



लोक सभा
LOK SABHA
HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE



BACKGROUND GUIDE

Your Ultimate MUN Resource

CHAIRPERSONS

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings,

We are the chairs of the Lok Sabha Council, K. Roshini, and Imran Alavi, and we would like to welcome all of the delegates to the NewMUN Chapter V. **We aim to make this one of the most memorable experiences for you.**

To assist you in getting ready and learning more about the council, some background information has been supplied. The following pages are meant to help you learn more about the subjects that will be discussed in committee meetings. Please note that this guide simply serves as a starting point for your research. It is your obligation to learn as much as you can about the agenda and how it relates to the political party you are representing.

Please keep in mind that a Council is only as powerful as each of its individual members and that our role is to facilitate discussion, not to engage in it. We expect you to uphold the spirit of the United Nations and to adhere to the Rules of Procedure with utmost attention. We also hope you improve and perfect the art of diplomacy. *This Background Guide should serve as an introduction to the subject for this committee, and we hope you find it helpful. It is not, however, meant to take the place of your own investigation.* We strongly advise you to thoroughly research the policies of your assigned member in order to increase your understanding of the topic.

The Lok Sabha gathers in the Sansad Bhavan on Sansad Marg in New Delhi, in the Lok Sabha Chambers. The members of the Lok Sabha are elected directly by the public via adult suffrage. The Indian Constitution specifies that the House can have a maximum of 552 members. The total electorate is divided among the States in such a way that, to the greatest extent possible, the proportion of seats given to each State to its population is the same for all States.

Wishing you ALL THE VERY BEST,

K. Roshini & Imran Alavi

INTRODUCTION

Lok Sabha

The Lok Sabha, India's lower house of Parliament, is a critical component of the nation's democratic system. Comprising 545 members, these individuals are elected by the people of India in a general election held every five years. The Lok Sabha's primary responsibilities include lawmaking, government oversight, and representing the diverse interests and voices of the nation. Delegates in the Lok Sabha council will assume the roles of Indian parliamentarians, engaging in debates, proposing legislation, and voting on important issues.

A clear understanding of the legislative process, the functioning of political parties, and parliamentary procedures is crucial for effective participation in this council, where they will work together to address national and global challenges. Before 1913, the members of the Lok Sabha were chosen by state governments, but now everyone in India gets to vote for them. These members need to be at least 25 years old, live in the state they represent, and be Indian citizens.

Empowering the Lok Sabha for challenges

The Lok Sabha, as the core of India's democracy, stands ready to address the complex issues at hand. In debating 'One India, One Election,' the Lok Sabha can serve as a platform for critical discussions, allowing delegates to explore the potential advantages, drawbacks, and practicalities of synchronized elections. The Lok Sabha's diverse representation provides a forum to consider the interests of various states and communities, ensuring that any proposed electoral reforms are sensitive to India's federal structure.

Likewise, in contemplating 'Renaming India: Uniting or Dividing the Country,' the Lok Sabha plays a pivotal role in shaping the national identity and unity. Delegates will have the opportunity to engage in thoughtful dialogues regarding the historical and cultural significance of such a change and the potential consequences on India's diverse populace. The Lok Sabha's ability to represent the interests and voices of a multitude of constituents from across the country is vital in navigating this complex terrain.



The Lok Sabha, as the embodiment of India's democratic principles, invites delegates to foster collaboration, promote national unity, and work towards practical and well-informed solutions. By harnessing the strength of diverse perspectives and in-depth discussions, the Lok Sabha aims to chart a course that upholds India's democratic values while addressing the challenges of our ever-evolving nation.

AGENDA 1

One India, One Election

The idea of 'One Nation, One Election' refers to holding simultaneous elections across the country. **This means that elections for the Lok Sabha and all state assemblies across India will be held simultaneously** — with voting presumably taking place around the same time.

Currently, elections to the state assemblies and the Lok Sabha are held separately — after the five-year term of the incumbent government ends or if it is dissolved due to various reasons.

Objectives:

The objectives of the topic "One India, One Election" surround a comprehensive approach to addressing some of the inherent complexities in India's electoral system. By exploring these objectives, **we aim to propose solutions to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the electoral process.** Here are the key objectives of this crucial discussion:

- **Stability:** To promote political stability by minimizing the frequent disruptions caused by elections at different levels of government.
- **Resource Optimization:** To make more effective use of resources, including security personnel and government machinery, by aligning all elections.
- **Enhanced Governance:** To allow governments to concentrate on governance and policy-making, as they would have more time between elections.

- **Reducing Voter Fatigue:** To reduce voter fatigue by ensuring that citizens vote once for all levels of government in a coordinated manner, instead of facing elections frequently.
- **Enhancing Policy Continuity:** To ensure continuity in government policies and programs by having elections less frequently.
- **Streamlining Electoral Process:** To simplify the electoral process by holding all elections concurrently, thereby reducing the complexity of voter registration and logistical challenges.
- **Minimizing Disruptions:** To minimize the disruptions caused by the Model Code of Conduct during election periods, which can hinder ongoing government work.
- **Encouraging Accountability:** To increase accountability by allowing voters to hold elected representatives at various levels accountable simultaneously.

Benefits:

Talking about having all elections at the same time in India can lead to some pretty good things. Let's take a closer look at these benefits to see how they can make elections work better in our country:

Cost Efficiency:

One of the primary reasons for advocating simultaneous elections is the significant reduction in costs. In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections alone, a staggering Rs 60,000 crore was spent. This figure includes expenses incurred by political parties campaigning and the budget allocated by the Election Commission of India (ECI) to organize the elections.

Administrative Efficiency:

Simultaneous elections can improve administrative efficiency across the country. During elections, normal government functions often slow down due to officials being engaged in electoral duties. Synchronizing elections would help minimize these interruptions, allowing government officials to focus more on their regular administrative tasks.



Policy Continuity:

Currently, the Model Code of Conduct imposes restrictions whenever elections are scheduled, temporarily halting the launch of new projects and initiatives. Holding simultaneous elections would ensure continuity in the implementation of government policies and program.

Boost in Voter Turnout:

Holding simultaneous elections could potentially lead to higher voter turnout. Voters may find it more convenient to cast their votes for all levels of government in a single election, rather than having to participate in multiple elections at different times.

Drawbacks:

Logistical Challenges:

Coordinating and conducting simultaneous elections at various levels of government across India's diverse states and union territories would be a massive logistical challenge. Ensuring the availability of polling booths, security personnel, and resources for such a large-scale operation can be daunting.

Political Imbalance:

Simultaneous elections might lead to a political imbalance, favoring parties or coalitions with a strong national presence. This could diminish the representation of regional parties and the diversity of voices in government.

Campaign Fatigue:

Holding all elections together might result in campaign fatigue for both politicians and voters. The intensity and duration of election campaigns could take a toll on the democratic

process, as there would be less time for in-depth discussions and engagement with voters. It would be a disadvantage to parties who are financially unable to campaign in a large-scale.

Lack of Accountability:

With longer election cycles, there is more opportunity for elected officials to be held accountable for their actions. Simultaneous elections might reduce this accountability as elections would occur less frequently.

Diversity of Issues:

India's vast and diverse regions have unique challenges and concerns. Simultaneous elections may not allow for these diverse issues to receive adequate attention at the national level, potentially neglecting important regional problems.

Constitutional Ambiguities:

Adapting the Constitution to accommodate simultaneous elections might lead to constitutional ambiguities and conflicts between the central and state governments regarding the scheduling and conduct of elections.

Synchronization Challenges:

Implementing "One India One Election" would require careful coordination between the central government and multiple state governments. Any disputes or delays in synchronization could lead to political crises.

Electoral Systems around the world

Case Study: Representation in India's Electoral System

Introduction:

In the world's largest democracy, India, representation in elections is a fundamental aspect of the electoral system. The country follows a unique system for allocating seats to ensure that diverse voices are heard in the political landscape. This case study examines how India allocates seats, focusing on the topic of representation.

Background:

India's parliamentary system consists of two houses: the Lok Sabha (House of the People) and the Rajya Sabha (Council of States). The Lok Sabha is the lower house and plays a central

role in representing the people. It consists of 545 seats, including 543 elected members and 2 nominated members. The Rajya Sabha, on the other hand, is the upper house, and its members are not directly elected by the people but chosen by state legislatures.

Representation at the Lok Sabha:

India uses a "first-past-the-post" electoral system for the Lok Sabha. Each of the 543 Lok Sabha constituencies elects one member. This system means that the candidate who receives the most votes in a constituency wins the seat, regardless of whether they secure an absolute majority. While this method may not always represent the majority view, it ensures that a wide range of voices and political parties are heard in the Lok Sabha.

Quotas for Representation:

To ensure diverse representation, India has introduced reserved constituencies for Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST). A certain percentage of seats in the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies are reserved for these marginalized groups. This affirmative action aims to empower historically disadvantaged communities and enhance their political representation.

Challenges and Controversies:

While India's electoral system strives for inclusive representation, it is not without challenges. Some critics argue that the first-past-the-post system can result in disproportionate representation and often favors larger political parties. Additionally, there are debates about extending reserved seats for marginalized communities to other underrepresented groups.

Conclusion:

India's approach to seat allocation and representation in elections is a complex system designed to uphold democratic principles while considering the diverse nature of the country. The balance between ensuring representation and addressing its challenges remains an ongoing process. India's approach to seat allocation can easily be subject to reforms for a better and efficient system.

Case Study: Proportional Representation in New Zealand

Introduction:

New Zealand's electoral system transitioned from First Past the Post (FPTP) to Mixed Member Proportional (MMP) representation to address issues of disproportionate representation. This case study focuses on the mathematical procedure used in the MMP system to allocate seats in the parliament, ensuring proportional representation.

In the MMP system, the allocation of parliamentary seats is determined by the **Sainte-Laguë method**, a mathematical formula.

Impact on Representation:

The mathematical precision of the Sainte-Laguë method ensures that the allocation of seats is proportional to the percentage of party votes, leading to more representative and diverse parliaments. Smaller parties have gained a voice in the legislative process, better reflecting the electorate's preferences.

**Conclusion:**

New Zealand's adoption of the MMP system with the Sainte-Laguë method demonstrates the vital role of mathematics in achieving proportional representation. This approach has redefined the country's parliamentary representation, addressing past issues of disproportionality and fostering a more diverse and inclusive democratic environment.

Are there any other reforms we can make?

The case studies of representation in India and proportional representation in New Zealand offer valuable insights into how nations can adapt their electoral systems to promote fairness, inclusivity, and proportionality. They exemplify the capacity of democratic institutions, like the Lok Sabha in India, to adapt and learn from global experiences to bring about meaningful reforms.

In India, the Lok Sabha's journey showcases the country's commitment to addressing complex issues through a comprehensive and inclusive approach. The exploration of the "One India, One Election" initiative highlights India's ability to adapt its electoral system to enhance governance, reduce voter fatigue, and streamline the electoral process. The process of reform is a testament to the democratic principles enshrined in the Lok Sabha, which provides a platform for deliberation, discussion, and change.

New Zealand's transition to a Mixed Member Proportional (MMP) system illustrates the transformative potential of proportional representation. By implementing the Sainte-Laguë method, New Zealand aimed to resolve representation disparities and offer a more balanced platform for diverse voices. This change showcases the power of nations to draw inspiration from others, adapt electoral systems, and improve the inclusiveness of their democracy.

The cases of India and New Zealand highlight the Lok Sabha's role as a forum for transformation and reform. They emphasize the ability of nations to learn from global experiences, adopt best practices, and implement reforms that enhance democratic representation. In a world where nations face evolving challenges, the Lok Sabha stands as a symbol of adaptability and reform, providing a path for nations to strengthen their democratic foundations, promote representation, and meet the changing needs of their societies. As nations look to the future, they can draw inspiration from the experiences of others and use their own parliamentary institutions to make reforms that advance the principles of democracy and better serve their citizens.

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AGENDA 2

Renaming India: Uniting or Dividing the country?

The idea of 'Bharat Name Change' revolves around the proposed change of India's name to Bharat. This topic invites discussion on the potential impact and implications of such a transition. While we delve deeper into the topic in the subsequent sections, let's begin by exploring the fundamental aspects.

Objectives:

- **Preserving Cultural Heritage:** The objective could be to explore how renaming, if done, can preserve and promote the rich cultural heritage and diversity of India's various regions and communities.
- **Enhancing National Identity:** Delegates may consider whether renaming can contribute to strengthening the sense of national identity and unity among diverse populations in India.
- **Addressing Historical Controversies:** The objective might involve examining whether renaming can help address historical controversies such as the name India being used by the British or injustices related to names, places, or figures.
- **Political Implications:** Delegates can explore the potential political consequences and implications of renaming, including its impact on various political parties and their support bases.
- **Social and Ethical Considerations:** The objective could involve evaluating the social and ethical considerations related to renaming, including issues of representation, inclusivity, and fairness.
- **Economic and Practical Aspects:** Delegates may investigate the economic and practical aspects of renaming, including the costs and logistics involved in such a process.

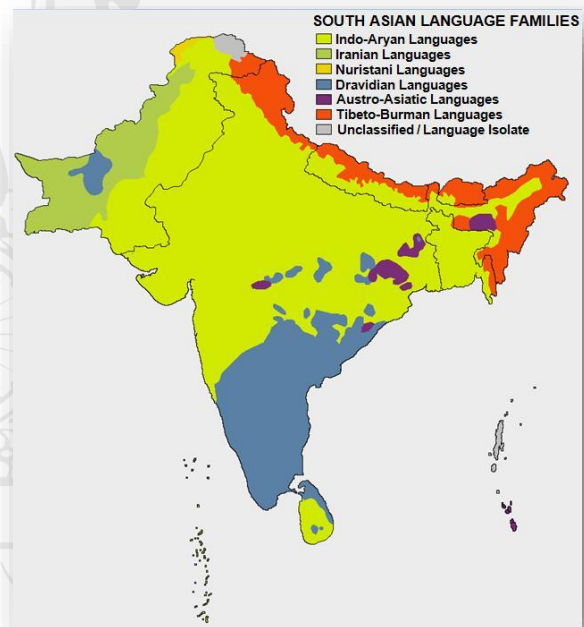
- **Public Opinion and Consent:** The objective might be to examine how public opinion and consensus play a role in the decision-making process of renaming and its potential consequences.

Benefits:

Discussing the renaming of India to "Bharat" unveils a range of potential advantages, each of which plays a crucial role in shaping the nation's identity and global perception. By exploring these benefits, delegates have the opportunity to gain a comprehensive understanding of how this change can positively impact various aspects of Indian society. Let's delve into these advantages to appreciate the multifaceted benefits of embracing the name Bharat:

Cultural and Historical Significance:

Renaming India to "Bharat" can emphasize the historical and cultural roots of the nation. "Bharat" has deep historical and mythological significance in Indian traditions and could reinforce a sense of cultural identity.



Unity and National Identity:

The name "Bharat" is associated with a sense of unity and a shared national identity, which can help strengthen the idea of "unity in diversity" among India's diverse population. The name "Bharat" is often used domestically and can help foster a unique international identity for India, distinct from the colonial-era name.

Promotion of Indigenous Languages:

The use of the name "Bharat" can encourage the promotion and preservation of indigenous languages, as it is an integral part of these languages and cultures.

Recognition of India's Heritage:

Renaming can draw attention to India's rich heritage, diverse traditions, and the contributions of its various regions to the nation's history.

Drawbacks:

Linguistic Diversity:

India is a linguistically diverse nation with hundreds of languages and dialects spoken across its states. While "Bharat" holds historical significance, it may not fully represent the linguistic and cultural diversity within the country. The transition to a single name could marginalize linguistic minorities and potentially lead to cultural homogenization.

Administrative Complexity:

Changing the official name from India to "Bharat" would require extensive administrative adjustments. This includes updating legal documents, government letterheads, and other official records. The bureaucratic processes involved in such a transition could be time-consuming and resource intensive.

International Recognition:

India is recognized globally as "India." A name change to "Bharat" could lead to confusion and a loss of international recognition. Diplomatic relations, trade agreements, and various international commitments would require reevaluation and renegotiation. This could potentially disrupt India's global standing and relationships with other nations.

Cultural and Historical Debate: The transition to "Bharat" is not without its cultural and historical debates. Some argue that this change is a reassertion of India's cultural identity, while others view it as a revisionist approach that overlooks the complex history and diversity of the nation. Meanwhile, others view it as a motive by the National Democratic Alliance to remove any resemblance of the formation of the INDIA coalition. These debates may lead to social and political tensions.

Economic Implications:

Changing the name of a country can have economic implications. Rebranding and repositioning India as "Bharat" in the global market may require significant investments. Additionally, the cost of updating all official documents and materials could strain government resources.

Public Acceptance:

Renaming a country is a significant decision that requires public acceptance and support. There may be resistance and opposition from various sections of society, and achieving consensus on such a profound change could be challenging.

Case Studies:

Tamil Nadu's Anti-Hindi Agitations

Tamil Nadu has a rich history of linguistic activism and resistance against linguistic imposition. The state's experience with anti-Hindi agitations offers a vivid example of the significance of language in India's sociopolitical landscape.



Periyar E. V. Ramasamy's periodical *Kudiyarasu's* headline reading "Veezhga Indhi" (Down with Hindi)

In the mid-20th century, when the Indian government proposed Hindi as the sole official language, it sparked widespread protests and agitations in Tamil Nadu. The people of Tamil Nadu felt that the imposition of Hindi threatened their linguistic identity and cultural heritage. The protests culminated in the tragic self-immolation of a prominent leader, Potti Sramulu, who fasted to death in 1952 in demand for a separate Andhra state with Telugu as the official language. His sacrifice became a catalyst for linguistic movements across the country.

The protests in Tamil Nadu were not merely isolated incidents but rather part of a broader movement known as the "Anti-Hindi Agitation." The state's language activists successfully lobbied for the continuation of English as an associate official language alongside Hindi, thus

preserving the linguistic rights and identity of Tamil speakers.

This historical context is vital in understanding the implications of renaming India to Bharat. It highlights the deep-seated attachment of linguistic communities to their native languages and the potential for such a name change to reignite linguistic tensions and fears of linguistic hegemony. The case of Tamil Nadu serves as a stark reminder that linguistic diversity and identity are intrinsic to the fabric of India, and any policy that threatens this diversity can lead to social and political upheaval.

Delegates must carefully consider these historical lessons when discussing the potential name change and its repercussions, particularly in the context of linguistic diversity and unity within the nation. The case of Tamil Nadu illustrates how language issues can trigger significant social and political movements, emphasizing the need for a nuanced approach to the renaming debate to maintain unity in diversity.

The Influence of Language Diversity in Indian Cinema: A Cultural and Artistic Tapestry; The uniting force in contrast to the renaming of India to Bharat

Introduction:

While India boasts a remarkable linguistic diversity that can sometimes lead to cultural divisions, its cinema industry stands as a remarkable unifying force. Indian cinema, with a rich tapestry of languages and cultures, transcends linguistic boundaries and serves as a shared cultural experience for a multilingual and multicultural nation. This case study delves into how Indian cinema acts as a unifying bond, contrasting the potential divisive impact of renaming India to Bharat.

Cinema as a Shared Experience:

Indian cinema is deeply ingrained in the fabric of Indian society, creating a shared cultural experience that cuts across linguistic and regional lines. Bollywood, Kollywood, Tollywood, and other regional film industries produce a diverse range of movies, but audiences across the nation enthusiastically embrace films from different linguistic backgrounds.

Cultural Exchange through Cinema:

Indian cinema fosters cultural exchange by introducing audiences to the traditions, languages, and lifestyles of different regions. Through movies, people gain insights into the

lives of fellow citizens from diverse linguistic backgrounds, promoting mutual respect and understanding.

Language Preservation:

While Indian cinema often uses multiple languages, it can also play a role in language preservation. Films in regional languages contribute to the continuity of those languages by providing a platform for their expression and celebration.

Fostering National Pride:

Indian cinema has created iconic moments that evoke national pride. From the anthems of Bollywood to the regional epics, the cultural resonance of cinema unites people in celebration of their diverse heritage and shared identity as Indians.

Inclusivity and Diversity:

Cinema thrives on diversity. It incorporates actors, directors, and artists from different linguistic backgrounds, making it an inclusive industry. Indian cinema celebrates this diversity, demonstrating that people of all languages can collaborate harmoniously to produce art that resonates with all.

Contrasting Unity:

While Indian cinema fosters unity and celebrates diversity, the proposal to rename India as Bharat has sparked debate on linguistic divisions and erasing regional identities. This move could potentially counteract the unifying force of Indian cinema by emphasizing a monolithic identity at the expense of linguistic diversity.

Conclusion:

Indian cinema is a testament to the country's ability to celebrate its linguistic diversity while nurturing a shared cultural identity. As a unifying bond, cinema transcends language, fostering mutual respect, inclusivity, and national pride. The contrast between the unity of Indian cinema and the potential divisiveness of renaming India to Bharat highlights the importance of carefully considering the implications of such changes on India's multicultural and multilingual society. Delegates are encouraged to explore how these contrasting forces may impact the nation's social and cultural cohesion.

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