



CHMUN 2026

ALL INDIA POLITICAL PARTIES MEET (AIPPM)

AGENDA

*Addressing the Delimitation of Parliamentary Constituencies in India:
Examining the Proposed Redistribution of Lok Sabha Seats in Light of Recent
Constitutional and Political Developments, with Regard to Federalism,
Equitable Representation, Population Stabilisation and Women's Political
Representation.*

Letter from the Executive Board

Greetings delegates.

It is an honour for us to be serving as the executive board of the All India Political Parties Meet at CHMUN Model United Nations

From intense legal debate to seeing the Ruling and Opposition parties lock horns, the AIPPM demands proficiency in various areas, and a diverse set of skills, setting it apart from any other conventional committee.

In order to aid your understanding of the topic, we have decided to provide this background guide for your reference, as a way to grasp core concepts related to topics we hope to see debate on, from all the delegates in the committee. Below, you will find a brief on the actual agenda, and some research links to help you get started with your research. Kindly note that this guide may not be cited as a source for information if asked, and is not intended to be a definitive text, i.e. each delegate is expected to research beyond just this document.

For any clarifications regarding this guide, the committee, or the agenda, please feel free to contact the EB. We are looking forward to an action packed committee.

Sincerely:

Manav Dharia - Chairperson

Maahika - Vice Chairperson

Aaditya R- Moderator

1. Rules of Procedure

- **Roll Call:** At the beginning of each session, the chairperson(s) shall record the presence of each participant, and determine quorum, as well as simple and special majority.
- **Opening Statement:** Members of the Committee, will be given 90 seconds (per member) to present an opening statement outlining their portfolio's views on the agenda.

This is a non-exhaustive list, and the committee will return to opening statements in the absence of passage of any other motion.

- **Question Hour/Zero Hour:** It is an opportunity for delegates to question other Members on any topic not related to the agenda.

Delegates will be able to ask questions and those asked will be required to provide an answer orally.

Further clarification on whether or not such a session will be conducted and procedure thereof can be sought in committee.

- **Discussion Sessions/Public Sessions (Moderated Caucuses):** Members of the Committee will decide and pass a motion to enter a discussion session, with both a fixed topic and time per speaker. Forming the core medium of debate in the committee, there will be two forms of engagement post speech, namely:
 - **Points of Information-** Members will be allowed to question speakers on the topic of the discussion session, or on the content of their speeches.
 - **Note:** Members shall not use Points of Information to request a delegate to repeat any part of his/her speech.
 - **Points of Order-** This point may be raised in rebuttal to another delegate's speech. It points out a mistake or flaw in the delegate's speech. A delegate asking a point of order must quote verbatim, the part of speech containing an error made by the speaker. This point can be of two types:
 - Factual Inaccuracy
 - Logical Fallacy
- **Coordination Sessions/Private Sessions (Unmoderated Caucuses):** A form of informal debate that allows the delegates to speak freely amongst each other for a set amount of time, without a particular topic being discussed.
- **Motions:** Above sessions shall be proposed by individual delegates, and voice-voting will be conducted to determine the passage of said motion.

Those in favour of the motion, when prompted, must say "Aye"

Those against the motion, when prompted must say "Nay"

- **Documentation:**
 - **Press Releases:** A Press Release, as the name suggests, is a method of informing the committee, via a news agency, of any new developments in committee. Press Releases may be sent at any point of time when in formal session, except during Question Hour, Zero Hour and Tabling of Bills.
 - **Draft Resolutions/Draft Bills:** The function of the legislature of a nation is to draft laws, and hence we expect a bill to be tabled as the final resolution of this committee. To be submitted to the dais, the final document requires 1/3rd of the committee's strength as signatories, and can generally have 2 sponsors.
 - **A sponsor:** will be expected to present the bill to the committee, as well as respond to any queries from the committee or the Executive Board regarding the contents of the bill.

- **A signatory:** wants to see the bill discussed in committee, and need not agree with the content of the bill. A delegate may be a signatory to multiple bills, but a sponsor cannot be a signatory to any bill, including his own.

Further clarification on which format documentation is expected to be presented can be sought during committee meetings.

2. Introduction to the Agenda

Agenda: Addressing the Delimitation of Parliamentary Constituencies in India: Examining the Proposed Redistribution of Lok Sabha Seats in Light of Recent Constitutional and Political Developments, with Regard to Federalism, Equitable Representation, Population Stabilisation and Women's Political Representation.

Delimitation is a highly contentious and crucial directive in Indian politics as it controls the shape of India and its state lines, dictating the fates of electoral constituencies across the country. It was historically implemented to provide equal representation to equal segments of the population, in keeping with the universal democratic slogan 'One vote, one person, one value.'

It is meant to avoid the impact of gerrymandering by ensuring a fair division of geographical areas so that one political party does not have an advantage over another in an election.

Delimitation in India is controlled by the Delimitation Commission, as constituted by the Delimitation Act (2002) of the Constitution. This commission comprises

- a retired Supreme Court judge serving as Chairperson,
- the Chief Election Commissioner,
- and the State Election Commissioner.

They work in conjunction with the President of India and the State Election Commissioner to examine changes in the population to redraw constituencies or create new ones. It then publishes in the Gazette of India its draft report, which is open for public feedback. After accounting for the feedback, the Commission publishes its final report.

The Constitution mandates that the Commission's orders are final and cannot be questioned by any court as it would hold up an election indefinitely. The date in which delimitation is to be enforced is controlled by the President of India and once these orders are announced, they cannot be modified - neither the Lok Sabha nor the State Legislative Assembly can dispute the orders of the Delimitation Commission.

Delimitation also affects the number of seats reserved for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), which are determined on a state-by-state basis as per the share of these communities' populations in each state.

Criticisms against delimitation raise general problems as to how it functions. The primary objection to how delimitation is implemented is that the number of seats in the Lok and Rajya Sabha has been capped by Article 81 of the Constitution to 550 (530 for states, 20 for Union Territories) and 250 respectively, despite the fact that Article 82 states the after every delimitation exercise, allocation of House seats must be adjusted based on ‘population changes.’

Moreover, even when this is accounted for, states with little interest in population control could end up with a greater number of seats in both Houses of the Parliament, despite Article 82 highlighting that ‘the ratio between (the number of seats) and the population of the state is, so far as practicable, the same for all states’ i.e., each constituency should ideally have the same population. This problem applies in particular to the southern states that have promoted family planning and may face a reduced number of seats.

Lastly and most importantly, delimitation is based on census data, which is meant to happen every decade, but the results of these censuses have often come under fire, being accused of bias and unreliability, particularly in the case of representation of caste and gender. Thus, each delimitation exercise in the past has been tumultuous at best, creating an unstable and controversial history.

The upcoming delimitation was to be taken after a 2021 census, to affect the 2024 May elections but due to COVID-19, both the census and the exercise were pushed to 2026. The new census is to happen in two phases: a house listing phase and a population enumeration phase, both phases after the 2024 general elections, but that is the extent of information currently. The new exact dates of both the census and delimitation still remain unknown; many have opined that the BJP government has dragged its feet in attempts to equivocate the exact number of upper-caste constituencies as well as hide the declining birth rate amongst Muslims.

3. Key Terms

1. **Constituency:** A geographical region that contains a group of electors who elect a representative to a legislative body.
2. **Delimitation:** The act or process of fixing limits or boundaries of territorial constituencies in a country or a province having a legislative body.
3. **The Delimitation Act, 2002:** A law in force within the territory of the Republic of India that empowers the central government to constitute a ‘delimitation commission.’ This commission has the sole authority to readjust the size of constituencies of the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies.
4. **Family Planning:** Family planning is the information, means, and methods that allow individuals to decide if and when to have children. This is a key issue of controversy between northern and southern states. Southern politicians often allege that the North’s

failure to implement such policies will give the Northern states an unfair majority of seats in parliament.

5. **Gerrymandering:** Maliciously manipulating the boundaries of a constituency so as to favor one party or class. A term originating from the United States, in recent years, fears have spread that the practice is spreading to India. For instance, the recent delimitation exercises in Jammu and Kashmir have had accusations of gerrymandering levelled at them.
6. **Census:** A census is a procedure of systematically acquiring, recording, and calculating population information about the members of a given population.
7. **Caste:** A fixed social group into which an individual is born within a particular system of social stratification. Caste-based discrimination is one of the black marks on Indian society and a cause of key controversy.
8. **Reservation:** A system of policies in India that provides historically disadvantaged groups representation in education, employment, government schemes, scholarships and politics. Caste- based reservation is the primary way the Indian government compensates citizens affected by discrimination.

4. History of Delimitation

1976: The last delimitation exercise altering the state-wise Lok Sabha composition occurred based on the 1971 census. The Constitution of India stipulates that Lok Sabha seats should align with state populations, aiming for equal representation.

1976 (42nd Amendment): To prevent disparities due to varying population control efforts, the Constitution was amended, freezing Lok Sabha seat allocation and state constituency divisions at 1971 levels until 2000.

2001 (84th Amendment): The government gained authority through the 84th Amendment Act of 2001 to readjust and rationalize territorial constituencies based on the 1991 census figures.

2003 (87th Amendment): The 87th Amendment Act of 2003 mandated the delimitation of constituencies using 2001 census data, superseding the earlier provision based on the 1991 census.

5. Delimitation Act 2002

The Delimitation Act of 2002 has been established in order to govern the allocation and adjustments of seats in the House of People. This Act has also helped in maintaining the proper allocation of seats to states. This act has been seen to conclude articles, associate member, Commission, election commission, member, and state. In this Act, article means an article of

the Indian constitution, associate member means member who has been nominated under section 5, commission means delimitation commission which has been established under section 3, Election commission means Election Commission of India which has been referred to in article 324, member means individuals who have any type of membership in commission and state means union territories which have legislative assemblies.

According to this Act, the Delimitation Commission should determine its own procedures and should also have all powers of a civil court under “Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (5 of 1908)” in cases of summoning a witness, producing any document and requisitioning public record. Delimitation Act 2002 has also defined that the Delimitation Commission of India has the authority to ask any citizen of India for information that may be useful for the delimitation commission.

Powers described by clauses (a) to (c) of subsection (2) and subsection (I) can be exercised by any member of this commission. Opinions regarding any matter concerning the commission have been seen to be acceptable if the majority of members agreed to it. The absence of a member cannot hamper decisions taken as this Act depicts those decisions can be taken and in case of the absence of a member, the opinion of that particular member will have no value. Delimitation Act 2002 has also depicted that for criminal proceedings, the delimitation commission has to go to a civil court under sections 346 and 345 of “Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (2 of 1974)”.

Other than the Powers and Procedures of the Commission, the Delimitation Act 2002 also defined the constitution of the commission, associate members, duties of the commission, readjustment of seats, casual vacancies in the commission, publication of orders and dates of operation, delimitation of constituencies, repeal, and power to maintain orders of delimitation commission.

6. Case Studies

6.1. The Mandal Commission

Caste remains a highly sensitive issue in modern India. Even in 2023, many of our fellow citizens continue to suffer from caste-based violence and atrocities, and members of the lower castes feel oppressed, protesting against this injustice daily. Recognizing these concerns, in 1979, Prime Minister Morarji Desai decided to establish a commission to identify the lower castes based on social or educational metrics.

The findings of this commission, known as the Mandal Commission, would significantly impact the course of Indian politics.

The commission reported that 52% of the population in India belongs to backward castes. To address their plight, the government was recommended to significantly scale up reservation and caste-based welfare schemes. This finding sparked an intense debate, leading to both pro-

reservation and anti-reservation sentiments, often manifesting in violent protests. Exploiting this battle to implement the commission's findings, a new generation of leaders emerged, including Bihar Chief Ministers Lalu Prasad Yadav and Nitish Kumar, and Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. They formed caste-based coalitions.

However, until recently, the government's last accurate caste data dated back to a census conducted under British rule in 1931. Given the prevalence of caste-based schemes in the nation, regional caste leaders have been urging the government to conduct an updated census to obtain more reliable data. While the government did collect this data in the 2011 census, it refused to publish it due to errors.

6.2. Karnataka

In Karnataka, during his first term as chief minister, Siddaramaiah commissioned a caste survey in 2015 to ensure reservation benefits align with caste populations. Headed by Justice Kantharaj, the report was completed in 2018 but remains unpublished. Facing criticism for being a waste of taxpayer resources, legal challenges, and leaked data upsetting traditional caste groupings, the report has resurfaced in light of Bihar's findings. With top Congress leaders like Rahul Gandhi endorsing a nationwide caste census, Siddaramaiah is now under pressure to release the report.

6.3. Bihar

In Bihar, dissatisfied with the lack of data, the government, like Karnataka under CM Nitish Kumar, proceeded with an independent caste survey in 2022. The data was published on October 2, 2023, but has been controversial. It has faced widespread criticism for manipulating data, using an unreliable methodology, incorrect accounting of castes and subcastes, and stoking caste-based tensions for political gain.

6.4. Women's Reservation Bill

Women constitute a dismal 15.2% (82 people) of representatives in Lok Sabha, 13% (31 people) in the Rajya Sabha, and 9% total in State Legislative Assemblies. In 2015, the Report on the Status of Women in India noted that decision-making positions in political parties have negligible presence of women. It recommended reserving at least 50% of seats for women in local bodies, State Legislative Assemblies, Parliament, ministerial levels, and all decision-making bodies of the government. Consequently, bills amending the Constitution to reserve seats for women in Parliament and State Legislative Assemblies have been introduced in 1996, 1998, 1999, and 2008. The first three Bills lapsed with the dissolution of their respective Lok Sabhas and the fourth was passed in the Rajya Sabha and tabled in the Lok Sabha in 2014.

In lieu of this, the 128th Constitutional Amendment Bill, 2023 was introduced on September 19th, 2023 and passed by both Houses of the Parliament on September 20th. Colloquially known as the Women's Reservation Bill, the bill aims to reserve 1/3rd (33%) of seats in the

Lok Sabha and all State Legislative Assemblies (including the Legislative Assembly of the National Capital Territory of Delhi). This reservation also means that 1/3rd of seats reserved for SCs and STs in Lok Sabha and state legislatures must go to women. Sonia Gandhi criticized this, stating that reservations should be also specifically applied to women in Other Backward Classes (OBCs) i.e., ‘quotas within a quota.’ Others also want to apply this to Muslim women.

Seen by most as a historic victory towards gender equality in Indian politics, the bill has come under fire for a variety of reasons, most notably its delay in implementation, which is where it ties into our agenda. Article 334A under the bill makes a key change from the previous 2008 Women’s Reservation bill: the date of commencement.

Previously in the 2008 Bill, reservations were to be made after each election on a rotational period, but in the newly passed bill, reservations will change amongst the constituencies based on census and their consequent delimitation exercises. The reasoning behind this is that reservations can be made based on critical data of the census and incorporate the feedback of the public and current political context through delimitation.

This effectively means that though the bill has been passed, women’s reservations will not come into effect until after the newly updated census and 2026 delimitation exercise, and certainly not before the 2024 May general elections, a prominent critique of the bill. This effectively makes the victory a law on paper, but a reality far away. Amit Shah’s comments about the bill not being a reality until 2029 have amped criticism of its ties to delimitation.

Even after implementation, the constant obfuscation of delimitation and the censuses mean a highly unreliable rotational period. Moreover, critics argue that the rotation of reserved seats may reduce the incentive for MPs to work for their constituencies as they could be ineligible to seek re-election from that constituency. A study by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj recommended that rotation of constituencies should be discontinued at the panchayat level because almost 85% of women were first-timers and only 15% of women could get re-elected because the seats they were elected from were de-reserved.

Additionally, when considering the issue of reservations, constituencies may be limited in options when reservations are applied to them, as a limited number of female candidates stand for elections. Two alternatives have been suggested by some experts: reservation for candidates within political parties or dual member constituencies where some constituencies shall have two candidates, one being a woman. This was implemented historically for SC/ST reservations as multi-member constituencies which included an SC/ST member, but a 1961 Act converted all constituencies into single-member constituencies. The reasoning was that the constituencies were too large and SC/ST members felt that they would gain in importance in single-member reserved constituencies. Many also feel that the current governing party may use majorities to create ‘political constituencies’ where reservations are deliberately given to key opposing constituencies of the ruling party.

6.5. Caste Census

The census in India has a rich historical background, tracing its roots back to the colonial initiative of 1881. This crucial exercise plays a pivotal role in capturing the demographic landscape, allocating resources, monitoring social transformations, and facilitating delimitation exercises. However, the census has faced criticism for its broad approach, deemed less suitable for nuanced inquiries.

Originating in 1881, the census in India serves as a vital tool for the government, policymakers, academics, and others to comprehensively understand the population, allocate resources, track social changes, and conduct delimitation exercises. Despite its significance, the census has been criticized for its broad and generalized nature, considered inadequate for specialized inquiries.

The Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC) made its debut in 1931 with the primary objective of gathering information on the economic status of Indian families in both rural and urban areas. The SECC aimed to identify indicators of deprivation and collect data on specific caste names to assess the economic conditions of various caste groups.

The SECC conducted in 2011 aimed to collect comprehensive data on socio-economic indicators alongside caste information. However, due to concerns over data quality and classification challenges, the raw caste data collected in the SECC has not been released or utilized effectively. Recommendations from an Expert Group for classification are still pending implementation.

While the census provides a general overview of the Indian population, the SECC serves the specific purpose of identifying beneficiaries of state support. The Census Act of 1948 ensures the confidentiality of census data, while personal information collected in the SECC is accessible to government departments for determining household benefits.

Overall, the collection of caste-based data in India has a long history, extending until 1931. However, post- 1951, the decision to halt the collection of caste data aimed to move away from a divisive approach and promote national unity. Despite this, contemporary socio-political dynamics have sparked a renewed call for a caste census.

As of 2021, the Government of India has affirmed in the Lok Sabha that it has decided not to enumerate caste- wise population, excluding Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), in the census.

In conclusion, the debate surrounding the census and the socio-economic and caste census in India reflects the intricate balance between addressing social inequalities, ensuring equitable resource distribution, and navigating the complexities of caste-based data collection. The government's stance, arguments for and against a caste census, and the role of the SECC underscore the multifaceted nature of this issue, highlighting the need for careful consideration in shaping policies that foster national unity and inclusivity.

6.5.1. Merits of the Caste Census

Caste-based discrimination persists in many parts of India. A caste census can identify disadvantaged groups, bringing them to the forefront of policymaking. Targeted policies can then be implemented to address social inequality and uplift marginalized communities.

Accurate data on the population of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and other groups is essential for ensuring equitable distribution of resources. A caste census can provide insights into the socio-economic conditions and needs of different caste groups, guiding policymakers in formulating inclusive development policies.

Affirmative action policies, such as reservations for OBCs and other groups, aim at promoting social justice. However, without proper data on the population, evaluating the impact and effectiveness of these policies becomes challenging. A caste census can facilitate monitoring and informed decision-making.

Caste is integral to Indian society, influencing social relationships, economic opportunities, and political dynamics. A caste census can offer a comprehensive picture of the diversity of Indian society, contributing to a better understanding of social dynamics.

Article 340 of the Constitution mandates the appointment of a commission to investigate the conditions of socially and educationally backward classes and make recommendations on steps that should be taken by governments.

6.5.2. Demerits of the Caste Census

Opponents argue that a caste census would reinforce an illegal caste system. Emphasizing individual rights and equal opportunities is considered more important than categorizing individuals based on their caste identities.

Defining castes is a complex issue due to the vast number of castes and sub-castes in India. Critics argue that a caste census would require a clear definition, leading to confusion, disputes, and further divisions within society.

Some express concerns that a caste census could exacerbate social divisions. They believe that promoting social harmony by emphasizing commonalities among people would be more beneficial for national integration.

7. Questions A Resolution Must Answer (QARMA)

1. To what extent has the freeze on seat allocation in the Lok Sabha until 2000, as mandated by the 42nd Amendment Act of 1976, influenced the representation of states in the Parliament, and is there a compelling rationale for revisiting this freeze?

2. To what extent does the 87th Amendment Act of 2003, which provides for delimitation based on the 2001 census rather than the 1991 census, adequately address the evolving demographic patterns and socio-economic dynamics in India?
3. To what extent has the absence of caste-based data collection in recent census exercises affected the ability of policymakers to formulate targeted policies aimed at addressing social inequality and promoting inclusive development?
4. To what extent does the historical discontinuation of caste data collection after 1951 align with the current socio-political dynamics in regard to the women's reservation bill, and is there a renewed necessity for a caste census to address contemporary issues related to social justice?
5. To what extent has the decision of the Government of India, as of 2021, not to enumerate caste-wise population (excluding SCs and STs) in the census influenced the understanding of social dynamics and the formulation of policies for marginalized communities?
6. To what extent does the current absence of caste-based data impede the monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of affirmative action policies, such as reservations for OBCs and other groups, and their impact on promoting social justice?
7. To what extent can a caste census contribute to addressing social inequalities by identifying disadvantaged groups and informing targeted policies to uplift marginalized communities in contemporary India?
8. To what extent is there a constitutional mandate, as per Article 340, to investigate the conditions of socially and educationally backward classes, and to what extent should this mandate influence decisions on caste-based data collection?
9. To what extent does the existing debate on caste-based data collection in India reflect concerns about reinforcing the caste system, and to what extent can such concerns be mitigated through careful planning and implementation of a caste census?