What do you know about The Commonwealth?

• The Commonwealth is made up of 53 independent countries that work together to pursue common goals which promote development, democracy and peace.

• The combined population of the Commonwealth is 2.4 billion with more than 60% aged under 30.

• The Commonwealth spans the globe and includes both advanced economies and developing countries. It includes Africa (18 countries); Asia (7); Caribbean and Americas (13); Europe (3); and the Pacific (11).

• The Commonwealth’s global reach is second only to the United Nations.

• The Commonwealth’s strength lies in its shared values and diversity. Thirty of the Commonwealth’s members are small states, usually with a population well under 1.5 million, and 25 members are small island developing states. The Commonwealth’s diversity is shown by representing every major religion in the world.

• The Pacific nation of Nauru is the smallest Commonwealth member country with a population of about 10,000 people. The biggest member of the Commonwealth by population is India with over 1.2 billion people.

• Since 1991, 12 Commonwealth member countries have moved to multi-party democracy from military or one-party rule. Fiji, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Nigeria, Pakistan, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

• The combined gross domestic product of Commonwealth member countries is predicted to reach US$14 trillion by 2020.

• Trade between Commonwealth countries is estimated at over $680 billion today and projected to surpass $1 trillion by 2020.

• Half of the top 20 global emerging cities are in the Commonwealth: New Delhi; Mumbai; Nairobi; Kuala Lumpur; Bangalore; Johannesburg; Kolkata; Cape Town; Chennai; and Dhaka.

• Twenty-five Commonwealth countries have high or very high human development according to the inequality-adjusted Human Development Index.

• Five of the best performing 15 countries in the Youth Development Index are Commonwealth members.

• Many small and developing Commonwealth countries are among those with the lowest ecological footprints worldwide and it includes some of the world’s most pristine environments like the British Antarctic Territory.

Data source: The Commonwealth Secretariat
The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)

- The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) represents more than 180 Parliaments and Legislatures in 53 Commonwealth countries with over 17,000 Parliamentarians in our network.
- The CPA is one of the world’s oldest Associations, founded in 1911, and it is a unique international platform for transformation in people’s lives.
- The CPA works with democratic, law-making Parliaments, Legislatures and Assemblies in Commonwealth nations, states, provinces and territories.
- Each CPA Branch is usually headed by the Speaker or Presiding Officer of the Parliament or Legislature with support from Parliamentary Clerks and staff.
- All CPA Branches - both large and small - are autonomous and regarded as equal within the CPA structure.
- There are nine regions of the CPA: Africa; Asia; Australia; British Islands and Mediterranean; Canada; Caribbean, Americas and Atlantic; India; Pacific; South-East Asia.
- The Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) promote gender participation in Parliaments.