

Model United Nations of the University of Chicago

TABLE OF CONTENTS

OHAID LETTED	
CHAIR LETTER	3
CRISIS DIRECTOR LETTER	4
POWERS OF COMMITTEE	6
	7
TOPIC: THE CABINET OF MANMOHAN SINGH, 2009	8
Statement of the Problem	8
Character Biographies	29
Bibliography	40

CHAIR LETTER

Hi everyone!

My name is Devang Laddha, and I am excited to welcome you all to MUNUC 35. I will be your Chair, and in this role will be moderating front room debate. I am currently a senior at UChicago, majoring in Economics and Political Science. My previous MUN experience includes being a Crisis Director for MUNUC last year, serving as an Under-Secretary General for ChoMUN (UChicago's collegiate conference) last year and participating in UChicago's travel MUN team. In my free time, I love to watch football (read soccer), explore the city, and complain about Chicago winters.

I am from Kolkata, India and am very passionate about Indian politics which is why I am particularly excited to be running this committee. India in 2009 very much stands at a crossroads politically, economically, and socially and I am very excited to see you all navigate these turbulent times to create a stronger country.

It is my hope to make this committee as exciting and engaging as possible, and to make sure that each of you learns and has fun during our conference. I am very excited to be running this committee and cannot wait to see you all very soon!

Warm Regards,

Devang Laddha

devang@uchicago.edu

CRISIS DIRECTOR LETTER

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to MUNUC 35! I am Ritwik Bose, and it's a pleasure to be your Crisis Director. After a few years of uncertainty and gratuitous breakout rooms, I hope that this edition of MUNUC will be like no other, defined by your individual creativity, excellence, and ability.

Model UN is an activity that has played a critical role in my collegiate experience, and even though it started off over Zoom and scattered across Slack channels and email threads, being a part of this often ridiculous activity we call crisis has gifted me newfound skills, confidence, and friendships that will doubtless last a lifetime. I am honored to have the opportunity to share the joy that Model UN has given me with all of you as we explore the political intrigue, scandal, and chaos of Manmohan Singh's second premiership.

Indian politics is composed of numerous layers, and through this committee, I hope that we can peel them back together and examine what it means to run a country as expansive, diverse, and complicated as India. A nation of over one billion people and countless languages, cultures, and identities, India has a five thousand year history that has shaped it and its people, with the eons of shifting borders and allegiances seeping into every aspect of its national fabric.

The Indian political landscape is an unruly, fractious, and intimidating place, dominated by massive political machines and even larger personalities. To wield power over the Indian government, as a result, is a daunting and thankless task, one which fell to a timid and bookish economist from Amritsar on the back of a less-than-resounding electoral mandate. Tasked with managing both a newly liberalized economy and a disunified coalition of squabbling parties and factions is never easy, and Manmohan Singh's second term in office exemplifies this. Analyzing this period in contemporary Indian history thus gives us the chance to closely examine what it takes to keep your allies close and your rivals closer.

I am beyond thrilled to have the opportunity to assume the position of Crisis Director and lead you all down the rabbit hole. The path that India takes, however, is up to all of you. I look forward to seeing what twists and turns the world's largest democracy takes as it ventures forth into the brave new world of a new millennium.

Sincerely,

Ritwik Bose

ritwikbose@uchicago.edu

POWERS OF COMMITTEE

This committee is simulating the Cabinet of India. The committee as a whole will pass directives that will dictate the direction the country goes in. An important factor in all decisions will not only be the wellbeing of the citizens who the Cabinet ultimately serve, but also ensuring they retain their power in Parliament. While these directives can employ the full power of the Indian state to succeed, be careful that you do not overexert the Indian government and risk unintended consequences.

Each delegate is designated as a minister with the full powers of their ministry to use in both front and backroom. Moreover, delegates have character bios that give them information about their backgrounds and what other resources they have available. Delegates are encouraged to stick to their ministries while constructing their backroom arcs, and build on this throughout the committee by gathering and using resources.

SENSITIVITY STATEMENT

MUNUC as an organization strives for historical accuracy while understanding that certain atrocities that have occurred throughout history should not be simulated in this context of Model UN. For that reason, we ask that while participating in committee you do not use 'historical realism' as a justification for racism, sexism, homophobia etc. Our committee will be a place for creative solutions and collaboration, not a place for disrespecting others in any way. Any actions or words that would be unacceptable in 2023 will not be tolerated in this committee.

Specifically, we ask that delegates not discuss or attempt arcs involving either Pakistan or Kashmir. The focus of this committee is the internal politics of India. We also will not tolerate any discussions of India's religious or ethnic conflicts. Moreover, no discussions of the caste system will be entertained. This committee should be a place to empower, not divide. We hope that this committee will be a collaborative effort on your part and so, to this end, please be respectful of the other delegates in the room. As executives, we welcome and encourage you to experiment and invent unique solutions, arcs, and stories. We ask that you cooperate with us in trying to maintain a respectful, dignified, and productive committee atmosphere and that you be sensitive to others. If you have any concerns regarding this policy, please feel free to send the executives an email or speak to us at the conference.

TOPIC: THE CABINET OF MANMOHAN SINGH, 2009

Statement of the Problem

Early History / Context

The Republic of India was formed on August 15, 1947, when the country obtained independence from the British colonial regime. The British had ruled India for nearly two centuries, and had faced increasing resistance through the late 19th and early 20th century, eventually leading to the formation of an independent India. With independence, however, came Partition. The former British territories were divided into India and Pakistan, with Pakistan being split into East and West Pakistan with India in the middle. East Pakistan eventually sought independence, and became Bangladesh.¹

The first Indian government faced several challenges. They governed a diverse multi-ethnic, multi-religious and multilingual country that was composed of vastly different peoples. While they had been united in the fight against the British, maintaining this unity was difficult after independence. Moreover, India faced several economic challenges as the British rule had created a severely extractive state to benefit a select elite rather than help everyone in society. The government therefore had to implement institutional economic reforms to not only modernize the economy to foster growth but also find ways to make this growth inclusive. Furthermore, with the Cold War beginning, there was a question of how to navigate the international sphere to ensure India's interests were advocated for and not subverted in the larger war between the US and the Soviet Union.²

India tackled these challenges in several ways in the years after independence. The Indian constitution was introduced in 1950 and set up a multi-party democracy with fundamental rights for its population, creating the largest democracy in history.³ The country was divided into several

¹ "India," Encyclopædia Britannica (Encyclopædia Britannica, inc.), accessed December 20, 2022, https://www.britannica.com/place/India.

² Ihid

³ "Independence Day: 73 Events That Define India'S Journey From 1947 To 2019". 2019. The Indian Express. https://indianexpress.com/article/india/independence-day-2019-events-that-define-indias-journey-from-1947-to-2019-5906068/.

states, divided along ethnic and linguistic lines that helped create spaces for different populations and set up a quasi-federal political structure, with the national government based in Delhi overseeing major national issues such as defense and finance. "Unity in Diversity" became the slogan of the country as the differences between populations were seen to be a strength of India rather than a weakness.

Economically, India followed a leftist planned economy model after independence, using the state to create economic institutions to stimulate growth. These measures had moderate success, with there being some modernization and steady economic development in the initial years. The economy did face several crises, however, and while India did seem to weather them, eventually the pitfalls of such an economic strategy became apparent.⁴

On the foreign relations front, India became a founding member of the Non-Aligned Movement, where alongside countries such as Yugoslavia, Egypt and Indonesia, it pursued a strategy to not align with either side of the Cold War, and rather use both to help growth in smaller nations. On a more local scale, India faced increasing tensions with its neighbors, in particular Pakistan and China. Several wars were fought, with the biggest being the Sino-Indian War in 1962 and the Indo-Pakistani War in 1971 which eventually led to the dissolution of East Pakistan into Bangladesh.

Recent History

India saw several pivotal shifts as it entered the 21st century. One of the largest changes came economically, where India abandoned its planned economy model after a major crisis in 1991 and instead liberalized and pursued a strategy of capitalist growth that brought great economic prosperity to the country. The country saw record levels of growth that continued into the early 2000s. Politically, the country saw the dominance of the Indian National Congress (INC) party being consistently challenged by a rising right-wing coalition centered around the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). While these two parties fought on the national stage, state politics within India were often dominated by more local parties that centered around local issues, which created a more

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

fragmented political structure. While earlier the Congress had dominance across the northern states and on the federal level, their power has been challenged both by the BJP and stronger local parties. As such in 2004, the Congress could only form the government through a coalition, which has been the case in 2009 as well. The Congress must do its utmost to protect this coalition, lest the government fall apart.⁶

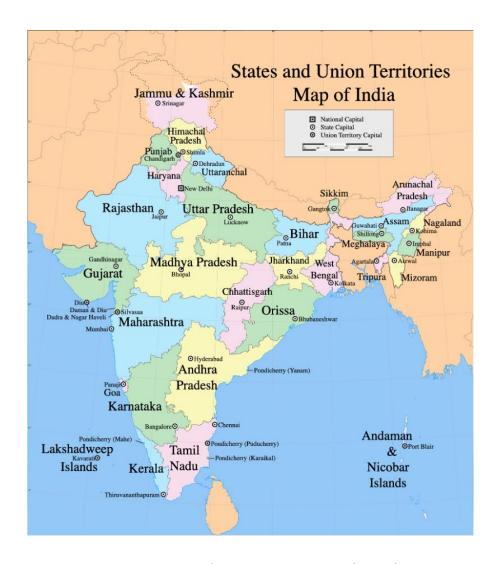


Figure 1: States and Union Territories within India.7

⁶ Britannica, "India."

⁷ "File:India States and Union Territories Map.svg," Wikimedia Commons, accessed December 19, 2022, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:India_states_and_union_territories_map.svg.

Geography

India is the seventh largest country in the world, with the mainland peninsula stretching from Kashmir in the north to Kerala in the south, and Rajasthan in the West to Arunachal Pradesh in the east. It is bordered by Pakistan on the north west, Nepal, Bhutan and China in the north, Bangladesh and Myanmar in the east, and Sri Lanka in the south. Alongside the mainland, India has control over a few islands, the Andaman and Nicobar islands in the east, and Lakshwadeep islands in the west.⁸

India is composed of a rich diversity of geographical features. The Himalayas border its north, with its mountainous terrain historically providing protection against foreign enemies. The Thar desert is located in the northwest, primarily composed within the state of Rajasthan. There are several rivers that flow through the country that are lifeblood to their populations and agriculture. The main rivers include the Ganges, Yamuna, and Brahmaptura rivers in the north, the Narmada and Godavari in the center, and Kaveri in the south. Alongside these rivers, India has very fertile alluvial soil particularly in the northern regions. These regions provide a large part of the country's food resources. In the northeast, the Ganges river creates the world's largest delta which is part of the Sundarban region.⁹

India also has mineral deposits and resources. The country is known for its mica, bauxite, crude steel, and iron ore resources. These resources are spread out across the country, with the main sources being in the Deccan plateau which lies in the southern region of the country. Furthermore, the country has oil resources which are primarily concentrated off the coast of Mumbai and in Assam. Natural gas resources meanwhile are located in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Orissa.¹⁰

11

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

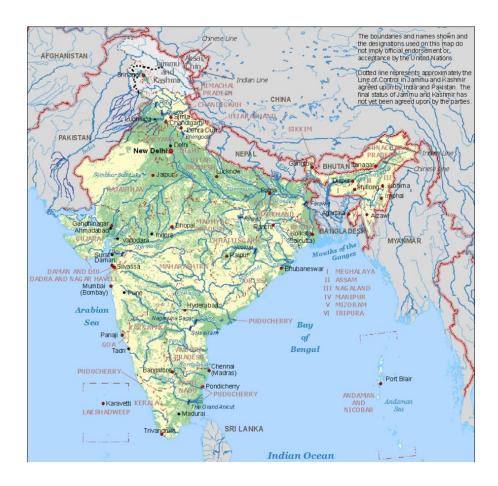


Figure 2: India's geography. 11

Culture

India is a massive country with countless different languages, religions, and customs making up its complex social fabric. Regional distinctions between and even within the country's multiple states add to India's vast cultural diversity. Therefore, it is difficult to standardize exactly what Indian 'culture' is, as understanding Indian culture means understanding its inherent diversity.

¹¹ "File:Republic of India Map.png," Wikimedia Commons, accessed December 20, 2022, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Republic_of_India_map.png.

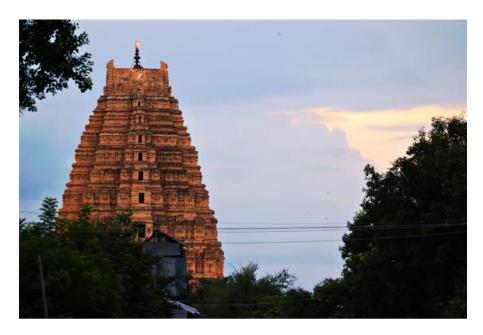


Figure 3: A south Indian temple. 12

Hinduism is the largest religion in India, practiced by approximately 80% of the total population. Muslims make up around 14% of India's population, with Christians, Sikhs, and Jains, as well as smaller communities practicing Buddhism, Zoroastrianism, and Judaism, making up the remainder. India is the cradle of Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism, which today are some of the most widely practiced religions in the world. Islam was introduced to India through Arab merchants in the 600s, and Islamic culture and traditions are an integral part of Indian culture more broadly. Christians are largely concentrated in India's northeastern states, as well as in the southern state of Kerala and the western state of Goa. Sikhism is most prominent in the northern state of Punjab, where it originated, while Zoroastrians, known as the 'Parsi' in India, live mostly in a small community centered in Mumbai. Mumbai. India Mumbai.

India is also home to numerous languages (there is no language called 'Indian'), the largest of which is Hindi, spoken across a region of northern India called the 'Hindi Belt,' stretching across a region that includes the heavily populated states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan.¹⁵

¹² Prashanth, "A Temple in South India - Free Image by Prashanth Dixit on Pixahive.com," PixaHive, October 16, 2020, https://pixahive.com/photo/a-temple-in-south-india/.

¹³ Madhav Khosla, Milan Vaishnav. 2022. "Religion, Citizenship, And Belonging In India". *Carnegie Endowment For International Peace*. https://carnegieendowment.org/2022/06/02/religion-citizenship-and-belonging-in-india-pub-86958. ¹⁴ "Indian Culture - Religion". 2018. *Cultural Atlas*. https://culturalatlas.sbs.com.au/indian-culture/indian-culture-religion.

¹⁵ "Hindi Grew Rapidly In Non-Hindi States Even Without Official Mandate". 2022. *India Today*.

 $https://www.indiatoday.in/diu/story/hindi-grows-in-non-hindi-states-without-official-mandate-{\tt 1936196-2022-04-11}.$

Bengali is the second most spoken language, native to the Bengal region, which is split between the Indian state of West Bengal, home to the major eastern city of Kolkata, and the neighboring country of Bangladesh. Marathi is spoken primarily in the western state of Maharashtra, where Mumbai is located. Tamil is the main language of the state of Tamil Nadu, in the far south of India, where Chennai (formerly known as Madras) is situated. Telugu (spoken in Andhra Pradesh), Malayalam (spoken in Kerala), and Kannada (spoken in Karnataka) are other major languages spoken by millions of people in southern India. Gujarati and Punjabi are other major northern languages. The northeastern states of India are incredibly diverse linguistically, with languages like Assamese, Mizo, Naga, Sikkimese, Kokborok, Khasi, Garo, and multiple others spoken widely in different states. Other major languages include Kashmiri, Bhojpuri, Tulu, Konkani, Odia, and Santhali. 16



Figure 4: A batsman prepares to defend the wicket. 17

Cricket is the most popular sport in India, enjoyed by people of all classes, religions, linguistic groups, and ages. ¹⁸ Football (soccer) is widely played across the country, but is especially popular in the

¹⁶ "12 Most Spoken Languages In India By Number Of Speakers - Devnagri". 2022. *Devnagri.Com*. https://devnagri.com/12-most-spoken-languages-in-india-by-number-of-speakers/.

¹⁷ pics_pd, "Free Picture: Cricket Sport, Game, Action, Ball, Sport," PIXNIO, July 2, 2017, https://pixnio.com/sport/cricket-sport/cricket-sport-game-action-ball-sport.https://www.indiatvnews.com/sports/cricket/india-vs-south-africa-2nd-oditeam-india-go-down-by-seven-wickets-proteas-win-series-2-0-2022-01-21-755651.

¹⁸ "Indian Cricket Team". 2022. *Cs.Mcgill.Cα*.

https://www.cs.mcgill.ca/~rwest/wikispeedia/wpcd/wp/i/Indian_cricket_team.htm.

states of West Bengal, Goa, and Kerala, as well as states in the northeast, like Mizoram, Manipur, and Meghalaya. Field hockey is considered the 'national sport,' due to the country's tradition of excellence in the sport at the Olympics. Traditional sports like kabaddi and kho-kho are also popular. India additionally has a long history of wrestling and other martial arts.¹⁹

Economy



Figure 5: Infosys headquarters in India.20

India has undergone considerable economic transformation in recent decades, going from a largely agrarian nation dominated by government-owned enterprises to a rapidly industrializing market economy. The liberalization of the Indian economy carried out under Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, under whom Manmohan Singh was finance minister, fundamentally reshaped the Indian economy.²¹

Major cities like Hyderabad and Bangalore have become centers of industries like information technology (IT). Today, India is a leader in the IT industry, and a number of major global companies

¹⁹ Britannica, "India."

²⁰ The Q Speaks, "Infosys, Bangalore, India," Flickr (Yahoo!, November 16, 2007), https://www.flickr.com/photos/theqspeaks/2037016030.

²¹ "On This Day In 1991: A Landmark Budget That Changed India's Fortunes". 2022. *The Economic Times*. https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/on-this-day-in-1991-a-landmark-budget-that-changed-indias-fortunes/articleshow/93090439.cms?from=mdr.

outsource a significant portion of their operations to Indian offices. High-rises now dot the skylines of these cities, and by 2009, India has developed a budding startup culture, with e-commerce company Flipkart and food delivery upstart Zomato being some of the major firms started in India by Indian entrepreneurs by the time of this committee. Bangalore has become known as the 'Silicon Valley of India' due to its focus on IT related industries. This shift in the Indian economy has drawn the attention of major multinational companies, who have increasingly established offices and branches in India.²²

India is a major center of the global pharmaceutical industry, and produces a significant proportion of the global vaccine supply. India additionally leads in the textile industry, producing clothing and other consumer textile products. India has a long history of textile manufacturing, having long been one of the world's major textile production hubs, and this tradition continues in cottage industries and major manufacturing plants alike. Coal mining and steel production are major industries in the eastern state of Jharkhand, while automobile manufacturing is largely concentrated in the southern city of Chennai.

In rural areas, India still remains a largely agrarian economy, with a majority of the Indian labor force working in the agricultural sector. India maintains a massive dairy industry, the largest in the world, although much of this is reserved for domestic consumption. Legumes, rice, wheat, sugarcane, and nuts are other major food crops produced in staggering quantities by Indian farmers. India was one of the major testing grounds for the so-called 'Green Revolution,' which involved the introduction of high-yield seed varieties and the increased use of fertilizers that facilitated increased agricultural productivity across the country.²³

²² "A Short History Of Indian Economy 1947-2019: Tryst With Destiny & Other Stories". 2019. *Mint*. https://www.livemint.com/news/india/a-short-history-of-indian-economy-1947-2019-tryst-with-destiny-other-stories-1565801528109.html.

²³ "The History Of Economic Development In India Since Independence - Association For Asian Studies". 2022. *Association For Asian Studies*. https://www.asianstudies.org/publications/eaa/archives/the-history-of-economic-development-in-india-since-independence/.

It is important to note that while agriculture only composes about 20 percent of India's Gross Domestic Product, it employs nearly 53 percent of the population. This makes agriculture a very important issue as it impacts the most number of households in the country.

Manufacturing employs about 21 percent of the population, while services employs the remaining 26 percent. Annufacturing comprises about 30 percent of GDP while services make up the remaining 50 percent. Thus, delegates must think about how to grow India's economy in a way that can help the most people and protect the most vulnerable who get only a small fraction of the nation's GDP.

Income and wealth inequality remain a considerable problem in India, despite the growth and development of a sizable middle class in recent decades. A significant portion of India's urban and rural population live below the poverty line, while a small minority of wealthy elites control a significant portion of India's wealth.²⁵

Energy

India consumes a lot of energy to produce these goods and fuel its industries. India is the world's third largest consumer of energy, behind China and the United States. A large chunk of that energy comes from coal, which is a major source of energy production in India. Coal, of course, is not a very sustainable source of energy and causes massive air pollution which causes a large number of diseases and decreases the quality of air. Regardless, the protection and functioning of these coal mines remains critical to the economy.²⁶

²⁴ "India - Distribution Of The Workforce Across Economic Sectors 2019 | Statista". 2022. *Statista*. https://www.statista.com/statistics/271320/distribution-of-the-workforce-across-economic-sectors-in-india/. ²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ Bhattacharya, S.C., and Chinmoy Jana. 2009. "Renewable Energy In India: Historical Developments And Prospects". *Energy* 34 (8): 981-991. doi:10.1016/j.energy.2008.10.017.



Figure 6: An oil fuel truck.27

Alongside coal, another important source of energy for the country is oil. India itself does not have massive oil reserves which makes oil imports a huge cost to the country. These oil imports are vital, as without them industries cannot function. Disruption to any of them can in turn create large disruptions within the economy. Domestically another important energy source is LPG (Liquified Petroleum Gas). LPG cylinders are used in houses daily for cooking, as most places in India do not have a piped gas supply.

While India has engaged in several sustainable energy practices, these are still developing. India has invested in a number of dams and solar energy projects that have increased the amount of sustainable energy that the country produces. These have helped decrease the carbon footprint of the country which is massive.²⁸

Demographics

At the time of committee, India is the second most populous country in the world, with a population of nearly 1.2 billion. Despite having such a large population, India geographically is relatively small to other populous countries. This means that India's population density is quite high. This density is

²⁷ "File:Indian Oil Fuel Truck on Way to Ladakh.jpg - Wikimedia Commons," Wikimedia Commons, accessed December 21, 2022, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Indian_Oil_fuel_truck_on_way_to_Ladakh.jpg.

²⁸ Britannica, "India."

particularly high in major cities such as Mumbai, Delhi, and Kolkata, which see millions of people living together.²⁹

The population in cities has historically only grown as there has been massive rural to urban migration within the country. As mentioned earlier, the most rapidly growing industries within the country have been services which are centered around major urban centers. This means that job opportunities lie within these centers, as they are centers for economic growth. Not only do professionals with education move into the cities to work for high-tech firms, but with their movement they create demand for other services – from food to retail to barbershops – which further creates job opportunities. This forced people who were living in rural areas to move to urban areas to search for jobs. This massive movement of people has created large slums in urban cities, with the worst example being the Dharavi slum in Mumbai, which is placed in stark contrast to the high rises in its background. Thus not only are there wide disparities between rural and urban populations, but even within cities there are large amounts of inequality.³⁰

Transportation

India is home to a robust rail network run by Indian Railways that stretches the length and breadth of the country. Initially constructed by the British, the Indian railroad system is used by Indians from all walks of life, with inter-city service between major centers like Mumbai, Delhi, and Kolkata traveled by billions of passengers a year. Suburban rail networks connecting the outskirts of Mumbai and Kolkata to their respective downtowns are also some of the most used rail lines in the world, carrying millions upon millions of commuters each morning and evening. Due to the importance of rail infrastructure in India, there is a legion of rail workers and administrators working for Indian Railways, comprising one of the largest and most unwieldy bureaucracies in the country.³¹

²⁹ 2022. *Populationpyramid.Net*. https://www.populationpyramid.net/india/2009/.

³⁰ Sinding, Steven W. 2009. "Population, Poverty And Economic Development". *Philosophical Transactions Of The Royal Society B: Biological Sciences* 364 (1532): 3023-3030. doi:10.1098/rstb.2009.0145.

³¹ Directory, India, Deals Offers, Classified Ads, Tributes Obituaries, India Guide, India Marketplace, Pincode Search, and Festivals India. 2022. "Transport System In India, Roadways In India, Indian Railways". *Indiaonline.In*. https://www.indiaonline.in/about/transport.

As a growing economy with a surging middle class, air travel is becoming increasingly popular in India, with homegrown domestic airlines dominating the local market, while major international airlines regularly run flights between Delhi, Mumbai, and major world cities. Air India, which had initially been established by the Tata business family, was nationalized following independence, and is the national flag carrier. Local budget airlines have also started to gain a foothold in the country, finally linking more remote parts of the country.

Politics

India's constitution lays out its political system as a quasi-federal multi-party parliamentary democracy. On the national level, the Indian constitution provides for a bicameral legislature formed by two parts: the Lok Sabha (Lower house of Parliament) and the Rajya Sabha (Upper house of Parliament). The Lok Sabha is the more powerful of the two, and is directly elected through adult universal suffrage in national elections every 5 years. The Lok Sabha has 543 elected members, with each member representing a constituency, which are divided according to population. Members of the Lok Sabha elect the Prime Minister, who requires a simple majority to be elected. The Prime Minister thereby becomes the head of the executive, and appoints a Council of Ministers to run the various executive departments. The Cabinet (which this committee represents) is a subset of this Council, representing heads of the most important departments in the government.

Crucially, the Prime Minister must continue to hold their majority in Parliament, which can be challenged at any time through a motion of no-confidence. Should such a motion be introduced, and the Prime Minister does not have a majority of votes, they along with the Council of Minister must immediately resign. If no other majority can be formulated, the Lok Sabha is dissolved and another national election is held. This also means that the executive is only beholden to the Lok Sabha as only this body has the power to remove the Prime Minister.³²

³² "Government Of India, Structure Of Government Of India". 2022. *Elections In India*. https://www.elections.in/government/.



Figure 8: India's parliament building.33

The Rajya Sabha meanwhile is composed of 245 members, 233 out of which are elected by members of various state legislatures. The President of India, who is elected by members of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, and largely plays a ceremonial role in Indian politics, nominates 12 additional members to the Rajya Sabha who are considered experts in various fields.³⁴

India is composed of 28 states and 7 union territories in 2009, with its capital situated in Delhi. The states are primarily divided on linguistic and cultural differences, and have varying sizes and populations. Each state has its own state government that is elected every 5 years. The formation of state legislatures are similar to the Lok Sabha, with some states also having an upper house akin to

³³ "File:Parlament of India Building 2005.Jpg," Wikimedia Commons, accessed December 21, 2022, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Parlament_of_India_building_2005.jpg.

³⁴ Elections, "Structure of Government."

the Rajya Sabha. The state legislature similarly elects a Chief Minister who is responsible for the executive functions of the state government, and is held accountable by the state legislature.³⁵

The reason that India has a quasi-federal structure is that while state governments do have jurisdiction over several key pieces of legislation, the most important decisions such as defense and communication are handled by the national government. Moreover, the constitution lays out a host of topics on which both state and national governments have jurisdiction, but the national government always has greater power.³⁶

As mentioned before, various parties fight in both the national and state elections. India has a multiparty system that extends on both the state and national levels. Historically, the most popular party within India has been the Indian National Congress, which was in power through most of post-independent India. However, since the end of the Emergency in 1977, the power of the Congress has increasingly been challenged. This has happened both at the state level, where various regional parties have gained greater support and taken control of state legislatures and at the national level where the BJP has increasingly gained support, reaching its peak in 1998 with the Prime Ministership of Atal Bihari Vajpayee. While the Congress has been able to regain its footing in recent years, it has been forced to create coalition governments both in 2004 and now again in 2009. The Congress has furthermore been weakened at the state level, where its dominance particularly in the northern regions of India have been challenged by the BJP and local parties, which have weakened the Congress' popularity and campaign apparatus.

As of 2009, the Congress has regained power in India, being the largest party in the Lok Sabha, and leading the United Progressive Alliance, a coalition which has secured majority support in the Lok Sabha. Besides the Congress, the other major parties part of the coalition are Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), Samajwadi Party (SP), Janata Dal (Secular) (JD(S)), Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) along with other smaller parties as well. Most of these parties are ideologically to the left of the Congress, but largely have similar goals. This coalition demands that the Congress needs to consistently stay on good terms with its partners in government to stay in power. Should it lose the support of these

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ "States Uts - Know India: National Portal Of India". 2022. *Knowindia.India.Gov.In*. https://knowindia.india.gov.in/states-uts/.

actors, it stands the risk of losing support in the Parliament and not being able to prove its majority, causing the government to fall apart.³⁷

Structure of Government

The government of India at the federal level follows a complex model. As mentioned earlier, the head of the executive is the Prime Minister who is appointed by the party or coalition that has a majority in the Lok Sabha. The Prime Minister then appoints a Cabinet to help them with administering the country. The Cabinet is created of individuals with different powers, defined by the Ministries they are in charge of. These ministries vary in powers and roles, but each performs vital functions for the administration of the state. The Cabinet consists of Ministers who hold the most important ministries, while lower importance ministries are held by different Ministers who are part of the Council of Ministers. For the purpose of this committee, we will be focusing on the Cabinet and the most critical ministries for the Indian government.

The Cabinet meets frequently to discuss matters of state, where they inform the Prime Minister of any updates from within their fields. The Prime Minister along with the Cabinet determine the goals and policies within each Cabinet, with the Ministers responsible for executing on that agenda and reporting back to the Prime Minister. Each minister has a bureaucracy under them as well. These are composed of civil servants who work for the government and conduct the day-to-day functions of each department. These bureaucrats have usually served for much longer than ministers, and are experienced in their fields. They usually stay consistent across different governments, but their work does change according to the goals of the current government. As the Cabinet, each delegate will have control over their Ministries, and can use their powers to influence the committee in the manner they see fit. It is also worth noting that cabinet ministers also change their roles during their time in office. Given their performance and abilities, they might often get power over another

³⁷ "A History Of Political Parties In India". 2020. *Economic And Political Weekly*. https://www.epw.in/journal/2020/22/book-reviews/history-political-parties-india.html.

ministry or might be transferred to another ministry as well. This means that Cabinet members do have flexible roles that can change while in office.³⁸

While the Cabinet is accountable to the Prime Minister, it is also more broadly accountable to the legislature. Cabinet ministers are part of the Lok Sabha, where other Parliament members can ask them questions about their workings and hold greater accountability for their actions. Thus it is important that ministers are able to defend their actions not just before the Prime Minister but also in front of Parliament.

Foreign Affairs

The primary foreign policy concern of the Indian government is its rivalry with Pakistan, with whom India has fought four wars and shares a long border that includes the disputed region of Kashmir. Both India and Pakistan claim Kashmir as their own, which has led to wars in 1948 and 1999, as well as regular skirmishes between Indian and Pakistani troops stationed along the contested border. Terrorist activity in Kashmir, which the Indian government claims enjoys funding from the Pakistani government, is a major security concern for the Indian government. For the purposes of this committee, we will be staying away from discussing Kashmir and the tensions with Pakistan.

China is another major geopolitical rival and a source of great worry for the Indian government. India and China went to war in 1956, and China still claims the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh, in the northeast, as its own territory. The Dalai Lama, the religious and political leader of Tibet, is currently in exile in India after the violent occupation of Tibet by the Chinese government in 1950, which is a point of contention between Beijing and Delhi. Thousands of Tibetan exiles call India home, which is a sore spot in Indo-Chinese relations. Skirmishes still regularly erupt along the Indo-Chinese border, and China claims a portion of the disputed region of Kashmir (called Aksai Chin) as their own.³⁹ We will also be avoiding discussing hostilities with China for the purposes of this committee.

³⁸ "Council Of Ministers". 2021. *Drishti IAS*. https://www.drishtiias.com/daily-updates/daily-news-analysis/council-of-ministers-1.

³⁹ Bridges, Anton, and Ishani Shukla. 2016. "A Brief History Of India's Foreign Policy - Gateway House". *Gateway House*. https://www.gatewayhouse.in/a-brief-history-of-indias-foreign-policy/.

During the Cold War, India remained nominally neutral, positioning itself as part of the Non-Aligned Movement alongside countries such as Yugoslavia and Egypt. Today, India enjoys friendly relations with Russia, from whom they purchase a majority of the Indian military's weapons and vehicles. Both India and Russia are part of the BRICS economic alliance, which includes Brazil, China, and South Africa. The United States and India are important strategic allies and have become major trading partners, which follows decades of relative hostility between Delhi and Washington, driven in part by the left-wing sympathies of previous Indian governments, as well as American support for Pakistan. The situation in Afghanistan has become a source of cooperation between the American and Indian governments, with Delhi seeing a stronger foothold in Afghanistan as crucial to containing the influence of Pakistan. India has pumped large sums of money and manpower into coalition efforts to rebuild a democratic Afghan state.⁴⁰

India and Bangladesh share a close history, as the Indian military intervened in the Bangladesh War of Independence in 1971 to help Bangladesh secure their independence. ⁴¹ Today, the majority of Bangladesh borders India, and they are major trading partners and allies. Bengali is natively spoken in both Bangladesh and West Bengal, and there is a large population of Bangladeshi economic migrants who have made border areas their home. Sri Lanka and India have a less friendly historical relationship, as India was involved in Sri Lanka's bloody civil war between government forces and ethnically Tamil rebels that ended in 2009, the year that this committee begins. The assassination of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1989 was carried out by Tamil rebels who were unhappy with Indian military involvement in the civil war, and the continued drift of Sri Lanka towards the Chinese sphere of influence has become worrying for the Indian government. India additionally maintains a close relationship with the Maldives, and has at times resorted to military intervention, as was the case during an attempted coup in the Maldives in 1988, which was resolved by Indian troops.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ "Vijay Diwas: A Recap Of The 1971 Indo-Pak War, Which Helped Birth Bangladesh". 2022. *The Indian Express*. https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/vijay-diwas-1971-indo-pak-war-bangladesh-liberation-explained-8327519/.

Current Issues

The Congress has been in power for the last 5 years, and it is important to consider the work the party has been able to do in this time and consider projects it has failed to deliver on.

Manmohan Singh and his Indian National Congress have been re-elected for a second term, and are tasked with forming and keeping together a coalition government made up of multiple fractious political parties. Each political faction has their own ideological and regional loyalties and considerations that make appearing all parties incredibly difficult. Alongside this, the country and the party face multiple challenges they must deal with.

2G Spectrum Scandal

The second Singh ministry is beginning to feel the backlash from scandals that unfolded during the Prime Minister's first term. One of the major issues is the so-called "2G Spectrum Case," in which members of the governing coalition were alleged to have illegally sold off licenses to telecommunications companies. A scandal surrounding the distribution of coal mining rights, commonly known as "Coalgate," has also appeared as a major issue that has beset the Singh government. There have been widespread outcries from the opposition over the accused 'dereliction of duty,' which has severely weakened the legitimacy of the ruling Indian National Congress. There is the danger of members of the governing coalition going to prison over their missteps surrounding both of these scandals. Protecting the government from the possibility of catastrophe is one of the primary priorities of the Singh administration.⁴²

<u>Foreign Affairs</u>

On the geopolitical front, India has started to strengthen its ties with the United States and its sphere of influence. Relations with the European Union, Japan, and Israel have become a major priority for New Delhi, focusing on investment opportunities in the growing Indian consumer and industrial markets, as well as security ties. The so-called BRIC (later BRICS) group of India, Brazil,

⁴² "2G Scam Explained". 2022. News18.Com. https://www.news18.com/news/immersive/2g-scam-explained.html.

Russia, and China (South Africa was later added), have also become a greater focus and offer a chance to get more investment within the country.

However, despite stronger ties with the US, India faces great hostility from its neighbors China and Pakistan. India has had a very complex and violent relationship with Pakistan since the formation of both countries after the fall of British India. The violent split caused great animosity between the two countries that resulted in multiple wars and several skirmishes along the border. Relations with Pakistan were particularly heightened when both India and subsequently Pakistan obtained nuclear weapons, which has significantly increased the potential fallout of any conflict, as there is a possibility of nuclear weapons being used. 43 Recently, tensions with Pakistan flared up again with the 2008 Mumbai Attacks, where members of terrorist organization Lashkar-E-Taiba conducted 12 shootings and bombings in the city of Mumbai. The organization operates out of Pakistan, and there were suspicions that they had received support from the Pakistani government – tacitly if not directly. As one would expect, the terrorist attacks gripped the minds of the people of India, and as a result public sentiment against Pakistan became much more hostile. The government must manage this delicate situation, and decide a path to deal with Pakistan. 44 We want to remind delegates to please stay away discussing Kashmir or any religious tensions as they navigate this delicate conflict.

On the other side of the northern border, India's relations with China have come under increasing focus. As mentioned earlier, there have been past conflicts between the two countries, and as China continues to gain wealth and influence in Asia, the country has become a greater threat for India. Navigating this dynamic is critical for India to maintain its sovereignty and influence in the region, and ensure that it can secure its interests from any Chinese threat. Given that China and India often compete for similar economic investment and regional partners, fighting off overt Chinese influence in Asia is critical for the country. However, this conflict should remain purely economic.

⁴³ "Why Are India And Pakistan Enemies?". 2019. *South China Morning Post*. https://www.scmp.com/week-asia/explained/article/2188958/explained-how-india-and-pakistan-became-nuclear-states.

⁴⁴ Hashim, Asad. 2022. "Timeline: India-Pakistan Ties". *Aljazeera.Com*.

https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/3/1/timeline-india-pakistan-relations.

2008 Financial Crisis

While the 2008 Financial Crisis did not impact India as much as it did countries in the West, the impact on the global economy has nonetheless impacted India's fate. The crisis has caused a global recession that makes international investment harder to secure as investors are much more conservative. As such, India must secure opportunities to continue its growth and find ways to insulate itself from the impacts of the global recession.

2010 Commonwealth Games

In 2010, India is to host the Commonwealth Games, a major sports competition much like the Olympic Games, in Delhi, putting India in the global spotlight. To prepare for the Games, the Indian capital is undergoing mass redevelopment, including the construction of new sports venues and the creation of new infrastructure. There are widespread sentiments that spending large amounts of money on preparing for the Games should not be a priority on account of the widespread poverty suffered by hundreds of millions of Indians. Corruption and labor law violations associated with preparations for the Games have also been a stain on the government. The local and national governments have cleared slums and targeted certain areas of Delhi for redevelopment, which could lead to the displacement of millions of urban poor. The desire of the central government to use the Commonwealth Games as an opportunity to project an image of India as 'new' and 'modern,' has led to significant contention over whether that should come at the expense of advancing the wellbeing of economically and socially disadvantaged Indians who desperately need help. 45

⁴⁵ Raj, Pritish. 2022. "How The Indian Commonwealth Games Scam Unfolded 12 Years Ago". *Thebridge.In*. https://thebridge.in/commonwealth-games/2010-delhi-cwg-games-whole-scam-explained-33442.

Character Biographies

P. Chidambaram – Home Minister

P. Chidambaram was born in Madras (now Chennai) in the state of Tamil Nadu. Born to a prosperous family, he grew up to become a lawyer and then later joined politics in 1984. Prior to joining politics, Chidambaram had a flourishing law career, having fought cases in the Madras High Court and the Indian Supreme Court. He was elected to Parliament from Tamil Nadu as part of the Congress party. Chidambaram became a leading union worker and used his position to work his way up the party, becoming a Deputy Minister for Commerce and then Personnel under the Rajiv Gandhi government, in 1985. He later became the Minister of Commerce under PM Narsimha Rao, and played an important role in the deregulation of the Indian economy which brought major growth. During this time he worked closely with current PM Manmohan Singh, who was the Finance Minister at the time. Chidambaram later left the Congress Party to join a breakaway party who became part of a Congress coalition, allowing Chidambaram to rapidly rise and become Finance Minister in 1996. While the coalition fell quickly, Chidambaram's accession was cemented, with him becoming the Finance Minister under Manmohan Singh in the UPA 1 government, with him taking on the Home Ministry later on after the 2008 terrorist attacks. He was reelected in the 2009 elections and continued to hold the Home Ministry under the new government.

Pranab Mukherjee – Finance Minister

Pranab Mukherjee was born in British era Bengal, to a politically active family that was very engaged in the independence movement. Growing up in this environment, Mukherjee became interested in politics himself, going to earn an MA in political science and history and also getting a law degree. He then became a bureaucrat, soon shifting to become a political science lecturer and working also as a journalist in a local newspaper. He started his political career by founding the Bangla Congress party, which stood against the INC. He was elected to Parliament in 1969, gaining a seat in the Rajya Sabha (upper house), and later would change the alignment of his party, choosing to ally with the INC. He rose rapidly under Indira Gandhi, becoming Union Deputy Minister of Industrial Development and then going on to become Leader of the House in 1980. While being sidelined under the Rajiv Gandhi

government, Mukherjee came back as a Minister under Narsihma Rao, becoming Minister of External Affairs in 1995. He then orchestrated the entry of Sonia Gandhi into INC leadership in 1998, and used this to gain further favor, becoming Minister of Defence when the INC came back to power in 2004. He helped increase cooperation with the US and then was appointed Minister of Finance in 2009.

S. M. Krishna – Minister of External Affairs

S. M. Krishna was born in Somanahalli, a village in Karnataka. S.M. Krishan obtained a law degree in both the Government Law College (now University Law College) in Bangalore and in George Washington University Law School in Washington D.C. before going back to India to participate in politics. He started his long political career by winning a seat in the Legislative Assembly of Karnataka as an independant, and then joining the Praja Socialist Party. Although he lost the following election, he won the by-election for the Mandya Lok Sabha constituency in 1968. Krishna served in congress until 1972 when he resigned from Lok Sabha and became MLC of Karnataka. He went back to Lok Sabha in 1980. S. M. Krishna was instrumental in Karnataka politics since, as the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president in 1999, he led his party to victory and took the position of Chief Minister until 2004, when he resigned to take the position of Governor of Maharashtra until 2008. After this he entered the Rajya Sabha under Manmohan Singh and was appointed Minister of External Affairs under the new Government.

A. K. Antony – Minister of Defence

A. K. Antony was born in Chertala in Kerala where he completed his education before going on to finish his Bachelor of Arts in Maharaja's College, Ernakulam and his Bachelor of Law in the Government Law College, Ernakulam. Due to his father's untimely death at the age of 19, Antony self financed his college education by working odd jobs throughout. It was during this period in college that Antony entered politics through the Kerala Student Union, where he was inspired by the Orana Samaram to join the organization. By 1966, he had become the youngest president of the Kerala Student Union, and in 1984 he became the general secretary of the parent organization All India Congress Committee. He founded the Congress (A) party which split from the Indian National

Congress (Urs) which itself was a splinter group of the Indian National Congress; he later merged with the Congress in 1982. He served as the Chief Minister of Kerala in 1977 and in 1995-1996 after the resignations of two Chief Ministers. From 1996-2001, he served as the Leader of Opposition in the Kerala Legislative Assembly. In 2005 he entered the Rajya Sabha and was appointed as the Minister of Defence, which he retained after the elections of 2009.

Sharad Pawar – Minister of Agriculture

Sharad Pawar was born in Baramati Bombay to Govindrao Pawar, who had a long career in the Sahakari Kharedi Vikri Sangh, a farmer's cooperative, and as a manager of local student hostels. Pawar studied at Brihan Maharashtra College of Commerce in Pune and was known to be active in student politics. His oldest brother was likely murdered by an assassin over a land deal and on that day, Pawar swore to get revenge. Pawar's political career started as a schoolboy when he organized a protest march in 1956 for Goan Independence and joined the Youth Congress in 1958. From there, he served many terms in the Lok Sabha and as the Chief Minister. In 1993, a series of accusations were made by the Deputy Commissioner of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation for being involved in corruption and protecting criminals, but no evidence was produced to support the claim. However, these accusations affected his popularity in the mid to late 90s. During the election of the 13th Lok Sabha (1999), Pawar, P. A. Sangma, and Tariq Anwar demanded the party to propose a "native born" prime minister candidate, leading to their expulsion from the party. In response, they created the Nationalist Congress Party. In 2004, Pawar joined the United Progressive Alliance government and was appointed the Minister of Agriculture, which he maintained after the coalition was reelected in 2009. He was often criticized for playing too much cricket instead of attending to his duties.

Subodh Kant Sahay – Minister of Food Processing Industries

Subodh Kant Sahay was born to a religious family in Latehar, Jharkhand. During his time as a student in A N College and Ranchi University, Sahay was heavily involved in the Non-Aligned Student and Youth Organization (NAYSO) and participated in the Jai Prakash Movement. He served in the local Bihar Legislative Assembly as the president of the Committee of Privileges and the Public Accounts

Committee. He was then elected to the Lok Sabha in 1989 and was the Union Minister of Home affairs in 1990. In 2004 he was re-elected to the Lok Sabha and appointed the Union Minister of Food Processing Industries. In 2009 he was elevated to the Cabinet rank maintaining the Food Processing Industries portfolio. Being a fan of theater, Sahay spends his free time watching his wife's—Rekha Sahay's—theater productions.

Mallikarjun Kharge – Minister of Labour and Employment

Mallikarjun Kharge was born in Varawatti in the Bidar District of Karnataka. At the age of seven (1948), he lost his mother and sister to a fire set by the private militia of the Nizam, or ruler, of Hyderabad. He finished his schooling in Gulbarga and finished his undergraduate degree at the Government College in Gulbarga. He then went on to complete a law degree at the Seth Shankarlal Lahoti Law College in Gulbarga. His career in politics began with his time as a student union leader in Government College and his work as a lawyer fighting for labor unions. In 1972, he started to climb the ranks of the Karnataka political scene when he contested the Karnataka State Assembly election in 1971 and won. In 1976 he was appointed the Minister of State for Primary Education during a time when 16,000 vacancies for teacher positions had to be filled up. He stayed in Karnataka's state politics until 2009 when he contested the general elections from Gulbarga Parliamentary Constituency in the Lok Sabha where he was appointed Minister of Labour and Employment.

Anand Sharma – Minister of Commerce and Industry

Born in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh in 1953, Anand Sharma studied at R. P. C.S.D.B. College (now R.K.M.V. College) and Shimla and Faculty of Law at Himachal Pradesh University. Here he grew to become a prominent youth leader as a founding member of the Congress Party's National Students Union of India (NSUI) and the president of the Indian Youth Congress. In 1987-88 he was a member of the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Defence and the year after, he joined the Committee on Government Assurances Member, Press Council of India. In 2004 he was elected into the Rajya Sabha from Himachal Pradesh and in 2006 was appointed the Minister of External Affairs. In 2009 he was appointed as the Minister of Commerce and Industry.

Murli Deora – Minister of Corporate Affairs

Murli Deora was born in Bombay in 1937. After graduating from Bombay University, Deora's career didn't start in politics. Rather, his work in politics started in 1968 with the Bombay Municipal Corporation, after which he was elected as mayor in 1977 with the support of Shiv Sena. His time in the Lok Sabha started in 1984 when he beat BJP's Jayawantiben Mehta. He was re-elected in the next election but lost to Mehta in 1996. He was elected into the Rajya Sabha in 2004 and was appointed the Minister of Corporate Affairs. Outside of politics, Deora won a landmark case that ended smoking in public places in 2001 and was the Vice-Chairman of Bhavan's Gandhi Institute of Computer Technology, a non-profit focused on spreading computer literacy. In 2000, he secured a \$5 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation by bringing Bill Gates to the center.

Virbhadra Singh – Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

Born into a royal family of what used to be Bushahr, a princely state, Virbhadra Singh grew up to become the Raj of Bushahr, a title which was stripped of its power in 1971 by the 26th Amendment to the Constitution. He has a long history in politics as a leader of the Indian National Congress, winning seats in the Lok Sabha in 1967-1975 and in 1980 as well as serving as Himachal Pradesh's Chief Minister in 1983-1990 and 1993-98. He was also elected into the Himachal Pradesh Legislative assembly 6 times, with the first being from the Jubbal-Kotkhai constituency and the next 5 being from the Rohru constituency. Under Indira Gandhi, he served as the Deputy Minister for Tourism between 1976 to 1977 and Civil Aviation and the Minister of State for Industries between 1980 and 1983. In 2009 he was appointed as Minister for Steel before he became the Minister of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises. In his personal life, he was a member of the Himachal Pradesh branch of the Friends of the Soviet Union and tended to his garden.

Dayanidhi Maran – Minister of Textiles

Dayanidhi Maran was born in Kumbakonam, Madras State (now known as Tamil Nadu) to a family of politicians. His father—Muralosi Maran—has an extensive history in politics, serving in the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, and the Union Cabinet, and in film, with writing credits on seven movies, producer credits on two, and directing one movie. His great uncle, Muthuvel Karunanidhi, was the

president of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and served as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. Following in their footsteps, Dayanidhi started his political career in 2004 as a DMK party candidate from the Central Chennai Constituency and was appointed the Minister of Communications and IT. During this time, he facilitated an increase in foreign investment in telecommunication and IT sectors, but garnered controversy due to his relation to his brother, the owner of Sun TV. After winning the 2009 elections, Dayanidhi was appointed the Minister of Textiles.

Vilasrao Deshmukh – Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises

Vilasrao Deshmukh was born on 26 May, 1945, in the Babhalgaon village in the present day Maharashtra. He was born to a politically active family, with his father being the head of his native village, and his younger brother becoming a member of the Maharashtra Legislative council and later the minister of the Government of Maharashtra. He completed his degree in ILS Law College in Pune and went to Pune University to study law. Afterwards, he practiced law on his own. His political career started in his village, serving as its chief and becoming the deputy chairman of Latur Taluka Panchayat Samiti (or Latur District Panchayat Committee) from 1974 to 1980. He was also the president of the Osmanabad District Youth Congress where he worked to implement Sanjay Gandhi's five point programme. He went on to become a member of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly from 1980 to 1995. After losing in 1995, he rejoined the Legislative Assembly and, in 2009, was elected into the Rajya Sabha and was appointed the Union Minister for Heavy Industry and Public Enterprises.

Veerappa Moily – Minister of Law and Justice

Veerappa Moily was born in 1940 to a Tulu speaking family in the Marpadi Village. As a young boy, his family was evicted from his house, motivating him to pursue law. As a lawyer, he practiced law in courts of Karkala, Mangalore, and the Supreme Court. He led the Karnataka Land Reform Act in 1974 as the Minister for Small Scale Industries in the Government of Karnataka, and later became the leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly. In 1992, he became the Chief Minister of Karnataka, where he helped implement economic reforms in Karnataka. In 2009, he made a transition to National Politics in the 2009 election where he won a seat as a member of parliament in

the Lok Sabha from the Chikballapur constituency with the Indian National Congress. He was then appointed as the Minister of Law and Justice in the cabinet.

Ambika Soni – Minister of Information & Broadcasting

Ambika Soni was born in 1942 in Lahore in the undivided Punjab (now Pakistan). She studied at the Welham Girls School in Dehradun and completed her higher education abroad in the Alliance Francaise, Bangkok and the University of Havana, Cuba. Her political career started in 1969 in the Congress party with Indira Gandhi during the party split, having been Gandhi's old family friend. She was elected as the president of the Indian Youth Congress, and became the president of the All India Mahila Congress in 1998. The year after, she became the general secretary of the All India Congress Committee. In 2000, she was elected into the Rajya Sabha and won all the following elections. She was appointed as the Minister of Information and Broadcasting in 2009.

Pawan Kumar Bansal – Minister of Parliamentary Affairs

Pawan Kumar Bansal was born in Sunam, East Punjab in 1948. He completed his degree in Punjab University and his law degree from the Department of Law, Punjab University, Chandigarh. There he started his career in student politics. He became a member of the Lok Sabha representing the Chandigarh constituency with the Indian National Congress in the 10th, 13th, 14th, and 15th Lok Sabha. In the first Manmohan Singh Ministry, Bansal served as the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance. In the second ministry (2009), Bansal was appointed the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. In his free time, Pawan Kumar Bansal is known to be a Railfan as he can be seen watching trains in the stations around punjab. Despite this passion, he reluctantly agreed to be the Minister of Parliamentary affairs to further his goals.

Kapil Sibal – Minister of Education

Kapil Sibal was born in 1948 in Jalandhar, Punjab after his family migrated to India during the partition in 1947. He moved to Delhi in 1964 to complete his schooling in St. Stephen's College for his B.A. He completed his law degree in the Faculty of Law, University of Delhi and completed an M. A. in history from St. Stephen's college. He was a career lawyer, joining the Bar Association in 1972 and

declining a position in the Indian Administrative Services in order to set up his own law practice. Later he attended Harvard Law School in 1977 and was designated a senior lawyer in 1983. He was appointed the Additional Solicitor General of India in 1989 and appeared before the Parliament during the 1994 impeachment proceedings. In 2004 he decided to transition to the Lok Sabha with the Indian National Congress and was appointed the Minister of Education in 2009.

Ghulam Nabi Azad – Minister of Health and Family Welfare

Ghulam Nabi Azad was born in Soti, a village that was formerly in the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir. Though he finished his primary education in the village, he moved to Jammu to receive a B. S. from the G. G. M. Science College and completed his master's degree in Zoology from University of Kashmir. After obtaining the degree, Azad started his career in politics, working as a secretary for the Block Congress Committee in Bhalessa. In 1980 he became president of the All-India Youth Congress. That year he was elected into the Lok Sabha from the Washim Constituency and later became the Deputy Minister in charge of Law, Justice, and Company Affairs ministry. In 2005, he resigned to become the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir. However, the People's Democratic Party, a partner of the Indian National Congress, withdrew support from Azad's government, leading to his resignation in 2008. Thereafter, he was sworn into the Rajya Sabha and was appointed the Minister of Health and Family Welfare.

Kamal Nath – Minister of Road Transport & Highways

Kamal Nath was born in 1946 to a family of business people in Kanpur. His father's—Mahendra Nath Soni's—family was involved in the distribution and publishing of films. Kamal Nath graduated from the Doon school and got a degree in commerce from St. Xavier's College in Kolkata. He was first elected into the Lok Sabha in 1980 and would go on to become one of the longest serving members of the Lok Sabha. He was first the Minister of Environment and Forests in 1991, and served as the Minister of Textiles in 1995. In 2009, he again won the election from his constituency and re-entered the cabinet as the Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways.

G. K. Vasan – Minister of Shipping

G.K. Vasan, originally from the southern state of Tamil Nadu, is the son of G.K. Moopanar, an elder statesman within the Indian National Congress. The former leader of the Tamil Nadu state branch of the INC and a member of the Rajya Sabha, he was appointed to lead the Shipping Ministry by Manmohan Singh in 2009. This position gives him significant authority over Indian sea and river ports, as well as oversight of the nation's vast shipping industry. He formerly served as a member of parliamentary committees overseeing coal and steel, urban development, and government statistics.

Mamata Banerjee – Minister of Railways

Mamata Banerjee is one of the most prominent politicians from the state of West Bengal, having established the All-India Trinamool Congress in 1998 as a splinter faction of the Indian National Congress. Known as an anti-corruption warrior and a supporter of Bengali identity and regional causes, she is also the first woman to ever hold the post of Railways Minister, a post that gives her oversight of India's vast passenger and cargo rail network. Banerjee, a native of Kolkata, has a significant base of support in her home state, and is viewed by many as a future leader of the state's government. For now, she is primarily concerned with maintaining the nascent Trinamool Congress' position in the governing UPA coalition.

Vayalar Ravi – Minister of Civil Aviation

Originally from the southern state of Kerala, a traditional stronghold of the Indian National Congress, Vayalar Ravi made a name for himself in state politics and the lower house of parliament before being elected to the Rajya Sabha in 1994 and 2003. In addition to serving as the Minister of Civil Aviation, Ravi served as Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs, giving him oversight of both Indian airports and domestic air travel, but also of diaspora affairs. Ravi was born in Alappuzha, a major tourist destination thanks to its natural beauty and rivers.

Jitendra Singh – Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

Jitendra Singh was born in 1971 as a member of the royal family of Alwar, a former kingdom in the present-day Indian state of Rajasthan in the country's northwest. Despite his royal heritage, Singh was elected as the Alwar district's representative in the Lok Sabha in 2009 as a member of the Indian National Congress. He has an educational background in German automobile engineering, and his mother, Mahendra Kumari, served as Alwar's member in the Lok Sabha in the 1990s as a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party during that party's time in power. Singh is an avid fan of Manchester City F.C.

Jyotiraditya Scindia – Ministry of Power

Jyotiraj Scindia was born in Mumbai to the powerful Scindia family. His grandfather was the last Maharaja of the state of Gwalior, located in modern day Madhya Pradesh. The family continued to wield enormous influence there, with his father becoming the Member of Parliament from the constituency. Jyotiraj grew up in this powerful family, spending his early years in Mumbai and then later moving to pursue his studies in the US. He studied at institutions including Harvard College and Stanford, making some very powerful connections in the West. After completing his studies, Jyotiraj returned to India where after the death of his father, he became the representative from Guna, contesting the election as part of the Indian National Congress party. In 2007, he became part of the Council of Ministers, taking on the portfolio of the Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology. He won election again in 2009 and became the Minister of Power, handling energy related matters. Jyotiraj also happens to be one of the richest MPs, having vast family wealth that has been passed down from generations.

Bharatsinh Solanki – Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation

Bharatsinh Solanki was born in Gujarat in 1953. He entered politics by becoming a member of the Congress Party, where he slowly climbed through the party ranks to become the General Secretary of the Gujarat Pradesh Congress Committee. His position there highlighted his influence with the local members of Gujarat, among whom he was deeply respected. He then joined the Gujarat Legislative Assembly where he served three terms, before becoming a member of Parliament from

Gujarat in 2004. From 2004 to 2006 he also was one of the most prominent Congress leaders, having gained the position of Secretary of the All India Congress Committee, which again highlighted his power in the party, especially over its cadres.

Krishna Tirath – Ministry of Women and Child Development

Krishna Tirath is a Delhi native, having been born in the city in 1955. Krishna was always very involved in Delhi politics and eventually became a part of the Delhi Legislative Assembly in 1984. She would serve in the assembly for 20 years, becoming the Social Welfare minister under the 1998 Sheila Dixit-led government. However, she fell out of favor with the Chief Minister, and was forced out in 2003. Despite this she continued to hold immense power and became the Deputy Speaker in the Legislative Assembly. Eventually, she made the move to national politics, getting elected to Parliament in 2004. She won re-election in 2009 and became the Minister of Women and Child Development. Even now, she continues to hold immense sway in the capital city, where she has some very powerful connections and a lot of local support.

Bibliography

- "12 Most Spoken Languages In India By Number Of Speakers Devnagri". 2022. *Devnagri.Com*. https://devnagri.com/12-most-spoken-languages-in-india-by-number-of-speakers/.
- 2022. Populationpyramid.Net. https://www.populationpyramid.net/india/2009/.
- "2G Scam Explained". 2022. News18.Com. https://www.news18.com/news/immersive/2g-scam-explained.html.
- "A History Of Political Parties In India". 2020. *Economic And Political Weekly*. https://www.epw.in/journal/2020/22/book-reviews/history-political-parties-india.html.
- "An Overview Of The Finance Commission Of India Ipleaders". 2021. *Ipleaders*. https://blog.ipleaders.in/an-overview-of-the-finance-commission-of-india/.
- "A Short History Of Indian Economy 1947-2019: Tryst With Destiny & Other Stories". 2019. *Mint*. https://www.livemint.com/news/india/a-short-history-of-indian-economy-1947-2019-tryst-with-destiny-other-stories-1565801528109.html.
- "A Temple In South India Free Image By Prashanth Dixit On Pixahive.Com". 2022. *Pixahive*. https://pixahive.com/photo/a-temple-in-south-india/.
- "A Temple In South India Free Image By Prashanth Dixit On Pixahive.Com". 2022. *Pixahive*. https://pixahive.com/photo/a-temple-in-south-india/.
- "BPCL, IOC And HPCL Respond To Petrol Pump Chip Scam With E-Keys In Fuel Tankers And Full Automation Of Pumps". 2017. *Business Today*. https://www.businesstoday.in/industry/energy/story/fuel-tanker-fitted-e-key-full-automation-bpcl-ioc-hpcl-response-to-petrol-pump-chip-scam-87546-2017-12-20.
- "Council Of Ministers". 2021. *Drishti IAS*. https://www.drishtiias.com/daily-updates/daily-news-analysis/council-of-ministers-1.
- "Government Of India, Structure Of Government Of India". 2022. *Elections In India*. https://www.elections.in/government/.
- "Hindi Grew Rapidly In Non-Hindi States Even Without Official Mandate". 2022. *India Today*. https://www.indiatoday.in/diu/story/hindi-grows-in-non-hindi-states-without-official-mandate-1936196-2022-04-11.

- "Independence Day: 73 Events That Define India'S Journey From 1947 To 2019". 2019. The Indian Express. https://indianexpress.com/article/india/independence-day-2019-events-that-define-indias-journey-from-1947-to-2019-5906068/.
- "India Distribution Of The Workforce Across Economic Sectors 2019 | Statista". 2022. *Statista*. https://www.statista.com/statistics/271320/distribution-of-the-workforce-across-economic-sectors-in-india/.
- "India Extends Private Train Project Bidding Process". 2020. *Railway Technology*. https://www.railway-technology.com/news/indian-private-train-project-bidding-process/.
- "Indian Cricket Team". 2022. *Cs.Mcgill.Ca*. https://www.cs.mcgill.ca/~rwest/wikispeedia/wpcd/wp/i/Indian_cricket_team.htm.
- "Indian Culture Religion". 2018. *Cultural Atlas*. https://culturalatlas.sbs.com.au/indian-culture/indian-culture-religion.
- "Infosys, Bangalore, India". 2022. Flickr. https://www.flickr.com/photos/theqspeaks/2037016030.
- "On This Day In 1991: A Landmark Budget That Changed India's Fortunes". 2022. *The Economic Times*. https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/on-this-day-in-1991-a-landmark-budget-that-changed-indias-fortunes/articleshow/93090439.cms?from=mdr.
- "States Uts Know India: National Portal Of India". 2022. *Knowindia.India.Gov.In.* https://knowindia.india.gov.in/states-uts/.
- "The History Of Economic Development In India Since Independence Association For Asian Studies". 2022. Association For Asian Studies. https://www.asianstudies.org/publications/eaa/archives/the-history-of-economic-development-in-india-since-independence/.
- "Vijay Diwas: A Recap Of The 1971 Indo-Pak War, Which Helped Birth Bangladesh". 2022. *The Indian Express*. https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/vijay-diwas-1971-indo-pak-war-bangladesh-liberation-explained-8327519/.
- "Why Are India And Pakistan Enemies?". 2019. South China Morning Post.

 https://www.scmp.com/week-asia/explained/article/2188958/explained-how-india-and-pakistan-became-nuclear-states.
- Bhattacharya, S.C., and Chinmoy Jana. 2009. "Renewable Energy In India: Historical Developments And Prospects". *Energy* 34 (8): 981-991. doi:10.1016/j.energy.2008.10.017.

- Bridges, Anton, and Ishani Shukla. 2016. "A Brief History Of India's Foreign Policy Gateway House". *Gateway House*. https://www.gatewayhouse.in/a-brief-history-of-indias-foreign-policy/.
- Directory, India, Deals Offers, Classified Ads, Tributes Obituaries, India Guide, India Marketplace, Pincode Search, and Festivals India. 2022. "Transport System In India, Roadways In India, Indian Railways". *Indiaonline.In*. https://www.indiaonline.in/about/transport.
- Hashim, Asad. 2022. "Timeline: India-Pakistan Ties". *Aljazeera.Com*. https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/3/1/timeline-india-pakistan-relations.
- Madhav Khosla, Milan Vaishnav. 2022. "Religion, Citizenship, And Belonging In India". *Carnegie Endowment For International Peace*. https://carnegieendowment.org/2022/06/02/religion-citizenship-and-belonging-in-india-pub-86958.
- News, India. 2022. "India Vs South Africa 2Nd ODI: India Go Down By Seven Wickets, Lose Series". Indiatvnews.Com.
- pics_pd. "Free Picture: Cricket Sport, Game, Action, Ball, Sport." PIXNIO, July 2, 2017. https://pixnio.com/sport/cricket-sport/cricket-sport-game-action-ball-sport.
- Prashanth. "A Temple in South India Free Image by Prashanth Dixit on Pixahive.com." PixaHive, October 16, 2020. https://pixahive.com/photo/a-temple-in-south-india/.
- Raj, Pritish. 2022. "How The Indian Commonwealth Games Scam Unfolded 12 Years Ago". *Thebridge.In.* https://thebridge.in/commonwealth-games/2010-delhi-cwg-games-whole-scam-explained-33442.
- Sinding, Steven W. 2009. "Population, Poverty And Economic Development". *Philosophical Transactions Of The Royal Society B: Biological Sciences* 364 (1532): 3023-3030. doi:10.1098/rstb.2009.0145.
- The Q Speaks. "Infosys, Bangalore, India." Flickr. Yahoo!, November 16, 2007. https://www.flickr.com/photos/theqspeaks/2037016030.
- "File:ICE to Bombay Indian Railways.jpg." Wikipedia. Wikimedia Foundation, December 17, 2022. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:ICE_to_Bombay_Indian_Railways.jpg.
- "File:Indian Oil Fuel Truck on Way to Ladakh.jpg Wikimedia Commons." Wikimedia Commons.

 Accessed December 21, 2022.

 https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Indian_Oil_fuel_truck_on_way_to_Ladakh.jpg.

- "File:India States and Union Territories Map.svg," Wikimedia Commons, accessed December 19, 2022, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:India_states_and_union_territories_map.svq.
- "File:India States and Union Territories Map.svg." Wikimedia Commons. Accessed December 19, 2022.

 https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:India_states_and_union_territories_map.svg.
- "File:India States and Union Territories Map.svg." Wikimedia Commons. Accessed December 19, 2022.

 https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:India_states_and_union_territories_map.svg.
- "File:Parlament of India Building 2005.Jpg." Wikimedia Commons. Accessed December 21, 2022. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Parlament_of_India_building_2005.jpg.
- "India." Encyclopædia Britannica. Encyclopædia Britannica, inc. Accessed December 20, 2022. https://www.britannica.com/place/India.
- "India." Encyclopædia Britannica. Encyclopædia Britannica, inc. Accessed December 20, 2022. https://www.britannica.com/place/India.