

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 29, 2023

NATIONAL

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - inaugurated the new Parliament building on May 28**
- ✓ As part of the event, the PM unveiled the plaque and placed the Sengol (sceptre) inside the Parliament house right next to the Lok Sabha Speaker's chair in the Lok Sabha chamber
- ✓ Prime Minister Modi carried the sceptre in the new Parliament building, accompanied by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and the pontiffs from Tamil Nadu
- ✓ Various dignitaries and the mutt heads including Thiruvavaduthurai 'adheenam' Sri La Sri Ambalavana Desika Paramacharya Swamigal stood in the well of the house when the Prime Minister installed the sceptre on the specially designed pedestal.
- ✓ PM Modi took a decision to adopt Sengol as a national symbol of the Amrit Kaal.

MAJESTIC SYMBOL OF HERITAGE AND POWER

➤ The sengol was made by a Chennai-based Vummudi Bangaru Jewellers at an estimated cost of ₹15000 with nearly 100-110 sovereigns of gold

➤ Artisans handcrafted the sceptre in the Nagas Nakshi style - an art form with intricate shapes hammered on a simple thick sheet of gold.



➤ The five feet long sceptre has goddess Lakshmi on the orb and Nandi (rishabam) on top

➤ The sceptre was taken from Mountbatten and handed over to Nehru at his residence by

Thiruvaduthurai Adheenam a little before midnight on the day of independence

➤ For several years the sceptre was exhibited in the Allahabad Museum as Nehru's golden walking stick along with the gifts he received

➤ On May 28, PM Modi will take the sceptre for installation in the new Parliament building.

The ritual will be re-enacted in the presence of 20 adheenams from TN

➤ A gold-plated silver replica made by VBJ will be reserved for events and public display



- ✓ In the Chola empire, Sengol was considered a symbol of the Kartavya path (path of duty), Seva Path (path of service) and Rashtra path (path of the nation)," the PM mentioned.
 - ✓ This is the same Sengol that was accepted by India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru at his residence on the night of August 14, in the presence of several leaders.
 - ✓ About 30 'Aadeenams' (non-brahmin Saivite mutts) from Tamil Nadu, including Thiruvavaduthurai, Perur, and Madurai, have been invited for the inauguration of the new Parliament building
 - ✓ The Adheenams met the Prime Minister at his residence and handed him special gifts including the 'Sengol' amid chanting of 'mantras'.
 - ✓ The Sengol is a sceptre that was used to symbolise the transfer of power from the British to the people of India in 1947
 - ✓ In 1947, the Sengol was handed over to Nehru by the deputy pontiff of the Thiruvavaduthurai 'adheenam' with othuvargal reciting verses of Kolaru Pathigam
 - ✓ The decision to install the Sengol in the Parliament was made based on the advice of the Thiruvavaduthurai adheenam, following consultations between the late CR Rajagopalachary and the Shaivite pontiff
 - ✓ Chennai-based jewellers Vummidi Bangaru Chetty undertook the task of crafting this historic symbol
 - ✓ They meticulously designed the five-foot-long sceptre, featuring the majestic figure of Nandi, the divine bull, atop it.
 - ✓ Nandi symbolizes 'nyaya,' representing the ideals of justice and fairness.
 - ✓ After a period of time, the sceptre was housed in a dusty box at the Allahabad museum, wrongly labelled as a golden walking stick gifted to Nehru
- ✓ The PM also met and interacted with the workers who contributed to the construction of the new Parliament building.



- ✓ Union ministers Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, S Jaishankar and Jitendra Singh, chief ministers of several states and BJP president JP Nadda was present on the occasion.

- ✓ The Prime Minister unveiled the commemorative coin of Rs 75 at the Lok Sabha during the day
- ✓ After inaugurating the new Lok Sabha, two films on the new Parliament building and the history of the Sengol were released.
- ✓ Marshals of both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha will have a new dress code in the new parliament.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the new Parliament House on December 10, 2020

FEATURES OF NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDING

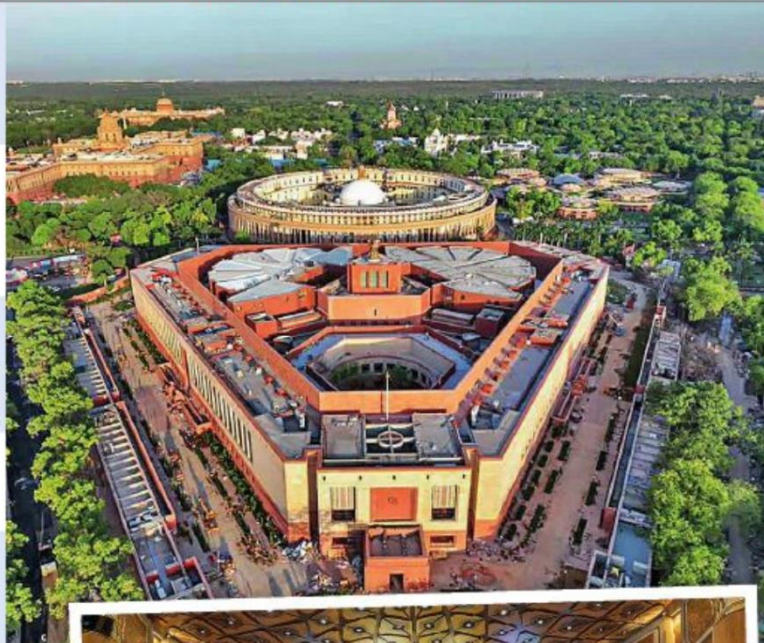
Triangular shape, three storeys & built-up area of **64,500 sqm**

Lok Sabha on Peacock theme has **888 seats** & can accommodate **1,272** for joint sitting

Rajya Sabha on Lotus theme can accommodate **384 MPs**

Central courtyard of building has banyan tree

National emblem – Lion Capital of Ashoka – on the top



> 6 entry/ exit gates – Ashwa, Gaj and Garuda dwars (ceremonial gates to be used vice-president, Speaker and PM) & Makar, Hansa and Sardul dwars (for MPs & public)

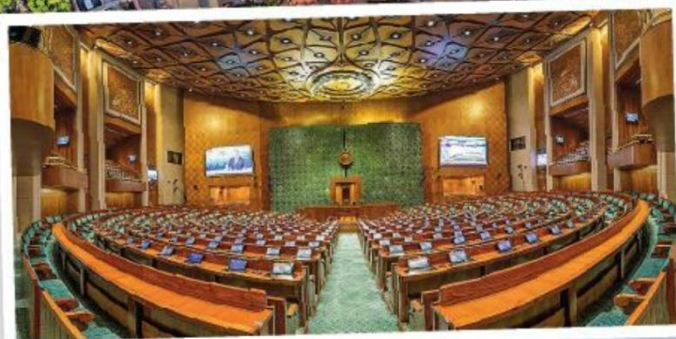
> Constitution Hall at the centre on ground floor, displays India's journey of democracy since Vedic era. There is a replica of original Constitution & digital one

for visitors to read
> Display of replica of Indian architecture, art and music in three sections
> MPs to access to a lounge, dining hall and library

92 rooms for offices of ministers

> Foundation stone laid on December 10, 2020
> Inaugurated on May 28, 2023

(Text: **Dipak Dash**)



- ✓ Constructed by Tata Projects Ltd, the new Parliament building will have a grand constitution hall to showcase India's democratic heritage, a lounge for members of Parliament, a library, multiple committee rooms, dining areas and ample parking space.

- ✓ Gujarat-based architecture firm HCP Designs, led by Bimal Patel, was picked as the design consultant for the Parliament building project and paid Rs 229.75 crore for consultancy services.
- ✓ In July 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the national emblem installed atop the new Parliament building
- ✓ According to Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, an estimated Rs 862 crore was allocated for the new Parliament building.
- ✓ The new Parliament building, shaped like a triangle and spanning four floors, encompasses a built-up area of 64,500 square meters.
- ✓ It features three main gates known as Gyan Dwar, Shakti Dwar, and Karma Dwar.
- ✓ Statues at the six entry-exit points or dwars in the new Parliament building have been inspired by ancient sculptures.
 - ✓ The two elephants made of stone at Gaj Dwar have been inspired by statues at Madhukeshwara temple at Banavasi in Karnataka dating back to 9th century CE
 - ✓ The Ashwa Dwar has got two statues of horses inspired by the sculptures at Sun temple in Odisha of 13th century CE.
 - ✓ The statues at three other dwars — Shardula, Hamsa and Makara — are inspired by sculptures from Gujri Mahal at Gwalior, Vijay Vithala temple at Hampi and Hoysaleswara temple in Karnataka.
 - ✓ The remaining Garuda dwar with the statues of mount (vahana) of Vishnu have been inspired by 18th century CE Nayaka period sculpture of Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ The material used for the new building has been acquired from various parts of the country.
 - ✓ The teakwood used in the building was sourced from Nagpur in Maharashtra, while the red and white sandstone was procured from Sarmathura in Rajasthan.
 - ✓ The sandstone for the Red Fort and Humayun's Tomb in the national capital was also known to have been sourced from Sarmathura.
 - ✓ The Kesharia green stone has been procured from Udaipur, the red granite from Lakha near Ajmer and the white marble has been sourced from Ambaji in Rajasthan.
 - ✓ The steel structure for the false ceilings in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha chambers have been sourced from the union territory of Daman and Diu, while the furniture in the new building was crafted in Mumbai
 - ✓ The stone 'jaali' (lattice) works dotting the building were sourced from Rajnagar in Rajasthan and Noida in Uttar Pradesh.
 - ✓ The materials for the Ashoka Emblem were sourced from Aurangabad in Maharashtra and Jaipur in Rajasthan, while the Ashok Chakra donning the massive walls of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha chambers and the exteriors of the parliament building were procured from Indore in Madhya Pradesh.

- ✓ The new Parliament building used manufactured sand or M-sand from Charkhi Dadri in Haryana for creating concrete mix for the construction activities
- ✓ The fly ash bricks used in the construction were sourced from Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, while brass works and pre-cast trenches were from Ahmedabad in Gujarat.



- ✓ Making the new Parliament building technology -savvy even for visitors, the government has put QR codes at all gates, galleries and installations, enabling people to get the details on their phone in seconds.
- ✓ There are three sections for exhibitions on the ground floor — Sangeet Dirgha (Indian classical music and instruments), Sthapatya Dirgha (rich heritage of Indian architecture), which exhibits the architecture of Unesco and Archeological Surbey of India monuments, and crafts from across India made by 400 artisans (Shilpa Dirgha).
- ✓ One of the biggest attractions in the new building is Foucault's Pendulum, which hangs from a large skylight in the triangular roof of the Constitution Hall and signifies the relation of India with that of the universe.



- ✓ The pendulum and its relative rotation is proof of the rotation of the earth around its axis.
 - ✓ At the latitude of the Parliament, it takes 49 hours, 59 minutes and 18 seconds for the pendulum to complete one rotation, as per the details displayed at the installation.
 - ✓ It has been designed and installed by the National Council of Science Museums.
- ✓ The new Parliament building can comfortably seat 888 members in the Lok Sabha chamber and 300 in the Rajya Sabha chamber.
- ✓ In case of a joint sitting of both the Houses, a total of 1,280 members can be accommodated in the Lok Sabha chamber.
- ✓ The existing Parliament building, which was completed in 1927 and is now 96 years old, has been deemed insufficient to meet the requirements of modern times.
- ✓ The present building served as India's first Parliament after independence and witnessed the adoption of the Constitution besides housing the Imperial Legislative Council.
- ✓ In 2006, the Parliament Museum was established to exhibit India's rich democratic heritage spanning over 2,500 years
- ✓ On February 12, 1921, the foundation stone of the present Parliament building, the Council House as it was then known, was laid by the Duke of Connaught.
- ✓ On January 18, 1927, the opening ceremony of the Parliament House was performed by the then Governor General of India Lord Irwin.

INTERNATIONAL

- **China's first domestically made passenger jet - flew its maiden commercial flight on May 28**



- ✓ The C919 plane, built by the Commercial Aviation Corporation of China (Comac), carried about 130 passengers on the flight
 - ✓ The jet took off from Shanghai Hongqiao Airport and landed less than two hours later in Beijing.
 - ✓ The flight was operated by state-owned China Eastern Airlines and the side of the plane was emblazoned with the words - “The World’s First C919 ”
 - ✓ President Xi Jinping has hailed the project as a triumph of Chinese innovation
 - ✓ Comac plans to build 150 C919 planes each year for the next five years, with China-Eastern Airlines under contract to buy five of them
 - ✓ The C919, which had been in development for 16 years, has a maximum range of about 5,630 kilometres and is designed to carry between 158 and 168 passengers
 - ✓ The inaugural flight comes as Comac looks to break into the single-aisle jet market in a direct challenge to the duopoly of Airbus and Boeing in the global aircraft market
 - ✓ Airbus’s A320 and Boeing’s B737 jets are the most popular aircraft typically used for domestic and regional flights.
- **Turkiye's incumbent President Recep Tayyip Erdogan - has declared victory in his country's runoff election, extending his rule into a third decade.**



- ✓ With more than 99% of ballot boxes opened, unofficial results showed Erdogan with 52% of the vote, compared with 48% for his challenger, Kemal Kilicdaroglu.
- ✓ In two speeches — one in Istanbul and one in Ankara — Erdogan thanked the nation for entrusting him with the presidency for five more years.
- ✓ The country marks its centennial this year as a post-Ottoman republic.
- ✓ Erdogan, who has been at Turkiye's helm for 20 years, came just short of victory in the first round of elections on May 14.
- ✓ It was the first time he failed to win an election outright, after which he had narrowed the margin in the second round
- ✓ He was the first directly elected president in 2014, and won the 2018 election that ushered in the executive presidency.
- ✓ Erdogan, a 69-year-old Muslim, is set to remain in power until 2028.

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- The 14 partner countries of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF), including India - have successfully concluded negotiations for an international supply chain agreement
- ✓ The IPEF, launched by the US and 12 other countries in May 2022, is a grouping that comprises more than 40% of global GDP.

INDO-PACIFIC ALLIANCE	
Who all are part of IPEF (Indo-Pacific Economic Partnership)? India, US, Australia, Japan, South Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore,	Vietnam, New Zealand, Philippines, Brunei and Fiji Why was IPEF set up? Seen as alliance with US to counter dependence on China
What is the status of negotiations?	
Trade India is yet to join Supply chains Deal to help identify suppliers, skilled workers, facilitate investment, reduce trade restrictions, ensure labour rights and establish emergency response mechanism	Clean economy Regional hydrogen initiative planned, India wants capital, assistance to tackle climate change Fair economy Implement, accelerate anti-corruption, tax initiatives
When will it conclude? No deadline set	

- ✓ The member countries currently include Australia, Brunei, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, and the USA.
- ✓ The IPEF encompasses a wide variety of issues that fall under four 'pillars', namely Trade, Supply Chains, Clean Economy, and Fair Economy.
- ✓ India is the only partner out of the 14 nations that is not a part of the Trade pillar.
- ✓ The announcement made now on May 28 primarily deals with the Supply Chains pillar

AWARDS

- The winners for the 76th Cannes Film Festival - were announced on May 27, 2023



- ✓ French filmmaker Justine Triet has won the prestigious Palme D'Or at the Cannes Film Festival 2023 for her film 'Anatomy of a Fall.'
 - ✓ Triet is only the third woman director to win the Palme d'Or after France's Julia Ducournau for 'Titane' (2021) and New Zealand's Jane Campion for 'The Piano' (1993)
 - ✓ Justine Triet, who had previously been nominated for Sibyl in 2019, won the prize over veteran directors like Hirokazu Kore-eda, Ken Loach and Wim Wenders, all of whom have at least one Palme d'Or awards
- ✓ This year, a record seven out of the 21 films in competition at Cannes were directed by women.
- ✓ The Grand Prix, the second-highest prize after the Palme d'Or, went to British director Jonathan Glazer's 'Zone of Interest'
- ✓ The best actor award went to veteran Japanese star Koji Yakusho for "Perfect Days", while the Turkish actor Merve Dizdar took best actress for the Nuri Bilge Ceylan's "About Dry Grasses "
- ✓ Vietnamese-French director Tran Anh Hung took best director for "Pot-au-Feu," starring Juliette Binoche and Benoit Magimel.
- ✓ Sakamoto Yuji won the best screenplay prize for Hirokazu Koreeda's "Monster", which also won the Queer Palm earlier in the day.
- ✓ The festival's Camera d'Or award for the best first film of a director was won by the three-hour Vietnamese film, "Inside the Yellow Cocoon Shell", directed by Thien Ann Pham.
- ✓ The awards were decided by a jury presided over by twotime Palme winner Ruben Ostlund, the Swedish director who won the prize last year for "Triangle of Sadness".
- ✓ This year, three films from India were screened at Cannes - Anurag Kashyap's Kennedy, Kanu Bahl's Agra, and Aribam Syam Sharma's 1990 Manipuri film, Ishanou.

SPORTS

- **Indian shuttler HS Prannoy - defeated Chinese Weng Hong Yang in the Malaysia Masters 2023 final in Kuala Lumpur on May 28**



- ✓ It is his first BWF World Tour title, since the BWF calendar took its current form as his last major victory had come at the US Grand Prix in July 2017 (now a Super 300 event).
- ✓ Prannoy is the first Indian man to win the Malaysia Masters after its inception in 2009.
- ✓ This is also the first singles title of the season for India.
- ✓ Further, Prannoy is the first Indian man to win a BWF title since Lakshya Sen's triumph in the India Open in January 2022.

