

**Speech of H.E. Mr. Om Birla, Speaker, Lok Sabha, Parliament of India
on "Parliamentary action for Social Development and Justice"**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In this historic 150th Assembly of the IPU, which continues to add new dimensions to the field of global parliamentary cooperation, I warmly welcome and congratulate all of you on behalf of the 1.4 billion citizens of the world's largest democracy.

Excellency, the theme chosen for this Assembly of the IPU is an extension of the spirit of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'—the idea that the world is one family, which is deeply ingrained in Indian culture, tradition, and philosophy.

The essence of the Indian Constitution is to treat all citizens equally, provide them with equal opportunities, and ensure that the marginalized and backward sections of society are brought into the mainstream of progress.

In recent years, the Indian Parliament has passed numerous bills that promote social justice, security, and inclusion for all sections of society.

Our Parliament has enacted laws such as the 'Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016', the 'Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019', and the 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam-2023', effectively safeguarding the interests of all sections of society. Additionally, new labor laws and codes have been created for the welfare and social security of workers in the unorganized sector.

We have established the primacy of justice by replacing the 'Indian Penal Code' with the 'Indian Justice Code'.

India's parliamentary committees function as mini parliaments. These committees review policies and programs related to social security, social justice, economic empowerment, and public welfare, provide suggestions for their better execution, and also recommend the approval of demand for grants of the Ministries.

Excellency, under the visionary and capable leadership of our esteemed Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi, India has been the 'fastest-growing' major economy in the world, with a GDP growth of 105% over the last 10 years.

We are rapidly progressing towards our goal of a developed India by 2047. Today, India is the fifth-largest economy in the world and is advancing towards becoming the third-largest economy.

Today, India plays a leading role in the world in sectors such as innovation, AI, startups, space and defense technology, IT, fintech, pharmaceuticals, and more.

We have implemented the world's largest health insurance scheme—Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY). Under this scheme, over 550 million people from the economically disadvantaged section, which comprise 40% of the population of India, are being provided with free health insurance.

I am confident that during this Assembly, we will engage in deep discussions on global innovations, best practices, and experience-sharing in the fields of social justice and development. Together, we will find new solutions and fulfill our responsibilities effectively to ensure a fair and just society.

Thank you very much.