WOMEN'S REPRESENTATION MUST EXTEND FROM PANCHAYATS TO PARLIAMENT; HOPEFUL OF IMPLEMENTATION OF NARI SHAKTI VANDAN ADHINIYAM: LOK SABHA SPEAKER

WOMEN'S GREATER PARTICIPATION IN POLICYMAKING AND LEGISLATION WILL MAKE DEMOCRACY MORE RESPONSIVE AND ACCOUNTABLE: LOK SABHA SPEAKER

AI AND TECHNOLOGY CAN STRENGTHEN TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS: LOK SABHA SPEAKER

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK TO BE DEVELOPED FOR DIGITAL EMPOWERMENT AND CAPACITY-BUILDING OF WOMEN REPRESENTATIVES: LOK SABHA SPEAKER

LOK SABHA SPEAKER INAUGURATES THE FIRST COMMONWEALTH WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS (CWP) INDIA REGION CONFERENCE IN BENGALURU; CM, KARNATAKA AND OTHER DIGNITARIES GRACE THE OCCASION

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Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla today emphasized the need for greater representation of women across all democratic institutions. Shri Birla noted that women must have an effective role not merely as participants but also in leadership, policymaking and law-making. Referring to the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam enacted in 2023, he expressed hope that the provision for 33 per cent representation of women in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies would move towards implementation, enabling women's leadership to extend from Panchayats to Parliament. He noted that several States have already provided for 50 per cent representation of women in Panchayats and Municipalities. Greater participation of women in legislative institutions and decision-

making processes would contribute to building a stronger, more sensitive and accountable democracy. Women bring sensitivity, commitment and a strong sense of responsibility to public life, qualities that are particularly important in addressing the aspirations and challenges of society. Highlighting the pivotal role of women in strengthening democratic institutions, Shri Birla mentioned that greater participation of women in policymaking, legislation and decision-making would make democracy more responsive, inclusive and accountable. Shri Birla made these observations while inaugurating the First Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) India Region Conference at Bengaluru.

Noting that Artificial Intelligence (AI) and technology are transforming every sphere of social life and, when used responsibly and accountably, he observed that AI can bring significant improvements in governance. He emphasised that public representatives must leverage technology and e-governance to strengthen their engagement with citizens, understand their problems and ensure timely and effective solutions. Technology can play a vital role in establishing transparent, accountable and efficient systems of governance. Observing that Parliamentary Committees function as 'Mini Parliaments', the Speaker said that these committees have made valuable contributions towards addressing the socio-economic challenges faced by women and have made important recommendations to the Government. AI and technology can further strengthen their monitoring and oversight functions and make their work more effective. He indicated that a dedicated session on AI and technology would be organised to enhance the understanding and capacities of women Members of Parliament and legislators in this regard.

The Speaker called for the need to develop an institutional framework to strengthen the capacities of elected women representatives across Panchayats, Municipalities, State Legislative Assemblies and Parliament. The initiative should focus on enabling women representatives, including Panchayat Sarpanches and Municipal Chairpersons, to effectively use AI, technology and digital platforms for public engagement, monitoring and ensuring transparency in governance, he noted. Shri Birla stressed that the ability of public representatives to use technology effectively would directly influence the quality of outcomes delivered to citizens, particularly women and people at the grassroots level. He also underscored the importance of mentorship by experienced women legislators to guide emerging leaders and strengthen their legislative and leadership capabilities.

Shri Birla opined that women have made significant contributions to India's journey from the freedom struggle to nation-building and are today providing leadership in virtually every sphere, including education, science, technology, research, entrepreneurship, sports, defence, space and politics. He said that technology and digital platforms are creating new opportunities for women's economic self-reliance and expanding their participation in social and political life. At the same time, empowering women digitally and ensuring a safe digital environment remain important priorities. Highlighting Karnataka's rich democratic heritage, the Speaker referred to the twelfth-century Anubhava Mantapa of Lord Basaveshwara as an important symbol of the region's democratic traditions. He also recalled the courage and valour of Kittur Rani Chennamma, whose legacy continues to inspire generations.

Shri Birla hoped that the two-day conference would provide an important platform for women parliamentarians and legislators from Commonwealth countries to exchange experiences, innovations and best practices. He observed that dialogue, discussion and the

exchange of diverse perspectives, including agreement and disagreement, constitute the strength of democracy. Sharing successful practices from different legislatures would help strengthen democratic institutions and promote innovation from Panchayats to Parliament. Expressing confidence in the outcomes of the conference, the Speaker said that women's leadership would help take the nation towards a more inclusive, balanced and just society, with democratic institutions becoming stronger, more accountable and result-oriented, ensuring that the voice of the last person in society is heard and addressed.

Earlier, the Speaker welcomed the participants and thanked Dr. D. Purandeswari, Chairperson of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Conference in India, the Chief Minister of Karnataka and the Presiding Officers of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council for their initiative and efforts in organising the conference.

AS INDIA MOVES TOWARDS THE VISION OF VIKSIT BHARAT BY 2047, THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN SHAPING THE NATION'S FUTURE: SMT. D. PURANDESWARI

Addressing the gathering, Chairperson, CWP India Region, Dr. Daggubati Purandeswari noted that women's empowerment in a democracy cannot be measured only by the number of women occupying public offices. It must also be reflected in their ability to participate meaningfully in legislative debates, influence policy decisions, exercise leadership and contribute to the governance and development of the nation. She stressed that we must move beyond ensuring representation towards creating an enabling environment in which women can exercise their leadership with much aplomb and effectiveness. Appreciating Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023, she said that the legislation represents a historic step towards strengthening women's political representation. Greater participation of women in legislatures will bring wider perspectives, experiences and concerns into public policy and democratic deliberations, she added.

Speaking on the Theme of the Conference, the Chairperson of the CWP India Region observed that the outcome of the discussions in the Conference should not remain confined to resolutions and recommendations. We must strive to develop an actionable framework for strengthening gender-sensitive parliamentary institutions and enhancing the leadership capabilities of women public representatives, she suggested. She further noted that as India moves towards the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047, the role of women in shaping the nation's future will be decisive and a developed India cannot be realised without the equal participation, leadership and contribution of its women.

Chief Minister, Karnataka, Shri D. K. Shivakumar delivered the Keynote Address. Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Harivansh; Deputy Chief Minister, Karnataka, Dr. G. Parameshwara; and Speaker, Speaker, Karnataka Legislative Assembly, Shri G. S. Patil also addressed the gathering on this occasion. Chairman, Karnataka Legislative Council, Shri Saleem Ahmed delivered the Welcome Address and Deputy Chairman, Karnataka legislative Council, Dr. Umashree delivered the Vote of Thanks.

135 women law makers from Parliament of India and State Legislatures are participating in the two - day Conference. Theme of the Conference is ‘Strong Foundations, Stronger Voices: Inclusive Cyberspace and Mentorship Pathways for New Women Legislators’. Two

Plenary Sessions will be held during the Conference: (i) 'Empowering Women Digitally: Safe Cyberspace, Smart Choices', and (ii) 'Capacity Building and Mentorship for Women Legislators', In a special initiative complementing the broader deliberations, UN Women India will organise a side event on Menopause on 17 November 2026. The Conference will conclude on 18 November 2026 with the Valedictory Address of Governor, Karnataka, Dr. Sudha Yadav.

The Conference is expected to achieve the following outcomes:

1. Facilitate the exchange of experiences, perspectives and good practices on creating safe and inclusive cyber space and digital empowerment for women legislators.
2. Identify effective frameworks to mentorship, capacity building and leadership development, particularly for newly elected women legislators.
3. Explore the ways to strengthen institutional safeguards and mechanisms to ensure meaningful participation of women in parliamentary processes.
4. Promote cooperation and collaboration among legislatures in advancing women's parliamentary leadership.

बेंगलुरु के विधान सौध में आयोजित First Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Conference के उद्घाटन सत्र को संबोधित किया। इस अवसर पर Commonwealth Countries की महिला सांसदों एवं विभिन्न राज्यों एवं केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों से आए विधायकों और जनप्रतिनिधियों के साथ महिला नेतृत्व और लोकतांत्रिक संस्थाओं में उनकी प्रभावी भागीदारी पर विचार साझा किए। भगवान बसवेश्वर के 'अनुभव मंडपम' की गौरवशाली लोकतांत्रिक परंपरा और कित्तूर की रानी चेन्नम्मा के अदम्य शौर्य की साक्षी कर्नाटक की यह धरती ज्ञान, नवाचार और प्रगतिशील चेतना की विशिष्ट पहचान रखती है। भारत के स्वतंत्रता संग्राम, संविधान निर्माण और राष्ट्र के नवनिर्माण में महिलाओं का योगदान अविस्मरणीय रहा है। आज वे शिक्षा, विज्ञान, प्रौद्योगिकी, खेल, अंतरिक्ष, रक्षा और राजनीति सहित प्रत्येक क्षेत्र में अपनी प्रतिभा एवं नेतृत्व से नए प्रतिमान स्थापित कर रही हैं। वर्तमान समय में AI और डिजिटल माध्यमों का उत्तरदायी एवं नैतिक उपयोग नीति निर्माण, विधायी कार्यवाही, जनसंवाद और सुशासन को अधिक प्रभावी बना सकता है। ऐसे में, technology और AI के इस युग में महिलाओं का Digital Empowerment तथा उनके लिए सुरक्षित Cyber Space सुनिश्चित करना हमारी सामूहिक जिम्मेदारी है। महिला सांसद केवल जनप्रतिनिधि ही नहीं हैं बल्कि स्वयं में institution हैं। अनुभवी महिला जनप्रतिनिधियों की Mentorship, निरंतर संवाद और Capacity Building के माध्यम से नई पीढ़ी के नेतृत्व को दिशा एवं सामर्थ्य प्रदान किया जाना चाहिए। मेरा दृढ़ विश्वास है कि जब महिलाओं को पंचायत से पार्लियामेंट तक समान अवसर, सुरक्षित वातावरण और निर्णय प्रक्रिया में प्रभावी भागीदारी मिलेगी, तब लोकतंत्र की जड़ें और अधिक गहरी होंगी। महिला नेतृत्व की शक्ति, संवेदनशीलता और उत्तरदायित्व से भारत का लोकतंत्र अधिक समावेशी, पारदर्शी, जवाबदेह और सशक्त बनेगा। यही सामर्थ्य विकसित भारत 2047 की संकल्पना को साकार करने का आधार बनेगा। #CWPIndia #WomenInParliament

— Om Birla (@ombirlakota) November 17, 2026

First Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) India Region Conference में सहभागिता के लिए Karnataka विधानमंडल भवन (Vidhana Soudha), Bengaluru पहुँचने पर राज्य के माननीय मुख्यमंत्री श्री D.K. Shivakumar, कर्नाटक विधान परिषद के माननीय सभापति श्री Saleem Ahmed, माननीय विधान सभा अध्यक्ष श्री G.S. Patil, CWP India Region की सभापति डॉ. D. Purandeswari एवं अन्य गणमान्यों द्वारा किए गए आत्मीय स्वागत से अभिभूत हूँ। #CWPIndia #WomenInParliament

— Om Birla (@ombirlakota) November 17, 2026

आज बेंगलुरु के विधान सौध में आयोजित प्रथम First Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians India Region Conference के उद्घाटन सत्र में सम्मिलित होकर संबोधित करूँगा। इस अवसर पर सम्मेलन में सम्मिलित हो रहे महिला सांसदों एवं विभिन्न राज्यों एवं केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों से आए विधायकों और जनप्रतिनिधियों के साथ संवाद करूँगा। महिला नेतृत्व, विधायी संस्थाओं में उनकी प्रभावी भागीदारी, डिजिटल सशक्तीकरण एवं सुरक्षित साइबरस्पेस तथा महिला जनप्रतिनिधियों के क्षमता निर्माण और मेंटरशिप को समर्पित यह सम्मेलन अनुभवों के आदान-प्रदान और सार्थक विमर्श का महत्वपूर्ण मंच है। विश्वास है कि यह पहल महिला नेतृत्व को नई दिशा देने के साथ लोकतांत्रिक संस्थाओं को अधिक समावेशी एवं सशक्त बनाने और विकसित भारत 2047 के संकल्प को गति प्रदान करेगी। Live Link: https://t.co/63VtHEAu00

— Om Birla (@ombirlakota) November 17, 2026

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