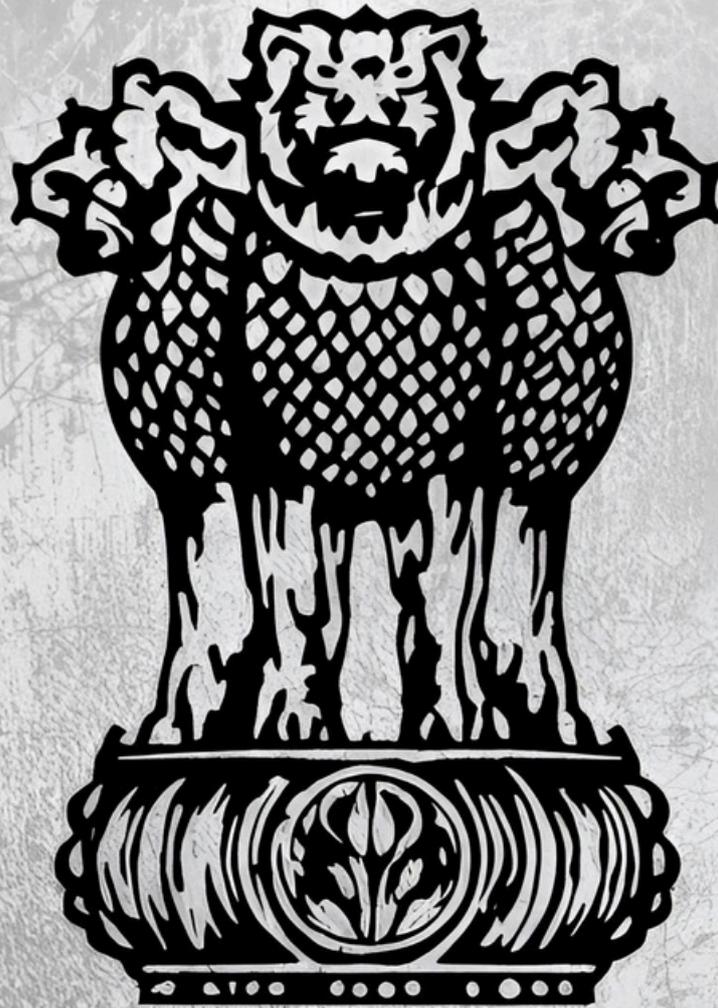


Study Guide

LOK SABHA



Speaker : Pratham Nigotiya

Dep. Speaker: Parth Shah

Moderator: Aarav Shukla

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Letter From the EB

Namaste Parliamentarians! We are pleased to host each one of you'll in today's house. You will have to discuss and deliberate upon 2 agendas this time! The Separatist Movements and electoral reforms.

This committee will push you to think analytically, argue

and respond quickly to different perspectives .

Each decision you make/suggest will be accountable and will go through the criteria of how will you manage critiques to your point of view , or maybe even how will you handle legalities while taking control

Beyond just debate, this committee will test your ability to analyze decisions taken and suggested by all members. Your in-depth research, strategic thinking, and diplomatic prowess will be the keys to success. Stay on your toes, as to decode this real-time crises there is a demand for quick thinking, adaptability, and decisive action

We as the executive board are eager to host this committee for each one of you'll and cannot wait for the contribution each one brings to the table

**Regards,
Your Executive Board,
Pratham Nigotiya, Speaker
Parth Shah, Deputy Speaker
Aarav Shukla, Moderator**

Introduction to Lok Sabha

Welcome ! Parliamentarians , before we get into action lets get a brief of what we are going to delve into . The Lok Sabha is the lower house of the Parliament of India, also called the House of the People, and meets in the Parliament House in New Delhi. It consists of 543 Members of Parliament who are directly elected by the citizens of India through general elections held every five years. As the directly elected chamber.

The Lok Sabha represents the voice of the people and plays a central role in shaping the nation's policies and governance. Its key powers include making and passing laws, controlling the government's budget and finances, questioning the government on its actions, and ensuring that the executive remains answerable to the House. The purpose of hosting its sessions is to provide a platform where elected representatives can debate issues of national importance, demand accountability, and ensure that India's democracy reflects the will of its citizens.

Introduction to Separatist Movements

India has seen numerous separatist movements, mainly in regions like Kashmir, Punjab (Khalistan), Northeast states (Nagaland, Assam, Mizoram, Manipur), and among Naxal-Maoist groups in central India. These movements are driven by ethnic, religious, and political grievances, with some demanding regional autonomy, separate statehood, or full independence from India. The government has responded with military, negotiations, and new administrative arrangements over the decades.

Introduction to Electoral Reforms

Electoral reforms in India include lowering the voting age to 18, introducing Electronic Voting Machines, mandatory disclosure of candidate criminal records and assets, limiting election expenditures, and providing postal ballots for select groups. These steps aim to improve transparency, reduce malpractices, and strengthen fair conduct of elections. Recommendations continue, like bans on multiple constituency contests and stricter action against criminal candidates.

Timeline of Separatist Movements

1947–1950s

- **1947 – Partition creates communal tensions; Kashmir conflict begins**
- **1948 – Operation Polo: Hyderabad integrated into India**
- **1947–1956 – Naga insurgency starts under A.Z. Phizo's NNC**

1960s–1970s

- **1966–1986 – Mizo National Front rebellion; Indian Air Force bombs Aizawl (1966)**
- **1967 – Naxalite movement begins in West Bengal**
- **1970s – Khalistan ideology emerges in Punjab**

1980s

- **1984 – Operation Blue Star at Golden Temple; Indira Gandhi assassinated; anti-Sikh riots**
- **1979–1985 – Assam Movement against illegal migration; ULFA formed**
- **1987–1990 – Kashmir insurgency erupts after rigged elections**
- **1990s–2000s**
- **1990 – Kashmiri Pandit exodus; peak militancy in Kashmir**
- **1999 – Kargil War**
- **1990s – Bodo, Tripura insurgencies in Northeast**
- **2004 – CPI (Maoist) formed; "Red Corridor" violence peaks**
- **2015 – Naga Framework Agreement signed (unresolved)**

2010s–2020s

- **2016 – Burhan Wani's death sparks Kashmir unrest**
- **2019 – Article 370 abrogated; J&K reorganized**
- **2019–2021 – Major Northeast peace accords (Bodo, NLFT, Karbi Anglong)**
- **2023 – Operation Amritpal targets Khalistan revival; Manipur ethnic violence begins**
- **2025**
- **Kashmir: Relative calm, continued infiltration**
- **Northeast: Post-accord stability**
- **Punjab: Diaspora-driven separatism only**
- **Naxalism: Reduced to under 45 districts**

Timeline of Electoral Reforms

1947–50s

- **1950: Election Commission of India set up.**
- **1951–52: First general elections, universal adult franchise.**
- **1956: States reorganized, boundaries redrawn.**

1960s–70s

- **1961: Political symbol rules introduced.**
- **1975–77: Emergency highlights electoral misuse, leading to reform demands.**
- **1979: Dinesh Goswami Committee reviews election laws.**

1980s

- **1985: Anti-Defection Law enacted.**
- **1989: Voting age reduced to 18.**

1990s–2000s

- **1993: Voter ID cards introduced.**
- **1996: State funding, criminal disclosures suggested.**
- **2004: EVMs replace paper ballots nationwide.**
- **2002–03: Candidate background and spending disclosures mandated.**

2010s–2020s

- **2013: NOTA (None of the Above) on ballots.**
- **2017: Electoral bonds for donations.**
- **2019: VVPAT slips mandatory with EVMs.**
- **2021–25: Digital voting, unified voter roll efforts, and debates on funding and simultaneous polls continue.**

Key Stances (both agendas)

Narendra Modi

- **Pushes for electoral reforms like “One Nation, One Election,” funding transparency, and modernization.**
- **Firm stance against separatism, prioritizes national unity and security, especially in Kashmir.**

Amit Shah

- **Advocates strict electoral reforms combating corruption, dynastic politics, and black money.**
- **Strongly opposes separatist movements, credits Article 370 abrogation for quelling them and restoring peace.**

Rahul Gandhi

- **Criticizes electoral process for alleged vote manipulation, demands electoral reforms and accountability.**
- **Seen as sympathetic to some separatist issues, has faced backlash for controversial remarks on Sikh community rights and Kashmir.**

Priyanka Gandhi

- **Opposes "One Nation, One Election," calls it anti-constitutional and against federalism.**
- **Advocates national unity, criticizes divisive politics; stands firmly against separatism**

Case Studies: Separatist Movements

The 1987 Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly elections, widely perceived as rigged, eroded faith in democratic processes and sparked widespread militancy. Armed groups like JKLF (seeking independence) and Hizbul Mujahideen (seeking merger with Pakistan) emerged, supported by Pakistan's ISI.

Key Developments:

- 1990: Mass exodus of Kashmiri Pandits amid targeted killings.**
- 1999: Kargil War — Pakistan-backed infiltration escalated regional tensions.**

Case Studies: Separatist

Movements

- **2010s: Local militancy resurges post Burhan Wani's killing (2016).**
- **2019: Article 370 revoked; state bifurcated into UTs; separatist leaders detained.**

Impact & Lessons:

Casualties: 40,000+ deaths over 30 years.

Governance Impact: Militarization vs. autonomy debate dominates discourse.

Key Lesson: Lasting peace requires political dialogue, human rights respect, and grassroots economic empowerment – not just military stability.

Case Studies: Electoral Reforms

Key Developments:

- **1998: Pilot project in 16 constituencies.**
- **2004: Nationwide implementation; India became the first large democracy to use EVMs nationwide.**
- **2019: Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) added to enhance credibility.**
- **2023: ECI conducts 100% VVPAT tally checks in random polling booths across states.**

Impact & Lessons:

Positives:

- **Reduced election costs and time.**

Case Studies: Electoral Reforms

- **Virtually eliminated invalid votes and booth capturing.**
- **Strengthened voter confidence through paper verification (VVPAT).**

Criticism:

- **Opposition parties allege vulnerability and demand 100% paper audits.**

Lesson: Technology enhances democracy only when backed by transparency, voter education, and public trust.

Lok Sabha Rules Of Procedure

The Question Hour is one of the initial activities done at the start of committee, During Question Hour in the Lok Sabha, Members of Parliament actively ask ministers questions related to their ministries' functioning. These questions can be oral or written and may require detailed explanations or clarifications on government policies, programs, and administrative actions. Ministers respond on the floor of the House, and MPs may ask supplementary questions to probe further, holding the government accountable for its work.

Lok Sabha Rules Of Procedure

The Zero Hour is when the Member of the Parliament can raise pressing issues in current times which requires attention . In Zero Hour, MPs raise urgent matters of public importance without any prior notice. Members briefly present issues that require immediate attention from the government, such as local grievances or national concerns. The Speaker decides which matters are allowed, and ministers or government representatives respond or take note for follow-up action, allowing quick raising of pressing issues outside the formal agenda.

Lok Sabha Rules Of Procedure

The Discussion Hour is like a solution oriented speech giving forum . During Discussion Hour, MPs engage in more detailed debates on bills, policies, or specific topics scheduled for that day.

Members deliver speeches, express viewpoints, and propose amendments while ministers explain government perspectives and defend policies. This hour facilitates thorough examination and consensus-building before final decisions or legislation are made.

Research Guidelines

- 1. Use credible sources only – PIB, The Hindu, PRS, Observer Research Foundation (ORF), and government websites. Avoid Wikipedia as a main citation.**
- 2. Check for recency – especially for ongoing issues like Kashmir or electoral bond verdicts.**
- 3. Make your stance data-driven – cite numbers, dates, or official statements to strengthen your credibility.**
- 4. Balance emotion and logic – empathy earns applause, evidence wins the debate.**

Research Guidelines

5. Prepare rebuttals – anticipate counterarguments from rival parties or states.

Example:

If defending AFSPA → “While critics highlight human rights concerns, its phased removal must follow tangible security stabilization, as seen in Tripura (2015).”

Conclusion

Electoral reforms and separatist movements are key challenges in India's political landscape. Major parties largely support reforms aimed at fairer, transparent elections, including unified polls, stricter funding laws, and Commission autonomy. Simultaneously, they take a firm stand against separatism, emphasizing national unity, security, and integration policies to maintain India's territorial integrity.

Understanding these shared priorities helps grasp the current political debate and governance strategies in India.