

GDMUN'23

INTERNATIONAL PRESS

BACKGROUND GUIDE



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Dear Delegates,

We hope you are doing well and can't wait to meet you all. We can't wait to meet the future journalists and savior of democracy. Everything that is required to be followed is mentioned in the background guide, so kindly go through it.

As a Head of I.P, I expect you to be honest in your reports and I want you to question everything you think is not right. We hope you to be aware, accurate, precise, fluent, expressive, and most importantly, creative in whatever task you are asked to do. We aim to test your writing skills and bring out your creativity and multi-tasking skills.

ALL THE BEST

Regards,

Pariyal Jandyal

Head of IP

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Dear members of the International Press, It gives us immense pleasure to welcome you all to the International Press team of GDMUN'23. Today, the power of mass media is tremendous and it is a well-known fact that with great power comes great responsibility. Therefore, we urge you to exercise your voice not with restraint but with integrity, sensitivity, and with an open mind without any presumptions. This guide gives a gist of your roles and responsibilities along with a few regulations for this conference. We will do our best to guide you at all possible times and push you to get the best output possible. We hope that this conference proves to be an enriching experience for all of you and you get numerous opportunities to learn new things. It is necessary for all the members of the International Press to understand that you as reporters or photographers are representing the international media. Everything a delegate says is a statement of a state official in a public forum and has repercussions in the international community. Therefore, it is the job of the press to process all the statements and analyze them. In order to make the International Press a success at this conference, it is necessary to have a well-researched team. Just as delegates need to research, it is equally important for the press to be well-researched. This not only applies to reporters but also to photographers. Being well researched will lead to better understanding of the ongoing discussion and would also subsequently lead to politically correct and thought-provoking articles, photographs and caricatures.

One of the most suited ways to research on any given agenda is as follows:

- Firstly, break down every word of the agenda yourself and make a note of concepts that you think are pertinent to them.
- Secondly, read the background guide. Please note that just as the background guide is a basic tool for delegates, it is merely one aspect of your research.
- Thirdly, develop a literal understanding of the agenda.
- Fourthly, study the political, legal, social and economic aspects of the agenda.
- Fifthly, go through articles, research papers or any relevant documents.
- Lastly, a thorough knowledge and understanding of contemporary events is a must. This ensures that your articles stay relevant.

Reporters, Journalism is one of the strongest mediums and gives the most impact in the contemporary world. The power of International Press and Mass media combined is marvelous. So, we urge you to not restrain your power and voice in the committees. The vision here is to create a journal of reports which clearly defines the power of journalism. Articles which empower the opinions and happenings in the committees. The very basic roots that this draft is based on, are research and a strong value of transforming the role of press.

This guide will give you a guide of what your roles are, what is surely to be mentioned in your journals, and other regulations in a conference. it is advisable to go through each section of the background guide. In case of any query, please contact the undersigned.

May the force be with you and you experience numerous opportunities to learn new things!

INSTRUCTIONS FOR JOURNALISTS

- All submissions need to be made in the following format: YourName_Committee_ArticleType_Day.

For example, if I am a journalist writing a beat for UNGA on Day 1, then I submit it as: Pariyal Jandyal Beat article UNGA Day 1

- Each submission has to follow these specifications:

1. Font: Size 12

2. Font Style: Times New Roman

3. Word Limit: for each article will be given during the conference

4. By-lines have to be provided. For example, “Who is a Hindu or who is a Muslim or who is a Sikh; is everyone not an Indian? Are we not one? Should we all not be Equal before the constitution? Samiksha Khanna writes on the topic of The Situation of minority groups in India.”

- Submissions will be made via email.

- The usage of grammar and punctuation must be immaculate.
- Remember, we are looking for creativity, and it is your job to ensure that the work you put forward is your creative best.
- Language used has to be simple and understandable. While using big words may seem enticing, you need to understand that not everyone understands heavy English, and even if they do they do not have the time to decipher tough words.
- The deadlines will be notified and will affect the evaluation process. There are three things which come as a part of International

Press :

1. **RESEARCH:** Comprehensive research forms the basic framework of the art of reporting. A journalist in a committee needs to be well informed, rather better equipped with their research since it is not going to be country specific. Half-baked knowledge on the agendas reflects factual inconsistency in the articles. Kindly go through the background guides of your respective committees to have a better understanding of the agenda. Knowledge of current debates pertaining to the agenda is also encouraged.
2. **UNITY:** The International Press team will consist of a number of reporters, who need to be working in synchronization with each other. The spirit of competitiveness should never come in the way of team-work, and all the efforts should be to publish a prosperous newsletter.
3. **CODE OF CONDUCT:** Reporters are expected to maintain diplomatic courtesy at all times towards fellow members of the team, delegates, executive board and the Secretariat. Even while critically looking at council proceedings; it is imperative that respect be extended to the delegates. Frivolous reporting, like reporting on a delegate's attire or manner of speaking, is highly discouraged.

Types of Articles

Beat article:

While the agenda forms the umbrella that shall reign over the committee on these two days, deliberation shall extend to every sphere of relevance. The delegates pursue all strands of contention related to the issue at hand, and seek

to delve greater on this sub-topic. Beat based article is a type of article that revolves around a subject, known as the beat. It is a specialised piece which requires an in-depth research and offers more knowledge to the reader. The beat is to be taken from the proceedings and happenings of the committee and must be a topic important enough to attract readership. It will take the mantle as the core concern of the article, and the content should obsequiously conform to the central idea. To capture the beat, ensure that you're actively present in the Committee to be able to identify the form and shape of the discussion. You can use the first-half of the day to collect data and select the core idea of your article, and utilise the remaining time to give a factual backing to the same.

- A beat based article is a specialised, factual article, and can include direct quotes from delegates, and/or statistical data.
- It has no requirement of a personal opinion, and is only restricted to the happenings in the committee around the beat, and the facts attached to the same.
- The data used in a beat-based article should use the correct data, including the names of delegates and the facts stated.
- The inclusion of factual details and direct quotes of the delegates enhances the credibility of the article.
- Once the beat is identified in the committee, the reporter also has the liberty to shed light on a segment of the topic based on his/her research.

OPINION EDITORIAL (OP-ED)

Opinion Editorials are articles wherein the Journalists are expected to express their own point of view. OpEds can be based on the Agenda of the committee discussion. Here, the Journalist talks not only about the discussion at hand, she/he also offers their own point of view. We expect the Journalists to be well-read with agendas of their specific committees, so that the article put forward show their research as well as their knowledge. Having an opinion is of utmost importance in an OpEd, and this has to show through the style of writing

chosen. Some of the functions that op-eds perform include, but are not restricted to:

1. Debating a proposition and/or providing rebuttals
 2. Providing background and/or historical perspective on a contemporary issue
 3. Highlighting aspects/dimensions that are hitherto not covered by 'news pieces'
 4. Provide suggestions and/or map out a plan of action
 5. Explain an idea, concept in immense detail
 6. Share expertise
- As mentioned above, one of the key features to an Opinion Editorial is research. One cannot form an opinion if they aren't well researched, and under-researched articles lack quality. Further, your articulation needs to be such that your point is put forward clearly. Remember, we're not looking for an essay, which is somewhat holistic and neutral in its approach- we're looking at an article that puts down your thoughts clearly, taking sides, for your opinion cannot be neutral. Constructive Criticism is of key here, i.e. putting out criticism in a manner that puts forward your thought clearly without hurting the sentiments of a Member Nation, and helps them work on the said points.

Things to keep in mind while writing an OpEd:

1. It should be based on verifiable facts, but should not necessarily contain them
 2. It is bound by word limit, and hence you need to be concise and to the point.
 3. It has to express opinions- however; opinions do not mean baseless arguments.
 4. The number of aspects covered in an OpEd's argument is upto the author, but it is necessary to keep in mind that the argument(s) showcased are not too fuzzy.
 5. Arguments should be comprehended in a manner that they lead to a final concluding paragraph and not just an abrupt ending.
- Interview Interviews are another feature of any MUN conference. These can be conducted in person or via chits, because we understand that catching hold of any delegate while the committee is going on is not possible. A "source"- anyone a journalist interviews - can provide the following elements that are vital to any news story
- basic factual information

- perspective and context on the topic being discussed
 - direct quotes
 - ideas on how to approach the story
 - names and contact information of other people to interview
- Points to remember for conducting an Interview:
- Research is necessary
 - Do not necessarily stick to your prepared questions if you see the delegate giving you better, more meaningful information.
 - Stick to not more than 3-4 questions.
 - Keep the transcribing concise and to-the-point
 - Include all important information the Interviewee speaks about.
 - Be natural and open about speaking on issues
- In an MUN conference, a report is a summary of events that have taken place in the committee.

Here, however, one needs to remember that we do not expect you to write about the discussion on Rules of Procedures (RoPs)- by summary, we mean quality content that has been spoken about in the committee. Reports are formal, neutral and concise. They explain the happenings of a committee without personal bias, and Journalists have to ensure that they cover the event to its entirety. They need to ensure that someone who is not a part of the committee can still read a report to understand what is going on. Incidents may be reported, but they cannot have an opinion this is the job of an Op-Ed article. Feature Features are articles where the Journalist gets to show their creativity to the maximum. Not essentially as important or relevant as an OpEd or a Report/Beat, features allow the journalist to unleash their creativity in the form of poetry, prose, diary entries, open letters and a lot more. These, however, need to be committee-centric; otherwise they do not really serve the purpose of being a part of a MUN newsletter. Points to remember while writing a feature:

- Make them as creative as possible

- Make sure they are committee-centric. For Example, in a committee debating about the Syrian crisis, the journalist could write a feature from the point of view of the Syrian refugees, children, and etc.-the possibilities are endless.
- Features, while not heavy on research, need to reflect some knowledge of the agenda at hand. For example, if AIPPM is discussing the Triple Talaq, a feature based on the plight of Indian women does not make sense, unless it talks specifically about Muslim women facing atrocities because of the forms of Triple Talaq.
- While we understand that limiting creativity to a word limit is not right, you have to keep in mind that this is, eventually, a newsletter, and we need to stick to a word limit.

Press Releases and Announcements Any official communication by the Secretariat or a Press Release will have to be formally submitted to the Head of International Press. The announcement can include any important information for intimation to the delegates.

What is a press conference?

An interview given to journalists by a prominent person in order to make an announcement or answer questions. Holding a press conference is a simple, effective way to communicate your message with the media. Holding a successful press conference can generate news about your cause and awareness about your project. This section looks at the elements of planning a successful press conference, when to hold a press conference, and how best to communicate with the media and the public at a press conference Imagine a flock of media reporters coming to an event that you have organized. This can be exciting stuff, and an important opportunity for your organization. If you've never done it before, holding a press conference can be intimidating, even

frightening. But the material in this section will guide you through the process, and you'll see that it's not all that hard.

PHOTOGRAPHY BRIEF

I welcome all photographers and different individuals from International Press on board. It

gives me colossal joy to acquaint with you – the photography brief; and be a part of this esteemed conference.

The entire thought of this brief is not to release those endeavours squander that all

photographers put into snap a large number of pictures. Additionally, those numerous

photos won't be commendable in the event if you will stray yourself from the rules given in this aide.

Photos serves as the memoirs of all occasions and in the matter of the gatherings like MUN's.

It allows the delegates to get hold of the days' recollections spent in meeting; likewise, it

allows budding photographers to brush up their photography aptitudes, learn new procedures

and catch best of activities and feelings.

All photographs must follow the Rule of Thirds wherever possible, and ought not to be

clicked in Monochrome or Sepia unless specified in a particular task.

There must be a total of 10 photographs showing all members of acouncil/committee,

with different perspectives.

At least three of them should be at the time of a moderated caucus or a procedural vote when placards are raised showing maximum participation.

Three to five photos each from the opening ceremony andunmoderated caucus should be there.

The photographers will be allotted particular committees for which they have to submit the Photographs, however they are not bound to that committee only.

The photographs shall be judged primarily on composition, lighting, meaning and the overall impact that it has.

NO EDITING IS ALLOWED.

EACH PHOTOGRAPHER WILL BE WORKING IN COORDINATION WITH 1 JOURNALIST.
