



All India Political Parties Meet



*Agenda: Deliberation on the Recent Policies and Laws
Passed by the Ruling Government*





A WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Greetings, delegates!

It is an honor to be serving as the Executive Board for the All India Political Parties Meet at International Utopia Model United Nation 2019.

The background guide has been prepared in order to facilitate your research. This document should not by any means bind your research to its limits.

This guide is just an introduction to the agenda and serves as the starting point for your research.

The aim of this document is to structure your potential thoughts and ideas so as to have a productive debate.

We expect you to be thoroughly researched about your portfolios as well as your party's stand on the agenda at large.

Under no circumstances can this document be cited as a substantial proof for any argument put forth when the committee is in session. Lastly, the facts and figures must be analyzed and interpreted in an intellectual manner so as to put forward a constructive argument.

Feel free to revert back to the executive board for any queries or any kind of assistance that you may require.

Wishing you luck for the conference.
Looking forward to meeting you all!

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COMMITTEE BACKGROUND

An All India Political Parties Meet is a non-technical yet powerful meeting between all the political parties of the nation. It is a platform for discussion on various political issues faced by the country, which incorporates varied perspectives of politicians and carefully analysed decisions of national importance.

It was introduced in order to emulate political realities by bringing to light various layers of polity and governance in India. Typically called before the session of the parliament or before the introduction of a bill, it aims to arrive at a consensus before the sessions begin. It is meant to provide better insight into the issues of the nation by providing a diverse viewpoint before the actual law making procedure begins. Hence, the agenda for this meeting is completely specific.

The committee normally includes participants from political parties though the moderators can invite certain other belligerents with a non-political affiliation.

It is a meeting of all-important political parties in India who convene to discuss matters of critical national importance and thereafter come to consensus on solutions for them.

It is quintessential that members be thoroughly researched about all the current political happenings in the country. Members are also required to be aware of their character's political affiliations, interests, ideology etc.

A GLANCE AT THE AGENDA

Last May, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which has long espoused a form of muscular Hindu nationalism, returned to power for a second term after winning 303 out of 543 parliamentary seats in India's 17th general election.

The BJP currently enjoys clear tailwinds: It not only has the strongest mandate of any Indian government in more than three decades, with a feeble opposition; it also faces a largely pliant media. But set against those favourable conditions are considerable headwinds of the party's own making. In fact, the very underpinning of the BJP's ideology—that of India becoming a Hindu nation, bolstered by supposedly business-friendly policies—could become the reason for increased social discord, crony capitalism, and ultimately slowing growth.

In the first session of the Parliament after the Lok Sabha elections, the Parliament passed not only landmark bills like repealing of Article 370, Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill, Triple Talaq Bill, Motor Vehicle (Amendment) Bill, but also created the record for maximum Bills passed in the last 67 years.

After a pre-election, populist Budget in February, the Modi government presented a Union Budget aimed at boosting investment at a time when the economy is showing signs of slowdown. For Narendra Modi 2.0, the mandate of 2019 has brought a thicker stability cushion but a heavier load of expectations.

The voters' message in Modi's inbox is: Deliver what we want and what we need. The bucket list for 1.3 billion can be grouped under three key must-dos – how to rectify setbacks of 2014–2019, milestones to launch for 2024, and how to deliver on pet saffron ideological agendas.

RIGHT TO INFORMATION, 2019

What does it do?

Under the RTI Act, 2005, Public Authorities are required to make disclosures on various aspects of their structure and functioning.

This includes: (i) disclosure on their organisation, functions, and structure, (ii) powers and duties of its officers and employees, and (iii) financial information. The intent of such suo moto disclosures is that the public should need minimum recourse through the Act to obtain such information. If such information is not made available, citizens have the right to request for it from the Authorities. This may include information in the form of documents, files, or electronic records under the control of the Public Authority. The intent behind the enactment of the Act is to promote transparency and accountability in the working of Public Authorities.

Who is included in the ambit of 'Public Authorities'?

'Public Authorities' include bodies of self-government established under the Constitution, or under any law or government notification. For instance, these include Ministries, public sector undertakings, and regulators. It also includes any entities owned, controlled or substantially financed by the government, and non-government organizations substantially financed, directly or indirectly, by funds provided by the government.

How is the right to information enforced under the Act?

The Act has established a three tier structure for enforcing the right to information guaranteed under the Act. Public Authorities designate some of their officers as Public Information Officers. The first request for information goes to Central/State Assistant Public Information Officer and Central/State Public Information Officer, designated by the Public Authorities. These Officers are required to provide information to an RTI applicant within 30 days of the request. Appeals from their decisions go to an Appellate Authority. Appeals against the order of the Appellate Authority go to the State Information Commission or the Central Information Commission. These Information Commissions consists of a Chief Information Commissioner, and up to 10 Information Commissioners.

What does the Right to Information (Amendment) Bill, 2019 propose?

The Bill changes the terms and conditions of service of the CIC and Information Commissioners at the centre and in states.

RTI, 2005 VS 2019

The Bill changes the terms and conditions of service of the CIC and Information Commissioners at the centre and in states. Table 1 below compares the provisions of the Act and the Bill.

Table 1: Comparison of the provisions of the Right to Information Act, 2005 and the Right to Information (Amendment) Bill, 2019

Provision	RTI Act, 2005	RTI (Amendment) Bill, 2019
Term	The Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) and Information Commissioners (ICs) (at the central and state level) will hold office for a term of five years.	The Bill removes this provision and states that the central government will notify the term of office for CIC and the ICs.
Quantum of Salary	<p>The salary of the CIC and ICs (at the central level) will be equivalent to the salary paid to the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners, respectively.</p> <p>Similarly, the salary of the CIC and ICs (at the state level) will be equivalent to the salary paid to the Election Commissioners and the Chief Secretary to the state government, respectively.</p>	The Bill removes these provisions and states that the salaries, allowances, and other terms and conditions of service of the central and state CIC and ICs will be determined by the central government.
Deductions in Salary	<p>The Act states that at the time of the appointment of the CIC and ICs (at the central and state level), if they are receiving pension or any other retirement benefits for previous government service, their salaries will be reduced by an amount equal to the pension.</p> <p>Previous government service includes service under: (i) the central government, (ii) state government, (iii) corporation established under a central or state law, and (iv) company owned or controlled by the central or state government.</p>	

MUSLIM WOMEN BILL

The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, 2019 was introduced in Lok Sabha by the Minister of Law and Justice, Mr. Ravi Shankar Prasad on June 21, 2019. It replaces an Ordinance promulgated on February 21, 2019.

The Bill makes all declaration of talaq, including in written or electronic form, to be void (i.e. not enforceable in law) and illegal. It defines talaq as talaq-e-biddat or any other similar form of talaq pronounced by a Muslim man resulting in instant and irrevocable divorce. Talaq-e-biddat refers to the practice under Muslim personal laws where pronouncement of the word 'talaq' thrice in one sitting by a Muslim man to his wife results in an instant and irrevocable divorce.

Offence and penalty: The Bill makes declaration of talaq a cognizable offence, attracting up to three years' imprisonment with a fine. (A cognizable offence is one for which a police officer may arrest an accused person without warrant.) The offence will be cognizable only if information relating to the offence is given by: (i) the married woman (against whom talaq has been declared), or (ii) any person related to her by blood or marriage.

The Bill provides that the Magistrate may grant bail to the accused. The bail may be granted only after hearing the woman (against whom talaq has been pronounced), and if the Magistrate is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for granting bail.

The offence may be compounded by the Magistrate upon the request of the woman (against whom talaq has been declared).

Compounding refers to the procedure where the two sides agree to stop legal proceedings, and settle the dispute. The terms and conditions of the compounding of the offence will be determined by the Magistrate.

Allowance: A Muslim woman against whom talaq has been declared, is entitled to seek subsistence allowance from her husband for herself and for her dependent children. The amount of the allowance will be determined by the Magistrate.

Custody: A Muslim woman against whom such talaq has been declared, is entitled to seek custody of her minor children. The manner of custody will be determined by the Magistrate.

BACKGROUND

Shah Bano case (1985):– The Supreme Court ruled in her favour in 1985 under the maintenance of wives, children and parents provision (Section 125) of the All India Criminal Code, which applied to all citizens irrespective of religion. Further, it recommended that a uniform civil code be set up.

1. Under Muslim personal law, maintenance was to be paid only till the period of iddat. (three lunar months–roughly 90 days).
2. Section 125 of CrPC (criminal procedure code) that applied to all citizens, provided for maintenance of the wife

Impact – After this historic decision, nationwide discussions, meetings and agitations were held. The then government under pressure passed The Muslim Women's (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act (MWA) in 1986, which made Section 125 of the Criminal Procedure Code inapplicable to Muslim women. Daniel Latifi case – Muslim Women's Act (MWA) was challenged on the grounds that it violated the right to equality under Articles 14 & 15 as well as the right to life under Article 21.

The Supreme Court while holding the law as constitutional harmonised it with section 125 of CrPC and held that the amount received by a wife during iddat period should be large enough to maintain her during iddat as well as provide for her future. Thus under the law of the land, a divorced Muslim woman is entitled to the provision of maintenance for a lifetime or until she is remarried.

Sarla Mudgal Case – In this case, the question was whether a Hindu husband married under the Hindu law, by embracing Islam, can solemnise a second marriage. The court held that the Hindu marriage solemnized under Hindu law can only be dissolved on any of the grounds specified under the Hindu Marriage Act 1955. Conversion to Islam and marrying again, would not by itself dissolve the Hindu marriage under the act and thus, a second marriage solemnized after converting to Islam would be an offence under section 494 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

BACKGROUND

In 2016, the Supreme Court had sought assistance from the then Attorney General Mukul Rohatgi on pleas challenging the constitutional validity of “triple talaq”, “nikah halala” and “polygamy”, to assess whether Muslim women face gender discrimination in cases of divorce.

Opposing the practice of triple talaq, the Centre told the top court that there is a need to re-look at these practices on grounds of gender equality and secularism. The Supreme Court later announced the setting up of a five-judge constitutional bench to hear and deliberate on the challenges against the practice of triple talaq, nikah halala and polygamy.

The issue gained political momentum on March 2017 when the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) told the Supreme Court that the issue of triple talaq falls outside the judiciary’s realm and that these issues should not be touched by the court. However, on August 22, the Supreme Court set aside the decade-old practice of instant triple talaq saying it was violative of Article 14 and 21 of the Indian Constitution.

The Supreme Court’s judgment in the Shayara Bano case held that the practice of talaq-e-biddat (or triple talaq) unconstitutional. After the judgement, government passed Muslim protection Bill also known as Triple Talaq Bill in Lok Sabha but there have been criticism about the legal and procedural aspects of the bill.

Shayara Bano (who had demanded that talaq-e-biddat pronounced by her husband be declared void), the original petitioner in the instant talaq case in the Supreme Court in 2016, said the bill passed by Parliament was a testament to her struggle against the practice.

The Bharatiya Muslim Mahila Andolan, a Mumbai-based NGO that was one of the petitioners in SC, hailed the bill.

However, Bebaak Collective, another NGO that was part of Bano’s petition in SC, in a statement objected to criminalising the offence. Condemning the incidents of lynching and mob attacks against Muslim men, the statement said lack of “democratic debate” only revealed the hypocrisy of the government that was targeting a particular group by providing a provision within the law.

ACTION TAKEN

In September, the government had proposed the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill in the Parliament and sought to make triple talaq a punishable offence under the law. At first, the Bill was passed in the Lok Sabha but it failed to secure a majority in the Rajya Sabha. The Bill was postponed till the winter session of Parliament. Following this, an ordinance was issued by the government after the bill failed to get cleared in Rajya Sabha amid protests by the Opposition.

MOTOR VEHICLES BILL

The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was introduced in Lok Sabha on July 15, 2019 by the Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Mr. Nitin Gadkari. The Bill seeks to amend the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 to provide for road safety. The Act provides for grant of licenses and permits related to motor vehicles, standards for motor vehicles, and penalties for violation of these provisions.

Compensation for road accident victims: The central government will develop a scheme for cashless treatment of road accident victims during golden hour. The Bill defines golden hour as the time period of up to one hour following a traumatic injury, during which the likelihood of preventing death through prompt medical care is the highest. The central government may also make a scheme for providing interim relief to claimants seeking compensation under third party insurance. The Bill increases the minimum compensation for hit and run cases as follows: (i) in case of death, from Rs 25,000 to two lakh rupees, and (ii) in case of grievous injury, from Rs 12,500 to Rs 50,000.

Compulsory insurance: The Bill requires the central government to constitute a Motor Vehicle Accident Fund, to provide compulsory insurance cover to all road users in India. It will be utilised for: (i) treatment of persons injured in road accidents as per the golden hour scheme, (ii) compensation to representatives of a person who died in a hit and run accident, (iii) compensation to a person grievously hurt in a hit and run accident, and (iv) compensation to any other persons as prescribed by the central government. This Fund will be credited through: (i) payment of a nature notified by the central government, (ii) a grant or loan made by the central government, (iii) balance of the Solatium Fund (existing fund under the Act to provide compensation for hit and run accidents), or (iv) any other source as prescribed the central government.

Good samaritans: The Bill defines a good samaritan as a person who renders emergency medical or non-medical assistance to a victim at the scene of an accident. The assistance must have been (i) in good faith, (ii) voluntary, and (iii) without the expectation of any reward. Such a person will not be liable for any civil or criminal action for any injury to or death of an accident victim, caused due to their negligence in providing assistance to the victim.

MOTOR VEHICLES BILL

National Transportation Policy: The central government may develop a National Transportation Policy, in consultation with state governments. The Policy will: (i) establish a planning framework for road transport, (ii) develop a framework for grant of permits, and (iii) specify priorities for the transport system, among other things.

Road Safety Board: The Bill provides for a National Road Safety Board, to be created by the central government through a notification. The Board will advise the central and state governments on all aspects of road safety and traffic management including: (i) standards of motor vehicles, (ii) registration and licensing of vehicles, (iii) standards for road safety, and (iv) promotion of new vehicle technology.

Offences and penalties: The Bill increases penalties for several offences under the Act. For example, the maximum penalty for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs has been increased from Rs 2,000 to Rs 10,000. If a vehicle manufacturer fails to comply with motor vehicle standards, the penalty will be a fine of up to Rs 100 crore, or imprisonment of up to one year, or both. If a contractor fails to comply with road design standards, the penalty will be a fine of up to one lakh rupees. The central government may increase fines mentioned under the Act every year by up to 10%.

Taxi aggregators: The Bill defines aggregators as digital intermediaries or market places which can be used by passengers to connect with a driver for transportation purposes (taxi services). These aggregators will be issued licenses by state. Further, they must comply with the Information Technology Act, 2000.

Recall of vehicles: The Bill allows the central government to order for recall of motor vehicles if a defect in the vehicle may cause damage to the environment, or the driver, or other road users. The manufacturer of the recalled vehicle will be required to: (i) reimburse the buyers for the full cost of the vehicle, or (ii) replace the defective vehicle with another vehicle with similar or better specifications.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF CITIZENS

The National Register of Citizens (NRC) is a register containing names of all genuine Indian citizens.

It was first prepared in 1951. The 1951 NRC list has been updated for Assam, which has had a longstanding foreigner problem, to remove out illegal migrants and save further inflow. The updating process of NRC started in the year 2013 under the strict monitoring and supervision of the Supreme Court of India. On December 31, 2017, a part draft NRC list was released and subsequently on July 30, 2018, the complete draft of NRC was released.

The NRC in Assam is basically a list of Indian citizens living in the state. The citizens' register sets out to identify foreign nationals in the state that borders Bangladesh. The process to update the register began following a Supreme Court order in 2013, with the state's nearly 33 million people having to prove that they were Indian nationals prior to March 24, 1971. The updated final NRC was released on August 31, with over 1.9 million applicants failing to make it to the list.

WHY IS THE NRC CONTROVERSIAL?

The Assam National Register Citizens is being seen as a stepping stone to more general NRC for the entire country. There are concerns and fears that such an NRC could end up targeting minorities in the country. There are also concerns the NRC for Assam may end up incorrectly including or excluding people from the list. The concerns came into focus after the publication of the draft NRC list that excluded more than 40 lakh people.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THOSE NOT IN THE NRC?

The Assam government has assured people that those who find their names missing from the final National Register of Citizens for Assam will not immediately be termed "foreigners" or illegal immigrants. Those who find their names missing from the NRC list will be allowed to register protests with the Foreigners Tribunal. The people can even approach the Assam High Court or even the Supreme Court in case in case they are not satisfied with the response of the Foreigners Tribunal. The Assam government has also said it will provide legal aid to the poor who find their names missing from the list.

BANK MERGER

It was the Narasimham Committee that mooted the merger of public sector banks way back in 1991.

The Centre's recent big bank merger announcement — after the merger of SBI with its five associate banks two years ago, and Bank of Baroda with Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank last year — has finally made this a reality. Creating globally stronger banks, doing away with needless overlaps in operations and infrastructure, and ushering in economies of scale to bring down costs have always been at the heart of any consolidation drive.

Nirmala Sitharaman announced four new mergers. Three banks – Punjab National Bank, Oriental Bank of Commerce, and United Bank of India – will combine to form what will become India's second-largest lender.

That entity will have a combined total of 18 lakh crore business, with India's second largest branch network – 11,437 branches. Canara Bank and Syndicate Bank will merge to form another large entity which will be the fourth largest PSB, with business worth 15.2 lakh crore. It will have 10,324 branches – the third largest network in India.

Merging Union Bank of India with Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank will create the country's fifth largest PSB, with business worth Rs 14.6 lakh crore, and 9,609 branches – the fourth largest network. When Indian Bank merges with Allahabad Bank, the new entity will be the seventh largest PSB, with Rs 8.08 lakh crore of business.

While the Centre has announced a slew of governance reforms, hoping to make managements more accountable to boards and give longer tenure to key officials to implement plans, these are unlikely to bring about significant structural changes. The move is also singularly ill-timed, with GDP growth plummeting to a six-year low. The government has listed three broad gains from the consolidation. They called it 'Unlocking potential through consolidation'. Let's examine them briefly.

THE BENEFITS

The first benefit is enhanced capacity to increase credit. The consolidated entities will have a higher capacity to lend, but also need capacity building, especially in project appraisal, risk management and monitoring. A bank like SBI, with its huge balance sheet, has also found itself in trouble with similar asset quality issues as other PSBs.

The second gain the govt claimed is strong national presence and global reach. But these PSBs already control two-thirds of all banking in India. As far as global reach goes, Indian banks have a lot to catch up. Competition from private banking institutions is eating into the share of PSBs, thanks to better digitisation, faster processing of loans, and much better customer service.

The third potential gain is the operational efficiency gains that reduce the cost of lending. This is one area where the entire operating model has to change. PSBs still operate in an old fashioned manner. Banking has changed significantly in the last decade, with product-focused banks. We now have retail banks, small finance banks, payments banks and more. Meanwhile, PSBs seem to be caught in the relatively outmoded loop of corporate banking while private banks are exiting the space due to asset-liability management issues.

J&K REORGANIZATION BILL

On 5 August 2019, the Government of India revoked the special status granted to Jammu and Kashmir—a state in India, located in the northern part of the Indian subcontinent, and a part of the larger region of Kashmir, which has been the subject of dispute between India, Pakistan, and China since 1947—under Article 370 of the Indian Constitution through a series of far-reaching measures.

The Kashmir Valley was placed under a virtual lockdown with all communication lines cut and political leaders placed under house arrest. Indian President Ram Nath Kovind issued an order under the power of Article 370, overriding the prevailing 1954 Presidential Order and nullifying all the provisions of autonomy granted to the state.

The Home Minister Amit Shah introduced a Reorganisation Bill in the Indian Parliament, seeking to divide the state into two union territories to be governed by a lieutenant governor and a unicameral legislature.

The resolution seeking the revocation of the special status under Article 370 and the bill for the state's reorganisation was debated and passed by the Rajya Sabha – India's upper house of parliament – on 5 August 2019 with 125 (67%) votes in its favour and 61 (33%) against it. On 6 August, the bill for the reorganisation was debated and passed by the Lok Sabha – India's lower house of parliament – with 370 (86%) votes in its favour and 70 (14%) against it, and the resolution recommending the revocation was passed by 351 votes in favour and 72 against.

The constitutional expert opinion is divided on whether the revocation is legally sound. Under various Indian National Congress party-led central governments and locally elected state governments – such as those of the National Conference – between 1954 and 2011, India used the provisions of the Article 370 to issue presidential orders to extend the Indian constitution to Jammu and Kashmir with the 'concurrence' of the State Government, and reduce the state's autonomy.

These past Presidential orders under Article 370 are also controversial and a subject of the Kashmir dispute. According to Sumantra Bose, a political science scholar known for his Kashmir studies, the 1954 Presidential order and the subsequent orders began "the end for the Article 370" and it has "effectively been dead in letter and in spirit since that time".

J&K REORGANIZATION BILL

In April 2018, the Supreme Court of India ruled that Article 370 had attained permanency since the state constituent assembly has ceased to exist. To overcome this legal challenge, the Indian government instead rendered Article 370 as 'inoperative' even though it still exists in the constitution. On 5 August, a presidential order was issued – the Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 2019 – which superseded the Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 1954.

After the 1954 order, forty-seven Presidential orders were issued between 11 February 1956 and 19 February 1994, making various other provisions of the Constitution of India applicable to Jammu and Kashmir. All these orders were issued with the 'concurrence of the Government of the State' without any Constituent Assembly. Some of these Presidential orders were issued when the state was under President's rule and had "no Kashmir government at all", states Jill Cottrell.

The effect of the Presidential orders issued between 1954 and 1994 had been to extend 94 of the 97 subjects in the Union List (the powers of the Central Government), and 260 of the 395 Articles of the Constitution of India to the State of Jammu and Kashmir. The August 2019 Presidential order stated that all the provisions of the Indian Constitution applied to Jammu and Kashmir. This in effect meant that the separate Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir stood abrogated, and a single constitution now applied to all the Indian states. The President issued the order with the "concurrence of the Government of State of Jammu and Kashmir".

KEY FEATURES

1. The President had used his powers under Article 370 to fundamentally alter the provision, extending all Central laws, instruments and treaties to Kashmir. However, the drastically altered Article 370 will remain on the statute books.
2. While the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir will have a legislature, the one in Ladakh will not.
3. The notification by the president has effectively allowed the entire provisions of the Constitution, with all its amendments, exceptions and modifications, to apply to the area of Jammu and Kashmir.
4. The Bill proposes wide powers to the Lieutenant Governor of the proposed Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and makes it the “duty” of the Chief Minister of the Union Territory to “communicate” all administrative decisions and proposals of legislation with the LG.
5. All Central laws and State laws of J&K would apply to the new Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh.
6. Assets and liabilities of J&K and Ladakh would be apportioned on the recommendation of a Central Committee within a year.
7. Employees of State public sector undertakings and autonomous bodies would continue in their posts for another year until their allocations are determined.
8. The police and public order is to be with the Centre.
9. The notification amends the expression “Constituent Assembly”, contained in the proviso to clause (3) of Article 370, to mean “Legislative Assembly”

LIST OF BILLS

1. The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill, 2019

The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill, 2019 was introduced in Rajya Sabha on August 5, 2019 by the Minister of Home Affairs, Amit Shah. The Bill provides for reorganisation of the state of Jammu and Kashmir into the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and Union Territory of Ladakh.

2. The Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2019

The Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was introduced in Lok Sabha on July 25, 2019 by the Minister of Finance, Nirmala Sitharaman. It amends the Companies Act, 2013.

3. The Repealing and Amending Bill, 2019

The Repealing and Amending Bill, 2019 was introduced in Lok Sabha on July 25, 2019 by the Minister of Law and Justice, Ravi Shankar Prasad. The Bill seeks to repeal 68 Acts in whole and makes minor amendments to two other laws.

4. The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2019

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was introduced in Rajya Sabha by the Minister of Finance, Nirmala Sitharaman, on July 24, 2019. The Bill amends the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016. The Code provides a time-bound process for resolving insolvency in companies and among individuals. Insolvency is a situation where individuals or companies are unable to repay their outstanding debt.

5. The Code on Wages, 2019

The Code on Wages, 2019 was introduced in Lok Sabha by the Minister of Labour, Santosh Gangwar on July 23, 2019. It seeks to regulate wage and bonus payments in all employments where any industry, trade, business, or manufacture is carried out. The Code replaces the following four laws: (i) the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, (ii) the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, (iii) the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965, and (iv) the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976.

LIST OF BILLS

6. The National Medical Commission Bill, 2019

The National Medical Commission Bill, 2019 was introduced by the Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Harsh Vardhan in Lok Sabha on July 22, 2019. The Bill seeks to repeal the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 and provide for a medical education system which ensures: (i) availability of adequate and high quality medical professionals, (ii) adoption of the latest medical research by medical professionals, (iii) periodic assessment of medical institutions, and (iv) an effective grievance redressal mechanism.

7. The Right to Information (Amendment) Bill, 2019

The Right to Information (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was introduced in Lok Sabha by the Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Jitendra Singh, on July 19, 2019. It seeks to amend the Right to Information Act, 2005.

8. The Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Bill, 2019

The Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Bill, 2019 was introduced in Lok Sabha by the Minister of Finance, Nirmala Sitharaman, on July 19, 2019. The Bill provides for a mechanism to ban unregulated deposit schemes and protect the interests of depositors. It also seeks to amend three laws, i.e., the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992 and the Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act, 2002.

9. The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill, 2019

The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was introduced in Rajya Sabha by the Minister of Women and Child Development, Smriti Zubin Irani on July 18, 2019. The Bill amends the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012. The Act seeks to protect children from offences such as sexual assault, sexual harassment, and pornography.

10. The Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 2019

The Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was introduced in Rajya Sabha by the Minister for Law and Justice, Ravi Shankar Prasad, on July 15, 2019. It seeks to amend the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996. The Act contains provisions to deal with domestic and international arbitration, and defines the law for conducting conciliation proceedings.

LIST OF BILLS

11. The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2019

The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was introduced in Lok Sabha on July 15, 2019 by the Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari. The Bill seeks to amend the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 to provide for road safety. The Act provides for grant of licenses and permits related to motor vehicles, standards for motor vehicles, and penalties for violation of these provisions.

12. The Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2019

The Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was introduced in Rajya Sabha on July 12, 2019 by the Minister of State for Civil Aviation, Hardeep Singh Puri. It amends the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India Act, 2008. The Act established the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (AERA). The AERA regulates tariffs and other charges for aeronautical services provided at civilian airports with annual traffic above 15 lakh passengers. It also monitors the performance standard of services across these airports.

13. The Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2019

The Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was introduced in Lok Sabha by Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, Minister of Human Resource Development on July 8, 2019. The Bill seeks to amend the Central Universities Act, 2009, which establishes universities for teaching and research in various states.

14. The Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2019

The Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was introduced in Lok Sabha by the Minister of Home Affairs, Amit Shah, on July 8, 2019. The Bill amends the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993. The Act provides for a National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), State Human Rights Commissions (SHRC), as well as Human Rights Courts.

15. The National Investigation Agency (Amendment) Bill, 2019

The National Investigation Agency (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was introduced in Lok Sabha by the Minister for Home Affairs, Amit Shah, on July 8, 2019. The Bill amends the National Investigation Agency (NIA) Act, 2008. The Act provides for a national-level agency to investigate and prosecute offences listed in a schedule (scheduled offences). Further, the Act allows for creation of Special Courts for the trial of scheduled offences.

LIST OF BILLS

16. The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2019

The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2019 was introduced in Lok Sabha by the Minister of Home Affairs, Amit Shah, on July 8, 2019. The Bill amends the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967. The Act provides special procedures to deal with terrorist activities, among other things.

17. The Consumer Protection Bill, 2019

The Consumer Protection Bill, 2019 was introduced in Lok Sabha by the Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Ram Vilas Paswan on July 8, 2019. The Bill replaces the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

18. The Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Amendment Bill, 2019

The Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Amendment Bill, 2019 was introduced by the Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri, in Lok Sabha on July 8, 2019. The Bill amends the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971. The Act provides for the eviction of unauthorised occupants from public premises in certain cases.

19. The New Delhi International Arbitration Centre Bill, 2019

The New Delhi International Arbitration Centre Bill, 2019 was introduced in Lok Sabha by the Minister of Law and Justice, Ravi Shankar Prasad on July 3, 2019. It seeks to establish an autonomous and independent institution for better management of arbitration in India. The provisions of the Bill will be effective from March 2, 2019.

20. The Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Teachers' Cadre) Bill, 2019

The Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Teachers' Cadre) Bill, 2019 was introduced in Lok Sabha by Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, Minister of Human Resource Development on June 27, 2019. It replaces an Ordinance that was promulgated on March 7, 2019. The Bill provides for reservation of teaching positions in central educational institutions for persons belonging to: (i) Scheduled Castes, (ii) Scheduled Tribes, (iii) socially and educationally backward classes, and (iv) economically weaker sections.

LIST OF BILLS

21. The Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill, 2019

The Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Second Bill, 2019 was introduced in Lok Sabha by Harshvardhan, Minister of Health and Family Welfare on June 27, 2019. The Bill amends the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 and replaces the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Second Ordinance, 2019 which was promulgated on February 21, 2019. The Act sets up the Medical Council of India (MCI) which regulates medical education and practice. Provisions of this Bill will be effective from September 26, 2018.

22. The Dentists (Amendment) Bill, 2019

The Dentists (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was introduced in Lok Sabha by Harshvardhan, Minister of Health and Family Welfare on June 27, 2019. The Bill amends the Dentists Act, 1948. The Act regulates the profession of dentistry and constitutes: (i) the Dental Council of India, (ii) State Dental Councils, and (iii) Joint State Dental Councils.

23. The Special Economic Zones (Amendment) Bill, 2019

The Special Economic Zones (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was introduced in Lok Sabha by Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry on June 24, 2019. It amends the Special Economic Zones Act, 2005 and replaces an Ordinance that was promulgated on March 2, 2019. The Act provides for the establishment, development and management of Special Economic Zones for the promotion of exports.

24. The Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill, 2019

The Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill, 2019, was introduced in Lok Sabha by the Minister of Home Affairs, Amit Shah on June 24, 2019. The Bill amends the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Act, 2004 and replaces an Ordinance promulgated on March 1, 2019. The Act provides for reservation in appointment and promotions in state government posts, and admission to professional institutions for certain reserved categories. Professional institutions include government medical colleges, dental colleges, and polytechnics.

25. The Aadhaar and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2019

The Aadhaar and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was introduced in Lok Sabha by the Minister of Electronics and Information Technology, Ravi Shankar Prasad on June 24, 2019. It replaces an Ordinance promulgated on March 2, 2019.

LIST OF BILLS

26. The Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2019

The Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was introduced in Lok Sabha by Shripad Yesso Naik, Minister of State, Ministry of AYUSH on June 21, 2019. It amends the Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973 and replaces the Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Ordinance, 2019 that was promulgated on March 2, 2019. The Act sets up the Central Council of Homoeopathy which regulates homoeopathic education and practice.

27. The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, 2019

The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, 2019 was introduced in Lok Sabha by the Minister of Law and Justice, Ravi Shankar Prasad on June 21, 2019. It replaces an Ordinance promulgated on February 21, 2019.

28. The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty Fourth Amendment) Bill, 2019

The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Fourth Amendment) Bill, 2019 was introduced in Lok Sabha by the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Thaawar Chand Gehlot on January 8, 2019. The Bill seeks to provide for the advancement of "economically weaker sections" of citizens.