

The Doon School Model United Nations
Conference 2019

Background Guide

Viceroy's Executive Council





DSMUN '19

Secretary General

Vikram Jain

President

Nandil B. Sarma

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chair.vec@doonschool.comwww.dsmun.in**Secretary General's Address**

Dear delegates,

As the Secretary General, It is my honour and privilege to welcome you all to the 13th Doon School Model United Nations Conference. DSMUN has been growing exponentially and actively augmenting the level and intensity of crises, debate and co-operation with each passing year. It is a legacy that we hope to continue and reinforce with this year's conference.

In an ever volatile, dynamic and adaptive international status-quo, it becomes increasingly vital for us as students- and thereby potential actors in the same system of compromise- to deliberate, discuss and formulate the groundwork of bi-lateral and multi-lateral ties that are to be established in the future.

With firm precedence, it would not be wrong to say that delegates, having attended this conference in the past, have developed a deeper and a more empirical understanding of diplomacy, compromise and conflict. While the Viceroy's Executive Council strives to ensure the peaceful transfer of power from the British to the Indian Union in 1946, the NATO contemplates the feasibility of occupying Antarctica. From condemning theocracies to enforcing climate laws, DSMUN will be an invigorating amalgamation of resolving and debating dissidence, dispute and disparity.

Besides whiling away my time watching typical Netflix Rom-coms, I find myself engrossed in reading about the framework and history of international and national politics. I am in- charge of the historical and political society and the editor of various publications in school. Having participated in various MUNs in India and abroad, I have had the opportunity to serve DSMUN in various capacities, and subsequently feel privileged to be given the opportunity to be at the organisational apex of the conference this year.

I eagerly await your presence at Chandbagh.

Warm regards,

Vikram Jain



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chair.vec@doonschool.comwww.dsmun.in**President's Address**

Greetings!

As the President of the Doon School Model United Nations Society, it gives me immense pleasure to invite you to the 13th Session of the Doon School Model United Nations Conference. Being at the pinnacle of a conference that finds itself amidst the top ranks in the country, both in terms of global outreach and quality, has been an absolute honour. However, we at Doon constantly strive to outdo ourselves and promise that this edition of DSMUN will outdo all of its predecessors be it in terms of organizational skill, quality of debate or participation not just from the South Asian region but from around the world. It is with this vision in mind that I extend my heartiest welcome to each one of you to this year's conference.

The scope of this year's DSMUN will not remain confined to conventional committees. Keeping this in mind, we have expanded DSMUN's committee choices incorporating some bold and new ideas. With the introduction of highly challenging committees such as Lincoln's War Cabinet (1864), Viceroy's Executive Council (1946), Union Council of Ministers (1984) and the Rajya Sabha, we aim to pull off a conference not limited to one's imagination. This year's committees are aimed at developing informative deliberations and solutions to issues: both of global and national significance. Discussions pertaining to context of historical events allows one to explore the multitude of possibilities and find answers to the fundamental question of 'what if'. Having said so, the essential Model UN committees still remain intact providing an interesting challenge in terms of debate, wit and diplomacy to one and all.

As for myself, I am currently surviving the ISC curriculum and hold a keen interest in Politics and History. I deeply enjoy playing sports be it athletics or football. If not on the sports field, you can probably catch me commenting on Tottenham Hotspurs bleak chances of ever clinching a trophy. I also serve as the School Captain of the Doon School and the Editor-in-Chief of the Yearbook, one of the school's flagship publications.

Looking forward to seeing you all in August.

Warm Regards,

Nandil B. Sarma

Introduction to the committee

The Viceroy's Executive Council was formed in 1858 and initially it was just an advisory council when the transfer of power from the East-India Company to the Britain Crown took place (through the Government of India Act 1858). This advisory council was then transformed into a cabinet run through the portfolio system with high-ranking state officials of the British government who made different contribution in various decisions for British-India. The council after 1861 was headed by the Viceroy and five officers who headed different departments in the council which were - revenue, military, law, finance and home and this council was the combination of both, the legislative and the executive councils of the British Indian government. The Viceroy's Executive council was expanded and transformed into the Interim Government on 2nd September 1946, which consisted of many more INC leaders and Muslim League leaders. This step was taken as a part of the Cabinet Mission of 1946 (sent across by PM of Britain, Clement Atlee) through which the British planned on leaving India, but before leaving the British intended on helping in the independence of India and Pakistan. The Interim Government was formed with the main task of assisting the transfer of power of British rule to India and Pakistan and through the Interim government the British helped in formulating manifestos and forming the main government. Lord Wavell made a statement that the Interim government would only be functional until a permanent constitution comes into force.

From 1st October 1943 to 21st February 1947 The Viscount Wavell was the Viceroy of India, and in 1946 the situation in India was very unstable due to the Bengal famine, various riots and conflicts happening due to the different perspectives on the distribution of power in India. The largest conflict or problem the Viceroy's Executive Council had to deal with was the Direct-Action Day on 16th August 1946. There were various riots due to the Muslim League leaders announcing a day of 'Direct-Action' to show their desire for an autonomous Pakistan. In this committee we intend on discussing the unfortunate incident of the Direct-Action Day and the possible solutions to this incident. We will also be discussing the various actions we are going to take after the many communal riots and how we are to prevent further incidents like this one. We will also be discussing the future of India once the communal riots are stopped. The aim of this committee is to formulate a manifesto, which deals with the distribution of power in this country.

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Agenda

The Peaceful transfer of Power from the British to the Indian
Union

Overview

There were many communal riots throughout India after 'Direct Action' Day and to be precise, 3176 riots took place in 1946 alone. The main problem at hand is the riots due to 'Direct-Action' day. 'Direct Action' day began with the Muslim league leaders declaring a non-violent struggle in Calcutta and motivating all the Muslims in India to join the non-violent and non-constitutional struggle which would show how much they want an autonomous and sovereign Pakistan- but even the Muslim league leaders didn't expect what happened after their declaration. The Direct-Action day was meant to be a strong, yet non-violent method to show how much Pakistan is desired by all Muslims, but it resulted in many communal riots in various locations throughout India.

The Calcutta Riots

On 16th August 1946 people turned to violent means and riots broke out in Calcutta as the people wanted to show their desire for Pakistan after 'Direct Action' day was declared. The people thought that violence is the more effective way for the creation of Pakistan, but this worsened the Hindu-Muslim relations. In this dreadful event, a total of 4000 people lost their lives and about 100,000 people became homeless in less than 72 hours. Throughout Bengal there

were riots and unease between Hindus and Muslims. The chief minister of Bengal at that time was Husseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy and he-with his political aid-shielded the Muslims during these riots from police operations. The CM of Bengal was also involved in the Noakhali riots. Apart from Calcutta, there were communal riots triggered after 'Direct Action' day in many places like Punjab, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

The Noakhali and The Bihar Riots

The Bihar communal riots occurred from 24th October to 11th November 1946 and the cause of these riots was the 'Direct Action' day and partially the Noakhali riots. The Noakhali riots were a series of semi-organised murders, rapes and abductions by Muslims, with approximately 5000 Hindus killed and hundreds of Hindu women raped. Many Hindu men were also forced to convert to Islam. These Noakhali riots were encouraged Husseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy (CM of Bengal) and this person's actions were diabolical as he engineered the murder and rape of hundreds of Hindus. Suhrawardy will be further elaborated on later in this guide. In the Bihar communal riots, Hindu mobs targeted the Muslim-mainly for revenge for the horrors of the Noakhali riots-which resulted in many Hindu and Muslim lives lost. Many more riots occurred in the entire nation-just like the ones in Calcutta and Bihar, and hardly anything could be done to reduce the fatalities of these communal riots. U.K, which is a subsidiary of News Corp., this newspaper is believed to have a centre-right bias.

The Failure of the Cabinet Mission Plan

By the year 1946, the Indian Independence movement had reached a conclusive stage. By now, the British realized that treating India as a colony was no longer a viable option. However, Jinnah's incessant calls for the partition of India greatly hindered Britain's aim for a peaceful transfer of power from themselves to India. The Cabinet Mission Plan was a step in this direction. Its main aims were to carry out the previously mentioned transfer of power peacefully, without any hindrance. Essentially, the Cabinet Mission Plan entailed the governance of India be split into three groups, the provinces, provincial groupings and the centre, which would have each have their areas of influence and control certain sectors of governance. The Plan's defining feature was the grouping of provinces. The mainly Muslim western and eastern provinces would constitute two groups. The third group would comprise the mostly-Hindu areas in the south and the centre, such as UP, CP, Bombay, Bihar and Madras. The provinces were divided into Group A, Group B and Group C. Group A consisted of Madras, Central provinces, UP, Bihar, Bombay and Orissa. Group B would comprise Sind, Punjab, Northwest Frontier and Baluchistan. Bengal and Assam would make up Group C.

This was an acceptable compromise, as it provided Indian unity, while simultaneously providing Jinnah with a sense of Pakistan. Jinnah was satisfied with the plan accepted the plan and urged the Congress to accept the plan as well, and said its terms would be binding once accepted. Nehru, however, held his reservations about the plan and announced that the INC was neither committed nor bound to the plan in a speech to the public. This enraged Jinnah and the Muslim League soon withdrew its support for the plan. For the British, the situation had reverted back to the earlier one, therefore, Wavell took decisive action. Disregarding Jinnah's veto, he authorized a cabinet in which Nehru was interim Prime Minister, which by extension meant he had more power. By this point, Jinnah had reached his limit, and announced that "Direct Action" would need to be taken to achieve the collective goal of the formation of Pakistan. Our agenda is concerned with the consequences of this "Direct Action" and the steps required maintaining peace in the country while simultaneously determining the distribution of power in the future.

Royal Indian Navy Mutiny

By 1946, the Royal Indian Navy was a large organization with a huge amount of members. This expansion took place to tend to the requirements of the Second World War. Due to this expansion, the British were forced to recruit from all sections of society, even the ones that did not guarantee loyalty to the British cause. This decision ended up backfiring, as these relatively new recruits ended up revolting against the British.

The primary cause for the mutiny was poor living conditions and food supplies.

The revolts originally started in Bombay, in the form of a one-day general strike, but the revolt soon spread to other cities. Members of the Navy would showcase insubordination by referring to themselves as part of the “Indian National Navy”, and offer left handed salutes to their senior officers. There were cases of extreme and borderline violent rioting as well. In some cities, rioters were joined by the Royal Indian Air Force and local police forces. The revolting members used flags with pictures of Subhash Chandra Bose and Lenin. The revolt in itself was largely a failure, owing to poor communication and more crucially, a lack of any kind of political support. The INC and the Muslim League distanced themselves and condemned these riots. In hindsight, their actions can be attributed to the fact that achieving Indian independence was within their grasp, and they did not want to jeopardize this possibility with any rash decision. The riots did have a profound impact on the mentality of troops from the army, and led to frequent internal conflicts between the British and Indian troops. This relationship was therefore, deemed the ‘point of no return’.

Timeline

In order to truly understand the difficulty of the task at hand, as well as gain invaluable insight into the events that took place in the build-up to Direct Action Day, it is imperative to develop an

understanding of the situation in India post 1942.

1942: One of the most important events that took place in 1942 was the arrival of the Cripps mission. The Cripps Mission was a last ditch attempt by the British government to secure the full co-operation of India for support in the second World War. The mission was headed by a senior minister Sir Stafford Cripps, and was a member of the coalition War cabinet led by Winston Churchill, who was against Indian independence. According to the contract, Cripps offered democratic elections and dominion status to India, in exchange for loyalty to the British war effort. However, after negotiations between Britain and both Indian parties reached an impasse, and both sides were unwilling to come to a compromise, The Indian National Congress moved towards the Quit India movement, wherein they refused to co-operate with the British War effort. In response, the British imprisoned most leadership of the INC for the duration of the war. Jinnah and the Muslim League on the other hand, supported the war effort and gained standing in the eyes of both the British and the Muslims in India which gave them a upper hand in their effort for partition.

The Quit India movement was another significant event that took place in the year 1942. It was a collective movement organized by the INC to gain independent status. In reality, the Quit

India movement was unorganized and lacked support from most national governing bodies like the Muslim League and the Indian Civil Service. Therefore, the revolt was easily crushed.

1943: India was still reeling from the effects of the badly organized Quit India Movement in 1943, but a host of bad decisions, mismanagement by the government as well as extreme rationing to aid the war effort, led to one of the most tragic man-made disasters in history, the Bengal famine. The Bengal Famine led to the death of an estimated 2.1 to 3.1 million people with more people impacted by diseases. Bengal had a problem of food production much before the famine began. By the time the famine hit, between half and three-quarters of the rural poor were living in a "semi-starved condition". Stagnant agricultural productivity, coupled with an increasing rural population further compounded the problem. The Government's tendency to prioritize upper classes when it came to food distribution further worsened the situation in Bengal at the time. India was also unable to seek help from outside sources, due to restrictions imposed by Churchill's War Cabinet. The extreme shortage of food led to hyperinflation in the food market, with prices skyrocketing. The famine had a strong and lasting impact on the minds of most Indians, especially with regard to their perception of the British.

1944: The year 1944 was primarily characterized by advancements of the Indian National Army, led by Subhash Chandra Bose. During this period, the INA allied with Japanese troops and began a series of assaults on various locations controlled by British troops, although this effort was futile, for the most part. The first of these series of attacks was "Operation U-Go", an offensive launched in the north-eastern regions of India, most notably Manipur and the Naga Hills. This offensive culminated in a series of battles which were ultimately lost by the Japanese, and by extension, the Indian National Army. This defeat also proved fatal for the INA, who were never able to recover from the insurmountable losses they suffered. As Japanese forces retreated from Burma, the INA had no choice but to follow suit. During the retreat, The INA forces were regularly harassed by Allied planes and Chinese guerilla troops. Eventually, after the surrendering of Japanese troops, Bose decided to travel to Dalian, in China, with the intention of contacting Soviet troops, but is reported to have died in a plane crash near Taiwan, with the rest of the INA surrendering shortly after his death.

1945: In the year 1945, Field Marshall Wavell arrived in India, proposing a plan that would establish a new Executive Council, in which everyone barring the Viceroy and the Commander-in-Chief would be Indian, and all portfolios, except Defense, would be held by Indian

members. There were 14 seats in total, out of which 6 were reserved for the Muslims. This is where negotiations in the Shimla Conference halted, because Mohammad Ali Jinnah claimed that all Muslims had to be represented by the Muslim League, otherwise they could not be a part of the council. The British had also given the power to veto any proposals to the Muslims, which was an oversight, as Muslims only represented 25% of the entire population. In light of these unreasonable demands, Congress rejected the proposal. But the Muslim League did not let up, and a compromise was reached between both sides, and the Wavell Plan was unveiled on June 14, 1945. The terms of the plan were as follows:

1. If all the Indian political parties would help the British in the war, then the British Government would introduce Constitutional Reforms in India after the war.
2. Viceroy's Executive Council would be immediately reconstituted and the number of its members would be increased.
3. In that Council there would be equal representation of high class Hindus and the Muslims.
4. Other minorities including low-caste Hindus, Shudders and Sikhs would be given representation in the Council.
5. All the members of the Council, except the Viceroy and the Commander-in-Chief would be Indians.
6. An Indian would be appointed as the member of Foreign Affairs in the Council. However, a British Commissioner would be appointed to look after the matters relating to the trade.
7. Defence of India was to be in the hands of a British authority till Power was transferred to the Indian hands
8. Viceroy would convene a meeting of the Indian politician including the leaders of Congress and the Muslim League so that they could nominate the names of the members of the new Council.
9. If this plan were approved for the Central Government, then same type of popular ministries comprising of the political leaders would be formed in all the provinces.
10. None of the changes suggested will in any way prejudice or prejudice the essential form of the future permanent Constitution of India

People Involved

There were various important people involved with the events going on during this time. Lord Archibald Wavell was a very impactful figure during this time and his actions were both criticised and praised. The Viscount Wavell spent 43 years of his life as a dedicated soldier, which finally helped him gain the position of the penultimate viceroy of India. Wavell proposed a plan-the Wavell Plan of June 1945- which involved a council being formed which would include only Indians and Muslims apart

from the Viceroy and the Commander-in-chief. This plan was a very important step towards India getting an independent government, but it was praised by many and criticised by many others. This is because Wavell ensured that the Muslims get their own representative and this practically meant that the creation of Pakistan was inevitable. During Lord Wavell's tenure, events like The Bengal famine, the RIN mutiny and the 'Direct Action' Day were dealt with. Lord Archibald Wavell was welcomed in England as a hero, but he was distressed by the havoc and chaos he left behind in India. He died three years after he returned from India, at the age of 67. Lord Archibald Wavell wasn't the typical ruthless commander-in-chief, and this was noticed even by the King and Churchill and the respect Wavell gave to the INC horrified Churchill as Wavell was expected to be strict and imperative. This unorthodox characteristic of Wavell led to him losing the job of Viceroy in 1947. Clement Atlee also had quite an impact on this struggle, as he was the one who formulated the Cabinet Mission (June 1946) and permitted the formation of an Interim government in India to help India in the process of becoming an independent nation.

There were various important INC members who also played various critical roles in this struggle for Independence and to end the 'Direct Action' Day. Mahatma Gandhi had one of the most,

important roles in this struggle. Mahatma Gandhi was the person who started the non-violent movement which turned out to be the most effective movement against the British rule. Mahatma Gandhi also had a huge hand in stopping the riots after 'Direct Action' day. He took an oath to fast till death if the riots continued, and this resulted in the end of the riots. This action of Mahatma Gandhi prevented the death of many more people. Mahatma Gandhi also started various non-violent movements such as the Non-cooperation movement, the Quit India movement, and the Civil-disobedience movement. These movements made the freedom struggle much more intense and they also made it very clear to the British crown that India can't be ruled by them anymore.

Jawaharlal Nehru was also a very influential figure in this struggle. As Nehru was the first PM of India, various responsibilities rested on his shoulders and he undertook them with great efficiency. Jawaharlal Nehru is also called the 'Architect' of the nation as he shaped the nation into what it is right now. Nehru helped in forming unique and effective economic and foreign policies which helped India in various ways. Nehru is also praised for creating a system providing global primary education which reached out to even the most rural areas. Nehru also established various programs such as the National

Book Trust and the National Literary Academy.

Another important INC member is Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Sardar Patel became the first deputy prime-minister of India and led the task of uniting India. Sardar Patel was famous for his values and his principles and he was also called the 'Iron Man' of India due to his contribution and vision for India. Sardar Patel played an important role in bringing the 565 self-governing princely states and territories into the Indian Federation. In under a year, Sardar Patel created a new map of India which included every princely state in the Union of India. This helped create a more united and cultural India. Sardar Patel also wanted a strong and independent civil service and his vision helped in the formation in the civil service that exists in the present. Patel also had the vision for a strong and vibrant administrative system in India, but before he could work towards this goal of his, he passed away. Sardar Patel also contributed in strengthening the defence systems and he alerted Nehru of the threat presented by China and he also talked about strengthening border defence.

The most influential Muslim League leader was Muhammed Ali Jinnah and he worked towards uniting the Hindus and the Muslims to get rid of the British rule. Jinnah continued this work of his of trying to unite Hindus and Muslims until the Nehru report was published-which

forced him to leave the INC. Jinnah was disgusted by the high anti-Muslim behaviour in India and this behaviour made him change his views on Hindu-Muslim unity. All these events led up finally to his proposal of Pakistan being formed as this was the only solution which he could think of due to the extreme discrimination in India. Throughout this time, Jinnah remained a great leader and he work very hard for Pakistan and all the Muslims.


Functioning of Committee

The committee will be functioning in the following manner:

- The delegates will be presented with multiple crises.
- The initial freeze date will be 19th August 1946 and as the committee proceeds the time will also move along.
- The aim of the committee will be to solve all the presented crises peacefully and efficiently.
- The committee looks to find solutions through cooperation and compromise and would finally like to see a peaceful transfer of power from the British to the Indian Union of States.
- The committee will follow normal MUN Rules of Procedures which can also be found on the DSMUN website.

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