

EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

27-05-23

A fountainhead of the people's hopes and aspirations

- Source: THE HINDU

Context:- In its 75th year of Independence, India is set to witness a historic moment with the inauguration of the **new Parliament House** on May 28. After using a Parliament building that is nearly a century old and symbolised a colonial era, we finally have a new structure in independent India. It reflects the vision and aspirations of a country that has evolved significantly since 1947.

Features of new parliament building

- The construction of the original parliament building was completed in 1927. The almost-a-century-old structure was increasingly being found to be inadequate to service the government's present-day requirements.
- Keeping this in mind, both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha passed resolutions in 2020 to construct a new building for the Parliament.
- The old building could seat 543 Members in the Lok Sabha and 250 in the Rajya Sabha. The new Parliament building will have space for 888 members in the Lok Sabha and 384 members in the Rajya Sabha.
- The new Parliament, constructed on the lines of the Central Vista buildings, is a triangular structure. It houses the Lok Sabha, the Rajya Sabha, the Central Lounge and offices of constitutional authorities.
- The new Lok Sabha Chamber is designed in the likeness of India's National Bird, the Peacock. The new Rajya Sabha Chamber, on the other hand, bears similarities to the National Flower, the Lotus.
- The new building will have a Constitution Hall for the purpose of showcasing India's democratic heritage. Other upcoming structure include a library, a dining room and ample parking for the members.
- The new building will feature rainwater harvesting and water recycling systems. Provision of 100% UPS power backup will be made throughout the building, the document states.

- The designing of the new building was done by Ahmedabad-based HCP Design and Management Pvt Limited. Tata Projects won the contract to build the new Parliament building, a part of the Centre's Central Vista redevelopment plans.

Equipped for the needs of today

- The new building is more spacious, energy-efficient, and accessible. It has the most updated technology, which makes it well-equipped for future needs as well.
- In the new building, we will be able to accommodate various languages with state-of-the-art facilities for simultaneous interpretations as well as better features for audio-visual communication as compared to the existing Parliament.
- Better gadgets, access to an e-library, and important reports will be easily accessible for members from their seats.
- This will enhance the capacity of legislators and improve the efficiency of the Secretariats of Parliament.
- The building has publicly accessible museum-grade galleries and a Constitution Hall that showcases India's age-old history of democracy.

Significance

The inauguration of a new Parliament building presents an opportunity for us to seriously introspect on our parliamentary conduct to make Parliament more efficient and productive.

The trend of increasing disruptions and long periods of deadlock is antithetical to the demand for politics to respond to the complex governance challenges of our time.

One hopes that adequate functional space and modern facilities for the members will contribute to reducing friction and enabling serious discussions. In the coming years, as this complex expands, each member will have their own dedicated space for interacting with people from their constituencies.

A modern legislature is required to work in tune with the challenges of time. The country has already paid huge costs — social and economic — due to the absence of laws when needed the most.

Conclusion

- The world is changing fast and is on the verge of a tectonic shift due to the emergence of machine learning and artificial intelligence. The new Parliament building should remind us to prepare and equip ourselves to face up the new challenges. As a fountainhead of the people's hopes and aspirations, particularly those of the younger generations, it would work as a lighthouse to guide us in our ambitious journey to build 'Ek Bharat, Shrestha Bharat.'

About the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha:

- It is a constitutional position created under Article 89 of the Constitution, which specifies that Rajya Sabha shall choose one of its MPs to be the Deputy Chairman as often as the position becomes vacant.

Who can be a deputy chairman?

- The Deputy Chairman is elected by the Rajya Sabha itself from amongst its members.
- Whenever the office of the Deputy Chairman falls vacant, the Rajya Sabha elects another member to fill the vacancy.
- The Deputy Chairman vacates his office in any of the following **three cases**:

if he ceases to be a member of the Rajya Sabha;

if he resigns by writing to the Chairman;

if he is removed by a resolution passed by a majority of all the members of the Rajya Sabha. Such a resolution can be moved only after giving 14 days' advance notice.