



Indian Parliamentary Group



Lok Sabha Secretariat
New Delhi

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 Rs. 500/-.

Members 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 Objects

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 develop 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 16 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.

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 all countries and contributes to better knowledge of the working of representative institutions. The IPU holds two Conferences in a year. India hosted IPU Conferences in New Delhi in October-November, 1969 and in April, 1993.

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. CPA organizes annual CPA Conferences, Seminars, Workshops, Study Groups etc. to provide platform for regular consultation among Commonwealth Members. India has hosted annual CPA Conferences in 1957, 1975, 1991 and in 2007."

The *Parliamentary Information and Reference Centre* of the CPA Secretariat provides information to Members on parliamentary, constitutional and Commonwealth matters. For further details and information, kindly visit CPA website www.cpahtq.org.

(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 30 States CPA Branches are the Members of the CPA India Region. The CPA India Region organizes Regional Conferences bi-annually, arranges Meetings, Seminars, Training Programmes etc. on regional and inter-regional basis. Executive Committee of the CPA India Region is chaired by Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha and President of India, CPA Main Branch and consists of selected Presidents of State CPA Branches.

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.

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 given annually. A Committee of five persons, constituted by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, invites and finalizes the nomination for the Award. The following were given the Outstanding Parliamentarians Awards: 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 Jaitely, Dr. Karan Singh and Shri Sharad Yadav have been selected to receive the Award for the years 2010, 2011 and 2012, respectively.

Parliamentary Friendship Groups

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

Each Friendship Group shall consist of at least twenty-two sitting Members of Parliament (15 from Lok Sabha and 7 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.

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

MAY, 2014

LARRDIS/No. 20/1/2014/PPR-18

**Cover Photo: An illuminated view of Parliament House
with the statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in front*