

Visit of Indian Parliamentary Delegation led by Hon'ble Speaker of Lok Sabha to Singapore, 24- 25 April 2022

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Singapore; 25 April 2022: Indian Parliamentary Delegation led by Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla held a bilateral meeting with H.E. Mr Tan Chuan-Jin, Speaker of the Parliament of Singapore on the fifth day of their South East Asia tour, today. On this occasion, Shri Birla told Mr. Chuan-Jin that both India and Singapore believe in democratic governance and regular dialogues between the parliamentarians of democratic countries are helpful in strengthening democracy and effective functioning of democratic institutions.

Mentioning about the new Parliament Building which is under construction, Shri Birla said that the new Parliament Building will realize the hopes and aspirations of New India of the 21st century. Shri Birla expressed confidence that the construction work of the new building would be completed soon and the next winter session would be held in the new Parliament House.

Expressing happiness that Singapore has a large number of Indian nationals working and Singapore has traditionally recognized the talent and hard work of people of Indian origin, Shri Birla hoped that there would be no adverse policy changes for Indians in Singapore's Work Pass Framework.

Noting that discussions are taking place between the two countries to further strengthen the economic ties in the changing context, Shri Birla expressed the view that strengthening the supply chain is a new need in today's world. In this context, he said that our goal is that India should become an important part of the world supply chain. Shri Birla also said that India's rapidly growing economy, skilled and affordable manpower and dynamic market system can provide new opportunities for prosperity and growth for Singaporean companies.

Referring to the previous visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Singapore, Shri Birla said that after that visit Fintech was identified as an important area of cooperation. Digital connectivity has grown tremendously since then. He stressed that we should take advantage of the new opportunities in this area. Shri Birla also suggested that the integration of monetary and payment systems between the two countries would facilitate working especially for citizens and companies.

Shri Birla appreciated the positive role played by Singapore in promoting ASEAN-India relations and expressed the view that the ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership has been given a boost during Singapore's Presidency since 2018. He also said that India looks forward to working more closely with Singapore during Singapore's coordinating role in the ASEAN-India dialogue relationship.

Earlier, the Indian Parliamentary Delegation visited the Indian National Army (INA) Memorial of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and paid floral tributes.

The delegation included Shri Ravneet Singh, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha); Ms. Saroj Pandey, MP (Rajya Sabha); Smt. Locket Chatterjee, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha); Smt. Sarmistha Sethi, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha); Dr. Santanu Sen, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) and Shri Utpal Kumar Singh, General Secretary, Lok Sabha.

INDIAN DIASPORA IN SINGAPORE IS A POWERFUL FORCE IN INDIA'S LOOK EAST POLICY: LOK SABHA SPEAKER

Singapore; 24 April, 2022: Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla addressed Indian community and friends of India in Singapore, today.

Speaking on this occasion, Shri Birla said that in the 75 years of India's independence, the country has undergone extensive political, social and economic transformation. India's democracy and its democratic institutions have set a perfect example of inclusive growth before the whole world. He further added that from defense to technology, new opportunities are being created. Schemes like Start Up India, Digital India, Stand Up India, Skill India have been launched to make full use of the potential of the young talents and entrepreneurs. Today, India is being seen as a symbol of positive change in the whole world. The present era is an era of socio-economic change in India, an era of innovation, highlighted Shri Birla.

Mentioning about the role of Indian diaspora in Singapore, Shri Birla said that Indian diaspora is one of the important powerful forces of India's Look East Policy. At a time when strong institutional framework exists for constructive dialogue between the two countries and a better understanding has developed between citizens of both the countries due to strong cultural and people to people contact, the diaspora is playing the role of a catalyst to further bridge the gap among countries and improve bilateral relationship. Diaspora's active contribution to the comprehensive economic and social development of Singapore has laid the foundation for strong relations between the two countries, observed Shri Birla.

Urging the Indian diaspora, particularly the youth, to join hands for the socio-economic transformation in India, Lok Sabha Speaker said that the time has come for the youth to work collectively to bring positive changes in the lives of people of the motherland. Today people from all regions of the country, people of all languages are working for service of the nation and nation building in the spirit of nation first. He also added that as India evacuated more than 30,000 civilians from Ukraine and neighboring countries from war zone, self-respect, strength and power of present day India has been recognized by the world. Today, India has a strong voice in global fora on issues like climate change, terrorism, global peace, said Shri Birla.

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