

## India builds a Magnificent New Parliament

May 28, 2023

May 28, 2023: New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **magnificent new Parliament**, in which Indians can take pride.



*May 28, 2023: India's Magnificent New Parliament*

**HISTORY of the PARLIAMENT BUILDING:** The old parliament building was built in 1927 as the Council House, a Consultative body, which helped the Viceroy of India, the King of England's representative to rule over its largest colony. On 15<sup>th</sup> August 1947, the Council House was renamed as the Parliament House of India.

Before independence, the Council House was used for meetings of the Imperial Legislative Council. The Council had 145 Members of the Legislative Assembly.

The Cabinet Mission Plan of 16 May 1946, proposed a Constituent Assembly, the members of which were to be elected by the Provincial Assemblies by a single transferable-vote system of proportional representational. The total number of Members was to be 369 for un-divided India. However, after partition, the number of Members of India were found to be 299. The first Lok Sabha was constituted on 13<sup>th</sup> May 1952 with 489 Members.

Even in 1952, the building of the Parliament did not have adequate space for its increased number of members. On 4<sup>th</sup> June 2009, Meira Kumar became the Speaker and a Committee constituted during that time said that the building of the Parliament had become weak. The Report pointed out that the building would not be able to withstand an earthquake, it was leaking and continuous repairs had made the floors uneven, where many Members had fallen. Moreover, more space

was required for the Parliament and its members to work efficiently. For the next 11 years nothing was done to build a new Parliament and the building went on becoming worse.

In December 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi took up the task of building the new Parliament, after an Architect and a builder had been selected by the Government for the purpose. On May 28, 2023, India was able to get the **world's most modern Parliament building**.

SENGOL: A Sengol (roughly translated from Tamil to English as a Scepter) had been used as a symbol for transfer of power from the British to Indians (i. e. from Viceroy Lord Mountbatten to Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru). Nehru had not understood the importance of the sacred Sengol, used by all the great empires of India like the Chola empire, the Maratha empire.

In 2021, Dr Padma Subrahmanyam wrote to PM Modi, quoting an article in a Tamil magazine which had carried details of the ceremony involving the Sengol during the transfer of power from Britain to India in 1947. Prime Minister Narendra Modi instituted a search and was able to find that it had been lying in the ancestral home, called Anand Bhavan, as a walking stick of Pandit Nehru and it had been later placed in the Museum of Prayagraj. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's office got in touch with the **Thiruvavuduthurai Adheenam** (math). The then Pontiff of the Math had first got the Sengol prepared through a jeweler in 1947 and then had performed all the necessary religious ceremonies to convert it into a sacred Seangol. 21 Pontiffs and learned saints of the Math came to Delhi to help sanctify the Sengol again before it was installed in the new Parliament.

**Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar:** What a wonderful moment for the country, as its ancient traditions have received their due respect. Since time immemorial the Sengol has been a symbol of equality & justice for all, and a **reminder to the ruler of their duty & responsibility**. With the parliament being known as the temple of democracy, its sanctity has been established by the Sengol & the Sengol itself has found its rightful place. I thank the Hon. PM @narendramodi for his vision & execution.

A Tweet by Rashmin Pulekar, a Yoga Trainer and Writer graphically expresses the feelings of a large number of people: "I loved the unapologetic exhibition of Sanatan Dharma by the Prime Minister. Ancient traditions of the most ancient

civilization being revived and given its rightful place by the highest political dispensation in the temple of democracy is nothing but a dream come true.”



*May 28, 2023: Prime Minister: holding the sacred SENGOL before Installation near the Speaker's Chair*



**Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Tweet:**

“Delighted to see Sengol being recognized at the inauguration of the new building of the Indian Parliament. Its august presence illustrates how heritage and progress merge beautifully, giving us added inspiration to fulfil people's aspirations.”

The Sengol has been installed after it was consecrated by 21 Pontiffs of the **Thiruvavuduthurai Adheenam.**

**References by Anshul Pandey:**

Manusmriti7.15-20, Mahabharata, Shanti Parv Chapter 122

STATEMENT by the Pontiff of **Thiruvavuduthurai Adheenam** (math): The Pontiff said that the use of Sengol for transfer of power from the British to India on August 15, 1947 is a matter of great pride for Tamil Nadu, for the Thiruvavuduthurai Adheenam, from Chola Nadu.

He said," On May 28, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will receive the Sengol once again. It will be installed in the new parliament building. We are happy. We have been invited to Delhi, and we will be going there." he said.

The Pontiff added," We were informed 1-2 months ago about the inauguration of the new Parliament. They asked us to come and told us that Sengol would be installed in the Parliament.

This Sengol was given to the late PM Jawaharlal Nehru in 1947 by the Adheenam. Rajaji (C Rajagopalachari) was asked how to symbolize freedom and India's Independence. At that time, our chief pontiff had asked **Vummidi Bangaru Jewellers** to make the Sengol.

The Sengol was sent in a flight to Delhi and it was given to Lord Mountbatten. It was later handed over to then PM Nehru by Adheenam pontiffs.

We have pictures to show how the Sengol was handed over... The pictures are enough for evidence."



*28 May 2023: New Parliament building (right) and Old Parliament building (left)*