



Conference of Presiding Officers  
of  
Legislative Bodies in India

**DAILY BULLETIN**

**Lok Sabha Secretariat  
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**WELCOME TO THE SEVENTY-SIXTH CONFERENCE  
OF PRESIDING OFFICERS OF LEGISLATIVE BODIES  
IN INDIA, 20-24 SEPTEMBER 2011**

The Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha and Chairperson of the Conference of Presiding Officers, Smt. Meira Kumar, will inaugurate the 76<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India today, the 21<sup>st</sup> September 2011, in the Assembly Hall of Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha, Jaipur.

This is for the third time that the Presiding Officers' Conference is being held in Jaipur. Earlier, Jaipur has hosted the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 44<sup>th</sup> Conferences of Presiding Officers in the years 1957 and 1978, respectively.

We, at the Bulletin Desk, take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to all the distinguished delegates, officers and others to the Conference and wish them a very enjoyable and memorable stay in Jaipur. We hope their visit to this historic and culturally rich city will be fruitful and their deliberations will be highly rewarding.

### **Origin of the Conference**

With a view to helping the Presiding Officers develop and preserve healthy traditions and conventions in our parliamentary institutions in general, and parliamentary practices and procedures in particular, the forum of the Conferences of Presiding Officers of the Legislative Bodies in India was launched in the Year 1921.

The first President of the Central Legislative Assembly, Sir Frederick Whyte laid down the foundation of the Conference of the Presidents (now called Presiding Officers) and Deputy Presidents (Presiding Chairmen) of the Legislative Councils in the Provinces in 1921, and presided over the first Conference on 14 and 16 September 1921.

The Conference presided over by a British nominated President became the Conference of elected presidents from 1926 onwards. The Late Shri Vithalbhai J. Patel, who succeeded Sir Frederick Whyte in 1925, was the first elected President of the Central Legislative Assembly.

### **From the History of the Conference**

It is interesting to note that the venue of the Conference used to be only Delhi or Simla during the period 1921 to 1950. Consequent upon the acceptance of the suggestion of Hon. Speaker, Shri G.V. Mavalankar to hold the Conference at different Centres, the Conference started to be held in various States from 1951 onwards.

Rajasthan is famous for its spectacular forts, palaces of awe-inspiring grandeur and whimsical charm, riotous colours and a sense of pride and honour. In fact it has been a land of brave men and women. At present, it attracts tourists from India and abroad for its rich heritage.

Rajasthan has had a glorious past. At the time of India's independence, it was a conglomeration of several princely states. It took

several stages to form Rajasthan as it is defined today. The present State of Rajasthan was formed after a long process of integration which began on 17 March 1948 (Matsya Union ) and ended on 1 November 1956 (The States Reorganisation Act). In the British times, it was called the Rajputana and after integration it came to be known as the Rajasthan. After attaining statehood, the State has made sincere efforts not only to preserve various facets of its glorious past but also to undertake large-scale development in core areas of socio-economic importance, improvement of infrastructure and create a conducive investment climate. It has been the endeavour of the Government to involve various sections of the population, more importantly the weaker and vulnerable segments including the tribal in the process of development and growth. Rajasthan, a vibrant and development-oriented State, has thus emerged as an ideal destination for investors, tourists and educational institutions of higher learning.

Jaipur, 'the Pink City', was founded in 1727 by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II. Shri Vidyadhar Bhattacharya, a Bengali architect, planned the entire city on the basis of principles of '*Shilp Shastra*', traditional hindu treatise on building and architecture. The city itself is an attractive creation worthy of universal admiration. Fascinating places worth a visit include, Amber Palace, City Palace, Hawa Mahal, Nahargarh and Jai Garh.

It is interesting to note that it was Maharaja Ram Singh who had got the entire city painted in pink in the honour of the visiting Prince of Wales in 1876. Since then, the colour pink has been maintained for many of the important buildings in Jaipur.

Jaipur is home to a rich tradition of handicrafts and arts, culture and rituals. It has its own style of North Indian classical dance form Kathak known as the Jaipur Gharana. The beautiful handcrafted cotton clothes, exquisite work on the marble, minute embroidery on camel leather and precious stone-studded traditional jewellery has continued to fascinate men and women in India and abroad.

Besides historical monuments, the newly constructed Rajasthan Legislative Assembly which has been planned keeping in mind the future requirements of 100 years is worth visiting. Extensive use of Rajasthani style of art and architecture has made this one of the most magnificent structures in the city. This traditional looking building is also very modern

in the amenities it provides like the electronic voting system, SMATV System etc. Water harvesting system and solar electricity generation system also make it very environment friendly at the same time.

### **Conference of Secretaries of Legislative Bodies in India**

As the delegates are aware, the Conference of Secretaries of Legislative Bodies in India was held yesterday, the 20<sup>th</sup> September 2011, at the Committee Room No. 751, Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha Bhawan.

At the outset, the Conference passed a Condolence resolution expressing its heartfelt condolences at the sad demise of Shri Kantilal M. Panchal and Shri Thakorlal S. Barot, former Secretaries of the Gujarat Legislative Assembly; Shri Vishwendra Mehta, former Secretary, Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly; and Shri Pratap Kumar Ghosh, former Secretary, West Bengal Legislative Assembly. The Conference also passed another resolution expressing its deep sense of grief and sorrow at the loss of several lives in the devastating earthquake that hit the North-East State of Sikkim and several Indian states and neighbouring countries. The delegates observed two minutes silence as a mark of respect to the departed souls.

Welcoming the Secretary-General of Lok Sabha Shri T.K. Vishwanathan and Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha Dr. V.K. Agnihotri as well as the Principal Secretaries and Secretaries from other Legislatures in India, Shri Krishan Murari Gupta, Acting Secretary of Rajasthan Legislative Assembly said that the utility of such a Conference in a democratic country like India is self established. Secretaries to the Legislatures, in the role of principal advisor to the Presiding Officers of the Legislative Bodies, many a times come face to face with very delicate and complex situations. Their resolution-oriented advice requires understanding of high order and maturity in thoughts, in addition to urgency in decision taking. Such conferences are very useful from the perspective of justifiable and logical opinion on complex issues.

In his Address, Dr. V.K. Agnihotri, Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha highlighted some of the procedural initiatives taken since the last Conference, *viz.* regulating the supplementary to Starred Questions, shifting the Question Hour on experimental basis, soft launch of Rajya Sabha TV Channel, initiative for reduction of use of paper, enhancing the financial

entitlement of the members to facilitate purchase of E-reader, compatible devices to reduce Members' dependency on paper copies of Parliamentary documents, etc. Dr. Agnihotri also stated that often varied problems, involving legal, procedural and constitutional aspects are faced by us in day-to-day working of our respective legislatures. This forum naturally provides us an opportunity to deliberate on these issues and standardise parliamentary practices.

Delivering the Inaugural Address, Shri T.K. Viswanathan, Secretary-General, Lok Sabha welcomed the new Secretaries of the Legislative Assemblies of Rajasthan, Meghalaya, Bihar, Goa, Tamil Nadu, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, and Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Council. Recapitulating major developments of political and parliamentary interests, Shri Viswanathan said that realizing the importance of disaster management in minimizing human casualty and damage to infrastructure, the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha has decided to constitute another Parliamentary Forum on Disaster Management, and the process for this has already been initiated. He also said that an 80 Kwp solar power plant was installed recently and a kitchen-waste based bio-gas plant is scheduled to be installed in the Parliament House. Going further, he stated that under the guidance of the Hon'ble Speaker, steps were being taken to make the Lok Sabha Secretariat paperless. As a step forward, Intranet has been launched in the Lok Sabha Secretariat so that the employees of the Secretariat have access to the internal circulars, pay slips, leave account, office forms, establishment list, etc. online. Concluding, he hoped that meaningful exchange of views on the agenda items would take place.

The Conference deliberated on twelve engrossing subjects delving into diverse areas of parliamentary practice and procedure including, Disclosure of information from 'Register of Members' Interest' under the RTI Act, 2005; Decisions taken by the Presiding Officers in the Discharge of their Constitutional and Legislative functions – Disclosure of reasons under the Right to Information Act and whether State Legislature can withdraw a Bill which has been reserved by the Governor for the consideration of the President.

## **TODAY'S PROGRAMMES**

**Today's programme will start with the Customary Guard of Honour to the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha and the Chairperson of the Conference, Smt. Meira Kumar at 0915 hours outside the Ceremonial Gate of the Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha Bhawan.**

## **Exhibitions**

At 0930 hours, the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha will inaugurate two Exhibitions, viz. (i) the Exhibition entitled *Parliamentary Democracy in India: A Historical Perspective*, set up by the Parliamentary Museum and Archives (PMA) of the Lok Sabha Secretariat in collaboration with the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity, Jaipur, and (ii) the Exhibition titled *Glorious Past of Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha and the Development of the State* which has been set up by the Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha Secretariat.

The Exhibition set up by the PMA in collaboration with the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity, Jaipur, spread over twelve sectors, traces the growth and development of democratic institutions in India. Beginning from the modern parliamentary institutions, it lays special emphasis on the democratic system in modern India including India's Freedom Movement; Constitution of India and working of Indian Parliament with the help of photographs, write-ups, charts, press-clippings etc. The Exhibition also showcases the Indian Federal System and the legislative set-up in different States of the country, with particular emphasis on the legislative activities in the Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha, Jaipur. Photographs related to the Imperial Legislative Council, Council of States, Central Legislative Assembly and Constituent Assembly have also been shown in the Exhibition. It also highlights the evolution and origin of the Office of the Speaker and importance of Presiding Officers and Secretaries of the Conference.

The Exhibition also includes audio-visual inputs on computer multi-media and LCDs making the Exhibition more interactive and appealing. Original voices of Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose can also be heard. A scanned copy of the Constitution of India can be accessed by the visitors on the computer multi-media. Also available on computer are multimedia

presentations on democratic heritage, legislative reforms and functions of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

Films related to important events during India's Freedom Movement on epoch making Acts like Right to Information and programmes such as '*Hamari Speaker*' and the Election Process in India can also be seen at the Exhibition.

The Exhibition entitled '*Glorious Past of Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha and the Development of the State*', set up by the Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha Secretariat, traces the journey of the Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha since the creation of the new State. A number of photographs and visuals have been displayed in this section of the exhibition, portraying various images of the Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha.

### **Group Photograph of the Presiding Officers**

A group photograph of the Presiding Officers attending the Conference will be taken at 1300 hours on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2011. The Presiding Officers are requested to assemble at the Ceremonial Gate of Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha Bhawan by 1255 hours for the group photograph. Thereafter, the delegates are requested to proceed for lunch at the Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha Premises. The host Secretariat's ushers will guide the delegates to the Conference venue.

### **The Conference Sessions**

The Inaugural Session of the Presiding Officers' Conference will commence at 1000 hours today at the Vidhan Sabha. The Speaker, Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha, Shri Deependra Singh Shekhawat will deliver the Welcome Address and thereafter, the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha and Chairperson of the Conference, Smt. Meira Kumar will deliver the Inaugural Address.

### **Attention Delegates!**

**All Delegates, Secretaries, Spouses/accompanying persons and other Officials are cordially invited to attend all the Lunches and Dinners.**

The Conference will deliberate on three subjects, viz. (i) *'Determination for maximum period for Assent to Bills passed by the Legislature'* (ii) *'The Role of the Legislatures in scrutinizing and making Laws for Good Governance'* and (iii) *'Era of Coalition Government – Its Compulsions and Challenges'*. The deliberation on the agenda items of the Conference will be followed by a symposium on “Strengthening Constitutional Schemes of Checks and Balances” to be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September. Shri Ashok Gehlot, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Rajasthan, will deliver the Inaugural Address.

**Delegates are requested kindly to keep their mobile phones switched off during the Inaugural and Business Sessions of the Conference and the Symposium. Kind cooperation of Delegates is solicited.**

**Attention Delegates!**

- **Please attend 'At Home' by H.E. Governor of Rajasthan at Raj Bhawan, Jaipur, at 05.15p.m. today.**
- **'Boat Ride' arranged at Jal Mahal (Restricted to Presiding Officers/Secretaries and their Spouses only) at 6.00p.m. today.**
- **The Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha will host a Dinner alongwith Light and Sound Show and Cultural Programme at Amber, Jaipur 7.00p.m. onwards today. Situated 11 Km. from Jaipur, Amber Fort is a beautiful complex of palaces, halls, pavilions and temples.**

**FACILITIES FOR DELEGATES**

**Central Reception cum –Enquiry Office**



A Central Reception-cum- Enquiry office has been set up at Room No.111, Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha, Jaipur. All information concerning the Conference and other related matters and engagements for the guests/delegates will be available at this centre.

### **Rail and Air Reservation Counter**

Besides the Indian Airlines booking Counter at Room no.717 (Ground Floor) in the Rajasthan Assembly Premises, a Railway Booking-cum-Reservation Counter has also been set up at Room No. 614 (Basement) to facilitate air and rail bookings, cancellation of tickets etc. for the delegates.

### **Sales Counter**

A Sales Counter of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat has been set up inside the Vidhan Sabha Premises where Delegates can purchase Souvenir items.

### **Post office**

A post office is located at the Basement Room No. 618 of the Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha premises.

### **Banking Facilities**

A counter of the State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur is functional at the basement Room No.612 of the Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha premises.

### **Simultaneous Interpretation of Proceedings**

For the convenience of the distinguished delegates, necessary arrangements have been made for simultaneous interpretation of the proceedings of the Conference in English and Hindi.

#### **Cyber Café**

**A Cyber Café is set up in Room No. 110 on the first floor, Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha premises for the convenience of the delegates and others. They may use this centre to browse the internet as also to receive and send e-mails. This service will be made available from 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> September 2011.**

## **Medical Facilities**

We hope and wish that the delegates would enjoy the best of health during their stay in Jaipur. Should, however, a need for any medical assistance arise, appropriate arrangements have been made to provide medical aid at various places of stay. Special Dispensaries with round-the-clock medical and paramedical staff have been established in the Assembly Building. At ground floor Room No. 727 exists the Allopathic Dispensary. In Room No. 725 is an 'A' Grade Ayurvedic Dispensary and in Room No. 726 services are rendered in a Homeopathic Dispensary. Two well-equipped ambulances are also provided for round-the-clock attendance, in case of any medical emergency.

## **Transport**

One car will be provided to every Presiding Officer and Secretary. For their accompanying staff, and the staff of the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and the Legislatures of various States, appropriate conveyance will be provided to facilitate their mobility. A number of buses (deluxe coaches) have been arranged for the spouses of the Presiding Officers for local sight-seeing, and to facilitate their movement to and fro to the venues of various functions attached with the Conference. An appropriate number of luxury coaches have been arranged for the delegates for the post-conference tour to Ajmer-Pushkar and Ranthambhor.

## **Catering Arrangements**

Bed tea and breakfast will be served to the delegates and their spouses and officers and other staff, at the respective hotels of their stay. The Presiding Officers and Secretaries will be invited to attend the various Lunches and Dinners, etc. to be hosted by the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha; Hon'ble Speaker Rajasthan; Chief Minister, Rajasthan; and Ministers of Rajasthan (as per Schedule circulated separately). **(It may be mentioned that the guests will have to bear the charges on account of any STD/ISD calls they make or any services like laundry and alcoholic drinks, etc., served in their rooms in the Hotels as per the tariff).**

## **Cultural Programme**

Dance and musical performances by well-known artists are being arranged at the venues of dinners.

### **Sight-Seeing/Post-Conference Tour**

Arrangements have been made to take the spouse of the visiting delegates and others on local sight-seeing in the Pink City from 20<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2011 and of course, they will be accompanying the delegates on the Post-Conference Tour scheduled to Ajmer-Pushkar and Ranthambhor.

### **Gym and Yoga Centre**

A Gym and Yoga Centre with the latest equipments has been put up considering the physical fitness of the Members near the eastern parking lot of the building.

### **Rajasthali**

An exhibition of handicrafts, painting and woodwork has been set up on the Ground Floor of the Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha Premises. Delegates and accompanying officers may like to visit the exhibition.

### **Photographs**

Delegates can have a look at the photographs clicked during the Conference and place an order by depositing the money towards developing the pictures after selection of the pictures on the computer itself in Room No. 245. The photograph could also be sent through e-mail.

**TODAY'S ENGAGEMENTS**  
**Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> September 2011**  
**PRESIDING OFFICERS' CONFERENCE**

<i>0915 hours</i>	<p>Arrival of Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha and Chairperson of the Conference</p> <p>Welcome and Guard of Honour to Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha at the Main Gate, Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha Complex</p>
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<i>0930 hours</i>	Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha to inaugurate (i) Exhibition on <i>Parliamentary Democracy in India: A Historical Perspective</i> , set up by the Parliamentary Museum and Archives (PMA), and (ii) Exhibition entitled " <i>Glorious Past of Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha and the Development of the State</i> " set up by the Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha Secretariat, at Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha Bhavan.
<i>1000 hours</i>	<i>Presiding Officers' Conference</i>  (a) Obituary to be moved by the Chairperson of the Conference (b) Welcome Address by Hon'ble Speaker, Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha (c) Inaugural Address by Hon'ble Chairperson of the Conference
<i>1045 hours</i>	Coffee Break at Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha Premises
<i>1100 hours</i>	<i>Discussion</i> on the points of the Agenda
<i>1300 hours</i>	Group photograph of Presiding Officers outside the Ceremonial Gate of Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha Bhavan
<i>1315 hours</i>	<i>Lunch</i> at Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha Bhavan Premises
<i>1430 hours to 1600 hours</i>	Discussion on the points of the Agenda to continue
<i>1715 hours</i>	" <i>At Home</i> " by His Excellency Shri Shivraj V. Patil, Governor of Rajasthan at Raj Bhavan, Jaipur (by invitation)
<i>1800 hours</i>	<i>Boat ride for Delegates and their Spouses at Jal Mahal</i>
<i>1900 hours</i>	<i>Light and Sound Show and Cultural Programme at Amber, Jaipur</i>

<i>2030 hours</i>	<i>Dinner</i> hosted by Smt. Meira Kumar, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha at Amber, Jaipur