



**Background Guide of Lok Sabha**

**AGENDA:**

***Preventing Political and  
Communal Riots in India***

## ABOUT THE AGENDA

### Preventing political and communal riots in India

The diversity in India is unique. Being a large country with large population, India presents endless varieties of physical features and cultural patterns. In short, India is “the epitome of the world.” The vast population is composed of people having diverse creeds, customs and colors. Economic development, level of education and political culture of the people in various social segments differ from region to region. We all have come through the riots taking place in India. When we look back at our history we can find many chaos causing riots and the main cause behind them is the difference in their ideas. Political and religions create communities with difference in ideas. But this includes more than that...

Lets see some cases of such riots

The riots in Uttar Pradesh’s Muzaffarnagar district, in which 62 Indians died (42 Muslim and 20 Hindu), will accrue to the benefit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

The violence came after skirmishing over the sexual harassment of a girl, which escalated into a conflict between Muslims and Jats that continued for days as the state struggled to put out the flames.

The reason that the rioting will work to the advantage of the BJP has to do with the nature of both, riots and voting. Community participation is a fact of the Indian riot, just as it is of voting. It is a disturbing fact, but it is true. And we can demonstrate this through the events in Gujarat.

When a couple of years ago, courts finally began to convict the murderers of Gujarat's 2002 riots, a remarkable fact emerged, which could be observed in the names of the convicted men. All the nine men guilty of murdering three Dawoodi Bohras in Malva Bhagol were Patels. All the 21 men convicted of a large massacre in the same village of Odh were found to be Patels. In Sardarpura village of Mehsana district, 31 men were jailed for the murder of 11 children, 17 women and five men. Of these murderers, 30 were Patels.

In another massacre in Dipda Darwaja area of Visnagar, the accused included BJP legislator Prahlad Patel. The case was initially dropped after the police, under officer MK Patel, deliberately made a hash of investigations. Three women, all Patels, were accused of assisting in the killing.

Of the 20 men convicted in the case, 19 were Patels.

The Gujarati Hindutva movement is led by men like Praveen Togadia (who is a Patel) and Babu Bajrangi, also a Patel. The Vishwa Hindu Parishad in the state was controlled by Jaideep Patel.

The Patels are the dominant peasant caste of Gujarat and the equivalent of the Reddys in Andhra Pradesh, the Gowdas in Karnataka, the Jats in Punjab and Haryana, the Kurmis in Bihar and the Patils in Maharashtra.

Whenever there is violence between Hindus and Muslims, whether it is created by the BJP (as it did during the 1992 movement against the Babri Masjid) or through other events (as happened with the riots in Gujarat), the

result is a polarisation. The votes of the rioting Hindus tend to go to the BJP, while the Muslims look for a defensive option. In Gujarat, the caste that has put and kept the BJP in power for two decades is the Patidar community of the Patels. This caste dominates every BJP cabinet and Narendra Modi is actually the leader of the Patels, just as Mulayam Singh is the leader of Muslims in UP.

In Uttar Pradesh, the Jats, who are seething from the riots, will queue up behind the BJP in 2014. This will take the party over the top because it has already locked in the upper caste vote in the state. The addition of the Jat peasantry to its caste coalition will make the BJP the party to beat.

On the other hand, the Muslims will be terrified by the thought of Narendra Modi coming to power at the centre. The first thing they will do is abandon Mayawati's Bahujan Samaj Party, which they have been voting for, because it is pragmatic and can ally with the BJP.

The Congress might benefit because the Muslims will also be angry with their old friend Mulayam Singh, whose son is UP's chief minister, for allowing the riot to escalate.

In all communal violence across India, 107 people died this year, of whom, 66 were Muslim and 41 Hindu. This is a small number given the size of India's population and the scale of violence in the states surrounding it. But it is a divisive violence.

Even though the thought is unpleasant, the reality is that UP will vote along communal lines in the coming election, just as it did in the aftermath of the Babri Masjid's demolition.

The Anti-Sikh Riots of 1984 started after Indira Gandhi, the-then Prime Minister of India was assassinated by her Sikh bodyguards. This led to a huge amount of chaos and bloodshed in Delhi as well as other parts of India and most of the violence was directed against the Sikhs. Almost 2800-3000 people died in the riots and nearly 2100 of these people died in Delhi itself. Ever since that incident several human rights organizations have been asking the government to take harsh action against the perpetrators of the riots. While a number of culprits have been meted out punishment, there are still some people whom the Indian judicial system is yet to try.

### **Aligarh Riots of 2006**

The Aligarh Riots of 2006 took place on 5 April. It was Ram Navami. The riots happened because of an alleged misunderstanding between Hindus and Muslims. Almost 6 people died and many were injured. Soon after the incident, authorities imposed a curfew, helping the region become normal once again.

### **Muzaffarnagar Riots of 2013**

These riots are one among the major blotches on the history of Uttar Pradesh, as well as India itself. The exact cause of these riots are not known, but with started with a clash between Hindus and Muslims on 21 August, 2013. It led to the death of 423 Muslims and 20 Hindus and disruption in the lives of more than 50,000 people of the district. The riots also contributed to a certain amount of sexual violence like gang rape. Thirteen such instances had occurred during the riots.

These also involves some big problems like –

1. Stop on national progress
2. Break in unity
3. Naxalites
4. Increase in death of soldier

Include these sub agendas in the debate...

In 2009, Naxalites were active across approximately 180 districts in ten states of India. This include , Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal.

The main reason causing Naxalite movement and its existence even in post in post cold war era is failure of implementing the *5th & 9th Schedules* of the Constitution of India.

The Fifth Schedule states briefly that all scheduled areas of the country which are forest reserves and inhabited by scheduled tribes are to be administered by the governors of the states by appointing tribal advisory councils from among the tribals of a particular forest reserve or a scheduled area. Regrettably, no governor of any state in India has ever constituted tribal advisory councils of scheduled tribes living in the reserve forests or scheduled areas of the states they were governing. In this deliberately created vacuum, the chief ministers of the states have merrily administered their reserve forests by leasing forests for mining to private companies, evicting the tribals living in these forests for millennia.

The Ninth Schedule of the Constitution dealt with the fact that cultivable land which over thousands of years had come under the ownership of upper castes should be acquired by the government and redistributed among India's landless

peasantry. Since land revenue was a state subject, the states were directed to legislate land ceiling laws and implement them by acquiring farmlands from landlords and redistributing them to landless farmers who for centuries worked under the most abominable conditions on the lands of the landowners.

Regrettably, only three states have implemented the land ceiling laws legislated by all the states by 1955. These were Jammu and Kashmir, West Bengal and Kerala, the latter two when Communist ministries were ruling there. In West Bengal, the jotedars—as the landlords are called there—tried to manipulate the land records and deceive the landless farmers and the government. This resulted in an uprising in a village called Naxalbari led by the Communist Party of India, Marxist-Leninist (CPI-ML), a faction of the Communist party. In Kerala, the land ceiling was successfully implemented in the plains districts and this has prevented the Maoist Naxalites from organising a revolution there.