

The Doon School Model United Nations  
Conference 2019

## Background Guide



# Union Cabinet of Ministers, 1984



DSMUN '19

**Secretary General**

Vikram Jain

**President**

Nandil B. Sarma

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[chair.ucm@doonschool.com](mailto:chair.ucm@doonschool.com)[www.dsmun.in](http://www.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.ucm@doonschool.com](mailto:chair.ucm@doonschool.com)[www.dsmun.in](http://www.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 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 Union Council of Ministers meeting that our committee will enact has been scheduled for June 1<sup>st</sup>, 1984. It is important to note that, events occurring after this date, are outside the scope of debate in committee, as they have not yet happened. This includes most details of the Blue Star Operation.

Instead, delegates will be expected to discuss matters that have caused civil unrest in Punjab up until the 1<sup>st</sup> of June, and to produce viable solutions. There are widespread shortages of basic humanitarian resources in Punjab, and little is being done about it by the reigning Indian National Congress. Violent secessionist actions invoke terror in the Punjab region, and take advantage of the uneducated Sikh community. These are the issues that delegates will be expected to tackle, bearing in mind all stakeholders and they're associations with the crisis.

Delegates should demonstrate deep understanding of the several layers and causes of the problems that Punjab is facing, with special emphasis on Political, Economic and Religious contexts. These three lines of analysis should be explored in depth by the committee, in order to be able to effectively resolve the crises at hand, such as the persisting economic turmoil in Punjab and the relationships between Indira Gandhi, the Indian National Congress, the Akali Dal, Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, etc. Delegates should approach these political discussions with due sensitivity, given that the Union Council of Ministers is a political body. Additionally, the growing support for pro-Sikh authority movements such as the Akali Dal, due to the Indian government's seeming unwillingness to dedicate resources to improving living conditions for citizens of Punjab, will be expected to be a focal point of debate.

Delegates should note that the Union Council of Ministers will be a continuous crisis committee, and hence, substantial research and knowledge of context will be required by delegates in order to reach consensus on an appropriate and effective solution to the problem of prevailing civil unrest in Punjab. The committee functions differently from conventional United Nations Committees, and hence, delegates should be adequately informed in terms of how continuous crisis committees progress. Having said that, delegates are encouraged to contact the Executive Board regarding any queries they may have regarding the agenda, or committee in general whenever necessary.

Crises that arise in committee may differ from actual historical events, in order to encourage a hands-on practical approach from delegates as opposed to a presentation of pre-prepared solutions and speeches.

It should be noted that, given that the Union Council of Ministers will occur as a historical, crisis committee, delegates will not be expected to prepare draft resolutions to tackle the agenda. Instead the primary forms of documentation will be directives, authorized by relevant powers. Delegates should be well informed of the extent of the authority their portfolios have.

On behalf of the Executive Board, we wish delegates good luck in their preparatory period, and again, encourage delegates to reach out to us regarding any questions they may have regarding the committee and agenda.



## **Agenda**

Quelling the civil unrest in Punjab.



## Panjab 1984 Timeline

1971 – The first explicit call for an independent Sikh state (Khalistan) was made by Jagjit Singh Chohan.

1972 – Indian National Congress wins Punjab State Elections, and Akali Dal is defeated.

1973 – Akali Dal propose the Anandpur Sahib Resolution, citing several political and religious issues in Punjab at the time. The resolution calls for Sikhism to be considered a separate religion from Hinduism, and for the central government to cede a certain amount of power to the Punjabi state government, among other political changes favoring the Sikh population. The Anandpur Sahib Resolution is rejected by the Congress Government.

Sep 9, 1981 - Lala Jagat Narain, Hind Samachar newspaper group founder and a bitter critic of Bhindranwale, is gunned down by terrorists near Ludhiana city.

August, 1982 – Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, and the Akali Dal launch the Dharam Yudh Morcha protests to support the implementation of the Anandpur Sahib Resolution. Political violence ensued, and thousands of Akali workers were arrested.

October, 1982 – Indira Gandhi orders the release of all Akali workers in order to enter into negotiations with Bhindranwale. A compromise is reached.

July, 1982 - Armed Sikh militants storm the parliament in protest. This was due to an incident in which 34 Sikhs died in police custody.

November, 1982 – Akali leaders threaten to disrupt the Delhi Asian Games by organizing protests in Delhi in spite of international media attention. Security is heightened at the Delhi-Punjab border. As a result, protests in Delhi are of little significance. Many Sikhs find the new security measures to be discriminatory, and those who didn't support Akalis, now begin to sympathize with them.

July, 1983 - the Akali Dal's President, Harcharan Singh Longowal invites Bhindranwale to take up residence in Golden Temple Complex to evade arrest. Bhindranwale converts the complex into an armory and base for Akali Dal operations.

October, 1983 – A bus travelling from Dhillwan to Jalandhar is attacked by pro-Khalistan Sikh militants. 6 Hindus are killed in the process. This event is known as the Dhillwan Bus Massacre.

February, 1984 – Six policemen are abducted from the Golden Temple area and killed by Bhindranwale's militants.

February, 1984 – The Akali Dal begins organizing protests challenging *Clause 2(b)* of *section 25* of The Indian Constitution, which implies that Sikhism is subsidiary to Hinduism.

April, 1984 – Harcharan Singh Longowal concedes in writing that he can no longer control the actions of Bhindranwale.

June 1<sup>st</sup>, 1984 – Indira Gandhi launches the Blue Star Operation, a military mission intended to extract Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale from the Harmandir Sahib Complex of the Golden Temple. Negotiations ensue with Bhindranwale and his peers to release pilgrims. Militants begin firing at the Golden Temple in the early afternoon, and continue till late in the evening.

June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1984 – The army arrives at the temple, and all those seen to be leaving the Golden Temple are taken into custody. Media representatives arrive at the temple, and observe the gunshot wounds suffered by those in the temple, caused by the firing from the previous day. A complete media and press blackout is ordered by the government. Rail, road and air services to and from Punjab are suspended and foreigners and NRI's are banned from entering Punjab. Also, Punjab's water and electricity supplies are cut off.

June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1984 – Being that June 3<sup>rd</sup> is the day of Guruparb, thousands of pilgrims arrive at the Golden Temple to worship. Due to the military imposed curfew, many of these pilgrims are forced to stay in the Golden Temple overnight, along with the Akali Dal. Punjab is sealed for 48 hours, leaving many stranded away

from home for the prescribed time period.

June 4<sup>th</sup>, 1984 – Early in the morning of June 4<sup>th</sup>, the army launches an offensive of cannons and rifles that increases in ferocity and persists until the 6<sup>th</sup> of June. Power and water supplies to the temple are cut. No public announcement or warning is made prior to these actions; hence several pilgrims die as collateral damage. Responding fire from within the temple is negligible. Helicopters provide additional fire, and also guide cannon fire by shining circles of light around enemies of the Indian Military. The Red Cross is forbidden from crossing the Jallianwala Bagh, which is a kilometer from the main entrance of the Golden Temple.

Preventing the Red Cross from aiding the wounded within the temple is an action in violation of the UN Charter of Human Rights. Weeks later, the army denies directing any fire at the temple, and makes a suggestion that they acted with utmost religious sensitivity.

June 5<sup>th</sup>, 1984 – Survivors of the previous attacks stay huddled in the remains of the temple, with no food or water. The army coaxes many survivors to come out into the open, promising to return them home safely. The next morning, the corpses of those who succumbed to these promises are found on the Parikrama of the temple. Tanks and armored carriers enter the temple and heavy firing continues. The tanks set fire to several rooms and strengthen their grip on the temple.



June 6<sup>th</sup>, 1984 – Civilians' patkas are forcefully removed, and used to physically restrain them. Under the notion that the state of Khalistan was to be established at the golden temple at this time, the Army tortures, kills, starves and abuses civilians whom they believe to be part of the Akali Dal's armed forces. Reports of the incident at the time claimed that the Army officers who entered the temple had not worn boots, yet it was clear even then that this was a lie. Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale is killed on this day.

June 7<sup>th</sup>, 1984 – Hundreds of Sikhs are captured by army forces, and held in a room without ventilation or water. Due to this, several suffocate and die.

June 8<sup>th</sup>, 1984 The last of the Akali Dal resistance is defeated in a basement encounter in one of the Temple complex buildings.

October 31<sup>st</sup>, 1984 Indira Gandhi is murdered at approximately 9:00 AM by sub-inspector Beant Singh and Satwant Singh, aided by accomplice, Kehar Singh.

### **Possible Directions of the Committee**

Over the course of the three days of debate, the committee should evolve and eventually, "Quell the civil unrest in Punjab", being that that is the agenda of the meeting. It is important that everything that occurs during the three days of committee leads to this eventual goal. Delegates should keep in mind that

there are several ways through which this can be achieved, and that they have the power to shape the committee and decide upon the eventual conclusion that is reached. The Executive Board has highlighted three possible approaches to quelling the crisis below;

#### Peace Negotiations with members of Akali Dal, and Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale:

The council may choose to approach members of the Akali Dal, along with Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale and reach a compromise on the basis of the *Anandpur Sahib Resolution*. This could eventually result in peace and stability in the Punjab area. However, in a worst-case scenario, this may also force a complete loss of control over Punjab by the central government. This approach to committee seems relatively simple, but is far from straightforward. Diplomacy and knowledge of Portfolio assignments will be key to adopting this approach to committee.

#### Military Subdual of Civil Violence and Demonstrations in Punjab:

If peaceful negotiations seem undesirable, military action could be imposed on Punjab-based rebels, quelling their efforts. This decision would exempt the Council from having to concede to the demands of the Akali Dal, as army forces can apprehend aggressors, removing any leverage they may have. This may prove

risky however, as knowledge of the strength of Akali militants is unknown. Also, sympathy for the efforts of Bhindranwale and his allies is spreading in Punjab, and military subdual of these efforts may induce further protests, plunging the area into further crisis.

#### Formation of Khalistan:

The establishment of an independent Sikh state, Khalistan, is almost guaranteed to quell civil unrest in neighboring regions of Punjab, however it would create short-term economic deficiency and population loss, which may have long term effects on the country's welfare status. Furthermore, it would give Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale and his allies an unprecedented amount of power to act. Up until 1984, the Congress government has acted, to some degree, as deterrence to the Akali Dal, from expanding the scale of its violent efforts. If an independent state of Khalistan is formed, this deterrence will cease to exist as the Government of India will no longer have any authority over the Akali Dal. However, in the long term, India may stand to benefit from shedding the densely populated, violent and problematic state of Punjab.

Delegates should bear in mind that these approaches are by no means, the only direction that the committee should move in over the course of the

conference. Any other solutions, will be entertained in the same manner as the aforementioned, as long as they have logical backing and historical relevance. The suggested approaches have merely been stated to assist delegates in terms of how to structure their arguments and research. Good luck!

#### **Guiding Questions**

Given the repercussions of the formation of Pakistan as an independent nation-state under similar circumstances in 1947, how should the committee approach the notion of the formation of Khalistan?

Bearing in mind the fact that the Indian constitution abides by principles of secularity, to what extent should religious sensitivity be integrated with security policies designed to quell civil unrest?

Does the committee believe that the Indian National Congress is well-placed to quell civil unrest in Punjab? If not, what should be done to fix this?

To what extent can events transpiring in Punjab have an impact on the lives of Sikhs, and indeed, people all around the world? Keeping this in mind, how should the Council react?

Does the situation in Punjab warrant foreign intervention in political and military affairs? How might intervention affect different stakeholders, involving civil populations, the credibility of the Indian Government, etc.

Given the dire situation in Punjab, and its effects on political stability of the Indian Government, would a declaration of an Emergency State in India be justified?

What is the relevance and Significance of different media organizations with regards to unrest in Punjab?



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