that your transformative vision, the “*Satsankalpa*” will get translated into “*Siddhi*” and, in the new Parliament, the country's public representatives will find a congenial space to debate public issues in a collegial manner.

As we consolidate and build upon the strengths of our parliamentary system, it is my fervent hope that the new Parliament will become the sacred venue for us to strengthen India's democratic roots and propel it onto a faster, sustained, inclusive development trajectory. It should become a forum for building upon the ancient Indian traditions of debates and dialogues, arguments and agreements, analysis and synthesis with a view to improving the quality of polity and the quality of life of every citizen in the country.



“The new Parliament will become the sacred venue for us to strengthen India's democratic roots and propel it onto a faster, sustained, inclusive development trajectory.”



Earlier in the day, the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi had performed the *Bhoomi Poojan* for the new Parliament Building and laid the foundation stone for the construction of the Building. Hon'ble Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Om Birla and other dignitaries also participated in the event. Thereafter, the Prime Minister unveiled a Commemorative Plaque to mark the occasion. Later, the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, addressed the distinguished gathering.

Sarva-Dharma prayers were offered by various religious *Gurus* on this auspicious occasion. A short film on the various aspects of the proposed Parliament House was also screened.



^ Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi arriving for the Bhoomi Poojan ceremony of the new Parliament Building





^ Hon'ble Prime Minister, performing Bhoomi Poojan of the new Parliament Building v





^ Hon'ble Prime Minister, performing Bhoomi Poojan of the new Parliament Building

v Hon'ble Speaker Lok Sabha performing Bhoomi Poojan of the new Parliament Building





भारत के नए संसद भवन का शिलान्यास

Laying Foundation Stone of
NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDING OF INDIA

^ Distinguished Dignitaries on the Dais

v *Sarva-Dharma* prayers being offered by religious *Gurus*





Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi unveiling the Commemorative Plaque of the new Parliament Building



^ Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla

Address by the Hon'ble Speaker Lok Sabha

Hon'ble Prime Minister, Distinguished Guests, Dignitaries connected virtually throughout the country and abroad; Ladies and Gentlemen:

Today is a glorious day for our nation. On the occasion of the laying of the foundation stone of the new building of Parliament, the pillar of strength of Indian democracy, I take this opportunity to felicitate all the people of the nation.

In the 70-year journey of our democracy, the citizens of India have remained committed to the ideals of justice, freedom, secularism, equality, unity, integrity and fraternity.

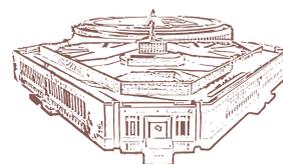
Our Parliament House, the Central Legislative Assembly of yesteryears was constructed in 1927 and is 93 years old now. Our Parliament is a symbol of people's trust and aspirations. It has been witness to the Nation's Independence, the making of the Constitution and the enactment of several historic laws.

The spread and growth of democracy has increased the responsibility of the Parliament and its Members. There is a limited scope for expansion of this building to meet our constitutional obligations in the future. Consequently, a new Parliament Building is inevitable.

The Hon'ble Members of both the Houses of Parliament had wished to construct a new Parliament House for the world's largest functioning and vibrant democracy which would, while showcasing the diversity of Indian culture, also cater to the needs of the future.

On 5 August last year, both the Houses of Parliament had requested the Hon'ble Prime Minister for the construction of a new Parliament building. In our country, democracy has been firmly established. We are soon going

“In the 70-year journey of our democracy, the citizens of India have remained committed to the ideals of justice, freedom, secularism, equality, unity, integrity and fraternity.”



to complete 75 years of Independence. We have also set new dimensions of development in New India. The peoples' dream is to have a new and modern Parliament Building.

In view of the sentiments of the Hon'ble Members of Parliament and the House, the Hon'ble Prime Minister gave his approval for the construction of the new Parliament Building and today that auspicious day has arrived when the foundation stone of the new Parliament House is being laid and the *Bhoomi Poojan* being performed by the Hon'ble Prime Minister. I take this opportunity to thank the Hon'ble Prime Minister for respecting the sentiments of the Members of both the Houses of Parliament.

I am confident that we will soon be able to complete the construction of the safe and environment-friendly, new Parliament Building, equipped with modern technology, where the people's representatives will be able to fulfil the hopes and expectations of the people with effectiveness and efficiency.

India is the world's largest democracy. Our constitutional values and democratic processes are the inspiration for the world to emulate and for the people who come here from all over the world, to understand and learn.

The new Building of the Parliament will adorn fine art, culture and diversity from across the country and will be an inspiration for all our countrymen.

On this occasion, I thank the Hon'ble President and the Hon'ble Vice-President, whose blessings and inspiring messages will continue to guide us.

I once again thank the Hon'ble Prime Minister, who has today laid the foundation of the new Building of the Parliament of the 'New Self-Reliant and Prosperous India'. I wish that this Building gives for eternity the ideal message of constitutional and democratic values to the world.

Jai Hind.





^ August dignitaries at the Foundation Stone laying Ceremony v





Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi

Inaugural Address by the Hon'ble Prime Minister

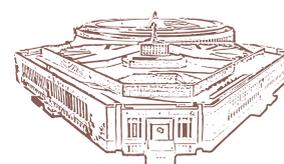
Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Om Birlaji, Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Shri Harivanshji, my colleagues in Union Cabinet Shri Pralhad Joshi, Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, representatives on different political parties, Parliament Speakers from many countries who are present through virtual medium, Ambassadors of many countries who are present here, members of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, other dignitaries and my dear countrymen:

Today's day is very historic. Today is a milestone in India's democratic history. The launch of the construction of the Parliament House of India, with the idea of Indianness by Indians, is one of the most important milestones of our democratic traditions. We the people of India will construct this new Parliament building together.

Friends, it can't be more beautiful or more pure that the new building of our Parliament becomes the very inspiration when India celebrates 75 years of its Independence. Today is a day of great privilege and pride for more than 130 crore Indians who are witnessing this historic moment.

Friends, the construction of the new Parliament House is an example of the coexistence of new and old. It is an attempt to bring about a change in oneself according to time and needs. I can't forget that moment when I got the opportunity to enter the Parliament House for the first time in 2014 as an MP. I had bowed my head and saluted this temple of democracy before stepping into it. Our present Parliament House has played an important role in forging the freedom movement first and independent India later. The first government of independent India was also formed here and the first Parliament also sat here. In this Parliament House, our Constitution was created and our democracy was restored. Baba Saheb Ambedkar and

“The launch of the construction of the Parliament House of India, with the idea of Indianness by Indians, is one of the most important milestones of our democratic traditions.”



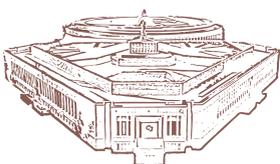
“... it is the responsibility of all of us to ensure a new Parliament House for the 21st century India. It is in this direction that it is being inaugurated today. And, therefore, today, when we are starting the construction of a new Parliament House, we are also adding new years to the life of the present Parliament complex.”

other seniors presented us the Constitution after a thorough discussion in the Central Hall. The present building of Parliament has been a symbol of every ups and downs of independent India, our challenges, solutions, hopes, aspirations and success. Every law enacted in this building and serious debates during the formulation of these laws in the Parliament House are the heritage of our democracy.

Friends, it is equally necessary to accept the reality along with the dominant history of Parliament. The building is now about a hundred years old. In the past, it was continuously upgraded in view of the requirements of that time. The walls have been turned down several times in this process for new sound systems, fire safety or IT systems. The walls have also been removed to increase the seating capacity in the Lok Sabha. In spite of all this, this House of Parliament needs a break. Now, the Lok Sabha Speaker was also telling us how the need for a new Parliament House has been felt for years. Therefore, it is the responsibility of all of us to ensure a new Parliament House for the 21st century India. It is in this direction that it is being inaugurated today. And, therefore, today, when we are starting the construction of a new Parliament House, we are also adding new years to the life of the present Parliament complex.

Many new things are being introduced in the new Parliament House that will increase the efficiency of the MPs and modernize their work culture. For example, people have to face many problems in the present Parliament House when they come to meet the MPs from their constituencies. There is a severe shortage of space in the Parliament House for the citizens when they come here to apprise their problems to their MPs. In future, every parliamentarian will have the facility in this vast complex where he can meet the people from his constituency and discuss their problems.

If the old Parliament House gave direction to post-Independence India, the new building would become a witness to the making of ‘Aatma Nirbhar Bharat’. If the old Parliament House worked to fulfil the needs of the country, then the aspirations of the 21st century India will be fulfilled in the new building. The new building of Parliament will establish its identity in the



same way the National War Memorial near India Gate has done today. The people of the country and the generations to come will be proud to see the new building that it was built in independent India, keeping in mind the 75 years of Independence.

Friends, our democracy is the source of power and energy of the Parliament House. The doubts that were expressed regarding the existence of India as a democratic nation during Independence is all part of history. Prediction was made about the failure of democracy in India by citing examples of illiteracy, poverty, social diversity and inexperience. Today, we can proudly say that our country has not only proved those apprehensions wrong, but 21st century world is also looking forward to India as an important democratic force.

Friends, it is very important for every generation to understand why democracy succeeded in India, why it is successful and why no harm can be done to democracy. We all have heard about Magna Carta which was charted in the 13th century. Some scholars also call it the foundation of democracy. But it is equally true that the Anubhava Mantapa by Lord Basaveshwara came into existence in India in the 12th century even before Magna Carta. As part of Anubhava Mantapa, not only he built the people's parliament, but also ensured its operation. Lord Basaveshwara said:–

यी अनुभवा मंटप जन सभा,
नादिना मट्टु राष्ट्रधा उन्नतिगे हागू
अभिवृद्धिगे पूरकावगी केलसा मादुत्थादे!

It means the Anubhava Mantapa is an assembly which inspires everybody to work collectively in the interest of the State and the nation and for its advancement. Anubhava Mantapa was a form of democracy.

Friends, even before this period, there is a very important historical evidence in the village of Uttaramerur, 80-85 kilometres away from Chennai in Tamil Nadu. There are inscriptions on the stones in Tamil language about the Panchayat system prevalent during the Chola Empire in the 10th century. It explains how every village was categorized as Kudumbu, which we call

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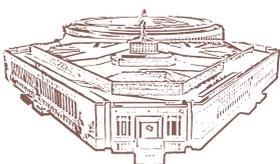
“Democracy in India is about life values, it is the way of life and the soul of the nation. India’s democracy is a system developed through centuries of experience. There is also a life mantra, an element of life as well as a system of order in the democracy in India.”

the ward today. One representative from these kudumbus was sent to the General Assembly, as it happens today. The General Assembly, which used to take place in this village thousands of years ago, is still there.

Friends, there was one more thing which was very important in this democratic system developed a thousand years ago. The inscriptions on the stones mention the provision of disqualification of a public representative to contest the election even during that time. And, the rule was that the public representative or his close relatives would not be able to contest the elections if he fails to furnish the details of his property. Think about it that so many years ago, such an aspect was deliberated upon and it was made a part of its democratic traditions at that time.

Friends, this history of our democracy is visible in every nook and corner of the country. We are very much familiar with some words like assembly, committee, ruler, chief of a troop of soldiers, etc. This vocabulary is entrenched in our minds. Centuries ago, be it republics like Shakya, Malla and Vejji, or Licchavi, Mallak Marak and Cambodia or the Kalinga in the Mauryan period, all of them made democracy the basis of governance. In our Vedas composed thousands of years ago, the idea of democracy in Rig Veda has been seen as a collective consciousness.

Friends, when democracy is discussed elsewhere, it is all about elections, election process, elected members, their formation, governance and administration. It is largely called democracy in most places where there is emphasis on this kind of a system. But democracy in India is about life values, it is the way of life and the soul of the nation. India’s democracy is a system developed through centuries of experience. There is also a life mantra, an element of life as well as a system of order in the democracy in India. From time to time, the systems and processes changed, but democracy remained the soul. And, ironically, today, India’s democracy is explained to us by the Western countries. When we glorify our democratic history with confidence, the day is not far away when the world will also say: India is the Mother of Democracy.





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Friends, the inherent democratic strength is giving new momentum to the development of the country and new confidence to its countrymen. While a different situation is emerging in the democratic processes of many countries in the world, democracy in India is becoming continually innovative. In recent years, we have seen that in many democracies, voter turnout is now declining continuously. On the contrary, we see voter turnouts growing with every election in India. The participation of women and youth is also increasing continuously.

Friends, there is a reason behind this belief and faith. Democracy in India has always been a means of resolving differences and contradictions along with governance. Different views and perspectives empower a vibrant democracy. Our democracy has moved forward with the goal that there is always room for differences so long as it is not entirely disconnected from the process. Guru Nanak Devji has also said:

जब लगु दुनिआ रहीए नानक ।
किछु सुणिए, किछु कहिए ।

That is, as long as the world is there, the dialogue should continue. The soul of the dialogue is to say and listen to something. This is the soul of democracy. Policies and politics may vary but we are for the service of the public and there should be no differences in this ultimate goal. Whether debates occur within the Parliament or outside, there should always be a reflection of determination towards national service and dedication towards national interest. And, therefore, when the construction of the new Parliament House is starting today, we have to remember that it is the responsibility of all of us to arouse optimism about democracy which is the basis of the existence of the Parliament House. We always have to remember that every representative of Parliament is accountable. This accountability is towards the people and also towards the Constitution. Every decision we make should be in the spirit of the nation first and the national interest should remain paramount in every decision of ours. It is very important that we stand in one voice for the accomplishment of national resolutions.



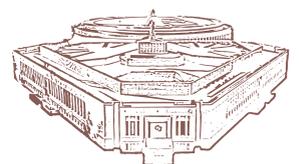
Friends, when we build a temple, initially, its base is only bricks and stones. The construction of that building is completed due to the hard work of everybody, including artisans and craftsmen. But that building becomes a temple only when it attains perfection and is consecrated. It remains a building until it is consecrated.

Friends, the new Parliament House will also be ready, but it will remain a building until it is consecrated. But this consecration will not be of an idol. There are no rituals as such to consecrate this temple of democracy. It is the representatives of the people who come to this temple that will consecrate it. Their dedication, their service, conduct, thought and behaviour will become the life of this temple. Their efforts towards the unity and integrity of India will become the energy that gives life to this temple. When each public representative will offer his knowledge, intelligence, education and experience fully here for the interest of the nation, then this new Parliament House will gain sanctity. In our country, Rajya Sabha is a Council of States which emphasizes on the federal structure of India. We have to take this pledge to work with this basic principle of the development of the State for the development of the nation, the strength of the State for the strength of the nation and the welfare of the State for the welfare of the nation. With the swearing-in of the people's representatives who will come here in future, their contribution to this dedication will begin. It will benefit crores of people of the country. The new building of Parliament will become a place that will work to ensure happiness in the lives of the countrymen and the welfare of the people.

Friends, it has been the dream of the great men and women of our country that the 21st century becomes the century of India. We have been hearing it for a long time. The 21st century will be India's century only when each and every citizen of India will contribute to make India the best. Opportunities for India are increasing in the changing world. Sometimes, it seems as if there is a flood of opportunities. We do not have to let this opportunity slip from our hands under any circumstances. The experiences

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सत्यमेव जयते

Government Of India



of the last century have taught us a lot. Those experiences are repeatedly reminding us that we don't have to waste but respect the time.

Friends, I want to mention a very old and important thing today. In the year 1897, Swami Vivekananda ji made a call to the people of the country for the next 50 years. And Swamiji said that the worship of Mother India should be paramount in the next 50 years. And this was the duty of the countrymen to worship Mother India. And we saw the power of the speech of that great man. Just 50 years later, India got Independence in 1947. Today, when the foundation stone of the new building of Parliament is being laid, the country also has to lay the foundation stone for a new resolution. Every citizen has to lay the foundation for new resolutions. We have to take this pledge by remembering that call of Swami Vivekanandaji. India First should be this resolution. We should make India's growth and development our adoration. Our every decision should empower the country. The interest of the country should be the barometer of each of our decisions. Each of our decisions should be in the interest of the present and future generations.

Friends, Swami Vivekanandaji talked about 50 years. We have the 100th anniversary of India's Independence before us after 25-26 years. We have to take a resolution today and dedicate ourselves for the next 25-26 years to ensure how our country should be and how far we have to take it forward when the nation enters the 100th year of its independence in 2047. When we take a resolution today, keeping the country's interest paramount, we will improve the future of the country, not just the present. Building a Self-reliant India, building a prosperous India, is no longer going to stop, nobody can stop it.

Friends, let us take this pledge that there will be no greater interest than the national interest for us. Let us take the pledge that our concern for the country will be more than our personal concerns. Let us take the pledge that nothing will be more important than the unity and integrity of the country. Let us take the pledge that the biggest goal in our life will be ensuring the dignity and expectations of the Constitution of the country. We always have

“The interest of the country should be the barometer of each of our decisions. Each of our decisions should be in the interest of the present and future generations.”



to remember this spirit of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore. And what was the spirit of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore? Gurudev used to say,

एकोता उत्साहो धौरो,
जातियो उन्नौति कौरो,
घुशुक भुबौने शौबे भारोतेर जौय!

That is we have to continue with the enthusiasm of unity. Every citizen should progress and India should be hailed all over the world!

I am sure the new building of our Parliament will inspire all of us to present a new model. May the credibility of our democratic institutions be always strengthened! With this desire, I conclude. And I invite all the countrymen to march with the pledge of 2047 in mind.

Many many thanks to all of you.

Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Housing and Urban Affairs, Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, earlier welcomed the distinguished guests and the Hon'ble Parliamentary Affairs Minister, Shri Pralhad Joshi delivered the Vote of Thanks on the occasion.

The ceremony was attended virtually through video conferencing by the Governors/Lt. Governors, Chief Ministers, Chairmen/Deputy Chairmen of State Legislative Councils and Speakers/Deputy Speakers of Legislative Assemblies. Many distinguished persons from across the country, including former Prime Ministers, and former Lok Sabha Speakers had sent congratulatory messages on the occasion. Goodwill messages were also received from foreign dignitaries. The programme was also webcast through the Government video portal by National Informatics Centre (NIC).



New Parliament House: Key Features

The new Parliament Building will be constructed near the present Parliament House. The architecture of the new Building will be in synergy with that of the old Parliament House. The new Parliament Building, including the present Parliament House, will be part of the Parliament Complex. It will primarily consist of the Lok Sabha Chamber, the Rajya Sabha Chamber, the Central Lounge and the Constitution Hall.

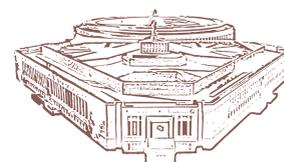
The new Parliament Building would stand as a monument of pride for Indian democracy and its people, showcasing not only its magnificent history but also the strength, unity, diversity and undaunted spirit of its people. The four-storied new Parliament Building will be built in an area of 64500 sq. m. at an estimated cost of Rs. 971 crore.

The proposed new Building will have a seating capacity for 888 Members in the Lok Sabha Chamber, with an option to increase it to 1272 Members during the Joint Sessions. Similarly, the Rajya Sabha Chamber will have a seating capacity for 384 Members.

The construction of the building is expected to be completed in time to commemorate 75 years of India's Independence. In the coming years, each Member of Parliament will also be provided with a 40 sq.m. office space in the redeveloped Shram Shakti Bhawan, the construction of which is slated to be completed by 2024.

The Central Public Works Department (CPWD) is the Nodal agency for the execution of the work relating to the new Parliament Building. The project of the new Building has been designed by M/s. HCP Design, Planning and Management Pvt. Ltd. and the construction would be carried out by M/s. Tata Projects Ltd., envisioning the needs and requirements for the next hundred years. Adequate safeguards for earthquake safety, owing to Zone V regulations specific to New Delhi and surrounding areas, would also be followed. The new Building will be equipped with all modern Audio-Visual communication facilities and Data network systems.

With the coming up of the new Parliament Building, the Indian Parliament, the custodian of India's democratic ethos and the embodiment of its democratic norms and ideals, is set to undergo a metamorphosis and emerge stronger than ever before, to address the challenges of the 21st century.

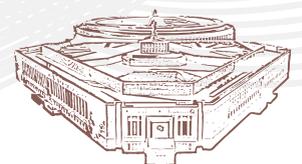


Highlights of the New Parliament Building

- This building has been conceptualized in keeping with the architecture of the buildings in the Central Vista.
- The new building will be triangular, consisting of the Lok Sabha, the Rajya Sabha, the Central Lounge as well as offices of constitutional authorities. The design of the Lok Sabha Chamber in the new building has been designed keeping in view the National Bird, Peacock, while the design of the Rajya Sabha Chamber will be similar to the National Flower, Lotus.
- The architecture of the important heritage buildings of the country, like Rashtrapati Bhavan, etc. has been taken into consideration in the design of the entire building.
- Around 800 Chambers for Members of Parliament will be constructed in the redeveloped Shram Shakti Bhawan. Their construction will start in April 2022 and will be completed by March 2024.
- The old building will continue to be used even after the construction of the new building. The two buildings will complement each other. During the entire construction work, full care will be taken to preserve the historical heritage of the existing building.

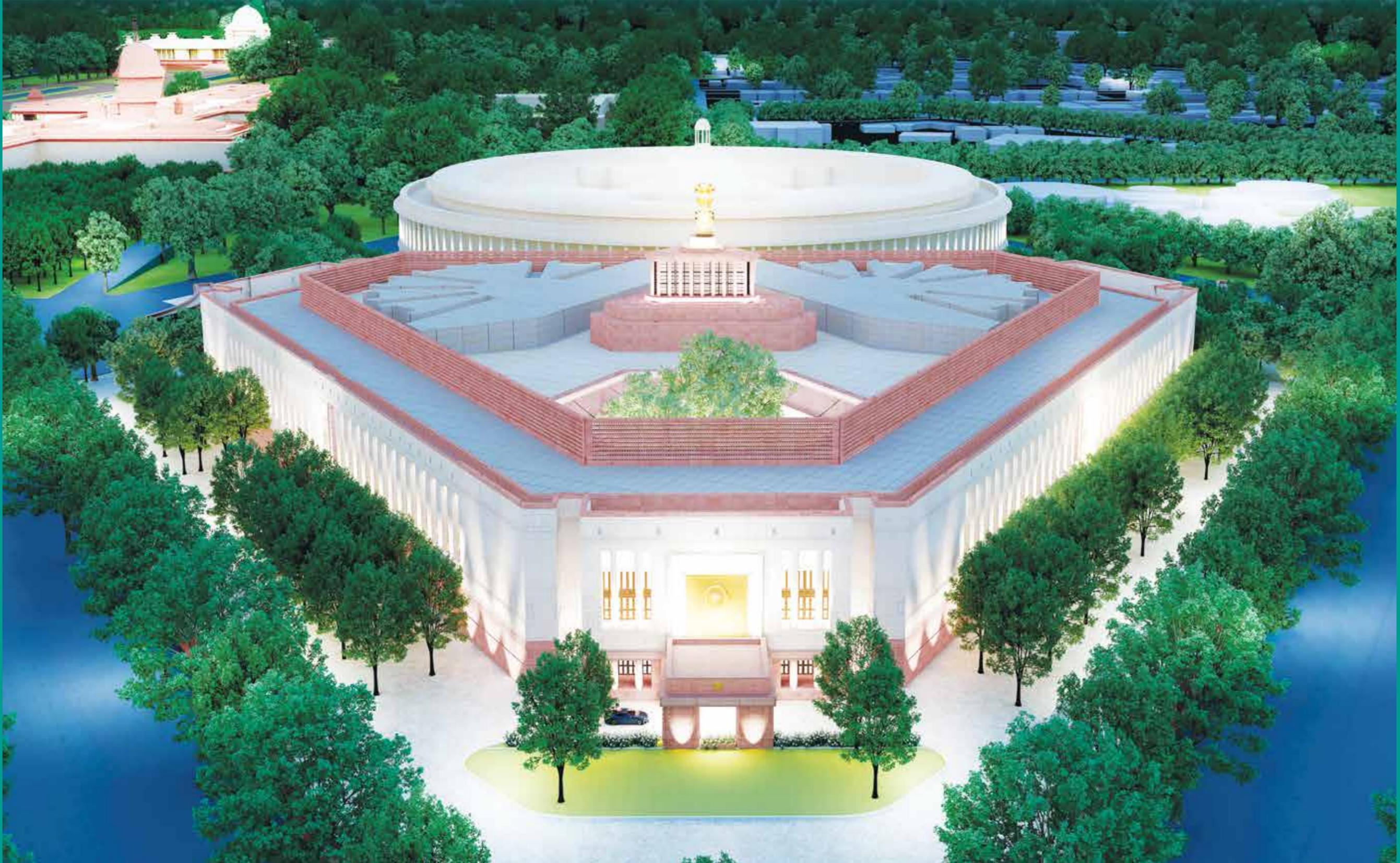


- Efforts are also being made to ensure that there is no change to the visibility of the original Parliament House after the construction of the new building. All the statues situated in the Parliament Complex will also be restored with solemnity and dignity.
- To ensure timely completion of the construction work and to ensure its quality, a Monitoring Committee consisting of representatives of the Lok Sabha Secretariat, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and all stakeholders has been constituted.
- The new building will have six Committee rooms while the present building has three Committee rooms. There will also be 92 rooms for the use of the Council of Ministers.
- In the new building, two members will be able to sit side by side on each bench in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha Chambers and each seat will be equipped with digital systems and touch screens.
- The new building will have a Constitution Hall, where the country's democratic heritage will be showcased. Apart from this, there will also be a Library, a dining room and ample parking for the members.
- The new building will be equipped with rainwater harvesting and water recycling systems. Provision of 100% UPS power backup will be made throughout the building.





^ Bird's eye view of the present and the new Parliament Building



^ Bird's eye view of the present and the new Parliament Building



^ Another view of the new and the present Parliament Building



^ View of the proposed front façade of the new Parliament Building



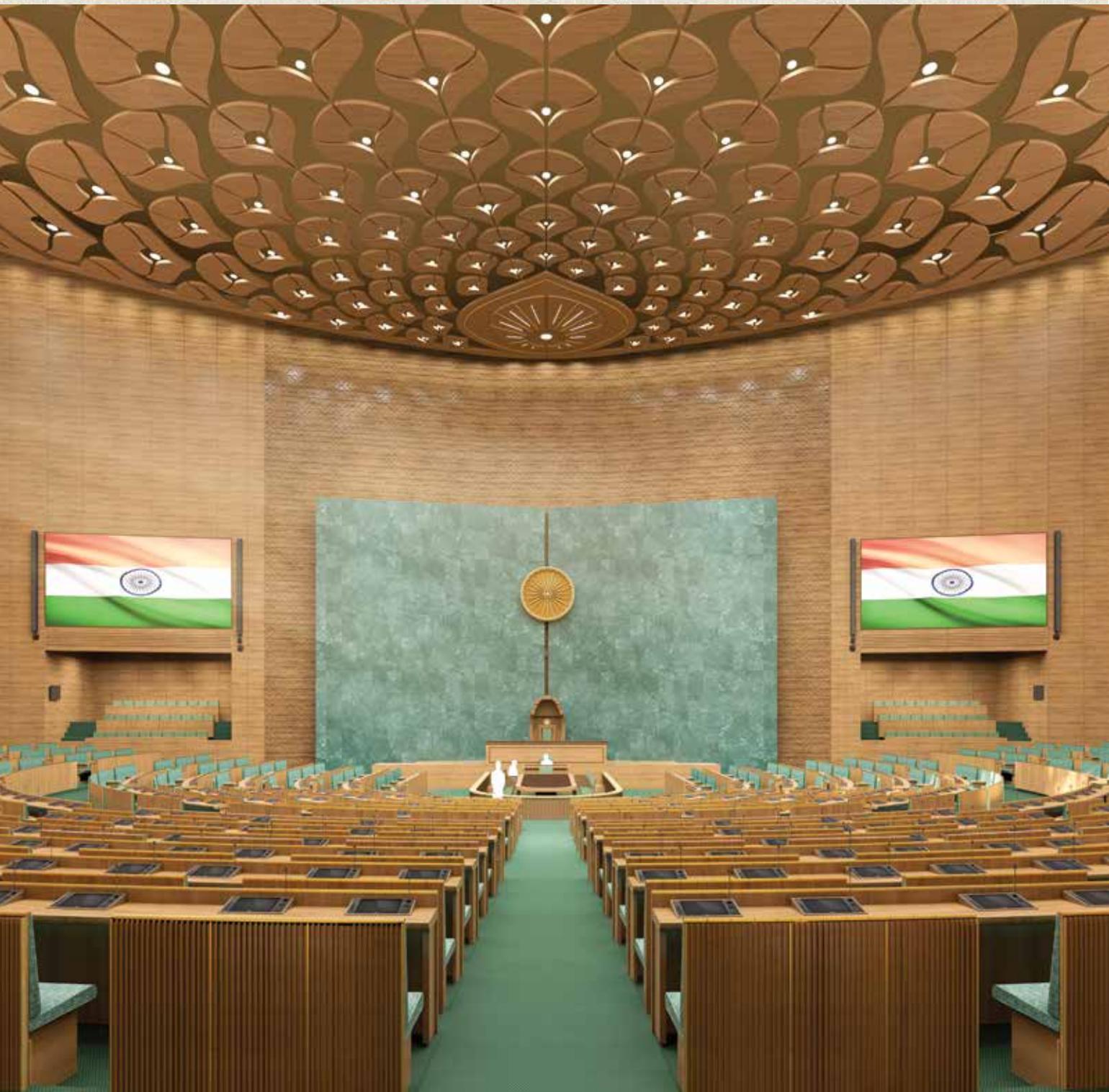
^ Another view of the proposed front facade of the new Parliament Building



^ A view of the proposed Rajya Sabha Chamber



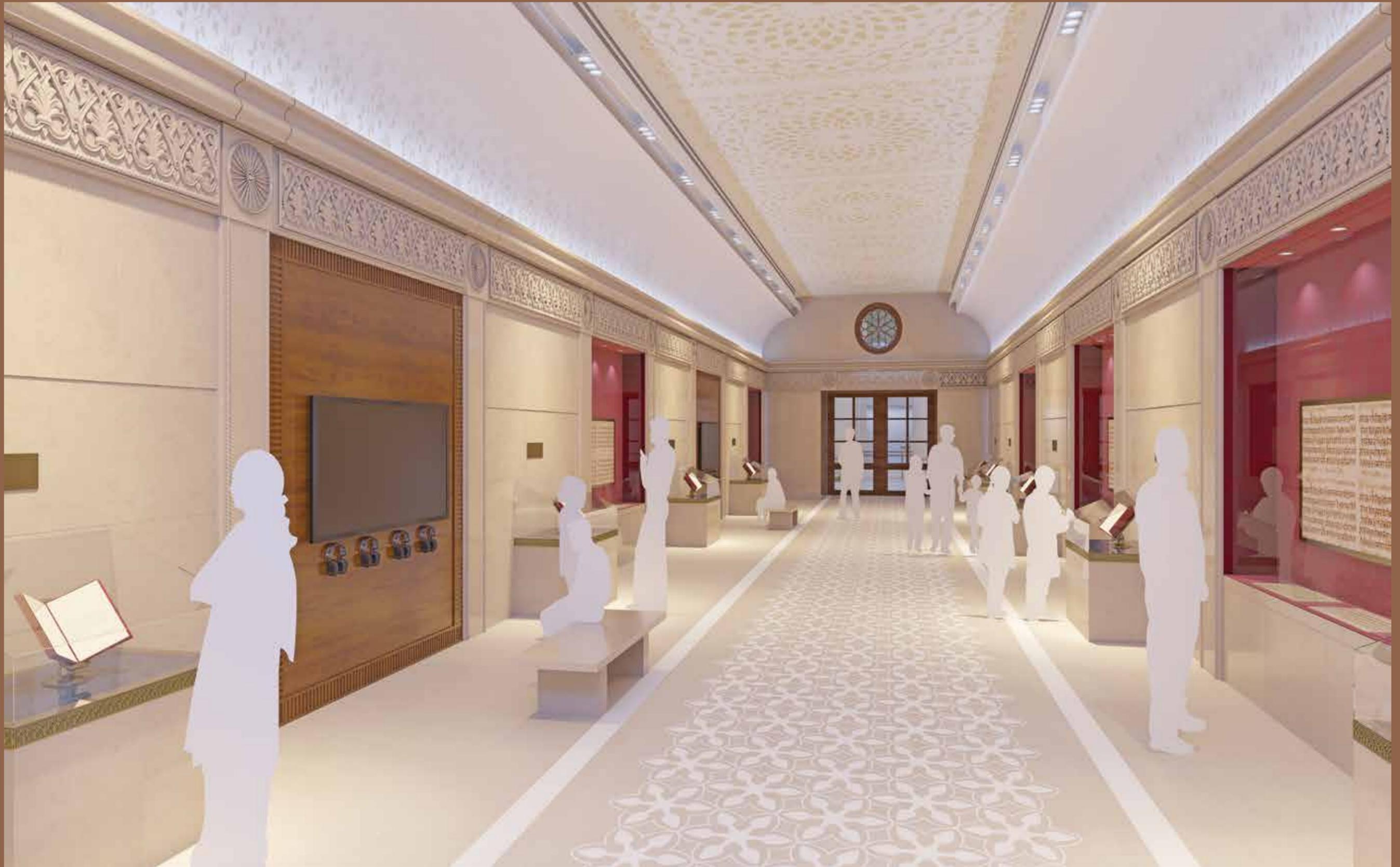
^ Another view of the proposed Rajya Sabha Chamber



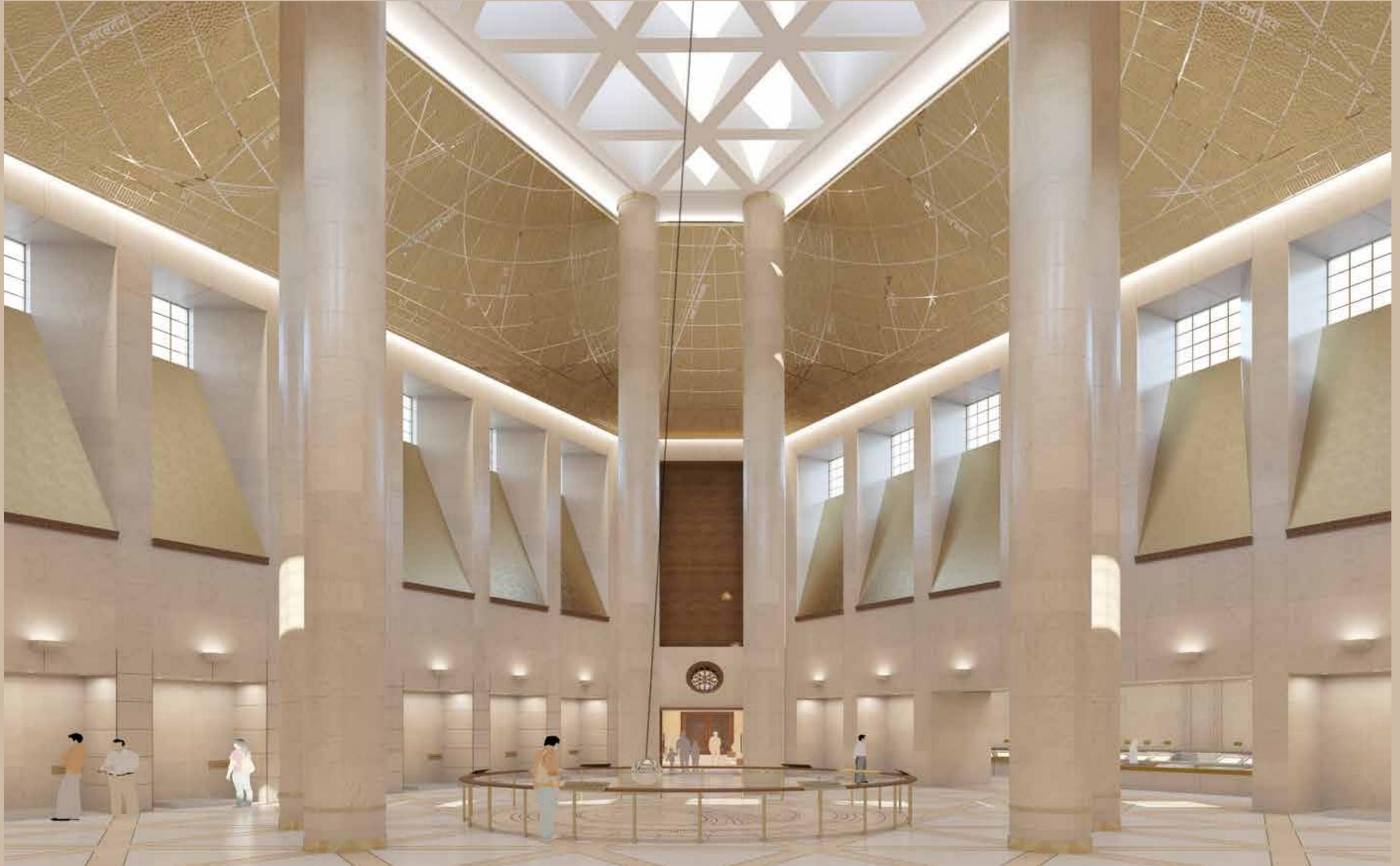
^ A view of the proposed Lok Sabha Chamber



^ Another view of the proposed Lok Sabha Chamber



^ A view of the proposed Constitution Hall



^ A view of the proposed Foyer of the new Parliament Building

SIGNIFICANT MILESTONES

