



Report on THE PARTICIPATION OF

CPA Assam State Branch
at the

68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference
in Bridgetown, Barbados

5th – 22nd October, 2025

ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT
Dispur, Guwahati, Assam, India

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Assam Legislative Assembly Secretariat

Dispur, Guwahati – 781006

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Composition of The Assam Legislative Assembly Delegation

1. Shri Biswajit Daimary, Hon'ble Speaker
Assam Legislative Assembly and Head of the Delegation

Accompanying Officials –

1. Smti Deergha Baruah
Joint Secretary, I/C, CPA Cell and Coordinator and SoCATT Member
2. Shri Sauman Baruah,
OSD to the Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly



INTRODUCTION

1. Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (popularly known as, CPA) is one, amongst the earliest founded, officially Accredited and Associated Commonwealth Organisation. The Commonwealth is strengthened by more than 70 such Accredited and 9 Associated organisations endeavouring in specific fields, starting from education to urban development etc. CPA is officially distinguished as a part of the Commonwealth cluster and has been perpetrated with the mission and vision of the Commonwealth, as scripted in the Commonwealth Charter for being an associated organisation. CPA was established in the year 1911, as a Membership Association to bring members together, regardless of the gender, race, faith or traditions, and to bond by the collective interest with respect for the rule of law and individual rights with the freedom by the quest of productive standards of Parliamentary Democracy.

The CPA is created with altogether 180 Legislatures (or Branches) segregated into nine geographic regions from 53 Commonwealth countries, along with 110 years of operational experience, with a strength of approximately 17000 Parliamentary Members. CPA tenders a generous privilege to the Parliamentarians and Officials of the Member Legislatures to team up for a collective growth and networking for good governing practices etc. The CPA is the only Commonwealth organisation to reflect national, state, provincial and territorial Parliaments and Legislatures' interests under one umbrella.

2. CPA aspires to enhance the assurance of the Commonwealth for the maximum benchmark of democratic governance and parliamentary practices with a mission statement as mentioned below,
"To promote knowledge of the constitutional, legislative, economic, social and cultural aspects of parliamentary democracy, with particular reference to the countries of the Commonwealth."
3. The main attention of the mission of CPA is on the good governance with the prime objective to attain through transparency, accountability, economic oversight and auditing procedures.
4. I have the privilege to participate in the 68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference from 5 to 22 October, 2025 held at Bridgetown, Barbados as an Executive Member of the CPA International Executive Committee as nominated by the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha for the third consecutive term to represent CPA India Region.
5. The report intends to offer the details of the participation of CPA Assam State Branch (India Region) at the 68th CPA Conference in Bridgetown, Barbados together with the observations during the post – Conference study tour to Argentina.
6. I anticipate the information contained in the report will be valuable for the Hon'ble Members.

BISWAJIT DAIMARY
Hon'ble Speaker,
Assam Legislative Assembly
&
Head of the Delegation

68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference – Barbados

The 68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference was hosted by the Parliament of Barbados and the CPA Barbados Branch in Bridgetown, the capital city and administrative center of the country. The Conference programme included the CPA General Assembly, plenary sittings, thematic workshops, regional and network meetings, the 41st CPA Small Branches Conference, the 9th Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Conference, meetings of the Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities (CPwD) network, the 59th Meeting of the Society of Clerks-at-the-Table (SoCATT), and the 3rd Emilia MonjowaLifaka Lecture.



About the Host Country:

Barbados is a sovereign island republic located in the Lesser Antilles of the Caribbean. Despite its small geographical size, the country is widely recognized for its political stability, mature democratic institutions, and unwavering commitment toward constitutional governance. Barbados attained independence from British colonial rule on 30 November 1966 and, marking a significant constitutional transition, became a republic on 30 November 2021, while retaining its membership within the Commonwealth of Nations.

The political system of Barbados is founded on the Westminster model of parliamentary democracy. It has a bicameral Parliament comprising the House of Assembly and the Senate. Executive authority is vested in the Prime Minister and the Cabinet, who are

collectively responsible to Parliament. The President of Barbados, elected by Parliament, serves as the ceremonial Head of the State. The country has a long-standing tradition of free and fair elections, an independent judiciary, and a professional civil service.

Barbados has played an active and constructive role within the Commonwealth and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association over several decades. The Barbados Parliament has contributed to CPA activities through participation in conferences, workshops, and executive deliberations, and has supported initiatives aimed at strengthening parliamentary governance, small-branch cooperation, and inclusive democratic practices. The hosting of the 68th CPC further reaffirmed Barbados' standing as a trusted and capable partner within the CPA community.

As a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), Barbados has emerged as a leading advocate on issues of climate change, sustainable development, debt resilience, and international cooperation. Given its vulnerability to sea-level rise and extreme weather events, the country has consistently called for stronger global climate action and equitable solutions. This advocacy aligns closely with Commonwealth priorities, making Barbados an appropriate host for the 68th CPC.

Culturally, Barbados reflects a rich Afro-Caribbean heritage shaped by centuries of history, community traditions, and artistic countenance. Festivals such as Crop Over, along with the island's music, dance, and culinary traditions, highlight the effervescence of Barbadian society. Bridgetown, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, stands as a testament to the country's historical legacy, blending colonial-era architecture with modern civic life. The warmth, efficiency, and hospitality extended by the host nation contributed significantly to the smooth conduct and overall success of the Conference.



68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, Barbados

Theme: *“The Commonwealth: A Global Partner”*

Dates: 5 – 12 October 2025

Venue: Bridgetown, Barbados

Host: Parliament of Barbados and the CPA Barbados Branch

The 68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) was held in Bridgetown, Barbados from 5 to 12 October 2025, bringing together hundreds of parliamentarians, presiding officers, clerks and parliamentary experts from across the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) membership. The event served as one of the largest annual gatherings of lawmakers and parliamentary officials from the nearly 180 nations and legislatures that make up the CPA.



At its core, the Conference revolved around the theme “The Commonwealth: A Global Partner”—highlighting the Commonwealth’s role as a collaborative force in promoting democratic governance, inclusive development, and cooperative engagement across global challenges. The theme emphasised how parliamentary diplomacy and inter-parliamentary cooperation can contribute to shared priorities such as strengthening democracy, enhancing governance, and addressing transnational issues that no single nation can resolve alone.

Key Components of the Conference

The 68th CPC featured a rich programme of activities and sessions designed to deepen dialogue and practical collaboration among Commonwealth parliaments:

❖ General Assembly and Debates

A central forum where member representatives debated key issues aligned with the conference theme and reflected on the role of parliaments in global partnership and collective action.

❖ Thematic Workshops

Participants engaged in multiple workshops covering topical parliamentary concerns, including:

- Strengthening democratic institutions and parliamentary independence
- Leveraging digital technologies to enhance democratic engagement
- Addressing climate change and its intersection with public health
- Promoting financial transparency and good governance

These sessions were instrumental in generating insights and sharing best practices among legislators from diverse contexts.

❖ Network Meetings and Side Events

The CPC also hosted several specialised gatherings including:

- 41st CPA Small Branches Conference
- 9th Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Conference
- Meetings of the Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities (CPWD) network
- 59th Society of Clerks at the Table (SoCATT) meeting

These events provided valuable spaces for focused dialogue on representation, inclusion and parliamentary capacity building.

❖ Lifaka Lecture and Awards

The 3rd Emilia MonjowaLifaka Lecture, delivered during the Conference, underscored the significance of democratic values and collaborative leadership. Presentations of the Commonwealth Parliamentarian of the Year awards recognised outstanding contributions to democratic governance.

Significance and Outcomes

Under the banner of *“The Commonwealth: A Global Partner,”* the 68th CPC reaffirmed the Commonwealth’s commitment to democratic principles, shared prosperity, and collective action on global issues such as technology adoption, climate change, governance reforms and inclusive representation. Discussions emphasised the interconnected nature of contemporary challenges, and the Conference reinforced the value of parliamentary exchange, capacity building, and peer learning in tackling these challenges collaboratively.

The event also provided bilateral engagement opportunities, enabling delegates to foster stronger ties with counterparts from other countries, and reinforced the CPA’s role as a vital platform for parliamentary diplomacy and cooperation throughout the Commonwealth.



68th COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE – WORKSHOPS:

The seven main conference workshops and their recommendations were as follows:

Workshop A: Strengthening our Institutions to Support Democracy

Workshop A examined the resilience and adaptability of democratic institutions in the 21st century. The discussions underscored that India's democratic journey is rooted in a long civilisational heritage of collective decision-making and community governance. Participants reflected on the importance of constitutional adaptability, noting that more than 100 constitutional amendments and the repeal of numerous obsolete laws demonstrate how institutions must evolve to remain responsive.



The role of the Election Commission as an independent constitutional authority was emphasized as a pillar of democratic credibility. The workshop also explored electoral reforms, digital governance innovations such as Digital Sansad and the National e-Vidhan Application, and the integration of AI-based transcription and multilingual accessibility tools to enhance transparency and citizen engagement.

The separation of powers between the legislature, executive and judiciary was reaffirmed as fundamental to accountability. Parliamentary oversight mechanisms including Question Hour, committee scrutiny and judicial review were discussed as safeguards against misuse of authority. The workshop concluded that institutional strength lies in transparency, inclusivity, and technological modernization.

Conclusion:

India's experience shows that democracy is sustained not merely by periodic elections but by strong, adaptable institutions that uphold transparency, accountability, and inclusivity. From its ancient traditions to its modern Parliament, from electoral reforms to digital innovation, and from social legislation to international cooperation, India has demonstrated that strengthening institutions is essential for supporting democracy.

For the Commonwealth Parliamentary family, India's journey offers valuable lessons: institutions must be rooted in democratic values, continuously reformed to meet new challenges, and made accessible to all citizens. Only through strong institutions can democracies worldwide ensure resilience, legitimacy, and shared prosperity.

Workshop B: Leveraging Technology – Enhancing Democracy through Digital Transformations and Tackling the Digital Divide

Workshop B focused extensively on the transformative role of technology in strengthening democratic processes. Participants noted that democracy is enhanced when citizens are closely connected with Parliament, and digital tools serve as critical bridges between representatives and the public.

The World e-Parliament Report 2024 was referenced to highlight that a majority of parliaments globally have adopted multi-year digital strategies, with increasing use of Artificial Intelligence (AI), cloud computing and digital communication systems. The workshop emphasized that technological innovation must be aligned with transparency, accessibility and inclusivity.

Conclusion: India has become pre-eminent Nation in use of technology for transforming lives of citizens and for bringing efficiency in Governance. Technological progress and application of e-parliament has brought about major transformative shifts in how our parliamentary democracy functions. From bringing internet access to remote corners of the country to making government services available online, the initiative has truly bridged the digital divide. Today, people can access healthcare, education, banking, and other services with just a few clicks. e-Parliament is playing immense role in promoting e-Democracy. Needless to say, just as society is changing with the wider application of technology, parliament too, is changing as it is opening up to greater citizen engagement.

Workshop C: Championing the Human Factor from a Gender and Accessibility Lens

Workshop C highlighted inclusive governance through gender equality and accessibility frameworks. Constitutional guarantees such as equality before law and non-discrimination were discussed alongside legislative milestones like enhanced representation for women in Parliament and State Legislatures.

Participants reviewed laws protecting women's rights, workplace safety, maternity benefits, and equal remuneration. The session also addressed the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, expanding protections and ensuring political participation through accessible polling stations and inclusive electoral guidelines.

The workshop emphasized inter sectionality, noting that women with disabilities face compounded barriers. The need for leadership empowerment, accessible political environments, and greater representation in decision-making processes was strongly advocated.

Conclusion:

India's initiatives on gender empowerment and accessibility highlight a robust and evolving framework that integrates constitutional guarantees, legislative reforms, social schemes, and grassroots empowerment. From political participation of women to assistive technologies for persons with disabilities, the Indian model demonstrates that inclusive development is both a moral imperative and a driver of sustainable growth. As the Commonwealth prepares for CHOGM 2026, India stands ready to share its experiences and collaborate with partners to champion the human factor from a gender and accessibility lens. This approach will ensure that growth across the Commonwealth is equitable, sustainable and truly inclusive.

Workshop D: Climate Change and its Threat to Global Health – Finding Sustainable Solutions

Workshop D examined climate change as an urgent public health crisis affecting all Commonwealth nations. Discussions highlighted how rising temperatures, changing rainfall patterns, sea-level rise, and extreme weather events pose direct health risks such as heat stress, dehydration, and increased mortality during disasters. Indirect risks—including disruptions to food systems, declines in water quality, expansion of vector-borne diseases like malaria and dengue, and heightened mental-health burdens—were identified as growing challenges requiring systemic adaptation.

Special emphasis was placed on the disproportionate impact of climate change on vulnerable populations, including women, children, indigenous communities, and citizens of Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Parliamentary delegates explored ways to integrate climate-health linkages into national legislation, early warning systems, public-health frameworks, and community-level resilience strategies.



India's experience—such as the National Programme on Climate Change and Human Health (NPCCHH), Heat Action Plans, millet-based nutritional initiatives, and the deployment of telemedicine in climate-sensitive regions—was presented as an illustration of scalable, evidence-based adaptation models. The workshop encouraged Parliaments to strengthen oversight mechanisms, mobilize resources for climate-resilient health systems, and foster international cooperation to mitigate global health risks.

The Hon'ble Speaker participated as an observer, taking note of cross-regional perspectives and the evolving role of legislatures in safeguarding public health amid accelerating climate impacts.

Conclusion:

Climate change is a global health emergency and an amplifier of existing inequities. Today's choices and actions will determine the extent to which current and future generations will suffer the health impacts of climate change. We must build the evidence that guides investments, mobilize sufficient funding, and support countries to make their health systems more sustainable and resilient.

At the international level, India has positioned itself as a leader in promoting climate-resilient health systems. The G20 Delhi Declaration of 2023 reaffirmed India's commitment to building low-carbon, climate-resilient health infrastructure while prioritizing vulnerable populations.

Complementary national initiatives - such as heat action plans, strengthened disease surveillance, and nutrition resilience strategies including millet promotion - demonstrate India's integrated approach to climate and health.

Despite these achievements, the challenge lies in scaling up resilient infrastructure and ensuring equitable access to adaptation benefits, particularly for urban poor, rural communities reliant on agriculture, and marginalized groups in ecologically fragile areas. By embedding climate-health linkages into policy and practice, India is steadily advancing toward sustainable and equitable health resilience in a warming world.

Workshop E: Building Trust and Transparency in Democracy – Financial Transparency in Parliaments and Elections

Workshop E explored mechanisms to strengthen public trust through financial transparency. The constitutional provisions governing budgetary processes, parliamentary control over the Consolidated Fund, and the role of the Comptroller and Auditor General were discussed in detail.

Delegates examined budget scrutiny stages, the role of financial committees such as the Public Accounts Committee, and audit mechanisms including compliance, financial and performance audits.

Electoral transparency, regulation of campaign expenditure, disclosure norms, and independent oversight by election authorities were also highlighted as essential safeguards for maintaining credibility in democratic systems.

Conclusion:

India's journey towards financial transparency in its democracy is characterized by a strong constitutional foundation, a vigilant judiciary and an independent Election Commission. India is ready to share its experiences, learn from the best practices of fellow Commonwealth nations, and collectively work towards strengthening the pillars of trust and transparency that are fundamental to all our democracies. Together, we can foster parliamentary and electoral systems that inspire public confidence, uphold fairness and ensure accountability at every stage of governance. By championing integrity in both legislative financial oversight and political finance, we reinforce the very foundations of trust and transparency in democracy.

Workshop F: Overcoming Barriers to the Involvement of Women with Disabilities in Politics

This joint session examined the compounded discrimination faced by women with disabilities in political participation. It emphasized the global disability rights movement's call for inclusion under the principle 'Nothing About Us Without Us.'

Legislative frameworks ensuring accessible elections, reservations in local governance bodies, and improved representation were reviewed. The workshop advocated for accessible political party structures, inclusive campaign environments, and empowerment through leadership training.

Participants stressed that inclusion must extend beyond voting access to meaningful representation in policymaking and parliamentary leadership roles.

Conclusion:

The separation of powers between national, provincial, territorial, and devolved legislatures is a dynamic and often contested feature of modern democracies. While essential for good governance and the protection of regional autonomy, it faces constant challenges from legislative encroachment, financial pressures, and jurisdictional disputes. The long-term stability and effectiveness of such systems depend on robust constitutional protections, an independent judiciary to arbitrate disputes, and a strong political culture of mutual respect and cooperation between different tiers of government. This workshop provides a valuable opportunity for parliamentarians across the Commonwealth to share experiences and best practices in navigating this complex and crucial aspect of democratic design.

Workshop G: The Role of the Commonwealth in Good Governance, Multilateralism and International Relations

Workshop G examined the Commonwealth's contribution to democracy promotion, institutional strengthening, and multilateral cooperation. The Commonwealth Charter's emphasis on democracy, human rights, and rule of law was discussed as foundational principles.

The Commonwealth's role in election observation missions, capacity building, digital governance sharing, and promoting sustainable development was highlighted. Participants noted the importance of bridging developed and developing nations and fostering cooperative international relations.

The workshop reaffirmed that parliamentary diplomacy and knowledge-sharing platforms under the CPA strengthen democratic norms across member states.

Closing Remark:

The workshops of the 68th CPC comprehensively addressed institutional resilience, federal balance, gender inclusion, disability rights, climate-health linkages, financial accountability, and multilateral cooperation. The Conference reinforced the Commonwealth's shared commitment to democratic governance and collaborative global partnership.

68th CPC Workshop and the Participation by the Assam Legislative Assembly

Hon'ble Speaker, Shri Biswajit Daimary participated on the following topic –

Workshop D: Climate Change and its Threat to Global Health – Finding Sustainable Solutions



PRESENTATION AT THE 59TH SOCATT MEETING

The 59th Meeting of the Society of Clerks-at-the-Table (SoCATT) was held alongside the 68th CPC and served as a key forum for parliamentary officials to exchange experiences, best practices, and innovations in legislative administration and outreach. During the meeting, the Smti Deergha Baruah, Joint Secretary, IC Conference Cell, Assam Legislative Assembly Secretariat who is also a SoCATT Member delivered a comprehensive presentation titled '*Capacity Building for a Futuristic Legislature: Outreaching Towards Sustainable Democracy*'.

Drawing upon recent institutional initiatives, the presentation highlighted the Youth Immersion Program launched by the Assam Legislative Assembly in 2025 as a first-of-its-kind capacity-building and outreach initiative. The programme was conceived in alignment with the resolution adopted at the 8th CPA India Region Conference, which emphasised mainstreaming youth-centric politics and fostering democratic awareness among young citizens.

- Under this initiative, Youth Immersion Programs have been organized as per the guidance of the Hon'ble Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly.
- These programs aim at bridging the gap between young citizens and Legislatures.
- The initiatives highlight the effort put in to enlighten the next Generation about the proper Legislative procedures.
- It provides a common and distinct platform for exchanging ideas between students and legislators.
- It is aligned with the resolution of the 8th CPA India Region Conference held at Guwahati, Assam (India Region) on 11 and 12 April, 2022, which called for mainstreaming youth-centric politics as part of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav"(a National initiative celebrating 75 years of Indian Independence) in India.

Youth Immersion Program

- It marks a landmark initiative aimed at bridging the gap between young citizens and democratic institutions.
- So far, over 2600 students from various universities and colleges of Assam have participated.

About the Program

- Students gained firsthand exposure to the following aspects:
 - Legislative procedures,
 - Law-making, and
 - Deliberative practices.
- The focus is to sensitize youth to systematic engagement in parliamentary procedures.
- It offers a broad scope for direct dialogue between students and legislators.

OBJECTIVES

- To Provide direct exposure to the functioning of legislative bodies.
- To Foster democratic values through dialogue and debate.
- Inspire youth to engage in politics, policymaking, and governance.
- Strengthen the connection between academia and parliamentary institutions.

Key Takeaways

- Immediate exposure to legislative functioning.
- Prominence on democracy as dialogue, beyond elections.
- Inspiration for the youth to go for leadership roles.
- Legislative tools and procedures explained in simplified terms.
- Value of political awareness and civic responsibility

Implications and Way Forward

- To Promote the Youth Immersion Program through future editions.
- Expand the program to other parts of Assam (e.g., Dibrugarh, Silchar).
- To Integrate Legislative awareness in partnership with universities.
- Foster Inter- State Youth Immersion Programs to promote federal democratic learning.

3rd Edition of the Youth Immersion Program: -Different State Collaboration

- **STATE NAME:** Gujarat Legislative Assembly
- **SCOPE OF THE PROGRAM:** Youth Interaction and exchange of ideas.
- **OBJECTIVE:** Nominated students will be offered extensive legislative exposure.
- **PROGRAM:** Familiarisation trip to Ekta Nagar (Kevadia), Universities at Ahmedabad including visit to the Gujarat Legislative Assembly.
- **INTERACTION:** Exchange of ideas amongst the Students and Local Members and Dignitaries.

Overview of the event

- To conduct the event, extensive planning and logistical arrangements were required, including:
 - Concept Approval: - Detailed blueprint of the Program is approved by the concerned authorities.
- Venue and Logistics: - After a proper and comprehensive recce, the Logistical arrangements for the venue are finalized, including the timely hosting of the website for necessary program updates and online registration.

➤ Registration process:

Two phase registration process: -

- First level online registration
- Second phase - on-site registration
- During 2nd phase registration there were distribution of conference kit with the topic specific booklet designed and printed as per the PPT presentation prepared and delivered by Shri Biswajit Daimary, Hon'ble Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly.
- Responsibility allocation: As per approved charges the relevant duties were distributed with briefing meetings etc.
- Stenographers for proceedings etc: Engaging language specific stenographers for systematic future records.
- Invitations & Guests: Shortlisted delegations/participants and sending quantity-controlled invitations to all institutions/dignitaries.
- Food and Accommodation: Arrangement of the stay for officials & all meals for the participants.
- Media management, Publicity and Cooperation: Coordination with the authority for publicity (as applicable), with the specific content, designing etc including for wide publicity and ensuring respective Departmental cooperation.
- Operational aspects: Specific activity flowcharts apply to ensure the timely arrival of the designated officials, with on-site deliveries for services/items, etc.
- Oversight and Control: Verify Compliance; control of the event and crowd; positioning security personnel appropriately; and allocate protocols including the standby on-site workforce, etc.
- Conclusion: Distribution of Certificates at the end of the event with vote of thanks to the concerned.
- Reporting: Prepare a Report of the Event for necessary onward submission.

STUDENT VISIT PROGRAM in Assam Legislative Assembly

Purpose of the Program:

To provide students with a firsthand experience of how the Assam Legislative Assembly functions during its ongoing Session.

Target Participants:

Students from various schools and colleges located in and around Guwahati are selected and invited to take part in this educational initiative.

Learning Opportunity:

The program aims to enhance public awareness by allowing students to observe the real-time proceedings of government business and understand the democratic process in action.

Visit Arrangement:

Student groups visit the Assembly Building in scheduled batches under proper coordination and supervision.

Session Viewing Arrangement:

Each batch is allotted 15 minutes to watch the LIVE proceedings of the Assembly Session from the gallery of the Assembly Building.

Key Benefits:

- Encourages students to develop interest in governance and public administration.
- Provides insight into legislative discussions and decision-making processes.
- Promotes understanding of the roles and responsibilities of elected representatives.
- Strengthens the connection between youth and democratic institutions.

Overall Objective:

To motivate and educate the younger generation about the functioning of the legislative system and inspire active participation in civic life.

Conclusion:

The Youth Immersion Program & Student visit program is a pioneering initiative that bridges academia and legislative governance by empowering students with direct knowledge of law-making, accountability, and deliberation. The program lays the foundation for a politically aware and democratically engaged generation. Its replication across Assam and beyond will contribute to strengthening democratic institutions and nurturing future leaders. The program stands as a testament to the Assam Legislative Assembly's vision of all-inclusive governance.

POST-CONFERENCE STUDY TOUR – ARGENTINA



Following the conclusion of the 68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, the delegation undertook a post-conference study visit to Buenos Aires, Argentina, where an official engagement was facilitated by the Embassy of India. The visit provided an opportunity for parliamentary diplomacy, cultural exchange, and a broader appreciation of Argentina's political, social, and institutional landscape.

Argentina, officially known as the Argentine Republic, is the second largest country in South America and the eighth largest in the world. Its vast geographical diversity ranges from the Andes Mountains in the west to the fertile Pampas plains, arid regions, and an extensive Atlantic coastline. This geographical breadth has significantly influenced the country's economic activities, cultural development, and social structure.

Politically, Argentina functions as a federal republic with a presidential system of government. It has a bicameral National Congress consisting of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies. Democratic governance, constitutionalism, and institutional accountability form the cornerstone of its political framework, making Argentina an important democratic partner in Latin America.

Buenos Aires, the capital city, serves as Argentina's principal political, economic, and cultural centre. Often described as one of Latin America's most cosmopolitan cities, it reflects strong European influences alongside indigenous and Latin American traditions. The city is known for its historic architecture, vibrant public life, and strong emphasis on education, arts, and civic discourse.

Argentina’s cultural identity is shaped by a rich blend of indigenous heritage and European influences, particularly from Spanish and Italian migration. Music and dance forms such as tango, a strong literary tradition, and celebrated culinary practices – including asado (barbecue) and the social ritual of sharing Mate (a traditional herbal drink pronounced *MAH-teh*) – reflect the country’s emphasis on community life and cultural expression.

During the visit, the Hon’ble Speaker and members of the delegation attended a formal dinner hosted by the Indian Ambassador to Argentina. The dinner provided a congenial setting for political and cultural discussions, covering themes such as democratic governance, parliamentary practices, education, trade, sports, and people-to-people exchanges. The interaction contributed to strengthening mutual understanding and goodwill between Assam, India and Argentina.

The post-conference study tour thus complemented the objectives of the CPC by broadening the delegation’s international perspective and reinforcing the role of parliamentary engagement and cultural diplomacy in fostering global cooperation. The visit offered valuable insights that are relevant to enhancing legislative outreach and international engagement by the Assam Legislative Assembly.



The Assam Legislative Assembly has been instrumental in advancing the state’s development, ensuring transparency, and promoting grassroots democracy. Through its initiatives, it continues to play an inclusive role in the region’s governance while also engaging with the international community, showcasing its contribution to Indian federalism. The Assembly’s ongoing activities reflect its commitment to democratic values, effective governance, and the empowerment of local communities.

OBSERVATIONS AND TAKEAWAYS

The participation of the CPA Assam State Branch in the 68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference provided valuable institutional, policy, and administrative insights. The Conference reaffirmed the relevance of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association as a platform for collective learning, cooperation, and democratic strengthening across diverse jurisdictions.

The deliberations underscored the growing importance of multilateral parliamentary engagement in addressing cross-cutting global challenges such as climate change, public health, democratic resilience, and inclusive governance. The Conference highlighted the evolving role of Parliaments not only as law-making bodies but also as institutions responsible for oversight, accountability, and citizen engagement in rapidly changing socio-economic contexts.

The Workshop on Climate Change and Global Health reinforced the need for legislatures to adopt integrated and evidence-based approaches that link environmental sustainability with public health planning. The discussions emphasised the responsibility of Parliaments to support climate-resilient health systems, strengthen early warning mechanisms, and ensure that vulnerable communities remain central to policy responses.

The SoCATT deliberations and the presentation by the Assam Legislative Assembly Secretariat highlighted the critical role of parliamentary Secretariats in driving institutional innovation, transparency, and outreach. The Youth Immersion Program emerged as a best practice in legislative capacity building, demonstrating how structured engagement with young citizens can enhance democratic awareness and foster future leadership.

The Conference further provided exposure to effective conference management practices, digital facilitation, and coordination mechanisms adopted by host legislatures. These observations offer practical lessons for strengthening administrative efficiency, event management, and international engagement by the Assam Legislative Assembly.

The post-conference study visit to Argentina reinforced the importance of parliamentary diplomacy and cultural exchange as complementary tools for strengthening international cooperation. Informal political and cultural interactions during the visit contributed to a broader understanding of governance perspectives beyond the Commonwealth framework.

Overall, the participation in the 68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference contributed to enhancing the institutional capacity of the Assam Legislative Assembly by broadening perspectives on global best practices, reinforcing the value of youth-centric democratic initiatives, and reaffirming the importance of sustained engagement within the Commonwealth parliamentary community.

PHOTO GALLERY



With the Hon. Speaker Lok Sabha



Address by the Hon'ble Reginald R. Farley, President of the Senate of Barbados & President of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association



Delegation of CPA India Region



Moments from the Meeting of the CPA Executive Committee



Moments from the Day 1 of the 68th CPC, 2025



Moments from the Meeting of the CPA Executive Committee

PHOTO GALLERY



Moments with the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha



With the delegation of
Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly



Opening ceremony of the 68th CPC



At the CPA General Assembly



PHOTO GALLERY



Moments from the Plenary Session



Presentation by CPA Assam Branch at the SoCATT meeting



Delegation of CPA India Region



Moments from the 68thCPC General Assembly

PHOTO GALLERY



Moments from the 68th CPC, 2025



At the Lloyd Erskine Sandiford Center (LESC)



With the delegation from the CPA India Region Zone III



Moments from the Conference



With the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha

PHOTO GALLERY



With the delegation from the CPA India Region



Moments from the CPC Workshop