LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Dear Prospective Members,

At the outset on behalf of the Executive Board, we extend a warm welcome to all of you and congratulate you on being a part of the Lok Sabha being simulated at Oakridge Model United Nations Conference.

The committee being simulated, would unlike most other simulations you must have heard of or been a part of; focus on political intellect, logical intellect, analytical application of thoughts, and strategic application of thoughts in addressing the issue(s) at hand.

Kindly note, we are not looking for existing (impractical) solutions, or statements that would be a copy paste of what the person you are representing has already stated; instead we seek an out of the box solution from you, while knowing and understanding the impending limitations of the person and his politics you represent.

This Introductory guide would be as abstract as possible, and would just give you a basic perspective on what you can expect from the committee and areas in which your research should be focused at this given point in time. Given the extremely political and volatile nature of the agendas of the committee, your presence of mind and analytical aptitude is something which we as the executive board would be looking to test.

Kindly do not limit your research to the areas highlighted below; but, ensure that you logically deduce and push your research to areas associated with the issues mentioned.

Kindly note, that unlike most conventional / unconventional committees you have attended, this committee shall have "substantive" intervention by the Executive Board.

The objective of this background guide is to provide you with a 'background' of the issue(s) at hand and therefore it might seem to some as not being comprehensive enough.

We are sure however that this background guide gives you a perfect launching pad to start with your research. But ensure this isn't your only research. This guide shall deal only with a skeletal overview of the agenda. Be advised that the BG can't be cited to give any content legitimacy in the committee. This is merely a consolidation of relevant information to aid the process of research.

Finally, please note the use of any electronic device is prohibited in the committee. It is imperative that all of you follow this guideline. You may carry your laptop's / tabs with you which may be permitted to be used but only during the documentation process. Non-adherence to this rule would result in immediate suspension from the committee.

Good Luck,

Executive Board, Lok Sabha, Oakridge Model United Nations Conference.

Suggested Pattern for Researching

To start researching on the agenda of the committee, participating members should do the following :

1. Start researching your respective portfolio and his/her political affiliations. As no definite document may be found which contains the stand of a party or an individual on a specific agenda, the delegates must do the tedious yet rewarding work of going through past news clippings/ magazine articles/party website/individual's website/social media handles/ YouTube videos/ Press Releases/ Party publications et al., to find statements on the said agenda. Further, a detailed understanding can be gained by studying the ideology and principles adopted by the party/individual.

2. After gaining knowledge about the portfolio, the delegates must start their research on the agenda at hand. This must be done by researching further upon the agenda using the footnotes and links given in the guide and from other sources such as academic papers, institutional or governmental reports, national reports, news articles, blogs etc. Don't depend only on the content and links given in this Introductory guide.

3. Characterise the agenda into sub-topics and prepare speeches and statements on them. The delegates should also prepare a list of possible solutions and actions the AIPPM can suggest on the issue, although those solutions may only be taken up in the final press release of the committee if they have been discussed during the course of debate in the committee. Remember we are only a consensus building committee and not a committee empowered to take any decisions whatsoever.

4. Assemble proof/evidence for any important piece of information/ allegation you are going to use in committee and keep your research updated using various news sources, specifically government studies or data released by the same.

5. To have an edge in the committee in terms of debate, delegates must also research about the other portfolios and try to find their contradictory statements or controversial stands on various issues to raise allegations/ substantial questions in the committee.

Lastly, we would expect all the delegates to put in serious efforts in research and preparation for the simulation and work hard to make it a fruitful learning experience for all. Feel free to contact the undersigned if you have any queries or doubts.

Key Pointers to Note:

1. Lok Sabha is a legislative committee primarily. That said, it can't be converted into a highly technical legal committee per se in terms of your approach, an issue we mostly encounter in simulations at MUN's.
2. Sloganeering and Walk outs and other such over-dramatic political maneuverings while not recommended, may be executed but ought to be moderated in line with the Rules of Business of the Lok Sabha.
3. The simulation of an Lok Sabha is meant reflect on a better version of the MP you are representing not a replica. You will be expected to showcase the better version of the individual you represent keeping in mind the individual and political ideological limitations.
4. Be thorough with your political ideology – from a Political Party perspective and individual perspective. (No, they aren't necessarily the same.)
5. There shall be no award by default – you earn your award. The criteria is pretty simple.
   To qualify for the:
   ***Best Member award* – Score a minimum of 75%**
   ***High Commendation* – Score a minimum of 68%**
   ***Special Mention* – Score a minimum of 60%**
   ***Honourable Mention* – Score a minimum of 50%**
   As you may have noticed there shall be no fake award called the Verbal Mention, if you deserve an award, you shall get it on the stage like the others. And every single award from this committee (if you qualify for any, that is) shall be given on the stage with a certificate for sure. Merely meeting the qualification criteria doesn't mean you will get that specific award - especially if there is more than 1 MP qualifying for the award. In such cases - we would go in the order of who is ranked higher and give them that award.
6. The official language of the committee shall be English. We will take a consensus vote on the usage of Hindi. If all members of the committee vote in favour of adding Hindi – only then shall the committee assume a bilingual character. This is to ensure there is a level playing field for all members. Even if one member isn't comfortable in understanding Hindi, in the interest of parity we shall stick only to English.
7. Documentation of the Committee shall be briefly discussed during the RoP session. Further, the format will only be explained towards the end of Day 2 or start of Day 3. Having said that, we would encourage all of you to come prepared with a Statement from the House Speech which could be for a minimum duration of 90 seconds to 120 seconds that covers your summative stance on the agenda in question aligned with your party policy and individual stance.
8. Should there be any Press Conference by the IP / National Press – the same may be scheduled during the start of Day 3. No time before or later to ensure that there is no break of flow in committee proceedings.
9. Sample Scoresheet will be explained to you during the RoP session.
10. **Every member** will have to come prepared with an Opening Statement Speech on the agenda at hand. This should be a minimum of 120 seconds long. It should be a stance summary of yours on the agenda at hand keeping in mind the political and ideological limitations you'd have considering the individual you are representing. The default initial speakers would be the PM and LoP.
11. Details of the scoring criterion shall be explained to you during the RoP session (session 1) of the committee.

Agenda : *Discussion on the National Security of India with emphasis on Cross Border terrorism, climate change and any other relevant aspects.*

I. Introduction

National security in India is a complex and evolving field shaped by traditional and non-traditional threats. While military preparedness remains a cornerstone, the 21st century has introduced challenges such as cross-border terrorism, climate change, cybersecurity, and information warfare. The government and the opposition hold divergent views on how these challenges should be addressed. This guide presents a balanced overview of key national security domains, outlining both pro-government and pro-opposition perspectives.

II. Core Areas of National Security

- Cross-Border Terrorism – Originating from Pakistan and Afghanistan, especially affecting Jammu & Kashmir and border states.

- Internal Security – Involving Maoist insurgency, unrest in the Northeast, and communal riots.

- Cybersecurity – Threats to digital infrastructure, critical data, and national identity.

- Climate Change and Ecological Security – Resource stress due to floods, droughts, and environmental degradation.

- Border Management & Illegal Immigration – Pressures along India's borders with Bangladesh, Myanmar, and China.

- Maritime Security – Securing sea lanes and tackling piracy, especially in the Indian Ocean region.

- Energy & Infrastructure Security – Protection of grids, oil refineries, nuclear sites, and data centres.

- Economic Security – Combating illicit finance, cyber theft, and economic coercion.

- Information Warfare and Misinformation – Addressing deepfakes, propaganda, and foreign interference in public discourse.

III. Cross-Border Terrorism

A. Pro-Government Perspective

The government has taken a strong stance against cross-border terrorism by responding with preemptive military actions. The 2016 surgical strikes and the 2019 Balakot airstrike were significant operations aimed at terror camps across the border. Diplomatic efforts have led to Pakistan being grey-listed by the FATF for terrorism financing. The abrogation of Article 370 is claimed to have integrated Jammu & Kashmir more tightly with India, with security operations witnessing increased success.

B. Pro-Opposition Perspective

The opposition argues that while bold actions are welcome, national security is being politicised. They question the transparency around Balakot and the long-term impact of removing Article 370 without consensus. They highlight that local recruitment by militant groups has risen, and that merely militarising the region may exacerbate alienation without political outreach or economic development.

C. Cross-Border Terrorism: Major Attacks

i. Pulwama Attack (14 February 2019)

A suicide car bomber attacked a convoy of CRPF personnel in Lethpora, Pulwama district, killing 40 soldiers and the attacker, Adil Ahmad Dar, from Jaish-e-Mohammed .

It triggered an India–Pakistan military standoff and served as the backdrop for the Balakot airstrike. Government emphasised its zero-tolerance policy; opposition questioned strategic transparency and lack of intelligence reforms .

ii. Pahalgam Attack / Operation Sindoor (22 April 2025)

On 22 April 2025, terrorists opened fire on tourists (primarily Hindu, one Christian and a local Muslim guide) in Baisaran Valley, Pahalgam. Twenty-six were killed, about twenty injured. The assailants asked victims about their religion before firing. The Resistance Front (linked to Lashkar-e-Taiba) initially claimed responsibility .

In Parliament, the government launched Operation Sindoor: Indian forces struck nine terrorist camps over 100 km inside Pakistan, reportedly killing over 100 terrorists, and intercepted nearly 1,000 Pakistani missiles/drones by 9 May. Pakistan retaliated by shelling civilian areas. A ceasefire was declared by 10 May 2025 .

iii. Operation Mahadev (May–July 2025)

After the Pahalgam attack, Indian security forces in a campaign named Operation Mahadev tracked and eliminated three terrorists—identified as Suleiman, Afghan, and Gibran—all "A-list" Lashkar operatives—on 22 July 2025. The involvement of Army, CRPF, IB, Jammu & Kashmir Police and NIA confirmation added credibility to the counter-terror success story .

D. Recent Parliamentary Debates (Ongoing Session, July 2025)

The ongoing special session addressed Operations Sindoor and Mahadev, with robust debate in both Houses:

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh (Lok Sabha & Rajya Sabha): Emphasised that government evaluated multiple strategies but chose maximum disruption of terrorist infrastructure while minimizing civilian harm. Highlighted diplomatic resilience and strategic self-reliance .

Home Minister Amit Shah: Provided operational details—nine terror bases neutralised, more than 100 terrorists killed, zero Pakistani civilian casualties, identification of perpetrators through forensic methods, settlement of ceasefire via India's terms. He contrasted today's operation with past missteps attributed to Congress governments .

Prime Minister Narendra Modi (addressing Lok Sabha): Rejected claims of international pressure; warned against nuclear blackmail; asserted deterrence, autonomy in strategic decision making, and strength of armed forces. Clarified that operation was purely national and India would not bow to any threat—even from the U.S. or Pakistan. First public disclosure that nearly 1,000 Pakistani missiles/drones were intercepted during the retaliatory phase on 9 May .

Opposition Voices:

Priyanka Gandhi (Congress): Called Government's responses emotionally driven and accused it of avoiding core accountability—lamented no security cover at Pahalgam and questioned ceasefire rationale and narrative shifts blaming Nehru or her mother's grief .

Rahul Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge (Congress): Raised objections over timing of ceasefire, premature social-media announcement (via Trump), lack of clarity on fighter squadron status, and transparency on weapon procurement.

TMC MP Sayyoni Ghosh & others: Questioned intelligence failure—"How could terrorists reach tourist site undetected?" and criticized narrative masking "serious security lapse" .

Asaduddin Owaisi (AIMIM): Demanded accountability for victims' families; raised questions about operational readiness—only 29 of 42 fighter squadrons operational—called for depoliticized strategic approach and re-greylisting Pakistan at FATF .

Akhilesh Yadav (SP) also labelled Operation Sindoor as a confrontation with China rather than Pakistan, urged reevaluation of economic dependence on China, and asked about land control changes since 2014 .

IV. Climate Change as a National Security Threat

A. Pro-Government Perspective
India has taken leadership in climate action with initiatives such as the International Solar Alliance and the LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) campaign. The country's commitment to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2070 and increased reliance on renewable energy are positive developments. Disaster relief efforts have improved due to stronger NDMA coordination and infrastructure planning.

B. Pro-Opposition Perspective
Critics point to the weakening of environmental laws and approvals being rushed for industrial projects. Climate-related migration and water stress have received little policy attention. The opposition also criticizes the government for not having a comprehensive heatwave or flood mitigation policy for vulnerable populations.

V. Cybersecurity and Digital Threats

A. Pro-Government Perspective
Cyber threats have been countered with institutional mechanisms like CERT-IN and the introduction of cybersecurity guidelines for critical sectors. Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)

like Aadhaar, UPI, and DigiLocker have made governance efficient and secured with layered protection.

B. Pro-Opposition Perspective

The Pegasus spyware controversy raised significant concerns about surveillance without legal oversight. Until 2023, India lacked a comprehensive data protection law. The opposition also questions the over-centralization of digital data and fears misuse against political dissidents and journalists.

VI. Maritime and Border Security

A. Pro-Government Perspective

Following the 2008 Mumbai attacks, India significantly improved coastal surveillance, including radar chains and maritime patrols. The Navy has increased presence in the Indo-Pacific through exercises and partnerships (e.g., QUAD). Infrastructure at border regions has improved dramatically.

B. Pro-Opposition Perspective

Opposition leaders have repeatedly pointed to Chinese incursions in Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh. The Galwan clashes of 2020, in which Indian soldiers died, are cited as evidence of poor strategic planning. They also highlight insufficient protection for smaller ports and the need for faster deployment of coastal security infrastructure.

VII. Internal Security

A. Pro-Government Perspective

Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) has seen a significant decline, attributed to better intelligence and area domination. The Agnipath scheme is presented as a bold reform to create a lean, tech-savvy military force and reduce pension burdens.

B. Pro-Opposition Perspective

The Agnipath scheme has triggered protests from youth, who see it as lacking long-term job security. In states like Manipur, law and order collapsed in 2023–24, with the Centre being accused of inaction. Frequent use of UAPA and sedition laws against protesters is seen as an erosion of civil liberties.

VIII. Suggested Readings
1. Ministry of Home Affairs – Annual Reports
2. Ministry of Defence – Official Documents
3. Press Information Bureau (PIB)
4. National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)
5. NITI Aayog Climate Reports
6. International Solar Alliance
7. Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA)

8. Observer Research Foundation (ORF)
9. PRS Legislative Research
10. Parliamentary Debates Archive
11. Economic Times – Operation Sindhoor
12. IndiaTimes – Operation Mahadev
13. NDTV – Pahalgam Attack
14. Lowy Institute – Kashmir Crisis
15. Times of India – Akhilesh on Operation Sindhoor
16. https://icct.nl/publication/operation-sindoor-turning-point-india-addressing-terrorism-kashmir
17. https://basicint.org/operation-sindoor-establishes-indias-new-response-doctrine-towards-pakistan/
18. https://www.newsonair.gov.in/pm-modi-asserts-no-world-leader-asked-india-to-stop-op-sindoor/
19. https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/why-werent-security-personnel-present-in-pahalgam-priyanka-gandhi-asks-8973548
20. https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/centre-failed-india-on-security-kanimozhi-in-lok-sabha-debate-on-op-sindoor-101753780964554.html
21. https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/operation-sindoor-debate-gaurav-gogoi-leads-opposition-charge-against-government-in-lok-sabha-asks-how-terrorists-reached-pahalgam/articleshow/122951168.cms
22. https://thefederal.com/category/politics/operation-sindoor-debate-parliament-row-amit-shah-priyanka-199307
23. https://www.hindustantimes.com/opinion/indias-imperatives-for-a-national-security-strategy-101753806288958.html
24. https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/indias-rising-stature-would-lead-to-national-security-challenges-in-years-to-come-home-minister-amit-shah/article69859694.ece
25. https://www.orfonline.org/research/why-maritime-borders-are-critical-in-india-s-national-security-thinking
26. https://www.awazthevoice.in/india-news/internal-security-challenges-to-remain-dynamic-due-to-neighbourhood-amit-shah-39581.html
27. https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/telangana/think-tank-challenging-indias-national-security-playbook/article69725006.ece
28. https://www.orfonline.org/research/current-trends-in-india-s-national-security-2025

Caveat: Please note this background only has summative information and may not be used as a verifiable document. You are expected to verify any information before using it in the committee.