

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 Rehati 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.