

The Doon School Model United Nations  
Conference 2019

## Background Guide

# International Press Corps





DSMUN '19

**Secretary General**

Vikram Jain

**President**

Nandil B. Sarma

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[chair.ipc@doonschool.com](mailto:chair.ipc@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.ipc@doonschool.com](mailto:chair.ipc@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 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 International Press Corps is a special committee in the way that it runs. It reports on the running and the debate of other committees. Much like modern-day press conferences, delegates will be expected to ask thought-provoking questions, write reports that are detailed and abundantly informative.

The committee tests an individual's ability to understand proceedings and problems that are arising within a given committee. This committee builds an individual's ability to analyze situations and hones their skills of writing.

We hope to have a productive and fruitful committee session and look forward to meeting you.



# DSMUN '19

## **Agenda**

Reportage on all other committees.

## Portfolio Briefs

### New York Times

The New York Times (sometimes abbreviated as the NYT and NYTimes) is an American newspaper based in New York City with worldwide influence and readership. The paper is owned by The New York Times Company, which is publicly traded and is controlled by the Sulzberger family. The New York Times is said to have a Left-Centre bias, as well as being very factual and liberal.

The Executive Editor of The New York Times is Dean Baquet.

### The Indian Express

The Indian Express is an English-language Indian daily newspaper. It is published in Mumbai by The Indian Express Group. The paper is owned by Indian Express Limited. The Indian Express was earlier an anti-establishment paper, but currently is more of pro-Congress media house. This is strange as this is the same publication that raged war upon the Indira Gandhi government. The Indian Express is said to have a minimalistic Right-Centre bias.

The Editor-in-Chief of The Indian Express is Raj Kamal Jha

### Fox News

Fox News (sometimes abbreviated as the FNC) is an American pay television news channel. It is owned by the Fox News Group. Fox News Channel has been widely described as providing biased reporting in favour of conservative political positions, the Republican Party and President Donald Trump and conservative causes while slandering the

Democratic Party and spreading harmful propaganda intended to negatively affect its members' electoral performances. It was originally created as an alternative to CNN. Fox News Editorial media bias rating is Right. Fox News' bias is widely believed to be conservative, despite its slogan being "fair and balanced."

The Editor-in-Chief of Fox News is Porter Berry.

### The Bombay Samachar

The Bombay Samachar (or as now called as The Mumbai Samachar) is Asia's oldest newspaper. Published for the first time in 1882, this newspaper was initially published in English and Gujarati But now only in Gujarati. The Mumbai Samachar played a very important role during India's struggle for independence is often quoted by freedom fighters like Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Vallabhbhai Patel and others. From its inception, the editorial policy was to objectively report events in a fair and honest manner and not to sensationalize news, sobriety and independence of views being a characteristic which still stands.

The Editor-in-chief for this newspaper is Nilesh M Dave

### The Guardian

The Guardian is a British daily newspaper. It was founded in 1821 as The Manchester Guardian, and changed its name in 1959. Along with its sister papers The Observer and The Guardian Weekly, the Guardian is part of the Guardian Media Group, owned by the Scott Trust. The media bias of



The Guardian is slight to moderate liberal bias. They often publish factual information that utilizes words that aim to influence their reader group emotionally to favour liberal causes.

These sources are generally trustworthy for information, but may require further investigation. They are known to publish factual articles, but in recent times, The Guardian has been accused of 'story falsification'.

The Editor-in-Chief of The Guardian is Katharine Viner.

### **France 24**

France 24 is a state-owned international news and current affairs television network based in Paris. Its channels broadcast in French, English, Arabic, and Spanish. It is aimed at a worldwide market and is generally broadcast via satellite and cable operators around the world, but in 2010, France 24 began broadcasting through its own iPhone and Android apps. The stated mission of the channels is to "provide a global public service and a common editorial stance.". Since 2008 the channel has been wholly owned by the French government, via its holding company France Médias Monde. France 24 is excellent at delivering breaking news. They have a left of centre bias in reporting and they are known for publishing factual pieces around the clock.

The Editor-in-Chief of France 24 is Derek Thomson.

### **British Broadcasting Company**

The British Broadcasting Corporation (sometimes abbreviated as the BBC) is a British public service broadcaster. Its headquarters are at Broadcasting House

in Westminster, London, and it is the world's oldest national broadcasting organisation. BBC News is an operational business division of the British Broadcasting Corporation responsible for the gathering and broadcasting of news and current affairs. It is publicly owned and is the largest broadcast news gathering operation in the world. The BBC is said to have a Left-Centre bias and is said to be extremely factual considering all their information is properly sourced.

The Director General of the BBC is Tony Hall.

### **Wall Street Journal**

The Wall Street Journal (sometimes abbreviated as WSJ) is a Pulitzer-prize winning, American newspaper based in New York City. This Newspaper concentrates on covering finance, corporate and investment news from all over the globe. Launched in 1889, this newspaper is owned by News Corp via Dow Jones and Company. Except for Newspapers, this firm also publishes magazines related to luxury and lifestyle every month. This newspaper is believed to be the first to give coverage of the 9/11 attacks. This newspaper is believed to have a right-centre bias.

The Editor-in-chief for this newspaper is Matt Murray.

### **The Times of London**

The Times (also called The Times of London) is a London based daily newspaper of Britain. After beginning under the title of Daily Universal Register in 1785, this newspaper has been an integral part of the political structure of Great Britain and has worked closely with 10 Downing Street. With its sister newspaper, The Sunday Times, The Times also aims to cover news from all over the world especially in fields of

Business and sports. Owned by News U.K which is a subsidiary of News Corp., this newspaper is believed to have a centre-right bias.

The Editor-in-chief for this newspaper is John Witherow.

### **CNN**

Cable News Network (abbreviated as CNN) is an Atlanta based American pay news channel. Founded in 1980 by media proprietor, this news channel is believed to be the first to provide 24-hour news coverage. It has a strong left-bias and has often been involved in controversies for showing negative stories about the Republican Party of U.S.A. Other than this, CNN has given close coverage of the Gulf war and 2008 Presidential elections. CNN is owned by WarnerMedia News & Sports, a division of AT&T's Warner Media.

The Editor-in-chief for this channel is Meridith Artley.

### **The Hindu**

The Hindu is an Indian Daily newspaper based in Chennai. This newspaper is one of the most read newspapers in India. It has a left-centre bias and has been involved in supporting the Chinese and Sri Lankan government and not reporting the Bofors Scandal initiated by the Indian National Congress enough. This newspaper and its other publications are owned by The Hindu group which is run by a family-held company, Kasturi and Sons Ltd.

The editor-in-chief for this newspaper is Suresh Nambath.

### **Richmond Examiner**

The Richmond Examiner (or the Daily Richmond Examiner) was a newspaper published during the American Civil War

in Richmond, the capital of the Confederate states. The paper published staunch and increasingly vitriolic opposition to the leadership and policies of Confederate President Jefferson Davis. It was also believed to be the richest source of information in prisons, hospitals and the hostile environment of Richmond.

The Editor in chief for this newspaper covering finance Daniel

### **UN News**

United Nations News (or as often abbreviated as UN NEWS) is a multi-lingual news portal which directly covers all UN-related issues and activities all over the globe with depth. Other than this, UN News also provides a range of services including media accreditation to support coverage of the United Nations, live television feeds and webcasting of intergovernmental meetings, and historically rich audio-visual collections that document the history of the United Nations and its work.

The editor in chief of UN News is Monica Grayley

### **Sputnik**

Sputnik (or as earlier called as The Voice of Russia) is a Moscow based news-agency established by the Russian government-owned news agency, Rossiya Segodnya. It focuses on global politics and economics and is geared towards a non-Russian audience. This news agency is often known for spreading misinformation and is also known as the "Kremlin Propaganda machine" due to which it has a strong Right-bias. Sputnik



also routinely publishes articles that promote conspiracy theories too.

The Editor-in-chief for this news channel is Margarita Simonyan.

## Rules of Procedure

### Reporting and Evaluation

All the delegates of different news agencies will largely report information in four different ways: news report, op-ed, press conference and interviews.

However, if a particular news agency has an additional style of reporting, that too may be incorporated with the permission of the Chair.

**News Report:** This is the most important part of reporting information for every news agency. All news agencies must submit two news reports every day. This needs to include all the solutions discussed and decisions taken in the committee. It must include any other vital information from debates in the committee. Delegates are recommended to comprehensively record all debates and proposed solutions in committee sessions in order to prepare an accurate report. It must not include the opinion of the news agency on the matter. However, delegates are encouraged to show a bias (implicit in most cases) based on their news agency's stand. They must also analyze how effective the solution is. Photos from the committee may be included. In case of an unmoderated caucus, only the outcome should be recorded. Marking depends on accuracy,

organization, evidence, suitability of title, grammar, vocabulary and concision.

**Opinion Editorials:** This must have a background of the proceedings in the committee and must contain the opinion of the news agency in the matter. Based on the news agency's style, caricatures, photos, doodles etc. may be included.

Delegates will be expected to write at least one Opinion Editorial every day, with critical analysis being the core component of the piece, besides logical argumentation thereafter.

Marking depends on analysis, accuracy, organization, evidence, suitability of title, grammar, vocabulary and concision.

**Press Conferences:** Delegates have the opportunity to hold a press conference at the end of each day, where they may ask five to six questions addressed to different delegates. Follow up questions may be asked with the permission of the respective Chair. Despite the fact that there will be time reserved at the end of each day for a Press Conference, the Chairperson of the respective committee must be made aware of the same by the delegates. Further, all questions should be prepared well in advance, and shown to the Chairperson of the International Press Corps considerably before the conference. The conference must be transcribed and submitted by the end of that day. The discussion may be recorded to make transcribing easier.

Marking depends on quality of questions and the effectiveness of language used while posing questions

**Interviews:** Delegates may interview one (or in special cases more than one) delegate and ask about five to six questions with follow up questions. The delegate being questioned is obliged to make a statement in response to the

question. The Chairperson of the IPC must be shown the question ahead of time though.

Interviews must be held during breaks in committee. The interview must be transcribed and submitted. To make transcribing easier, it can be recorded. Marking depends on quality of questions and use of formal language.

## International Code of Ethics for Journalism

This is a list of Codes and Ethics followed by a wide range of International Media outlets across the world. It is necessary to have a Code of Ethics for any journalistic institution as it provides the journalists with guidelines on how best to approach their profession. Since there are times when journalists might exceed the freedom given to them, a set of codes and policies will make it less likely for them to cross this boundary. For this very reason, it becomes necessary for a committee like the International Press Corps to have a code

of ethics as well. These ethics inevitably vary from country to country, but the purpose remains the same: safeguarding the autonomy of the profession and serving the nation's interest. The following code of ethics has been collected from various sources, which are mentioned in the citations. The whole list is attached at the end.

The role of the reporter/ journalist: The reporter must not misinterpret or lie about his identity. He/she cannot say that he/she is a police officer in order to obtain information. Nevertheless, anonymity can be entertained in special situations. Reporters must make an effort to remain in the audience, and just report the news, not make the news.

The Journalist's Rights: As a journalist, one enjoys the following rights: The protection of professional secrecy and of confidential sources is both a right

and an obligation for a journalist. A journalist enjoys, according to the law, the protection of his copyright privileges. A journalist is protected by international law or treaty in which his country took part. A journalist has the right to refuse any advertising or sponsorship contracts given to the press institution he/she works for.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is a serious issue in modern journalism, and therefore in relation to this the following codes apply: All data textual or statistical borrowed from external sources has to be cited properly. (A guide to the Citation Policy to be followed has been given below). No journalist can pass off others work as their own.

All articles submitted will be run through the 'Turnitin' software as protocol for the committee. Any article shown to have a plagiarism level of higher than 15% will be penalized heavily.

Sources and their protection: The journalist must maintain the confidentiality of sources that do not wish to be revealed. However, before granting anonymity, journalists must question the motives of the sources. Use multiple sources in order to make your report more accurate and credible. Reporters must attempt to test the accuracy of their sources and identify them when feasible. Journalists cannot use pseudonyms for their sources. Ultimately, members of the press corps should only publish information from confidential sources if: The information is important, it cannot be obtained on the record, the source is credible and there is a reason for confidentiality.

Dealing with errors: Journalists should notify their news agencies immediately if there has been a mistake, and promptly correct the mistake. Journalists should also alert agencies in case of questions being raised about the accuracy of reports. Persons who call errors to attention must be treated respectfully. If required, journalists may publish apologies.

Privacy and respect for human violations: The identity of victims of accidents, disasters and crimes must not be revealed without the consent of

the victim. A journalist must not discriminate based on caste, race, gender, skin color or nationality and must remain as unbiased as possible. A journalist has the responsibility of respecting the private life of an individual. Interfering in one's private life is permitted only when the public interest of finding the information prevails. Journalists should recognize that individuals have a

greater right to protect information than others. Be sensitive when seeking or using interviews or photographs of those affected by tragedy or grief.

Taste, fairness and honesty: Journalists must avoid profanities and obscenities, and aim to be politically correct, not using offensive words. Reporters should avoid having any financial arrangements at the risk of being biased or unfair. Journalists must deny favoured treatment to advertisers and special interests and resist their pressure to influence news coverage. There should be no conflict of interest, real or perceived. Journalists must not let any personal opinion get in their way during reportage. All in all, news agents must ascribe to honesty, fairness, independence and respect for the rights of others.



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