

SYMPOSIUM NEWSLETTER

THE WORLD IN BRIEF

1st EDITION





THE WORLD IN BRIEF



NEW

EDITION 1

MAY 2025

SYMPOSIUM

LETTER FROM THE EDITORS' DESK:

DEAR READERS,

WELCOME TO THE FIRST EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, PUBLIC POLICY AND HISTORY-BASED NEWSLETTER RUN BY THE SYMPOSIUM CLUB. "THE WORLD IN BRIEF" HAS BEEN INTRODUCED WITH THE GOAL OF INCREASING GLOBAL AWARENESS WITHIN ALL GRADES OF THE SENIOR SCHOOL, AS INTERNATIONAL-MINDEDNESS AND ISSUES OF GLOBAL IMPORTANCE BECOME INCREASINGLY RELEVANT TO OUR DAILY LIVES. THE WORLD IS AN EXTREMELY VOLATILE PLACE, AS THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT REACHES ITS THIRD YEAR, AND THE INDISCRIMINATE KILLINGS IN THE GAZA STRIP SHOW NO SIGN OF REDUCING, IT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER TO BE AWARE OF THE IMPERFECTIONS OF OUR WORLD. AWARENESS IS A PRECURSOR TO PLAYING OUR OWN PARTS IN MAKING OUR WORLD A BETTER PLACE. FEATURING UNIQUE ARTICLES, FROM OPEN LETTERS TO RELEVANT POLITICAL LEADERS TO A "THIS DAY IN HISTORY", WE HOPE EACH OF YOU SPEND TIME READING THIS NEWSLETTER, AND LEAVE AS A MORE INFORMED, ENGAGED AND INSPIRED READER. THIS NEWSLETTER IS AUTHORED BY THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE (OC) OF CMUN 2025, AND EACH ARTICLE PROVIDES INSIGHTS ON DIFFERENT, YET RELEVANT, TOPICS.

UNTIL JUNE,

AADITYA AGARWAL AND ANSH BHANSALI,

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF,

THE WORLD IN BRIEF

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“THIS DAY IN HISTORY”

Inaya Vora

1. Soviet Union Lifts Berlin Blockade (May 12, 1949)

On May 12, 1949, the Soviet Union ended its blockade of West Berlin, a crisis that had isolated the city for eleven months. Western Allies responded with the Berlin Airlift, delivering essential supplies through more than 200,000 flights. The blockade's collapse marked a major Cold War victory for the West and highlighted Allied coordination, becoming a foundational case in crisis management.



2. Battle of Monte Cassino Ends (May 18, 1944)

After four months of intense fighting, Allied forces captured Monte Cassino, a strategic German stronghold in Italy. Troops from Britain, the United States, France, Poland, and India overcame brutal conditions and heavy losses. This victory showcased the challenges of European ground warfare and the power of multinational alliances.



3. Napoleon Proclaimed Emperor (May 18, 1804)

On May 18, 1804, Napoleon Bonaparte was declared Emperor of the French, transforming the revolutionary republic into an empire. His reign expanded French influence across Europe and established enduring legal and administrative reforms, though it also highlighted the tension between democracy and authoritarian rule.



4. Seven Years' War Begins (May 18, 1756)

On May 18, 1756, Britain declared war on France, starting the Seven Years' War—a global conflict involving battles in North America, the Caribbean, India, and Europe. Britain emerged dominant, while France suffered financial losses and lost its North American empire, reshaping global power dynamics.



WORLD WATCH

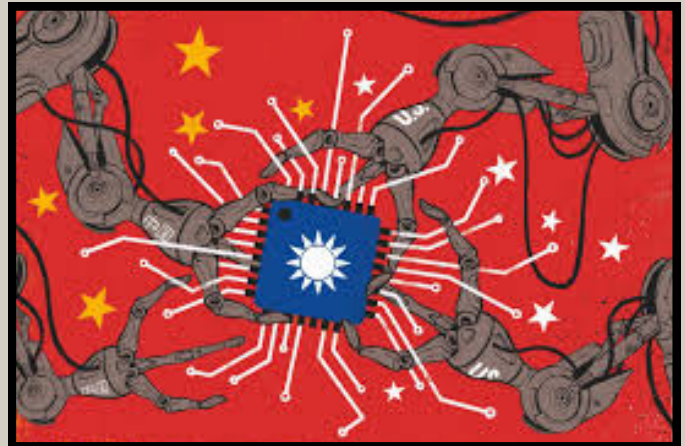
Ranveer Chainani

From a Delegate's Perspective Taiwan: The Flashpoint of the Indo-Pacific

At the heart of 21st-century geopolitics's complex game, one island occupies the focal point of an unstable and increasing confrontation: Taiwan. To some, it's a thriving democracy and world semiconductor powerhouse. To others, it's the last, incomplete page in the Chinese Civil War. To delegates in any MUN crisis committee, it is a worst-case scenario. It is a tinderbox that might attract not only regional actors but nuclear nations, economic superpowers, and the whole international community.

Central to this crisis is the People's Republic of China (PRC) and its resolute "One China" policy. Taiwan is not to Beijing a nation but a rebellious province that has to be reunified with the mainland one day, by force if needed. To the United States and much of its traditional allies, Taiwan, however, is a key partner whose de facto sovereignty needs to be safeguarded. The resulting tension has bred one of the most unstable diplomatic tightropes of our era.

The stakes are enormous. Taiwan is the source of more than 60 percent of the world's semiconductors and more than 90 percent of the world's leading microchips. A conflict over the island would not only be a humanitarian catastrophe but also immobilize world supply chains, particularly in the areas of technology and defense. Military action would not be contained to China and Taiwan. It would be certain to involve the United States, Japan, Australia, and even perhaps members of NATO, setting up a situation more volatile than that in Ukraine or on the Korean Peninsula.



As a delegate, if this matter arises in committee, the question becomes pertinent and explicit. Would you support Taiwan's right to self-determination at the cost of infuriating Beijing and destabilizing the region? Would you advocate preventive diplomacy, UN peacekeeping, or ASEAN-led mediation? Or would you advocate strict neutrality and non-intervention to prevent precipitating a disastrous war?

Taiwan is not merely an Asia problem. Taiwan is the test case for how the world will deal with the collision of sovereignty, security, and superpower competition. As representatives, the moment to construct frameworks of peace and deterrence is at present. Because once that initial missile takes off, the cost of diplomacy could become prohibitively too high to bear.



OPEN LETTERS

Nandini Pangal

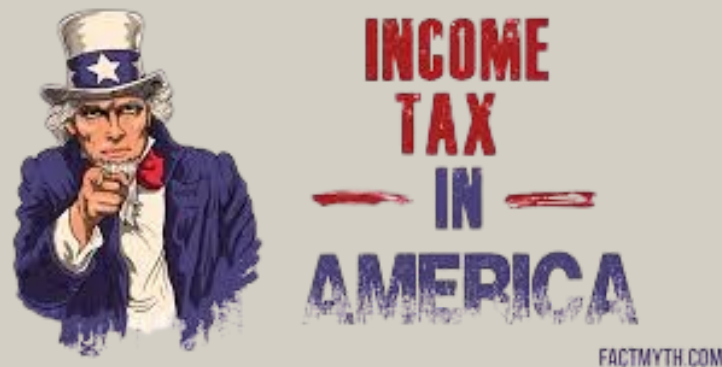
Dear President Trump,

I write this letter not as a politician, but as a citizen deeply affected by your recent decisions. Your policies are biased and bigoted, consistently prioritizing division over unity. Your erosion of basic civil liberties, reckless economic decisions, and appointment of an unstable and unqualified cabinet have raised serious concerns regarding your leadership abilities. Accusations abound, labeling you an authoritarian, totalitarian fascist intent on revoking fundamental constitutional rights in service of your megalomania.



Your repeated attempts to suspend habeas corpus, a constitutional protection that grants all individuals the right to a fair trial, are a prime example of your complete disregard for civil rights. If a country does not uphold the right to due and fair process, then it ceases to function as a democracy. There is a very important reason the Supreme Court, and by extension, the judicial system, serves as an independent branch of the government: to check the executive outreach of the ruling party. By undermining the Supreme Court's decisions (like in the case of Kilmar Abrego Garcia), you disregard the very principles that ensure fairness in this nation. Your bigotry is evident through your repeated labeling of undocumented immigrants as "illegal aliens" to please your base.

Your economic policies are completely unjustified. By launching a trade war against every nation under the sun while your citizens struggle to buy basic commodities, you are exacerbating their troubles. Furthermore, your claim that "China will pay the tariffs" is, as you are well aware, completely false. The cost of the tariff, borne by the importing company, is eventually passed on to the consumer. Despite campaigning vigorously on reducing inflation and boosting the economy, under your watch, the Dow Jones Industrial Average plummeted by over 4,000 points, losing 6.6 trillion dollars (for context, the GDP of the United States in 2024 was 29 trillion dollars).



Last, but definitely not least, your cabinet is completely incompetent and inept to deal with the very real crises your country is facing. RFK Jr., who promotes conspiracy theories and undermines the research and efforts of medical officers, has been proven to have previously hosted a parasite in his brain, raising concerns about his judgment and credibility. Additionally, Defense Minister Pete Hegseth's recent leak of sensitive information regarding U.S. operations in Yemen to a media outlet further undermines national security and trust in your administration.

Your presidency has raised a plethora of concerns, in your judgment, in your intent, and ultimately, in your commitment to the values that have long defined America.

WORDS OVER WARS: DIPLOMACY'S POWER IN CRISIS

Yash Bhatia

International relations and diplomacy are indispensable tools in an increasingly multipolar and unstable world. Recent events underscore this truth, such as the rising tensions in the South China Sea, where maritime confrontations between China and the Philippines have drawn international concern. While military presence grows, diplomacy remains the only sustainable path to de-escalation. The same applies to the Pahalgam conflict in Kashmir, where a sudden escalation between Indian security forces and local insurgent groups has reignited regional tensions. Calls for restraint and dialogue from neighboring countries reflect the urgent need for diplomatic solutions in sensitive geopolitical zones.



The global economy, too, is feeling the pressure. The recent energy standoff between Russia and several Eastern European nations, triggered by disrupted gas supply lines, echoes past energy crises and underscores the geopolitical leverage of natural resources. Meanwhile, the ripple effects of the U.S. debt ceiling impasse and China's slowing growth threaten to destabilize global markets, making economic diplomacy and cooperation through institutions like the G20 more critical than ever.

The aftermath of the catastrophic floods in Brazil and Southeast Asia has further tested global coordination. Disparities in aid distribution and recovery efforts have raised questions about climate justice and equitable disaster response, revealing the growing link between environmental crises and foreign policy. Climate diplomacy is no longer theoretical, it's urgent. Contemporary wars, like the deepening humanitarian crisis in Gaza and the grinding conflict in Sudan, show the limits of conventional diplomacy. With non-state actors, shifting alliances, and a complex web of external influence, peacebuilding now requires more agile and multi-level diplomatic frameworks.



Modern diplomacy must navigate these layered realities—balancing national interest with global responsibility. From addressing cyberattacks on financial institutions in Europe to tackling cross-border health threats like the resurgent strain of avian influenza in Asia, diplomacy must evolve. It's not just about managing war anymore, it's about coordinating responses to interconnected global crises that affect lives across continents. Diplomacy today is the delicate art of turning friction into dialogue, rivalry into realism. Whether facing renewed Cold War-like standoffs or climate-induced chaos, the world needs collaborative leadership. Only by drawing from past wisdom and embracing the complexity of today can diplomacy remain a force for peace, equity, and shared progress.

CONFERENCE COVERAGE

Aditya Merchant



1) Ecole MUN:

The Ecole Mondiale Model United Nations (EMUN) 2025, held on April 4–5 in Mumbai, was a well-organized and intellectually stimulating conference. Delegates engaged in meaningful debate, strategic negotiation, and global issue analysis. The event fostered leadership, diplomacy, and critical thinking. EMUN provided a platform to develop real-world skills in public speaking and collaboration. It was an enriching experience that inspired participants to lead with empathy and vision.

Awards

Historical UNSC

Arjun Sampat & Piyya Shah – Best Delegate

Shay Sachdeva & Naisha Jain – Outstanding Delegate

Theia Ginwalla & Ananya Mohatta – Honourable Mention

Sanjana Bhasin, Yatee Jaiswal & Aashi Bubna – Verbal Mentions

Futuristic UNSC

Adyant Gupta and Veer Bhansali – Best Delegate

Night Crisis

Adyant Gupta – Outstanding

Shay Sachdeva – Verbal Mention

2) Sanskriti MUN

The Sanskriti Model United Nations (SMUN) 2025, held from April 22–24, offered delegates a rigorous and rewarding MUN experience. With a diverse range of committees and thought-provoking agendas, the conference pushed participants to think critically and negotiate effectively. The academic quality and attention to detail were evident in both debate and crisis execution. SMUN fostered leadership, teamwork, and strategic diplomacy among students. The event left delegates intellectually enriched and more confident in their abilities to navigate complex global issues.

Awards

CMESC

Manaansh Jain – Verbal Mention

The Pyrenean Gambit

Myrah – Special Mention

6th Lok Sabha

Nayantara – Verbal Mention

Sarah – Verbal Mention

Congratulations to all delegates for representing the school with distinction.

Even though everyone did not manage to win at both MUNs, the real victory lies in the skills they gained and the experiences they had. Every speech, every debate, and every challenge was a step toward growth.



UPCOMING CONFERENCES!

Yash Bhatia

1) CMUN

The 29th edition of the Cathedral MUN (CMUN), scheduled from 8th to 10th August, stands as one of the most anticipated conferences of the year. As the host school, we are thrilled to welcome young minds from across the country to an event that celebrates diplomacy, creativity, and critical thinking. With nine uniquely curated committees, ranging from historical crises to futuristic simulations, CMUN challenges delegates to step into the shoes of global leaders, diplomats, and change-makers.

The conference is designed not just to foster intense debate, but also to encourage collaboration, negotiation, and innovation. Beyond the committee rooms, CMUN offers an immersive experience, complete with engaging socials, guest speaker sessions, and opportunities for cultural exchange. It is more than just a competition, it's a platform for growth, leadership, and lifelong connections..

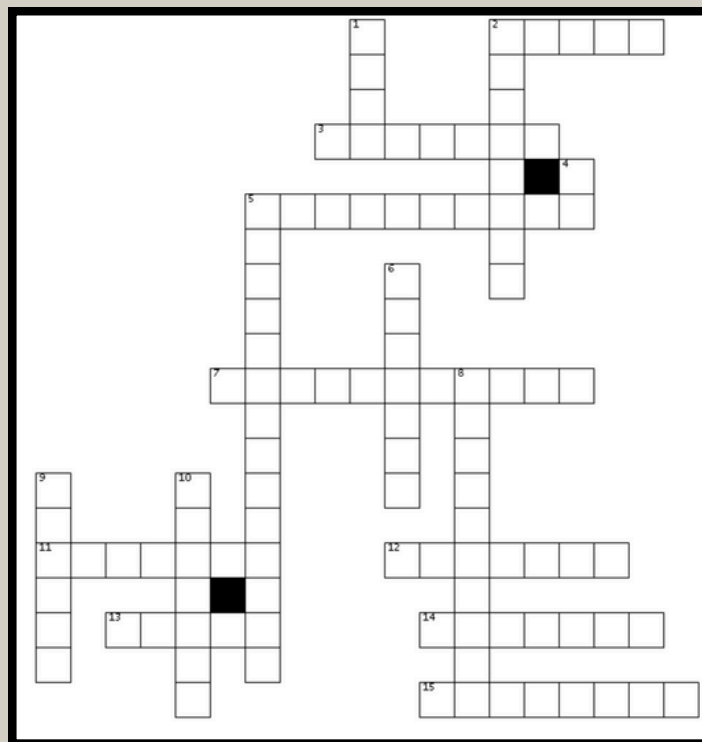


This year's line-up features The Odyssey: Twilight of the Iliad (1184 BC), The House of Rothschild (1848 CE), the Historic Security Council, The International Press Corps, the Indo-Stabilisation Emergency Council (1987), Mahabharata: The Emergency Council of Kurukshetra (3138 BC), the Polar Governance Council (2048), the British House of Commons (2022), and the World Trade Organisation.



CROSSWORDS AND TRIVIA!

Zreh Adajania



CROSSWORD CLUES

ACROSS

- 5 Across – A formal committee document expressing collective opinion (10)
- 7 Across – Unstructured discussion period in MUN (11)
- 12 Across – Informal agreement reached during lobbying (7)
- 13 Across – Disputed region between India and Pakistan (7)
- 15 Across – UN organ handling peace and security (8)

DOWN

- 1 Down – Permanent member's power to block action (4)
- 2 Down – Informal written paper used to share ideas (5)
- 3 Down – Nation where UN peacekeepers intervened in 1993 (7)
- 4 Down – Intergovernmental organisation formed in 1945 (2)
- 6 Down – Secretary _____
- 8 Down – To combine two draft resolutions or ideas (10)
- 9 Down – Neutral stance in international conflict (7)
- 10 Down – Treaty city associated with the laws of war (6)
- 11 Down – Phrase to raise concern about procedure (5)
- 14 Down – Term often used for parliamentary interventions (5)

CROSSWORD ANSWER KEY!

