

## Union Cabinet of India

### Welcome

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to BUSUN 2010 and welcome to the Union Cabinet of the Government of India. I hope you are looking forward to the difficult challenges and vigorous debate that lie ahead. My name is Jonathan Aronson and I will be the chair of your committee. I am a rising sophomore at Brown and this will be my second year working for BUSUN. This past year I chaired the DISEC committee in the General Assembly. For those of you who are curious, I plan on double majoring in physics and mathematics, although my career ambitions lie closer to physics than math.

Please take the time to read this background guide, as it will be a good jumping off point for your own research. However, and I cannot stress this enough, the most important part of your research will be keeping up with current events up until the day of the conference. You should also be familiar with India's status in the international community financially, politically, et cetera.

Feel free to email me with any questions about the conference, the committee, or just Brown in general at [crisis.india@brown.edu](mailto:crisis.india@brown.edu). I will happily do my best to answer them. See you in November!

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### Country History/Current Role

India was granted independence from Great Britain on August 15th, 1947. It was originally set up as a Hindi state with Pakistan, which gained independence at the same time, as its Muslim counterpart. Since then India has grown

to become the world's most populace democracy and a major financial power in the international community.

India is estimated to have the World's 4th largest total GDP as of 2010 with its main industries consisting of telecommunications, textiles, chemical manufacturing, petroleum, food processing, machinery, and information technology. India mainly exports to the US, UAE, and China and imports from China, Saudi Arabia, the US, UAE, Iran, Singapore, and Germany. Along with Brazil, Russia and China, India is speculated to become one of the most dominant economic powers in the world by 2050. These nations are collectively referred to as BRIC, a term coined by a Goldman Sachs report made in 2003 that hypothesized the eventual economic dominance of Brazil, Russia, India, and China.

On a side note, India has proved to be an extremely important player in the anti-terrorism campaign launched by the US in Afghanistan. India has contributed 1.3 billion USD to reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan since 2001. Despite this, India's role, as desired by the US, in this conflict has yet to be clearly defined. This is mainly due to the strong ties between US and Pakistan and the extensive tension between India and Pakistan. Many US military strategists are weary of heavy Indian involvement fearing that it could spark Pakistani insurgent activities in both Afghanistan and India.

### Committee Structure

Committee will operate with an informal debate structure similar to moderated caucus. Speaking times will be proposed by either delegates or myself and will be loosely enforced. Obviously, as the chair I reserve the right to suspend debate in special situations such as the arrival of a guest speaker or an apparent need for an unmoderated caucus to write resolutions. Furthermore, if at anytime

during the conference I find this system to be inadequate I may discard it and replace it with a new system to remedy any inadequacies.

Here is a list of delegates in this committee:

- Prime Minister: Dr. Manmohan Singh (Chair)
- Minister of Finance: Shri Pranab Mukherjee (Director)
- Minister of Defense: Shri A. K. Antony
- Minister of Home Affairs: Shri P. Chindambaram
- Minister of External Affairs: Shri S. M. Krishna
- Minister of Health and Family Welfare: Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad
- Minister of Law and Justice: Shri M. Veerappa Moily
- Minister of Information and Broadcasting: Smt. Ambika Soni
- Minister of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation and Minister of Tourism: Kum. Selja
- Minister of Commerce and Industry: Shri Anand Sharma
- Minister of Urban Development: Shri S. Jaipal Reddy

Topics:

There are two topics for you to research. However, remember that this is a crisis committee and so researching these topics should only be a small part of your preparation.

### **Topic 1: India-Pakistan Relations and the Kashmir Conflict**

When India and Pakistan gained their independence in 1947 they were set up as separate Hindi and Muslim states. At the time of this splitting, the region of Kashmir was mostly populated by Muslims but under definitive Hindi rule. Shortly after independence was granted to India and Pakistan, the residents of Kashmir rose up against their Hindi ruler in an attempt to make it a Muslim state. The Hindi ruler of Kashmir enlisted the help of India to

stave off this rebellion. In exchange, Kashmir came under Indian control. Following this initial dispute there have been two wars fought over Kashmir in 1965 and 1999. However, minor conflicts in the area have been far more common. Kashmir holds religious significance for both Hindus and Muslims, which is a major contributing factor to the conflict. Currently, Kashmir is controlled by India, Pakistan, and China.

There are many questions to consider when dealing with this extremely charged situation. However, you should focus your research efforts on the following questions:

- 1) How does the conflict in Kashmir affect India's political status within the international community?
- 2) How does the conflict in Kashmir affect the current anti-terrorism efforts of the US in Afghanistan and the surrounding regions?
- 3) How does the conflict in Kashmir affect India's internal political and economic systems?

### **Topic 2: India and the Global Economic Crisis**

Perhaps no crisis in history has been a better indicator of the interconnectedness of the international community than the current global economic crisis. Originating in the United States due to certain banking practices concerning mortgages, this recession has caused pronounced effects all over the world. The European Union was hit particularly hard, mostly due to the massive amounts of debt owed by many European nations, especially Greece. Interestingly enough, South East Asia was one of the regions more resilient to the economic disparity. India has suffered a rising rate of unemployment and a slowed growth rate. Compared to the US and EU, however, India has remained relatively unscathed.

Do your best to try and figure out ways in which this crisis affects the global economy,

specifically the status of the BRIC nations and how this alters the economic balance of power between the US, EU, and BRIC.

This crisis is still unfolding and so you should be constantly updating yourself on how the situation has evolved. In your research make sure to think about the following questions:

- 1) How has and will this crisis affect India? What about the global economy?
- 2) How has the economic crisis impacted the future of BRIC nations?
- 3) Has there been a shift in economic power as a result of the crisis?

Remember: This guide is only supposed to get you started with your research. To be fully prepared you will have to do your own research. Don't focus only on the two topics listed here. You should focus on current events paying specific attention to relations between the US, EU, and BRIC.