



INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY GROUP



INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

Origin

The Indian Parliamentary Group is an autonomous body formed in the year 1949 in pursuance of a Motion adopted by the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) on 16 August, 1948.

Membership

Membership of the Indian Parliamentary Group is open to all Members of Parliament and *ex*-Members of Parliament.

A Member of Parliament can become a life Member of the Group on payment of life subscription of ₹500/-.

Member of Parliament desirous of joining the Group may send an application together with the life subscription to the Secretary-General of Lok Sabha (who is the *ex-officio* Secretary-General of the Group), Parliament House, New Delhi, in the prescribed form available in the Parliamentary Notice Offices of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and also in the Conference Branch of the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

Aims and Objectives

The aims and objects of the Indian Parliamentary Group are:

- to promote personal contacts between Members of Parliament;
- to study questions of public importance that are likely to come up before Parliament and arrange Seminars and discussions and orientation courses and bring out publications for the dissemination of information to the Members of the Indian Parliamentary Group;
- to arrange lectures on political, defence, economic, social and educational problems by Members of Parliament and distinguished persons; and
- to arrange visits to foreign countries with a view to developing contacts with Members of other Parliaments.

Organisation

The management and control of the affairs of the Group are vested in the Executive Committee consisting of the President, two Vice-Presidents, the Treasurer and not more than 20 Members. The Speaker of Lok Sabha is the *ex-officio* President of the Group and the Executive Committee. The Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha and the Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha are *ex-officio* Vice-Presidents of the Group. The Treasurer and Members of the Executive Committee are elected at the Annual General Meeting from amongst the Life Members of the Group.

Activities

The Group acts as a link between the Parliament of India and the various Parliaments of the world. This link is maintained through exchange of Delegations, goodwill missions, correspondence, documents, etc. with foreign Parliaments.

The Indian Parliamentary Group functions as the (a) National Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)¹, and (b) Main Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)² in India.

Addresses to Members of Parliament by the visiting Heads of State and Government of foreign countries and talks by eminent persons are arranged under the auspices of the Group.

Seminars and symposia on Parliamentary subjects of topical interest are organised periodically at national as well as international level.

Members of the Group, when visiting abroad, are given letters of introduction to the Secretaries of the National Groups of the IPU and Secretaries of the CPA Branches. The Indian Missions in the countries of visit are also suitably informed so as to enable them to get assistance and usual courtesies.

As per decision of the Executive Committee of the Indian Parliamentary Group, only those Members of Parliament who are Members of the Group of at least six months standing at the time of the composition of the Delegation may be included in the Indian Parliamentary Delegations to foreign countries.

(IPU)¹

The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) is the international organisation of the Parliaments of sovereign States. Its aim is to work for peace and cooperation among peoples and for the firm establishment of representative institutions. The IPU fosters contacts, coordination and the exchange of experience among Parliaments and parliamentarians of member countries and contributes to better knowledge of the working of representative institutions. The IPU holds two Statutory Assemblies in a year. India hosted IPU Statutory Assemblies in New Delhi in October-November, 1969 and in April, 1993.

(CPA)²

- (i) The CPA is an Association of Commonwealth Parliamentarians with a mission to promote the advancement of Parliamentary democracy by enhancing knowledge and understanding of democratic governance. The CPA organises annual CPA Conferences, Seminars, Workshops, Study Groups, etc. to provide platform for regular consultation among Commonwealth Members. CPA is organizing new programmes viz. CPA Youth Parliament, CPA Road show, Master Classes, Lecture series, etc.

The CPA Secretariat provides information to Members on Parliamentary, Constitutional and Commonwealth matters. For further details and information, kindly visit CPA website www.cpahq.org. The quarterly journal of CPA “*The Parliamentarians*” is also available at this url.

- (ii) CPA India Region – The CPA India Region is the Ninth Region of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association created on 7 September, 2004. The India Union CPA Branch and 31 States CPA Branches are the members of the CPA India Region. The CPA India Region organizes Regional Conference once in two years, arranges Meetings, Seminars, Training Programmes, Zonal Conferences of four zones of CPA India Region, Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) events, etc. on regional and inter-regional basis. The Executive Committee of the CPA India Region is chaired by Speaker, Lok Sabha who is the Chairperson of the Region.

India has hosted four annual CPA Conferences in 1957, 1975, 1991 and in 2007. India has also hosted the Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC) in 1971, 1986 and in 2010.

IPG Newsletter

An uninterrupted flow of information to Members regarding the activities of the Group is maintained through the IPG Newsletter brought out every quarter. It is sent regularly to all Members of the Group, including Associate Members.

Outstanding Parliamentarian Award

As per decision of the Indian Parliamentary Group, an award for Outstanding Parliamentarian was instituted in the year 1995 to be conferred annually. A Committee of five persons, constituted by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, invites and finalizes the nomination for the Award. The Outstanding Parliamentarian Awards have been bestowed to the following distinguished dignitaries: Shri Chandra Shekhar (1995); Shri Somnath Chatterjee (1996); Shri Pranab Mukherjee (1997); Shri S. Jaipal Reddy (1998); Shri L.K. Advani (1999); Shri Arjun Singh (2000); Shri Jaswant Singh (2001); Dr. Manmohan Singh (2002); Shri Sharad Pawar (2003); Smt. Sushma Swaraj (2004); Shri P. Chidambaram (2005); Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar (2006); Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi (2007); Shri Mohan Singh (2008); Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi (2009); Shri Arun Jaitley (2010); Dr. Karan Singh (2011); Shri Sharad Yadav (2012); Dr. (Smt.) Najma A. Heptulla (2013); Shri Hukmdev Narayan Yadav (2014); Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad (2015); Shri Dinesh Trivedi (2016); and Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab (2017).

Parliamentary Friendship Groups

To encourage bilateral relations, Parliamentary Friendship Groups have been constituted with some other countries.

Each Friendship Group shall consist of at least fifteen sitting Members of Parliament (10 from Lok Sabha and 5 from Rajya Sabha) in proportion to the strength of Parties in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

The aims and objectives of the Group will be to maintain political, social and cultural contacts between the two countries and to assist in having exchanges of information and experiences on issues relating to parliamentary activities.

IPG Website

Information related to Indian Parliamentary Group is also available at ipg.nic.in

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI
MAY, 2019
LARRDIS/No.30/1/2019/PPR**