



**MILIND DEORA**

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT (MP)  
SOUTH MUMBAI



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## My Fellow Citizens,

Your decisive mandate exactly a year ago to have me lead as your MP for a second term is a constant reminder of what our public efforts are really all about: better governance, inclusive politics and a brighter future of new ideas and renewed hope. In addition to my national and constituency driven initiatives I shared with you in previous communiqués, there are several more I have set in motion since.

The gathering crisis of climate change is our greatest environmental challenge today but I am convinced we can mitigate its risks if we mobilize the political will and start taking concerted action. You'll be happy to know I am spearheading a first of its kind multi-party parliamentary group tasked with promoting renewable energy and enhancing energy efficiency in India. This is a great opportunity to put progress over partisanship and move towards a low-carbon high growth economy. With enormous renewable energy resources at its disposal, India can well become a global leader in clean technology.

I recently wrote to the Prime Minister urging the Center to fund a desalination plant in Mumbai so that our city's water shortage woes are substantially alleviated. Clean potable and non-potable water is a fundamental right that must be provided to every citizen before we can even aspire to be a world-class city. In the same vein, I have contested the proposed release of 5,500 acres of salt-pan land in Mumbai's suburbs earmarked for further real estate development. Given that the salt-pans act as natural buffers and absorbers during heavy rains, I have asked the Union Environment Minister to conduct an impact-assessment study before any decision on developing the land is taken.

On a separate note, I have asked the Minister of Telecommunications to get telecom companies and operators to clearly communicate cell phone radiation risks to the consumer. This is an issue that could have serious health and safety consequences for younger users in particular and I fully intend pursuing it in the interest of protecting our citizens.

In other news, the British House of Commons invited me earlier this year for discussions with MP's and key political leaders on trade related issues and security cooperation. Here at home, I helped raise close to 170 crores worth of investments for government hospitals so all Mumbaikars have access to quality health care and state of the art diagnostic tools. In the meanwhile, my NGO Sparsh continues to provide computer-training skills to the underprivileged and hold regular eye-camps for the poor who do not otherwise have access to health care or insurance. These are all important achievements in our quest to improve health care for all, especially the poorest sections of our community.

Finally I want to express my renewed gratitude for your enduring support, encouragement and friendship. It is a privilege to serve you everyday and an honor to represent you in Parliament.

In Affinity,

Milind Deora  
Jai Hind

## Issues I Raised In Parliament [http://www.milindeora.com/mailer-may10/upload/parlquestionsrevised\\_2.doc](http://www.milindeora.com/mailer-may10/upload/parlquestionsrevised_2.doc)

As with my previous communiqués, I will continue to keep you posted on questions I ask and issues I raise in every session of Parliament. The link below will take you to some of my questions in the recently

concluded Parliament Session that may be of interest to you. Many more were asked on a wide range of issues traversing various Ministries and policy areas. My office will be happy to provide you with a comprehensive list of these

if you want one. All these issues are important and bring clarity and purpose to policy-making at the national level. The answers to my questions allow me to articulate a comprehensive and accurate policy response.

## The National Green Tribunal Bill, 2009

In order to provide quick clearance for cases related to environmental damage, this Bill sets up the National Green Tribunal. The tribunal will hear cases related to major environmental damage as well as appeals under various environmental Acts.

## Key Features Of the Union Budget 2010-11

<http://exim.indiamart.com/budget-2010-11/pdfs/bh1.pdf>

## From the halls of Parliament: Key Bills and Legislations.

For a more comprehensive analysis of bills and parliamentary proceedings, I recommend PRS LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH: <http://www.prsindia.org/>



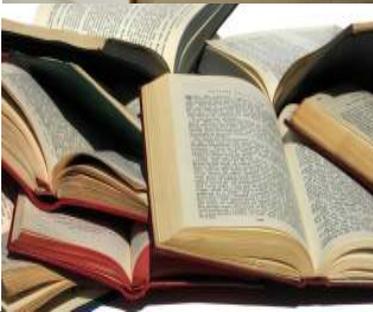
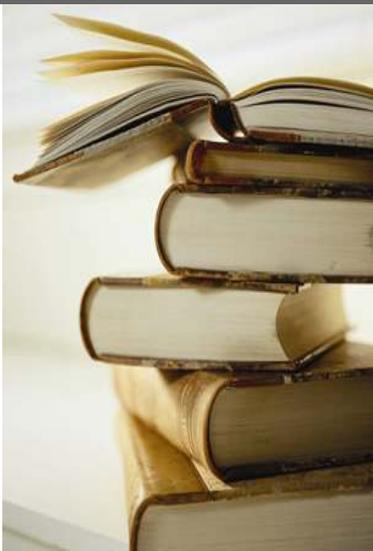
## Battling Terrorism: Domestic and Foreign

The greatest destabilizing force to India's internal security is the Naxalite threat that has claimed countless innocent lives through violent means and terrorist attacks. There can be no ideological justification for barbaric acts such as the Dantewada massacre and no quarter can be given to those who challenge the authority and integrity of the Indian state. The Centre has embarked on a prudent dual strategy of ambitious developmental programs in affected areas along with the judicious use of force to eliminate the insurgency and restore law and order. A "clear, hold and build" approach will ensure that the capacity and capability to implement this strategy is in place. States must also take responsibility to effectively counter Naxal violence within their jurisdictions. The Home Minister's remarks and a comprehensive Parliamentary debate in the recently concluded session underscores the gravity of this national security threat. Major opposition parties have assured Government of their full support in fighting this menace.

Meanwhile, the special court on the 26/11 terror attacks pronounced a guilty verdict for Kasab on May 3<sup>rd</sup> following one of Independent India's speediest trials in a case of mass murder. The two co-accused were acquitted on lack of evidence. While this may

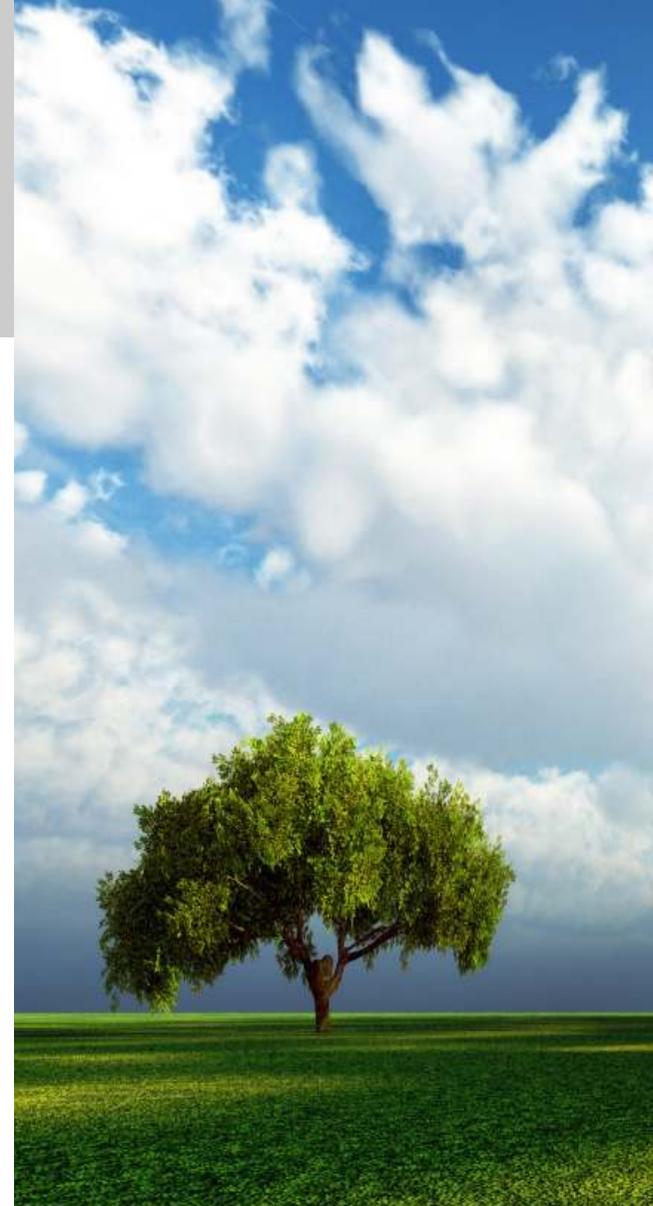
## Right to Education Act, 2009

This Bill seeks to provide every child of the age of six to fourteen years with the right to free and compulsory education in a neighbourhood school until completion of elementary education. Where a child above six years of age has not been admitted in any school or though admitted, could not complete his or her elementary education, then, he or she shall be admitted in a class appropriate to his or her age.



## Women's Reservation Bill [the Constitution (108<sup>th</sup> Amendment) Bill, 2008]

Commonly known as the Women's Reservation Bill, it seeks to reserve one-third of all seats for women in the Lok Sabha and the state legislative assemblies. Introduced by the UPA-I government in May 2008, it also provides that one third of the total number of seats reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes shall be reserved for women of those groups. Similar Bills have been introduced thrice before in the late 90's but lapsed with the dissolution of their respective Lok Sabhas.



anger some, it demonstrates the integrity, impartiality and independence of India's judicial system. The rule of law and due process was followed in a democracy that prides itself on giving all a fair chance to defend themselves in the dispensation of justice. If it is through terrorism that the people who carry out these despicable acts express their values, it is right at this moment that we must demonstrate ours. While this chapter remains unfinished as long as the masterminds of 26/11 roam free, I sincerely hope the verdict and sentence brings closure to the victims' families and all Indians who share their pain.

## Resolving Mumbai's Water Shortage



Mumbai City has been facing an acute water shortage problem that needs to be tackled on multiple levels with the utmost urgency. This is a basic necessity that cuts across the entire socio-economic spectrum but adversely impacts the poor in particular. We simply cannot aspire to be a world-class city if we cannot provide something as basic as potable and non-potable water to every citizen.

I have written to the Prime Minister urging the Centre to fund a proposed desalination plant in Mumbai and have asked for funds of approximately 871 crores along the lines of the grant Chennai has been promised by the Centre. Measures taken by the civic

authorities are clearly inadequate and Mumbai by virtue of being the highest tax-paying city in the country by a long shot, deserves a much better deal.

In addition to desalination, an effective rainwater harvesting system must be put into place to ensure an adequate supply of both potable and non-potable water to every citizen. Government also has a moral obligation to break the back of the so called "water mafia" responsible for up to a 30% cut in the city water supply by deliberately rupturing pipelines and selling water at a premium. This is an illegal and criminal activity with an annual turnover running into thousands of crores. It is the primary responsibility of the BMC to put an end to this unconscionable practice. I will do everything in my power to urge State authorities to deploy the necessary machinery at its disposal and eliminate this menace.



## Protecting Mumbaikars in Times of Heavy Floods

While natural calamities are unavoidable and unpredictable, we must nevertheless do everything in our power to safeguard our city and citizens from crippling floods of the kind seen in July 2006. There is a proposal to release 5,500 acres of salt-pan land in Mumbai's suburbs for commercial real estate development which needs a review in my opinion. I have asked

the Union Environment Minister to carry out an impact-assessment study so that any decision on developing the land or not is an informed one. Salt-pan lands are a critical part of our eco-system and act as natural sponges and buffers absorbing the water during heavy rains. A city that is already poorly equipped to deal with flooding and drainage problems during heavy rains cannot afford to weaken its

defenses even further. I have already written to the Minister of Environment and Forests and copied the letter below for your reference.



*Protecting our environment is a global challenge that requires a global effort but each one of us can make a difference that will result in a cumulative effect of preserving what we have today so our children can reap a better tomorrow.*

Milind Deora

## Leveraging India's Renewable Energy Resources



Milind Deora (head of table) chairs the Renewable Energy Parliamentary Group

I am leading a multi-party Renewable Energy Parliamentary Group mandated to steer India towards a low-carbon high growth economy. For the first time in Parliament's history, we now have a focused and implementable agenda to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency that will have support across the political aisle.

The group will create a favorable investment climate for foreign and domestic players in the zero-emission clean tech market and mobilize the required political will in framing national policies. India's rich and plentiful natural renewable energy resources will enable us to make the switch to viable options like solar power and solar thermal and become a global leader in the fight against climate change.

I have also lobbied hard for environmental policies that result in a greener and cleaner Mumbai and intervened on several

occasions with the Chief Minister urging the State to preserve the city's open spaces. Suffice to say, environmental contaminants and greenhouse gasses do not respect physical boundaries or constituencies – which means we're all in this together for the long haul. I strongly believe we can mobilize national public opinion and together with civil society achieve the critical mass necessary to effectively combat the risks of climate change.

<http://moef.nic.in/index.php>

<http://unfccc.int/2860.php>

<http://en.cop15.dk/>



With Kaillesh Singh Deo (BJD), Sanjay Kumar and Nick Dunlop of Climate Change



In conversation with Rajiv Pratap Rudy of the BJP



## Foreign Affairs: Strengthening Indo-British Ties

Milind deora with the Speaker  
of the House of Commons →



Milind and Pooja Shetty Deora with Keith Vaz, MP Leicester East

I was invited by the British House of Commons in February this year to interact with the Speaker of the House and important political leaders and MP's. We held discussions on a range of issues relating to the Indo-British partnership and agreed to facilitate future exchanges between MP's of both countries.

India and the UK share an important strategic partnership with priority cooperation in space, civilian nuclear technology, and high-tech. Both sides also underlined the importance of joint international efforts in countering terrorism and agree to intensify mutual exchange of views, experiences and practical



cooperation in the fight against terrorism, both through bilateral channels and in multilateral forums. Cooperation will also be strengthened through the Indo-UK Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism.

The partnership for trade in goods and services, as also investment, has never been better with many Indian companies increasingly realizing there is no restriction working in, operating from or acquiring companies in the UK. The UK is also a significant source of foreign direct investment in India and there has been a marked increase in trade and investment bilaterally with the trade in goods and services likely to touch £10 billion soon. India is now the third largest investor in the UK with more than 500 Indian companies opening offices there.

## Plain Speaking Through National Publications

Between newsletters, I have had the privilege of penning lead essays in the Times Of India and other important publications to communicate my views and opinions on important policy issues and national trends. I will continue doing so periodically and reach out to as many of my countrymen as possible whenever a policy response is merited. Apart from my previous op eds and articles that you can access on my website, I recently drew public attention to the radiation risks posed by cell phones and tower based antennae. This could be a looming health crisis with serious ramifications and needs to be addressed honestly and comprehensively. It is vital that Government along with the scientific community, civil society and private sector

come together to find ways of mitigating potential health risks before leaving it too late. With an Indian market poised to hit the 600 million cell phone subscriber mark by next year, this becomes all the more significant.

I have also written about the dangers of an emerging jingoism in a culturally diverse Mumbai. Parochial political ideologies propagated by parties like the Shiv Sena and MNS have no place in modern India. The values and democratic principles this great country was built on are all-encompassing and apply to each and every Indian irrespective of religious, political, social, economic or sexual orientation.

## Economic Times Is Marathi Jingoism Denting Brand Mumbai? 11 Feb 2010

Milind Deora



Yes. But let me put the question in perspective before proffering an argument; 'Marathi Jingoism' is an inaccurate characterisation and does a great disservice to the vast majority of Maharashtrians who do not subscribe to the machinations of a parochial few. They are just as repulsed by the mindless ransacking, rampaging and assaults in the name of 'Marathi manoos' as any other decent law-abiding Indian is.

Unfortunately, moderate voices have been drowned out by the hate-filled invective of parties like the Shiv Sena and MNS – two sides of the same communal coin – who claim to speak for many but continue to alienate an already dwindling political base by resorting to gratuitous violence and divisive politics. There is no inherent conflict between preserving one's ethnicity, language and custom and professing nationalism in the wider context. In fact, it is precisely our diversity and pluralism that define us as Indians and determine our national character.

My mother is Maharashtrian and instilled in me a great appreciation for Marathi culture, history, music and art – but in ways that never denigrated other narratives and cultures. Regional pride in the hands of demagogues can quickly descend into intolerance and fascism and turn language and custom into tools of oppression. Any attempt to silence dissenting voices, ban films and threaten Indian citizens with dire consequences constitutes an open attack on the institutions of democracy and is simply unacceptable in a freethinking society like ours.

The more edifying reality is that Mumbai's success is essentially an Indian story and anything that contravenes that invariably hurts the city's image. The Mumbai I belong to embodies everything our founding fathers imagined modern India to be – linguistically and religiously diverse yet united, outward-looking yet self-sufficient, resilient and determined yet always welcoming. The cultural mosaic that Mumbai is, evolved a collective wisdom that transcends our differences and celebrates what we have in common. It is this enduring spirit that always triumphs in the face of adversity.

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/opinion/et-debate//articleshow/5558211.cms>

## Milind Deora

A young boy was killed recently when the electronic discharge from his cellphone came in contact with a high-tension overhead wire. Tragic as it was, the incident brought into sharp focus a related issue we've been silent on for too long: cellphone radiation exposure may well be a serious health hazard. After preliminary inquiries, I urged the telecommunications ministry to make it mandatory for all cellphone companies to clearly communicate the potential dangers of cellphone radiation exposure. Both the radiation from handsets and tower-based antennas carrying the signals are already the subject of numerous studies linking prolonged cellphone use to brain tumours, genetic damage and other serious conditions.

Disconcertingly, children and young adults below 18 who constitute a major chunk of the cellphone market are especially vulnerable because their thinner and more porous skulls make it easier for radiation to penetrate the mid-brain. By the time they reach their 20s and 30s they would have exposed themselves to enough radiation for the effects, if any, to show.

Ultimately, research must continue to determine whether or not radiation emitted from cellphones and phone antennae causes brain tumours. But everyone agrees that when the endpoint is a cancer that can take decades to form, we are talking about waiting 10 or 20 years for an answer. I find that unacceptable, especially with lives on the line. So let's turn this around, err on the side of caution and take pre-emptive policy measures now before we cross the Rubicon and have an unprecedented potential health crisis on our hands.

It is not my intention to stir up a hornet's nest and cause undue alarm; we desperately want our cellphones to be safe. Our lives are so thoroughly integrated with wireless technology that we don't want to think about the impact. I will still use my cellphone after having written this and I suspect everyone else will after reading it. But my fear is that, just as with cigarette smoking, if there is indeed a cumulative risk to using a mobile phone, it is possible that users won't be aware of it until it's too late. The science may be inconclusive but that doesn't mean the threat isn't real.

Have we seen enough red flags to justify public warnings even as we wait for the science to evolve? International precedent ought to be instructive here. Governments across the European Union have enacted new safety standards related to electromagnetic radiation. The French government warns against excessive use of mobile phones, especially by children. Germany advises its citizens to minimise cellphone and Wi-Fi use, and the European Environment Agency wants exposures to be reduced. Several other nations have recommended measures to minimise exposure and advise limited use for children.

Here in India, the Telecom Engineering Centre (TEC, the technical arm of the department of telecommunications) proposes that manufacturers display the specific absorption rate or SAR level of their cellphones in the handset menu and comply with global emission standards. The TEC also proposes that cellphone ads not feature children and pregnant women. I welcome these preliminary guidelines but I think we may need to go beyond them. SAR levels can vary widely,

and, in any case, the jury is still out on whether that is the right metric to measure cellphone safety. Cellular damage, it seems, can even occur at low temperature levels that would not register on the SAR scale. The cellphone industry must share the responsibility of risk communication and management. It is critical to do so in a domestic market projected to reach 600 million cellphone subscribers in a year's time including huge swathes of unaware and illiterate consumers in rural and remote corners that manufacturers have successfully penetrated. It also has to be said that insensitive practices of industry in siting base stations within sight of schools and hospitals and whose antennas appear to be aimed directly at buildings where people live, is unacceptable and bound to raise a public outcry.

By the same token, government in conjunction with the scientific community must evolve a credible communications strategy and give the public a sensible assessment of safety and risk.

It is time we had an honest and robust debate about this both in Parliament and in the public square and find creative solutions to address public fears and mitigate the risk. This will require a sustained and joint effort by all stakeholders including industry, government and the public.

The choices are difficult but the costs of action and inaction could be a game changer. No one can know what the "right" decisions will be, but I do know that policy must decide that question. This is a job for democratic politics, informed by, but not shackled to, an insightful but imperfect scientific enterprise. We need to find ways of making cellphone use safer and limit usage by children certainly but we'll never get to that stage if we don't acknowledge the potential dangers first. In the meantime, I'm going to take a cue from the nearest teenager: texting and tweeting is safer than talking.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/opinion/edit-page/Be-Mobile-Without-Risk/articleshow/5755196.cms>

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Publicize-cellphone-hazards/articleshow/5597851.cms>



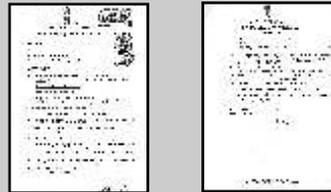
## Accountability in Infrastructure Projects

The Rajiv Gandhi Sea Link, formerly known as the Bandra Worli Sea Link, is a spectacular innovation that we can all be proud of. The newly opened eight-lanes enables motorists to now bridge the distance between South Mumbai and Bandra in a matter of minutes both safely and comfortably. I will continue to persuade both the Union and State Government to plough funds into Mumbai's infrastructure and make our city truly world class. However, infrastructural improvement and development

cannot come at the cost of accountability and transparency. It is no secret that the Sea link took nine long years to complete and experienced unacceptable cost escalations and delays. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) report tabled in the State Legislative Assembly in December 2008 slammed the MSRDC for delays and huge overrun costs and alleged that consultants and contractors were allowed to dictate terms. Furthermore, MSRDC did not levy any liquidated damages on private

contractors for non-achievement of project milestones. The implementing authorities are accountable to citizens and it is imperative that deficiencies and irregularities if any are dealt with to ensure the integrity of future Public Private Partnerships. I have filed RTI forms in both the MSRDC and PWD and have asked for all relevant documents and information before taking further corrective action.

[copies of RTI below]



## Quality Health Care for All

I am determined to ensure that hospitals catering to the poor are equipped with the latest available technology and cutting edge diagnostic tools to offer world-class health care to all our citizens. To this end, I have managed to raise close to 170 crores worth of investments for all three Government hospitals in my constituency of South Mumbai; specifically, 120 crores worth of investments towards upgrading JJ



Hospital along the lines of AIIMS, 32 crores for a linear accelerator in Cama Hospital and 15 crores for an Imaging Centre in GT Hospital through the Petroleum Ministry. The fight against cancer also received a fillip in South Mumbai with the donation of India's first and only radiation oncology machine to Cama Hospital by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. The MRI and CT capacity in all three hospitals has been tripled as a result of these upgrades.

## Encouraging Young Constituents to make a Difference

I am delighted to announce the start of a structured internship program for my younger constituents. It is never too early to become involved in the political process of our great country.

Too often young people believe that what happens in government doesn't matter, when in fact, it affects nearly every aspect of our lives. I have found the time I've spent in public service to be challenging and enjoyable.

I encourage you to become involved and aware of the decisions being made around you – in your community and in your country. An internship in my office gives students a unique opportunity to work closely with my professional staff and core policy team on constituency and national issues, including public policy projects and public-private partnerships. You can sign up for an internship on my website or email us for further details. A member of my team will get back to you shortly thereafter.

## Lending Support to Mumbai's Broking Community

Stockbrokers are an important part of the capital market system and have lately been at the receiving end of unilaterally imposed extended trading hours. Mumbai's broking community, most of whom live and work in my constituency of South Mumbai, approached me to resolve a deadlock created by virtue of competitive pressures between the two Stock Exchanges, the NSE and BSE. While the independence of the professionally run stock exchanges must be respected and maintained, it is incumbent upon them to consult their stakeholders when taking decisions. I chose to lend my support to the broking community and personally intervene with the Finance Minister on humanitarian grounds requesting him to bring both the



exchanges to the table to strike a settlement. However, Government was unable to intervene in the matter due to legislative constraints. I will try and facilitate a settlement between the exchanges and brokers nonetheless and urge them to resolve the issue amicably.

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/2010/01/20/stories/2010012051671600.htm>

# MY ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE

## Constituency Details: Know Your Elected Representatives

Many of you have approached me for assistance on legitimate and pressing issues. While I shall go out of my way to resolve your difficulties and be as accessible as I possibly can, it would be useful for you to better understand the roles of your elected representatives.

As an MP, I will always be the voice of my constituency in Parliament and advocate causes and issues that impact my constituents. Equally, I am also accountable to the country at large for shaping national policy and ensuring its effective implementation.

A demarcation of your MP, MLA and Corporator roles have been mapped out for your easy reference and will be useful if and when you require government assistance. Please take the time to read this. It is vitally important to be informed about your rights and who to contact in your area and ward should the need arise.

Designed by [kyorai.com@gmail.com](mailto:kyorai.com@gmail.com)

*Disclaimer: Roles / Responsibilities / Expectations of Elected Representatives captioned above are not necessarily official / legal definitions, not legally binding on any Elected Representative, but are inferences based on understanding / interpretation of the authors*

	MP	MLA	CORPORATOR
<b>AREA OF JURISDICTION</b>	A Parliamentary Constituency (in Mumbai) constitutes a population of around 20 lakh citizens & has an average of 15 MLAs & 45-60 corporators within its boundaries.	An MLA represents a fairly large area at the State Assembly. In Mumbai, it covers an area slightly smaller than a BMC ward.	A corporator represents a locality at the BMC General Body and the respective Ward Committee; Every corporator is associated with a specific BMC ward.
<b>LEGISLATIVE FUNCTIONS</b>	Introduces / amends legislations & initiates debates in Parliament over issues of national importance as well as macro issues concerning his / her constituency	initiates debates in the State Assembly over constituency specific or city - specific issues. Plays an active role in legislating state laws.	Participates in BMC General Body Meetings & Ward Committee Meetings to discuss local issues; helps in framing rules and policies of the BMC.
<b>POLICY ROLE</b>	Monitors his constituency, addresses issues of national importance and influences policy on issues affecting a large number of citizens.	Brings issues concerning his constituency to the notice of the State Assembly & Council of Ministers.	Sanctions projects for his locality through the concerned Ward Committee or the BMC, in addition to the use of his constituency fund
<b>USE OF CONSTITUENCY FUND</b>	MPLAD funds on projects encompassing or benefitting the entire constituency, not specific to a certain locality. Instrumental in obtaining grants for major infrastructure projects.	Brings issues concerning his constituency to the notice of the State Assembly & Council of Ministers.	Sponsors local development projects, improvement of roads, construction of pavements, community welfare, etc. Expenditure is mostly locality specific.
<b>ADDRESSING COMPLAINTS</b>	Addresses popular complaints or suggestions from a large number of citizens of his constituency. eg: If a change in the Coastal Regulatory Zone (CRZ) laws would help in facilitating redevelopment of a large number of old / dilapidated buildings in the constituency, the MP can moot an amendment of CRZ laws in Parliament to the benefit of the concerned citizens.	Addresses locality or area specific issues. eg: If your locality has been experiencing frequent robberies, without much response from the Police, you should approach your MLA, who will persuade the Police to take appropriate steps in order to ensure safety and security in the locality.	Sponsors local development projects, improvement of roads, construction of pavements, community welfare, etc. Expenditure is mostly locality specific.