

NEERJA MODI SCHOOL MODEL UNITED NATIONS'20

'Reimagining perspectives'

20-22 November, 2020



AIPPM

All India Political Parties' Meet

Agenda: Evaluating and deliberating upon the implications of NDA's policies and schemes socially, economically and politically.

Background guide

Letter from the PRESIDENTS

Greetings Delegates!

It gives us immense pleasure to welcome you to the All India Political Parties Meet at the Neerja Modi Model United Nations.

This study guide is by no means the end of research, we would very much appreciate if the delegates are able to find new realms in the agenda and bring them forth in the committee. During the session, the executive board will encourage you to speak as much as possible, owing to the fact that fluency, diction or oratory skills have little importance in contrast to the content you deliver. Just make sure you understand what you're speaking and present it with confidence.

Also, we must remind you that as a Member of the Parliament, etiquette and decorum in the House is a sheer necessity. Quality research combined with good argumentation and a solid representation of facts is what constitutes an excellent performance.

This sitting in the committee is not going to be an easy one, of this we assure you. The pressure of accusations and defence has never been easy to deal with. But, it is also not the sole purpose of the debate.

Thankfully for all of us, with the above comes another assurance, that of a productive session.

We are certain that the conference will prove to be a learning experience for both sides of the dais.

In case of any queries feel free to contact us. We will try our best to answer your questions to the best of our abilities.

All the Best!

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Letter from the VICE PRESIDENTS

It gives us immense pleasure to head the All India Political Parties' Meet of The NMMUN

The committee this time has become the pride of the entire NMMUN,2020. It not only concentrates upon the fact of just having debates, but instead emphasis on making Young Leaders for tomorrow.

The Agenda of the committee , itself defines it's true spirit and zeal.

The committee will not only ensure to make the sessions interesting, but will also make this experience a memorable one. The three days of debates, will allow you all to come to know deeply about the topics of national interests. The entire journey of this committee will ensure that when the MUN culminates, you all will pass out as more aware young citizens.

The topics of discussion are going to be covering a wide range of ideas and perspectives. From party ideologies to Leadership skills, all are going to be the key points of our committee.

The study guide provided to you will make you understand and feel the soul of our committee, which aims to glorify the nation's democracy.

During this span, not only you learn, but we also learn with you. At the end, this committee will not just remain a mere committee, but will make us all as One single source of knowledge, skills and expertise.

We aim to look forward to all of you for making this committee a memorable and a successful one.

With great love & regards,

Tanmay Bothra

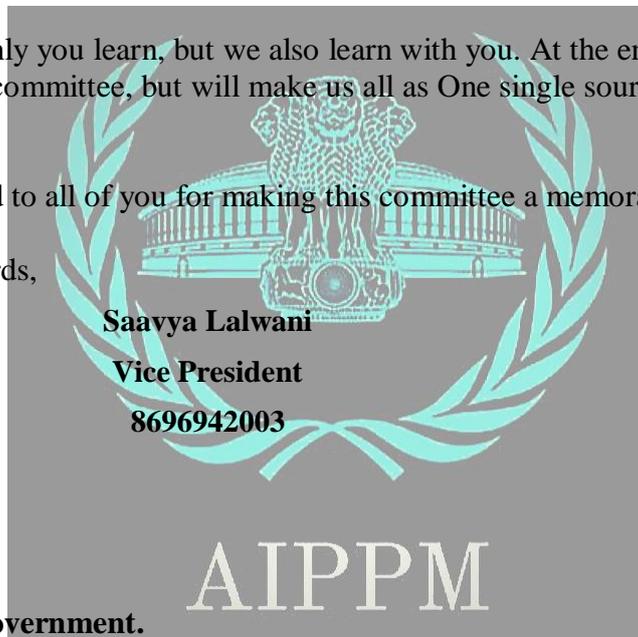
Vice President

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HISTORY

Last days of UPA government.

The story took a new turn when the power was renamed from UPA 1 to UPA 2, soon no one was concerned with their policy makers but the eyes were on the political players.

One by one lined up scams, the Anna movement and several other movements generated a concern amongst public and soon the mandate was in search of a new face with vision and strong lead.

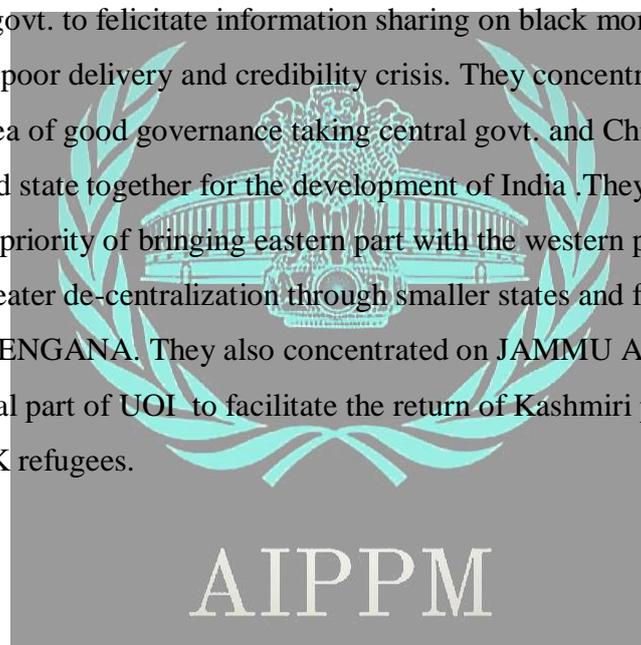
Modi lahar, upcoming of a new face and phase of Indian Politics.

Three consecutive wins of Narendra Modi as Gujarat's Chief Minister, lead to his recognition nationwide, the related controversies, his committed work strategies and the Gujarat model, all gave a ground to BJP's new agenda of development. From leading of election campaign to being nominated as the Prime Ministerial candidate, the vision represented the development focused idea of taking everyone together irrespective of their caste, class or religion. The ideas lead to introduction of a new face to national politics and a new phase of thought, which

focused politics in development more.

BJP's vision 2014

Focusing upon their idea of —*Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas*, BJP's manifesto focused on all sections identifying the developmental rows. BJP showed a concern towards rising price where it deemed to establish special courts to stop hoarding and black marketing and also to use technology to disseminate real time data to farmers. The focus on employment and training considering the importance of skill and promoting vocational training for the same. To develop labour intensive manufacturing in tourism and transform employment exchanges into carrier centers. They deemed to fight corruption by establishing the system which eliminates the scope for corruption. They concentrate on e-governance, system based & policy driven governance, rationalization and simplification, establishing task force to bring back black money and engaging with foreign govt. to facilitate information sharing on black money. They intend to tackle policy paralysis, poor delivery and credibility crisis. They concentrate on strengthening the frame work with idea of good governance taking central govt. and Chief minister (team India) ,taking centre and state together for the development of India .They intend to integrate the nation with highest priority of bringing eastern part with the western part, planning along regional aspirations, greater de-centralization through smaller states and full justice to SEEMANDHRA+TELENGANA. They also concentrated on JAMMU AMD KASHMIR by considering it an integral part of UOI to facilitate the return of Kashmiri pandits and to guarantee rights of POK refugees.



They believed in **de-centralization** by focusing from representative to participative democracy, strengthening self-governance and introducing openness in govt.

They intended to reform the system by introducing the ideology of India first and the idea of good governance i.e. governance, administrative reform, judicial reform, police reform and electoral reform.

They believed in widening the platform by focusing upon all sections of society stating themselves the govt. of **poor marginalized and left behind**. They believed in ANTYODAYA, to treat **extreme poverty as national priority** and identifying 100 most backward districts for prioritized and integrated development. They intend to bring about social justice by **bringing ST, SC, OBCs and other weaker sections forward by different policies**. They intend to provide **equal opportunities to minorities and also concentrate on new middle class and rural areas** along with the betterment of urban areas as well.

It believes in social security with special focus on senior citizens and specially abled. They realize the importance of youth and women (concentrating on BETI BACHO BETI PADHAO, women health care and self defense). They concentrate on education whereas public spending on education is 6% of GDP, equality of opportunity, establishing national e-library and several other policies. They believe in development of skills by establishing centres for excellence, producing industry responsive man power and developing India's knowledge power house.

Giving health assurance to all Indians, setting AIIMS-like institute in every state, promoting yoga and Ayurveda, school health programme, universalization of emergency medical services, SWACH BHARAT and promoting clean water for diarrhoea free India are some major steps taken for the health sector. It focuses on economic revival with special focus on GST, special focus on GND and tax incentives for R&D for indigenization of technology and innovation. They introduced several new policies in industrial sector to see India as the manufacturing hub of tomorrow. The manifesto highlights several other factors and the parliamentarians are requested to come with good research.

The NDA and the opposition

The NDA consists of BJP+29 parties. This huge alliance came together to act as union govt. where the united or several different factors. The UPA along with several other parties constitutes opposition and this formation of Lok Sabha takes a reverse situation in

Rajya Sabha where BJP was into majority. This combination is good for democracy but when it comes to quick legislations its one of the major problems and obstruction in fast legislative business in this tenure.

The parliamentarians are requested to come up with proper research regarding their party portfolios and party policies.

Status quo of countries condition and the challenges in front of NDA government

The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) Government that assumed power in May 2014 faces complex and multiple challenges on the economic front. It inherits an economy with weak macro-economic fundamentals and serious structural infirmities, the manifestations of which are a deep-seated agrarian crisis, stagnating industrial production and rising unemployment.

The most formidable challenge before the Government was arguably the state of Indian agriculture. In the past few decades, Indian agriculture has been witness to declining investment in basic infrastructure, inadequate levels of credit, rising input costs, increase in landlessness, breakdown of agriculture extension services, farmer suicides and rising distress migration to urban areas for employment. Agricultural productivity had been severely impacted, raising serious questions regarding the viability of small farmers, in particular. This agrarian crisis assumed a more serious dimension given that 60% of the country's workforce remains directly or indirectly dependent on the rural sector whose backbone is agriculture, a sector whose share in GDP has dipped to less than 15%.

The industrial sector in India, especially manufacturing was unable to create decent jobs for the millions of youth entering the job market every year. The manufacturing sector has been contributing around 15% to the country's GDP, and despite the urgency shown by the then Finance Minister, Pranab Mukherjee, to increase share of manufacturing by 10 percentage points at the end of the current decade, very little changed on the ground. What was particularly alarming is that the economic model promoted by successive governments allowed the economic space to be appropriated by monopoly capital, while the small and medium enterprises, which hold the key to job creation and fostering entrepreneurship, were consistently ignored.

The services sector dominated with 60% of GDP share, but its ability to contribute to employment is marginal. While the finance, IT and real estate segments account for some 40% of the services sector GDP, their contribution to employment was less than 2%. Privatization of several key service sectors, most importantly of health and education, resulted in sharp increases in the cost of delivery of these services.

Thus, despite its declared objectives of social inclusion, the market-friendly policies pursued by the previous governments resulted in high costs and denial of access to essential services for the poor. India has the dubious distinction of being amongst the most privatized health care systems in the world and amongst the lowest in terms of spending on public health with less than 1% of GDP. 11 years after the 2003 Electricity Act, despite huge capacity additions, millions across rural India continued to have no access to electricity.

Electricity authorities have compromised planning and the growing privatization of power sector entities has resulted in an essential service being left to the vagaries of the market.

On the external front, India continued to make myopic commitments at the WTO and signed several Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITS). These initiatives were forged with the stated intent of establishing strategic partnerships but they have instead led to an increase in imports, stagnating exports, and have exposed vulnerabilities in several critical sectors. The liberal free market regime in trade adversely impacted small and medium enterprises, in particular; the critical sources of employment and growth. The resultant increase in the trade deficit has pushed the current account deficit to unprecedented levels, further heightened the vulnerability of the economy. New generation economic partnership agreements such as the ones with the European Union, and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) with ASEAN plus 6 and the Trade in Services Agreement (TISA) created new challenges in areas such as intellectual property rights, investment and public services.

In the WTO, India faced problems on two fronts: one, implementing the highly iniquitous outcome of the 2013 Bali Ministerial Conference, where India's food security programme faced imminent challenge, and two, countering the developed countries that are now cherry picking on contentious issues such as services and government procurement.

There were many other challenges before social movements, trade unions and civil society organizations to hold the NDA Government accountable.



Given below are the various reforms and policies adopted by the Modi Government in various sectors.

(A) Economic Sector

This is perhaps the front which has seen the most controversial and firm policies from the NDA government.

Recovering from the massive problems caused by the 2G and Commonwealth Scam the NDA govt. picked off the economy from a point of harmful inflation. Trying to actively generate money and get more jobs and at the end of the day simply get MNCs in India, the NDA government introduced the Make in India campaign.

While it's arguable that this was not implemented in the best possible way it definitely helped stabilize the economy but interestingly after this the next big policy was

Demonetisation which was largely not a successful policy and it harmed the economy more than it could ever benefit it.

But secondly, after their first term India's GDP growth rate started deteriorating and was simply not what was promised or predicted. Policies like **GST** helped simplify the system but it simply couldn't make up for the harms already done.

While all of this can be argued, the NDA has been able to actively introduce policies that specifically help the middle class entrepreneurs and they have taken efforts to ease markets.

All of this brings us to the current problem where the Indian GDP has been hit like never before due to **the pandemic and the lockdown**. However, India has faced many problems on its economic fronts like the one in 1990 which we escaped because of the revolutionary LPG policy by the UPA.

The standard point of view from the NDA's front is simply that they had to prioritise lives over the economy but the questions that arise are simply whether this could've been done simultaneously.

The important framing of this what should be done now. What can be done to help the sinking middle and lower class in India while the rich is getting richer.

We want delegates to deliberate and tell us what their ideas are and what should and can be done next but to also defend their policies and to give substantial reasons as to why that should be the case!

Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana

Three months into the Prime Minister's Office, Modi launched the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, with a festivity of financial records and a flood of political slogans. A scheme to deliver financial inclusion from the top, Jan Dhan Yojana helps unbanked Indians open a bank account, get a debit card, and access to social security schemes like insurance and pension. In terms of numbers, it has enabled the financialisation of India at a never-seen-before scale — on 17 January 2018, there were almost 310 million beneficiaries, three-fifths of them in rural areas, with a total balance of Rs 73,690 crore. With an average balance of Rs 2,377 per account, this shows that despite there being no minimum balance requirements, the first steps of unbanked Indians towards organised finance have been taken. Critics have raised issues of privacy and security and these would likely get ironed out, going forward. But nobody can deny the advantages of the poor having access to modern finance.

including deposits in bank accounts, plots of land, flats and jewellery, with more than 240 properties with a market value of more than Rs 600 crore being provisionally attached.

POVERTY

Two-thirds of people in India live in poverty: 68.8% of the Indian population lives on less than Rs. 100 a day. Over 30% even have less than Rs. 70 per day available - they are considered extremely poor. This makes the Indian subcontinent one of the poorest countries in the world; women and children, the weakest members of Indian society, suffer most.

Measures taken by government to eradicate poverty:

Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY)

It is the restructured, streamlined and comprehensive version of the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY). It was started on 1 April 1999. The main aim of this programme was the development of rural areas. Infrastructure like roads to connect the village to different areas, which made the village more accessible and also other social, educational (schools) and infrastructure like hospitals. Its secondary objective was to give out sustained wage employment. The village panchayats were one of the main governing body of this programme. ₹1848.80 crore was used and they had a target of 8.57 lakh works. 5.07 lakh works were completed during 1999–2000.

National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS)

This scheme came into effect on 15 August 1995. The scheme provides pension to all old people who were above the age of 65 (now 60) who could not fund for themselves and did not have any means of subsistence. The pension that was given was ₹200 a month (now it is 2000 per month). This pension is given by the central government. The job of implementation of this scheme in states and union territories is given to panchayats and municipalities. The states contribution may vary depending on the state. The amount of old age pension is ₹200 per month for applicants aged 60–79. For applicants aged above 80 years, the amount has been revised to ₹500 a month according to the 2011–2012 Budget. It is a successful venture.

National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS)

This scheme was started in August 1995. This scheme is sponsored by the state government. It was transferred to the state sector scheme after 2002–03. It is under the community and rural department. This scheme provides a sum of ₹20,000 to a person of a family who becomes the head of the family after the death of its primary breadwinner. The breadwinner is defined as a person who is above 18 who earns the most for the family and on whose earnings the family survives.

National Maternity Benefit Scheme

This scheme provides a sum of 6000 to a pregnant mother in three installments. The women should have age to be older than 19 years of age. It is given normally 12–8 weeks before the birth and in case of the death of the child the women can still avail it. The NMBS is implemented by almost all states and union territories with the help of panchayats and municipalities. During 1999–2000 the total allocation of funds for this scheme was 767.05 crores and the amount used was Rs. 4444.13 crore. It is for families below the poverty line. The scheme was updated in 2005-06 into Janani Suraksha Yojana with ₹1400 for every institutional birth.

First instalment (in first trimester of pregnancy) – Rs. 3,000/-

- Early Registration of Pregnancy, preferably within first three months.
- Received one antenatal check-up.

Second installment

- At the time of institutional delivery - ₹1500/-

Third instalment (3 months after delivery) - ₹1500/-

- Child birth is compulsory to be registered.[3]
- Child has received BCG vaccination.
- Child has received OPV and DPT-1 & 2.

Annapurna

This scheme was started by the government in 1999–2000 to provide food to senior citizens who cannot take care of themselves and are not under the National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS), and who have no one to take care of them in their village. This scheme would provide 10 kg of free food grains a month for the eligible senior citizens. The allocation for this scheme in 2000-2001 was ₹100 crore. They mostly target groups of 'poorest of the poor' and 'indigent senior citizens'.

The vision document aims of changing the lifestyle of people living in villages by 2022 through Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana, National Livelihood Mission, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, MNREGA, Skill Development Program, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Rurban Mission, National Social Assistance Program,

Questions to be answered

Despite government's best efforts poverty is still prevalent in India. What can be done to eradicate it?

Corona pandemic has alleviated the situation of poverty. What measures can be taken to help the poor?

(B) Social Sector

LAWS CONCERNING WOMEN

Unlike topics like the LGBTQ+ community or media laws in general we've had the topic about women relatively addressed on a much larger scale.

But even after all of the discussion and outrage after each and every "media highlighted" rape case, we still don't have competent and sufficient laws to help protect them.

India has one of the least amount of women representatives in the parliament in the world and more often than not, the women that are able to make it to the top do not really use their power to empower women on a large scale

Domestic violence has always been a huge issue in a country like India but especially during the current scenario, we've had a huge increase in the number of domestic violence reports during the lockdown

This is crucially problematic because this means that 50% of the general population is suppressed and not given enough opportunities to begin with.

But also what our laws fail to do is solve issues like sexual harassment reporting or simple issues like equal pay or glass ceilings.

Issues regarding the oppression women face in the society are countless but we here at AIPPM want to focus on solutions

We need to ask questions like

1. How can we stop victimising women
2. Can there be laws which condemn the societal and cultural patriarchal disadvantages women face
3. Are current laws competent enough?
4. Should the 33% reservation bill be finally passed in Lok Sabha
5. What should be the punishment mechanics

This includes stakeholders like

- The assaulters
- People who wrongly accuse someone
- 'Most interestingly influencers and politicians who advocate for sexist laws and policies or in general pass on such comments

LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY

India like most developing third world countries is relatively new to have any sort of acceptance for the LGBTQ+ community. While there have been bills passed and amended, the latest **Transgender Act 2019** is insufficient and discriminatory on most grounds.

1. This requires a trans person to actively prove their identity by having surgeries in order to get a "transgender certificate"
2. This means that whether or whether not you are a trans person is dependent on the officer in charge to clear you as one.
3. Even if all of this is ignored the Supreme Court in its many rulings has clearly stated how it's a fundamental right for the trans community to actively identify themselves without these complicated and discriminatory processes.
4. In general the only major policy for the LGBTQ+ community in India has been the article 370
5. However , arguably it was deeply flawed because what it did was just decriminalise being a member of the LGBTQ+ community which mean that prior to this openly identifying yourself as a LGBTQ+ member could have had you arrested

While all of these points can be argued against the NDA government what they have successfully done is atleast pass some policies which have helped the community and taken a step towards achieving equality for these people. Also, it has made active efforts to amend the transgender act and has tried inculcating more rights with each amendment, which hadn't really been looked upon by past governments.

This is a fairly new topic for a country like India but the people affected the most are the younger generations who despite all of their leftist claims and ideologies in general will have to live with these policies.

At the end, in AIPPM this year we need to ask basic questions like;

1. What better amendments can be made for the act to be better and more inclusive?
2. How is that the amendments will actively be understood by the majority right wing populous in our country?
3. How is it that we can have more representation for the community in government bodies?
4. What sort of punishment mechanism should be there for defaulters?

SITUATION OF MEDIA

In India for a long time there has been an evident problem with the media not being independent. A problem which has subsequently led to biased and monotonous reporting and ultimately a failed media

This has more importantly led to the media actively not covering up issues like the trans act or issues concerning farmers or issues which impact the country in general.

This has essentially happened because most media outlets have been endorsed by politicians or corporate giants. This has stripped the media off it's essential independence but more importantly it has led to media outlets actively promoting a particular party's cause which means in order for a party to have a chance at competing and for it to reach to the people it simply needs money. The policies and intentions take a back seat in this situation

India recently ranked 142 in the world freedom index for media behind countries like South Sudan and Palestine!

Several media outlets have been put under the scrutiny of millions because of them actively promoting hate speech and this has ultimately led to many official complaints. However, the body to which they are accountable to, the TRAI (telecom Regulatory Authority of India) has not taken any substantial decisions

But not only the mainstream media outlets are a part of the problem, small journalists have been subjected to abuses, death threats and in many cases violence just for their opinions

The problems to be discussed in AIPPM this year are answering questions like:

1. How can the media be given independence?
2. Is it fair for politicians to endorse these outlets
3. How is that our laws can help tackle the ignorance of important issues and the general problem of hate speeches that exist in the India media
4. Has the government been complicit in these problems and which parties are to blame for such problems
5. What are the punishment mechanics that can be used
6. How can the TRAI be reformed so that it's a more reliable and accountable body.

SKILL INDIA

The prime minister launched the scheme in July 2015, with the aim to train 24 lakh youth in the first phase. However, marred by overlaps in roles and responsibilities across departments, the scheme failed to take off, costing Rajiv Pratap Rudy his ministerial berth. He had to resign as minister for skill development and entrepreneurship last September.

The first phase of the scheme was easy as each trainee had to be given Rs 5000-12,000. No surprise, the National Skill Development Council (NSDC) overshot its first phase target. It trained 18 lakh people and certified another 12 lakh.

However, the targets of the second phase, which was launched in 2016 with the target to skill one crore youth by 2020, proved too difficult for the government to achieve.

UNEMPLOYMENT

The COVID-19 outbreak has severely impacted labourers in India especially those working in the informal sector who constitute 90% of India's workforce. The recent cases in Surat and Mumbai of the unemployed migrant labourers seeking to go back to their hometowns are worrisome. According to the International Labour Organization's report, Indian informal economy is looking at a job loss for 400 million people.

The Code on Wages, 2019; The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2019; The Code on Social Security, 2019 and The Industrial Relations Code, 2019.

- Unemployment benefits- Atal Beema Vyakti Kalyan Yojana which provides unemployment insurance to workers who have subscribed to the Employees' State Insurance (ESI) scheme, will cover such workers during the pandemic. The ESI is a self-financing health insurance scheme for formal sector workers in India managed by the Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC).

Under the scheme, which has been operational since July 2018, workers who become unemployed get compensation in the form of cash up to three months of unemployment. But this can be availed only once in a lifetime.

MINORITY GROUPS & LAWS

The Republic of India is home to a large number of minority and indigenous communities, including disadvantaged groups such as Dalits (scheduled castes) representing over 16% of the population, as well as religious minorities like Muslims (14%), Christians (over 2%), Sikhs (over 1.5%), Buddhists, Baha'is, Jews and Parsis, and indigenous groups such as Adivasis, Nagas and Andaman Islanders.

Minorities can be classified according to their religion as well as language spoken, caste, tribal status and so forth. But the minority communities as recognised by the government of India are – Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Zoroastrians and Jains as under Section 2(c) of the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) Act, 1992. But the term "minority" has neither been defined in the act nor the Constitution, and there is no widely accepted definition of the term globally. Population and religion have been the factors which have decided the scope of the minority status in India.

Discriminatory laws and violence against religious minorities: Since 2012, levels of communal violence in India have remained consistently high. The most severe case during this period took

place in Muzaffarnagar (Uttar Pradesh) in 2013, prior to the 2014 general election, leading to the death of over 60, and displacement of over 50,000, the majority of whom are Muslim. Lower-level violence against religious minorities has increasingly been linked to communal mobilization around anti-cow-slaughter and anti-conversion legislation.

‘Anti-cow slaughter’ laws exist in 21 states in India, with differences in state legislations ranging from a total ban on slaughter to punishments for transportation of cows. A number of BJP-led states have implemented stricter laws since the 2014 general election, and on 31 March 2017, Gujarat increased its punishment for cow slaughter to life imprisonment, becoming the country’s most severe. Discriminatory impacts are felt directly by religious minority groups, particularly Muslims and Christians, but also lower-caste Hindus including Dalits, many of whom consume beef. ‘Anti-conversion’ laws (officially called Freedom of Religion Act[s]) are in force in six states, with recent efforts to introduce laws to additional states, and renewed calls for a national anti-conversion law. While these laws specifically prohibit conversions where fraud, force or inducement are involved, in practice the legislation has been used by Hindu extremists to discourage or prevent conversion from Hinduism to other religions, particularly Islam and Christianity – a situation that particularly disadvantages lower castes such as Dalits, for whom conversion can mean greater inclusion.

Exclusion of Christian and Muslim Dalits from the Prevention of Atrocity Act: Dalit Christians and Dalit Muslims are excluded from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, adopted in 1989, which aims at dissuading violence by providing harsher punishment for persons committing offences against individuals protected under this Act. As stressed by the UN Special Rapporteur on arbitrary executions, this exclusion not only prevents them from securing reservations, but it also excludes them from the protection of this law on a discriminatory basis.

Healthcare

Healthcare is a system that needs to be really good for a country to develop at a faster rate. BJP has released a lot of reforms to change the healthcare system. The party said it accords high priority to health sector, which is crucial for securing the economy and that the overarching goal of healthcare would be to provide “Health Assurance to all Indians and to reduce the out of pocket spending on health care”, with the help of state governments. In its 2014 manifesto, the BJP called for radical reforms in the healthcare system

in relation to national healthcare programs and delivery, especially the National Rural Health Mission, which it declared had failed to meet its objectives. It also called for an overhaul of medical education and training and financing of healthcare to create a holistic care system that is universally accessible, affordable and effective.

Measures taken to improve Indian healthcare system are:

NATIONAL HEALTH POLICY 2017

The policy which took an year and a half to draft sets a very low bar for better public health outcomes. For example it proposes to increase expenditure on health from 1.15% to 2.5% by 2025. Even if its achieved it will be half of the no. recommended by WHO. It proposes to increase life expectancy from 67.5 to 70 by 2025. It also aims to reduce the Total fertility rate to 2.1 at sub national level by 2025. Another major features are that it promises to reduce
Infant Mortality rate to 28 by 2019
Mortality rate of age 5 to 23 per 1000 by 2025
Maternal Mortality rate to 100 by 2020

PRADHAN MANTRI JAN AAROGYA YOJANA (PMJAY)

The Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana is a scheme based on a health insurance model that offers Rs 5 lakh cover per year per family to 10 crore families. The National Health Authority says that more than 2.74 crore beneficiaries have been enrolled and more than 17 lakh people have received healthcare under the scheme since its launch in September 2018. However, it is too early to assess whether the scheme will achieve the goals of providing healthcare assurance and reducing out-of-pocket expenditure. The government has announced plans to make hospitals into an industry under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana by giving a range of sops to private hospitals in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities, including allotting unencumbered land to private hospitals, providing viability gap funding and speeding up clearances. The move has added to apprehensions that the health insurance scheme transfers public money to the private health sector.

AYUSHMAN BHARAT

Under Ayushman Bharat, the government aims to create 1,50,000 new health and wellness centres by upgrading health sub-centres across the country. Although, the revamp is underway, the programme is severely underfunded to achieve its avowed targets

Government has announced creation of 16 new AIIMS since 2014 but many are stuck due to lack of funds or non-allocation of lands

QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED:

How is the current healthcare system helping India fight the Pandemic?

How effective are the premium policies like the NHP 2017 and PMJAY in giving insurance cover to citizens in normal as well as such testing times?

(C) Agriculture

Agriculture is an important part of India's economy and at present it is among the top two farm producers in the world. This sector provides approximately 52 percent of the total number of jobs available in India and contributes around 18.1 percent to the GDP. Agriculture is the only means of living for almost two-thirds of the employed class in India. The Indian food industry is poised for huge growth, increasing its contribution to world food trade every year due to its immense potential for value addition, particularly within the food processing industry. Indian food and grocery market is the world's sixth largest, with retail contributing 70% of the sales. The Indian food processing industry accounts for 32% of the country's total food market, one of the largest industries in India and is ranked fifth in terms of production, consumption, export and expected growth.

Investments made by Government

- In 2019–20, Rs 202.5 crore (US\$ 28.73 million) was allocated to the Rainfed Area Development, a sub-scheme under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)
- In May 2020, Government announced the launch of animal husbandry infrastructure development fund of Rs 15,000 crore (US\$ 2.13 billion).
- In September 2019, Prime Minister, Mr Narendra Modi launched National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP), expected to eradicate foot and mouth disease (FMD) and brucellosis in livestock. In May 2020, Rs 13,343 crore (US\$ 1.89 billion) was allocated to the scheme.
- In May 2019, NABARD announced an investment of Rs 700 crore (US\$ 100 million) venture capital fund for equity investment in agriculture and rural-focused start-ups
- Under Union Budget 2019-20, Pradhan Mantri Samman Nidhi Yojana was introduced where a minimum fixed pension of Rs 3000 (US\$ 42.92) was to be provided to the eligible small and marginal farmers, subject to certain exclusion clauses, on attaining the age of 60 years.
- The Government of India came out with Transport and Marketing Assistance (TMA) scheme to provide financial assistance for transport and marketing of agriculture products in order to boost agriculture exports.
- The Agriculture Export Policy, 2018 was approved by the Government of India in December 2018. The new policy aimed to increase India's agricultural export to US\$ 60 billion by 2022 and US\$ 100 billion in the next few years with a stable trade policy regime.

Questions to be answered

1. How to improve the conditions of farmers in the pandemic situation?
2. What measures can be taken to increase agricultural productivity?

(D) Education

With a promise of providing “Education to All”, the Modi Government has taken several steps to impart quality education towards strengthening a system established over the years by successive governments.

Initiative- National Education Policy (2020)

The National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020), which was approved by the Union Cabinet of India on 29 July 2020, outlines the vision of India's new education system. The new policy replaces the previous National Policy on Education, 1986.

1. 10+2 board structure is dropped
2. New school structure will be 5+3+3+4
3. Upto 5 pre school, 6 to 8 Mid School, 8 to 11 High School , 12 onwards Graduation
4. Any Degree will be 4 years
5. 6th std onwards vocational courses available
6. From 8th to 11 students can choose subjects
7. All graduation course will have major and minor
Example - science student can have Physics as Major and Music as minor also. Any combination he can choose
8. All higher education will be governed by only one authority.
9. UGC AICTE will be merged.
10. All University government, private, Open, Deemed, Vocational etc will have same grading and other rules.
11. New Teacher Training board will be setup for all kinds of teachers in country, no state can change
12. Same level of Accreditation to any collage , based on its rating collage will get autonomous rights and funds.
13. New Basic learning program will be created by government for parents to teach children upto 3 years in home and for pre school 3 to 6
14. Multiple entry and exit from any course
15. Credit system for graduation for each year student will get some credits which he can utilize if he takes break in course and come back again to complete course
16. All schools exams will be semester wise twice a year
17. The syllabus will be reduced to core knowledge of any subject only
18. More focus on student practical and application knowledge
19. For any graduation course if student complete only one year he will get a basic certificate, if he complete two years then he will get Diploma certificate and if he complete full course then he will get degree certificate. So no year of any student will be wasted if he break the course in between.
20. All the graduation course feed of all Universities will be govern by single authority with capping on each course.

Initiatives – Higher Education

In just their first term, the Narendra Modi led NDA Government had started seven new Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), six new Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and two new Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs).

The last one year can be considered as HRD Ministry's most productive since 2014. The government fulfilling its promise of providing more autonomy to Higher Education Institutes has approved a new law to give IIMs unprecedented levels of academic and administrative freedom. In addition to that, a new regulation passed by the University

Grants Commission (UGC) has granted different grades of autonomy to all institutions of higher learning based on their performance.

Initiatives- Teacher training

The Right to Education Act 2009 – implemented in 2010 – had given the government five years to train all school teachers. But the 2015 deadline passed with 11 lakh untrained teachers in schools. In August 2017, government amended the Act to extend the deadline to 2019.

Meanwhile, it started an online learning portal called Swayam, an acronym for ‘Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds’. By April 2018, over 7 lakh untrained teachers had signed up for it, but educationists are sceptical about the effectiveness of such training.

Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan- Merging schemes, reducing budgets.

In 2018, the Modi government merged the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan with Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, the secondary education scheme for Classes 9 and above, and the central scheme for teacher education.

The government said the merged scheme, called Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, aimed to “ensure inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels of school education” But critics say the merger could undermine the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan by depriving it of funds. In the 2018-'19 Union budget, the allocations to all the schemes were made under separate heads. By May, the heads were merged and combined funds were released.

Reports from the states suggest that the funds released under the combined scheme were smaller than what states received under separate heads. There were also delays in the release of funds.

The Centre’s spending on education – higher, lower and teacher-training taken together – has been lower than 4% of the total budget every year since 2015-'16. At 3.5%, the budget estimate for education in 2018-'19 is the lowest in a decade.

Education for Girls

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao: The initiative aims to enhance the sex ratio and the status of the girl child along with their enrollment in the education. The initiative was rolled out by the Ministry of Women and Child Development and supported by the Department of School Education and Literacy. An award is being instituted from the -Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Abhiyan for School Management Committees which achieve 100% transition of girls at different levels of education..

QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

How to strengthen the Education System in times like the Pandemic aftermath?

How can flagship policies like the National Education Policy 2020, which have not even been deliberated upon, make the Education System better?

NOTE

Please note that this background guide is just a touch up on the various major policies and schemes launched by the NDA Government. There are several other policies and initiatives undertaken by the government. Take this background guide as just a basis and then build upon the same further by researching more. Remember, the amount and quality of your research determines your success in the committee. Put in your best efforts, and feel free to contact the executive board members in case of any issues.

Links and References for research that delegates may go through.

<http://www.indianet.nl/pdf/MinorityRightsViolationsInIndia-2017.pdf>

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/india-to-offer-unemployment-benefits-to-workers-affected-by-coronavirus-120031901409_1.html

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/definition/category/Budget>

<https://www.statista.com/statistics/271330/unemployment-rate-in-india/>

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/in.html> - Refer the CIA World Fact File for accurate statistics.

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THANK YOU.

