

AARUUSH 2015 Youth Parliament

Delegate Resources & Study Guide



Letter from the Organizing Team

Welcome everyone,

It is with immense pride that we welcome you all to the second edition of AARUUSH Youth Parliament. Being a part of one of the country's largest Techno Management Fests, is humbling and yet, enormous responsibility.

We expect you to step into the shoes of an Indian Member of Parliament and try your hand at guiding the country through troubling times. This conference will be simulating a fictitious agriculture crisis in the near future. The contents of this guide will provide all details relevant to the fictitious crisis. Other data or general statistics can be assumed to be as present.

Together with the rest of the team at AARUUSH '15, we promise to try our best to host the same levels of debate, challenge all participants to come up with nothing short of their very best in a conducive environment and all in all, provide an experience to cherish for a long time. We also invite you to experience Aaruush, our premier fest at SRM University. Come, be a part of history in the making. Come, be a part of AARUUSH Youth Parliament 2015.

Regards,
Organizing Team



YOUTH PARLIAMENT

Special Event

Introduction

Today, we face a crisis.

The very farmer that toils hard under the sun every day and is left at the mercy of monsoons. The very farmer who provides us food must fight for survival. The very farmer who worships his work....that very farmer is subjected to abject poverty and conditions which drive him into taking his own life.

Apart from the very fact that it is a matter of utmost importance, it is also a matter of national embarrassment as we haven't had a substantial discussion which the situation demands at the required level of governance to alleviate the rural woes.

We at AARUUSH'15, being responsible citizens of India seek to take the onus upon us to make the Youth of our nation aware of how much neglected this very farmer is, who toils for hours to ensure that India doesn't sleep hungry.

Hence at this edition of **AARUUSH Youth Parliament**, we present to you a platform where you get to make decisions, putting your views across, enriching your visions and engaging in a constructive dialogue to find a solution to this Agrarian Crisis the country today faces as we speak.

Our fundamental objective would be to come at a comprehensive, practical, and honest solution to mitigate the ongoing agricultural turmoil hence ensuring that another farmer doesn't become a victim of this unresolved crisis and the proud claim that India is an agricultural nation doesn't converge into a cliché in itself.

Special Event

Study Guide

The following pages intend to guide you with the nuances of the agenda as well as the Council. The Guide chronologically touches upon all the different aspects of the issue at hand. Delegates are expected to remember that this guide is not an exhaustive list of topics that will be discussed in the committee but is merely meant to serve as a pointer to the vast array of issues relevant to situation. **This study guide should only serve as a preliminary document for your research and not the ultimate one.** A list of important points have been provided at the end to help you come prepared for what we hope will be an exciting and fruitful debate in the Council. The delegates are hereby notified that the events from 25th August onwards are fictitious while the ones before 25th August are factual.

Chronological timeline

- **26th May, 2014:** Narendra Damodar Modi assumes office as the Prime Minister of India.
- **24th October 2014:** Six farmers commit suicide in the Vidarbha region on the day of Deepawali.
- **13th November 2014:** The Reserve Bank of India issued a circular to all banks on financing 'Bhoomi Heen Kisaan' (landless farmers) as per the announcement in the Budget.
- **31st December 2014:** Jinukala Rajasekhar, a young farmer from Shamirpet village of Telangana, consumed a lethal combination of alcohol and profenofos, an insecticide. He dies four days later in the hospital.
- **5th February 2015:** A debt ridden farmer from Maharashtra's Vidarbha region climbed on a lit pyre and committed suicide.
- **26th March 2015:** 8 farmers across Bengal's Hoogly, Burdwan and Bankura districts commit suicide due to plunging prices of potatoes.
- **8th April, 2015:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that the compensation for crop damage has been increased to 105 times.
- **27th April, 2015:** 20 farmer suicides within 6 weeks take place in Madhya Pradesh, a state which has won the 'Krishi Karman' award consecutively for 3 years.
- **17th July 2015:** Amidst raising concerns over farm distress in the country, 3 farmers committed suicide in 4 days, in the Saurashtra region of Gujarat with their kin blaming indebtedness and agricultural loss as being the factors which pushed them into taking this extreme step.

- **6th August, 2015:** Karnataka farmer suicide rate hits highest in a decade. A total of 158 farmers killed themselves in the month of July bringing this year's toll to 197, the highest since 2003. Experts & policy makers blame the deaths on "a combination of economic & social factors." No concrete step is taken to address either of these.
- **11th August, 2015:** Hundreds of farmers and leaders of various farmer's bodies converge at Jantar Mantar during the ongoing Monsoon session of the Parliament to protest against the Land Acquisition Bill.
- **15th August, 2015:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his Independence Day speech declares that the Agricultural Ministry would be named as the 'Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare'. He also says that the government is making efforts to boost crop yields.
- **25th August, 2015:** Crowds exceeding 1500 turn up at the Jantar Mantar to take part in the protest against the increasing farmer suicides. Police struggle to control the surging crowds. The All India Kisan Sabha urges the ruling party to discuss this issue in the ongoing session of the Parliament.
- **28th August, 2015:** Farmers protesting against the setting up of a new manufacturing plant of the company Monsanto, decide to join the protest.
- **3rd September, 2015:** Protests in Mandya, Karnataka turn violent as protestors and police clash, leaving 50 injured. About 150 farmers have been said to have been taken into custody by the police. Many farmers from this region now plan to join the ongoing farmer protest at Jantar Mantar.
- **5th September, 2015:** Jantar Mantar sees an unprecedented increase in the number of farmers staging the *dharna* as farmers from different parts of the nation join to put pressure on the government to take up the issue of farmer suicide and welfare in the Parliament. Many eminent celebrities and activist join in and show their solidarity with the farmers. The issue begins to trend on social media.
- **7th September, 2015:** With the ruling government at the Centre still refusing to take up the matter of farmer suicides in the Parliament, the Opposition stage a 'Walk-Out' making it clear that it won't allow the House to function until this issue is taken up for debate and discussion.
- **8th September, 2015:** Under intense pressure from all sides the ruling government finally agrees to take up the issue of Farmer Suicide and Welfare in the Parliament.

Questions a Bill Should Address

- What are the factors leading to the increase in farmer suicides?
- What are the economic issues faced by farmers in the country?
- Are farmer bodies effective in representing the interests of the farmers at the national level?
- Is the introduction of Genetically Modified (GM) crops a good choice?
- How are trade policies related to the rise & fall of crop prices in the different states?

Delegate Instructions

The delegates are notified that the session would be a continuous crisis meeting on the above mentioned agenda.

Dress Code: Delegates are expected to be dressed in Indian Formal attire or Western Formal Attire. Blazers and jackets are not mandatory.

Delegates are allowed to use their laptops in committee.

Delegates are requested to maintain decorum inside committee & refrain from use of unparliamentarily language.

Delegates must pay towards common registration for Aaruush 2015, which may be made on spot. There is **NO** separate payment for participation in the Youth Parliament.

The same set of delegates present on the first day would be continuing with the committee on the second day.