



MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

VSA MODEL PARLIMENT 2022

Agenda: To discuss China's recent expansionist steps with regard to Taiwan and the Indo-Pacific region and its implications to India's foreign policies

LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE BOARD

Members of the Council,

As a member of this council, you are expected to be respectful and formal while addressing the committee during the proceedings, derogatory language will not be tolerated. You should also have comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the mandate of your allotted portfolio and the agenda put forth. Although the agenda has three focal emphasis, the members can refer various other case studies for broader scope of discussion. We also expect a productive debate , analysis and action plan formulation for the council as a whole. This committee works on the principle of collective action and consensus. Hence, the members should have themselves aligned with this principle.

The executive board is open to any queries pertaining to the Council and the Agenda.

We wish the best of luck to all the members of the council and hope you have a great experience at the flagship committee of this Parliament.

Regards,
Nikhil Raju
(Co- Chairperson)

Maleah Mehta
(Co-Chairperson)

Rhea Kabra
(Vice-Chairperson)

INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE

The Ministry of External Affairs is headed by the Minister of External Affairs, Subrahmanyam Jaishankar. It was established on 2nd September, 1946. The Ministry of External Affairs of India is the government agency responsible for implementing Indian foreign policy. The Ministry represents the Government of India through Embassies and is also responsible for India's representation at the United Nations and other International Organizations and expanding and safeguarding India's influence and Indian interests across the world by providing developmental aid to other countries worth billions of dollars. It also advises other Ministries and State Governments on foreign governments and institutions.

AGENDA

To discuss China's recent expansionist steps with regard to Taiwan and the Indo-Pacific region and its implications to India's foreign policies?

INTRODUCTION TO AGENDA

Rising tensions in the Taiwan Strait have unnerved governments around the world, including in South Asia. Beijing has expanded its influence in the region in recent years, even as Taipei has sought to expand its own commercial connections. The stakes are especially high for India because of its rivalry with China, its quiet efforts to deepen engagement with Taiwan, and its role in U.S. Indo-Pacific policy.

PREMISE OF THE AGENDA

China has been pursuing expansionist designs for a long time now. Being a communist country, analysts believe expansionism is crucial to its ideology. Besides developing its comprehensive national power, it wants consolidation of its land and maritime boundaries, and to 'reunify' and 'reclaim' its 'lost' territorial and maritime borders, which it calls its 'core interests'. Here, Tibet, Xinjiang, Taiwan and the South China Sea become relevant.

Taiwan has been governed independently of China since 1949, but Beijing views the island as part of its territory. Beijing has vowed to eventually "unify" Taiwan with the mainland, using force if necessary. Tensions are rising. Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen, whose party platform favors independence, has rebuked Beijing's efforts to undermine democracy. Beijing has ramped up political and military pressure on Taipei.

India has expanded economic cooperation with Taiwan more than any of its neighbors, in great part because of its sharp rivalry with China. Trade with India accounts for nearly 80 percent of Taiwan's trade with South Asia. In recent decades, New Delhi and Taipei have inked a bilateral investment agreement and pursued science and technology cooperation.

Despite India's vows to curtail commercial cooperation with China, it remains a top trade partner. New Delhi has also never opposed Beijing's "One China" principle—its view that it has sovereignty over the mainland, Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan. Furthermore, its guiding foreign-policy principle—strategic autonomy—forbids it from taking formal positions on other countries' disputes. If China were to invade Taiwan, India would likely take a muted position—one comparable to its stand on Russia's war in Ukraine.

India already carefully manages its diplomatic relations with a few rivals—the United States and Russia, Iran and Saudi Arabia, to name a couple—and escalating tensions between China and Taiwan present another case. So far, India has succeeded at this balancing act by staying quiet.

Sana Hashmi, an expert on India-Taiwan relations based in Taipei, told me this week that if New Delhi made any public statement, it would most likely cover the “bare minimum,” and probably not mention China or Taiwan by name. If it did, this would “mean a policy change,” she said.

Yet the broader geopolitics matter for India. China-Taiwan tensions are playing out in the Indo-Pacific region, where India strongly supports U.S. policy that revolves around countering China. Even major Chinese military provocations falling short of an invasion would be a major blow to the policy, which aims to keep the region peaceful. Current tensions are “destabilizing the Indo Pacific, and that does impact India’s security interests and its objectives in the Indo-Pacific,”

The destabilizing effects of tensions in the Taiwan Strait could still present a problem for South Asia more broadly—by threatening some of its partners.

PROCEDURE FOR THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Proceedings of the Committee:

1. Attendance

2. Points of Simulation of Committee:

a. Point of Order, validity on the given basis:

i. Factual Fallacy

ii. On Change of Stance/Statement/Verbatim of a Member

iii. procedural violation by any member.

b. Point of Information = For questioning a member (Interpellation) c. Point of Personal Privilege: This point can be raised regarding any personal concern.

d. Point of Administrative Inquiry = An enquiry on procedure/crisis/substantive doubts

4-5 attackers, 1 civilian and 7 security personnel (5 Defence Security Corps personnel; 1 IAF Garud commando; 1 National Security Guard)

3. Opening Statement:

Each general/minister/director has to present a 40 Sec opening statement to address the issue.

4. Discussion and Formulating Plan of Action

a. Motion to Strategise. This motion is raised for an informal session to formulate the plan of action. b. Motion to Discuss. This motion is raised to conduct formal discussion and strategy planning. It can also be used for discussing progress in the plan of action with suitable sub-topics.

The given motions must be raised with a suitable justification of doing so.

5. At the end of the Day 2: we are going to have an effective plan of action for the entire committee. In addition, there will be a final reading and amendments to the unanimous plan of action.

6. The committee: will be formulating a press statement at the end of the 2nd day for the press conference.

If you require any clarifications regarding any aspect of this committee, feel free to contact:

Committee email ID - meavsamodelparliament@gmail.com