

2023



Jamia Millia Islamia

Model United Nations

**Group All India Political Parties
Meet(AIPPM)**

JMI Model United Nations, 2023



Letter from the Executive Board

Greetings!

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the academic stimulation of the All India Political Parties Meet (AIPPM). In this committee, we shall be analysing a very common subject in today's time which is "Deliberating Upon The Growing Role Of Media And The Importance Of Fair Knowledge With Special Emphasis On The Influence Of Student Politics."

This background guide is in no way meant to be an exhaustive guide on the subject, but merely a stepping stone for the rest of your research, which you are expected to undertake independently. Also, not under any circumstances can the background guide be quoted or used as substantial proof in committee sessions. It is imperative to develop a better understanding of the agenda, which will help you to form your own opinions and provide better solutions in the debate in AIPPM.

We understand that debate competitions can be an overwhelming experience for beginners, but it should be noted that our expectations from our delegates do not depend on how experienced or articulate they are. Instead, we want to see how they can respect and address differences and disagreements while expanding their foreign policy to include more comprehensive solutions without compromising their position and beginning to build consensus. New ideas are inherently disruptive, but nowhere near as destructive as a world amidst stereotypes and regional instability, making reform a necessity for conflict resolution. We therefore, welcome new perspectives that will shape the direction of this world. We look forward to meeting you all. Don't be afraid to speak up and be heard.

Greeting,
The Executive Board



About AIPPM

Usually convened to discuss urgent matters of national importance, or before bills are introduced, the All India Political Parties Conference aims to enable political parties and blocs to agree on a program to be carried out before the start of the official session. It is an unconventional institutions of the Indian Parliament without any legislative provision. The conference is intended to be a forum for unrestricted political debate, which may not be permitted by Parliament due to time and procedural constraints.

The agency helps provide different perspectives ahead of the actual legislative process. It is a non-technical but powerful committee that simulates political realities by highlighting certain aspects of Indian politics and governance. It is a forum for political debate, discussion and unrestricted deliberation. It helps participants to understand the multifaceted processes that underlie policy-making and governance in India and gives them insights into the obstacles and challenges that political parties face in the modern era.

What is a political party?

Democracy depends on political parties. They are necessary for the functioning of a democratic government. While political parties are essential to democracy, parties are additional constitutional institutions in the political system. Simply put, political parties are the engine of democracy. They are an integral part of the functioning of democratic government. Although political parties are essential to democracy, they are an additional constitutional institution in the political system.

The Indian political system was established during the British Raj, from the 1920s to the early 1930s. This gave rise to the rise of political parties in India. The philosophy created by the founders of a political party is its foundation. This is a group dedicated to bringing these ideas to life and improving people's well-being. In addition, they participate in national, state and local elections. Political parties have leaders as well as active members and supporters. Political parties in India are divided into two categories – national parties and state parties.



National political parties-

a) Indian National Congress Party - Congress (I) (INC)

Election Symbol: Hand

Founded in 1885, the centrist and secular Indian National Congress (INC) governed India at the federal level for almost the first 50 years after India's independence in 1947. The Congress spearheaded India's independence movement. India and is said to have "remained a potent force in Indian politics that transcends divisions of religion, race and caste. However, it is also a party that is very attached to its heritage: members of the Nehru-Gandhi family have dominated the party for most of its history.

b) Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)

Election Symbol: Lotus

The Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) traces its roots back to the Bharatiya Jan Sangh, a party that represented traditional Hindu values, small business, traders and the middle class. The Bharatiya Jan Sangh was one of the parties that formed the national Janata (People's) Front in 1975. The Front subsequently converted into the Janata Party, which won government in India in 1977. Janata split in 1979, and the BJP was formed in April 1980 by the bulk of Janata's Jan Sangh group, which opposed the Janata leadership's efforts to ban party officeholders from participating in the activities of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), a secretive paramilitary Hindu communal group generally regarded as the BJP's parent organisation.

c) Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP)

Electoral symbol: Elephant, except in Assam, where its candidates select another symbol from the list of free symbols specified by the Election Commission.



Indian Political Scenario

The Indian political scene is characterised by a unique feature of the presence of an array of political parties giving rise to multi-party system.

Multi-Party System:

Numerous political parties have emerged as a result of the breadth of the continent, the varied characteristics of Indian society, the adoption of the universal adult franchise, and the unusual nature of political processes. In actuality, India has the most political parties per capita in the entire globe. India also has parties in every category, including the right, the left, and the centre. As a result, coalition governments, hung parliaments, and hung assemblies have become a typical occurrence in Indian politics.

In the Indian setting it's difficult to classify parties on the basis of the left-right political spectrum since the beliefs and policies of most parties do not strictly abide by it. There are but few parties which can be classified on the left right spectrum. These are :

Right Wing Parties: The right-wing ideology placed a strong emphasis on concepts like hierarchy, order, duty, custom, nationality, and authority. Right-wingers are conservatives, right-libertarians, neoconservatives, imperialists, monarchists, fascists, reactionaries, and traditionalists, according to political commentators. Their stances include limited government involvement in people's lives and economies; nationalism; respect for individual liberty; preservation of religious customs; support for religion; equality for all without preferential treatment for minorities; less regulation of the economy; encouragement of the private sector for expansion; and low taxes. E.g. BJP, Shiv Sena, AIMIM.

Left Wing Parties: Ideas like liberty, equality, fraternity, rights, progress, reform, and internationalism were highly valued by the left-wing philosophy. Their stances on things like equality in society, segregation of church and state, centralised planning, government economic involvement, the welfare state, and protectionism-anti-free trade are included below. They hold liberal opinions on issues like immigration, abortion, and same-sex unions. E.g. CPI, CPM, CPI(M-L).



Centrist parties: Centrism in politics is the propensity to take an ideologically moderate stance in order to avoid political extremes. By striking a balance between the left and the right, a centrist advances moderate policies and downplays ideological appeals in favour of a practical or "catchall" party platform. One way to increase electoral support is by centrism, especially among swing voters (those who will vote across party lines). E.g., AAP, Indian National Congress.

Agenda: Deliberating Upon The Growing Role Of Media And The Importance Of Fair Knowledge With Special Emphasis On The Influence Of Student Politics

Role of media in a democracy

The foundation of democracy is the media. Public opinion in a democratic society is shaped by the media. Additionally, it reinforces the democratic ideal. By offering fair information, it empowers the populace. It informs the electorate and guarantees openness and accountability in government. Every government activity is covered by the media. The person can learn about how the government operates and what is going on in the world today based on the information.

With the aid of technology and easy access, the media has established a significant role, particularly in a democracy where it is expected that the media remain impartial. The fourth pillar of democracy is what it is known as. As it is anticipated that the media would always present accurate and authentic information, it shapes people's opinions and is one of the most trustworthy sources of information. But in the modern era, people's faith has begun to fade somewhere. Questions about free press and defences of the things the media does are somewhat countered.



A significant portion of society is now connected to a virtual form of media thanks to technological advancements and its expanded reach, whether through televisions, smartphones, or other gadgets. There is a lot of information accessible to be conveyed to the individuals in the society at the moment, when the globe is moving so quickly. People can learn a lot from many reported happenings both inside and outside the nation, surveys, discussions, and interviews.

Information distribution via media

The emergence of social media, still, has changed the way in which people now share in a democracy. Compared to traditional media, social media has a larger reach, is fluently accessible, enables mass participation and provides instant updates. These factors have led to a situation where people rely more on social media than their traditional counterparts, to come apprehensive of their surroundings and participate in conversations- political, profitable, or else, which in turn strengthens republic. Yet, social media doesn't have only positive impacts on the functioning of a democracy. On the wise side of the coin, it has been misused a number of times, frequently inhibiting the process of healthy development of democracy.

Challenges Facing the Media:

Media, both traditional and modern, have certain challenges lingering in front of them. They are prone to certain vulnerabilities which include:

Echo chambers, in which users are surrounded by thoughts and like-minded individuals in online social networks that support their own worldviews.

Fake news, in which exaggerated or fraudulent accounts of events are extensively circulated either for disruption or financial benefit.

Political advertising that is highly targeted and highly personalised based on personal data. Computational propaganda, which uses automated social media accounts (bots) to spread information or fake news across a variety of networks and platforms with the goal of swaying public opinion. Hate speech, in which insults or threats are made against people or groups online on the grounds of characteristics including race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, or gender.



Legislations and regulations related to media in India:

In India, the media is mostly unregulated. The Press Council of India, a statutory body, and the News Broadcasting Standards Authority, a self-regulatory organisation, are two of the existing bodies for media regulation. Together, they issue standards that are more in the nature of guidelines.

The Press Council Act of 1978 established the Press Council of India as a statutory entity. It is the supreme authority in India for controlling the press. It enjoys governmental independence. Press Council of India's goals include upholding press freedom and preserving and raising the country's press standards. It serves as the authority that sets and dispenses with the professional standards applicable to India's print media. It is regarded as the most significant institution for upholding democracy and guaranteeing the protection of free speech. It arbitrates complaints made by and against the press for, respectively, violating journalistic ethics and press freedom.

Press:

The print media in India are governed by the MIB (Information Wing). The certification requirements and obligations of printers and publishers of news and books are outlined in the Press and Registration of Books Act of 1867 and the Registration of Newspapers (Central) Rules of 1956. A statutory authority called the Press Council of India is in charge of upholding press freedom, maintaining and raising the bar for newspapers and news organisations, among other things. Its duties include conducting investigations into claims that newspapers or news organisations have violated journalistic ethics standards or that editors or journalists have engaged in unethical behaviour. The eligibility requirements for certification of working journalists are outlined in the recently released Central Media Accreditation Guidelines 2022 (the CMA Guidelines), which replace the Central Newsmedia Accreditation Guidelines 1999.



Films:

The certification of cinematograph films for display is governed by the Cinematograph Act of 1952. The principles governing certification of films and types of certification are laid out in the Cinematograph Act when taken together with the Cinematograph (Certification) Rules 1983. In order to censor movies, the Cinematograph Act also created the Censor Board for Film Certification (CBFC).



What is student politics?

While in many countries, student political activism is a comparatively recent phenomenon beginning with the 1960s, India has had a chequered and magnificent history of student activism in the independence struggle. The nationalist movement provided a facade of political identity to the Indian youth, in general, and student youth in particular.

Early in the 1950s, there was euphoria as the young nation worked to fulfil the hopes of its long-suffering people. However, efforts to unite the country persisted alongside opposing political conflicts. The call for linguistic states led to a number of protests across the nation, all of which included student participation. The success of these initiatives gave students more motivation to stay involved.

Student political activism began to take on a different character in the 1980s and 1990s compared to the far-left ideology of the 1960s and 1970s. The New Age undoubtedly developed its own character of civic engagement and of social activism. Today, colleges and universities have been tasked with promoting civic engagement through extracurricular and academic activities, giving undergraduate students the opportunity to have an impact on local and global issues.

Since the emergency, student political engagement has only increased. As the environmental and human rights movements have grown in prominence, student politics has found more outlets to challenge social hypocrisy and apathy and demand course correction. Political demands coupled with demands to rethink the human condition have become the norm for student activism. Student political activism continues to inspire more and more people to join the fight for a better world. More recently, the anti-CAA movement in late 2019 saw widespread student turnout and police crackdowns reminiscent of previous ones.



Student politics play bigger role in Indian democracy.

Noting trends across the world, student politics has seen major shifts on the global stage. In seeking any political, social, educational or economic change from the perspective of human life, student politics plays an important role as it directly affects the situation of the country. Student politics had its place during the Indian independence movement against the Britishers.

Institution, such as Allahabad University, Aligarh Muslim University, Banaras Hindu University have become invigorated by freedom struggle. In 1942, the Quit India movement was launched and university students who took part in the struggle were imprisoned and punished. This trend intensified and spread in independent India. Many political leaders are born out of their experiences in student politics, including imprisonment. Clearly, student politics is part of “learning democracy,” asking questions of those in power and telling the truth to those in power.

Political parties frequently fail to recognise the importance of formal education, ongoing learning, and forging natural bonds with student movements. Senior students are well aware that many of the world's top political figures are themselves graduates of the university system. Student politics will grow more prevalent and widespread while also becoming more complex as a result of improved books and magazines that address issues facing the student population as well as new and improved communication facilities.

Students attend colleges and universities at an age where their minds open up to new ideas, theories, opinions and debates from local to national and global. They learn to respond to politics and policies, as these shape life around them. These policies impact everyday life—from rights or gender, to the environment, and so on. They have to learn to make choices



Case Studies

Anti-Hindi movement in Tamil Nadu, 1965

Although the protest against Hindi had been going on for decades in Tamil Nadu, it became a flashpoint when a large number of students across the state launched a stir against the Official Languages Act of 1963, which made Hindi an official language along with English. Despite protests by the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) in Parliament, the law was passed. But then prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru assured that English will continue to be official language. After Nehru's death in 1964, the Congress government in the state introduced a three-language formula in the state assembly, leading to students taking to the streets. There were self-immolations by several students, and about 70 people died in the ensuing violence. The agitation ended when then PM Lal Bahadur Shastri assured that Nehru's promise would be kept. The Congress was routed in the 1965 elections and the DMK came to power.

Nav Nirman Andolan (Reconstruction Movement), 1974

On December 20, 1973, students of an engineering college in Ahmedabad launched an agitation against 20% fee hike in hostel food. A similar strike on January 3, 1974, at Gujarat University saw clashes between the police and students. The protesters demanded the resignation of then chief minister Chimanbhai Patel. A statewide strike was organised on January 25, which ended with another round of clash between the police and protesters. A curfew was imposed in 44 towns and the army was called in to restore peace in Ahmedabad. The Indira Gandhi government at the Centre asked Patel to resign. The agitation led to the dissolution of the state government. Bihar student movement, 1974 (also called JP movement)

The Chatra Sangarsh Samiti led by Jai Prakash Narayan focused on corruption, nepotism, electoral reforms, subsidised food and education reforms. It was a non-violent protest, which started from Patna University and spread to several other educational institutes in Hindi-speaking states of northern India. Nitish Kumar, now the Bihar chief minister; Lalu Prasad, a former Bihar CM; and Mulayam Singh Yadav, a former UP CM, were some of the prominent youth leaders who participated in the JP movement that promoted the idea of socialism.



Student movement in Emergency, 1975

In several universities and academic institutions across India, students and faculty members organised underground protests, using pamphlets and leaflets to protest against the imposition of Emergency. Over 300 student union leaders, including then Delhi University Students Union president Arun Jaitley and Jai Prakash Narayan, who headed the Chatra Sangarsh Samiti, were sent to jail.

Assam Agitation (1979 to 1985)

The agitation in Assam against illegal migrants was launched by the All Assam Students Union, which is now spearheading protests against the amended citizenship act. It was an agitation to protect the identity of Assamese people in wake of influx of people from Bangladesh following 1971's War of Liberation. People from different walks of life joined the students protests, and it ended in 1985 with the signing of the Assam Accord. Student leader Prafulla Mahanta, who then headed the Asom Gana Parishad, became the chief minister in 1985 at an age of 35.

Anti-Mandal agitation, 1990

On August 1990, students from across India started a protest against the introduction of 27% reservation in government jobs for people from the Other Backward Classes. The government, led by VP Singh, implemented the Mandal Commission recommendations submitted to the government in 1980. Although the protest began in Delhi University, it spread to several educational institutes across the country, leading to violent protests in many parts of the country. Students in several places boycotted exams. The agitation ended when Singh resigned on November 7, 1990, after the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) withdrew support to his Janata Dal government.



FTII agitation, 2015

In July 2015, the students of Film and Television Institute of India, Pune, launched a stir against the nomination of actor Gajendra Chauhan as the chairman of the prestigious institute. In the 140-day protest, students boycotted classes and refused to take exams, claiming Chauhan was not eligible to head FTII. Symbolic protests were held in several other places in solidarity with FTII students.

Jadavpur University, 2014

The "hok calorob (let there be uproar)" movement at Jadavpur University was against alleged police attack on unarmed students. The students were demanding a fair inquiry into the alleged molestation of a student inside the campus. The week-long protest led to the removal of vice-chancellor Abhijit Chakraborty, who had allegedly allowed police to enter the campus.

JNU protest, 2016

On February 9, 2016, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) erupted in protests over the 2013 execution of Afzal Guru, a Kashmiri separatist convicted of conspiring in an attack on Parliament 16 years ago. Many human rights groups felt was flawed. The demonstration witnessed clashes between different student groups. Four days after the event, then JNU students' union president Kahhaiya Kumar was arrested by Delhi Police and booked for sedition. Two other students, including Umar Khalid, were arrested later. JNU authorities conducted an inquiry and took action against 21 students. The action ranged from rustication to fines. In response, students went on an indefinite strike. The Delhi High Court suspended the university action on the condition that students end their strike. Are student politics only a reflection of national or state-level politics, or can they offer any real resistance to the government?



Typically, the student wings of the ruling party in the Centre or State receive a lot more funds and resources than the student wings of the party in the Opposition. The weakening of the Left front in India has also led to the weak positions of groups like AISA and SFI. While SFI still thrives in universities like Presidency and JNU, its position in colleges like DU is virtually non-existent, seen mostly around protests or activist events. The lack of funds, and also of popular support, can be interpreted as: student politics reflect national politics. However, the answer is not that linear or straightforward.

Campuses across the country have been a witness to the increasing demonization of student leaders and groups whose politics run contrary to those of the ruling party. The labels of "deshdrohi" and "anti-national" are becoming very common for students who do not support the government. Clashes between unions, instead of being seen as the results of differences of opinion or ideology, are usually portrayed as differences between "nationalist" and "treasonous" perspectives. When opposing groups are treated as traitors to the country, their political stand is immediately deemed unworthy of being heard. While engaging with an opposing opinion is difficult, dismissing them is very easy. This invalidation tactic weakens resistance and dissent against the government or even the current union representatives of the college/university.

Student politics are often labeled as violent, dirty, and sometimes even worse than mainstream politics. It affects academics, and as it becomes increasingly libelous, it can affect the prospects of a student. No mainstream company would want to employ someone whose face is plastered across newspapers and TV screens, the person described as "anti-national."



What happens in colleges and universities without student unions?

In India, many private universities and engineering colleges do not have provisions for union elections and, especially, any politically-backed student groups on campus. The lack of student representatives may pose a problem between the students and the college administration, as students might find themselves voiceless in the face of administrative norms or policies that are against their interests. In these universities, the tuition fee is raised arbitrarily by the administration, and without unions, students cannot actively protest against the move. Agitation over fee structures is seen frequently in universities like DU and JNU, with student bodies urging to keep the fee low and, therefore, the colleges accessible to all.

However, many students welcome the absence of election-related disturbances. As seen in politically volatile universities across India, election season can bring a myriad of problems. Campaigning can become a disturbance to lectures, and inter-union violence has always been a problem in university politics. However, the complete lack of unions can lead to students becoming so-called "apolitical," or even unaware of the political scenario of the country. Student solidarity is a vital part of movements all around the world. 2019 was a significant year in student activism. India was shaken by one of the most controversial policy measures of the government: the Citizenship Amendment Act. The students of several colleges across the country, Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi University, Aligarh Muslim University, and JNU rose in protest against the Act.

After the violence and police brutality at Jamia Millia Islamia and AMU, the protests grew, and even universities not known for being politically active such as IITs, and IIMs also started showing solidarity. The movement has grown, with over a hundred colleges protesting across India despite measures by the government. Student protestors are running Hong Kong's pro-democracy movement while being at the receiving end of government repression and police violence.



Facing tear gas and rubber bullets, Hong Kong's students have turned universities into fortresses and are showing incredible levels of support towards each other. Hong Kong's movement has been going on for months, with growing media propaganda from both the Chinese and the Western sides. In Chile, students have been the heart of dissent since the fall of the Pinochet dictatorship. Secondary school students are leading ongoing protests about inequality, privatization, and the increased cost of living.

Around the world, students are becoming the face of a broad spectrum of movements, ranging from gun law reform, LGBTQ+ rights, education reform, climate change, and nationwide movements for democracy. Student politics are not limited by high school or college campuses; these movements have implications on national and global levels. The growing importance of students in politics shows that politics is not only the arena of adults. Being a significant portion of the population, students deserve to be a part of political decision-making as they are one of the most critical stakeholders in policy decisions

JNU row: Perfect case study to show how media is losing its credibility

The recent incident of alleged anti-Indian slogans in JNU and thereafter how some media channels have covered the whole incident without going much into the facts, have brought to forefront the issue of media ethics. It is now said that some of the videos were doctored. But certain media channels without looking into this, kept on showing the video along with so much aggressive anchoring that it appeared to be a media trial.

We all in fact need to think what media role is and what they are doing actually. Media role is to promote discussion and debate, not scold. Its role is to ask questions, really very tough questions even, but not to abuse and scream.



Media in fact helps to shape public opinion by bringing in diversity of views and opinions. But certain times, they instil such emotions in viewers that a crowd is ready to commit violence. How certain media channels tried to incite people can be seen with lawyer's lawlessness in the court and other certain incidence of violence. It can have serious repercussions for our country and society.

We want such a society where people live in peace and harmony. But if the public conscience keep simmering all the time and is ready to punish alleged criminals, this dream will never see the light of day.

Role of media is, however, very essential for a vibrant democracy. Democracy doesn't limit itself to just casting vote after every five years. Democracy actually means people's views and opinions to be listened to and accommodated thereby promoting their participation in the decision-making process. Media's role is very significant in this. It provides a platform for debate and brings diverse views to the fore, thereby helping in shaping public opinion.

Does student politics affect decision making at the central level?

Since the era of the dominance of the Indian National Congress movement, India has established a sophisticated heritage of student politics. The All India Students Federation (AISF) is the oldest student organisation in India and was founded on August 12, 1936. Student unions are organised both within universities, such as the Student Council of IISc, and across universities. The only student organisation in the nation that actively participated in the Indian freedom struggle while being affiliated with a political party is the AISF. Other student organisations, such as the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad, Muslim Students Federation, Students Federation of India, National Students Union of India, etc., that run for office in universities and colleges compete in elections. The Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union, Delhi University Students Union, and Udai Pratap are a few examples of activist unions.



In the eyes of students, student politics are crucial. Numerous instances of out-of-control campus politics have occurred. When the management makes decisions regarding the kids' welfare and education without consulting them, things typically go south. It is the only forum on which students can voice their concerns and thoughts. Removing politics from campus will only make them more hostile and may inspire them to use more extreme tactics.

It serves no purpose to discourage students from getting involved in politics under the current conditions. Additionally, in a democracy, every person must be informed about the political climate of the nation. Students are an essential component of society. It is clear that students cannot keep their distance from politics. They should be interested in politics in a theoretical but informed way as long as their studies are not finished. After then, individuals can actively participate in the politics of their nation. They shouldn't enter politics at the expense of their academic pursuits.

During the struggle for Indian independence from the British, student politics found a niche. The freedom struggle energised educational institutions like Allahabad University, Aligarh Muslim University, Banaras Hindu University, and others. University students who joined the Quit India movement in 1942 were imprisoned and punished for their participation.

In India after independence, this tendency grew stronger and wider. Based on their involvement in student politics, which may have included time spent in jail, a number of political leaders have emerged. Student politics undoubtedly include "learning democracy," challenging the status quo, and speaking truth to power.

Political parties frequently fail to recognise the importance of formal education, ongoing learning, and forging natural bonds with student movements. Senior students are well aware that many of the world's top political figures are themselves graduates of the university system. Student politics will grow more prevalent and widespread while also becoming more complex as a result of improved books and magazines that address issues facing the student population as well as new and improved communication facilities. This needs to be viewed as a learning process because democracy requires it.



Conclusion

In conclusion, Deliberating upon the growing role of media and the importance of fair knowledge with special emphasis on the influence of student politics is an essential discussion with respect to present times. It is important to open these debates to not only look at the role of media as well as the role of student politics, but the ways in which these roles are being directly/indirectly controlled. Therefore, this discussion should aim at analytical description of this agenda that is not only backed up by facts but also by cases.