This issue of the Newsletter carries a brief account of important parliamentary events and activities which took place in India and abroad during the period 1 April to 30 June 2019.

**CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA**

**140th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU):** The 140th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union was held in Doha (Qatar) from 06 to 10 April, 2019. A two member Indian Parliamentary Delegation led by Shri Harivansh, Hon’ble Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha accompanied by Dr. Sonal Mansingh, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha attended the Assembly. Smt. Snehlata Shrivastava, Secretary General, Lok Sabha and Dr. P.P.K. Ramacharyulu, Secretary, Rajya Sabha Secretariat also attended the Assembly. Shri P.C. Koul, Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat was Secretary to the Delegation.

Hon’ble Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha participated in the General Debate on ‘Parliaments as platforms to enhance education for peace, security and the rule of law’. The Assembly adopted an Outcome Document on the same. The Assembly chose the item "Call for urgent international action to support Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe hit by Cyclone Idai" as an Emergency item and adopted a resolution on the said theme.

The Assembly held deliberations and adopted resolutions on the subject items under the purview of the following Standing Committees of IPU: (i) First Standing Committee of IPU on Peace and International Security ‘Non admissibility of using mercenaries as means of undermining peace and violating human rights’; and (ii) Second Standing Committee of IPU on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade ‘The role of fair and free trade and investment in achieving the SDGs, especially regarding economic equality, sustainable infrastructure, industrialization and innovation’.

Besides, Panel discussions/expert hearing were also held under the purview of following Standing Committees of IPU: (i) Third Standing Committee of IPU on Democracy and Human Rights ‘Achieving Universal Health Coverage by 2030: The role of Parliaments in ensuring the
’right to health’; and (ii) Fourth Standing Committee of IPU on United Nations Affairs. (a) ‘Parliamentary follow-up on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in preparation for the 2019 session of the United Nations High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development’; and (b) ’Main theme of the 2019 HLPF: Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality’.

During the Assembly, the Indian Parliamentary Delegation also participated in the Meetings of Forum of Women Parliamentarians; Governing Council; Regional Geopolitical Group (Asia-Pacific Group) and other IPU Bodies.

Smt. Snehlata Srivastava, Secretary General, Lok Sabha and Dr. P.P.K. Ramacharyulu, Secretary, Rajya Sabha Secretariat attended the meetings of the Association of Secretaries-General of Parliaments (ASGP). The Secretary General, Lok Sabha presented a communication on “The use of ICT in the Indian Parliament: Promoting Transparency and Efficiency” during the ASGP meeting.

On the sidelines of the above Assembly, bilateral meetings were held between the Indian Parliamentary Delegation and heads/leaders of the Parliamentary delegation, from Nepal, Bhutan, Cambodia, Serbia and Vietnam.

**CPA Mid-Year Executive Committee Meeting and CPA Regional Secretaries Meeting:** The CPA Mid-Year Executive Committee Meeting was held from 12 to 15 April, 2019 in Wellington Building, Ottawa, Canada. Following two Members from CPA India Region attended the meeting: (i) Shri Hitendra Nath Goswami, Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly; and (ii) Shri Prem Chand Aggarwal, Speaker, Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly.

Besides the meeting of the CPA Executive Committee, Shri Hitendra Nath Goswami, Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly attended the meeting of the Planning and Review Sub-Committee and Shri Prem Chand Aggarwal, Speaker, Uttarakhand Vidhan Sabha attended the meeting of the Finance Sub-Committee.

CPA Regional Secretaries Meeting was held on 12 April, 2019.

**BIRTH ANNIVERSARIES OF NATIONAL LEADERS**

On the birth anniversaries of national leaders whose portraits adorn the Central Hall of Parliament House, and also on the birth anniversaries of former Speakers of Lok Sabha, functions are organized under the auspices of the Indian Parliamentary Group (IPG) to pay tributes to the leaders. Booklets containing the profiles of these leaders, prepared by the Library and Reference, Research, Documentation and Information Service (LARRDIS) of the Lok Sabha Secretariat, are distributed on the occasion.

The birth anniversaries of the following leaders were celebrated during the period from 1 April to 30 June 2019:
**Dr. B.R. Ambedkar:** On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, a function was held on 14 April 2019 in the Parliament House. Hon’ble President, Shri Ram Nath Kovind; Hon’ble Vice President, Shri Venkaiah Naidu; Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi; Lok Sabha Speaker, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan and other dignitaries paid floral tributes at the portrait of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

Dignitaries after paying floral tributes at the portrait of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in the Parliament House on 14 April 2019.

**Pandit Motilal Nehru:** On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Pandit Motilal Nehru, a function was held on 6 May 2019 in the Parliament House. Former Deputy Prime Minister & Chairperson, Ethics Committee, Lok Sabha, Shri L.K. Advani; former Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Shivraj V. Patil; Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Smt. Snehlata Shrivastava; Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha, Shri Desh Deepak Verma and other dignitaries paid floral tributes at the portrait of Pandit Motilal Nehru.
Dignitaries after paying floral tributes at the photograph of Pandit Motilal Nehru in the Parliament House on 6 May 2019.

*Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore:* On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, a function was held on 9 May 2019 in the Parliament House. Former Deputy Prime Minister and Chairperson, Ethics Committee, Lok Sabha, Shri L.K. Advani; Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha, Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Ray; Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Smt. Snehlata Shrivastava and other dignitaries paid floral tributes at the portrait of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore.
Dr. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Dr. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, a function was held on 19 May 2019 in the Parliament House. Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Statistics & Programme Implementation, Shri Vijay Goel; former Deputy Prime Minister and Chairperson, Ethics Committee, Lok Sabha, Shri L.K. Advani; former Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Shivraj V. Patil; Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Smt. Snehlata Shrivastava and other dignitaries paid floral tributes at the portrait of Dr. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy.

Swatantryaveer Vinayak Damodar Savarkar: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Swatantryaveer Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, a function was held on 28 May 2019 in the Central Hall of Parliament House. Lok Sabha Speaker, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan; former Deputy Prime Minister, Shri L.K. Advani; Members of Parliament; former Members of Parliament and other dignitaries paid floral tributes at the Portrait of Swatantryaveer Vinayak Damodar Savarkar.
Dignitaries after paying floral tributes at the portrait of Swatantryaveer Vinayak Damodar Savarkar in the Central Hall of Parliament House on 28 May 2019.

*Shri K.S. Hegde:* On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Shri K.S. Hegde, a function was held on 11 June 2019 in the Parliament House. Lok Sabha Speaker, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan; Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Coal and Mines, Shri Pralhad Venkatesh Joshi; Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Harivansh; Members of Parliament; Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Smt. Snehlata Shrivastava and other dignitaries paid floral tributes to Shri K.S. Hegde.

Dignitaries after paying floral tributes at the portrait of Shri K.S. Hegde in the Parliament House on 11 June 2019.
PARLIAMENT MUSEUM

During the period from 1 April to 30 June 2019, a total of 5267 visitors visited the Parliament Museum. Apart from the general visitors, 1674 students from 36 schools and colleges from all over the country visited the Museum. A number of sitting and former members of Parliament, members of State Legislatures and foreign dignitaries/delegations also visited the museum during the quarter. As many as 407570 visitors have visited the museum between 5 September 2006 (i.e. the date of opening the museum for the general public) and 30 June 2019.

BUREAU OF PARLIAMENTARY STUDIES AND TRAINING

During the period from 01 April to 30 June 2019, the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training has organized the following Courses/Programmes for Members/Delegates/Probationers/Journalists/Students:

I. Appreciation Courses

Four Appreciation Courses in Parliamentary Processes and Procedures were organized for:

(i) Twelve Probationers of Indian Corporate Law Service (ICLS), from 08 to 10 April 2019;

(ii) Forty-one Officers Trainees of Indian Foreign Service (IFS)-2018 Batch and Bhutanese Diplomats, from 30 April to 01 May 2019

(iii) Twenty-nine probationers of Indian Railway Store Service (IRSS) and Indian Postal Service from 06 to 10 May 2019

(iv) Twelve probationers of Indian Economic Service (IES) from 15 to 17 May 2019

II. Training Courses for Officials of Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha & State Legislature Secretariats

(i) Forty-four Officials of Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, and State Legislatures attended Training Programme on drafting of Committee Reports and Committee Management from 15 to 18 April 2018

(ii) Seventeen Reporters working in Lok Sabha Secretariat attended a Training Programme in Editing from 29 April to 03 May 2019

(iii) Fifty five Officers/Assistants of Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and State Legislature Secretariats attended Training Course for officials dealing with Questions, Legislative and Budgetary Processes from 06 to 10 May 2019

(iv) Forty-three Officials of Lok Sabha Rajya Sabha and State Legislature Secretariat attended a Workshop on GST from 22 to 24 May 2019
(v) Forty-two newly recruited Assistant Executive Officers, Executive Officers and Research Officers of the Lok Sabha Secretariat attended Training Course in BPST from 03 to 28 June 2019

III. Training Programme in Parliamentary Processes and Procedures for International Parliament officers

(i) Thirty-two Officials of Bangladesh Parliament Secretariat attended a Training Course in Parliamentary Processes and Procedures from 1 to 12 April 2019.

IV. (a) Study Visits (International)

(i) Four Member Delegation including Ambassador of Brazil in India along with the Architect for the Parliament Library Building, New Delhi, attended Study Visit at BPST on 16 April 2019

(ii) Eight Member Delegation of officers from the Office of the Leader of House of Sri Lanka and the Chief Government Whip of Parliament in Sri Lanka, attended Study Visit on Parliamentary Processes and Procedures of India from at BPST from 29 April to 02 May 2019

(iii) A group of two hundred forty-eight students and accompanying persons from Junior Chamber International (JCI) attended Study Visit at BPST on 30 April 2019

(iv) Twenty-six Gambian Civil Servants attending Special Training Programme at NCGG, Mussorie, attended Study Visit at BPST on 20 June 2019

In all, 286 participants attended these Study visits.

(b) Study Visits (National)

(i) Twenty-one Students of KC Law College, Mumbai, Maharashtra attended Study Visit at BPST on 03 April 2019

(ii) Twenty-one Students of Gopaldas Jhamatmal Advani Law College, Bandra, West Mumbai, Maharashtra, attended Study Visit at BPST on 04 April 2019

(iii) Twenty-five Students and Teachers of Khalsa Law College, Amritsar, attended Study Visit at BPST on 04 April 2019

(iv) Five flight cadets from Air Force Academy, Hyderabad, attended Study Visit at BPST on 10 April 2019

(v) Forty-two Students of Department of Library and Information Science, University of Delhi, Delhi, attended Study Visit at BPST on 11 April 2019

(vi) Thirty-nine students of Z.P.High School, Venti & Ghoul, Palghar District, Maharashtra, attended Study Visit at BPST on 16 May 2019

(vii) Twenty-three Direct Recruit Assistant Section Officers undergoing training at DHTI, New Delhi, attended Study Visit at BPST on 22 May 2019
(viii) Twenty-six Officers of ICAR attending Training Programme at ISTM, New Delhi, attended Study Visit at BPST on 06 June 2019

(ix) Forty GAIL Executives Gail India Limited, Noida, (U.P.), attended Study Visit at BPST on 25 June 2019

(x) Fifty-two Officer Trainees of Indian Telecommunication Service and P&T Group-A, Officers from the Ministry of Communication attending foundation course at Haryana Institute of Public Administration (HIPA) and Interns from Punjab University, Punjab attended Study Visit at BPST on 26 June 2019

(xi) Forty-five newly recruited Deputy Superintendents of Police, Madhya Pradesh, undergoing training at National Law University (NLU), New Delhi, attended Study Visit at BPST on 27 June 2019

(xii) Twenty-four Students from different schools attached with Bharat ki Navchetna Kendra in Delhi, attended Study Visit at BPST on 28 June 2019

In all, 363 participants attended these Study visits.