

## **Address by Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha at the 149th Assembly of IPU**

I extend warm wishes to all of you on behalf of Parliament of India and 1.4 billion people of India at this prestigious forum of 149<sup>th</sup> Assembly of IPU. I thank the Chair for according me the opportunity to express my views.

### **Excellency**

In the present times, the life of common man has been made easier through the use of the rapidly changing technology on one hand while on the other hand, we are facing several challenges related to environment and climate change. In such a scenario, the effective use of science, technology and innovation becomes all the more imperative to achieve the goals of global peace, equality and sustainable development.

### **Excellency**

I am pleased to inform the esteemed Assembly that India has successfully leveraged Science, Technology and Innovation to bring socio-economic changes in the lives of its people.

### **Excellency**

India has set a new world record with the participation of 642 million voters including 312 million women voters in the 2024 General Elections held to elect members of Lok Sabha in the Parliament of India, the world's largest democracy through the use of technology and Electronic Voting Machines. The General Elections were conducted at more than 1 million polling stations by 15 million personnel.

### **Excellency**

Climate change is the most pressing problem in the world today. Intensive discussions have been held on all aspects pertaining to this issue in the Parliament of India from time to time. Members of all political parties have participated in these discussions and put forth their views. Lifestyle for the Environment – LiFE Movement launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India was discussed extensively in P20 Summit held in New Delhi. Hon'ble Prime Minister initiated the idea of ONE SUN, ONE WORLD, ONE GRID – "OSOWOG" in order to address the issues of climate change and energy security. In the last decade, India's renewable energy capacity has increased from 76 GW to 203 GW. Initiatives like Green Hydrogen Mission, International Solar Alliance, Bio-Fuel Alliance underline our commitment to address this problem.

### **Excellency**

I am also pleased to inform the Assembly that India has given special incentives to innovation, technology and entrepreneurship under Start-up India. With 118 Unicorns, India has become the third largest start-up unicorn nation in the world. The valuation of these 118 Unicorns is more than US \$ 355 billion.

Unprecedented advancement has been made in the field of digitisation of financial services and financial inclusion through JAM Trinity of *Jan Dhan*, *Aadhar* and *Mobile*. With 2 billion 790 million transactions made so far in the year 2024-25, Financial benefits of 2 trillion 495 billion INR have been transferred through DBT-Direct Benefit Transfer to the bank accounts of beneficiaries under 314 public welfare schemes. The leverage of technology for delivery of public services and ensuring good governance with transparency and accountability is notable indeed.

### **Excellency**

We have developed Digital Sansad Application in order to digitize the work flow within the Parliament of India, make the Parliament paperless, enhance the efficiency of the Parliament by using Information Technology and Artificial Intelligence (AI) and also to bring all the stakeholders on a single integrated platform.

The documentary, audio and video records of the Parliament are being digitized and uploaded on the website of Parliament of India in order to provide easy access to the information pertaining to the Parliament and connect the people with the Parliament through the use of technology. The data is further being made more useful with the help of AI features of Keywords, Meta Data and Advanced Search. Utmost use of Green technology has been made in the construction of New building of Parliament.

### **Excellency**

In the current scenario, all of us face the challenge of establishing an appropriate regulatory system in the field of technology, safeguarding data privacy of citizens, ensuring proper use of AI and equitable sharing of the benefits of technology. All these issues need to be discussed in the IPU forum as well as in our respective Parliaments.

The Parliament of India has passed several bills related to technology, science and environment such as Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, Telecommunications Bill, Energy Protection Bill, and Biological Diversity Bill after extensive discussions in the past few years.

### **Excellency**

India has always been a strong proponent of multilateralism. G-20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit (P-20) was hosted successfully by India in October 2023 on the theme of 'One Earth One Family One Future'. The phrase **Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam** means that the entire earth is one family. We, the people of India, consider the world as a family.

We believe that dialogue and cooperation amongst our parliaments in the field of science, technology and innovation is vital for common good. I hope that through this forum of IPU, we will be able to pave the way for inclusive development in the world through shared action plans and joint efforts and reaffirm our commitment to fair and equitable distribution of the benefits of science, technology and innovation in the world.

Thank you. Jai Hind.