

# Commonwealth

July 4, 2020

Commonwealth Secretary-General lauded the government of India's Digital India programme

## About Commonwealth

- It is a voluntary association of 54 independent and equal countries.
- The member countries of the group have agreed to shared goals like development, democracy and peace
- Its values and principles are expressed in the Commonwealth Charter
- The Commonwealth's roots go back to the British Empire. But today any **country can join the modern Commonwealth.**
- **The last country to join the Commonwealth was Rwanda in 2009.**
- Leaders of member countries shape Commonwealth policies and priorities. Every 2 years, they meet to discuss issues affecting the Commonwealth and the wider world at the **Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM).**
- **All members have an equal say regardless of size or wealth.**

## Organizations

The Commonwealth is often described as a 'family' of nations. At the heart of this family are 3 intergovernmental organizations:

- **The Commonwealth Secretariat** supports member countries to achieve the Commonwealth's aims. This website is run by the Commonwealth Secretariat.
- **The Commonwealth Foundation** supports people's participation in democracy and development.
- **The Commonwealth of Learning** promotes open learning and distance education.

