

Indian Cabinet

Welcome

Dear Delegates,

Namaskar and welcome to BUSUN 2009! My name is Megan Brattain, and I will be your chair for the weekend. I am a second semester junior studying public policy and comparative literature. I've been involved with Model United Nations since my junior year of high school, where I attended MUNUC, the conference held by the University of Chicago. My sophomore year at Brown I also chaired the African Union committee. I took a semester leave this past year to work with health development in Rajasthan, India, and I then spent the following semester working with migrant labor issues and studying in Tel Aviv, Israel. On campus, I'm involved with a South Asian fusion dance team, Brown Hillel, and women's health initiatives, in addition to Model United Nations. Feel free to ask me any questions you might have about any of these activities or anything else you might want to know about life at Brown!

This weekend will be challenging and highly exciting. However, to make the weekend the best it can be, we ask that you put some serious effort into your research and preparation for the conference. High quality debate and advance knowledge of the issues makes everything more interesting and will help you to get the most out of your time. To help you get started we have provided this paper as a background guide. However, this is only a starting point. We have provided several links at the end of this paper to help aid your research, but there is a wealth of information outside of these links alone. It is important to understand the current political situation and its roots, and not just the general information provided. It may be helpful to contact the Indian embassy or foreign ministry for more information. In addition, it will be beneficial to follow the news for any updates in the issues before conference time.

I look forward to meeting all of you this fall, and the best of luck preparing for the conference. Don't forget to have fun with it!

See you soon!

Yours sincerely,

Megan Brattain
Indian Cabinet Chair
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Committee Format and Rules of Debate

Committee will be conducted in informal debate, similar to moderated caucus in normal Model UN debate. Speaking times will be proposed either by the Chairman or by the members. The Chairman reserves the right to suspend the debate should such a situation arise as the entrance of a guest speaker, the arrival of a message, or the need of members to discuss issues in a more informal setting or write decisions.

Rather than UN style resolution writing, the Indian Cabinet will rely on a few forms of decisions. During normal debate, the Cabinet will decide on bills that will then be presented on the floor of the Assembly by either the Prime Minister or by the relevant minister. There are two types of bills prepared by the Cabinet – money and non-money bills. Money bills need the sanction of the President before it is presented in the Assembly. Non-money government bills are generally passed in the Assembly due to the majority party support. Due to its important role in legislations, the Cabinet is like a mini-legislative committee.

The Prime Minister's role is crucial in guiding the decisions and evolving a consensus. Although, in principle, all policy decisions must be taken by the cabinet, in times of crisis, the Prime Minister can make policy decisions on his own also and report it, and that becomes, through due process, the decision of the cabinet as such. Decisions of the cabinet are announced to the public and the press by the Prime Minister or by any member of the Cabinet authorized by him. It is the responsibility of the Minister and the Secretary of the concerned department to ensure the implementation of a Cabinet decision.

Like the other Joint Crisis Committees, the Indian Cabinet may release press releases to state or private media outlets and diplomatic communiqués to India and other states or enforce directives to any of its national institutions.

Background on India

Modern history of India

Modern India achieved independence from the British rule on August 15th, 1947, and declared itself a republic on January 26th, 1950. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru served as the first Prime Minister through his death in 1964, and two years later his daughter Smt. Indira Gandhi took the role. Both father and daughter served as heads of the Indian National Congress party, the early dominant party in Indian politics. In 1969, among challenges to her authority,

Indira Gandhi formed her own separate Congress party—Congress (I)—splitting the Indian National Congress party for the first time.

In 1975, amid accusations of corruption, Indira Gandhi declared a state of emergency and suspended many civil liberties. After extending the state of emergency twice, she decided to call for national elections in 1977 to confirm her political mandate, but lost in an embarrassing defeat to Morarji Desai of the Janata party. Although she returned to power in 1980, the defeat marked the withering of Indira Gandhi's and the Congress party's dynastic authority.

In 1984, after Indira Gandhi's assassination, the Congress Party chose her son Rajiv Gandhi as her successor. He was known for a clean government and reforms until a scandal near the end of his term. However, in 1991 Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated, and was succeeded by PV Narsimha Rao as Prime Minister. The elections in 1996 began a period of loose coalitions that rose and fell, with the Bharatiya Janata Party rising in prominence and power. In 2004, the Congress party won a majority again, and Dr. Manmohan Singh was chosen as Prime Minister with Sonia Gandhi as President of the United Progressive Alliance, the coalition in power.

India and Partition

While the Indian National Congress was calling for Britain to *Quit India*, the Muslim League, in 1943, passed a resolution for them to *Divide and Quit*. There were several reasons for the birth of a separate Muslim homeland in the subcontinent, and all three parties—the British, the Congress and the Muslim League—were responsible.

14 August 1947 saw the birth of the new Islamic Republic of Pakistan. At midnight the next day India won its freedom from colonial rule, ending nearly 350 years of British presence in India. The British left India divided in two. The two countries were founded on the basis of religion, with Pakistan as an Islamic state and India as a secular one.

The Partition of India left both India and Pakistan devastated. The process of partition had claimed many lives in riots. Many others were raped and looted. Women, especially, were used as instruments of power by the Hindus and the Muslims; "ghost trains" full of severed breasts of women would arrive in each of the newly born countries from across the borders. 15 million refugees poured across the borders to regions completely foreign to them, for though they were Hindu or Muslim, their identity had been embedded in the regions where their ancestors

were from.

Many years after the partition, the two nations are still trying to heal the wounds left behind by this incision to once-whole body of India. Many are still in search of an identity and a history left behind beyond an impenetrable boundary. The two countries started off with ruined economies and lands and without an established, experienced system of government. They lost many of their most dynamic leaders, such as Mahatma Gandhi, Mohammad Ali Jinnah and Allama Iqbal, soon after the partition. Pakistan had to face the separation of Bangladesh in 1971. India and Pakistan have been to war many times since the partition and they are still deadlocked over the issue of possession of Kashmir. The same issues of boundaries and divisions, Hindu and Muslim majorities and differences, still persist in Kashmir.

Government of India

Structure

India has a parliamentary system of government. The Parliament is bicameral, consisting of two houses: the directly-elected 545-member Lok Sabha ("House of the People"), the lower house, and the 250-member indirectly-elected and appointed Rajya Sabha ("Council of States"), the upper house.

Lok Sabha (House of the People): The Lok Sabha is composed of representatives of people chosen by direct election on the basis of Universal Adult Suffrage. At present, the strength of the House is 545 members.

Rajya Sabha (Council of States): The Rajya Sabha is the upper house of the Parliament. Membership is limited to 250 members, 12 of whom are chosen by the President of India for their expertise in specific fields of art, literature, science, and social services. The Vice-President of India (currently, Hamid Ansari) is the ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

Three wings of the State

Executive

The executive is split between the President of India, whose function is largely ceremonial, and the Prime Minister of India and his or her cabinet. The President enjoys all constitutional powers, but exercises them only on the advice of the actual executive, the Prime Minister and his or her Council of Ministers who enjoy all real powers and make the important policy decisions.

Judiciary

The Supreme Court of India consists of a Chief Justice and 25 associate justices, all appointed by the President of India on the advice of the Chief Justice of India. The Supreme Court of India has original, appellate and advisory jurisdiction. It is empowered to issue directions, orders or writs, including writs in the nature of habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, quo warranto and certiorari to enforce them. The Supreme Court has been conferred with power to direct transfer of any civil or criminal case from one State High Court to another State High Court, or from a court subordinate to another State High Court.

Legislature

The legislature is the Parliament. All the members of the Council of Ministers as well as the Prime Minister are members of Parliament. The Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers are responsible to the Lok Sabha, individually as well as collectively. The present Union Cabinet of the Government of India was formed after the Indian general election, 2009.

Dr. Manmohan Singh took oath as the 14th Prime Minister of India on May 22, 2009, followed by the oath-taking ceremonies of the present 'Council of Ministers'.

Political parties

India has a multi-party system with a predominance of small regional parties. Political parties that wish to contest local, state or national elections are required to be registered by the Election Commission of India (EC). If a party is recognized in four or more states, it is declared as a "National party" by the EC. Otherwise, it is known as a "State Party."

From the last few terms India has had a hung parliament and therefore no single party has had the numbers to form the government on their own. Parties have therefore been forced to make alliances with other parties to get to the single majority mark. The current coalition at the Centre is the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) that is headed by Smt. Sonia Gandhi. In the Indian General Election in 2009, the UPA won a convincing 262 seats with the Indian National Congress alone winning 206 seats. The UPA now has a stable majority government.

Apart from the Indian National Congress, there is another big political party in the country called the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). It is the biggest constituent of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) that currently is in the opposition. The party is a strong force in Hindu nationalism and advocates conservative social policies, self-reliance, free market economics, foreign policy driven by a

nationalist agenda, and strong national defense. The current Leader of the Opposition is LK Advani, whose style of politics is considered to be very radical.

Government and Political organization

India has a federal government with power sharing between the Centre and the States. The state government functions similarly to the central government. Each state has a legislature, some bicameral like the national government. Each state also has a chief executive responsible to this legislature, called the Chief Minister. There are 28 states and 7 union territories.

Cabinet members

1. Prime Minister (Head of Government – Chair of the Committee) – Dr. Manmohan Singh □
2. Minister of Foreign Affairs – SM Krishna
3. Minister of Defence – AK Antony
4. Minister of Finance – Pranab Mukherjee
5. Minister of Information and Broadcasting – Ambika Soni
6. Minister of Home Affairs – P. Chidambaram
7. Minister of Law and Justice – Veerappa Moily
8. Minister of Railways – Mamata Banerjee
9. Minister of Commerce and Industry – Anand Sharma
10. Minister of Urban Development – S. Jaipal Reddy

Special external members

1. Indian Ambassador to Pakistan – Sudhir Vyas
2. Indian Ambassador to the UN – Nirupam Sen
3. UPA President (Director of the Committee) – Sonia Gandhi
4. Minister of State for External Affairs – Shashi Tharoor

Foreign Relations:**Relations with Pakistan**

Since partition, relations between Pakistan and India have been characterized by rivalry and suspicion. Although many issues divide the two countries, the most sensitive one since independence has been the status of **Kashmir**.

Position on Kashmir

In India's view, the conflict in the state of Jammu and Kashmir constitutes a major internal security threat and is driven by Pakistani interference. No solution is possible,

according to the Indian leadership, until Pakistan ceases its support for militants there.

India and Kashmir

India's bottom line on Kashmir has remained unchanged over the decades: the state of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of the Indian Union, and any settlement of the crisis there must be effected within the confines of the Indian constitution. However, differences abound within Indian policy circles on the future shape of a possible solution, from support for incorporating into India all of Jammu and Kashmir, including territories presently under Pakistani and Chinese control, to the territorial status quo, to the increasingly apparent shift in official policy for recognition of the Line of Control (LOC) as the international border.

Indian perspectives are moving in the following direction:

1. A holistic solution must include recognition that it is impractical at this late date to conduct a plebiscite
2. New Delhi cannot avoid providing maximum autonomy to Srinagar; and that converting the LOC into an international border is necessary on pragmatic grounds
3. The Indian government remains publicly opposed to any international involvement in the dispute although it has urged the United States to press Pakistan to end support for militants.

Confrontation with Pakistan

India has fought three wars with Pakistan over Kashmir, in 1948, 1965, and the Kargil conflict in 1999. The 1971 Indo-Pakistan war resulted in the creation of an independent Bangladesh.

Tensions between India and Pakistan drastically worsened two months after the 26 November Mumbai attacks last year. The Indian government feels that even though war is not an option, all options are open. Additionally, India expects Pakistan to take severe action against the terrorist groups in Pakistan that continue to raise havoc on Indian soil. If this does not happen, India threatens to "isolate Pakistan from the rest of the world" to punish it for inaction in the wake of the Mumbai attacks.

Relations with the People's Republic of China

Despite lingering suspicions remaining from the 1962 Sino-Indian War and continuing boundary disputes over Aksai Chin and Arunachal Pradesh, Sino-Indian

relations have improved gradually since 1988. Both countries have sought to reduce tensions along the frontier, expand trade and cultural ties, and normalize relations. Sino-Indian relations suffered a brief setback in May 1998 when the Indian Defense minister justified the country's nuclear tests by citing potential threats from the PRC. Since 2004, the economic rise of both China and India has also helped forge closer relations between the two. Sino-Indian trade reached US\$36 billion in 2007, making China the single largest trading partner of India. The increasing economic reliance between India and China has also bought the two nations closer politically, with both India and China eager to resolve their boundary dispute.

Relations with the United States of America

Historically, relations between India and the United States were somewhat cold following Indian independence, as India took a leading position in the Non-Aligned Movement, and attempted to pursue even-handed economic and military relations with the Soviet Union. For most of the Cold War, the USA tended to have warmer relations with Pakistan, primarily as a way to contain Soviet-friendly India and to use Pakistan to back the Afghan Mujahideen against the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. At the present, according to some analysts, India-U.S. relations have strained over Obama administration's approach in handling the Taliban insurgency in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Today, India and the U.S. share a complex cultural, strategic, military and economic relationship.

Indo-U.S. civilian nuclear agreement (Indo-U.S. Nuclear Deal):

This is a bilateral accord on civil nuclear cooperation between the United States of America and the Republic of India. The framework for this agreement was a July 18, 2005 joint statement by Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and then U.S. President George W. Bush, under which India agreed to separate its civil and military nuclear facilities and place all its civil nuclear facilities under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards and, in exchange, the United States agreed to work toward full civil nuclear cooperation with India.

According to Pakistan, the agreement "threatens to increase the chances of a nuclear arms race in the subcontinent." Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has suggested his country should be considered for such an accord, and Pakistan has also said the same process "should be available as a model for other non-NPT states".

Conclusion:***Personalities and Alliances within Indian Politics***

When researching your official, I would recommend that you examine specifically whom they support and the kind of under-pressure decisions they have taken in the past. Also, keep in mind that since each official will be holding a particular portfolio within the Parliament, you should be well versed with the procedures of your own Secretariat and the manner in which you can specifically contribute to the elimination of crisis in the country.

As you might have noticed, this Joint Crisis committee does not have any particular crisis topics discussed in the Topic guide. Since relations between India and Pakistan are so tense, we feel that the existing political climate is extremely unpredictable.

Suggestions for Further Research:

The main issues of contention between the two states include:

1. Terrorism and Cross-Border Infiltration
2. Nuclear weapons development/test programs
3. Trade and economics
4. Religion and culture dispute

Bibliography and Additional Readings:

News sources have been used intensely in drafting this topic paper, especially the The Economist and the BBC. Below are links that will be particularly useful.

1. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Official website
<http://www.bjp.org/>
2. Government of India – Official website
<http://india.gov.in/>
3. Jammu and Kashmir – Official website
<http://jammukashmir.nic.in/welcome.html>
4. Government of Pakistan – Official website
www.pakistan.gov.pk/
5. November 26, 2009 Mumbai Attacks
http://www.economist.com/displayStory.cfm?story_id=12884291
6. Articles on Kashmir
<http://www.economist.com/research/articlesBySubject/display.cfm?id=1176561>
7. Foreign Relations – India
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Foreign_relations_of_India

How to prepare for the Futuristic Crisis Committee?

1. Anticipating and Influencing Global Future
http://www.strategicforesight.com/publications_research.htm -
2. The Final Settlement: Restructuring India-Pakistan Relations, 2005
<http://www.strategicforesight.com/finalsettlement.htm>
3. The Future of Pakistan
<http://www.strategicforesight.com/futofpak.htm>
4. India and Pakistan: War in the Nuclear Shadow
<http://www.cdi.org/nuclear/nuclearshadow.cfm>
5. US Department of Defense Report on Asia 2025
http://www.dod.mil/pubs/foi/reading_room/967.pdf

Suggestions Topics for Positions Papers:

- *Kashmir*
- *Nuclear Weapons Use and Proliferation*
- *Counter-Terrorism Measures*