

Conference of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India **DAILY BULLETIN**

**Lok Sabha Secretariat
Camp: Thiruvananthapuram**

No. 1

Friday, 25th May 2007

WELCOME TO THE SEVENTY-SECOND CONFERENCE OF PRESIDING OFFICERS

The Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, will inaugurate the 72nd Conference of the Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India today, in the Chamber of the Kerala Legislative Assembly.

The Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, is also the Chairman of the Conference of Presiding Officers. The Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha, Shri K. Rahman Khan, the Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha, Sardar Charnjit Singh Atwal, and Presiding Officers from all Legislative Bodies in India will be attending the two-day Conference. This is for the third time that the Conference is being held in Thiruvananthapuram. The Conference was held for the first time in Thiruvananthapuram in 1951 during the Travancore-Cochin days and later in the year 1968.

It is indeed a happy coincidence that this Conference is taking place in the Golden Jubilee Year of the Kerala Legislative Assembly. We take this opportunity to extend a very hearty welcome to all the distinguished Presiding Officers, Secretaries, officers and others to the

Conference and wish them a very enjoyable and memorable stay in the beautiful city of Thiruvananthapuram. We hope their visit to this historic city will be fruitful and their deliberations will be highly rewarding and productive.

Kerala, renowned the world over as “God’s Own Country”, is a land of rich culture and distinctive history. Well known even in the ancient times, Kerala finds mention in some of the *Puranas* and there are references to this State in the great classics like the *Ramayana* and the *Mahabharata*. Kerala flourished under the Chera rule and had extensive trading contacts with Alexandria, Greece, China and Malaya and later on with the Portuguese, the Dutch and the British.

The State of Kerala came into existence on 1 November 1956 and the elections to constitute the First Legislative Assembly were held in February-March 1957. However, representative bodies in the State date back to the year 1888. The State, now in its Golden Jubilee Year of its formation, has many achievements to its credit. It has emerged as the flag-bearer of our literacy movement with cent per cent literacy and a highly successful drive against infant mortality. Kerala’s highest life expectancy rate in the country also speaks of its commitment to human welfare. No wonder, the State compares very favourably with several developed countries insofar as human development indices are concerned. The long beaches, tranquil backwaters, lush green hill stations and exotic wildlife have made Kerala one of the most sought-after tourist destinations in India. A visitor to Kerala is captivated not merely by its scenic charm but also by the classical Kathakali dance, the charm of Mohiniyattom, the Theyyam, and the Kalaripayattu. The State has also immensely contributed to popularizing the Ayurvedic healthcare system.

Thiruvananthapuram, previously called Trivandrum, was the capital city of Travancore and after Independence became the capital of Travancore-Cochin. After the formation of the State of Kerala in 1956, the city has continued to be the capital of the State.

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 24th May 2007, at the V D Conference Hall, Administrative Block, of the Kerala Legislature Complex. The Conference was inaugurated by Shri P.D.T. Achary, Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, and the Chairman of the Conference. The

Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha, Dr. Yogendra Narain, also spoke at the inaugural function. Dr. N.K. Jayakumar, Secretary, Kerala Legislative Assembly, delivered the Welcome Address. The following subjects were discussed at the Conference: *Leadership disputes in Legislature Parties; Voting rights of persons holding simultaneous membership in two Legislatures; Independent Secretariat of Legislatures; Matters of urgent public importance; Laying of speeches on the Table of the House; and the Right to Information Act.* Besides the Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, and the Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha, Principal Secretaries, and Secretaries of State Legislatures in India attended the Conference.

TODAY'S PROGRAMMES

Today's programmes will start with the Customary Guard of Honour to the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, and the Chairman of the Conference, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, at 0930 hours near the Main Entrance of the Assembly Building.

Exhibition

The Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, will inaugurate at 0935 hours two Exhibitions, viz. (i) *Parliamentary Democracy in India: A Success Story*, set up by the Parliamentary Museum and Archives (PMA) of the Lok Sabha Secretariat in collaboration with the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP); and (ii) *Glimpses from the History of Parliamentary Bodies in Kerala*, set up by the Kerala Legislative Assembly. The Exhibitions have been set up near the Reception, Ground Floor, of the Assembly Building.

The first Exhibition traces the history of democratic traditions in ancient India and the growth of modern parliamentary institutions with emphasis on our State Legislative Bodies. It lays special emphasis on the functioning of the Indian polity with the help of photographs, diagrams, charts, Press reports, quotations, write-ups, etc. The Exhibition also showcases the Indian federal system and the legislative set-up in different States of the country. The second Exhibition unveils the democratic heritage and legislative evolution in the State of Kerala.

Group Photograph of Presiding Officers

A Group Photograph of Presiding Officers attending the Conference will be taken at 0945 hours on 25 May 2007. The Presiding

Officers are requested to assemble at the Ground Floor of the Assembly Building by 0940 hours for the photograph. Thereafter, the delegates may proceed to the Assembly Chamber and occupy their seats by 0955 hours. The host Secretariat's ushers will be at hand to guide the delegates to the Conference venue.

Conference Sessions

The Inaugural Session of the Presiding Officers' Conference will commence at 1000 hours today at the Legislative Assembly Chamber. As is customary, the host Speaker, Shri K. Radhakrishnan, will deliver the Welcome Address and, thereafter, the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, and the Chairman of the Conference, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, will deliver the Inaugural Address. The Inaugural Session is open to all the delegates and their family members, other distinguished invitees, and the Press. There will be a Tea Break at 1130 hours.

Thereafter, the Conference will commence its Business Session at 1150 hours. The Conference will deliberate on the points on the Agenda, viz. (i) *Indiscipline, including Disregard of Presiding Officers, Disturbances, Disruptions and Other Serious Acts of Misconduct in Legislatures – Future Strategies to Improve the Situation*; and (ii) *Relationship between the Legislature and the Judiciary*. At 1300 hours, the Business Session will adjourn for Lunch at the Assembly premises.

After the lunch break, at 1430 hours, the Conference will resume the Business Session.

Delegates are requested to kindly keep their mobile phones switched off during the Inaugural and Business Sessions and the Symposium.

The Business Sessions, spread over two days, i.e. 25th and 26th May 2007, will be held in camera, and except for the Presiding Officers and Secretaries and Officers on duty, all others are expected to withdraw from the Chamber as well as the galleries, after the Inaugural Session.

On 27th May 2007, a Symposium on *Ethics in Public Life* will be held in the Banquet Hall, 2nd Floor, Assembly Complex.

Attention Delegates!

The Hon'ble Minister for Law & Parliamentary Affairs, Government of Kerala, will host a Lunch at the Members' Lounge, Assembly Complex Building, at 1300 hours.

The 'At Home' by His Excellency, the Governor of Kerala, at Raj Bhawan, will be at 1715 hours.

There will be a Cultural Programme at the Members' Lounge, Assembly Complex, at 1830 hours.

The Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, will host a Dinner at the Members' Lounge, Assembly Building, at 2000 hours.

FACILITIES FOR DELEGATES**Central Reception-cum-Enquiry & Control Room**

A Central Reception-cum-Enquiry Office has been set up at the Main Entrance Lounge of the Assembly Building. All information in respect of the Conference and other related matters and engagements for the delegates/guests, will be available at this Office. For detailed information and assistance, please contact Conference Control Room (Room No. 402, Ground Floor, Tel. 2512021 or 2512022).

Rail and Air Reservation Counters

An Indian Airlines Booking Counter and a Railway Booking-cum-Reservation Counter have been set up for the convenience of delegates at Room No.426, Ground Floor, in the Assembly Building to facilitate air and rail bookings, cancellation of tickets, etc. The Railway Reservation Counter will remain open from 0800 hours to 2000 hours till 28 May 2007. The Airlines Counter will be open from 0900 hours to 1700 hours till 30 May 2007.

Simultaneous Interpretation of Proceedings

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

Sales Counters

The Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha Secretariats have set up Sales Counters at the Assembly Complex where delegates can purchase various publications brought out by the two Secretariats at a special rebate of 25 per cent. Some Souvenir items are also available on sale.

Post Office

A Post Office is located at the Ground Floor of Vikas Bhavan Building, adjacent to the Kerala Legislative Assembly Complex.

Banking Facilities

A Branch of the State Bank of Travancore, with ATM facility, is also located at the Ground Floor of Vikas Bhavan.

Cyber Café

A Cyber Café is functioning in the corridor at Room No. 501, 1st Floor, of the Assembly Building, for the convenience of the delegates and others. The Cyber Café will be open till 28th May 2007.

Medical Facilities

We hope and wish that the delegates would enjoy the best of health during their stay in Thiruvananthapuram. Should, however, a need for any medical assistance arise, there are special arrangements to provide medical aid. A special and full-fledged dispensary with medical and paramedical staff has been set up at the venue of the Conference for medical service and care. Round-the-clock medical facilities with Ambulance Service are provided at the Clinic situated at the MLA Quarters (Tel. Nos. 2512215, 2512216).

TODAY'S ENGAGEMENTS

Friday, 25th May 2007

- 0930 hours* Arrival of Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, and Chairman of the Conference, at the Legislature Complex
- Traditional welcome and Guard of Honour to Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, near the main entrance of the Assembly Building
- Floral tributes at the statues of Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Dr. Ambedkar and Shri K.R. Narayanan
- 0935 hours* Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, to inaugurate two Exhibitions:
- (i) *Parliamentary Democracy in India: A Success Story*, set up by the Parliamentary Museum and Archives (PMA) of the Lok Sabha Secretariat, in collaboration with the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP)
 - (ii) *Glimpses from the History of Parliamentary Bodies in Kerala*, set up by the Kerala Legislative Assembly.
- (The Exhibitions have been set up near the Reception, Ground Floor, of the Assembly Building)
- 0945 hours* Group Photograph of Presiding Officers (Ground Floor, Assembly Building)

- 1000 hours* **Inaugural Function**
- Welcome Address by the Hon'ble Speaker, Kerala Legislative Assembly, Shri K. Radhakrishnan
 - Inaugural Address by the Chairman of the Conference and Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee
- 1130 hours* Tea Break
- 1150 hours* Discussion on the points on the Agenda
- 1300 hours* Lunch to be hosted by the Hon'ble Minister for Law & Parliamentary Affairs, Government of Kerala (Members' Lounge, Assembly Building)
- 1430 hours* Discussion on the points on the Agenda to continue
to
1600 hours
- 1715 hours* '*At Home*' by His Excellency, the Governor of Kerala, Raj Bhavan (*by invitation*)
- 1830 hours* Cultural Programme, '*Kalasandhya*' by Regatta Dance Academy, Thiruvananthapuram (Members' Lounge, Assembly Building)
- 2000 hours* Dinner to be hosted by the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha (Members' Lounge, Assembly Building)

SPOUSES' PROGRAMME***[Saturday, 26th May 2007]**

The spouses will be taken on a city sight seeing tour arranged by the Kerala Legislature Secretariat on Saturday, 26th May 2007, as per programme below:

<i>0815 hours</i>	Departure from Assembly Complex
<i>0830 hours</i>	Arrival at Padmanabha Swamy Temple (Visit Temple & Puthen Malika)
<i>1000 hours</i>	Departure from Padmanabha Swamy Temple
<i>1015 hours</i>	Arrival at Zoo & Museum
<i>1215 hours</i>	Departure from Zoo & Museum
<i>1245 hours</i>	Arrival at Veli Tourist Village (Lunch at Veli & Boating at Veli Lake in Safari Boat)
	Evening Tea at Veli
<i>1600 hours</i>	Departure from Veli
<i>1630 hours</i>	Arrival at Sanghumugham
<i>1700 hours</i>	Departure from Sanghumugham
<i>1730 hours</i>	Arrival at Kovalam
<i>1830 hours</i>	Departure from Kovalam
<i>1900 hours</i>	Arrival at Thiruvananthapuram

**The Kerala Legislative Assembly has arranged a luxury bus for the programme. In case of any further enquiry, Shri Gopakumar, Selection Grade Reporter (Mobile No.9349081655), who is the Nodal Officer for the tour, may be contacted. Besides, the delegates may also contact the Control Rooms at their respective places of stay.*