



Parliamentary Museum and Archives



Lok Sabha Secretariat
New Delhi

Parliamentary Museum and Archives

The Parliamentary Museum and Archives (PMA) was inaugurated by Shri Rabi Ray, the then Speaker of Lok Sabha, on 29 December 1989 with the basic objective of undertaking acquisition, storage and preservation of precious records, historic documents, photographs, rare objects and articles connected with the origin, growth and functioning of Parliament and parliamentary institutions in the country and the Constitution of India. The PMA endeavours to help preserve the past and the present for the future generations by protecting them from the ravages of time and neglect, and through them, to make the history and growth of parliamentary institutions and the political system better understood.

Located in the First and Second Basements of the Parliament Library Building (*Sansadiya Gyanpeeth*), the PMA has four distinct Sections, viz: (i) Museum Section; (ii) Archives Section; (iii) Photographs Section; and (iv) Exhibition Section. The collections of PMA serve as a valuable treasure-house for the Parliament and are utilized for various events and exhibitions.

The Museum Section* has in its collection impressive models and photographs of Legislature buildings of Indian States and Union territories and Foreign Parliament buildings; artefacts, charts, illustrations, objects, photographs, etc. relating to parliamentary institutions during the pre-and post-Independence period. Besides, the Section preserves portraits and photographs of distinguished freedom fighters and eminent parliamentarians which have been unveiled in the Central Hall from time to time. Gifts and mementoes received by the Indian Parliament from State Legislatures, Foreign Parliaments, visiting Delegations and during various Conferences are also preserved in this Section. The collections of the Museum Section act as a

*A hi-tech Parliament Museum was inaugurated on 14 August 2006 by the then President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam in Hall No. G-118 of Parliament Library Building. For details, please see Folder on 'Parliament Museum'.

repository for Parliament Museum and a number of artefacts of this Section's collections have now been aesthetically displayed in the Parliament Museum. In order to give them a new look, the artefacts on display in the showcases of Parliament Museum are constantly replaced by new objects/articles acquired by the Museum Section of PMA.

The Archives Section is entrusted with the acquisition, systematic cataloguing and preservation of records and historical documents connected with the framing of India's Constitution, growth of parliamentary institutions and private papers/correspondence of parliamentarians. As of now, 84 eminent parliamentarians and freedom fighters have deposited with the Archives Section their diaries, private correspondence made with eminent leaders, notes, photographs and other documents connected with their parliamentary work. Members wishing to hold their papers confidential for a specific number of years are provided with such facility. At a suitable time, these records will be made open for consultation by scholars, private as well as official, to promote scholarly ventures in the sphere of parliamentary democratic institutions, traditions, practices, procedures, etc. The Section also has a collection of publications on constitutional developments and parliamentary activities and books on and by Speakers of Lok Sabha, Members of Parliament, Secretaries-General, etc. Commemorative stamps and coins released on freedom fighters, distinguished parliamentarians, parliamentary conferences and events are also maintained as part of the collections.

The Photographs Section acquires, classifies and preserves a comprehensive and up-to-date pictorial record of the history of the Indian Parliament and its events and activities, including those relating to Indian Parliamentary Delegations visiting foreign countries and foreign Parliamentary Delegations visiting India. The Section has collected and systematically maintained nearly 18,000 photographs relating

to parliamentary events and activities and of eminent leaders and parliamentarians, most of which have been digitized. With a click of the mouse, one can retrieve the desired photographs with the help of keywords in the PMA and at the Resource Centre in the Parliament Museum.

As part of its activities, the Parliamentary Museum and Archives, in cooperation with official agencies, organizes, from time to time. Exhibitions on varying themes relating to the functioning and achievements of Parliament and other democratic institutions for Members of Parliament and the general public.

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