

# Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla praises Indian diaspora, growing cooperation with Bahrain



Indian Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla participating in various meetings yesterday in Manama on the sidelines of 146th Inter-Parliamentary Union

TDT | Manama

Indian Lok Sabha Speaker, Om Birla, has praised the strong ties between Bahrain and India, saying that they have gained new dimensions in recent years. Birla also expressed his gratitude for the hard work, loyalty, diligence, and dedication of the Indian diaspora, during a meeting held on the sidelines of his visit to Bahrain for the 146th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Conference.

Speaking to prominent members of the Indian diaspora, including businessmen, professionals, doctors, educationalists, and heads of the Indian community and cultural organisations, Birla noted that cooperation between the two countries has



Speaker Ahmed bin Salman Al Musallam with Indian Speaker Om Birla

increased in areas such as IT, Fintech, and Renewable Energy. He emphasised that the Indian diaspora would add more strength to the relationship as a strong link.

Birla highlighted the growing India-Bahrain ties as a relationship based on human sensibilities and cultural values.

Separately, he participated in a holi celebration organised in

Manama and held several bilateral meetings with his counterparts from across the world on the sidelines of the conference.

Accompanying Birla are Bhartruhari Mahtab, Aparajita Sa-

rangi, and Dr Agrawal RMD. Yesterday, the Member IPU Executive Committee apprised Asia Pacific Group Members about the work done by the Committee in previous meetings.

Later in the evening, Om Birla also held discussions with Council of Representatives Speaker Ahmed bin Salman Al Musallam on the strong bilateral relations between Bahrain and India.

Al Musallam emphasised the importance of continuing to develop joint ties between the two countries and praised India's vital role in supporting regional security and stability, as well as its upcoming presidency of the G20 and Shanghai Cooperation Organization in 2023.

Om Birla expressed pride and appreciation for the close historical ties between India and Bahrain, and their mutual commitment to further strengthen them in all fields for the benefit of both nations.

# Women Parliamentarians Forum highlights importance of global collaboration and gender equity

Julia Cassano  
TDT | Manama

Giving women parliamentarians a unique opportunity and a global platform for international decision-making, Women Parliamentarians Forum opened yesterday in Bahrain alongside the 146th Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly.

The first of its kind and a trailblazer on the issue of women's political participation, the forum meets at every IPU Assembly. It provides an opportunity for women MPs to learn about how other countries are addressing gender inequality.

IPU President Duarte Pacheco opened the forum, in the presence of the participating parliamentary delegations which are attending the 146th IPU Assembly.

Representing Bahrain, Shura Council First Deputy Chairman Jamal Mohammed Fakhro stressed Bahrain's strides in promoting gender equity through constitutional and legislative provisions.

He noted Bahrain's ranking on international indicators measuring women's progress, paying tribute to Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, wife of His Majesty the King and President of the Supreme Council for Women.



Andrei Savinykh, Belarus



Dr Ravza Kavakci Kan, Turkey



Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, Bangladesh



Oguzhan Hasipoglu, Cyprus



Jamal Mohammed Fakhro

**Cyber-attacks affect women: Dr Ravza**

In an interview with *The Daily Tribune*, Dr Ravza Kavakci Kan, president of the Turkish IPU Group, emphasised the importance of increasing wom-

en's participation in parliament and exchanging resolutions to address common issues. She proudly noted that all parliaments in the world now have women representatives, which was once non-existent, and stated that the IPU sheds light on important issues faced by both men and women in societies.

During the Women's Forum IPU, a special discussion was held on cyber-attacks, where Dr Ravza highlighted the impact of such attacks on women, especially those in the public eye. She stated, "Cyber-attacks pose threats to everyone of all ages and gender; however, we wanted to centre the discussion around how cyber-attacks affect women." She further added that any type of cyber-attack has significant effects on women, whether it is economic or social.

The issue of social media and cyberbullying towards women

was also discussed, and it was recognised as a global issue. Dr Ravza highlighted women members of parliament as potential targets for such attacks, as they are more visible in the public eye.

Human rights were also a significant topic of discussion, and Dr Ravza emphasised the need for resolutions that address issues faced by all genders, nationalities, and races. She stated, "If we advocate for democracy and human rights, it should be a right for all people."

**Be fair and equal to all: Savinykh**

According to Andrei Savinykh, ambassador and chairman of The Standing Commission on International Affairs, the IPU is an essential organisation that allows parliaments to discuss critical issues. He highlighted that the world is currently un-

dergoing a transformative time in international history, and it is crucial to ensure that the principles of this new world are fair and equal to all.

Savinykh asked, "How will we provide possibilities for different countries to develop?" and emphasized that through the IPU forum, honest recommendations can be freely shared, and views can be changed. He believes that the IPU's special and unique platform can create opportunities to exchange ideas and expectations.

**Climate change needs global collaboration: Hasipoglu**

MP and General Secretary of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, Oguzhan Hasipoglu, emphasised the significance of countries working together to address global issues. He stated that climate change has become a pressing concern that requires

global collaboration and partnership to solve.

Hasipoglu acknowledged that Bahrain is starting to play a crucial role in national affairs and expressed hope for further discussions between Cyprus and Bahrain.

**Working together and share knowledge: Dr Chaudhury**

Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, MP of Bangladesh Parliament, considers the assembly as an excellent platform to discuss and deliberate on essential issues and emerging challenges that affect the welfare of the people. She believes that sharing best practices among nations is crucial to draw upon different solutions to common problems, including climate change, strengthening women's empowerment and participation, and gender equality.

Chaudhury emphasised that many countries face the same issues and interconnectedness, making global cooperation urgently needed. She stated, "When countries can unite and come together as one, we can solve some of the most frightful of issues threatening societies all over the world." The MP believes that by working together and sharing knowledge, countries can tackle the most significant challenges affecting societies globally.