

III(C)(a). COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION RELATED EVENTS FROM JUNE 2019 TO DECEMBER, 2021

1. THE 64TH COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE IN KAMPALA, UGANDA FROM 22 TO 29 SEPTEMBER, 2019

The 64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference was held in Kampala, Uganda from 22 to 29 September, 2019. An Indian Parliamentary Delegation led by Shri Om Birla, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha attended the Conference. The Delegation comprised of Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, MP (Lok Sabha); Smt. Roopa Ganguly, MP (Rajya Sabha); Dr. L. Hanumanthaiah, MP (Rajya Sabha) and Smt. Aparajita Sarangi, MP (Lok Sabha).

The Conference was also attended by Presiding Officers from State CPA Branches viz. Shri Thammineni Seetharam, Speaker, Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly; Shri P.D. Sona, Speaker, Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly; Shri Hitendra Nath Goswami, Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly and Member CPA Executive Committee; Shri Vijay Kumar Choudhary, Speaker, Bihar Legislative Assembly; Dr. Charandas Mahant, Speaker, Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly; Shri Ram Niwas Goel, Speaker, Delhi Legislative Assembly; Shri Rajesh Patnekar, Speaker, Goa Legislative Assembly; Shri Rajendra Suryaprasad Trivedi, Speaker, Gujarat Legislative Assembly; Dr. Rajeev Bindal, Speaker, Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly; Shri Dinesh Oraon, Speaker, Jharkhand Legislative Assembly; Shri Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri, Speaker, Karnataka Legislative Assembly; Shri P. Sreeramakrishnan, Speaker, Kerala Legislative Assembly; Shri Narmada Prasad Prajapati, Speaker, Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly; Shri T.D. Shira, Deputy Speaker, Meghalaya Legislative Assembly; Shri Lalrinliana Sailo, Speaker, Mizoram Legislative Assembly; Shri Vikho-o-Yhoshu, Speaker, Nagaland Legislative Assembly; Dr. Surya Narayan Patro, Speaker, Odisha Legislative Assembly; Shri P. Dhanapal, Speaker, Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly; Shri Pocharam Srinivas Reddy, Speaker, Telangana Legislative Assembly; Shri Rebat Mohan Das, Speaker, Tripura Legislative Assembly; Shri Prem Chand Aggarwal, Speaker, Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly and Shri Hridaya Narayan Dikshit, Speaker, Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Sabha as 'delegates.' Smt. Roselina Tirkey, MLA, Assam Legislative Assembly was a delegate in the Conference.

Shri Hitendra Nath Goswami, Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly and Shri Prem Chand Aggarwal, Speaker, Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly attended the Executive Committee Meetings of CPA. Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, MP (Lok Sabha) attended the CPA Executive Committee Meeting as an alternate Member.

During the Conference, the following topics were discussed in the form of Workshops:

- (i) Talk-show Panel – Climate Change: Achievements, Challenges and Efficiency of Parliament Interventions (Host Branch) (Workshop 'A');

- (ii) TED Talk- Innovation in Parliament: the impact of science and technology on how Parliament works today (Workshop 'B');
- (iii) Mentoring Session- The role of Parliament in facilitating persons with disabilities as electors, candidates and legislators (Workshop 'C');
- (iv) Youth Roundtable – Strategies to deal with Youth Unemployment (Youth Related Topic) (Workshop 'D');
- (v) Talk – show panel – Combatting rapid urbanisation and rural decline- A challenge for the Commonwealth (Workshop 'E');
- (vi) TED Talk – Innovation in Parliament – The possible effects of the United Kingdom 'Brexit' on Small Branches (Small Branches Topic) (Workshop 'F');
- (vii) Fostering a Culture of Respect, Fairness and Dignity: Sexual harassment has no place in legislatures (Gender Topic) (Workshop 'G');
- (viii) The Role of Parliament in the doctrine of Separation of Powers; Enhancing Transparency and Accountability (Workshop 'H');
- (ix) Post Legislative Scrutiny (PLS) – a dimension of the oversight function of Parliament. How is this represented within different political systems? (Workshop 'I'); and
- (x) Talk-show panel: How the Updated CPA Benchmarks for Democratic Legislatures has been used to strengthen the capacity of CPA Legislatures.

Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha attended all the Workshops during the Conference. Smt. Aparajita Sarangi, MP (Lok Sabha) was the 'Discussion Leader' in Workshop 'D' on "Strategies to deal with Youth Unemployment (Youth Related Topic)". Shri Hridaya Nararayan Dikshit, Speaker, Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Sabha was appointed as a 'Panellist' in the Workshop 'E' on "Combatting rapid urbanization and rural decline – A challenge for the Commonwealth. Smt. Roopa Ganguly, MP (Rajya Sabha) spoke as the 'Lead Speaker,' from Indian Delegation in the Workshop 'G' on "Fostering a Culture of Respect, Fairness and Dignity: Sexual Harassment has no place in legislature." Shri Rajendra S. Trivedi, Speaker, Gujarat Vidhan Sabha was also a 'Panellist' in the Workshop 'H' on "The Role of Parliament in the doctrine of Separation of Powers; Enhancing Transparency and Accountability".

Hon. Shandana Gulzar Khan, MNA of the National Assembly of Pakistan was elected to the post of Chairperson of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) for three year i.e. 2019 – 2021 at the CWP Business Meeting. The sixth triennial conference of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) that took place in Kampala, Uganda. Smt. Roopa Ganguly, MP (Rajya Sabha), Smt. Aparajita Sarangi, MP (Lok Sabha) and Smt. Roselina Tirkey, MLA, Assam Legislative Assembly attended the CWP Conference. Smt. Aparajita Sarangi, MP (Lok Sabha) was a Lead Speaker on the topic "The Importance of Mentoring for New Parliamentarians" in the CWP Conference. She also attended as an alternate Member in the CWP Steering Committee.

Smt. Roselina Tirkey, MLA, Assam Legislative Assembly; Shri Sanyam Lodha, MLA, Rajasthan Legislative Assembly attended the Conference as a

'delegate'. Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha Shri Om Birla led the Indian delegation in the 64th CPA General Assembly.

Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha had bilateral meeting with Hon. Rebecca Kadaga, Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda and President of the 64th CPA Conference. Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha also addressed Indian Diaspora in Uganda.

2. The 25th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of Commonwealth in Ottawa, Canada from 5 to 9 January, 2020

An Indian Parliamentary Delegation led by Shri Om Birla, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, consisting of Shri Harivansh, Hon'ble Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha and Secretary General, Lok Sabha attended the 25th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC) in Ottawa, Canada from 5 to 9 January, 2020.

The meeting of the CSPOC Standing Committee held on Monday, 6 January, 2020 at 1700 hours was attended by Shri Om Birla, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, who represented India.

The Opening Ceremony of the Conference was held on Tuesday, 7 January, 2020.

The Conference had 4 Workshop Sessions and Special Plenary as per details given below:

- Workshop 1: "Parliamentary Engagement: Openness, Transparency and Accountability"
- Workshop 2: "Challenges and Opportunities Arising from the Displacement of a Parliamentary Assembly"
- Workshop 3: "Parliamentarians as Effective Legislators and Constituency Representatives: Evolving Support Required"
- Workshop 4: "Security of Individuals in the Parliamentary Context and Beyond"
- Special Plenary: "Inclusive Parliaments: The Role of the Speaker in Supporting Emerging Procedures and Practices Embracing the Changing Face and Needs of Parliament"

Opening Plenary Sessions on the 4 topics of the Workshops were followed by separate Workshop Sessions. A Special Plenary was attended by all the delegates together.

Shri Om Birla, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha was the Workshop Presenter in Workshop 4 on the topic "Security of Individuals in the Parliamentary Context and Beyond."

The Special Plenary was held on Thursday, 9 January, 2020 at 1030 hours on the topic "Inclusive Parliaments: The Role of the Speaker in Supporting Emerging Procedures and Practices Embracing the Changing Face and Needs of Parliament." The delegates from Indian Parliament participated in the Special Plenary Session and other Workshops of the Conference.

Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha had meetings with his counterparts in the Canadian Senate and House of Commons and other dignitaries in Canada. The Indian Parliamentary Delegation had meetings with Indian Diaspora in Ottawa and Toronto during the visit.

Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha offered to host the CSPOC in 2026.

3. CPA Mid-Year Executive Committee meeting held from 18 to 22 August, 2020 in Virtual Mode

The CPA Mid-Year Executive Committee Meeting was held from 18 to 22 August, 2020 in Virtual Mode. The following three Regional Representatives from CPA India Region in the CPA Executive Committee attended the meeting:

- (i) Shri Anurag Sharma, MP
Lok Sabha
- (ii) Shri Hitendra Nath Goswami,
Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly
- (iii) Shri Prem Chand Aggarwal,
Speaker, Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly

2. Besides the meeting of the CPA Executive Committee, Shri Anurag Sharma, MP (Lok Sabha) and Shri Hitendra Nath Goswami, Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly attended the virtual meeting of the Planning and Review Sub-Committee. Shri Prem Chand Aggarwal, Speaker, Uttarakhand Vidhan Sabha attended the virtual meeting of the Finance Sub-Committee.

4. Meeting of the Standing Committee of Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of Commonwealth (CSPOC) held on Monday, 18 January 2021

The Meeting of the Standing Committee of Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of Commonwealth (CSPOC) was held on Monday, 18 January 2021 in Virtual Mode.

Shri Om Birla, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha and Secretary General, Lok Sabha attended the Meeting.

The Standing Committee of CSPOC discussed about the agenda topics for the 26th CSPOC scheduled to be held in Australia in January, 2022 and considered the following topics as agenda items:

1. Topic 1: Parliaments and the pandemic
 - how have parliaments adapted to the pandemic, what issues arose from the adaptations and which of these adaptations may become permanent
 - parliamentary privilege and virtual proceedings
2. Topic 2: Security
 - the ever-evolving requirements for parliaments in relation to physical (premises and Members) and cybersecurity);
3. Topic 3: e-Parliament
 - technology driving evolving relationships between parliament and the people
 - the need for citizens to have access to technology to participate in new ways
4. Topic 4: Role of the Speaker in leading parliamentary innovation;
5. Topic 5: Training for Members and staff
 - new approaches and sharing best practices

The three topics proposed by Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha viz. *(i) Enhancing capacity building of parliamentarians through wider use of internet / online platforms to deal with extraordinary situation of Pandemic; (ii) Reaching out through e-parliament for effective interface between the people and the parliament; and (iii) Strengthening the institutional capacity of Parliament by enhancing the technical skill of Members and staff of Parliament: Need to modernize, innovate and go virtual to meet new challenges* have been taken into consideration, though in different terminology, for the final agenda.

5. Mid-Year CPA Executive Committee Meeting in Virtual Mode

The Mid-Year CPA Executive Committee Meeting was held from 23 to 26 March 2021 in Virtual Mode. Following Regional Representatives from CPA India Region in the CPA Executive Committee attended the meeting:

- (i) Shri Anurag Sharma, MP
Lok Sabha
- (ii) Shri Prem Chand Aggarwal,
Speaker, Uttarakhand Vidhan Sabha

Besides the Meetings of the CPA Executive Committee, **Shri Anurag Sharma, MP (Lok Sabha)** attended the Meeting of Planning and Review Sub-Committee and **Shri Prem Chand Aggarwal, Speaker, Uttarakhand Vidhan Sabha** attended the Meeting of Finance Sub-Committee in Virtual Mode.

Shri Hitendra Nath Goswami, Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly could not attend the meeting due to unavoidable circumstances.

6. Meeting of the Working Group on CPA Proposed Constitutional Amendments

Shri Anurag Sharma, MP (Lok Sabha) and the Regional Representative from CPA India Region attended the virtual Meeting of Working Group of CPA on Proposed Constitutional Amendments held on 16 June 2021.

7. Workshop on Women's Parliamentary and Transformational Leadership

Smt. Sunita Duggal, MP (Lok Sabha) and the Regional Representative from CPA India Region in the CWP (international) Steering Committee attended the virtual Workshop on Women's Parliamentary and Transformational Leadership organized by CPA Headquarters Secretariat on 21 June 2021.

8. Sixth Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Roundtable: Gender Sensitive Parliaments in the 21st Century (India Region)

The CWP's Sixth Roundtable: 'Gender Sensitive Parliaments in the 21st Century' was held for the CPA India Region on 29 July 2021. Smt. Sunita Duggal, MP (Lok Sabha) and Member of the CWP Steering Committee Member of CPA and ex-Officio Chairperson, CWP (India Region) Steering Committee from CPA India Region chaired the virtual meeting. Smt. Aparajita Sarangi, MP (Lok Sabha) and a Member of CWP (India Region) Steering Committee of CPA India Region also participated. 12 Branches of the CPA India Region with 27 participants consisting Members of Legislative Assembly and Councils and Officers of CPA India Branch Secretariat also took part during the Roundtable.

9. Mid-Year Commonwealth Parliamentarians (CWP) Steering Committee – Teleconference Meeting

The Mid-Year Commonwealth Parliamentarians (CWP) Steering Committee meeting was held virtually on 15 September 2021. It was attended by Smt. Sunita Duggal, MP (Lok Sabha) and Member of the CWP Steering Committee Member of CPA and ex-Officio Chairperson, CWP (India Region) Steering Committee from CPA India Region.

The Meeting focused on updation on CWP activities and the Regional Strengthening Fund 2021. It also deliberated on Mid-Year Review of CWP Work Plan 2021.

10. Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities Regional Champions Meeting (CPwD) – Teleconference Meeting

The Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities (CPwD) Regional Champions Meeting was held virtually on 17 September 2021. Smt. Supriya Sudanand Sule, MP (Lok Sabha), the CPwD Regional Champion from CPA India Region attended the Meeting.

At the Meeting, Hon'ble Dennitah Ghata, MP, Africa Regional Champion from Kenya representing CPA Africa Region was elected as the new Chairperson of CPwD.

11. Remote CPA Executive Committee Meeting

The CPA Executive Committee Meeting was held virtually from 27 to 30 September 2021. Shri Anurag Sharma, MP, Lok Sabha; Shri Prem Chand Aggarwal, Speaker, Uttarakhand Vidhan Sabha and Shri Biswajit Daimary,

Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly Regional Representatives from CPA India Region attended the Meeting.

Besides the main Executive Committee Meeting of CPA, Shri Anurag Sharma, MP (Lok Sabha) attended the Sub-Committee Meeting of Planning and Review and Shri Prem Chand Aggarwal, Speaker, Uttarakhand Vidhan Sabha and Shri Biswajit Daimary, Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly attended the Sub-Committee Meeting of Finance Sub-Committee in Virtual Mode.
