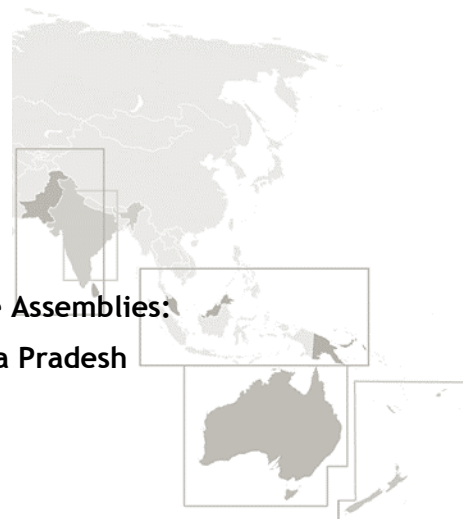




**Study Visit for Members from Southern Indian Legislative Assemblies:
Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh**

**UK Parliament
31 October - 3 November 2017**



Draft Report



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Summary

Delivered in partnership the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) this programme for Members of Southern Indian State Legislatures explored a range of technical and thematic elements. Alongside site and industry visits coordinated by the FCO, the delegation spent a day at Westminster exploring UK parliamentary practice, a day at the Scottish Parliament exploring the work of a devolved legislature in the UK context, and a morning in a London constituency with a UK MP. The programme was well received by the delegation and allowed for an exploration of a wide range of areas.



Project Overview

1.01 CPA UK has a strong relationship with the British High Commission in India and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), and has previously worked with Indian Members at both a National and State level, organising programmes exploring both parliamentary practice and procedures and a wide range of issues.

1.02 Following a request from the British Deputy High Commission in Bengaluru, CPA UK coordinated a visit for Members of Legislative Assemblies (MLAs) from five states in Southern India in partnership with the FCO. The programme explored three key areas: how devolved relationships in the UK function; how key thematic areas are represented in Parliament; and constituency relationships in the UK.

1.03 Areas of particular interest to the visiting Members were: skills & entrepreneurship; financial services; energy and low carbon; urban and smart cities; and ease of doing business.

Project Aim & Objectives

2.01. **Aim.** To enhance the relationship between UK and Indian parliamentarians, promote the exchange of good practice and introduce Members of Legislative Assemblies from India to key thematic issues in the UK-India relationship.

2.02. Objectives.

- a. Develop the relationship between parliamentarians from India and the UK at both a national, and devolved level.
- b. Explore the political makeup of the UK, from devolved legislatures to Central Government and the broader relationship with the EU.
- c. Enhance the understanding of key areas of the UK-India relationship, including skills & entrepreneurship, financial services, energy & low carbon, urban regeneration & smart cities, and ease of doing business
- d. Explore challenges associated with the devolution of powers, including fiscal devolution.
- e. Understand the devolved power's responsibility for specific sectors, in particular skills and entrepreneurship, and the energy and low carbon sectors.

Participants & Key Stakeholders

3.01. This programme was aimed at Members of Southern Indian States Legislatures as well as UK parliamentarians. Key stakeholders included the British High Commission in India, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and the Scottish branch of the CPA.

Key Issues

4.01. Visit to Scottish Parliament

The delegation spent the first day at Holyrood, Scotland's National Parliament. This day included: meetings with Joan McAlpine MSP, Convener of the Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Relations Committee; a working lunch with Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament, Rt Hon Ken Macintosh MSP,





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Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP, Jeremy Balfour MSP, Kate Forbes MSP and Daniel Johnson MSP; and observations of both a committee and chamber session.

A variety of issues were discussed, particularly the nature of devolved powers. The MLAs commented on the differences in the respective assemblies, highlighting that India has followed a more federalised structure, with devolved legislative assemblies holding more powers than those in the UK, though the trend towards further devolution in the UK was noted.

Issues discussed including tourism - a key industry for both the Southern Indian States and Scotland - including how to reach out to new markets whilst remaining sustainable. MLAs and MSPs discussed methods by which ties between Scotland and Southern Indian States could be strengthened.

The MLAs also raised the UK's exit from the European Union, exploring some of the reasons behind the UK's decision, and discussing the value of referenda. Ms McAlpine MSP commented on both the EU referendum, but also the Scottish independence referendum, and how these key moments had shaped public opinion towards further independence from the UK.

4.02. Visit to Houses of Parliament

Wednesday was spent at Westminster exploring UK parliamentary practice and procedure. The day was divided into technical and thematic meetings, with discussions with MPs and clerks on the different technical functions of Parliament including an introduction to Parliament, the select committee system and Prime Minister's questions as well as thematic meetings with members of a number of All Party Parliamentary Groups (APPGs).

The committee session was delivered by Stephen Twigg MP and Fergus Reid, the Chair and Clerk respectively of the International Development Committee. There was a focus on the powers of committees, and how these powers are constantly changing. The recent example of the elections of committee chairs by the whole house was highlighted as an example of the increased authority vested in committees to scrutinise government, and how they frequently encourage cross-party cooperation.

The delegation met with Members of the Smart Cities APPG and the India APPG in the afternoon. MLAs indicated an interest in the concept of smart cities, and how new technologies can be utilised in town planning, particularly to counter issues of pollution given the rapid urban population growth in India. Iain Stewart MP discussed his experience of smart city projects in Milton Keynes, and how the APPG worked to explore this relatively new field as well as the role parliamentarians can play.

4.03. Constituency Visit

The delegation visited Rt Hon. Dame Margaret Hodge MP's constituency of Barking in east London on Friday morning and joined Dame Margaret as she attended a variety of constituency events at a local school, and with a local youth centre charity. These visits gave the delegation the opportunity to explore how UK MPs divide their time between their Westminster and constituency duties.





During a break between events, Dame Margaret and the delegation discussed methods of representation, and the different systems in place in India and UK, particularly given the larger constituencies in India, and the subsequent need for a more involved system of volunteers and community representatives. The delegation also highlighted how being a Legislative Assembly representative allowed for a greater focus on local issues as areas such as defence and international relations were the responsibility of national MPs.

Results of the Project

5.01. This programme has addressed the objectives laid out in 2.02 through a range of meetings and workshops. It has been supplemented by operating in collaboration with FCO, who complemented the parliamentary programme with a series of civil society and business events. This partnership was very effective in creating a more holistic visit for the delegation.

5.02. The main outcomes of this programme are: an increased understanding of the UK's parliamentary systems; and improved ties between MLAs and parliamentarians both at Westminster and the Scottish Parliament.

5.03. Feedback forms distributed to the delegation indicated a high level of satisfaction with the programme. Areas suggested for improvement in future programmes including a greater focus on specific sectors such as education or health, greater involvement from party leadership and more opportunities to engage with the House of Lords.

Next Steps

6.01. CPA UK will continue to work the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the FCO network in future programmes aimed at strengthening bilateral relationships.

Acknowledgements

7.01. CPA UK would like to thank all speakers who gave up their time to meet with the delegation over the course of the programme, both in Scotland and at Westminster. Special thanks to Rt Hon. Dame Margaret Hodge MP who kindly hosted the delegation in her constituency.





Rizwan Arshad, 38, Indian National Congress (INC) - KARNATAKA state

Mr. Rizwan Arshad is a member of the Legislative Council of Karnataka. An organisation man, he made his mark as the Youth Congress leader in Karnataka and nationally. In 2010, he was made the IYC national secretary. He represents the Next-Generation of Congress leaders being groomed by the Congress national leadership. Rizwan wishes to engage with the masses for citizen participation in politics, policy-making and fighting corruption. As a leader from Bangalore, Urban Governance issues figure high on Rizwan's priority list.



Dattatraya Chandrashakar Patil, 35, BJP - KARNATAKA state

A first-time MLA from Gulbarga (South) constituency in Karnataka, Dattatraya is also the National secretary of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) - the youth wing of the BJP. Dattatraya has focused to realise Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of delivering development to every section of Indian society. As a representative of the North Karnataka, he has focused on bringing prosperity to the relatively backward region of the state. Urban development, addressing rural farm distress and engaging with the youth as the state enters an election year in 2018 is at

the centre of the BJP's public discourse.



Shaji Kalathodika, 48, Muslim League - KERALA state

K. M. Shaji is a member of the Kerala Legislature for the Azhikode constituency, Kannur and he is a native of Kozhikode. Shaji represents the Indian Union Muslim League in Kerala and is the president of Muslim Youth League in Kerala. Currently, he is the secretariat member of Muslim League Kerala and also treasurer of the Muslim League parliamentary party. Shaji has contributed to social, environmental and relief work, notable among them being 'Karunya Award' for standing with differently-abled people from Association for Disable People, 'Abudhabi Cultural Association Award' for environmental activities and 'Veera Pazhassi Raja Samithi Award' to promote a secular forum.



Vamshi Chand Challa, 37, Indian National Congress (INC) - TELANGANA state

Vamshi Chand is a Member of the Telangana State Legislative Assembly from the Congress party representing the constituency of Kalwakurthy. He started his political journey as a student leader while pursuing a degree in medicine. He later became the state president of the National Students Union of India (NSUI). Though primarily for an agricultural family, he is a tech buff and was a member of IT and Communications Committee for the 82nd AICC Plenary Session and the Transport Committee for the

"International Conference on Satyagraha".





Satish Kumar Vodithala, 52, Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) - TELANGANA state

Satish Kumar is a Member of the Telangana State Legislative Assembly from the Telangana Rashtra Samithi, a regional party, representing the constituency of Husnabad. He has risen in politics, with his initial win as a village head (Sarpanch), and president of Agri Cooperatives. He agitated for the separate state of Telangana. He runs a family educational trust that supports higher education for the poor. He is passionate about issues related to drinking water and irrigation.



Dr Jayanageswara Reddy Byreddy, 35, Telugu Desam Party (TDP) - ANDHRA PRADESH state

Jayanageswara is a doctor by profession and a Member of Andhra Pradesh State Legislative Assembly representing Yemmiganur constituency. His father was one of the founding fathers of the TDP. He joined politics in 2013 as a youth leader and was made in-charge of his constituency when his father fell ill. After his father's death, he contested and became a member of the new bifurcated state assembly in 2014



Monday 30 October 2017	
<i>Foreign and Commonwealth Office Programme</i>	
Tuesday 31 October 2017	
<i>Programme in the Scottish Parliament</i>	
Wednesday 1 November 2017	
<i>Programme in UK Houses of Parliament</i>	
0845	<i>Arrive at Houses of Parliament, Portcullis House Entrance, met by Robert Harper, CPA UK Asia Pacific Programme Manager, and Ollie Hall, CPA UK Programme Officer</i>
0910 - 0925	<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <p>This session provided an opportunity to discuss the aims and objectives of the programme. Programme pre-assessment forms were distributed during the session.</p> <p>Speaker:</p> <p>Helen Haywood, Deputy Chief Executive CPA UK & Head of Strategy & Business Development</p> <p><i>CPA Room, Westminster Hall</i></p>
0930 - 1015	<p>Session 1: Introduction to the UK Parliament</p> <p>This session served as a general introduction to the UK Parliament and its basic functions. This session briefly touched on some of the following areas including: Parliament's structure and formation; the role of the House of Commons and the House of Lords; the passage of legislation through Parliament and how legislation is scrutinised; Parliament's committee system and how these committees scrutinise the executive branch of government; the role of an MP and Peer; the political party system.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Shailesh Vara MP, <i>Conservative</i></p> <p>Baroness Gale, <i>Labour</i></p> <p><i>CPA Room, Westminster Hall</i></p>
1015 - 1100	<p>Session 2: The Select Committee System in the House of Commons</p> <p>This session explored the House of Commons Select Committee system, and touched on: the remit of Select Committees; their formation and the process by which Members are elected to sit on Select Committees; the scope of inquiries and how they are conducted; the role of committee Clerks in coordinating the business of Select Committees and their relationship with Members and the Chair of the Select Committee.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Stephen Twigg MP, <i>Labour</i></p> <p>Fergus Reid, <i>Clerk - International Development Committee</i></p>





	<i>CPA Room, Westminster Hall</i>
1100 - 1115	<i>Coffee Break</i>
1115 - 1145	<p>Session 3: PMQs Briefing</p> <p>The session gave a brief introduction to Prime Minister's Questions, and how it is used as a key tool for holding the executive to account.</p> <p>Speaker: Michael Fabricant MP, <i>Conservative</i> <i>CPA Room, Westminster Hall</i></p>
1200 - 1245	<p>Prime Minister's Questions</p> <p>The session allowed delegates an opportunity to view weekly Prime Minister's Questions in the House of Commons Chamber, observing the practice, procedures, and customs of the Chamber. It will also gave the delegation the opportunity to witness how debate is moderated by Mr Speaker.</p> <p><i>Commonwealth Gallery - Lift 7, Mezzanine floor to special gallery.</i></p>
1300 - 1400	<p>Lunch</p> <p><i>CPA Room</i></p>
1400 - 1445	<p>Session 4: Meet with Chair of the Smart Cities APPG</p> <p>This session explored the work of the Smart Cities APPG, and allowed for a discussion of the potential technological advances hold for the future of cities. It could also touch on Mr Stewart's expertise in the transport sector and his work on the Transport Committee, and how issues in this sector tie into the broader concept of smart cities.</p> <p>Speaker: Iain Stewart MP, <i>Conservative</i> <i>CPA Room, Westminster Hall</i></p>
1500 - 1600	<p>Session 5: Meeting with Chair and Members of the India All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG)</p> <p>Speakers: Virendra Sharma MP, <i>Labour</i> Liz McInnes MP, <i>Labour</i> <i>CPA Room, Westminster Hall</i></p>
1600 - 1615	<p>Westminster Programme Evaluation</p> <p>The short concluding session is an opportunity for the delegation to discuss the programme, and to complete the evaluation forms for the programme.</p> <p><i>CPA Room, Westminster Hall</i></p>
1615 - 1630	<i>Break</i>
1630 - 1730	<p>Session 6: Meeting with Students</p> <p><i>Organised by FCO</i></p>





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Thursday 2 November 2017
<i>FCO Programme</i>
Friday 3 November 2017
<i>Constituency Visit</i>





Helen Haywood

Deputy Chief Executive CPA UK

Helen Haywood was appointed Deputy Chief Executive of CPA UK in 2014, working closely with the Executive Committee, Chief Executive and Senior Management Team on organisational and business strategy and policy development. She is also Adviser to the British Islands and Mediterranean Region Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Steering Committee. Helen first started with CPA UK in 1995 and has held a number of senior appointments within the organisation.



Baroness Gale

Labour

Baroness Gale began her working life at the age of 15 as a sewing machinist in a clothing factory in the Rhondda Valleys. After marrying and having two children she enrolled as a mature student at Pontypridd Technical College and later University College Cardiff. After graduating she took up the post of Women's Officer of the Wales Labour Party and later as its General Secretary a post she held until her appointment as a Life Peer in 1999.

Baroness Gale was the Commissioner for Wales for the Women's National Commission from 2004 to 2009. In 2005 she was presented with the Val Feld Welsh Woman of the Year Award in recognition of her work for women in Wales. From 2008-2010 she served on the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and was a member of the Committee on Equalities and the Committee on Social Affairs. She was appointed an Opposition Whip in 2010 speaking on Wales and Women. In 2017 she was appointed as the Shadow Minister for Women and Equalities

Baroness Gale has an active involvement with charitable organisations, including that of President of the Royal British Legion Treherbert and District Branch, President of the National Association of Old Age Pensioners of Wales, Patron of Kidney Wales Foundation, and Patron of Bees for Development. She Co-Chairs the All Party Parliamentary Group on Parkinson's disease. She has a lifelong commitment to equality for women and campaigns to ensure there are more women in political and public life.



Shailesh Vara MP

Conservative

Shailesh Vara is a Conservative MP and was elected to Parliament in 2005. He is a former Justice Minister (2013 - 2016) as well as a former Minister for Work and Pensions (2015 - 2016). He has also sat on the Finance and Service Committee, the Administration Committee, and the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee.





Stephen Twigg MP

Labour

Stephen Twigg was elected as Labour and Co-operative Member of Parliament for Liverpool, West Derby in 2010. Since June 2015, he serves as the Chair of the International Development Select Committee. The purpose of this committee is to scrutinise the work and spending of the Department for International Development. Mr Twigg served as the Labour MP for Enfield Southgate for 8 years and was a Government Minister for 4 years between 2001-2005. He also served as Shadow

Education Secretary, Deputy Leader of the House of Commons and as an Education Minister.



Michael Fabricant MP

Conservative

Michael Fabricant is the Member of Parliament for the Lichfield Constituency. He was appointed to the Government Whips' Office as the Government Pairing Whip and, prior to the 2010 election, was Shadow Minister for Economic Affairs. He has also sat on the Home Affairs Select Committee which scrutinises the work of the Home Office and Lord Chancellor, and was Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Financial

Secretary in H.M. Treasury. His other interests include Trade, with special regard to the promotion of exports and high technology, and Foreign Relations. Michael has a Bachelor's degree in Economics and Law from Loughborough University, a Master of Science degree in Operations Research from the University of Sussex, and undertook postgraduate doctoral research in Economics and Econometrics at Oxford, London University, and the University of Southern California in Los Angeles.



Virendra Sharma MP

Labour

Virendra Sharma was elected MP for Ealing Southall in a 2007 by-election. He was Parliamentary Private Secretary to Phil Woolas MP as Minister of State for Home Office and HM Treasury in 2008-09. Mr Sharma has served as a Member on the Joint Committee on Human Rights (2007-10 and 2010-15), the Justice Committee (2007-09) and Health Committee (2010-15). He is currently a Member of the International

Development Committee and the Committee on Arms Export Controls, which he joined in 2016. He holds office in numerous All-Party Parliamentary Groups, including as Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on "Honour" Based Abuse.



Liz McInnes MP

Labour

Liz McInnes is the Member of Parliament for Heywood and Middleton. Liz was first elected in October 2014 in a by-election and was re-elected in the general election in 2017. In addition to her constituency work and other work in parliament on behalf of Heywood and Middleton residents, Liz is a Shadow Minister for the Foreign and Commonwealth office, and holds the Africa portfolio, as well as a former Shadow Minister for the Communities and Local

Government team. Liz is also a former member of the Health and the Science and Technology Committees.



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About the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK

CPA UK is one of the largest and most active branches in the CPA community and delivers a unique annual international outreach programme in Westminster and overseas. CPA UK works to encourage parliamentary diplomacy and build parliamentary capacity on behalf of the UK Parliament and the wider CPA. Through activities such as conferences, seminars, delegations and parliamentary strengthening teams, CPA UK provides Members with a practical, current and first-hand perspective on international issues facing fellow parliamentarians across the Commonwealth. Working with CPA UK's international outreach programmes also enhances Members' understanding of issues facing diaspora communities in their own constituencies. For more information, visit www.uk-cpa.org

