

# 'Name building after Anubhava Mantapa'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU

Legislative Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti has appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to name one of the buildings in the new Parliament House after the 'Anubhava Mantapa' established by 12th century social reformer Basaveshwara.

Mr. Horatti personally

handed over a letter in this regard to Mr. Birla at a programme held in the Legislative Assembly on Friday.

In it, Mr. Horatti has said, "Anubhava Mantapa was the first parliament established in India. Basaveshwara advocated his new religion, which was based on the principle of democracy, at Anubhava Mantapa." He further said, "People and intellectuals cutting across

caste, religion, language, region, and gender assembled in the Mantapa to discuss matters concerning all aspects of human life. It was the place where humanism and democratic values took final shape. The members of Anubhava Mantapa were all authors of *vachanas* that were like different articles of the present Constitution."

IN THE LEG

# Protests should not violate the dignity of House: LS Speaker

Om Birla says disruptions take away right of members to raise important issues

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BENGALURU**

Coming down heavily on the stalling of legislature/parliamentary sessions due to protests, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Friday maintained that such disruptions take away the right of members to raise issues of public importance.

Delivering a talk on 'Democracy: Protection of Parliamentary Values' in a joint session of the State legislature, he stated that the protests held during the session should be in accordance with the dignity of the House as well as parliamentary norms. "Such disruptions come in the way of ensuring the fulfilment of responsibilities by the executive, as it would not be possible to debate important Bills," he said. "This does not mean there should be no opposition or differences of opi-



Loka Sabha Speaker Om Birla being felicitated by Legislative Assembly Speaker Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri and Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti during a joint session of the legislature in Bengaluru on Friday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

nion. In fact, opposition, differences of opinion, arguments, debates, and protests are all the basis of democracy. But protests should conform to the dignity of the House and should be in tune with the spirit of parliamentary norms."

In this background, he said there was a need for holding serious debate on the methods of inculcating discipline, courtesy, and tolerance during legislature/parliamentary sessions.

Mr. Birla also observed that the conduct of elected

representatives in their private lives too should be a model for others so that the dignity of the House is elevated. "It is a matter of concern that legislature debates are not meeting the required standards and even the participation of legislators in such debates is not to the expected level," he observed.

## Strict action

Karnataka Speaker Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri called upon all the four pillars of democracy, including the judiciary and media, to introspect on upholding democratic values. He proposed strict action, such as suspension and withholding of allowances, against members who either disrupt the proceedings of the House or boycott them. He also recommended increasing the annual duration of the session.