

THE MUN FACTORY

# LOK SABHA

DELEGATE GUIDE

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## COMMITTEE AGENDA

*"Reviewing the Policy Framework of India Post-Independence (1947–2026)"*

SPECIAL PARLIAMENTARY SESSION

## SECTION 01

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### ***A Note from The MUN Factory Executive Board:***

*This delegate guide serves as an analytical benchmark for debate in the Lok Sabha. Delegates are expected to go beyond historical summaries and critically evaluate policy effectiveness, institutional capability, and fiscal sustainability. Debates should strictly reflect the political, economic, and constitutional realities of India from 1947 through 2026.*

# ABOUT THE LOK SABHA

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## CONSTITUTIONAL MANDATE & STRUCTURE

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The Lok Sabha (House of the People) is the lower house of India's bicameral Parliament, representing the sovereign political will of over 1.4 billion citizens. Established under Article 81 of the Constitution of India, the House is directly elected by adult suffrage under a First-Past-The-Post electoral framework. With a constitutional limit of up to 550 elected members, the Lok Sabha serves as the primary forum for legislative enactment, executive oversight, and national policy deliberation.

## KEY LEGISLATIVE POWERS & FUNCTIONS

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- **Financial Supremacy:** Money Bills (Article 110) can only originate in the Lok Sabha. The executive cannot levy taxes or incur expenditure without explicit parliamentary approval through the Annual Financial Statement (Budget).
- **Executive Accountability:** Under Article 75(3), the Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha. The House retains the power to pass a No-Confidence Motion, removing the government from office.
- **Legislative Authority:** Enacts federal legislation across the Union List and Concurrent List, and resolves legislative impasses with the Rajya Sabha through Joint Sitzings (Article 108).
- **Constitutional Amendments:** Exercises constituent power under Article 368 to amend the fundamental law of the land in concurrence with the Rajya Sabha.

### PARLIAMENTARY CODE OF CONDUCT

Delegates in the Lok Sabha must maintain the decorum of the House. Debate must adhere to parliamentary standards, avoiding unparliamentary language while maintaining rigorous ideological and policy debate.

# UNDERSTANDING THE AGENDA

## AGENDA SCOPE: "REVIEWING INDIA POST-INDEPENDENCE (1947–2026)"

The agenda mandates a comprehensive macro-historical and forward-looking evaluation of India's public policy architecture across nearly eight decades of independence. Delegates must examine how state interventions, regulatory frameworks, and developmental models have shaped the socio-economic reality of contemporary India.

## CORE ANALYTICAL PILLARS

| Pillar             | Core Focus Areas                                              | Strategic Objective                                      |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Economic Structure | Planning to Market; Industrial Policy; Fiscal Architecture    | Evaluate GDP trajectory, inequality, and debt dynamics.  |
| Human Development  | Education, Healthcare, Social Protection Net                  | Assess HDI metrics, access equity, and social mobility.  |
| Governance & Tech  | Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), Direct Benefit Transfers | Analyse leakages, efficiency, and administrative reform. |
| Sustainability     | Energy Transition, Climate Resilience, Urbanisation           | Balance industrial expansion with environmental limits.  |

Delegates are required to assess past policy interventions, identify systemic bottlenecks, and propose legislative reforms suited for India's vision of becoming a fully developed nation (Viksit Bharat) by 2047.

## SECTION 04

# HISTORICAL BACKGROUND (1947–1965)

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## THE FOUNDING VISION & NEHRUVIAN CONSENSUS

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Following Independence in 1947, India inherited a depleted colonial economy characterized by deindustrialisation, severe food deficits, high illiteracy, and extreme poverty. Under Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, India adopted a Fabian socialist economic strategy grounded in democratic planning, state-led heavy industrialisation, and non-aligned foreign policy.

## EARLY INSTITUTIONAL FOUNDATIONS

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- **Planning Commission (1950):** Established to formulate Five-Year Plans, allocating scarce capital resources toward public sector capital goods.
- **Mahalanobis Strategy (Second Five-Year Plan):** Prioritised heavy manufacturing (steel, power, capital machinery) over consumer goods to build self-reliance.
- **Institutions of Excellence:** Setting up the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), AIIMS, and CSIR laboratories to build scientific manpower.
- **Agrarian Stagnation:** Early reliance on institutional land reforms faced implementation bottlenecks, leading to food insecurity and dependence on US PL-480 food imports.

### HISTORICAL INSIGHT: THE CHALLENGE OF INTEGRATION

Alongside economic modeling, the 1947–1965 era required the political integration of over 560 princely states by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, laying the structural groundwork for modern Indian federalism.

## SECTION 05

# POLICY EVOLUTION (1966–1991)

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## GREEN REVOLUTION & EXPANSION OF STATE CONTROL

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The mid-1960s presented severe food crises and geopolitical wars. Under Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, India executed the Green Revolution through high-yielding seed varieties, expansion of irrigation, and price support mechanisms (MSP), achieving food grain self-sufficiency by the late 1970s.

## THE HEIGHT OF COMMAND ECONOMY

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- **Bank Nationalisation (1969 & 1980):** Brought commercial banking under state ownership to enforce priority sector lending to agriculture and small enterprises.
- **Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices (MRTP) Act (1969):** Restricted large business concentration and created extensive regulatory barriers.
- **FERA (1973):** Imposed strict regulations on foreign exchange and equity participation, isolating domestic industry from global competition.
- **The License-Permit-Quota Raj:** Pervasive bureaucratic control bred inefficiencies, low growth rates (the "Hindu rate of growth" ~3.5%), and capital misallocation.

### THE 1991 BALANCE OF PAYMENTS CRISIS

By June 1991, foreign exchange reserves plunged to under two weeks of imports (\$1.2 billion), triggering unprecedented structural reform under IMF stabilization conditions.

# MODERN ERA: REFORMS & GROWTH (1992–2026)

## LPG PARADIGM SHIFT & STRUCTURAL INTEGRATION

The 1991 LPG (Liberalisation, Privatisation, Globalisation) reforms introduced by Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao and Finance Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh dismantled industrial licensing, reduced tariffs, opened sectors to Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), and liberalised capital markets.

## KEY POLICY MILESTONES (1992–2026)

| ERA       | POLICY INTERVENTION                                | IMPACT                                           |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| 1991–2000 | Abolition of License Raj; Telecom Policy 1999      | Explosive growth in IT and services exports.     |
| 2001–2013 | FRBM Act 2003; MGNREGA 2005; RTI Act 2005          | Rights-based social welfare & fiscal discipline. |
| 2014–2020 | GST Implementation; IBC Code 2016; Jan Dhan        | Unified national market & financial inclusion.   |
| 2021–2026 | PLI Schemes; National Logistics Policy; AI Mission | Manufacturing push & tech-driven governance.     |

Today, India stands as the world's 5th largest economy, undergoing structural transitions toward high-tech manufacturing, renewable energy, and digital public infrastructure.

## ECONOMIC TRAJECTORY: PLANNING TO NITI

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### MACROECONOMIC INDICATORS & INSTITUTIONAL SHIFT

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The dissolution of the Planning Commission in 2014 and the creation of NITI Aayog marked a paradigm shift from top-down centralized command planning to cooperative and competitive federalism, serving as a policy think-tank.

**\$3.8T+**

GDP NOMINAL (2026)

**6.8%**

AVG REAL GROWTH (2021-26)

**\$640B+**

FOREX RESERVES

### KEY ECONOMIC DEBATES IN PARLIAMENT

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- **Fiscal Consolidation vs. Capital Expenditure:** Managing public debt-to-GDP ratios (~82%) while expanding public capex in highways, railways, and renewable power.
- **Manufacturing vs. Services Disparity:** Services drive ~54% of GDP but employ a fraction of the workforce; manufacturing remains below the 25% GDP target despite PLI incentives.
- **Income Inequality:** Economic gains have accrued disproportionately to the upper income quintiles, necessitating targeted social transfers.

## SECTION 08

# AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY

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## THE AGRARIAN PARADOX

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Agriculture accounts for roughly 16% of India's GDP but continues to engage nearly 42% of the total national workforce. This productivity mismatch creates widespread rural underemployment, depressed agricultural incomes, and structural agrarian distress.

## EVOLUTION OF AGRICULTURAL POLICIES

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- **MSP & Mandi Architecture:** The Minimum Support Price (MSP) and APMC (Agricultural Produce Market Committee) systems provided food security but caused regional distortions and cropping imbalances (rice-wheat bias).
- **Direct Transfer Mechanisms:** PM-KISAN provides income support directly to farm households, bypassing administrative overheads.
- **Credit & Crop Insurance:** Expansion of Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) and PM Fasal Bima Yojana aimed at mitigating climate risk and institutional debt dependency.

### PARLIAMENTARY CHALLENGE

Delegates must resolve the conflict between farm price realization, climate resilience, groundwater depletion, and consumer inflation in food commodities.

# EDUCATION & HUMAN CAPITAL FORMATION

## FROM LITERACY GAPS TO QUALITY LEARNING

India's education policy trajectory has shifted from basic expansion of primary access (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, RTE Act 2009) to addressing learning outcomes, foundational literacy, and vocational skill alignment under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

### POLICY COMPARISON MATRIX

| Framework       | Core Focus                                                    | Key Limitation                                                             |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| NPE 1968 / 1986 | Universal access, 10+2 structure, school expansion            | Neglected quality outcomes and higher education funding.                   |
| RTE Act (2009)  | Legally enforceable right to free/compulsory schooling (6-14) | Focus on inputs/infrastructure over actual learning levels (ASER reports). |
| NEP 2020        | 5+3+3+4 structure, multidisciplinary, skill integration       | Implementation bottlenecks across state spending budgets.                  |

Human capital alignment remains a vital challenge as India seeks to reap its demographic dividend before the population peak in the late 2040s.

## SECTION 10

# HEALTHCARE FRAMEWORK & PUBLIC HEALTH

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## THE PUBLIC-PRIVATE HEALTHCARE CONTINUUM

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India's health architecture has historically faced underfunding, with public expenditure lingering around 1.3% to 2.1% of GDP. This led to high Out-of-Pocket Expenditure (OOPE), pushing millions of households into poverty annually due to catastrophic health shocks.

## STRUCTURAL REFORM FRAMEWORKS

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- **National Health Mission (NHM):** Decentralised public health delivery to rural (NRHM) and urban (NUHM) populations via ASHA workers and Primary Health Centres.
- **Ayushman Bharat - PM-JAY:** World's largest government-funded health assurance scheme, offering ₹5 lakh coverage per family annually for secondary/tertiary care to bottom 40% population.
- **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM):** Digital health IDs, interoperable health records, and telemedicine infrastructure (eSanjeevani).

### KEY METRIC

Out-of-pocket health expenditure declined from over 62% in 2014 to under 47% by 2025, yet specialist shortage at rural PHCs remains above 70%.

# SOCIAL WELFARE & ANTI-POVERTY FRAMEWORKS

## RIGHTS-BASED RIGHTS TO TECH-ENABLED WELFARE

Social policy in India has evolved from paternalistic poverty alleviation projects in the 1970s to rights-based entitlement guarantees (MGNREGA, Food Security Act) in the 2000s, and now to targeted Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) models using the JAM Trinity (Jan Dhan, Aadhaar, Mobile).

| Scheme              | Target Domain               | Operational Mechanism                                      |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| MGNREGA (2005)      | Rural Employment Guarantee  | Statutory 100 days wage employment for rural households.   |
| NFSA (2013)         | Food & Nutritional Security | Subsidised foodgrains to ~67% of total population.         |
| PMAY (Urban/Gramin) | Housing for All             | Financial assistance for pucca house construction.         |
| PM Garib Kalyan     | Crisis Safety Net           | Free foodgrain distribution expanded to 80 crore citizens. |

## SECTION 12

# DIGITAL GOVERNANCE & DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE

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## THE INDIA STACK REVOLUTION

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India has pioneered the development of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) as a public good. By decoupling identity, payments, and data exchange, the India Stack has reduced transaction costs, eliminated welfare leakages, and catalyzed fintech innovation.

**130B+**

ANNUAL UPI TRANSACTIONS

**1.38B**

AADHAAR DIGITAL IDS

**₹34L Cr+**

CUMULATIVE DBT TRANSFERS

## REGULATORY & PRIVACY CHALLENGES

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The rapid digital transition introduces legislative debates regarding cyber security, algorithmic bias, digital divide equity, and state surveillance limits under the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act 2023.

## SECTION 13

# INFRASTRUCTURE & URBAN PLANNING

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## BUILDING CAPITAL FOUNDATION

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Deficits in physical infrastructure historically added a high logistics cost burden (~14% of GDP) to Indian exports. Modern policy focuses on multi-modal connectivity and targeted urban development.

## STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE INITIATIVES

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- **PM Gati Shakti Master Plan:** Integrated planning platform combining 16 ministries to eliminate infrastructure siloing and expedite project clearances.
- **National Logistics Policy (NLP):** Aims to reduce logistics costs to global benchmarks (8-9% of GDP) by 2030.
- **Bharatmala & Sagarmala:** Modernising national highway corridors and port-led industrialisation.
- **Smart Cities Mission & AMRUT:** Urban renewal projects tackling civic amenities, public transport, and waste management.

# ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE STRATEGY

## BALANCING GROWTH & SUSTAINABILITY

India faces the dual challenge of lifting millions out of energy poverty while executing a aggressive transition to renewable energy to combat severe climate vulnerability (heatwaves, unseasonal monsoons, glacier retreat).

## PANCHAMRIT COMMITMENTS & PROGRESS

| Target Parameter       | 2030 / 2070 Climate Goal             | Current Status (2026)                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Non-Fossil Capacity    | 500 GW Capacity by 2030              | ~210 GW operational (Solar/Wind/Hydro/Nuclear) |
| Renewable Energy Share | 50% energy requirements from RE      | ~44% installed capacity non-fossil             |
| Emissions Intensity    | Reduce 45% below 2005 levels by 2030 | Achieved >33% reduction milestone              |
| Net Zero Target        | Achieve Net Zero Carbon by 2070      | National Green Hydrogen Mission launched       |

## SECTION 15

# DEFENCE & FOREIGN POLICY

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## FROM NON-ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC AUTONOMY

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India's foreign policy has evolved from post-colonial Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) leadership to multi-alignment and assertive strategic autonomy, balancing ties across major global powers while positioning itself as the voice of the Global South.

## DEFENCE MODERNISATION & INDIGENISATION

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- **Aatmanirbharta in Defence:** Positive indigenisation lists restricting imports, promoting domestic defence industrial corridors (UP and Tamil Nadu).
- **Theaterisation & Reforms:** Appointment of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) to integrate Army, Navy, and Air Force command structures.
- **Geopolitical Doctrines:** Act East Policy, SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region), and active participation in Quad and BRICS+.

## CONTEMPORARY STRUCTURAL CHALLENGES

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### CRITICAL BOTTLENECKS IN 2026

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Despite impressive macroeconomic growth, India's economic and political policy landscape faces several systemic bottlenecks that require immediate legislative reform in Parliament:

- **Jobless Growth & Youth Unemployment:** High demand for white-collar work vs. low skill levels of rural graduates; manufacturing absorption remains muted.
- **Federal Disparities:** Widening economic gap between high-growth Southern/Western states and populous Northern/Eastern states, complicated by upcoming delimitation.
- **Judicial Backlog:** Over 50 million pending court cases impeding enforceability of contracts and commercial dispute resolution.
- **Administrative & Civil Service Capacity:** Bureaucratic inertia and state capacity deficits in local governance bodies (3rd tier).

## QUESTIONS FOR PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE

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Delegates drafting Private Member Bills, Committee Reports, or Government Resolutions must address these 10 core policy questions:

**1. Fiscal Federalism:** How should the Finance Commission balance tax devolution between high-revenue contributing states and low-income states without worsening regional friction?

**2. Agricultural Reform:** What statutory model can guarantee fair crop price realization without destroying fiscal balances or distorting market price discovery?

**3. Employment Strategy:** What incentives can effectively shift labor from low-productivity agriculture to high-value manufacturing and service supply chains?

**4. Energy Transition Equity:** How will India finance the massive capital required for grid decarbonization while protecting thermal power workers?

**5. Judicial Reforms:** What legislative measures can mandate fast-tracking commercial disputes and filling vacancies across high courts and lower judiciary?

**6. Digital Governance Privacy:** How to balance national security data access needs with individual privacy rights under the DPDP Act?

**7. Human Capital Investment:** How can state governments be incentivized to increase public expenditure on primary healthcare and school education to 2.5% and 6% of GDP respectively?

**8. Industrial Competitiveness:** Are PLI schemes generating sustainable domestic innovation, or merely encouraging low-value assembly lines?

## DELEGATE RESEARCH GUIDE

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### PREPARATION CHECKLIST FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS

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- **Constituency & Party Alignment:** Align your arguments with your political party's manifesto and regional constituency interests.
- **Parliamentary Rules of Procedure:** Master Rules 377 (Matters of Public Importance), Calling Attention Notices, and Zero Hour submissions.
- **Data Integrity:** Cite official government sources such as Economic Survey, MoSPI statistics, NITI Aayog reports, and RBI bulletins.
- **Solution-Oriented Legislation:** Draft operative clauses in bills using precise, legally sound phrasing avoiding vague rhetoric.

#### RESEARCH STRATEGY TIP

Review debate records from the Lok Sabha Digital Archives ([eparlib.nic.in](http://eparlib.nic.in)) to understand historical arguments advanced on key landmark bills.

## GLOSSARY & OFFICIAL RESOURCES

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### GLOSSARY OF KEY TERMS

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**APMC:** Agricultural Produce Market Committee regulating agricultural markets.

**DBT:** Direct Benefit Transfer of subsidies directly into beneficiary bank accounts.

**DPI:** Digital Public Infrastructure (e.g., Aadhaar, UPI, DigiLocker).

**FRBM Act:** Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act setting fiscal deficit targets.

**PLI Scheme:** Production Linked Incentive scheme boosting domestic manufacturing.

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