

The Doon School Model United
Nations Conference 2017

BACKGROUND GUIDE



INTERNATIONAL
PRESS CORPS

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DSMUN '17

ABOUT DSMUN

The Doon School Model United Nations Conference is one of India's biggest and most reputed high school MUN conference. Inaugurated in 2007, the Doon School Model United Nations Society has consistently hosted a series of engaging, entertaining and intellectually stimulating conferences, with each leaving a unique legacy behind it. DSMUN has grown to be one of the key entries in every MUNning calendar. DSMUN has a history of attracting the best of, both, the Indian and the international delegates from the Pan-Asiatic Region. Over the years, DSMUN has never failed to surprise, with an array of committees ranging from the orthodox to specialised and unconventional simulations, from the regional to the international and covering a range of time periods.

The Doon School, one of India's most reputed and prestigious institutions, is a member of the G20 Group of Schools, The Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference, The International Boys' Schools Coalition and the Round Square Conference. With its motto, "Knowledge our Light", the school aims to mold its students into leaders for the future and gentlemen of service. Model United Nations has now become one of the largest and most popular activities in school with over 200 students being involved in it. The beautiful and serene 72 acre Chandbagh estate, in which the school is set, creates a scenic backdrop to the challenging and pertinent issues being discussed.

The DSMUN Secretariat is proud to host The 11th Doon School Model United Nations Conference from the 18th to the 20th of August, 2017. Popularly referred to as DSMUN '17, this year's conference promises to engage delegates with 14 diverse committees, each of which will discuss various relevant, thought-provoking agendas.

We look forward to seeing you in Dehradun later this year as the rains drench the Chadbagh estate.

Crises to keep you on your toes, unforgettable memories, interesting new people to meet and an experience worth a lifetime! DSMUN '17 will have it all.

DSMUN '17



Divij Mullick
SECRETARY GENERAL

Deep Dhandhania
PRESIDENT

Aryan Chhabra
CHAIRPERSON

Tarush Bansal
Siddhant Singhania
DEPUTY CHAIRPERSONS

A LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Greetings!

It gives us great pleasure to welcome you all to the 11th Doon School Model United Nations Conference. Over the years, DSMUN has grown into one of the finest and most reputed high school MUN conferences in the country. This year too we hope to deliver the goods and make this year's session an unforgettable one. With agendas ranging from religious turmoil in the Middle East to the manhunt for Edward Snowden and Julian Assange, this year's simulations promise to be exciting, engaging and challenging.

I am a Humanities student and have a keen interest in Economics and History. Besides being a MUNner, I am a passionate theatre person and public speaker. I also have an interest in cricket and boxing.

I have served DSMUN in various capacities ranging from the Secretariat to being a delegate and eventually the Vice-president. DSMUN is an activity which has been very important to me during my school life and this time I am excited to head this very significant event.

I am indeed honoured to be working with such an accomplished and hard-working team on the Executive Board and look forward to a memorable time this fall!

Warm Regards,
(Divij Mullick)

DSMUN '17



Divij Mullick
SECRETARY GENERAL

Deep Dhandhanian
PRESIDENT

Aryan Chhabra
CHAIRPERSON

Tarush Bansal
Siddhant Singhania
DEPUTY CHAIRPERSONS

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings!

It is an honour and privilege to welcome all of you to the 11th Doon School Model United Nations Conference. Over the years, DSMUN has grown to be one of the most prestigious and competitive high school conferences in the country, and we hope that this year's conference will be a bigger success. With fourteen different committees ranging from the All India Political Parties Meet to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, we have strived to design an exciting and engaging conference for participating delegates.

I have been involved in DSMUN for the past 5 years in various capacities including Media and the Secretariat. I have an avid interest in history, politics and international affairs and wish to pursue international relations in college. I am also a passionate hockey player and the Editor-in Chief of The Doon School Yearbook.

This year, Divij and I hope to make this conference a successful and a truly memorable experience for one and all.

Looking forward to meet all of you at Chandbagh this August!

Warm Regards,
(Deep Dhandhanian)



Divij Mullick
SECRETARY GENERAL

Deep Dhandhanian
PRESIDENT

Aryan Chhabra
CHAIRPERSON

Tarush Bansal
Siddhant Singhania
DEPUTY CHAIRPERSONS

A LETTER FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

It is my privilege to welcome you to the International Press Corps of DSMUN'17. To give a brief introduction about myself, I am currently studying the ISC curriculum with a special emphasis on humanities. I serve as the Editor of three of my school's publications, hence the love for the International press. I also like to read, debate and quiz.

As far as the conference is concerned, as a delegate of the International press you will be required to perform a variety of tasks. No longer will you be asked to write a mere commentary on the proceedings of your allotted committee. As a delegate of an International News Agency, you are expected to digitally execute the following:

1. An in-depth analysis of the proceedings of the committee in the form of Op-Eds. You will be expected to commit thorough research on the respective agendas of your allotted committees in order to formulate your analysis and opinion.
2. Written evaluation of the proceedings and measures being discussed and promulgated in your allotted committees.
3. Use of transcribed Interviews supplemented with images to shape and communicate not only your opinions but also the perspectives of the delegates present in the committee.

Important information regarding Citation policy and Standardisation policy will be provided in the Background guide.

It is important to remember that many news agencies have their own biases. As a delegate representing these agencies, you will be required to adhere to these biases in order to formulate a more accurate report. Some basic information regarding the news agencies has been given in the background guide. Delegates will be expected to do more in-depth research on the news agencies they're representing to make for a more professional simulation. I find it important to emphasize from the very beginning the importance of deadlines. Regular deadlines will be given to you for the submission of your pieces. You are kindly requested to adhere to those deadlines.

The role of the media in today's world is immense. Not only is the media supposed to serve as an important 'check and balance' but it also goes a long way in influencing public opinion. It is your duty as a delegate to fulfil these responsibilities in a competent manner. You will be judged on the value of your piece and the writing skill you have employed to posit the value. I hope that I will have the privilege to peruse some brilliant pieces of writing.

I will be looking forward to meet you all in August.

Sincerely,
(Aryan Chhabra)
Chairperson- IPC

REPORTING AND EVALUATION

The majority of writing will consist of news reporting, writing about debates and resolutions being taken up in committees along with press releases and interviews observed by the reporters. Reporters are expected to comprehensively record debates, significant events and the solutions proposed, and then evaluate the same. For example, the report records the debate over the implementation of UN Peacekeeping Forces in a conflict-stricken area. The duty of the delegate in this case is to analyze how the effective the solution will be or not be. The delegate will also record the views of the delegates of the allotted committee and analyze the same showing why are they expressed and how it is affecting the solution being discussed.

Editorials and Op-Eds: Delegates of the International Press may choose to write opinion based editorials on issues presented in the agendas in their respective allotted committees. These are the exact opposite of the evaluating reports: they do not record the proceedings of the simulated conference but instead, provide the author's own views on the issues expressed in the committee sessions and the issues related to the agenda in reality.

Interviews: Delegates are expected to interview delegates and members of the executive boards of the allotted committees. They are expected to formulate questions and seek answers, and then transcribe. This process will reflect the reporter's insight into the issue and the proceedings of the committee.

Delegates will also be given a chance to conduct a press conference. However, this will be contingent to the wishes of the Chairperson of the respective

committee whose press conference one wishes to take.

The delegate will submit their pieces to the Chairperson through mail or a pen drive. A publication will be taken out at the end of each day.

Research

For both Reports and Op-Eds, a considerable amount of background knowledge is required. Following is advised for a delegate of the International Press:

- Reading the background guide of the allotted committee in order to grasp the issues presented in the agenda.

- Getting familiar with the style and structure of an Op-Ed. The following links can be used to do the same–

- The Guardian

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk/commentisfree>

- The New York Times

<http://www.nytimes.com/pages/opinion/international/index.html>

Interviews

Interviews will be conducted verbally and may be recorded on obtaining the permission of the person being interviewed. The quality of the Interview depends on the quality of question asked. A good question will extract as much relevant information as possible. It will be objective and will give insight into various perspectives.

An example of a good interview:

<http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/interview/providing-a-voice-to-the-dispossessed-majority-interview-with-pramod-ranjan-of-forward-press/article8475368.ece>

DSMUN '17

THE INTERNATIONAL CODE OF ETHICS FOR JOURNALISM

This is a list of codes and ethics followed in a wide range of international press and magazines 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.

Reporters must make 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.

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 favored 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.

CITATION POLICY

All citations are to be made in the MLA format in footnotes.

The following formats will be used:

Reports

Eg- Report - <http://in.reuters.com/article/autos-driverless-google-idINKCNoXN1P2>

Citation: Inside Google's Quest to Shape the Rules of the Driverless Road. Rep. Reuters, 27 Apr. 2016. Web.

Websites

Eg - News - <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/04/deadly-air-strike-hits-hospital-syria-aleppo-160427210232286.html>

Citation: Hospital Hit in Syria as UN Warns Talks Unravelling." Hospital Hit in Syria as UN Warns Talks Unravelling. Al Jazeera, 28 Apr. 2016. Web.

Newspapers/Magazines

Eg- Article - Slugfest in Parliament over VVIP helicopter controversy

Citation: "Slugfest in Parliament over VVIP Helicopter Controversy." The Hindu [Dehradun] 28 Apr. 2016

STANDARDIZATIONS

- Font used will be Garamond, Regular, Size 12.
- Titles should be given to all pieces of writing along with a byline capturing the basic essence of the article. For example, Hillary Clinton writes on Donald Trump's recent political ascendance.
- Abbreviations: No periods or spaces should be used separating letters of an abbreviated organization or agency. Some example abbreviations include: DSMUN, UNESCO, ECOSOC, GA, HG, NATO, UK, UN, US, USSR.
- Apostrophes: Will only be used to indicate possessive nouns
- Currency: Refrain from using the 'Rs' sign. Rather use INR for indicating sums in Indian Rupees. Also, symbols for currencies such as the '\$' sign should be used.
- Member States: In print, references to United Nations "Member States" should be initially capitalized.
- Numerals: Any numeral less than or equal to 20 must be spelled. Numerals over twenty are to be

represented with digits. International Number System will be followed. Fractions and decimal numbers should be reported as decimal numerals or percentages, such as 0.7 or 70% (rather than "one half" or "1/2"). Roman numerals are used only when referring to a source, which was originally, designated using Roman numerals, such as Chapter IV of the UN Charter (articles of the UN Charter are written as "Article 4"). Ordinal numerals are spelled out within the text of an article, such as the First Committee of the General Assembly. In article headings or titles, the Publisher may choose to use ordinal abbreviations, such as 1st Committee.

- Percent symbols should be used to report percentages, for example 62.1%.
- Quotation marks: Standard English Grammar rules apply.
- Quotations: If only a fragment of the sentence is being used in a quotation, an ellipsis (i.e....) should be used to indicate the omitted portions of the

complete statement. If the ellipsis comes at the end of a sentence, it should have a period at the end as well within the quotation marks (....”) to indicate the conclusion of a sentence. If, within a quotation, the speaker uses an abbreviation or reference which would be unclear to the reader, the Reporter may interject a clarification within brackets (i.e.:[...]). This indicates that the bracketed information is not a direct quotation; rather it is a clarification on the part of the author. As an illustration of these rules, consider the following example. General Eisenhower

explained that “...while the decisions are being taken by the USA, there is a commitment by the USA to scrutinize the AMUF [The Authorization for Use of Military Force], to take part in conflict zones.”

- Spacing: One space is used to separate words, as well as following commas, semicolons, colons and periods. Since the newsletter is published in a variable width font, two spaces between sentences will not be necessary.
- Spelling: Reporters should be sure to spell check all articles before the editorial deadline.

SOME INFORMATION ON THE AGENCIES

The logo for The Wall Street Journal, consisting of the letters 'WSJ' in a large, bold, black serif font.

The Wall Street Journal is a daily newspaper from America that reports in the English language. Primarily focusing on business and economic news, it has the distinction to be the largest newspaper in USA in terms of circulation. With thirty nine Pulitzer prizes, it is one of America’s most decorated newspapers. Leaning towards Economic Liberalism, it derives its name from Wall Street, the financial capital of the world.

The logo for The Economist, featuring the words 'The Economist' in a white serif font on a solid red rectangular background.

The Economist is a newspaper owned by the Economist group and based in London. Targeting highly educated people including policy makers and politicians it itself says that it offers an authoritative insight and opinion on international law, politics, business, finance, science, technology and the

connections between them.

The BBC is a public service broadcasting agency

The logo for BBC News, featuring the letters 'BBC' in a white sans-serif font inside three red squares, with the word 'NEWS' in a white sans-serif font below it, all on a solid red background.

in the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands and Islands Quays. However, this news agency is famous throughout the world and is well known for its coherent writing.. It’s the largest broadcaster in the world going by the number of employees, its prestige and reputation in International Press.

Agence France-Presse (AFP) is the third largest

The logo for Agence France-Presse (AFP), featuring the letters 'AFP' in a white sans-serif font next to a blue globe with white dots, all on a solid blue background.

news agency in the world, behind only Reuters and Associated Press. It is an international news agency which as the name suggest is based in Paris, France. Founded in 1944 by journalists in headquarters of Agence Havas, it was renamed “Office Français d’Information” during the war.



Press Trust of India (PTI) is the largest news agency in India. It is headquartered in New Delhi and is a non profit cooperative among more than 500 Indian newspapers and has more than 1,000 full-time employees, as on January 22, 2016. It employs over 400 journalists and 500 part-time correspondents located in most of the district headquarters in the country. It provides news coverage and information of the region in both English and Hindi. Its corporate office is located at Sansad Marg, New Delhi and registered office in D N Road, Mumbai.



The Guardian is a British national daily newspaper. It was founded in 1821 and was known as the Manchester Guardian till 1959. It has grown from being a local paper to a national paper associated with a complex organizational structure and an international multimedia and web presence. Its sister papers include The Observer (a British Sunday paper) and The Guardian Weekly. It has two online outlets based outside the United Kingdom, Guardian Australia and Guardian US.



United Press International (UPI) is an eminent international news agency.

UPI's newswires, photos, news, film and audio services are a source of great information to thousands of newspapers magazines and radio and television stations for most of the 20th century. At a point of time, it had more than 6,000+ media subscribers. Since its first of several sales and staff cutbacks in 1982, and the 1999 sale of its broadcast client list to its rival, the Associated Press, UPI has concentrated on smaller information-market niches.



DAWN, founded by Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah in Delhi, India, on 26 October 1941 as a mouthpiece for the Muslim League is the oldest and most widely read English-language newspaper in Pakistan. Being one of the Pakistan's three largest English-language dailies, it is a flagship of the Dawn Group of Newspapers, published by Pakistan Herald Publications, which also owns a magazine on politics namely Herald, Spider, an information technology magazine and Aurora, an advertising, marketing and media magazine.

The New York Times

The New York Times is an American daily newspaper agency that has been running since 1851. Its quality explains why it has 112 Pulitzer prizes, more than any other publication of the same kind. Though the print version remains the most popular in New York and third overall, behind The Wall Street Journal and

USA Today, the website is the most popular among all of the nation's newspapers. Within the industry it is regarded as the nation's newspaper of record, following its motto: All the news that's fit to print and its website has adapted it to "All the News that's fit to Click".

The Asahi Shimbun

English Web Edition

Asahi Shimbun was founded in Osaka in 1879 and has been run by the Murayama and Ueno families since 1881. It is famed for its political coverage and its international news. The paper is liberal and provides progressive views. It has correspondents in major cities in Europe, Asia, and the United States and subscribes to more than 20 international news services. Like the Yomiuri and Mainichi, Asahi too covers more proportion of foreign news than is usual in the West.



Reuters is an International news agency headquartered in Canary Wharf, London, England, United Kingdom and a division of Thomson Reuters. Until 2008, the Reuters news agency formed part of an independent company, Reuters Group plc, which was also a provider of financial market data. Since the acquisition of Reuters Group by the Thomson Corporation in 2008, the Reuters news agency has been a part of Thomson Reuters, making up the media division. It transmits news in English, French, Arabic, Spanish etc.



Xinhua News Agency is the official news agency of the Peoples Republic of China (PRC). The agency itself is a department at the ministry level. It is deeply linked with politics such that the President is a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, and Xinhua is the sole channel for the distribution of important news related to the Communist Party and Chinese central government.



It operates more than 170 bureaus worldwide, of which 31 are present in China. Xinhua is the regarded the most influential media outlet in China.

Al-Jazeera is a Doha based broadcaster owned by the Al Jazeera Media Network, which is funded by the ruling family of Qatar. It was initially launched as an Arabic news satellite channel, but has now expanded by a huge margin. Al Jazeera is accessible in majority of the world regions. The original Al Jazeera channels willingness to broadcast dissenting views, for example on call-in shows, created controversies in the Arab States of the Persian Gulf. It officially caught the worlds attention in the Afghan War, when it was the only channel to give live broadcasts of the war. The network is sometimes accused to have mainly pan-Arab nationalist and Islamist opinions and having a pro Sunni and anti-Shia bias in its reporting.

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