



PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PUNJAB

Contribution for CPA Asia Region Monthly E-Circular

February - March 2026

During March 2026, the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab marked important Commonwealth and international observances, including **International Women’s Day on 8 March 2026** and **Commonwealth Day on 9 March 2026**. These occasions provided an opportunity to reaffirm the Assembly’s commitment to democratic values, inclusion, women’s empowerment, and parliamentary engagement across the Commonwealth. The 2026 Commonwealth Day theme, “**Unlocking opportunities**

Commonwealth Day 2026
Speaker, Provincial Assembly of the Punjab

Message

- Today we join the people and parliaments across the Commonwealth in celebrating Commonwealth Day, a moment that reflects the shared values that unite 56 nations and nearly 2.7 billion citizens around the world.
- The Commonwealth is built upon the enduring principles of democracy, the rule of law, and cooperation among nations. This year’s theme, “**Unlocking opportunities together for a prosperous Commonwealth,**” highlights the importance of collective action in expanding opportunity, strengthening institutions, and ensuring inclusive and sustainable growth for our peoples.
- The Provincial Assembly of the Punjab carries a proud parliamentary heritage. Our legislative tradition dates back to 1937, when representative governance was introduced in Punjab. Over the decades, this institution has evolved into the **largest provincial legislature in Pakistan**, representing the aspirations of millions of citizens across the province.
- The Punjab Assembly has also played an active role in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association since the establishment of the CPA Punjab Branch in 1954, fostering cooperation and dialogue with fellow legislatures across the Commonwealth.
- Through parliamentary exchanges, regional conferences, and legislative collaboration within the CPA Asia and South East Asia Region, we continue to strengthen democratic institutions and promote meaningful parliamentary diplomacy.
- On this Commonwealth Day, we reaffirm our commitment to the values that unite the Commonwealth and to working together to unlock opportunities for our citizens and future generations.
- Together, through partnership, dialogue, and shared knowledge, we can help build a **more prosperous and resilient Commonwealth.**

8 MARCH INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

On International Women's Day, the Punjab Assembly honours the strength, resilience, and invaluable contributions of women across Punjab and beyond. Through its dedicated Women Parliamentary Caucus, the Assembly continues to advance gender equality and strengthen women's leadership across the province.

Women shape our homes, communities, institutions, and economy with leadership and determination. We remain committed to promoting progressive policy, meaningful representation, and equal opportunities because a truly prosperous society is one where women are empowered to lead, thrive, and succeed.

#InternationalWomensDay #WomensEmpowerment #GenderEquality #WomenInLeadership #PunjabAssembly

together for a prosperous Commonwealth,” closely aligned with these shared ideals.

The Provincial Assembly of the Punjab also continued to contribute to parliamentary thought leadership through published writing. In **The Parliamentarian 2026: Issue One**, Ms Salma Saeed Hashmi, MPA Punjab, contributed an article on **advancing disability inclusion through legislative**

leadership.

https://issuu.com/theparliamentarian/docs/the_parliamentarian_2026_issue_one_-_india_pm_ad/21

In addition, Ch. Amer Habib, Secretary General, Provincial Assembly of the Punjab, authored “**From local to global: Punjab Assembly’s expanding parliamentary role,**” published in *The Nation*.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/04-Feb-2026/local-global-punjab-assembly-s-expanding-parliamentary-role>

Together, these contributions reflected the Assembly's commitment to both **inclusive legislative leadership** and the strengthening of **parliamentary diplomacy**.

At the regional level, the Punjab Assembly remained actively engaged in Commonwealth parliamentary affairs through its participation in the **7th CPA Asia Region and 2nd Joint CPA Asia and South-East Asia Regional Conference**, held in Karachi from **3 to 7 February 2026**. **Hon. Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan, Speaker of the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab**, participated in the **CPA Asia Regional Executive Committee Meeting** during the conference and also addressed the **Plenary Session on Day 1**. Members of the Punjab Branch likewise participated actively in the conference proceedings, including the various sessions and plenary sittings held throughout the event. <https://www.pap.gov.pk/uploads/cpa-punjab-pakistan/cpa-sindh-pics.pdf>

The Assembly also continued to advance **public outreach and citizen engagement** through initiatives designed to strengthen public understanding of parliamentary institutions. In this regard, "**Speaker aur Awam**" remained an important platform for public interaction and outreach. <https://pap.gov.pk/uploads/channel/pictures/10d47a463d29a984988e8156c60864ff.jpeg> The Assembly also welcomed the **visit of students from Government Degree College, Qilla Saifullah, Balochistan**, https://www.instagram.com/p/DUkfGP2jZ5u/?igsh=MXBjeGJqdmUzdnBxZQ%3D%3D&img_index=1 reflecting its commitment to youth engagement, educational exposure, and inter-provincial understanding.

The Assembly's parliamentary diplomacy also remained visible through official Punjab Assembly records of **diplomatic and courtesy call-ons**, which document sustained engagement with ambassadors, diplomats, and visiting delegations. <https://pap.gov.pk/en/cpa-punjab-branch-pakistan/parliamentary-diplomacy-in-glimpses/diplomatic-courtesy-call-ons-at-punjab-assembly>

In terms of **legislative business**, the Punjab Assembly's official bills portal reflects active consideration of major public-interest legislation in 2026, including **The Punjab Child Marriage Restraint Bill 2026** and **The Punjab Protection of Ownership of Immovable Property (Amendment) Bill 2026**. These legislative developments reflect the Assembly's continuing focus on **legal reform, governance, and social protection**. <https://pap.gov.pk/bills/show/en>

Through these activities, the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab continues to project an active institutional profile rooted in **legislative business, parliamentary diplomacy, inclusive leadership, and public engagement**, in line with the objectives and spirit of the **CPA Asia Region**.
