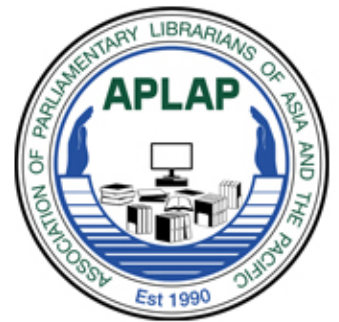


COUNTRY REPORT: INDIA

APLAP 2021 ONLINE CONFERENCE (13th APLAP CONFERENCE) 15 - 17 JUNE 2021



HOSTED BY THE CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES

***Enhancing the Responsiveness and Relevance
of Parliamentary Library and Research Services
During Times of Crisis***

Anupam Bharadwaj
Joint Director
Indian Parliament Library

Smt. Anita Nanda
Joint Director
Indian Parliament Library

Paper on “Enhancing the Responsiveness and Relevance of Parliamentary Library and Research Services During Times of Crisis”

Good morning everyone, I am Anupam Bharadwaj, Joint Director, and it is my privilege to represent Indian Parliament Library along with my colleague Smt. Anita Nanda, Joint Director, at this APLAP conference. I would like to thank the organisers for conducting this Conference in a virtual mode during such difficult times.

The topic before us today is extremely relevant for all of us serving our respective Legislature Libraries, **“Enhancing the Responsiveness and Relevance of Parliamentary Library and Research Services During Times of Crisis”**.

At the outset, let me inform you a little about our Library. Known as the “Sansadiya Granthalya” in our official language Hindi, it is the largest library in Delhi and second largest library in India. We are proud to inform you that we have 1.8 million documents in all in our Library. The activities of the library are automated and its catalogue is available to all 24x7 and can be accessed through web OPAC. The library is used by the Members/Ex-Members of Parliament, Members of our state legislatures, researchers, Government Ministries and other bonafide users for consultation.

When the global pandemic hit India in March 2020, a number of initiatives were taken under the guidance of our Hon’ble Speaker, Shri Om Birla ji to continue to serve our distinguished members in this time of crisis and in fact encouraged us to enhance the quality of our services. I would like to take this opportunity to tell you about some of the important initiatives that were taken by the Indian Parliament Library during the crisis:

- As it was difficult for members to visit the Library during the pandemic, Parliament Library prepared and provided the select/E-bibliographies on the various subjects on the interest of the Members of Parliament, Parliamentary Committees and Research services and sent through email.
- Our Members of Parliament are provided with a Portal for parliamentary communication and dissemination of information. During the pandemic, a new interface of Parliament Library was created on this portal so that members could contact the Library with ease and give their demands for

books or services, valuable feedback and suggestions relating to the Library.

- It was decided that if the members cannot come to the Library, we can take the Library to them! One of the most important and much appreciated initiative during the pandemic was to deliver the desired books to the local residences of Members of Parliament on their demand so that their work may not suffer.
- Another important initiative taken in the recent times is to provide round the clock research support to the members of Parliament under the name of PRISM (Parliamentary research and information support to the members of parliament). Started in January 2021, this service proactively engages with members of Parliament to provide them all relevant information on the desired subject at any time of the day and night.
- In a unique initiative to create a database of cotemporary political history of India, E-manifestos of National Political parties as well as state political parties were uploaded on the Parliament Library Webpage.
- Online reference services are also provided to the Members/ex-Members of Parliament on their request in their respective e-mails. Members can also use Members' Portal Service for this purpose.
- We have strengthened our e-resources that were most needed during the lock downs. Parliament Library has provided online access to 73 Indian Newspapers, 3 Foreign Newspapers with Login ID and Password, 94 Indian and Foreign Periodicals. Total 36 e-newspapers in regional languages are available online at the website of Parliament Library, <http://parliamentlibraryindia.nic.in/> under the heading 'Newspapers'.
- Parliamentary Research and training institute for Democracies erstwhile BPST organised various virtual meetings, Parliamentary procedural trainings, seminars and study lectures for Parliamentarians, Legislators, Media Persons, Govt. Officials and Officers of both the Secretariats, etc.

To conclude I'd like to say that the Pandemic had brought upon challenges unseen which may have led to quite some damages to us but as always, with the constant support of our Hon'ble Speaker, Parliament Library stood firm and managed to turn the tide in our favour and made the best use of the opportunity.

Thanks