

SGSITS MUN 2025

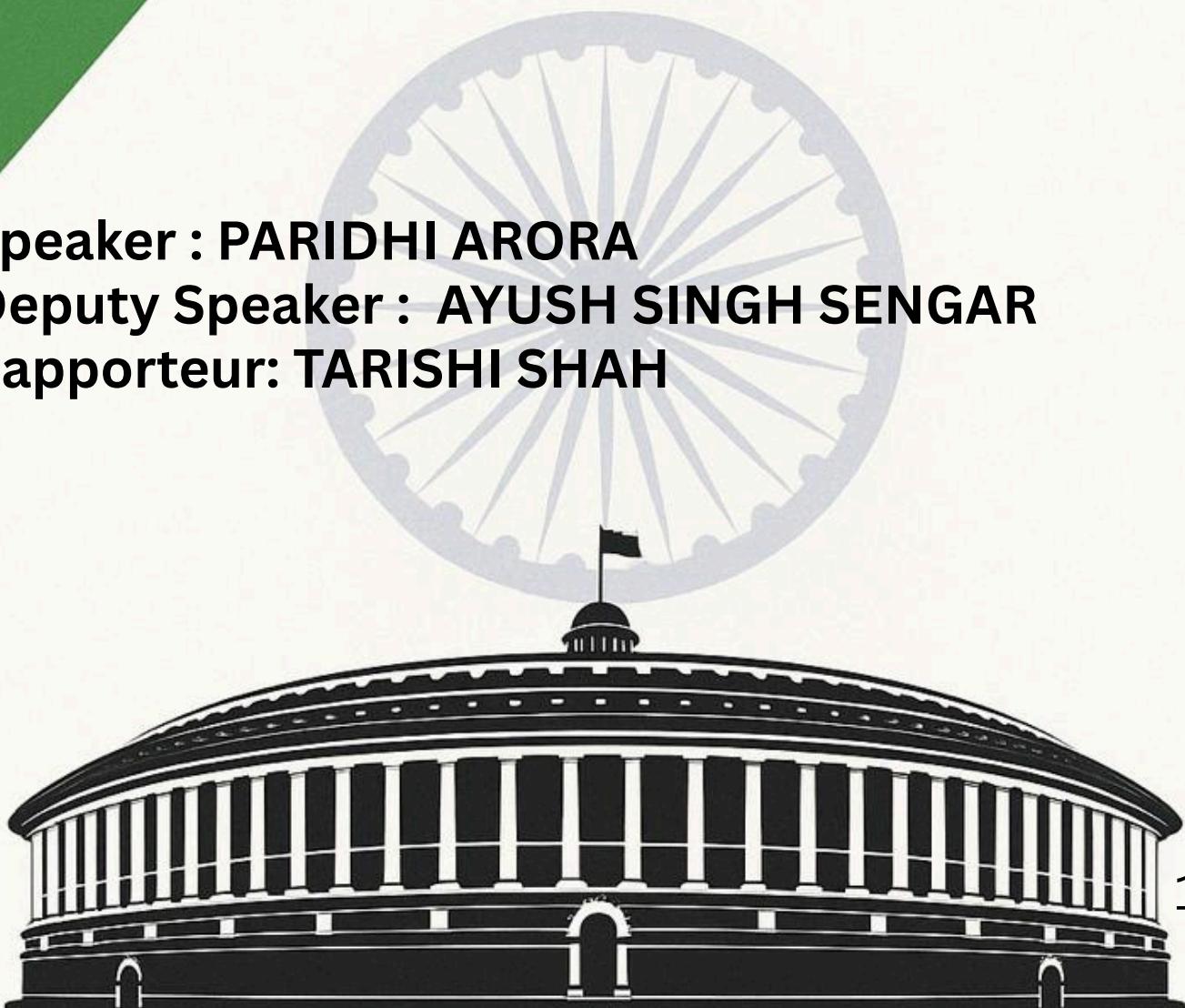
LOK SABHA

STUDY GUIDE

AGENDA:

Discussing Electoral
Malpractices and Protecting
Indian Democracy

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LOK SABHA

Discussing Electoral Malpractices and Protecting Indian Democracy





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Letter from the Executive Board

Greetings Delegates,

It is with great honour that we, the Bureau of the Lok Sabha, welcome you to the **SGSITS Model United Nations**.

Our committee will be addressing the agenda: "**Discussing Electoral Malpractices and Protecting Indian Democracy.**"

This topic strikes at the very core of our nation's values — its ethics, democratic integrity, and constitutional sanctity. In a time where challenges to electoral fairness and democratic accountability are increasingly visible, it is our duty to confront these issues head-on.

This agenda does not aim to determine who is right or wrong. Instead, it focuses on safeguarding the **integrity, sovereignty, and ethics** of Indian democracy. It's about weighing **unity against division, progress against ethical compromise, and urgency against accountability**. More than just a matter of policy, it is a **thought-provoking challenge**—one that holds the potential to shape the future trajectory of our political system.

In this committee, you will be required to make tough decisions, analyze complex scenarios, and explore innovative solutions. The paths our ministers choose to walk here may well mirror the steps taken in the real corridors of power. Your discussions could redefine how our democracy functions.

We expect all delegates to come prepared with **thorough research, original insights, and a passion for meaningful debate**. While the **background guide** will provide the structural foundation, it is your engagement, creativity, and diplomacy that will bring this committee to life.

The Bureau stands ready to assist you throughout what promises to be an **intellectually stimulating and deeply rewarding** experience.

We look forward to seeing you at the conference.

Warm regards,

Paridhi Arora (Speaker)

Ayush Singh Sengar (Deputy Speaker)

Tarishi Shah (Rapporteur)



Introduction To The Committee

In a Model United Nations (MUN) simulation that centers on the **Lok Sabha**—the lower house of India's Parliament—participants take on the roles of real **Members of Parliament (MPs)**. Each delegate represents a **specific political party** and a designated geographic area called a **constituency**, which is a particular part of India. This setup provides a dynamic and immersive experience, allowing participants to better understand the **complexities of Indian democracy** by engaging in debates, formulating policies, and collaborating with others.

The committee primarily focuses on issues that have a **direct impact** on the everyday lives of Indian citizens. As a delegate, your responsibilities are to **advocate for your assigned political party's beliefs and policies**, present your ideas convincingly, propose practical solutions, and listen attentively to the perspectives of others. It's important to engage in **respectful dialogue**, even when opinions differ, fostering an environment of **constructive debate**. Throughout the simulation, participants often **work together, negotiate compromises, and craft resolutions or laws** that reflect the **collective interests** of the committee. This process mirrors **real-world legislative procedures**, where **consensus and collaboration** are key.

The primary goal of participating in this **Lok Sabha-themed MUN** is to develop essential skills such as **critical thinking, public speaking, negotiation**, and an understanding of **how laws and policies are created in India**. It also offers insight into the **diverse political landscape** of the country, illustrating how different parties with varying ideologies work together to **shape national policies**.

Overall, this experience provides a valuable opportunity for students to learn about **Indian politics and governance**, understand the importance of **civic participation**, and develop **interpersonal skills**. It encourages them to **think critically, articulate their ideas effectively, and work collaboratively** to find solutions—skills that are vital for **active citizenship and future leadership roles**.



About The Agenda

India, **the world's largest democracy**, conducts elections on a large scale, with **over 649 million eligible** participating in general elections. The electoral system is administered by the **Election Commission of India (ECI)** and serves as the **cornerstone of democratic governance**. Despite this strong institutional framework, the process continues to face challenges in the form of **electoral malpractices** that **undermine free and fair elections**. This agenda seeks to **analyze the causes, forms, and consequences** of such malpractices, while exploring **measures to safeguard and strengthen Indian democracy**.

Electoral malpractices refer to any **unlawful, unethical, or manipulative activity** that **undermines the fairness of elections**. These malpractices include various methods:

- **Armed groups or political supporters may seize polling stations**, prevent genuine voters from casting their ballots, or **tamper with ballot boxes and Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs)** .
- **Political parties and candidates often distribute money, liquor, or consumer goods to attract voters**. This is known as **vote buying**.
- **Fake voting and identity fraud**, i.e., impersonation, voting multiple times, or **manipulating voter lists**.
- **Incumbent parties may misuse state resources**, such as vehicles, public spaces, government staff, or **welfare schemes, for election campaigns**.
- **Candidates appeal to voters using religion, caste, language, or community identities**, using their emotions to fuel votes.
- **Paid news and biased media coverage** further compromise the **neutrality of elections**.
- **Voters, candidates, and election officials are sometimes subjected to threats, coercion, or violence** to manipulate the voting process.



Electoral malpractices have a range of consequences. They have long-term impacts on the political system, governance, and the social fabric of the nation. Their consequences weaken democratic values and prevent citizens from exercising their rights freely.

When voters witness repeated instances of rigging, bribery, or manipulation, they gradually lose faith in the electoral process. This distrust often leads to **political apathy**, where citizens abstain from voting or become indifferent to political developments.

Corruption creates a vicious cycle of money-driven politics, where governance serves vested interests rather than the welfare of the people.

Overall, electoral malpractices also undermine the credibility of institutions such as the **Election Commission of India (ECI)**, judiciary, and law enforcement agencies.



Political Party Perspectives

Political Party	Likely Position
BJP 	The BJP generally supports the existing electoral framework. While it has endorsed technological advancements like Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), it has also been a strong proponent of measures that limit transparency in political funding, such as the now-scrapped electoral bond scheme. This stance has been criticized by opposition parties and civil society organizations who argue that it creates an opaque system susceptible to corporate
INC 	The INC advocates for greater transparency and accountability in the electoral process. The party has consistently called for reforms that would give the ECI more autonomy and power. A central demand from the INC is to impose stricter controls on corporate donations to political parties to curb the influence of big business in politics. The party supports a more open and regulated system for political funding.
AAP 	Born out of an anti-corruption movement, the AAP's core ideology centers on combating corruption in all its forms, with a particular focus on electoral funding. The party actively advocates for reforms that promote financial transparency and accountability, aiming to dismantle the corrupt nexus between money and politics. AAP supports measures such as stricter disclosure of donations, caps on campaign spending, and public funding of elections.



CPI 	The CPI(M) takes a strong ideological stand against corporate funding of elections, viewing it as a tool for big business to control the political process. The party has consistently advocated for state funding of elections, arguing that this is the only way to level the playing field and ensure that money does not dominate electoral outcomes.
TMC 	As a prominent regional party, the TMC focuses on issues of federalism and regional autonomy. The party often raises concerns about what it perceives as excessive central oversight in election campaigning and the use of central agencies during elections. It advocates for an electoral process that gives more control and a fairer chance to regional players, questioning the impartiality of central institutions like the ECI.
BSP / SP  	These parties, primarily based in Uttar Pradesh, highlight the persistent issues of caste-based mobilization and voter manipulation. Their politics are rooted in representing the interests of specific caste groups, and they often raise concerns about how social divisions are exploited for electoral gain, including through voter intimidation and the distribution of money or goods to influence voting behavior.
NCP 	These parties, rooted in Maharashtra politics, have a mixed approach to electoral funding reforms. Their stances are often guided by regional-specific concerns and the political alliances they form. While they may support certain reforms, their positions are less ideologically rigid compared to other parties and can shift based on political expediency.



Independent MPs	Independent Members of Parliament often bring attention to the grassroots realities of elections. They tend to highlight localized issues such as electoral violence and irregularities at the booth and village level. These concerns often relate to the direct impact of money and muscle power on voters and candidates outside the framework of major political party machines.
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Timeline

1952 – First general elections held; 1st Lok Sabha constituted; G. V. Mavalankar became the first Speaker.

1955–56 - Hindu Code Bills passed, ensuring women's rights in marriage, divorce, and inheritance.

1966 – Indira Gandhi faced her first no-confidence motion.

1969 – Debates and passage of the nationalization of 14 major banks.

1975–77 Emergency period Lok Sabha term extended beyond the normal five years.

1977 – First non-Congress government (Janata Party under Morarji Desai) formed after Emergency.

1978 - 44th Constitutional Amendment passed, reducing Emergency powers of the executive.

1989 – Beginning of the coalition era with the National Front government.

1990 – Mandal Commission debates on OBC reservations.

1999 – Vajpayee government lost a no-confidence motion by one vote.

2017 – Midnight session of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha passed the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

2023 – Women's Reservation Bill ("Nari Shakti Vandana Adhiniyam") passed, reserving 33% seats for women in Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.

2025 – Rahul Gandhi released a press statement claiming "vote chori".



Insightful Analysis

Case Study 1

Democracy is about people's rights and the efficiency of government systems. Voting is not just a right but the foundation of Indian democracy; it is the cornerstone of our governance system.

Indian elections are conducted on a massive scale, as seen in places like Pilopatia (Andaman & Nicobar Islands), where Election Commission officials travel for over 24 hours, crossing a swamp infested with crocodiles and using a speed boat to reach the location, all for just 9 voters. These efforts highlight the seriousness of elections in India and why it is called a democracy. Still, doubts and uncertainties persist.

Electoral malpractices remain prevalent, and Election Commission officials often find themselves in the midst of controversy. In the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the ECI reported a seizure of Rs. 4,650 crores even before voting began. Around 60% of political funding came from undisclosed sources; such headlines frequently appear whenever elections are held.

All such malpractices have roots in economic factors, as has been identified. To combat these issues, a strong economic foundation must be built in our country.

The Government of India has already launched UPI apps, net banking, and taken other steps toward strengthening India's financial system.

The Government of India, in collaboration with the RBI, has also introduced digital currency apps under the name CBDC (Central Bank Digital Currency). These work similarly to UPI apps, but the money is transferred from one digital wallet to another. They can function offline, ensure secure transactions, and maintain a record of all transactions.

RBI digital notes can be loaded onto these apps, and prominent banks such as SBI, HDFC, ICICI, and others have already adopted this technology. A fully operational application will soon be announced by the RBI. Such initiatives are crucial and could benefit our country significantly.



While these apps offer numerous advantages, they also come with certain disadvantages. Adapting and refining these technologies to serve the citizens' best interests is the duty of Parliament.

These technological solutions can mark a significant step forward if they are carefully designed and implemented. The ministers in the Lok Sabha have, and will continue to have, a key role in determining how these technologies shape our future, especially in the effort to eradicate vote fraud-related corruption in India.





Case Study2

Electoral bonds are a mode of funding for political parties in India. They can be purchased by a person who is a citizen of India. They can either buy them individually or jointly with other individuals. The political parties registered under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, and securing not less than one percent of the votes polled in the last General Election to the House of the People or the Legislative Assembly of the State shall be eligible to receive the electoral bonds.

The TRAI-Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

It regulates telecom services, including SMS, mobile networks, broadband, DTH, etc. It also oversees rules about bulk SMS and promotional messages, especially under the Telecom Commercial Communications Customer Preference Regulations(TCCCCPR),to prevent spam or misuse.

TRAI has reported SMS and unknown calls regarding unauthorised electoral bond transactions. The calls have been traced, these calls carry the information about all the illegal transaction conversations that took place but the information is still to be retrieved. The information about the people involve disstill not out and confidential and will not be out in any circumstances.

The delegates can find solutions to track the same and devise solutions so that these incidents do not take place again.



Key Terms & Concepts

1. Electoral Bonds

Financial instruments that allow individuals and companies to donate money to political parties anonymously. While intended to reduce black money, they raise concerns about **lack of transparency and favoritism**

2. Model Code of Conduct (MCC)

A set of rules issued by the Election Commission of India during elections to ensure **fair campaigning**, including bans on hate speech, misuse of government resources, and last-minute sops to voters.

3. First Past The Post (FPTP)

India's voting system where the candidate with the **most votes wins**, regardless of whether they have a majority. This can lead to **disproportionate representation** in Parliament.

4. Booth Capturing

An illegal act where polling booths are taken over, and votes are cast fraudulently under force or coercion. Though reduced due to stricter laws and EVMs, it remains a **serious electoral malpractice**.

5. Criminalization of Politics

The presence of elected representatives with **criminal charges**, including serious offenses. This undermines the rule of law and raises questions about the **ethical standards** in politics.

6. VVPAT (Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail)

A system linked to EVMs that provides a paper receipt of the vote cast, which helps in **verifying and auditing** the accuracy of electronic voting.

7. Election Commission of India (ECI)

A **constitutional authority** responsible for conducting and regulating elections in India. Its independence and impartiality are crucial for **free and fair elections**.



8. Delimitation

The redrawing of **constituency boundaries** based on the latest census data. It aims to ensure **equal representation**, but delays or bias in this process can lead to inequality.

9. Paid News

News content published in favor of a political party or candidate in **exchange for payment** often disguised as genuine journalism. It misleads voters and **compromises media integrity**.

10. Electoral Roll Manipulation

Tampering with the list of eligible voters by **adding fake names** or **deleting genuine voters**, often to influence the election outcome unfairly.

11. Proxy Voting

A system allowing certain voters (like soldiers posted away from home) to vote via a **designated proxy**. While useful, it can be **misused** if not properly verified.

12. Political Funding Transparency

The openness and accountability of **how political parties receive and use money**. Lack of transparency allows **corruption, undue influence**, and undermines public trust.

13. Election Freebies

Promises or distribution of **cash, goods, or services** by political parties to influence voters. While often presented as welfare, they can become a form of **electoral bribery**.

14. Electoral Reforms

Changes to the electoral system to make it more **transparent, accountable, and fair**. This includes reforms in funding, candidate eligibility, technology use, and institutional autonomy.

15. Hate Speech in Elections Use of **divisive or inflammatory rhetoric** targeting religion, caste, or community during campaigns. It violates the MCC and promotes **social disharmony and violence**.



Conclusion

Democracy, with its **free and fair elections**, is what distinguishes a country. Holding truly fair elections is a significant challenge, yet it is precisely this that defines a truly **democratic nation**.

Electoral malpractices in India require immediate attention. Solutions to this problem will go a long way, **paving the path for a brighter India.** **Technology can also play a major role in eradicating these malpractices.**

We anticipate **substantive discussions and solutions**. These solutions can genuinely **transform our voting systems**. These debates will not only lead to a **successful committee** but also help our country **reform its systems**.

We look forward to exploring **innovative technological solutions**, examining **existing legal frameworks**, and fostering **public awareness campaigns** to address these issues effectively.

Ultimately, these efforts will **strengthen India's democratic foundations** and ensure the **integrity of its electoral process**.



QARs (Questions A Resolution Must Answer).

Q.1) Is the **Election Commission** truly **independent** in India?

Q.2) What role can **technology (EVMs, blockchain, AI)** play in ensuring **electoral integrity**?

Q.3) Can tech apps such as **CBDCs** help curb **corruption** and eliminate **monetary malpractices** linked to **votefraud**?

Q.4) Can **Parliament** effectively oversee the **Election Commission** to ensure **institutional accountability**?

Q.5) How should **media** and **telecom regulation** during elections balance **free speech** with the need to prevent **fake narratives**?

Q.6) Who should be responsible for **voter awareness** — the **state**, the **Election Commission**, or **political parties**?

Q.7) Do **state governments** have the authority to reform **electoral practices** independently?

Q.8) How does **vote stealing** threaten **democracy**, and what are its implications for **national security**?

Q.9) What steps can be taken to make **voter list revisions** more **transparent**?

Q.10) Is there a need for a separate **committee** to govern **ballot procedures** apart from the **Election Commission of India**?



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