

# LOK SABHA

Background Guide  
(Monsoon Session, 2017)



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## Introduction

Hello Delegates!

We welcome you all to the Lok Sabha. Firstly, it is an honour, as your Executive Board to preside over this session. The agenda is something we feel is something extremely relevant in today's day and age in the Indian context. Secondly, do not get flustered by the length of the guide. Read the whole of it, paying special attention the conclusion, the introduction and the role of your party. If you are unable to read the entirety of this guide, at the very least be thorough and proficient with the parts you have completed reading. Thirdly, we suggest staying up to date about current affairs related to India and especially keeping a close tab on the agenda. Most importantly, make sure that you have your facts in place and speak confidently. Ask yourself the following questions while reading up on every policy and during committee before framing your speeches-

- ✚ **Do I know the details of this policy?**
- ✚ **Where has this been implemented?**
- ✚ **How did it work there?**
- ✚ **How does it adapt to India's needs?**
- ✚ **Should this be a priority for the govt?**
- ✚ **Who implements it and are there any challenges to it?**
- ✚ **Does everyone benefit? Who doesn't? What can be done about that?**
- ✚ **What does my party have to say about this?**

A notebook for taking down notes and a research folder with important documents may come handy for this purpose. We would like to reiterate that this background guide points towards the direction of preliminary research. However, read up thoroughly on the issue at hand and do not restrict yourself to this background guide. We look forward to an intellectual yet fun interaction. Best of luck to all of you!

## About the Committee

Proceedings will be a two-day simulation of the 2017 Lok Sabha Monsoon Session. As attendees of this session, delegates will be required to expansively deliberate upon and review the functioning of the current NDA government in its period of service.

As an addition to this year's Lok Sabha, the Executive Board is pleased to announce that during the last hour of the inaugural day of debate, there will be a **Zero Hour** in which any question pertaining to the Government's functioning in any sector of governance may be asked by any Member of the House. A matter of urgent public importance may also be raised. Extra points will be awarded for outstanding questions and substantiated answers. Concerned Ministers will be asked to address the question at a moment's notice and are therefore advised to be adequately prepared with current affairs relating to their spectrum of governance.

To facilitate a more structured question-and-answer session, the Executive Board is also organising a **Question Hour** during the first hour of the second day of proceedings.

If you are a **non-Ministerial delegate** and would like to send a question/ questions for Question Hour, attach it/ them in the e-mail that contains your Position Paper as a separate document. Clearly specify which Minister/ Ministry your question is addressed to. Questions not containing the aforementioned detail will be discarded immediately. Extra points will be awarded to delegates with distinguished questions.

If you are a **Minister in the Government**, questions pertaining to your department will be e-mailed to you soon after they are received. Make sure you are prepared with an adequate and satisfactory response on the second day of proceedings. Extra points will be awarded to those Ministers who can provide a comprehensive answer (perhaps even an immediate resolution) to the question in question.

The committee will follow regular MUN procedure and abide by its rules. Delegates are advised to check the ShriMUN website for the same.

## Agenda and its Background

**Agenda- A comprehensive review of the performance and efficacy of the policies implemented by the NDA government considering the following elements of governance-**

- 1) **Economic Policy**
- 2) **Development Measures**
- 3) **Social Issues**

The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) is a centre-right coalition of several political parties. As of now, its Honorary chairperson is Mr. Amit Shah, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the Leader of the House in the Lok Sabha and Mr. Arun Jaitley is the Leader of the House in Rajya Sabha.

For the first time in 30 years, BJP came to power with an absolute majority in the 2014 General Elections and the swearing-in ceremony gave a hint that Team Modi was ready with a game-changing plan for the country.

Since its election, the NDA Government has come up with many policies, some were accepted wholeheartedly, whereas some were controversial in their nature.

Under the NDA Government, the economic growth of our country has increased significantly. The economy grew 7.2% during 2014-15, 7.9% during 2015-16 and 7.1% during 2016-17. Alongside, inflation has dropped from 8% during the first four months of 2014 to below 4% currently. Foreign direct investment during the three financial years of the Government has summed to \$156 billion with the flow during 2016-17. Demonetisation has had a lasting impact in reducing the cash in circulation and increasing the number of non-cash transactions. The NDA Government has had these and many more successes such as **the Uri Surgical Strike, LPG subsidy reforms and the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.**

However, the three years of PM Modi's administration has also resulted in a drop in agricultural growth, low investment and unemployment. As for the controversial policies; the government recently banned the sale of beef across most states. Vigilante cow protection groups harass and attack people in the name of upholding laws prohibiting the slaughter of bovines. The Cabinet approved a flawed bill on transgender individual's rights which was criticized for its problematic definition of transgenders and women from marginalized communities face systemic discrimination, making it harder for them to report sexual and other forms of violence.

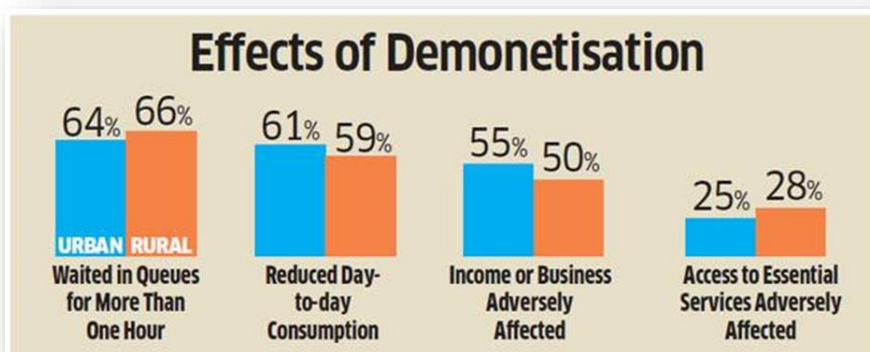
# Economic Policy

## DEMONETIZATION

On November 8, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi took a historic decision by announcing that high-denomination notes of rupees 500 and 1,000 then in circulation would cease to be legal tender.

With the demonetization effort, 86% of India's currency was nullified, aiming to wash the stock of 'black market's cash supply' and counterfeit notes out of the economy and convert it into the licit, banked and taxable part of the economy. To reduce the impact of sudden commercial collapse, a 50-day period ensued where the population could exchange their cancelled cash for newly designed 500 and 2,000 rupee notes or deposit them into bank accounts. Irrespective of the widespread anguish and household disturbances, an optimistic sentiment was shown in favour of the decision.

Cash is the preferred mode of transaction in India. An immediate public anger appeared against the mismanaged and unprepared banking system. Banks didn't have enough of the newly designed banknotes (Rs 500 and Rs 2000) to distribute in exchange for the cancelled notes. The move has also led to a shortage of lower denomination notes such as Rs 100 and Rs 50 that are still legal tender, as people have taken to conserving whatever cash they have in hand. The demonization initiative has caused a sudden breakdown in India's commerce and the unbanked and informal economy has been hit hard. Trade across all aspects of the economy has interrupted, and sectors like agriculture, fishing, and the huge informal market were almost shut down during the initial days of announcement. The informal sector in India employs more than a majority of the workers and most transactions are in cash. Disruption to this system could endanger the employment and livelihood of the weaker sections of society. The change disturbed the lives of ordinary people, led to widespread need and major job losses for the poor.



Nevertheless, although India's demonetization move was apparently mismanaged in the beginning, the effects at micro level look advantageous. For instance, all sorts of

illegal activities such as terrorist financing have been completely hit after the announcement. The demonetization process has also repaired India's counterfeiting problem for the short to mid-term. The cash-centric black market for the most part ceased to function with the nullification of the bulk of its currency. It is also thought that the drive will wipe out a measure of corruption and tax evasion in India's real estate market. Growth in cash-intensive sectors such as real estate, construction and FMCG is likely to take a hit in the short term as consumers are deferring purchases. The real-estate market is likely to come to a standstill with property prices likely to fall and the possible tax inquiries following demonetization will affect both consumption and investment in the formal and informal sectors. However, there is a positive side to the story, over

the medium term, there would be benefits through higher Government spending and greater financial inclusion. Also, the movement of household savings from physical to financial will help boost growth, per Yes Bank BSE 0.90% report.

With exchange of the old currency notes coming to an end, many people are forced to open accounts to save their money. It is estimated that banks have opened about 30 lakh (and still counting) new accounts since the demonetization drive began on November 8. India's largest bank, State Bank of India (SBI), with its 17,097 branches - half of which are in the rural and semi-urban areas – is opening 50,000 accounts a day. The leading consumer internet companies in India (Flipkart, Snapdeal, Shopclues, CCAvenues, Ola and Oyo Rooms) have applauded the move, saying it will pave the way for digital payments, aid the process of financial inclusion and the overall transformation in the economy will translate into long-term benefits for the industry. Payments companies Paytm and Freecharge saw a surge in adoption of their digital wallets. Per market experts, the growth of digital payments and wallets is the first phase of the impact and will give big boost to lending and credit as the digital records of merchants will expand and create more demand in the second phase.

One of the main questions that also arises here is that **could things have been managed better?**

Building up a larger stock of new notes in advance would certainly have avoided some of the inconvenience and the associated cash shortage. The Ministry of Agriculture's request regarding an exemption for farmers purchasing seeds and other inputs during the sowing season to avoid disruption in sowing, should also have been addressed promptly, rather than after several days.

## **MAKE IN INDIA**



*Make in India* is the BJP-led NDA Government's flagship campaign intended to boost the domestic manufacturing industry and attract foreign investors to invest into the Indian economy. PM Narendra Modi first mentioned the key phrase in his maiden Independence Day address from the ramparts of the Red Fort and about a month later launched the campaign in September 2014 with an intention of

reviving manufacturing businesses and emphasizing key sectors in India amidst growing concerns that most entrepreneurs are moving out of the country due to its low rank in *ease of doing business* ratings. The *Make in India* initiative was formally launched by Prime Minister in September 2014 as part of a wider set of nation-building initiatives. Devised to transform India into a global design and manufacturing hub, *Make in India* was a timely response to a critical situation: by 2013, the much-hyped emerging markets bubble had burst, and India's growth rate had fallen to its lowest level in a decade. The promise of the BRICS Nations (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) had faded, and India was tagged as one of the so-called 'Fragile Five'. Global investors debated whether the world's largest democracy was a risk or an opportunity. India's 1.2 billion citizens questioned whether India was too big to succeed or too big to fail. India was on the brink of severe economic failure.

Manufacturing currently contributes just over 15% to the national GDP. The aim of this campaign is to grow this to a 25% contribution as seen with other developing nations of Asia. In the process, the Government expects to generate jobs, attract much foreign direct investment, and transform India into a manufacturing hub preferred around the globe.



## Sectors in Focus

For the *Make in India* campaign, the Government of India has identified 25 priority sectors that shall be promoted adequately. These are the sectors where likelihood of FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) is the highest and investment shall be promoted by the Government of India. On the campaign launch, PM Modi said that the development of these sectors would ensure that the world shall readily come to Asia, particularly to India where the availability of both democratic conditions and manufacturing superiority made it the best destination, especially when combined

Automobiles	Food Processing	Renewable Energy
Automobile Components	IT and BPM	Roads and highways
Aviation	Leather	Space
Biotechnology	Media and Entertainment	Textiles and garments
Chemicals	Mining	Thermal Power
Construction	Oil and Gas	Tourism and Hospitality
Defense manufacturing	Pharmaceuticals	Wellness
Electrical Machinery	Ports	
Electronic Systems	Railways	

with effective governance by his administration.

## FISCAL POLICY

The Indian PM is planning the boldest rethink of fiscal policy ever seen in India. Even if he is partially successful, Narendra Modi's reconstruction of the Indian fiscal policy will have far-reaching implications for the incipient economic recovery underway in India.

- *The PM's focus on reducing 'leakages' from the subsidy system looks likely to stymie the rural wealth effect that has been such a powerful driver of consumption over the past five years.*
- *The big blast of Government-funded capex that is likely to be announced in the Budget is likely to compensate for the private sector's reluctance to embark upon capex.*
- *The PM's willingness to use fiscal incentives to push states towards land, labour and subsidy reforms creates the genuine possibility of structural reform in a country where the political class does not want reform.*

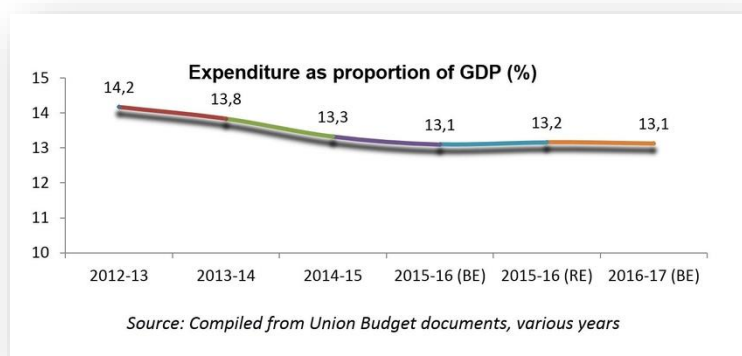
## What is the PM trying to do?

Most economists reckon that the NDA Government is pursuing four distinct goals as it rethinks and reconstructs the fiscal policy—

- 1) **Higher tax: GDP ratio:** India's tax-to-GDP ratio has been between 8 and 12% over the past two decades. This makes India like most sub-Saharan African economies as for most developed economies this ratio is upwards of 25%. This unflattering comparison with

more mature countries highlights the sheer scale of tax evasion in India. Using GST and clever IT infrastructure, Modi seems determined to lift India's tax: GDP ratio.

- 2) **Lower leakages:** The PM's advisors are convinced that by moving India's subsidy mechanism from subsidies in kind (for instance, cheap food, fuel and fertiliser) to subsidies in cash (through direct benefit transfers to recipients' bank accounts), they can save at least 0.4% of the GDP (which amounts to around \$10 billion). In fact, they say that if they go after and recover the misspending by institutions like the Food Corporation of India, around 1% of the GDP (i.e., \$20 billion) can be saved every year.



- 3) **More Government capex:** The savings outlined in the above point alongside savings arising from the drop in crude prices gives the PM a kitty equal to 1.5% of the GDP (\$30 billion). If you add to this

the 1.5% of GDP that used to be allocated by the Planning Commission but now seems likely to be spent at the Finance Ministry's discretion, one can see how the PM can command an annual kitty equal to 3% of the GDP (around \$60 billion).

It is believed that this corpus will be spent in two ways, the first of which is big-ticket capex by the Government. The PM's advisors point out that over the past ten years, whilst Government spending in general has grown at 13% CAGR (Compound Annual Growth Rate), Government spending on capex has grown at a pitiful 0.05% CAGR. Set alongside the very public failure of the PPP initiative to build India's infrastructure, there appears to be a yawning need for the Government to embark upon big-ticket capex.

*Delegates are advised to check the latest budget for more information on Government expenditure- <http://indiabudget.nic.in/>*

- 4) **Competitive Federalism:** The second area where the PM seems likely to direct funds is towards incentivising the states to follow his reform agenda, which includes launching Rajasthan-style land and labour reforms, moving subsidy programmes onto the DBT platform, addressing state electricity board losses and, perhaps most controversially, lending support to the NDA's agenda in the Parliament. This is where Modi's reconstruction of the Indian fiscal policy is at its most inventive form and the odds, we believe, are in favour of the PM using fiscal incentives to browbeat the states towards delivering his chosen agenda. As the *Wall Street Journal* noted in its editorial on January 29, 2015, 'The invitation to the states to get a head start is part of the Government's policy of 'competitive federalism', which, in the best case, will put pressure on Upper House legislators not to stand in the way.'

*Will Narendra Modi succeed in pushing through this brave rethink of fiscal policy?*

There are at least three powerful groups that seem likely to oppose the PM's agenda-

- I. Non-NDA state chief ministers are being emasculated in the construct that the PM has in mind. They will not take kindly to this and, at least in the short run, they will block whatever they can in the Parliament in the hope that the PM will back down.
- II. The rural elites - many of whom politicians at the state and local level - have benefited mightily from the expansion of subsidies (and the corresponding expansion of leakages) over the past ten years. Given that India spends \$70bn per annum of subsidies, most estimates suggest that at least half of this ends up in the hands of politicians and their henchmen. It is highly unlikely that these politicians will sit and watch the gravy train be de-commissioned by Narendra Modi.
- III. It is not clear to us how much of the RSS and indeed the BJP are on-side with the PM's audacious agenda. Most of the BJP is made up of conventional politicians and their interests are more aligned with other run-of-the-mill politicians (as per the previous point) than with the PM.

Given the challenges that the PM is facing in the Rajya Sabha, unless Mr. Modi uses a re-invented fiscal construct, he will find it hard to push legislation through Parliament.

#### **Investment implication 1: The likely breakdown of the rural wealth effect**

Whilst the exact sums are a matter of debate, it is safe to say that subsidy leakages have over the past decade resulted in the tens of billions of dollars per annum being pilfered by the rural elite (which is a combination of politicians, local thugs and local businesspeople - such as car dealers, cement distributors, FMCG distributors and builders - working in cahoots with each other, often in groups linked by close family or social ties). Since they could not 'consume' such large sums of money without attracting the attention of the taxman, a lot of this pilfered wealth went into buying land and gold.

As the PM seeks to reduce leakages, there is a real risk that he will break this rural wealth effect that has driven the consumption of cars, SUVs, jewelry and other big-ticket items. Furthermore, the post-May 2014 cooling off in rural land prices could also impact housing finance companies (many of which have recently seen a spectacular rally in their share prices).

At the other end of the consumption spectrum, it seems likely that the use of direct benefit transfer to transfer money to low-income families could give them more disposable income. That in turn could boost the consumption of small-ticket items such as FMCG goods.

#### **Investment implication 2: The Government kicks off the still sluggish capex cycle**

The Government is likely to play an active role in building roads, freight corridors, affordable housing, T&D infrastructure and power plants. Once the cash inflows from these projects stabilise, the Government might then sell down the asset to the private sector. As stated in its mid-year economic analysis, published on December 19, 2014, the Government says, 'It seems imperative to consider the case for reviving public investment as one of the key engines of growth going forward, not to replace private investment but to revive and complement it.'



Because of this, engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) companies - whether they be in the roads sector, T&D sector or affordable housing sector - seem likely to see an upsurge in their order books. Alongside this, with the balance sheets of the private sector infra asset owners in tatters, it seems more likely than not that public-sector asset owners (for example, Power Grid, Concor, BEL, Coal India, NTPC) are going to be the kings of the new wave of infrastructure building in India.

## ***GOODS AND SERVICES TAX***

### **Defining GST**

The GST is a single indirect tax rate that will be levied on manufactured products and services for all states. This tax will apply on the value added by a producer or service provider at each stage in the manufacturing process right until the final consumption.

Value Added Tax (VAT), which is currently in place, also applies on only the value addition at each stage. What makes the GST different? To understand that and the impact, it's important to first grasp the current indirect tax structure.

### **The GST difference**

**Several taxes:** The centre collects indirect taxes through excise duty, service tax, central sales tax, and customs duties. States get their collections from a plethora of taxes. One, which all states levy, is VAT that applies on the value added at each stage in the manufacturing process. Then there are taxes on entry of goods (entry tax and octroi), luxury tax, entertainment tax, taxes on lottery and gambling, and purchase tax, all of which are not uniformly charged by all states. ***GST does away with all indirect taxes*** save customs duties. GST applies on the value added at each stage. For goods and services traded within a state, there is a State GST, collected by the state and Central GST, collected by the Centre. For goods and services traded between states, there is an Integrated GST, split between the importing state and the centre.

**Differential rates:** On excise duty, depending on the product, there are 8 different rates based on value produced and specific rates based on volume produced. Within VAT too, there are at least 3 different rates. Which goods are taxed at what rates varies with states. Besides, both the state and the centre have their own list of goods exempt from taxes. So there may be products exempted from excise but will have to pay VAT.

***GST is a single rate uniformly applicable to all goods and services***, with minimal exemptions (like

food, education, health). There will be a standard rate for most products and services, a low rate on some and a high rate on some (demerit products like luxury cars or aerated beverages).

### **The GST impact**

Growth and inflation are two key factors to consider on a change in tax laws. On both these factors, the actual quantifiable benefit on economic growth and inflation of GST is hard to judge at this point. For one thing, the actual rate of GST is unknown (the 17-18% doing the rounds is the expected rate, which states want increased). A markedly higher rate can hurt growth; a very low rate can upset the Government and state fiscal. Secondly, the sharing between states and centre is also unclear.

Once the system is in place, the actual GST benefits will show up only over the long term, and not in the next year or two. [Some sectors will see a heavier impact from the GST than others \(follow this link for more information\)](#)

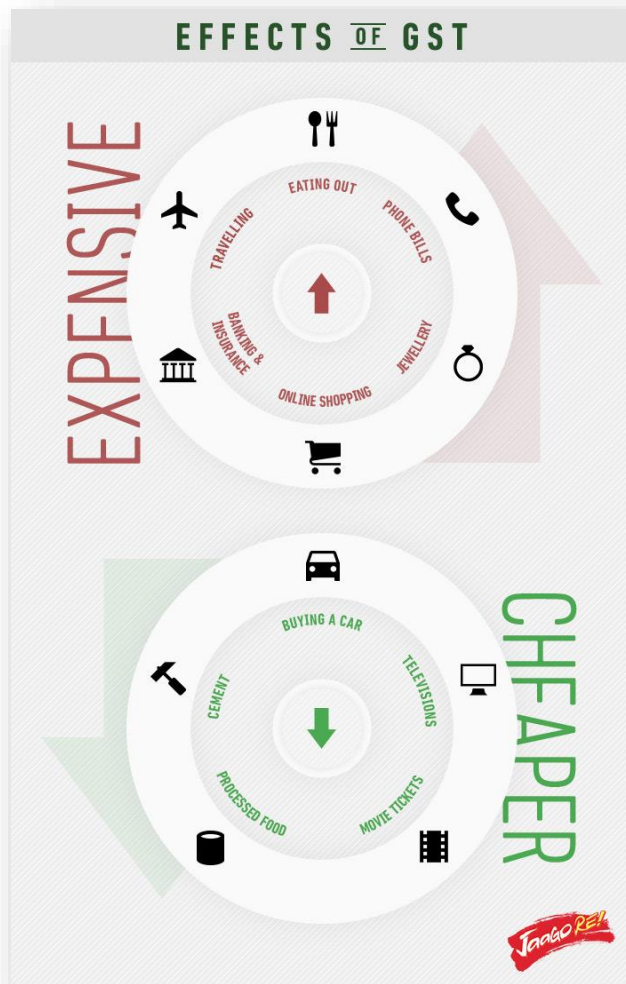
Because GST is a complete overhaul of the taxation system, it will have a pervasive effect. Here is how GST can change overall company prospects-

**Cost reduction:** One, removal of entry tax and octroi will automatically reduce costs for manufacturing companies. Two, the input tax credit, as explained above, on both goods and services consumed will lead to lower taxes throughout the chain. The effective tax rate because of the set-offs, if done efficiently, can be a good bit lower than the GST rate. Three, logistics and supply chain costs will also drift lower because of the removal of entry barriers, a national software infrastructure for taxes, and a consequent reduction in the number of checkpoints.

**Margin expansion:** An overall reduction in costs can improve company profitability. Outside this, companies will also be able to allocate resources more efficiently based on the infrastructure provided by states, instead of being governed mostly by tax laws. For large companies, achieving economies of scale and cost efficiencies may become easier since they can set up centralised production and move products without incurring additional taxes. For service companies, the ability to now claim input credit on equipment they buy against the taxes they pay will additionally boost profit margins.

**Pricing dynamics:** Companies will see heightened price competition. Given that costs drop, some companies may pass this on through lower product and service prices, while others do not. The extent to which tax savings will be utilised depends on the company's efficiency. This apart, how the company manages its sourcing and supply chain based on an open market will also define its pricing. Unorganised players may be forced to move into the organised fold.

**On the flip side**, depending on the tax rate, services especially can get a lot more expensive. In the near term, this can dent consumer discretionary spending. Until such time that cheaper goods compensate for this in consumers' monthly bills, spending can take a hit. Higher service tax can



also increase costs for companies which avail services, though they will get input credit benefits. Further, petroleum and electricity are out of the GST's ambit for now. States and the centre are free to tax them as of old. Power and fuel are huge cost factors for both consumers and most industries; the BSE 500 companies spend around 4% of their net sales on this cost head alone. Input tax credits on these may continue to be problematic. All this can detract from the cost benefits that GST will bring in.

Therefore, what GST will certainly do is change the way Indian companies operate. And it is that which can have an eventual long-term impact on growth.

**GST is also expected to have a**

**favourable outcome on the economy-**

1. Removal of tax barriers with seamless credit will make India a common market leading to economies of scale in production and efficiency in supply chain.
2. Removal of cascading effect of taxes embedded in cost of production of goods and services, significantly reducing cost of indigenous goods and indirectly promoting 'Make in India'.
3. Facilitating ease of doing business - Integration of existing multiple taxes into single GST will significantly reduce cost of tax compliance and transaction cost.
4. Stable, transparent and predictable tax regime to encourage local and foreign investment in India creating significant job opportunities.

# Development Measures

## ***ROADS AND TRANSPORT SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT***

As a famous saying goes – ‘Success is the journey, not the destination’, the Modi government has well understood the effect of infrastructure building as a large impactful element of India’s development. Road construction has therefore been taken up on priority, and it has been breaking all previous records of building roads across the country.

Some top priorities of the Modi government are:

- Creating pucca link roads of all 6.5 lakh villages to the block link roads
- Linking all block roads to state highways
- Urban colony roads

The Modi government built 22 km of roads per day in 2016-17, missing its ambitious target of constructing 41 km every day. The Road Transport Ministry had set an all-time high target of building 15,000 km of roads in 2016-17.

This construction figure, however, is the highest that the Ministry has achieved till date and more than double of what the previous UPA government managed. Between 2009 and 2014, on an average 6 km to 9 km of roads were built per day.

<b>ROAD BUILT PER DAY</b>
• 2012-14: 9 km/day
• 2015-16: 17.2 km/day
• 2016-17: approx. 22 km/day



Delay in land acquisition and tepid response from private developers come in the way of the Ministry meeting its target. “But the Centre according priority to roads helped in achieving an all-time high construction and award figures,” an official added.

<b>ALLOCATION TO THE HIGHWAYS SECTOR IN THE LAST THREE YEARS</b>
• 2014- Rs 15,34,345 Crore
• 2015-Rs 16,44,255 Crore
• 2016- Rs 17,57,976 Crore
• 2017- Rs 18,64,900 Crore

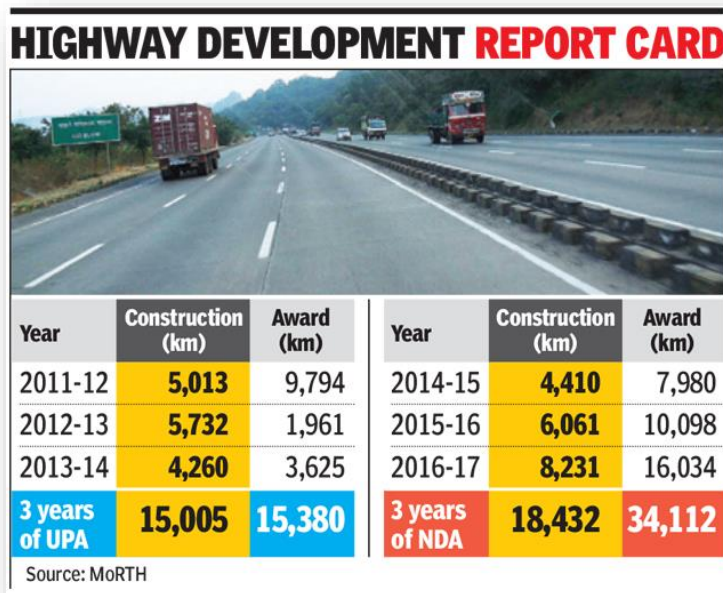
The highway sector had hit a rough patch since 2007. However, under the Modi government, between 2014-15 and 2016-17, the overall allocation to the sector increased by 73% — from 1.3 Lakh crore to 2.25 Lakh crore.

The PM has been regularly reviewing the progress of the sector through his monthly meetings where he interacts with central and state officials through video conference, to resolve bottlenecks holding up projects.

The Ministry has initiated a series of measures to de-centralise work. “In the last two-and-a-half years, we resolved issues that were stalling about 80 projects. Only a handful of projects are stuck as of now,” said a senior NHAI official.

Besides, the Ministry also empowered states to appraise projects worth up to Rs. 100 crore and invite tenders. Earlier, all such projects used to come under the Centre, resulting in delays.

It also introduced a new model called “Hybrid Annuity” where the government gives 40% of the construction cost while the developer invests the remaining 60%. So far 26 projects have been awarded under the new model. This new model has addressed various shortcomings of the previous model of BOLT.



## ***ELECTRICITY GENERATION AND AVAILABILITY***

The last three years have seen rapid progress towards PM Modi’s **vision of 24x7 affordable environment friendly ‘Power for All’ by 2022.**

### **Scarcity to Surplus**

In a significant transformation, India has become **power surplus from a chronic power shortage. Record capacity addition** of around one-fifth of current conventional power capacity and solar power capacity addition of 157% in the last two years led to a boost in power generation. The highest-ever **increase in transmission lines and sub-stations** improved the transmission scenario resulting in the **energy deficit falling to lowest ever of 1.6%** in 2016-17.

### **Critical Coal Situation Resolved**

Today, not a single power plant faces shortage of coal as opposed to the impending power crisis in 2014 when two-thirds of major power plants had critical **coal stocks of less than 7 days.** Working on war footing the government **eliminated coal shortage** in the country. In line with



achieving the target of doubling coal production to 100 crore tonnes by 2020, the last three years witnessed the **highest ever growth in coal production** of 7.4 crore tonnes.

### Most comprehensive power sector reform ever

The Modi government focused on **addressing the root problems** of the power sector. UDAY (Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana) for improvement in financial and operational efficiencies of State Power Distribution Companies (DISCOMs), **the weakest link in the power value chain**, was launched in 2015. Every **DISCOM is expected to eliminate losses by 2019-20** with potential **savings of over Rs. 1,80,000 crore** every year from 2019. UDAY was designed through extensive stakeholder consultations and has been a game changer for States.

### Progress of Programmes

Prime Minister's Independence Day, 2015 promise of connecting the unconnected 18,452 un-electrified villages in 1,000 days is ahead of schedule with **over 40% (7,779 remote villages) already electrified**. India is headed for the top slot in the global LED market through UJALA (Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All) Yojana, which will replace 77 crore bulbs with energy efficient LED bulbs by 2019. Over 23 **crore LED bulbs have been distributed** till 2017 that resulted in saving 30,000 units of electricity and reduced carbon emission to the tune of 24 tonnes.

### World's Clean Energy Capital

India is running the **world's largest renewable energy expansion programme** with a target to increase overall renewable capacity by more than 5 times from 32,000 MW in 2014 to 1,75,000 MW in 2022. By taking a leadership role in the **International Solar Alliance** of 121 countries and organising RE-Invest 2015, the **world's largest renewable financing meet**, our government has laid the foundations for massive growth in this sector.



**Urban areas are being provided smart infrastructure** through the Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS), while rural infrastructure is being improved through the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY) for **Gramoday se Bharat Uday**. The farmer has been additionally benefitted through the **highest-ever distribution of solar pumps** in 2016-17, greater than total solar pumps installed since launch of the scheme in 1991. Apart from this, the **less developed Eastern states** will benefit through the revenues accruing from coal auctions. The **power constrained Southern states** have been provided relief by increasing the transmission capacity by 71% and revived gas plants, which has expanded availability of electricity and reduced

procurement prices of electricity by over 50%. By resolving problems in hydroelectric projects the government is ensuring **clean power to the North East**.

The last three years have seen many records broken and many firsts. There is now a **clear roadmap** to achieve the vision of **Ujwal Bharat** – delivering 24x7 affordable power to every household and adequate power to farmers, in an environment friendly manner.

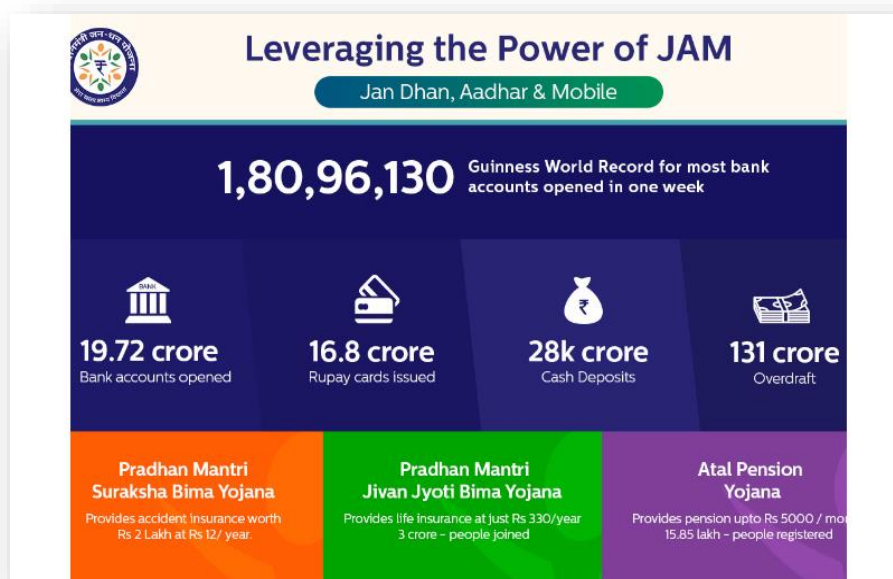
## **SWACHH BHARAT INITIATIVE**

*Launched 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct 2014, to clean India by 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct 2019*

- Sanitation coverage up from 42% to 60% in 2017
- 1.5 Lakh villages have now been declared Open defecation free (ODF) in 2017
- Challenges: Rural areas face challenge in dealing with liquid waste, and urban areas struggle with garbage and open urination
- Waste to Compost has not made much progress in urban areas, only 20% of waste is being treated as on date.

## **OTHER SCHEMES**

- Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana – Deposit base expanded to 28.2 Cr bank accounts which hold INR 63K Cr
- Smart Cities – Top 100 cities to be made smart with cameras, automatic street lighting, satellite based automatic traffic regulation
- Real Estate Regulation Act (RERA)
- Benami Transaction Prohibition Act (BTPA)
- Undeclared Foreign Income and Assets Act
- Ujala – Aim to replace 770 Mn inefficient lamps with LEDs. Total 230 Mn LED lamps given out that resulted in saving 30000 Units of electricity and reduced carbon emission to the tune of 24 tonnes.



- Beti Bachao Beti Padhao – Objective of the scheme is to prevent sex selective elimination, ensure survival and protection of the girl child, and ensure education of the girl child. The scheme has two components-
  - i. Mass communication campaign and multi sectoral action in 100 districts as a pilot with adverse child sex ratio covering all states and UTs
  - ii. Some results visible in states like Haryana, but coverage needs further expansion.

## Social Issues

Human rights group Amnesty International criticised the Modi-led government, saying under the new regime India has witnessed a rise in communal violence and its Land Acquisition Ordinance has put thousands of Indians at "risk" of forcible eviction. Its Annual Report of 2015 highlighted on communal clashes and the failure of consulting with the communities affected by corporate-led projects.

Per Union Minister Mukhtar Naqvi, The Narendra Modi-led government's "**empowerment without appeasement**" policy has created an atmosphere where minorities are also becoming part of the development process. The National Commission for Minorities (NCM) received 2,638 complaints in 2013-14. During the next fiscal, the number of complaints came down to 1,995. By December 31, 2016, the Commission received only 1,288 grievances (most of which were individual disputes).

Even though **there has been a decline in the number of riots, there has been consistent communal violence**; especially due to the laws regarding the protection of cows.

In March 2016, the bodies of two Muslim cattle traders were found hanging from a tree in Jharkhand. In June, members of a cow protection group in Haryana forced two Muslim men, who they suspected were beef transporters, to eat cow dung.

In July 2016, in Gujarat, vigilantes stripped four Dalit men, tied them to a car, and beat them with sticks and belts over suspicions of cow slaughter. In several cases, the attackers have also robbed their victims of cash and cellphones, and damaged their property.

In August, a woman in Haryana said that she and her 14-year-old cousin were gang-raped by men who accused them of eating beef.

Black people faced racist harassment, discrimination and violence in various cities. In February, a Tanzanian woman was stripped and beaten by a mob in Bengaluru, Karnataka state. In May, a man from the Democratic Republic of the Congo was beaten to death by a group of men in New Delhi.

In April 2017, the Human Rights Watch said "Indian authorities should promptly investigate and prosecute self-appointed "cow protectors" who have committed brutal attacks against Muslims and Dalits over rumors that they sold, bought, or killed cows for beef"

It also reported that since May 2015, a violent vigilante campaign against beef consumption has

led to the killing of at least 10 Muslims, including a 12-year-old boy, in seven separate incidents of mob violence.

On April 22, in New Delhi, purported animal rights activists allegedly belonging to People for Animals, which is led by a BJP official, beat up three men in a truck for transporting buffaloes. Initially, the police failed to arrest anyone for the assault or investigate the role of People for Animals, which denied involvement in the attack. Instead, the police arrested the three victims under a law preventing cruelty to animals after the injured victims were taken to a hospital. The men were released on bail a day later. Two days after the incident, the police arrested a Delhi resident who claimed to be a member of People for Animals. The police were informed of the incident by another member of People for Animals who was allegedly part of a “raid team” that regularly stops vehicles to see whether they contain cattle. People for Animals, which started as an animal rights group, said that since 2014 it has shut down some of its city units, including in Delhi, due to allegations of vigilantism and extortion against its members.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, when he was chief minister of Gujarat during the 2014 national election campaign, repeatedly called for the protection of cows, raising the specter of a “pink revolution” by the previous government that he claimed had endangered cows and other cattle to export meat. BJP leaders have attempted to portray the majority Hindu population as victims, whipping up fear of Muslim men who they say kidnap, rape, or lure Hindu women into relationships as part of a plot to make India into a Muslim-majority country. In the period leading up to the Uttar Pradesh state elections in 2017, a BJP lawmaker, Yogi Adityanath, the current Chief Minister, raised fears of a Hindu exodus in western Uttar Pradesh, which has the largest concentration of Muslims in the state. The HRW also said that since the BJP came to power in May 2014, extremist Hindu groups supporting Modi and his party have led vigilante mob attacks across the country to enforce “nationalism.” Senior BJP leaders, including elected officials and leaders of various groups who claim to promote Hindu rights, have instigated hate crimes.

**Amnesty, in its 2016/2017 report said that Dalits and Adivasis continued to face widespread abuses.** Per official statistics released in August, more than 45,000 crimes against members of Scheduled Castes and almost 11,000 crimes against Scheduled Tribes were reported in 2015.

In January, the suicide of Dalit student Rohith Vemula led to nationwide protests and debates on the discrimination and violence faced by Dalits in universities. In March, the police arrested students and faculty peacefully protesting at the University of Hyderabad, where Rohith Vemula had studied. In July, widespread protests broke out in Una, Gujarat, following the public flogging of four Dalit men by a vigilante cow protection group for skinning a dead cow – a traditional occupation for certain Dalits.

In April, the Central Government passed **the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Rules**, which specified relief mechanisms available to victims of caste-based violence.

Ground realities are almost always packed against women who still struggle to get their rights. The NDA Government has made clear shortfalls while legislating on women, and those legislations that were performed have been implemented poorly. **Nearly 90%** of the funds allotted for the Beti Padhao, Beti Bachao programme remain unutilised. The lack of legislation on women is quite evident and has perhaps, unfortunately taken a backseat in the shadow of other legislations that have been laid significantly more focus on. **The patriarchal tendencies of most political parties that share power in the country and the indifference of successive governments towards the political empowerment of women continue to prevent the passing of the Women’s Reservation Bill in the Parliament.** Gender inequality is a serious concern in most

sectors but the gap between men and women has narrowed the least in political representation. Women make up merely 22% of lower houses in Parliaments around the world and in India, this number is less than half at 10.8% in the outgoing Lok Sabha. While this dismal statistic has only improved marginally in India over the last three election cycles, globally it has almost doubled, from 11.7% in 1997.

Deprivation of power among women continues to be a political reality in India today. Women are perpetually excluded from decision-making at every step of the ladder, starting from the household to the top layer of policy making. Although the Constitution of India attempts to remove gender inequalities by interdicting discrimination based on sex and class, and enshrining fundamental rights for all citizens, women still have only *de jure rather than de facto* access to these rights.

There is no denying the fact that greater participation of women in the political process would be a pre-condition for their economic and social emancipation. However, even though a significantly large number of women vote in the country, yet only a few of them assume the reins of power. Paradoxically, though women have held the posts of President and Prime Minister as well as Chief Ministers of various states in India, **the country ranks 20th from the bottom in terms of representation of women in Parliament**, as per the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2012.

Thus, as you can see Gender Inequality in The Lok Sabha is a major issue, which is why we would encourage the delegates to not limit their research on this topic to this guide, and we expect this issue to be taken up by Members of Parliament.



# Messages from the Executive Board and Evaluation Criteria

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*Hello Delegates!*

*It is an honour to be called back to school to chair a committee in the annual event that is undoubtedly my favourite part of the school year. These two days will give you an immense amount of opportunity to share your opinion and get rid of any sort of fear you have of speaking publicly.*

*Personal biases aside, you must remember to not deviate from your party's policies. Address fellow delegates with respect and dignity. Raise points effectively and make well-structured arguments. Use a fair bit of professionalism in your speech.*

*Every time you are handed the mic, **make sure** that your address to the committee is **relevant to the context of current proceedings**.*

*Incredibly excited to interact with you all! Best of luck, let's raise the bar.*

I will be evaluating delegates on the following-

- 1) **Leadership Skills-** I will allot points in favour of delegates who can spearhead the committee into new directions, exhibit clear authority over proceedings and are an influential addition to the House.
- 2) **Professionalism-** Perhaps the hardest to exhibit in a dynamic committee such as this. You will be held in high regard if you use appropriate titles, follow Parliamentary procedure, raise apt points and are diplomatic in your approach.
- 3) **Content of Speech and Analytical Skills-** Be well researched, thorough in your knowledge and a powerhouse when it comes to the depth and width of your comprehension and this shouldn't be a problem. Impress the Executive Board and you will be awarded.

4) **Activeness During Question Hour and Zero Hour**

- **Ritvik Verma, Chairperson**

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*Hi guys!*

*I'm Sanchaali and I'll be your Vice-Chair for the duration of this committee. Firstly, I'll tell you something about myself. I'm currently studying in Grade 12 and my hobbies include singing and reading fiction. In my free time, I generally catch up on the current affairs and binge watch the TV Show 'Suits'. My MUN journey started 2 years back and since then, MUNs have not remained just an activity but have become a passion for me. Since this might be the first MUN for quite a few of you, I'd like to share my first MUN experience. I was in Grade 10 and didn't know how a MUN functioned. I remember sitting quietly and observing all the other delegates on the first day, speaking only on the second and third. Still, I made it a point to do the best I could do even with my lack of experience. I only won a Verbal Mention, but ended up learning a lot more which helped me later. I hope that you'll enjoy the 2-day session of Lok Sabha as much as I will. I think the concept of MUNs is much larger than just an academic simulation or a competitive platform. Indian committees give you an insight of the complex political realities; make you realize the powers and responsibilities of a decision-maker and brings out the leader within you. No one is a born leader, but Indian committees surely hone and groom the leader within you. This could be the start of a MUN journey for some of you and one of the last MUNs for some, but I sincerely hope that all of you research,*

*participate and give your best for this committee. All of us plan to make it the most fun MUN experience you've had so far and we need your support to do so. I hope you enjoy this committee and hope to make it a memorable experience for all of us. Best of luck and hope to see you all in committee!*

I will be evaluating delegates on the following-

#### **Position Paper-**

- Delegate's demonstration of understanding of the topics at hand
- Delegate's demonstration of understanding of their country's background and policies

#### **General Participation in Committee-**

- Delegate's proactive engagement in formal debate (aka. Points of Inquiry and Speeches)
  - on topic / relevant to the issues at hand
  - collaborative with fellow delegations
    - diplomacy
- Delegate's proactive engagement in informal debate (aka. Caucusing)
  - actively engaged with fellow delegates during informal debate and uses given time to rally support, form blocs, develop working resolution, etc.
    - engages in discourse with a variety of delegations

#### **Speeches-**

- Relevance to and understanding of the topic at hand
- Delegate's demonstration of understanding of their country's positions and policies
  - Diplomatic courtesy and style with which the speech is delivered

#### **Confidence and Presentation Skills-**

- Delegate speaks loudly, in a convincing tone and using inclusive body language while making eye contact with fellow delegates.

- **Sanchaali Chakravorty, Vice-Chairperson**

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*Dear respected delegates,*

*For the next couple of days, you and fellow ministers of the Parliament will be discussing something that is extremely prevalent and important to each and every one of us. Some of you may support the current government while some of you may not, but there is no denying that this is something that surrounds our day to day lives.*

*However, when you are in the committee, you are not you but the person you're representing; it is very important to remember this when you discuss anything in the committee. This is so that you don't go against your party's policies just because you feel a certain way about something (MUN 101).*

*The very structure of a democratic system is beautiful; the people elect their executive and legislature, both of which need each other's cooperation to work smoothly and in some cases, share a close relationship of accountability. Our system of governance portrays democracy in its purest self and shows us the absolute and true potential of it- the potential and the power of the people.*

*You will be reviewing the NDA government, which has created quite a stir in the last couple of years. I believe that this is an agenda that affects us and that is the very reason why I expect a lot from this committee. Happy MUNing!*

I will be evaluating delegates on the following-

- **Speech-**

Minimum- Poor and unclear oral presentation.

Maximum- Clear and direct presentation, a good command over the language as well as a good grasp on the topic.

- **Content-**

Minimum- Very less knowledge on the topic and a clear lack of research.

Maximum- Thorough research, sensible points.

- **Points raised-**

Minimum- The point was invalid/wasted the committee's time.

Maximum- The point showed in depth research and helped the committee (maybe even shifted the course of the discussion).

- **Diplomacy-**

Minimum- The delegate was unnecessarily rude and impolite.

Maximum- The delegate was extremely diplomatic in his or her approach and was calm and composed throughout his or her speech.

- **Srishti Sensarma, Vice-Chairperson**

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## References and Further Reading

- ✚ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/countries/asia-and-the-pacific/india/report-india/>
- ✚ <http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/communal-riots-up-17-in-2015-under-nda/articleshow/51130192.cms>
- ✚ [http://www.huffingtonpost.in/2015/02/25/amnesty-modi\\_n\\_6748946.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.in/2015/02/25/amnesty-modi_n_6748946.html)
- ✚ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/04/27/india-cow-protection-spurs-vigilante-violence>
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- ✚ <http://www.makeinindia.com/about>