

III(C)(a). COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION RELATED EVENTS FROM JUNE 2019 TO MARCH, 2024

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
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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 Women 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 (CPwD) Regional Champions Meeting– 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 Ghati, 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.

12. CPA Mid-Year Executive Committee Meeting

The CPA Mid Year Executive Committee Meeting was held from 09 to 10 April 2022 in Guwahati, Assam. Shri Om Birla, Hon'ble Speaker Lok Sabha and Chairperson, Executive Committee of CPA India Region inaugurated the Meeting. CPA Mid-Year Executive Committee Meeting was held in a State capital for the first time in India. Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam delivered welcome speech. Shri Biwajit Daimary, Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly gave vote of thanks. Hon. Ian Liddel-Grainger, Acting Chairperson, CPA also delivered a speech.

CPA Executive Committee meeting and the meetings of Sub- Committees were held in a hybrid mode. Some delegates attended the meeting virtually.

Shri Anurag Sharma, MP (Lok Sabha) and Regional Representative from CPA India Region

13. The 65th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference

An Indian Parliamentary Delegation led by Shri Om Birla, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha and consisting of Shri Anurag Sharma, MP (Lok Sabha) & CPA Executive Committee Member; Smt Sunita Duggal, MP (Lok Sabha) & CWP Steering Committee Member; Shri Neeraj Shekhar, MP (Rajya Sabha), Shri Santosh Kumar, MP (Lok Sabha); Shri Anubhav Mohanty, MP (Lok Sabha); Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu, MP (Rajya Sabha) and Shri Utpal Kumar Singh, Secretary General, Lok Sabha attended the 65th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Halifax, Canada from 20 to 26 August, 2022.

The Conference was also attended by the Presiding Officers and Members of Legislative Assemblies/Councils e.g., Sri Thammineni Seetharam, Hon'ble Speaker, Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly; Shri Biswajit Daimary, Hon'ble Speaker and Member of the Executive Committee, Assam Legislative Assembly; Dr. Numal Momin, Deputy Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly; Dr. Charandas Mahant, Hon'ble Speaker, Chhattisgarh Vidhan Sabha; Shri Ram Niwas Goel, Hon'ble Speaker, Delhi Vidhan Sabha; Shri Ramesh Tawadkar, Hon'ble Speaker, Goa Legislative Assembly; Dr. (Smt.) Nimaben Bhaveshbhai Acharya, Hon'ble Speaker, Gujarat Vidhan Sabha; Shri Shailesh M. Parmar, Member of Legislative Assembly, Gujarat Vidhan Sabha; Shri Gian Chand Gupta, Hon'ble Speaker, Haryana Vidhan Sabha; Shri Ranbir Gangwa, Deputy Speaker, Haryana Vidhan Sabha; Mr. Lambodar Mahto, Member of Legislative Assembly, Jharkhand Vidhan Sabha; Shri Vishweshwar Hegde, Kageri, Hon'ble Speaker, Karnataka Legislative Assembly; Shri Basavaraja Shivalingappa Horatti, Member of Legislative Council, Karnataka Legislative Council; Shri Girish Gautam, Hon'ble Speaker, Madhya Pradesh Vidhan Sabha; Shri Sharingain Longkumer, Hon'ble Speaker, Nagaland Legislative Assembly; Shri Bikram Keshari Arukha, Hon'ble Speaker, Odisha Legislative Assembly; Sardar Kultar Singh Sandhwan, Hon'ble Speaker, Punjab Vidhan Sabha; Dr. C.P. Joshi, Hon'ble Speaker, Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha; Shri M. Appavu, Speaker, Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly; Smt. Ritu Khanduri Bhushan, Hon'ble Speaker, Uttarakhand Vidhan Sabha; Shri Satish Mahana, Hon'ble Speaker, Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Sabha; Shri Kunwar Manvendra Singh, Chairman, Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Parishad.

During the Conference, 08 Workshop Sessions were held on various topics. Shri Om Birla, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha participated as a panelist in the Workshop 'C' and delivered keynote address on the topic "A People's Parliament: Accessibility through Innovation". Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha also replied to several questions raised by the participants during the deliberation. During his Speech, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha inter-alia highlighted the launch of Mobile App "Digital Sansad" which aims to connect Parliament with the citizens. Many of delegates from CPA Regions across the Commonwealth Nations expressed their interest in the Digital Sansad App.

The Delegates from CPA India region actively participated in all the eight Workshops on various topics held on 24 August, 2022. During the Sessions, the Delegates highlighted India's views and shared best practices on the themes of the Workshop Sessions.

Shri Anurag Sharma, MP, Lok Sabha & CPA Executive Committee Member got elected to the post of the Treasurer, CPA for a three years term. During the Executive Committee Meeting, he obtained 22 Votes out of 31 Members present & voting and received support from across the CPA Regions. CPA India Region got elected to this post after a gap of 14 year. The General Assembly elected Smt. Ritu Khanduri Bhushan, Speaker, Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly as the Regional Representative from CPA India Region for three years term.

Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha and delegates from State Legislatures attended the CPA General Assembly Meeting held on 25 August 2022 and made effective interventions on various agenda issues.

Smt. Sunita Duggal, MP, Lok Sabha & CWP Steering Committee Member attended the 7th Triennial Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Conference" held on 21 August 2022. She was a Panelist for the CWP workshop 'A' titled "Empowering Women Parliamentarians and Promoting Diversity/ Intersectionality" and delivered a key note address. On the sidelines, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha held bilateral meeting with H.E. President of the senate of Parliament of Australia (Ms. Sue Lines) & Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives of Parliament of Australia (Ms. Sharon Claydon) on 23 August 2022 and H.E. Mr. Anthony Rota, speaker of the House of commons & president of CPA Canada Branch and also with H.E.

George Furey, President of the Senate on 24 August 2022 for renewing Parliamentary contacts and strengthening bilateral Parliamentary Cooperation and Dialogue.

14. CPA Working Group on Governance Meeting

Virtual Meetings of The CPA Working Group on Governance were held on 10th November 2022 and 8th December 2022 to discuss the proposed Draft Benchmarks for relocation of CPA Headquarters from London, UK to any prospective country of Commonwealth. Shri Anurag Sharma, MP (Lok Sabha) and a Member of the CPA Working Group attended both the Meetings.

15. CPA Executive Committee Meeting in Virtual Mode

The CPA Executive Committee Meeting was held on 19 January 2023 in virtual mode. The main Agenda of the meeting was to discuss the CPA Working Group on Governance Report regarding CPA Status and draft Relocation Benchmarks of CPA Headquarters, London to a prospective host Country. Shri Anurag Sharma, MP (Lok Sabha) and Treasurer, CPA attended the meeting.

16. Working Group on CPC Modalities

The CPA Working Group on CPC Modalities was held on 8 February 2023 in virtual mode. The main Agenda of the Meeting was to discuss the Draft Terms of Reference circulated by the CPA Hq., London that contained the recommendations that have been adopted in the 63rd CPC in Bangladesh, 2017 and implemented in the 64th CPC in Uganda, 2019 and 65th CPC in Halifax, Canada, 2022. Shri Anurag Sharma, MP (Lok Sabha) attended the Meeting in his capacity as a Member of the Working Group.

17. Mid-Year Executive Committee Meeting of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)

India's parliamentary delegation comprising of Shri Uday Pratap Singh, MP, Lok Sabha; Shri Biswajit Daimary, Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly; and Smt. Ritu Khanduri Bhushan, Speaker, Uttarakhand Vidhan Sabha who are the Regional Representatives from CPA India Region attended the CPA Mid Year Executive Committee Meeting hosted by CPA Gibraltar Branch from 17 to 20 April 2023.

Shri Anurag Sharma MP, Lok Sabha and Treasurer, CPA attended the meetings of Audit Sub-Committee, Coordinating Committee and Finance Sub- Committee virtually.

On 18 April, Shri Uday Pratap Singh, MP, Lok Sabha and Smt. Ritu Khanduri Bhushan, Speaker, Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly attended the Finance Sub-Committee meeting and Shri Biswajit Daimary, Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly attended the meeting of Planning and Review Sub-Committee. The Regional Secretaries meeting held on 18 April was attended by Dr. Yumnam Arun Kumar, Director, CPA Cell as the Alternate Regional Secretary for the CPA India Region.

The CPA Mid-Year Executive Committee Meeting discussed important matters related to CPA which *inter-alia* includes, CPA Status and possible relocation of CPA Headquarters Secretariat, Increase in CPA Membership fee, CPC Modalities, CPA Travel Policy, etc. The meetings focused on preparations for the upcoming 66th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) at Accra, Ghana from 30 September to 6 October 2023.

18. Virtual Meeting of CPA Working Group on Human Rights

The CPA Working Group on Human Rights Meeting was held on 14 June 2023 in Virtual Mode. Shri Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, MP, Lok Sabha and member of the Working Group from CPA India Region attended the Meeting.

The meeting was held to update on the progress made by CPA Working Group on Human Rights since July 2022. Secretary General, CPA provided an overview of the

Parliamentary Academy course on the Human Rights that focuses on the role of Parliaments and Parliamentarians in upholding and strengthening human rights. Further, he noted that a Workshop on Human Rights is planned to take place during the forthcoming 66th CPC in early October 2023 at Accra, Ghana to share best practices within the Commonwealth.

19. The 66th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC)

An Indian Parliamentary Delegation led by Shri Anurag Sharma, MP (Lok Sabha) consisting of Shri Sunil Kumar Singh, MP (Lok Sabha); Shri Jasbir Singh Gill, MP (Lok Sabha) and; Shri S Niranjana Reddy, MP (Rajya Sabha) along with Delegates / Secretaries from 23 State/UT CPA Branches (State/UT Legislatures) of CPA India Region viz. Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh attended the 66th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference from 30 September to 6 October 2023 in Accra, Ghana. The theme of the Conference was *“The Commonwealth Charter 10 years on: Values and Principles for Parliaments to Uphold”*.

The CPA Executive Committee Meetings were held on 1-2 October 2023. It was attended by Shri Biswajit Daimary, Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly and Smt Ritu Khanduri Bhushan, Speaker, Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly. Speaker, Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly made an effective intervention during the Executive Committee Meeting. Both the Speakers also attend the Meeting of Planning and Review Sub Committee as well as Finance Sub Committee.

The Conference was officially inaugurated by H.E. Mr. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of Ghana on Wednesday the 4th October 2023. Eight Workshop Sessions were held during the Conference and the Indian Delegation actively participated and made their contribution by making interventions on all the themes of Workshop Sessions.

The Conference concluded with the Meeting of General Assembly that was held on Thursday, the 5th October 2023. The Executive Committee Members of CPA India

Region and all other Delegates from India attended it.

During the visit, the Indian Delegates also informally interacted with their counterparts from other Commonwealth Countries, Indian Business Community and Indian Diaspora in Ghana.

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION RELATED EVENTS FROM 1 DECEMBER 2023 TO 31 MARCH 2024

20. Ninth G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit (P20 Summit) and G20 Parliamentary Forum

During the P-20 Summit held from 13 to 14 October 2023, CPA Cell was actively involved in all works relating to venue management and Hon'ble Speaker Bilateral Meetings and Bilateral Meetings between two countries/Union.

There were 14 Hon'ble Speaker Bilateral Meetings and 25 Bilateral Meetings between two countries/Union.

21. Virtual Meeting of CPA Working Group on Human Rights

A virtual meeting of CPA Working Group on Human Rights was held on 11 December 2023. Shri Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, MP, Lok Sabha is the member of the said Working Group. The Meeting deliberated on various issues related to Human Rights and area of future works. The meeting was attended by Dr. Yumnam Arun Kumar, Director(Conference & Protocol Branch)

22. The 27th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC)

An Indian Parliamentary Delegation led by Shri Harivansh, Hon'ble Deputy Chairman (HDC), Rajya Sabha attended the 27th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC) held from 3 to 6 January, 2024 in Kampala, Uganda. Hon'ble Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha made intervention in each session of the Conference apart from the Keynote address during the Special Plenary Session of the

Conference on the topic “Building Consensus for Parliamentary Business: The Role of Speakers and Presiding Officers”.

India is all set to host the 28th CSPOC in 2026 and took over from Uganda, the host for the 27th CSPOC and Hon'ble Deputy Chairman in his address invited all the 9 Regions to India.

23. The 84th All India Presiding Officers' Conference (AIPOC)

The 84th All India Presiding Officers' Conference (AIPOC) was held on 27 to 28 January 2024 at Maharashtra Vidhan Bhawan, Mumbai, Maharashtra.

On 27 January 2023, Shri Om Birla, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha and Chairperson, AIPOC inaugurated and addressed the Conference; The message by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi was also televised during the Inaugural Session; Shri Harivansh, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha; Shri. Eknath Shinde, Chief Minister Maharashtra; Shri Rahul Narwekar, Hon'ble Speaker, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, Shri Narhari Zirwal, Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly and Shri Ambadas Danve, Leader of Opposition, Maharashtra Legislative Council, also addressed the Inaugural Session. Dr. Neelam Gorhe, Deputy Chairman, Maharashtra Legislative Council delivered the Vote of Thanks. The Conference was attended by 27 Presiding Officers (including Speakers/ Deputy Chairmen/ Deputy Speakers) of the State / Union Territory Legislatures.

Extensive deliberations were held on the two agenda topics during the Conference viz. (i) To strengthen people's trust in Democratic institutions – the need to maintain discipline and decorum in Parliament and the legislatures of States/UTs (ii) How to make the Committee-System more purposeful and effective”. In addition, five (5) Resolutions were adopted during the Conference.

The Valedictory Session of the Conference was held on 28 January 2024 and was addressed by Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, Hon'ble Vice-President and Chairman, Rajya Sabha; Shri Ramesh Bais, Hon'ble Governor, Maharashtra; Shri Om Birla; Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha and Chairperson, AIPOC, Shri Harivansh, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha; Shri Devendra Fadnavis, Deputy Chief Minister, Maharashtra and Shri Rahul Narwekar, Hon'ble Speaker, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly also addressed the distinguished gathering. Vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Neelam Gorhe, Deputy

Chairman, Maharashtra Legislative Council.

On the arrival day of the 84th AIPOC, the Meeting of the Standing Committee of AIPOC was held on 27 January 2024. Shri Om Birla, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, who is also the Chairman of the Standing Committee of AIPOC chaired the Meeting. Shri Harivansh, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha and 5 Members of the Standing Committee along with 1 Presiding Officer as special invitee attended the Meeting. Shri Utpal Kumar Singh, Secretary General, Lok Sabha and Secretary to the Standing Committee Meeting and Shri P.C. Mody, Secretary General, Rajya Sabha also attended the meeting.

24. 60th Conference of Secretaries of Legislative Bodies of India

The 60th Conference of Secretaries of Legislative Bodies in India was held on the 27th January 2024 at Maharashtra Vidhan Sabha, Mumbai, Maharashtra. The Conference deliberated on the topic – 'Making use of cutting edge technologies in the service of Legislature'

Shri Utpal Kumar Singh, Secretary General, Lok Sabha and Chairman of the Conference delivered the inaugural address. Shri P.C. Mody, Secretary General, Rajya Sabha, also addressed the Conference. It was attended by 21 Principal Secretaries/Special Secretary/Secretaries of State/UT Legislatures.

25. CPA Regional Secretaries virtual meeting

The Virtual Meeting of CPA Regional Secretaries was held on 13 February 2024. Regional Secretaries /Alternate Regional Secretaries from 9 Regions of CPA attended the meeting. From CPA India Region, Shri Anjani Kumar, Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat attended the meeting as alternate Regional Secretary. As a part of the regional update from CPA India Region, Shri Anjani Kumar informed the August House about the success of the 9th G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit (P20) that was hosted by the Parliament of India in October 2023 at New Delhi. In his address he informed that the 9th P20 Summit was the most successful P20 Summit ever in terms of participation of delegations. Pan-African Parliament also participated during the Summit for the first time after the inclusion of Pan African Union as a G20 member.

Further he informed that during India's G20 Presidency, Parliament of India passed the landmark Women Reservation Bill which provides for reservation of one-third of seats for women in the Lower House of the Parliament and the State Legislative Assemblies. He then informed about participation of Indian parliamentary delegation led by the Hon'ble

Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha at the 27th CSPOC from 03 to 06 January 2024 in Kampala, Uganda. On the domestic Conference, he informed about the 84th All India Presiding Officers' Conference and 60th Conference of Secretaries of Legislative Bodies of India which was held from 27 to 29 January 2024 in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

26. CPA Working Group on Human Rights virtual Meeting

The virtual Meeting of Working Group on Human Rights was held on 13 February 2024 at 1830 Hrs. Shri Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, MP, Lok Sabha is the member of the Working Group from India Region. However the Member could not attend the meeting. Dr Yumnam Arun Kumar, Director, Lok Sabha Secretariat attended the meeting from CPA India Region. Ms. Akierra Missick, MP & Deputy Premier of the Turks and Caicos Islands chaired the meeting. The main Agenda of the Meeting was on the updates on the work related to the CPA Parliamentary Academy and introduction of Ms. Sneha Aurora, Head of London Division, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) who is also a Consultant to CPA on matters related to Human Rights to the Members.
