

## SYMBOL OF NEW BHARAT



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### FROM THE DESK OF CHAIRMAN

New parliament building was recently inaugurated by our hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi, as part of Central Vista Redevelopment Project, and is supposed to be one very modern yet inspired by rich Indian culture, history and heritage. It represents the emergence of new Bharat with its old glory. The new building will house larger Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. It will be interesting to know certain facts about the new parliament building:

- Bimal Hasmukh Patel, born on 31 August 1961 in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, is an architect, urbanist and academician who is the brains behind the new Parliament building. Bimal Patel studied architecture at the Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology (CEPT), Ahmedabad, in 1984 and completed his Master's degree in Architecture and City Planning in 1988. He received a PhD in City and Regional Planning in 1995 from the University of California, Berkeley. He completed his doctoral thesis under Marxist urban geographer Richard Walker. Incidentally, today Patel heads CEPT, the same institute that he studied from.
- New building's interiors have three national symbols as their main themes -- Lotus, Peacock and Banyan Tree. In the Lok Sabha chamber, the national bird Peacock is used as its theme, in Rajya Sabha chamber the national flower Lotus is its theme and in Central Lounge courtyard the national tree Banyan is its theme.
- Built using green construction techniques, the new building is supposed to reduce electricity consumption by 30 per cent, compared to the old one. Rainwater-harvesting and water-recycling systems have been included. It has been designed to be more space efficient, and meant to function for the next 150 years, according to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- The new building has a Constitution Hall, where the journey of Indian democracy has been documented.
- For the interior and exterior of the building, construction materials have been brought in from across the country, including sandstone from Sarmathura in Dholpur and granite from Lakha village in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan. Similarly, the wood used in the decor is from Nagpur and craftsmen from Mumbai have led the wooden architecture design. Bhadohi weavers from Uttar Pradesh have made the traditional hand-knotted carpets for the building.
- At all the entrances of the building, auspicious animals as guardian statues are exhibited, based on their importance in Indian culture and vastu shastra. These include the elephant, the horse, the eagle, the swan, and mythical creatures shardula and makara.

- The new complex has 888 seats in the *Lok Sabha* chamber and 384 seats in the *Rajya Sabha* chamber. Unlike the old parliament building, it does not have a central hall. The Lok Sabha chamber able to house 1,272 members in case of a joint session.
- The Lok Sabha chamber at the new building also houses a Chola dynasty-era Sengol, a sceptre presented by Lord Mountbatten, the first governor-general of Independent India to the first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru on the eve of the Indian independence.

Though the inauguration of the new parliament building was marred by political controversies and boycott by certain political parties, which were uncalled for, yet the event represents futuristic symbol of growing India and catering to the need to deal with bigger number of law makers once the freeze on delimitation comes to end in 2026. Also,

importantly the building showcases the India's rich culture, heritage and history, like installing of 'samudra manthan' sculpture, display depicting 'akhand bharaat', Chanakya, hast mudras, and so on.

India's new Parliament House embodies the nation's progress and aspirations. With its innovative design, modern amenities, and eco-friendly features, the new complex may be a marvel in its own, but more importantly, it is symbol of new, progressive, fast growing India that is on a path to lead the world in times to come.

*Thank you all..... Always in Gratitude*

*CA Ketan Rambhia*

