

YCCEXMUN

All India Political Parties Meet (AIPPM)

Agenda: Debate on the Efficacy of Anti-Conversion Laws: Protecting Freedom of Religion vs. Majoritarianism

**Committee Chairs:
Piyush Pariwakam
Varad Dorlikar**

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the **All India Political Parties Meet (AIPPM) at YCCE X MUN**. This committee provides a unique platform where representatives of various political parties engage in discussions on pressing national issues, shaping the discourse of policy and governance in India. The agenda before us—Debate on the Efficacy of Anti-Conversion Laws: Protecting Freedom of Religion vs. Majoritarianism—touches upon fundamental rights, secularism, and the complex balance between religious freedom and state intervention.

The objective of this debate is to critically analyze the impact of anti-conversion laws in India. While some argue these laws are necessary to prevent forced conversions and maintain social harmony, others believe they infringe on individual rights and promote majoritarian dominance. The discussion will explore constitutional provisions, judicial interpretations, and socio-political implications of such laws. As Chairs, we encourage all delegates to engage in rigorous research, maintain their assigned political party's stance, and present well-reasoned arguments. The nature of AIPPM allows for dynamic debates, passionate speeches, and political negotiations. However, we expect a high level of decorum and adherence to parliamentary ethics throughout the session.

We look forward to an engaging and thought-provoking debate. Should you have any queries, feel free to reach out to us.

Regards,

Chairpersons:

Piyush Pariwakam

Varad Dorlikar

Understanding the Agenda

1. Introduction to Anti-Conversion Laws in India

Anti-conversion laws, also known as Freedom of Religion Acts, aim to regulate religious conversions and prevent forced or fraudulent conversions. These laws exist in several Indian states and have sparked debates on their necessity, effectiveness, and potential misuse.

The key concerns revolve around:

- Freedom of Religion: The right to practice, profess, and propagate one's religion (Article 25 of the Indian Constitution).
- Majoritarian Influence: Whether these laws disproportionately target minorities and restrict voluntary conversions.
- Legal and Social Consequences: The implementation and impact of these laws on religious harmony, social justice, and individual rights.

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2. Arguments For and Against Anti-Conversion Laws

In Favour of Anti-Conversion Laws:

- Prevention of Forced Conversions: Protects vulnerable communities from coercion and deceptive conversions.
- Preserving Social Harmony: Aims to prevent communal tensions arising from mass conversions.
- State's Role in Regulation: Governments argue that these laws ensure transparency and uphold public order.

Against Anti-Conversion Laws:

- **Violation of Fundamental Rights:** Critics argue these laws restrict religious freedom and personal choice.
- **Selective Targeting of Minorities:** Allegations that laws disproportionately affect religious minorities and are misused for political purposes.
- **Ambiguity and Misuse:** Vague definitions of "force," "fraud," and "allurement" lead to arbitrary enforcement and harassment.

3. Constitutional and Legal Aspects

- **Article 25:** Guarantees the right to freely profess, practice, and propagate religion, subject to public order, morality, and health.
- **Article 14:** Ensures equality before the law; critics argue anti-conversion laws violate this by targeting specific communities.
- **Supreme Court Judgments:** Past rulings have addressed the delicate balance between religious freedom and state control over conversions.

4. Political Perspectives

As an AIPPM delegate, you will represent a political party's official stance on the issue. Key perspectives include:

- **BJP & Right-Wing Parties:** Generally support strict anti-conversion laws to curb forced conversions and protect Hindu heritage.
- **Congress & Centrist Parties:** Advocate for a balanced approach that upholds religious freedom while preventing coercion.
- **Left-Wing & Regional Parties:** Oppose anti-conversion laws, citing concerns over constitutional rights and majoritarianism.

Delegate Preparation Guide

1. Research & Party Policy

- Understand the official stance of your assigned political party.
- Analyse past statements, legislative actions, and judicial rulings related to anti-conversion laws.
- Explore real-life case studies where these laws have been implemented or contested.

2. Rules of Procedure

- AIPPM follows a parliamentary debate format, with speeches, rebuttals, and informal lobbying playing a crucial role.
- Delegates are expected to maintain political realism—aligning their arguments with their party’s ideology while engaging in strategic negotiations.

3. Role of the Executive Board

- The Chairs will facilitate discussions but will not influence the direction of the debate.
- Delegates must debate, negotiate, and propose solutions to drive the discourse forward.

4. Citing Evidence & Sources

Delegates must base their arguments on credible sources, including:

- Constitutional Provisions & Supreme Court Rulings
- Government Reports & Parliamentary Debates
- News Agencies (The Hindu, Times of India, BBC, Reuters)
- Academic Papers & Human Rights Reports

Conclusion

The debate on anti-conversion laws is at the heart of India's democratic and secular fabric. It raises fundamental questions about individual rights, religious freedom, and the role of the state in regulating faith. Delegates must critically analyse legal, political, and social aspects while adhering to their party's ideological position.

We look forward to an enriching and intellectually stimulating debate at YCCE X MUN!