



# Parliament Museum: Story of Indian Democratic Heritage

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Lok Sabha Secretariat  
New Delhi

## Parliament Museum: Story of Indian Democratic Heritage

The Parliament Museum, set up in Hall No. G-118 in the Parliament Library Building, was inaugurated by Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, the then President of India, on 14 August 2006 and was opened for the general public from 5 September 2006. The Museum has been conceptualized, designed and operationalised by the internationally renowned museologist, Dr. Saroj Ghose. Being a member of the International Council of Museums, Parliament Museum is now recognized internationally.

The hi-tech story-telling Museum depicts the continuum of democratic heritage in India by way of walk-through period settings with sound-light-video synchronization, large screen interactive computer multi-media and immersive visualization with multi-screen panoramic projections, virtual reality and animatronics. The Museum has a Resource Centre with a fully computerized textual and visual information bank. A well equipped Conservation Laboratory, set up in 2007, takes care of preservation and restoration of important artefacts in Parliament Museum.

Apart from the general visitors, a large number of school children, high constitutional dignitaries, foreign diplomats and other eminent personalities visit the Museum on a regular basis. An interactive website ([www.parliamentmuseum.org](http://www.parliamentmuseum.org)) provides an opportunity of the virtual tour of the Parliament Museum. For the benefit of visually challenged visitors, India's rich democratic heritage has been inscribed in Braille language at different places in the Museum.

The journey in the Museum begins on the Ground Floor with a recreated archaeological site, depicting self-governing democratic societies that evolved in India through the ages.

This is followed by a depiction of the period setting of the Ashokan age, demonstrating its salient features in a befitting manner in the next exhibit. India is a multi-cultural, pluralist society, marked by unity in diversity. The exhibit

showing Emperor Akbar's "Ibadatkhana" depicts how the concept of peaceful co-existence in a multi-religious and pluralist society in free India has drawn inspiration from noble Emperors like him.

The twentieth century dawned with a demand for self-governance, ultimately crystallizing into our Freedom Movement. Visitors walk through a period setting with sound-light-video synchronization, depicting the story of the Freedom Struggle. Visitors also have an emotional experience of walking alongside Mahatma Gandhi in the Dandi March of 1930 in a virtual reality exhibit. A large-screen multi-media projection on Transfer of Power, with artefacts of that period, reveals the story of legislative reforms in the country, starting from the Charter Act of 1833 and ending with the Indian Independence Act of 1947. Immediately after Independence, the Constituent Assembly of India set up a Drafting Committee with Dr. B.R. Ambedkar as its Chairperson. The exhibit on the Constituent Assembly depicts its Members deliberating on the framing of the Constitution.

The involvement of the people in the democratic process has been shown by recreating a polling station, vote counting centre and a short video presentation on the electoral process.

On entering the Mezzanine Floor of the Museum, visitors find the recreated settings of the Chambers of Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha; they can also have a feel of the proceedings of the two Houses through computer interactive modules. A recreated Central Hall of Parliament House presents animatronics of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru delivering his historic 'Tryst with Destiny' speech on the midnight of 14-15 August 1947. Visitors have the privilege of taking their seats alongside the national leaders of that time, and observe Pandit Nehru in the animatronics presentation.

The evolution of Parliament Complex from the early sketches of Edwin Lutyens to those of the

present-day Parliament Library Building, along with the visuals of various State Legislative Assemblies of India and Parliaments of the world, are projected through computerized multi-media device. The Museum displays the portraits of national leaders unveiled in the Central Hall from time to time, apart from the artefacts and souvenirs received from different countries. Towards the end of the journey on the Mezzanine Floor, there is a Souvenir Shop having more than 50 items with the Parliament Museum logo, on sale.

The Museum is open to the public from 11 A.M. to 5 P.M. on all weekdays, except Sundays, Mondays (during inter-Session period) and Government holidays. Access to the Museum is from Pt. Pant Marg at the Reception of the Parliament Library Building.

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LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
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*\*Cover Photo: A view of the Entrance Hall of  
Parliament Museum*