

Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA)

The Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) was born in 2006 at the Seventh Session of the Association of Asian Parliamentary for Peace (AAPP). In other words, the APA is continuation of an organization which was established in 1999. The APA comprises, in 2007, of 41 Member Parliaments and 17 observers. Each Member Parliament has a specific number of seats in the Assembly based on the size of their population. The number of total seats, and therefore, number of votes, is currently 206. Members of Assembly must be elected by members of the Member Parliaments. The APA Charter and Tehran Declaration lay out a framework of cooperation among Asian countries, and point out to a vision; that is Asian Integration.

During the year 2009, the application of India Group of IPU for the Membership in Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) was considered by the Executive Committee of APA during its session held in Bandung from 7 to 10 December 2010 and India became a member of APA.

MEETINGS:

1. Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) held in Bandung (Indonesia) from 7-10 December, 2009.

The 4th Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) was held in Bandung (Indonesia) from 7 to 10 December, 2009. Shri Sushil Kumar Singh, MP, Lok Sabha; Shri Ahmad Saeed Malihabadi, MP, Rajya Sabha and Shri Cyril John, Director and Secretary to the Delegation attended the Session. At the Plenary of APA, India was granted full membership. The Session held deliberation on the subject item '*The Roles of Asian Parliaments in Strengthening Democracy towards Prosperity, Peace and Justice in the Region*'.

2. Meetings of the (i) Standing Committee on 'Political Affairs' and (ii) Ad-hoc Working Group on ICT held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran on 12-14 May, 2010

The Meetings of the (i) Standing Committee on 'Political Affairs' and (ii) Ad-hoc Working Group on ICT took place in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran on 12-14 May, 2010. An Indian Parliamentary Delegation consisting of S/Shri Jai Prakash Agarwal, MP, Lok Sabha (INC), Tariq Anwar, MP, Rajya Sabha (NCP) and

Cyril John, Director (Lok Sabha Secretariat), Secretary to the Delegation attended the Meetings:

The Standing Committee on Political Affairs met to discuss the subjects related to Sub Committees of APA on following themes:

- (i) Major issues of Peace and Security in Asia;
- (ii) Declaration on Principles of Friendship and Co-operation in Asia; and
- (iii) Enhancing Cooperation between APA member Parliaments and their Governments.

3. Meetings of (i) 1st APA Executive Council and (ii) APA Sub-Committee on Alleviating Poverty in Asia held in Jakarta on 12 and 13 October, 2010

A one member Indian Parliamentary Delegation consisting of Shri Tathagata Satpathy, MP, Lok Sabha accompanied by Shri V.R.Ramesh, Joint Secretary and Secretary to the Delegation attended the Meetings.

The Standing Committee on Political Affairs met to discuss the subjects related to Sub Committees of APA on the following themes:

- (i) Achieving health equity in Asia;
- (ii) Role of Asian Parliaments to promote a comprehensive counter-terrorism and occupation strategy;
- (iii) Environmental issues, global warming, climate change and planting billions of trees throughout Asia;
- (iv) Protecting and respecting cultural diversity in Asia; and
- (v) Alleviating Poverty in Asia

4. The Meeting of the Standing Committee of Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) held in Jakarta (Indonesia) on 19 and 20 August, 2015.

The Meeting of the Standing Committee of Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) was held in Jakarta (Indonesia) on 19 and 20 August, 2015. Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey, MP and Dr. Kulamani Samal, MP participated in the event. Shri Shiv Singh, Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat and Secretary to the Delegation also attended the event.

2. During the Meeting following subject items were discussed:-

- (i) Linking Economic Growth to Sustainable Development Goals for Peace and Prosperity;
- (ii) The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Time to Take Action; and
- (iii) Financial Affairs: Ensuring Efforts for Economic Growth.

An amount of Rs. 11, 21,790/- (approx.) has been spent on the aforesaid visit.

5. Meeting of Standing Committee of Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) held in Islamabad, Pakistan, from 13-17 March, 2017.

The Meeting of Standing Committee of Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) was held in Islamabad, Pakistan, from 13-17 March, 2017. Dr. Shashi Tharoor, MP, Lok Sabha; Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi, MP, Lok Sabha; and Shri Swapan Dasgupta, MP, Rajya Sabha attended the above Meeting. Dr. Shashi Tharoor was the Leader of the Delegation.

During the event, following resolutions have been *inter alia* adopted:

- (i) Draft Resolution on United Front Against Terrorism and Violent Extremism.
- (ii) Draft Resolution on Building Prosperity in Asia Through Friendship and Cooperation.
- (iii) Draft Resolution on Asian Parliaments and Governments Together for Prosperity in Asia.
- (iv) Draft Resolution on Significant Political Developments in Asia

An amount of Rs. 2,89,600/- (approx.) has been spent on the aforesaid visit (Lok Sabha Component).

6. Meeting of the Standing Committee of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) held in Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates) from 21-24 May, 2017.

The Meeting of the Standing Committee of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) was held in Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates) from 21-24 May, 2017. Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, MP, Lok Sabha and Leader of the Delegation and Smt. Santosh Ahlawat, MP, Lok Sabha had participated in the aforesaid event.

Shri Prabhat Chandra Koul, Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat and Secretary to the Delegation also attended the event.

An amount of Rs. 4,15,563/- (approx.) has been spent on the aforesaid visit.

ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (APA)

7. Meeting of Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs of Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) held in Thimphu, Bhutan, from 31 August to 2 September, 2017.

The Meeting of Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs of Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) was held in Thimphu, Bhutan, from 31 August to 2 September, 2017. Shri Sunil Baliram Gaikwad, MP, Lok Sabha attended the above Meeting. Smt. Kalpana Sharma, Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat was Secretary to Delegation.

During the meeting of Standing Committee various draft resolutions were taken up for discussion and adoption.

An amount of Rs.1,29,378/-(approx.) has been spent on the aforesaid visit (Lok Sabha component).

8. 10th Plenary Session and 2nd Executive Council's Meeting of Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) in Istanbul (Turkey) from 21 to 24 November, 2017

The 10th Plenary Session and 2nd Executive Council's Meeting of Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) were held in Istanbul (Turkey) from 21 to 24 November, 2017. The theme of the 10th Plenary Session of Asian Parliamentary Assembly was 'Sustaining Peace and Development in Asia'. Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, MP and Shri Kunwar Bhartendra Singh, MP attended the above mentioned Meeting. Smt Rimjhim Prasad, Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat was the Secretary to the Delegation.

An amount of Rs. 7,94,390/-(approx.) has been spent on the aforesaid visit (Lok Sabha component).

9. First Executive Council Meeting of Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) held in Phnom Penh (Kingdom of Cambodia) from 1 to 4 October, 2017.

The First Executive Council Meeting of Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) was held in Phnom Penh(Kingdom of Cambodia) from 1 to 4 October, 2017. Shri

Raghav Lakhanpal, MP, Lok Sabha participated in the aforesaid event. Smt. Rimjhim Prasad, Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat and Secretary to the Delegation also attended the event. Discussions on various draft resolutions were held during the Meeting.

An amount of Rs. 2,47,497/-(approx.) has been spent on the aforesaid visit (Lok Sabha component).

(10) Meetings of APA Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs, and First Meeting of the APA Executive Council held in Izmir (Turkey) from 4 - 6 October, 2018.

An Indian Parliamentary delegation comprising Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, MP, Lok Sabha; Shri Om Birla, MP, Lok Sabha and Dr. (Ms.) Sonal Man Singh, MP, Rajya Sabha attended the above meetings held in Izmir (Turkey) from 4 to 6 October, 2018. Shri Y.M. Kandpal, Director, Lok Sabha Secretariat was the Secretary to the Delegation. During the meeting, the following important Resolutions came up for discussion:

- i. Draft Resolution on Measures to Promote Cultural Diversity and Protect Cultural Heritage in Asia;
- ii. Draft Resolution on Asian Integration through Information and Communication Technology;
- iii. Draft Resolution on Collaboration on Health Equity in Asia;
- iv. Draft Resolution on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in Asia;
- v. Draft Resolution on Asian Parliamentarians Against Corruption;
- vi. Draft Resolution on APA Women Parliamentarians;
- vii. Draft Resolution on Promoting Inter- Faith Dialogue and Harmony among World Religions;
- viii. Draft Resolution on Legal and Legislative Cooperation in Combating the Smuggling of Cultural Items in Asia;
- ix. Draft Resolution on Effective Cooperation in Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking in Asia; and
- x. Draft Resolution on Humanitarian Aid to Syria, Iraq, Yemen, and Myanmar on the Verge of the Humanitarian Catastrophe.

An amount of Rs. 10,23,096/- (approx.) has been spent on the aforesaid visit (Lok Sabha component).

(11) Meeting of 11th Plenary and 2nd Executive Council Meeting of the APA held in Istanbul, Turkey from 29 November -2 December, 2018

Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha, MP, Rajya Sabha attended the 11th Plenary Session and 2nd Executive Council Meeting of APA held in Istanbul, Turkey from 29 November- 2

December, 2018. He was accompanied by Shri Yogendra Singh, Protocol Officer, Lok Sabha Secretariat during the said event.

During the Plenary Session, General Debate was held on the topic *Promoting Economic Prosperity in Asia*. Meetings of the following Standing Committees were also held during the event;

- (i) Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs and Meeting of APA Women Parliamentarians;
- (ii) Standing Committee on Political Affairs and Working Group on Asian Parliament;
- (iii) Meeting of Standing Committee on Budget & Planning; and
- (iv) Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development

A Declaration entitled 'Istanbul Declaration' was also adopted at the conclusion of the event.

An amount of Rs. 1,00,000/- (approx.) has been spent on the aforesaid visit (Lok Sabha component).

**REPRESENTATION OF INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY GROUP ASIAN
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (APA)**

(12) Meeting of Standing Committee on Budget and Planning of Asian Parliamentary

Assembly (APA) held in Baghdad (Iraq) from 3 to 5 September, 2019

The Meeting of Standing Committee on Budget and Planning of Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) was held in Baghdad (Iraq) from 3 to 5 September, 2019. Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, MP Lok Sabha participated in the event. During the meeting Draft Resolution on APA Budget and Planning was considered and adopted.

An amount of Rs. 4,59,155 (approx.) has been spent on the aforesaid visit (Lok Sabha Component).

(13) 2nd Executive Council Meeting and 12th Plenary Session of Asian Parliamentary Union held in Antalya, Turkey from 13 to 18 December, 2019.

An Indian Parliamentary Delegation comprising of Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi MP, Lok Sabha (Leader of the Delegation); Dr. Hina Vijaykumar Gavit, MP, Lok Sabha; and Dr. Narendra Jadhav, MP, Rajya Sabha participated in the 2nd Executive Council Meeting and 12th Plenary Session of Asian Parliamentary Union (APA) was held in Antalya, Turkey from 13 to 18 December, 2019. Shri Abhijit Kumar, Additional Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat was the Secretary to the Delegation.

The theme of the Plenary Session was "*The Role of Multilateral Cooperation among Asian Parliaments*". At the end of the Plenary, an Outcome Document titled 'Antalya Declaration' was adopted.

An amount of Rs. 10, 00, 000/- (approximately) has been spent on the aforesaid visit (Lok Sabha component).