



**PARLIAMENTARY MUSEUM  
AND ARCHIVES**



## ***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.

The PMA has two distinct Sections, *viz.*: (i) The Archives and Exhibition Section; and (ii) \*The Parliament Museum Section. Located in the First and Second Basements of the Parliament Library Building (*Sansadiya Gyanpeeth*), the Archives and Exhibition Section of PMA has three distinct Units *viz.*: (i) Documentary Archives Unit; (ii) Photo Archives Unit; (iii) Exhibition, Art Objects and Models Unit. The collections of Archives and Exhibition Section of PMA serve as a valuable treasure-house for the Parliament and are utilized for various events and exhibitions.

The Documentary Archives Unit is entrusted with the acquisition, storage and preservation of precious records and historical documents connected with the framing of India's Constitution, growth of parliamentary institutions and private papers/correspondence of parliamentarians.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 Documentary Archives Unit their 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 Unit also has a collection of 724 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 Photo Archives Unit 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 Unit has collected and systematically maintained nearly 19,300 photographs relating to parliamentary events and activities and of eminent leaders and parliamentarians and passport size photographs of Members of Parliament from 1<sup>st</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha. All these photographs have been digitized. This is an ongoing process. With a click of the mouse, one can retrieve the desired photographs with the help of keywords in the Archives and Exhibition Section of PMA and at the Resource Centre in the Parliament Museum.

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\* 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'.

The Exhibition, Art Objects and Models Unit 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 Unit 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 Unit. The collections of the Exhibition, Art Objects and Models Unit act as a repository for Parliament Museum and a number of artefacts of this Unit'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 supplemented by new objects/articles acquired by the concerned Section of PMA.

As part of its activities, the Archives and Exhibition Section of PMA, 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, Legislators and the general public.

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