



About PRs Legislative Research

PRs Legislative Research seeks to strengthen the legislative process by making it better informed, more transparent and participatory

The Indian Parliament has about 780 Members from over 40 political parties. Each Member of Parliament (MP) represents about two million citizens. MPs pass about 60 Bills a year but do not have dedicated research staff or institutional support to help them understand implications of various Bills. This makes it

difficult for them to prepare for debates and committee meetings.

PRs Legislative Research (PRs) aims to deepen and broaden the legislative debate by providing non-partisan analysis to all Members of Parliament across party lines. Founded in September 2005, PRs is the first initiative of its kind in India.

PRs Objectives

- Provide objective, non-partisan, timely and easy-to-use analysis on upcoming legislative issues
- Facilitate interaction of experts with those who seek a deeper understanding of legislative issues
- Inform the larger public of the legislative issues being debated in Parliament and devise platforms for their opinions to be expressed.

Stakeholder Engagement

PRs has developed professional relationships with over 250 Members of Parliament from different political parties. A study carried out by the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad indicates that over half the MPs surveyed were aware of the work of PRs, and about a quarter had used its research material.

PRs has also been reaching out to the citizen sector and the media to enable greater engagement with the legislative system. The media regularly accesses PRs for data and analysis related to Parliament and legislation resulting in nearly 400 citations appearing in leading newspapers during the past year.

PRs engages with a cross section of stakeholders and leverages existing expertise for its analyses. The work of PRs is collaborative and seeks to complement expertise in government, research institutions, business and citizen sector.

Activities

Legislative Brief: Crisp, 4-6 page jargon-free analysis on the implications of upcoming Bills. These Briefs are sent to all MPs, NGOs across the country, journalists and other stakeholders.

Bill Summary: One-page snapshot of the main features of a Bill.

Backgrounder: Easy-to-use background research to assist MPs in their preparation for debates on issues of national importance.

Session Summaries: Session Alert providing a heads-up on likely legislative business in a forthcoming session of Parliament. Session Wrap, with a synopsis of all the legislative business transacted in a Parliament session. Plan vs Performance comparing parliamentary business planned and actually conducted.

LAMP Programme: Training young graduates to work as legislative assistants to MPs.

Vital Stats: Graph-based nuggets of information on the functioning of Parliament and related institutions.

MP & Parliament Track: Data and information on activity of Parliament and individual MPs.

Journalist Workshop: Forum for enabling citizen groups and the media to track the functioning of legislative bodies and engage with them.

State Laws Project: A searchable electronic database of all state laws at www.lawsofindia.org

PRs Website: Most PRs products are available at www.prsindia.org. The website also has daily legislative news updates, relevant government links, and a collection of downloadable government documents.

Press support and Op-eds: Providing inputs to the press and electronic media on Parliament and legislation on a regular basis.

PRs is incubated by the Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi, which is an autonomous institution set up in 1973 with the objective of studying major policy issues before the nation and suggesting alternative policy options. PRs is governed by an Advisory Board consisting of eminent individuals.

Advisory Board

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Sr. Advocate and former Attorney General of India
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