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PM sets in motion Parliament work

SAGAR KULKARNI NEW DELHI, DHNS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday laid the foundation stone for a new Parliament building, saying it would reflect the aspirations of 21st century India.

The ceremony was attended by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi, Urban Development Minister Hardeep Puri and industrialist Ratan Tata.

Addressing the function, Modi recalled that the democratic traditions in India dated back to the 10th century through the Kudumbusystem of governance practised in the Chola empire and the Anubhava Mantapa established by Saint Basaveshwara in the 12th century.

"The history of democracy is seen in every nook and corner of the country," he said.

Democracy is a way of life and part of the value system in India while across the world, it is identified with elections, elected members and governance, he said.

Modi said the new building will be an amalgamation of the new and the ancient, and reflect the spirit of fostering



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the foundation stone-laying ceremony of new Parliament building. PTI

Sringeri priests perform puja

A team of six priests from the Sringeri Sharada Peetha performed puja during the foundation stone-laying ceremony of Parliament building. The rituals, which began at 8 am, saw the PM placing a silver brick sent by Bharathi Teertha Swamiji of Sharada Peetha. PAGE 6

change by adapting to changing circumstances.

The building, constructed by Tata Projects at a cost of Rs 971 crore, will have an area of 64,500 square metres and will be completed in 22 months to coincide with India's 75th year of independence.