

**AE1 - Legislative Support  
(62323312)  
AECC (Electives) - (AECCE) Credit:4**

**Course Objective**

To acquaint the student with the legislative process in India at various levels, introduce them to the functions of peoples' representatives and provide elementary skills to be part of a legislative support team. Peoples' representatives need support for the multiple tasks they are supposed to undertake.

The need to understand complex policy issues, draft new legislation, track and analyse ongoing bills, make speeches and floor statements, write articles and press releases, attend legislative meetings, conduct meetings with various stakeholders, monitor media and public developments, manage constituent relations and handle inter-office communications. All over the world, elected representatives have an office with specialised support team to carry out these tasks.

With about 5000 MPs and MLAs, and more than 30 lakhs representatives at the Panchayati Raj level, there is a vast need for legislative support among representatives that needs to be addressed. This course will equip the students with basic skills for this task and expose them to real life legislative work. In the process of learning legislative support skills, students will also build and deepen their understanding of the Indian political process.

**Course Learning Outcomes**

On successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the structure and the functions of legislating bodies in India
- Demonstrate knowledge of the law making procedure in India
- Acquire skills related to a close reading of legislative documents
- Understand the relationship between the people and their elected representatives
- Develop basic skills to become a part of a support team engaged at different levels of the law making functions

**Unit 1**

**Powers and functions of people's representatives at different tiers of governance**

Members of Parliament, State Legislative Assemblies, functionaries of rural and urban local self-government from Zila Parishads/Municipal Corporation to Panchayat/Ward. (Weeks 1-3)

**Unit 2**

**Supporting the legislative process:**

How a Bill becomes a Law, Role of the Standing Committee in reviewing a Bill, Legislative Consultations, amendments to a Bill, the framing of Rules and Regulations. (Week 4)

### Unit 3

#### **Supporting the legislative committees**

Types of committees, Role of committees in reviewing government finances, policy, programmes, and legislation (Weeks 5-7)

### Unit 4

#### **Reading the budget document:**

Overview of Budget Process, Role of Parliament in reviewing the Union Budget, Railway Budget, Examination of Demands for Grants of Ministries, Working of Ministries. (Weeks 8-10)

### Unit 5

#### **Support in media monitoring and communication:**

Types of media and their significance for legislators. Basics of communication in print and electronic media (Weeks 11-12)

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Mehta, Pratap Bhanu, “India’s Unlikely Democracy: The Rise of Judicial Sovereignty,” Journal of Democracy Vol.18, No.2, pp.70-83.

#### Additional Resources:

#### Government links:

<http://loksabha.nic.in/>

<http://rajyasabha.nic.in/>

<http://mpa.nic.in/>

Sanyal, K. Strengthening Parliamentary Committees PRS, Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi, 2011. URL: <http://www.prsindia.org/administrator/uploads/media/Conference%202011/Strengthening%20Parliamentary%20Committees.pdf>

Celestine, A. How to read the Union Budget PRS, Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi, 2011. URL: <http://www.prsindia.org/parliamenttrack/primers/how-to-read-the-union-budget-1023/>

#### Teaching Learning Process

Students will engage in discussion on legislative procedures. They will be imparted elementary skills to become part of legislative support team and engage in real legislative work by attending legislative meetings and monitoring media and public developments. They will be given interactive lectures on powers and functions of representatives at different tiers of governance.

#### Assessment Methods

Students will be assessed on continuous basis followed by end term examination. Internal assessment will be conducted at the end of each unit which may include assignments, participation in class discussions and viva voce. They will be evaluated on the basis of their skills to become part of legislative support team and engage in real legislative work. They will be required to submit project report on any one unit of the syllabus before end term examination.

#### Keywords

Functions, Governance, Legislature, Powers, Procedures, Representative

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