



Parliament House Estate



Lok Sabha Secretariat
New Delhi

Parliament House Estate

Parliament House Estate comprises the Parliament House, Reception Office building, Parliament House Annexe and Sansadiya Gyanpeeth (Parliament Library Building) and the extensive lawns around it.

Parliament House is one of the most magnificent buildings in New Delhi which has the brightest clusters of architectural gems possessed by any country in the world. Visitors to the capital invariably pay a visit to this building as the two Houses of Parliament—the Lok Sabha (House of the People) and the Rajya Sabha (Council of States)—are located within its walls.

Construction of the Building

The building was designed by the famous architects Sir Edwin Lutyens and Sir Herbert Baker who were responsible for the planning and construction of New Delhi.

The Foundation Stone of Parliament House was laid on 12 February 1921 by H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught. The construction of the building took six years and the opening ceremony was performed on 18 January 1927 by the then Governor-General of India, Lord Irwin. The cost of construction was Rs. 83 lakh.

Size of the Building

Parliament House is a massive circular edifice 560 feet (170.69 metres) in diameter. Its circumference is one-third of a mile—536.33 metres—and it covers an area of nearly six acres (24281.16 square metres). The open verandah on the first floor is fringed with a colonnade of 144 creamy sandstone columns, each 27 feet (8.23 metres) high. The entire Parliament House Estate is enclosed by an ornamental red sandstone wall or iron grills with iron gates that can be closed when occasions demand. The building has in all twelve gates among which Gate No. 1 on the Sansad Marg is the main gate.

Architectural Design

Apart from the fact that the building was built with indigenous material and by Indian labour, the architecture of the building bears a close imprint of the Indian tradition. The lay-out of fountains both inside and outside the building,

the use of Indian symbols—the “Chhajjas”—which shade the walls and windows and the varied forms of “Jali” in marble are reminders of the story of the craftsmanship displayed in ancient monuments and memorials. With the ancient features of Indian art are mingled modern scientific achievements in acoustics, air-conditioning, simultaneous Interpretation, Automatic Vote Recording, etc. There are six lifts operating in the building, one on either side of the entrances to the Chambers.

General Lay-out of the Building

The centre and focus of the building is the big circular edifice of the Central Hall. On the three axes radiating from this centre are placed the three Chambers for Lok Sabha (House of the People), Rajya Sabha (Council of States) and the erstwhile Library Hall (formerly the Chamber of Princes) and between them lie garden courts. The Central Hall is air cooled and the Chambers are air-conditioned. Surrounding these three Chambers is a four-storeyed circular structure providing accommodation for Ministers, Chairpersons of Parliamentary Committees, Party Offices, important offices of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Secretariats and also the Offices of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.

Three Committee Rooms on the first floor are used for meetings of Parliamentary Committees. Three other rooms on the same floor are used by Press correspondents who come to the Press Galleries of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

The outer wall of the corridor on the ground floor of the building is decorated with a series of panels depicting the history of India from the ancient times and India’s cultural contacts with its neighbours.

Statues and Busts in Parliament House Precincts

The Parliament House precincts have been a witness to the evolution of our parliamentary democracy. The Parliament House Estate has statues and busts of the following stalwarts from our history who have made immense contribution to the national cause:

- Pandit Motilal Nehru
- Gopal Krishna Gokhale (Bust)

- Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
- Sri Aurobindo (Bust) (PLB)
- Mahatma Gandhi
- Y.B. Chavan
- Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru
- Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant
- Babu Jagjivan Ram
- Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla
- Smt. Indira Gandhi
- Maulana Abul Kalam Azad
- Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose
- Chandragupta Maurya
- K. Kamaraj
- Prof. N.G. Ranga
- Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
- Birsa Munda
- Andhra Kesari Tanguturi Prakasam
- Jayaprakash Narayan
- S. Satyamurti
- C.N. Annadurai
- Lokapriya Gopinath Bordoloi
- P. Muthuramalinga Thevar
- Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj
- Mahatma Basaveshwara
- Maharaja Ranjit Singh
- Shaheed Hemu Kalani
- Ch. Devi Lal
- Mahatma Jyotirao Phule
- S.A. Dange
- A.K. Gopalan
- Acharya Narendra Deva
- Shaheed Durga Malla
- Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore (PLB)
- Sri Aurobindo
- Swami Vivekananda
- Devi Ahilyabai Holkar (PLB)
- Indrajit Gupta
- Vithalbhai Patel
- Bhupesh Gupta
- M.G. Ramachandran
- Murasoli Maran

- Maharana Pratap
- Kittur Rani Channamma (PLB)
- Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru (Bust) (PLB)
- Shaheed Bhagat Singh
- *Rajarshi* Chhatrapati Shahuji Maharaj
- N.T. Rama Rao

Central Hall

The Central Hall is circular in shape and its dome which is 98 ft. (29.87 metres) in diameter is one of the most magnificent domes in the world.

The Central Hall is a place of historical importance. The transfer of power on the midnight of 14-15 August 1947 from British to Indian hands took place in this Hall. The Indian Constitution was also framed in the Central Hall.

The Central Hall was originally used as the Library of the erstwhile Central Legislative Assembly and the Council of States. In 1946, it was converted and refurnished into the Constituent Assembly Hall. The Constituent Assembly met there from 9 December 1946 to 24 January 1950.

At present, the Central Hall is used for holding Joint Sittings of the two Houses. At the commencement of the first Session after each General Elections to Lok Sabha and at the commencement of the first Session of each year, the President addresses Members of both the Houses of Parliament assembled together in the Central Hall. When the Houses are in Session, the Central Hall is used by Members for informal discussions among themselves. The Central Hall is also used for special occasions when the Members of Parliament are addressed by distinguished Heads of State of other countries. The Hall is also equipped with Simultaneous Interpretation System.

Overlooking the dais in the Centre of the Central Hall is the portrait of Mahatma Gandhi painted by Sir Oswald Birley and donated to the nation by Shri A.P. Pattani, a Member of the Constituent Assembly of India. Gilded panels on the walls and arches on either side of the dais carry portraits of the following distinguished national leaders:—

- Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya
- Dadabhai Naoroji

- Lokamanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- Lala Lajpat Rai
- Motilal Nehru
- Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
- Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das
- Rabindranath Tagore
- Smt. Sarojini Naidu
- Maulana Abul Kalam Azad
- Dr. Rajendra Prasad
- Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru
- Subhas Chandra Bose
- C. Rajagopalachari
- Smt. Indira Gandhi
- Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
- Dr. Rammanohar Lohia
- Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee
- Rajiv Gandhi
- Lal Bahadur Shastri
- Ch. Charan Singh
- Morarji Desai
- Swatantryaveer Vinayak Damodar Savarkar

There are also 12 gilded emblems on the wall of the Hall representing the 12 Provinces of undivided India. Surrounding the Central Hall are six Lobbies which are suitably covered and furnished. One Lounge is reserved for the exclusive use of lady Members, one for First Aid Post, one for Panel of Chairpersons of Lok Sabha and one for Computer query booth for MPs.

The Central Hall has six Galleries on its first floor. At the time of Joint Sittings of the two Houses, the two Galleries which are towards the right of the dais are occupied by Press correspondents, the one facing the dais is set apart for distinguished visitors and in the other three, the guests of the Members of the two Houses are accommodated.

Lok Sabha Chamber

The Chamber of the Lok Sabha is semi-circular in shape with a floor area of about 4800 sq. feet (446 square metres).

The Chair of the Speaker is placed on a raised platform at the centre of the diameter connecting the two ends of the semi-circle. On the wooden panel just above the Speaker's Chair, which was originally designed by Sir Herbert Baker, is installed an electrically-lit motto in Sanskrit. To the right of the Chair is located the Official Gallery meant for the use of the officials required to be present in attendance on Ministers in connection with the business of the House. To the left of the Chair is the Special Box reserved for the Members of the family and guests of the President, Governors of States, Heads of State and Government and other high dignitaries in the discretion of the Speaker.

In the pit of the Chamber just below the Speaker's Chair is the Table of the Secretary-General of the House. In front of the Secretary-General a large Table is placed which is the Table of the House on which papers are formally laid by Ministers; Officers of the House and the Official Reporters sit at this Table.

The Chamber has seating facility for 550 Members. The seats are divided into six blocks, each with eleven rows. Block No. 1 on the right-hand side of the Speaker's Chair and Block No. 6 on the left-hand side have 97 seats each. The remaining 4 blocks have 89 seats each. A seat is allotted in the Chamber to each Member, including Ministers who are Members of Lok Sabha. The seats on the right-hand side of the Speaker's Chair are occupied by Members of the Government party and those on the left-hand side by Members belonging to the Opposition Parties/Groups. The Deputy Speaker occupies the first front row seat on the left side.

Overlooking the Chamber and fixed on the wood-work opposite to the Speaker's seat is the portrait of Late Shri Vithalbhai Patel, the first elected President of the Central Legislative Assembly.

In the wood-work around the Lok Sabha Chamber, there are 35 gilded designs representing the various Provinces of undivided India, the Dominions and certain other British Settlements.

Members' Lobbies

Adjoining the Chamber and co-terminus with it are two covered corridors called the Inner and Outer Lobbies. These Lobbies are well furnished to make them a comfortable place for Members to sit and hold informal discussions among themselves. Photographs/portraits of Presidents of Central Legislative Assembly and former Speakers of Lok Sabha are also displayed in the Outer Lobby of the Lok Sabha Chamber.

Visitors' Galleries

In the first floor of the Lok Sabha Chamber are located the various Public Galleries and the Press Gallery. The Press Gallery is just above the Chair and to its left are situated the Speaker's Gallery (meant for the guests of the Speaker), the Rajya Sabha Gallery (meant for Rajya Sabha Members) and the Special Gallery. The Public Gallery is in front of the Press Gallery. To the right of the Press Gallery are situated the Diplomatic and Distinguished Visitors' Galleries.

Automatic Vote Recording System

An Integrated System on Microphone Management, Simultaneous Interpretation and Automatic Vote Recording has been installed in the Lok Sabha Chamber for recording vote during the time for Division in the House.

Members operate the Automatic Vote Recording Equipment from the seats (same as the Division Numbers) assigned to them. A voting console for operating the Automatic Vote Recording System has been installed at the Secretary-General's table in the Chamber. On the direction of the Speaker, the Secretary-General initiates the voting process.

After the process is completed, the System starts totalling up the affirmative and negative votes. Besides abstentions and the total numbers of 'AYES', 'NOES' and 'ABSTAIN' are flashed on the Total Result Display Boards. It also indicates the total number of members who have exercised their vote.

As soon as the result is flashed, a print out of the voting result is taken for permanent record.

The Lok Sabha Chamber is provided with a modern Automatic Vote Recording and Sound Amplifying System. Powerful microphones are also placed in selected positions on pedestal stands as back-up. Each seat is provided with a sensitive microphone on a flexible stand, a loud-speaker concealed in the back of the bench. Small loud-speakers are also provided in the Galleries.

The Interpretation System in the Chamber is designed to interpret the proceedings of the House simultaneously from English into Hindi and *vice versa* and from Assamese, Bengali, Kannada, Maithili, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Odia, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu into English and Hindi. A Member intending to speak in any one of these languages is to give advance intimation to the Officer at the Table.

Rajya Sabha Chamber

This Chamber is almost on the same pattern as that of the Lok Sabha Chamber, but smaller in size with a seating capacity of 250. It is also equipped with modern sound equipment, Automatic Vote Recording and the Simultaneous Interpretation System.

The Public Gallery, the Distinguished Visitors' Gallery, the Diplomatic Gallery, the Chairman's Gallery (meant for the guests of the Chairman), the Press Gallery and the Gallery for Members of the Lok Sabha are all located on the first floor of the Rajya Sabha Chamber.

Reception Office

The Reception Office, accommodated in a circular building, constructed opposite Gate No. 1, is a friendly waiting place for the large number of visitors who come to meet Members, Ministers, etc. or to witness the proceedings of Parliament. Its entry is from the Raisina Road side. The building which is fully air-conditioned is unique in conception and combines the value of both the old and the new forms of architecture. The outer portion of the building is finished in red sandstone and the inner portion is given wooden lining which radiates the feeling of warmth and welcome. There is provision for cafeteria inside the Reception Office for the convenience of the visitors.

There is a lounge at basement level in the Reception Office Building for the convenience of Members, where they can meet and entertain their guests.

Special Amenities to Members in Parliament House

For the convenience of Members of Parliament, the following amenities are provided in Parliament House:—

● Refreshment Rooms

The main Refreshment Rooms are located in Room Nos. 70 and 73 on the First Floor. There are also small Tea, Coffee, Milk Booths, Snack Bar and a Refreshment Lounge near the passages leading to the Chambers from the Central Hall.

- Railway Booking Office (Room No. 131 on the Third Floor).
- Railway Booking Office in the Reception Block.
- Pay Office of the State Bank of India (Room No. 57, First Floor).
- First Aid Post located in a lobby of the Central Hall.
- Post Office (Ground Floor).
- Air Booking (Room No. 131-A on the Third Floor).
- C.P.W.D. Complaint Cell. (Near Centralised Pass Issue Cell).

Parliament House Annexe (Sansadiya Soudha)

With the manifold increase in the activities of Parliament after Independence, the demand for accommodation for Parliamentary Parties/Groups, Meeting Halls for Parties/Groups, Committee Rooms and Offices for the Chairpersons of Parliamentary Committees and for the Secretariats for the two Houses has vastly increased. To meet additional demands, Parliament House Annexe was constructed.

Construction of the Building

The building was designed by Shri J.M. Benjamin, Chief Architect, CPWD.

The foundation stone of Parliament House Annexe was laid on the 3 August 1970 by Shri V.V. Giri, the then President of India. It was inaugurated on 24 October 1975 by Shrimati Indira Gandhi, the then Prime Minister.

General Lay-out of the Building

The building has 3 wings—front, rear and central blocks—besides a covered plaza for car parking in front of it. The front and rear blocks are 3-storeyed and the central block is 6-storeyed with terrace. The structure is R.C.C. framed with waffle-slab construction.

Front Block

There is a lounge, a Post Office and a small Committee Room at basement level and State Bank of India Branch and Multipurpose Hall on the Ground Floor. The Rooms of Speaker, Lok Sabha; Chairman, Rajya Sabha; Prime Minister; Minister of Parliamentary Affairs; Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha; Secretary-General, Lok Sabha and Party Meeting Room are located on the first floor. The water pond at basement level with hanging stairs over it and pyramids for diffused natural light add beauty to the area.

Central Block

At the basement level, there is a fully equipped Medical Centre comprising Physiotherapy Centre, Eye Clinic, Dental Clinic and Pathological Laboratory. Telephone Exchange & Telecom Bureau are also located at the basement level and at ground level Banquet Hall, Private Dining Rooms and Refreshment Rooms are located. From 2nd to terrace floors the Secretariats of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha are located.

Committee Rooms

At Basement level, there is one small Committee Room. At ground level there is one Main Committee Room and four small Committee Rooms which are grouped around Central court. At First Floor, there is one Mini Committee Room. All the Committee Rooms are provided with Simultaneous Interpretation System as is available in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Chambers in Parliament House. The offices of Chairpersons of Parliamentary Committees are also located on this floor.

Special Amenities for Members in Parliament House Annexe

For the convenience of Members of Parliament, the following amenities are provided in

Parliament House Annexe:—

- Refreshment Rooms on ground floor.
- Milk Bar in the basement.
- Banquet Hall and Private Dining Room on ground floor for special parties/functions.
- Medical Examination Centre.
- State Bank of India on ground floor.
- Post Office on basement floor.
- Lounges on basement and ground floors.
- Income-Tax Cell (Room No. 314, third floor).
- Telecom Bureau in basement.

EPABX Telephone Exchange

A modern EPABX telephone exchange has been installed in Parliament House Annexe, which is exclusively catering to the Parliament House Estate. The same instrument is used for inter-com and external calls.

For a call outside the EPABX Exchange, the required number is dialled after prefixing the '0' digit.

Parliament Library Building (Sansadiya Gyanpeeth)

Till May 2002, the Parliament Library was functioning from the Parliament House. With time, the Library service expanded into what is now familiarly known as LARRDIS (Library & Reference, Research, Documentation & Information Service). The accommodation available to the Parliament Library and its allied services in the Parliament building was too limited to cope with the volume of literature being acquired by it. Besides, there had been a growing demand for making available to the Members of Parliament a more effective, efficient and modern Research, Reference and Information Service. In order to satisfy these requirements, the new Parliament Library Building (Sansadiya Gyanpeeth) was conceived. The foundation stone was laid by Shri Rajiv Gandhi, the then Prime Minister, on 15 August 1987 and the Bhoomi Poojan was performed by Shri Shivraj V. Patil, the then Speaker, Lok Sabha on 17 April 1994. This fully air-conditioned building was constructed by CPWD. M/s Raj Rewal Associates were the Consulting Architects.

Externally, the Library building is related to the Parliament House and uses similar materials of red and beige sandstone. The general height is restricted to the podium of the Parliament, below the circular colonnade. The roof of the Library building has a series of low profile bubble domes sitting on steel structures complementing the existing domes of masonry on the Rashtrapati Bhawan.

The main entrance of the Library is directly linked to one of the Gates of the Parliament. It leads to an atrium covered with a circular roof lightly placed above a stainless steel ring, allowing muted light. The focal centre of the complex is built with sun reflecting, state-of-the-art, structural glass and stainless steel. It is composed of four petals, which are tied together with delicate tension rods. The upper part of the glass dome has a symbol of circle, representing the Ashok Chakra.

Facilities

A reading room for Members of Parliament is located in the central core of the Library complex and faces an internal courtyard. It is a two-storey high space (in part) with an internal atrium, covered with a circular dome supported on four columns. The primary structure of white painted steel is raised above the roof level and admits translucent light through glass blocks, creating a serene ambience within a hall of noble proportions.

The large hall of the main library and the Parliament Museum at the two ends of a cross axis have a similar configuration. They have a large span of 35 metres. This large volume is lit from the top with glass blocks inserted within concrete bubbles. The primary steel structure is kept low and illuminated with natural light on the periphery.

The auditorium in the building is equipped with state-of-the-art digital Dolby surround sound system for 35 mm film projection; a wireless simultaneous interpretation system for ground-plus-four language interpretation; video projection system with high power Xenon illumination system with an output of 10,000 ANSI lumens; and stage light system with scanner controlled FOH lights.

There are 10 Committee Rooms/Lecture Halls out of which 7 have been provided with state-of-the-art conferencing system, of which 3 have simultaneous interpretation facilities.

Members Reading Halls are located at 'H' Block of Parliament Library Building. The Members of Parliament who desire to study and access information through Internet can avail the facilities at Reading Hall No. G049 and Hall No. F058.

A Members' Assistance Counter has been set up at Hall No. G049 which provides assistance to Members of Parliament for their information requirements in their day-to-day parliamentary work. Statistical data and information readily available in the published documents are supplied on the spot while queries which are time consuming and need detailed information are passed on to the Members' Reference Service for collecting factual and updated information.

Latest periodicals and newspapers in Hindi, English and regional languages are displayed in this Reading Hall. The Bulletins of Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha and News Bulletins are also kept handy for the use of members. Members may reserve books to facilitate reference. Computers with internet connections have been installed at the Members' Assistance Counter and Reading Room for retrieval of information.

The other facilities housed in the building are:

- Library with stack area for housing three million volumes;
- Research and Reference Division;
- Computer Centre;
- Press and Public Relations Service;
- Media Centre;
- Press Briefing Room;
- Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training;
- Audio-Visual Library;
- Parliament Museum;
- Children's Corner;
- LSTV Studio;

- Parliamentary Museum and Archives;
- Auditorium with a seating capacity for 1,025 persons;
- Committee and Conference rooms;
- Banquet Hall;
- Parking for 212 cars.

The Domes—a novel feature

The basic structure for the building is conceived as a Reinforced Cement Concrete framed structure with column spacings, generally of 5 metres. The intermediate floors are of coffer unit construction while the roof is partly of coffer units and partly with steel-and-concrete domes.

The design and construction of the domes has been the first of its kind in the country. Some of the novel features involved in the construction of the domes are:

- Use of stainless steel of grade AISI 304 L in two of the 12 domes. The steel is finished to a satin finish. All other domes are in carbon steel finished with epoxy paint.
- All joints in the framework were precast in foundries and connected to the tubes by a combination of HSFG bolts and welding under controlled conditions. Consequently the joints appear sleek even where 12 members meet at one joint.
- Geometric precision was achieved in the manufacture and assembling of the various elements of the dome, viz. the cast joints, the curved tubes and the precast concrete bubbles seated over the steel frame work.

Some E and M services provided are:

- The Electric Sub-station is located in second basement. Nine Nos. Dry Type Transformers with Compact Bus Trunking for power distribution, have been provided to minimize fire hazards in the Building.
- Central air-conditioning of 45,000 sq.m. of the building, with 5 x 500 TR centrifugal chilling machines, including winter heating and dehumidification.

- Four hydraulically operated lifts and ten book lifts have been provided in the Building.
- Automatic, intelligence fire alarm systems, duly integrated with AHUs, PA system and Fire Check Doors, for co-ordinated functioning in case of fire.
- Non-wet fire-fighting system with NAFS-III gas in computer centre and micro filming store and CO for Switch Rooms.
- CCTV for surveillance, library operations and display of proceedings in Parliament.
- PA system in most parts of the building.
- Video projection system, digital conferencing systems and Simultaneous Interpretation system in Committee Rooms.
- Car control systems for Parking area.

The building has a total covered area of 60,460 sq.m. and has been constructed at a cost of Rs. 200 crore. The construction was completed over a period of 7 years and 9 months. The Parliament Library Building was inaugurated on 7 May 2002 by Shri K.R. Narayanan, the then President of India.

Extension to Parliament House Annexe Building

In order to meet the shortage in space due to the manifold increase in parliamentary activities, an extension to the Parliament House Annexe Building has been conceived. The Foundation stone for the proposed extension was laid by the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari and the then Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Somnath Chatterjee on 5 May 2009.

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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**Cover Photo: A view of the lawns outside Hon'ble Speaker's Gate in Parliament House*