



# NITMUN 2019



## COMMITTEE : THE ALL INDIA OPPOSITION MEET

**AGENDA : DISCUSSING THE CAUSES FOR DEFEAT IN THE RECENT  
LOKSABHA ELECTIONS 2019 AND CHALKING OUT A FEASIBLE  
FRAMEWORK OF ACTION TO OVERTHROW THE NDA  
GOVERNMENT.**



## Introduction to Literary circle

Literary Circle is the club in NIT Durgapur, which gives the college an extra dimension of creative expression in the midst of technical unilateralism and gives the students of the college an opportunity to transcend the ordinary and mundane.

This club conducts Verve, The Literary cum Youth Festival of the college and the biggest of its kind in eastern India. The Literary Circle has successfully pulled off 15 editions of Verve till now. Flagship events in the fest have become the matter of college folklore.

The club also prints its annual literary magazine *Déjà Vu* every year, with over 4000 copies distributed inside the college as well as all over many other metropolitan cities.

The club is known to be highly selective in its admission of new members, with only about 10 students inducted out of the entire batch of 900 each year. Great believers of the phrase 'quality over quantity', the members selected every year are the best of the best in the field of expression and creativity.

Come, step into the Circle!



## About NITMUN:

NITMUN is a forum convened by the members of the Literary Circle for discussion and analysis of global issues. It seeks to bring out motivated delegates from all over the country for brainstorming and discussing over significant international issues. Organised by the Literary Circle, NITMUN promises a challenging yet a very entertaining time to all delegates. It requires the entire workforce of the club to come up with a topic or a committee that really instigates each and every delegate to ponder. And then, the best executive boards from all over the country are brought together to make sure that every delegate grows and becomes better at the end of the conference.

Our greatest goal is to make sure that each delegate learns how to tackle world issues better at the end of the conference as the world is in dire need of young leaders now. Currently in its 8th edition, NITMUN has been extremely successful in providing the perfect experience to each delegate. Over the years, we have entertained more than 1000 delegates in total. Delegates arrive from all corners of India for an experience they will never forget.



## COMMITTEE BACKGROUND:

Greetings Delegates, welcome to the All India Opposition Meet at NITMUN EDITION 8. The Opposition Meet has been convened by the United Progressive Alliance in light of their loss in the recently concluded Lok Sabha Election. Smt. Sonia Gandhi, the Chairperson of the UPA staunchly believed that the Opposition needs to arrive on consensus and work together to challenge the BJP led NDA over the course of the next five years. The Narendra Modi led BJP seems to be on a rampage as they even bettered their tally in 2019 with 303 seats to the BJP alone. The violence and controversies in Bengal, doubts over Congress leadership, alleged friction between SP and BSP, infighting between parties and aspersions over a stable government in Karnataka have completely dismantled the Opposition post after the mammoth defeat. Sonia Gandhi was the woman responsible for defeating the BJP in 2004 and she understands that she needs to lead from the front. Thereby all Opposition parties have agreed to send their leaders to this summit irrespective of their mutual disagreements. The sole purpose of this meeting is to understand the position of each party in the country's political scenario, hear out the plans they have going forward and eventually trying to achieve common ground in order to defeat an Opposition as stiff as the BJP, a party with humongous resources, be it money or manpower, at their disposal.

The agenda leaves a vast scope for debate and delegates are required to collaborate with other delegates and refer to this guide in order to ensure proper organized debate. Please go through this guide thoroughly to get a start, and then go on to research, formulate and deliberate. We wish you the very best, **Happy Researching!**



## The United Progressive Alliance (UPA):

The UPA is a coalition of left and Centre-left parties formed after the 2004 elections when no party enjoyed clear majority. It was a stiff response to the ruling National Democratic alliance (NDA) that was in power in India. The Indian National Congress is the largest party in the UPA. Ex- INC President Sonia Gandhi is the Chairperson of the United Progressive Alliance. The UPA has held government over two terms from 2004–2014 with Dr. Manmohan Singh as the Prime Minister of India. Here we take a look at the major parties of the UPA that shall be represented in committee. The party info present here is just an introduction to get the delegates started with their research about their parties and portfolios and the delegates are to indulge in much deeper study about their party and its policies. **All party ideologies have been derived from some official sources pertaining to the party at some time and in no way advocate that the parties stringently follow them. The delegates are therefore advised not to use the material from the study guide as any form of proof or evidence against a party in committee.**



### 1) The Indian National Congress

**Party History:** Founded by A.O Hume the Indian National Congress conducted its first session in Bombay from 28–31 December 1885. **The Congress Party prides itself for being the true representative of national interests during the freedom struggle.** After Indian independence in 1947, the Indian National Congress became the dominant political party in the country. In 1952, in the first general election held after Independence,



the party swept to power in the national parliament and most state legislatures.

### **Office Bearers:**

- 1) **AICC FORMER PRESIDENT:** Rahul Gandhi
- 2) **TREASURER:** Ahmed Patel
- 3) **PARLIAMENTARY CHAIRPERSON:** Sonia Gandhi

### **Ideology and Manifesto:**

- 1) **Secularism:** The party advocates equal rights to all individuals irrespective of religion and preaches freedom to practice any religion as a citizen of India. The Congress has consistently attacked arch rivals BJP over their Hindutva narrative and alleged preferences imparted to the Hindu community.
- 2) **Social Liberalism:** A social liberal government is expected to address economic and social issues such as poverty, health care, education and the climate using government intervention whilst also emphasizing the rights and autonomy of the individual.
- 3) **Minimum Income Guarantee to Eliminate Poverty or Nyuntam Aay Yojana (NYAY):** To ensure a life of dignity to all Indians, Congress will introduce the Nyuntam Aay Yojana (NYAY) under which Rs. 72,000/year will be transferred to the poorest 20 per cent households in India. One of the major poll promises of the INC which failed to simulate the masses.

### **Recent Performances:**

The Indian National Congress has undergone a massive slump in performances with the Modi-led BJP sweeping away the polls.



## **Lok Sabha Elections:**

2014–44 seats

2019–52 seats

### **List of current state and union territory governments:**

<b>State/UT</b>	<b>Chief Minister</b>	<b>Alliance</b>	<b>Seats in Assembly</b>
Rajasthan	Ashok Gehlot	INC(99), BSP(6), CPI (M)(2), BTP(2), RLD(1), INDEPENDENT(9)	119/200
Punjab	Amarinder Singh	INC(78)	78/117
Puducherry	V. Narayanaswamy	INC(15), DMK(2)	17/30
Madhya Pradesh	Kamal Nath	INC(118), SP(2), BSP(1)	121/230
Karnataka	H.D. Kumaraswamy (JDS)	INC(80), JD(S)(37), BSP(1), KPJP(1), Independent(1)	120/224
Chhattisgarh	Bhupesh Baghel	INC(68)	68/91





## **2) Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK):**

**Party History:** Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam is an Indian state political party in the state of Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Puducherry founded by C. N. Annadurai in 1949

as a breakaway faction from the Dravidar Kazhagam. DMK was the first party other than the Indian National Congress to win state-level elections with a clear majority on its own in any state in India.

### **Office Bearers:**

- 1) **President** – M.K Stalin
- 2) **Secretary General** - K.Anbazhagan
- 3) **Lok Sabha Leader** - T R Baalu
- 4) **Rajya Sabha Leader** – Tiruchi Siva

### **Ideologies and Manifesto:**

DMK is primarily a social and Democratic Party like most parties of southern India follows the principle of regionalism

- 1) **Regionalism:** The DMK has been instrumental in opposing the compulsion of learning Hindi in primary education. This is a prime example of regionalism.
- 2) **Focus on economic stability for women:** The DMK Manifesto 2019 promised that Rs.50000 will be given to a woman in each family living below the poverty line to start a small business of her own.



## Recent Performances:

### Lok Sabha Elections:

2014 – 0 seats

2019 – 23 seats (Their alliance won 37/39 seats in Tamil Nadu)

### Tamil Nadu State Assembly elections:

2011 – 31/234

2016 – 89/234



### 3) Janata Dal Secular (JDS):

#### About the Party: The

**Janata Dal** was formed in Bangalore with the merger of the Janata Party with smaller opposition parties in 1988. In 1996, the party reached its pinnacle when Shri H.D. Deve Gowda became Prime Minister of India, heading the United Front (UF) coalition government.

#### Office Bearers:

1) **Supremo and Leader of the Lok Sabha:** H.D Deve Gowda

2) **President:** H.D Kumaraswamy

#### Ideologies and Manifesto:

JDS in its very name embraces secularism as the cornerstone defining the party and its principles. In the 2018 manifesto during the Karnataka legislative elections JDS promised a variety of sops which included:

- 1) Free power and 30-kg rice to BPL families.
- 2) Introduce “spoken Kannada” and “spoken English” in all government schools. Skills, hobbies, talent identification from



middle-schools will continue until graduation and will be part of a “revised” education system

### **Recent Results:**

#### **Lok Sabha:**

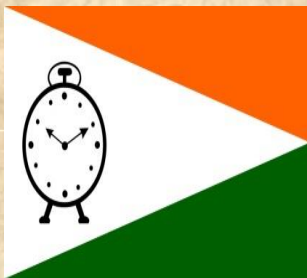
2014 elections – 25 seats

2019 elections – 8 seats

#### **Karnataka Assembly Elections:**

2011 – 40 seats

2016 – 37 seats (H.D Kumaraswamy is the CM, in alliance with INC)



### **4) Nationalist Congress Party:**

**Party History:** The NCP was formed on 25 May 1999, by Sharad Pawar, P. A. Sangma, and Tariq Anwar. At the time of formation of the NCP, the Indian Congress (Socialist) party merged with

the new party. Despite the NCP being founded on opposition to the leadership of Sonia Gandhi, it has joined the Congress led UPA to form government on numerous occasions at the State level as well at the National level.

### **Office Bearers:**

- 1. President:** Sharad Pawar
- 2. Lok Sabha Leader:** Supriya Sule

### **Ideologies and Manifesto:**

Nationalist Congress Party is committed to creating a society based on secularism and democracy. This party is committed to safeguarding the country's equality, social justice, unity and integrity. It is the basic



principles of the party to preserve the universal, socialist, secular, democratic democracy, justice, freedom, equality and brotherhood as well as the dignity of the citizens and the unity of the country. **Their Manifesto for Lok Sabha elections, 2019** promises agrarian reforms by effective Public-Private partnerships and loan waivers.

### **Recent Results:**

#### **Lok Sabha Elections:**

2014- 6 out of 36 contested

2019 – 5 out of 35 contested

#### **Vidhan Sabha – Maharashtra:**

2009: 62 seats

2014: 41 seats.



#### **5) Indian Union Muslim League (IUML):**

**Party History:** Indian Union Muslim League came in to being on 10<sup>th</sup> March 1948 at a national Muslim leaders convention at Rajaji Hall Chennai. Quaide Millath Mohamed Ismail Sahib and K.T.M Ahamed Ibrahim were the first President and General Secretary respectively. Having a political

party for Muslims and other weaker sections with the nomenclature of Muslim League was very risky at that time. And the leaders like Ismail Sahib and K.M. Seethi Sahib from Kerala took every pain to organize the party braving heavy odds.

### **Office Bearers:**

**1) President:** Prof. Kader Mohideen

**2) National Chairman:** Syed Hyderali Shihab Thangal



### **Ideology and Manifesto:**

Muslim League has been standing always for democracy and the integrity of the nation and its all-round development and the League's motto is secularism and communal harmony. League could uphold the sacredness of diversity of Indian life besides fighting for the existence and rights of the Muslim minority. The IUML was in complete compliance with the manifesto of the INC in the recently concluded Lok Sabha

### **Recent Results:**

#### **Lok Sabha:**

2014 elections – 2 seats

2019 elections – 3 seats

#### **Kerala Assembly Elections:**

2011 – 20 seats

2016 – 18seats.



### **6) JAMMU AND KASHMIR NATIONAL CONFERENCE:**

**About the Party:** The **Jammu & Kashmir National Conference (JKNC)** is a state political party in the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir. It supported the accession of the princely state to India in 1947.

Since 1947, the National Conference was in power in Jammu and Kashmir in one form or another till 2002, and again between 2009–2015.

### **Office Bearers:**

**1) Chairperson:** Farooq Abdullah



## **Ideologies and Manifesto:**

The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference is a party whose sole objective lies in promotion of the autonomous interests of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The party follows a policy of **Moderate Separatism** wherein they fight for special statuses and due adherence of Article 35A and Article 370 of the Constitution of India.

The National Conference wants to protect the interests of all the groups present in Kashmir, including the Hurriyats.

## **Results:**

### **Lok Sabha:**

2014 – 0 seats

2019: 3 seats

### **J&K State Legislature:**

2008: 28 seats out of 87

2014: 15 seats out of 87



## **7) Jharkhand Mukti Morcha**

**About the Party:** Jharkhand Mukti Morcha, popular among public as JMM, is a regional political party mainly centered in Jharkhand state and its neighboring states of Odisha, West Bengal and Bihar.

The Jharkhand movement again received a shot in the arm with the emergence of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha in 1973.

## **Office Bearers:**

**1) President: Shri Shibu Soren**



**Ideologies:**

The basic ideology of the party is true socialism and everyone's participation/contribution/rights/honor & identity to build the nation in the strongest way to lead the world society through their ethnic values and progressive destination.

**Recent Results:****Lok Sabha:**

2014 elections – 2 seats

2019 elections –1 seat

**Jharkhand Assembly Elections**

2009 – 18 seats

2014–19seats

**8) Kerala Congress (M)**

**About the Party:** Kerala Congress (M) is a state-level political party in the Indian state of Kerala. It formed in 1979, after splitting from the Kerala Congress.

Although among the oldest regional political parties still active, Kerala Congress has never come to power on its own, or even led a coalition.

**Office Bearers:**

**1) Leader:** K.M Mani

**2) Parliamentary Chairperson:** P.J Joseph



**Ideology:**

The Kerala Congress has been responsible for fighting for the rights of the youth primarily in Kerala. They have been responsible for the creating of a number of student frontal associations in Kerala which have been instrumental in advocating student welfare. They stand to uphold the constitutional rights of the oppressed.

**Recent Results:****Lok Sabha:**

2014: 1 seat

2019 - 1 seat

**Kerala State Assembly:**

2011- 0 seats

2016-15 seats

**9) The Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP)**

**About the Party: Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP)** is a political party in India. The party was founded on 19 March 1940 and

has its roots in the Bengali liberation movement. They have a presence in many states and are a part of the United Democratic Front in Kerala in spite of being a left wing party

**Office Bearer:**

**1) Secretary General:** T.J Chandrachoodan



**Ideology:**

The party is a firm left wing party and believes in the ideas of Marxism and Leninism. Although they are leftist by ideology the RSP is open to certain reforms which allow private collaboration too. It did not completely align with the ideology of the LDF in Kerala and thus joined the UDF, an alliance with quasi leftist views. Just like the other left wing parties in India, the RSP has successfully established many unions for the benefits of the working class and gained enormous success.

**Recent Results:****Lok Sabha**

2014: 1 seat

2019: 1 seat

**West Bengal State Assembly:**

2011: 7 seats

2016: 3 seats

**10) Rashtriya Janta Dal**

**Party History:** Rashtriya Janata Dal came into being on 5th July 1997. As an active and dynamic political organization, RJD has invariably stood to strengthen the fight for social equality, social justice and secularism.



## **Office Bearers:**

- 1) President:** Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav
- 2) Rajya Sabha Leader:** Ram Jethmalani

## **Ideologies and Manifesto:**

Rashtriya Janata Dal locates itself in the collective aspirations of people and communities striving to carve out a society based on the premises of social justice and secularism. Since its inception Rashtriya Janata Dal is relentlessly working as the voice of the socially and economically downtrodden sections of the society.

## **Recent Results:**

### **Lok Sabha Elections:**

**2014** – Won 4 out of 20 seats contested.

**2019** – Did not win a seat in the 20 contested.

### **Bihar Vidhan Sabha Results:**

2010: 22 seats

2015: 80 seats



## OTHER OPPOSITION PARTIES



### 1) All India Trinamool Congress

**Party History:** Founded on 1 January 1998, the party is led by its founder and current chief minister of Bengal Mamata Banerjee. The Trinamool Congress was registered with the Election Commission of India during mid -December 1999. Apart from its government in Bengal the party also

operates in the states of Tripura, Manipur and Kerala.

#### Office Bearers:

- 1) **AITMC President:** Mamata Banerjee
- 2) **General Secretary:** Subrata Bakshi
- 3) **Leader in Lok Sabha:** Sudip Bandhopadhyay

**Ideologies:** The aim of the party is to make all round development of India in the political, economic, social, cultural, industrial, agricultural sectors and to establish India as a global power keeping in view the multi-lingual, multi-faceted, multi-ethnic rich culture and heritage of India.

#### Recent Results:

##### Lok Sabha Polls

2014: 34 seats

2019: 22 seats

##### West Bengal State Assembly:

2011: 184 seats

2016: 213 Seats





## **2) Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP)**

**Party History:** The Bahujan Samaj Party was founded in the year 1984 by Kanshi Ram when the Bahujans comprised 85% of the total population of the country; however, they were divided into 6000 different castes. The party has its main base in the state of Uttar Pradesh.

### **Office Bearers:**

- 1) President :** Bahan Kumari Mayawati
- 2) General Secretary :** Satish Chandra Mishra

**Ideology and manifesto:** The ideology of the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) is "Social Transformation and Economic Emancipation" of the "Bahujan Samaj", which comprises of the Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and Religious Minorities such as Sikhs, Muslims, Christians, Parsis and Buddhists and account for over 85 per cent of the country's total population. The party believes people belonging to all these classes have been the victims of the "Manuwadi" system in the country for thousands of years, under which they have been vanquished, trampled upon and forced to languish in all spheres of life.

**Alliance:** Right before the 2019 Lok Sabha the BSP chief Mayawati ruled out of any alliance with Congress saying that Congress will end the party. The party formed an alliance with SP, RLD and other regional parties; this alliance was called as "Mahagathbandhan".



## Recent Results:

### Lok Sabha:

2014: 0 seats

2019: 10 seats

### UP State Assembly:

2012: 80 seats

2017: 19 seats



### 3) Samajwadi Party (SP)

**Party History:** The Samajwadi Party was one of several parties that emerged when the Janata Dal (People's League) fragmented into several regional parties. The party was founded by Mulayam Singh Yadav in 1992.

### Office Bearers:

- 1) **President:** Akhilesh Yadav
- 2) **Leader:** Mulayam Singh Yadav

### Ideologies:

**Secularism and Democracy:** The party believes in creating a socialist society which works on the principle of equality. The Samajwadi party claims that it believes in continuously working towards the upliftment of weaker sections of society and stand strong against communal forces.

**Alliances:** The party formed an alliance called 'Mahagathbandhan' with BSP and other regional parties before 2019 Lok Sabha Elections. They left out the Congress while forming the alliance.



## **Recent Results:**

### **Lok Sabha 2019:**

2014: 5 seats

2019: 5 seats

### **UP State Legislative Assembly:**

2012: 224 seats

2017: 47 seats



## **4) Telugu Desam Party (TDP)**

**About Party:** TDP is a regional political party active in the southern states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The party was founded by N.T.

Ramarao on March 1982 .N. T. Rama Rao. TDP

was the first regional party to become the main opposition party in 8th Lok Sabha from 1984 to 1989.

## **Office Bearers:**

1) **President:** Nara Chandrababu Naidu

2) **General Secretaries:** Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu, followed by Nara Lokesh, E. Peddireddy and A. Sharif.

**Ideologies:** The Party follows a pro-Telugu ideology. Since the 1990s, the party has followed an economically liberal policy that has been seen as pro-business and pro-development party

## **Recent Results:**

### **Lok Sabha:**

2014: 16 seats

2019: 03 seats



## **Andhra Pradesh State Legislative Assembly 2019:**

2014: 117 seats

2019: 23 seats



### **5) Communist Party Of India (MARXIST)**

**Party History:** The CPI (M) was formed at the Seventh Congress of the Communist Party of India held in Calcutta in 1964. Over the years, the Party has emerged as the foremost Left force in the country. The CPI (M) has grown steadily since its formation in 1964. The CPI (M) as the leading Left party is committed to build a Left front.

#### **Office Bearers:**

1) **General Secretary:** Sitaram Yechury

**Ideologies and manifesto:** Its aim is socialism and communism through the establishment of the state of dictatorship of the proletariat. In all its activities the Party is guided by the philosophy and principles of Marxism–Leninism which shows to the toiling masses the correct way to the ending of exploitation of man by man, their complete emancipation. The party in its election manifesto of 2019 raised many questions on of democracy, secularism, economic policies, attacks on backward classes, unemployment.

#### **Recent Results:**

##### **Lok Sabha**

2014: 09 seats

2019: 03 seats



### **West Bengal State Legislative assembly**

2011: 40 seats

2016: 26 seats

### **Kerala State Legislative assembly**

2011: 45 seats

2016: 58 seats



## **6) Communist Party Of India ((CPI)**

**Party History:** The Communist Party of India was formed on 26 December 1925 at the first Party Conference in Kanpur. It was created to incorporate the vision of socialism in Indian

society and governance.

### **Office Bearers:**

**1) President:** Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy

**Ideologies:** Communist Party of India (CPI) can be called the progenitor that has worked its way through a series of movements to become a political force to reckon with. From armed struggle against local monarchs in Tripura, Telangana and Kerala to agrarian struggle in Manipur, the party has always been at the forefront of social movements. Land reform and trade union movements also cover a large chunk of CPI's political ideology.

### **Recent Results:**

### **Lok Sabha:**

2014: 01 seats

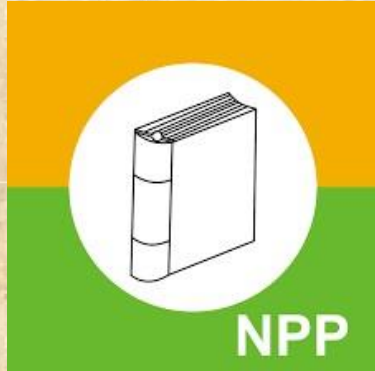


2019: 02 seats

**Kerala State Legislative assembly:**

2011: 13 seats

2016: 19 seats



## **7) National People's Party (NPP)**

**Party History:** The National People's Party was founded by P.A Sangma after his expulsion from the NCP in July 2012. It is accorded national party status on 7th June, 2019. Thus NPP becomes first political outfit from the northeast to get status of national party. In 2015, in a rare move election commission has suspended NPP

for its failure to provide party's expenditure during Lok Sabha Elections held in 2014. NPP became first party to get suspended by EC.

### **Office Bearers:**

**1) President:** Conrad Sangma

### **Ideology:**

The party's primary ideology lies in the protection of rights for people of Meghalaya and the North-East as they feel they are not duly represented in council.

### **Recent Results:**

#### **Lok Sabha:**

2014: 01 seats

2019: 02 seats

#### **Meghalaya State Legislative Assembly:**

2013: 2 seats

2018: 20 seats



## **Arunachal Pradesh State Legislative Assembly:**

2014: Nil

2019: 05 seats



### **8) ALL INDIA MAJLIS-e-ITTEHAD-UL-MUSLIMENN(AIMIM)**

**Party History:** The All India Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen or AIMIM is a recognized regional political party based in the Indian state of Telangana, founded in 1927 in the Hyderabad State of British India. The AIMIM was initially a city-based party, with influence only in Old Hyderabad, but the party won two seats in the

2014 Maharashtra Legislative Assembly election and emerged as the second largest party in the Aurangabad municipal elections. The party has long been seen as a political representation of Muslims in the state of Andhra Pradesh, and now Telangana.

#### **Office Bearers:**

**1) President:** Asaduddin Owaisi

**2) General Secretary:** Syed Ahmed Pasha Quadri

#### **Ideology:**

The AIMIM has always been a forerunner when it comes to advocating the rights of Muslims in India. They have constantly fought the Hinutva agenda of the RSS and tried to provide a notable identity to the Muslims living in India.



## **Recent Results:**

**Lok Sabha**  
**2014: 1 seat**  
**2019: seats**



## **9) AAM AADMI PARTY(AAP)**

**Party History:** Aam Aadmi Party is an Indian political party, formally launched On 26 November 2012, and is currently the ruling party of the National Capital Territory of Delhi. A significant part of its agenda was to quickly introduce the Jan

Lokpal bill in the National Capital Territory of Delhi.

## **Office Bearers:**

- 1) Convener: Arvind Kejriwal**
- 2) National Secretary: Pankaj Gupta**
- 3) Treasurer: Narain Das Gupta**

## **Ideologies:**

At the time of formation, the AAP said that the promise of equality and justice that forms a part of the Constitution of India. It wants to reverse the way that the accountability of government operates and has taken an interpretation of the Gandhian concept of 'Swaraj' as a tenet.

Kejriwal has said that the AAP refuses to be guided by ideologies and that they are entering politics to change the system

## **Recent Results:**



**Lok Sabha:**

2014: 04 seats

2019: 01 seats

**Delhi Legislative Assembly:**

2013: 69 seats

2015: 67 seats

**Punjab State Legislative Assembly:**

2017: 20 seats

**10) Peoples Democratic Party (JKPDP)**

**Party History:** The Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party (JKPDP), PDP was headed and founded by Mufti Mohammed Sayeed. The PDP was founded in 1998 it captured power in Jammu and Kashmir in

October 2002 Assembly elections.

**Office Bearers:**

**1) Leader:** Mehbooba Mufti

**Ideologies:**

The PDP operates on the ideology of self-rule, as distinctly different from the issues of autonomy. It believes that self-rule as a political philosophy, as opposed to autonomy, ensures the empowerment of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

**Recent Results:****Lok Sabha:**

2014: 3 seats

2019: Nil



## **Kashmir State Legislative Assembly**

2008: 21 seats

2014: 28 seats



### **11) Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS)**

**About Party:** The **Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS)** is a nationalist far-

right Indian political party based in the state of Maharashtra and operates on the motto of

"Sons of the Soil". It was founded on 9 March 2006 in Mumbai by Raj Thackeray

### **Office Bearers:**

**1) President and Chairperson:** Raj Thackeray

### **Ideologies:**

Regionalism forms the core of the principle of MNS as they look to protect Hindu and Marathi interests. In September 2014, MNS unveiled its first look of "Maharashtra's Development Blueprint" with the slogan 'Yes, it's possible'. The blueprint discusses party's stance and key ideas on infrastructure, governance, quality of life, growth opportunities and Marathi pride.

### **Recent Results:**

#### **Maharashtra Legislative Assembly:**

2009: 13 seats

2014: 1 seat



## **Flow of committee:**

**Disclaimer: The Literary Circle, NIT Durgapur in no way endorses any political party or ideology. The views written here have been penned keeping in mind that an Opposition meet has been simulated and do not represent our views.**

Greetings Delegates, now that you have had a basic idea about your parties and portfolio it is extremely important that you understand the dynamics of a committee this vast when it comes to deliberations and ideologies. The All India Opposition Meet should at all times work in a direction to achieve the motive it has been convened for: To defeat the BJP led NDA. The people have given a huge mandate to the Modi government but you feel that his rule is turning out to be detrimental both for your parties and for this country at large. Every defeat is caused by some loopholes and we feel these have been some of the glaring reasons why in spite of everything the incumbent NDA government came back to power. Contrary to today's times, a 'pro incumbency wave' has been observed in this country. We would like the delegates to commence the session by deliberating on these reasons and presenting party viewpoints. Here we have some pretty evident reasons which we believe were instrumental in turning tides in favor of the BJP:

### **1) The Charisma of the Modi-Shah Duo:**



“Narendra Modi's biggest strength is his image and I shall crush it”, said a confident Rahul Gandhi in an interview to India Today but little did he know that his confidence and efforts were to be crushed by the man who had used his image of invincibility, loyalty and



perseverance to earn the respect of the Indian voters. “Modi hai to Mumkin Hai” resonated in every Indian’s heart.

His story of how a ‘chaiwala’ became a ‘pradhan mantri’ touched the average Indian. He oozed a sense of confidence that he carried with him wherever he went. The population had come to believe that irrespective of reform and development they could trust Modi. What made him all the more invincible is how BJP’s resources were being skillfully marshaled by Mr. Amit Shah, the party supremo. From tactical alliances to near perfect agendas Mr. Shah had set the tone to completely wipe out the UPA since 2014 . Outlook India reported: “For West Bengal, Shah was absolutely certain that the BJP would reach a tally of 23 seats. Throughout the election campaign when he would, at regular intervals—nearly every week— visit West Bengal for addressing five to six public rallies in one day, Shah would tell us that his feedback is that we would do better than what others are predicting for us in the state. In the heat and dust, he would travel the state, address public meetings, and connect with the people. He had sensed their mood, and had linked with their aspirations. When the results were out the BJP had bagged a phenomenal 18 seats in the state.”

With Amit Shah as the new Home Minister, he is only bound to have more impact over the years, if the Opposition are to have any chance at governance then this duo must be dealt with skillfully and their narrative strongly challenged.

## 2) Hindutva- Wave (Rise of Hindu Nationalism)



You know the impact religion played in these general elections and how the BJP used ‘Hindutva’ as a major political tool when their own Rajya Sabha MP, Mr. Subramaniam Swamy went on to



say- ““This is not a Modi wave, but a Hindutva wave” The election results, according to Swamy, showed that religion had prevailed over caste. In fact the results said so as well:

In Uttar Pradesh, the BJP had beaten the “unbeatable arithmetic” of the Samajwadi Party-Bahujan Samaj Party (SP-BSP) caste combined. The government’s views on Sabarimala wherein they insisted on traditions being followed clearly show that the government wanted to reaffirm its support for Hindus.

Modi’s party is one that relies heavily on a socially conservative Hindu base. If Narendra Modi prostrating at the doorsteps of Parliament House at his election victory in 2014 remained as an enduring image for the people of India, the Prime Minister’s meditation pose in a saffron wrap at the Kedarnath Cave at the close of the 2019 campaign will not be forgotten by most. Modiji has become a symbol for Hindu nationalism in India.

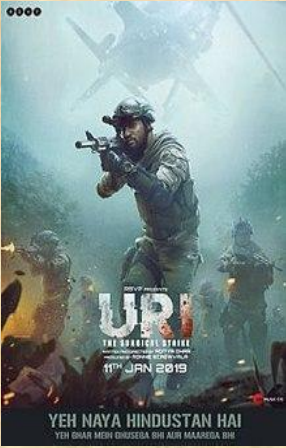
Remember Babri Masjid? The BJP’s firm commitment to get a Ram Mandir constructed on the disputed land made them clear favorites to grasp power in the Hindi heartland.

The rise of Yogi Adityanath, Sadhvi Pragya and Sakshi Maharaj among others as BJP lawmakers in spite of their orthodox views (one is a terror accused) and baffling comments show that the populace have embraced the BJP’s Hindutva agenda with utmost sincerity.

Thus it seems quite evident that appeasement politics for minorities do not work anymore, the BJP’s weapon of Hindutva has simulated the nation’s majority now and if a change is to occur a counter narrative is to be produced, for if things continue as they are, things do not look pleasing for the Opposition even five years down the line.



### 3) Fervent Nationalism As A Political Tool:



The BJP has used its policy of retaliatory strikes in Pakistan as means to appeal to the voters that a government as strong as his has the necessary decisiveness to counter Pakistan and resolve the Jammu and Kashmir issue. The Uri attack in 2016 was followed by a supposed surgical strike across the border (a movie was made on the same: poster alongside) and the heinous attack on the CRPF convoy in Pulwama was followed by air strikes in

Balakot. On both these occasions the Prime Minister came out and made condescending statements about his government's ability to deal with the enemy. BJP's narrative of using the country's armed strength as a tool had a clear impact on the common man who has started feeling safer. Terrorism in Kashmir and the border areas are on an all-time high, however, since 2014, no major terrorist incident has occurred in any major Indian city. This statistic has added to the NDA government's credibility as a "Mazboot sarkar" (strong government) rather than a 'Majboor Sarkar' (helpless government) of the UPA.

Also Narendra Modi announcing the successful completion of Mission Shakti, test-firing India's first anti-satellite missile just some time before the elections strengthened his image as a man who had resolved to put India ahead of its neighbors in every military aspect. India's defense budget is at an all-time high and military collaborations have increased massively. NDA has shown itself to utilize our armed strength more effectively and also made fervent nationalism a way to keep them favorites in the hearts of the people.



#### 4) Government policies and their impact on the population

How so ever the Opposition might feel, Narendra Modi's tenure has had its own set of achievements through his policies. The fact that once leads for the BJP started coming in on 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2019, stock markets touched enviable heights and Sensex crossed the 40,000 barrier. India's stock market has been a bright spot in Asia, particularly as Chinese shares have suffered amid that country's escalating trade war with the United States.

Here we see some of his policies and "yojanas" and the effect it had on India:

- 1) **Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan:** One of the first steps Modi undertook as PM in 2014 was to devise a movement which could bind the nation together and at the same was flawless enough to draw no flak from the Opposition. This came in the form of "Swachh Bharat Abhiyan" (Clean India campaign), a mission to achieve a clean and open defecation India by 2019. Although far from its target, it did get a very positive response nationally.
- 2) **Make in India:** With an increased requirement to boost indigenous production of goods, the Indian government launched the "Make In India" campaign with presentations made worldwide many of them facilitated by the Prime Minister himself. The move resulted in enhanced domestic production especially in the IT and Defense sectors. India rose to the 77<sup>th</sup> spot in Ease of Doing Business Ranking from 142<sup>nd</sup> five years back.
- 3) **GST:** The implementation of the goods and services tax was chaotic and its structure needlessly complex. Its benefits, though, are beginning to seep through the economy. Revenue is lower than expected but the removal of octroi, for example, has greatly



helped the logistics and transport industries. The absence of state boundary checks means truckers save up to 30 per cent in fuel and time, raising productivity with quicker turnarounds.

- 4) **Ayushman Bharat:** The health insurance scheme launched on September 23, 2018, has already benefited 10 lakh poor patients and could be an electoral game-changer. More than 500 million Indians who could not afford medical treatment for non-communicable illnesses like cancer and heart disease now have access to free healthcare.
- 5) **Demonetization:** Modi also sought to make India's economy cashless. His decision in 2016 to abruptly withdraw all high-denomination banknotes from circulation was a shocking move that disrupted the Indian economy. The aim of this move, which came to be known as "demonetization," was to wipe out "black money," piles of ill-gotten cash stashed outside the banking system. But some economists criticize demonetization as a "colossal policy failure." The GST and demonetization were expected to be game-changers that would restructure the Indian economy. In short the Opposition can ill afford to assume that the Modi government had done no good, it actually has succeeded in reinforcing firm belief among the people of the world's largest democracy.

## 5) International Image of the Modi Government and Foreign Policy:

In September 2014, Modi visited the US and addressed the Indian diaspora in New York's Madison Square Garden. He also held talks with Former US President Barack Obama. Modi's "diplomatic showmanship"



made headlines in India as well as in the US. In the following years, Modi developed a close working relationship with Obama. After Donald Trump became the USA's president, India-US ties continued to flourish, with New Delhi and Washington sealing several trade and defense deals and undertaking joint military exercises.

Modi's diplomacy equally charmed the European Union. The Indian prime minister visited Berlin and Paris in 2015 and held talks with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Former French President Francois Hollande. In France, Modi managed to break the deadlock over the sale of 36 Rafale fighter jets. India under PM Modi, however, has appeared to drift away from its long-time ally Russia. Although New Delhi and Moscow have cordial relations, India is now closer to Washington than ever. India's relations with some of its neighboring countries have always been problematic. India views China and Pakistan as its biggest security challenges in the region. This aspect of India's foreign policy has remained unchanged for the past few decades. PM Modi has chosen to be more assertive when it comes to national security. As an example of this assertiveness, they point to India's "surgical strike" against suspected militant hideouts in Pakistan in response to a deadly attack on Indian troops in Kashmir in February. Modi's China policy, meanwhile, hasn't succeeded in resolving the tensions and mistrust between the two nations. In April 2018, the Indian prime minister met with Chinese President Xi Jinping at a bilateral summit in Wuhan. The meeting was touted as a milestone in India-China relations; however it failed to deliver concrete results. Although both China and India have increased bilateral trade and enhanced border control, there is a perception in India that Beijing is unwilling to cooperate on key security issues. Modi has also



transformed India's "Look East" policy into a more aggressive "Act East" policy, which aims to connect India to East Asia through better infrastructure, trade and regional institutions. Prime Minister Modi has changed India's diplomatic outlook in several ways. He has reset his country's relations with the West, especially the US, in a bid to counter China's growing influence in Asia. Modi has also taken a more aggressive stance toward Pakistan's alleged terrorism backing, and has increased engagement with partners in East and Southeast Asia. Modi has also forged stronger alliances with countries in the Middle East. India's relations with Japan and Israel are at an all-time high and Modi has managed to keep very good relations with Israel in spite of India's bid for a separate Palestinian state. Modi, the diplomat has proved to be exceptionally prudent. Modi's "hugs" indeed turned out to be extremely beneficial for India.

## **6) Collective Failure of the Opposition**

The Opposition lacked a narrative of its own, a charisma of its own and never seemed to have the capability to defeat the BJP. Even people who were not too fond of the way the government functioned over the last five years went on to vote for the BJP saying "If not Modi then who?" The absence of a convincing alternate narrative highlights the dismal planning and execution of the Opposition in the wake of the general elections 2019. An absence of clear leader, one who could match Narendra Modi's persona, was one major reason why people did not even consider voting for the others. Rahul Gandhi's loss in Amethi, a family bastion, clearly raises doubts about his ability to maneuver India's grand old party in the right direction. Modi's continuous jibe at the INC's dynastic politics played a major role in its downfall. As far as



the other opposition parties are concerned they hardly had anything new to offer. They spoke of the evils that had crept into the country at the ruling government's behest but could hardly provide a counter policy or narrative that they could bring about a change. **The Failure of key alliances** was a concrete proof that people indeed wanted a “majboot” sarkar rather than a “majboor” one. The breakdown of talks between the Congress and Aam Aadmi party over trivial seat sharing issues proved massively detrimental to their chances with the BJP winning from all seven seats in Delhi. The Left was left reeling with no major alliances and thereby extremely poor returns. Ironically analysts say that the entire vote bank of the Left in Bengal shifted to the BJP (a right wing organization). The biggest setback in the Opposition camp though came in Uttar Pradesh. The SP-BSP narrative failed massively in Uttar Pradesh as the BJP swept apart the polls. What was touted as a ‘game changer’ hardly proved to be a challenge for the BJP. Having discussed some of these causes, things seem grim for the opposition. Once the delegates do realize the problem, the committee should proceed towards a coordinated approach to develop a proper strategy for the next 5 years. The delegates are to keep in mind state elections, day to day parliamentary debates and try to figure out course of action and formulate alliances in committee. Although it is not that the UPA has chartered into unknown territory, history and experience do lend them a helping hand when it comes to handling a crisis like this. The UPA faced an uphill task in facing the Vajpayee led BJP back in 1999 when they had lost the elections. However a remarkable turnaround led by Sonia Gandhi in 2004, against all odds brought them to power for 10 years up to 2014.



**Analysis of UPA's victory in the 2004 Lok Sabha Elections:** The reign of Atal Bihari Vajpayee saw some drastic similarities to that of Narendra Modi. His charisma as a leader knew no parallel. He had led India victorious out of a bloody kargil war against Pakistan and was instrumental in India testing its first nuclear bomb. There was a massive surge of patriotism and nationalism across the country. There was also a general sense of sympathy and admiration for the way the Vajpayee government was dissolved by a solitary vote and how he conducted himself during that time. As expected Vajpayee led NDA won the 1999 Lok Sabha polls. On similar lines, many exit polls predicted NDA's victory or a hung parliament in the 2004 general elections, however the Sonia Gandhi led UPA made a remarkable comeback to win the majority and form the government. It was the façade of nationalism that had been broken by the Congress making the people realize the dire need of poverty alleviation, rural reform and economic upliftment. Slowly the 'India Shining' campaign of the BJP fell into pieces and the poor, the farmers, the deprived and the Middle class started rallying behind Sonia as the Vajpayee rule had seen massive increase in the gap between the rich and the poor. Although the dynamics have changed, the challenges are a lot different; delegates are to analyze this situation and figure out a way forward. We leave it here for the delegates to think. **This guide was only meant to help delegates begin with research and planning and the scope of this committee goes much beyond this.** To conclude, here are a few research links and questions that delegates can base their research upon.



## **Questions to be answered:**

- 1) What are the actual weak links in NDA's form of governance that actually affect the people rather than harping on agendas like Rafale which the general populace do not actually think about?
- 2) Is Opposition unity or a true "mahagathbandhan" feasible? If yes, what could be the provisions? If No then are parties adept in single handedly fighting the BJP?
- 3) How can the Opposition come up with a counter narrative to Hindutva and Hindu nationalism?
- 4) Which party and which leader(s) could be the face of the Opposition over the next five years?
- 5) How does the Opposition wish to function in the current parliament, what issues are to be raised and where does each one of them stand on these issues?
- 6) Is the Opposition still defiant on fallacies in Electoral process? If yes, how do they plan to justify the narrative? If No, how do they ensure that they face no backlash?

## **Some Useful research links:**

- 1) <https://unausa.org/model-un/>
- 2) <https://www.thehindu.com/elections/lok-sabha-2019/analysis-highest-ever-national-vote-share-for-the-bjp/article27218550.ece>
- 3) <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/southasia/2019/03/28/lseindia2019-the-best-analysis-on-india-2019-from-across-the-web/>



- 4) <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/5-years-of-modi-govt-how-your-country-fared/articleshow/67802562.cms>
- 5) <https://m.economictimes.com/news/elections/lok-sabha/india/how-modi-govt-performed-heres-what-ceos-think/articleshow/68755690.cms>
- 6) <https://bit.ly/2Y3My10>
- 7) <https://bit.ly/2Xmoh9j>