

The Doon School Model United
Nations Conference 2018

BACKGROUND GUIDE

INTERNATIONAL PRESS CORPS



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ABOUT DSMUN

The Doon School Model United Nations Conference is one of India's biggest and well-reputed high school MUN conferences. Since its inauguration in 2007, The Doon School Model United Nations Society has hosted an engaging, entertaining and intellectually stimulating conference annually, with each leaving behind a unique legacy. DSMUN has grown to be one of the key entries in every school's MUNning calendar. DSMUN has a history of attracting the best of both—the Indian and the international delegates—from the Pan-Asiatic Region. With each passing year, DSMUN has evolved and developed its programme, introducing new committees, creating singular crises situations and setting unorthodox agendas to challenge the delegates.

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 mould its students into gentlemen of service and leaders for the future. Model United Nations is one of the largest and most popular activities in School, with over 200 students involved in it. The beautiful and serene 72 acre Chandbagh Estate, in which the school campus is set, and its heritage buildings, provide a scenic venue for the conference, ensuring that it will be an experience unlike any other MUN.

The DSMUN Secretariat is proud to host The 12th Doon School Model United Nations Conference from the 17th to the 19th of August, 2018. Popularly referred to as DSMUN '18, this year's conference intends to engage the delegates in 12 diverse committees, each of which will generate discussion on various contemporary and thought-provoking issues. There is also the promise of an opportunity to make new friends and create lifelong memories. We look forward to seeing you in Dehra Dun in August!

Crises to keep you on your toes, unforgettable memories, interesting new people to meet and an experience worth a lifetime—DSMUN '18 will have it all!



DSMUN'18

Ojas Kharabanda

SECRETARY GENERAL

Ritwik Saraf

PRESIDENT

Kushagra Kar

CHAIRPERSON

Suyash Chandak

Pratham Bansal

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSONS

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THE DOON SCHOOL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

A LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Dear Delegates,

It is an absolute privilege and honour for me to welcome you all to the 12th edition of The Doon School Model United Nations. What was once a small regional event has evolved and grown into an international conference with a repute and prestige that extends across borders. This year, we aim to raise the bar higher, with an invigorating mix of structured GA committees like the DISEC and Security Council to dynamic crisis committees like The Third Reich.

I am a veteran of the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme, and take a keen interest in geopolitical developments across the world. I am extremely passionate about photography, and am the Editor-in-Chief of The Yearbook, which is one of the premier publications of our school. I have been involved for a considerable time in the MUNning world, and apart from winning multiple accolades, was the Vice-President of last year's conference. In a world that is becoming increasingly divisive and polarized, it is vital that we realise the special importance diplomacy and the simple willingness to hear each other out holds. Each committee is uniquely placed at a time and place to make a difference, but only if we approach each negotiation with peace as the goal will our time here be fruitful. I eagerly await your presence at Chandbagh.

Warm Regards,

Ojas Kharabanda



DSMUN'18

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THE DOON SCHOOL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Delegates,

I am extremely delighted to welcome you all to the 12th edition of the Doon School Model United Nations. Over the stretch of 12 years, DSMUN has earned itself a place among the most eagerly awaited MUNs in the whole of India; this year too, we have spared no effort in meeting these expectations.

With over 12 committees, including the GA committees of DISEC and SPECPOL as well as exciting crisis committees like Board of Control, East India Company, DSMUN promises to engage the delegates in a fierce tussle of rhetoric, negotiation and documentation- areas that have come to occupy an important place in an individual's holistic development. Further, DSMUN also provides an exciting opportunity for the delegates to meet and make unforgettable memories with people from all over the country!

I currently pursue the ISC curriculum., and after having served in the DSMUN secretariat for 3 years, I am privileged to be at its helm as the President in my last year in School. As the world continues to shrink to an even smaller place, the problems that torment humanity continue to expand. Time, therefore, warrants us to step up and collectively lead the human race to a better tomorrow. And to initiate this, we must begin from a young age itself.

Looking forward to meeting you in August,

Ritwik Saraf



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THE DOON SCHOOL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

A LETTER FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Dear Delegates,

It is indeed a great responsibility that the International Press Corps holds in our cracked world. We stand on the brink of completely shattering all we have known, and every passing day only deepens a rift that must be bridged. The Press, as the world has begun to realise, holds the power to alter our current course; yet, ironically, it is guided by the skewed moralities of ineffective World Leaders.

The International Press Corps this year hopes to cultivate honest and qualitative journalism, with the sole aim to fostering truth and equality. The underlying theme, keeping in mind the proclamations of POTUS Trump, will be battling the notion of 'fake news'. We shall be drawing the line between tabloid journalism and investigative stories. It will be our responsibility to challenge the leaders of the world and shape the perceptions of the people in it.

As Chairperson of The International Press Corps, I hope to not only mentally engage each delegate, but also teach delegates the intricacies of writing, including the efficacy of writing styles and the importance of how the story is told. To that end, we will be adding a visual element in way of photographic journalism, in addition to the more conventional styles. All you need to do is to bring your ideas and ideologies, and we will work to bring them to fruition.

On a much lighter note, no MUN experience would be complete without a degree of relationship building. For starters, I find myself right at home in a Press Committee, with many years of in-house publications under my belt. I am currently the Editor-in-Chief of The Doon School Weekly, the School's flagship publication. Besides the editorial side of things, I have worked extensively with design and publishing. Of course, this means that MUN and Debates haven't been too far away, with over five MUNs (including Yale Model United Nations, New Haven) worth of experience.

See you at DSMUN '18!

Regards,
Kushagra Kar

AGENDA : REPORTAGE OF ALL COMMITTEES

AGENCIES

AL JAZEERA

Al Jazeera, also known as *JSC*, is a state-funded broadcaster in Qatar and Doha. Although *Al Jazeera* is often criticised for its supposedly biased coverage of Egypt-related incidents and extremely pro-Qatar articles, it is still one of the most exclusive news outlets in the world of journalism and often rebroadcast in major western broadcast outlets including *BBC* and *CNN*.

The *Editor-in-Chief* and *Director General* of the agency is **Mostefa Souag**.



ALJAZEERA

TASS

TASS is a remnant of the *Telegraph Agency of the Soviet Union*, and is a state-run news agency. It is one of the central news collection and distribution agencies in Russia and can lead to a very influential role in forming public opinion. It is believed that *TASS* was just a Russian attempt for international propaganda during the European Crisis.

The *Editor-in-Chief* is **Maxim Filimonov**, while the *Director General* is **Sergey Mikhaylov**.



XINHUA NEWS AGENCY

Being the official media agency of the People's Republic of China, *Xinhua News Agency* is the most influential news outlet in China. The President of this agency is a member of the Central Committee of China's Communist Party. It is often criticized for the biased portrayal of China's state policies and alleged lack of political correctness.

The *Editor-in-Chief* is **He Ping**, while the *President* is **Cai Mingzhao**.



ASAHI SHIMBUN

The Asahi Shimbun is one of the five national newspapers in Japan. It is headquartered in Osaka, Japan. It is a rather left-leaning newspaper with a long tradition of reporting on big political scandals. When Shin-ichi Hukojima was CEO, they tied up with the International Herald Tribune and published an English-language newspaper, International Herald Tribune.

It is owned by **Michiko Murayama**.

The Asahi Shimbun
Asia & Japan Watch

THE GUARDIAN

The Guardian is a British daily newspaper. In the past, it has been criticised for its so-called bias against Palestine and has even been accused of anti-Semitism. Nevertheless, the agency has denied all such claims and still continues to be one of the leading news agencies of the world.

The *Editor-in-Chief* is **Katharine Sophie Viner**, and the paper falls under the 'Guardian Media Group' which is owned by **Scott Trust Limited**.

the guardian

REUTERS

Established in 1851, *Reuters* is one of the most prestigious news agencies in the world. Headquartered in London, it is considered one of the most reliable sources of news today. In the past, it has received considerable criticism for its 'value-neutral' approach, which in many ways is its most distinctive factor.

The *Editor-in-Chief* is **Stephen J. Adler**, while the *CEO* is **James C. Smith**.



REUTERS

THE HINDU

Started as a weekly in 1878, *The Hindu* is one of the two Indian newspapers of record and the second most circulated English-Language paper in India, after *The Times of India*. It would become a daily in 1889. *The Hindu* is to be considered left leaning in the current day Indian political spectrum, and therefore accused of left-wing and pro-Sinhalese bias in its articles. It is also recognised for its role as one of the many newspapers to report the discriminatory policies of the British rule in India.

The *Editor-in-Chief* is **Mukund Padmanabhan**, and it is owned by **The Hindu Group** and **Kasturi and Sons Limited**.



NDTV

The *New Delhi Television Limited* (NDTV) was founded in 1988 by Prannoy and Radhika Roy. NDTV initially reported private news on *Doordarshan* through the programme 'The World This Week'. In time, it has made remarkable progress and today has multiple channels like NDTV 24X7 (English), NDTV India (Hindi) and a 2-in-1 channel, NDTV. Its primary medium of news propagation is the website *ndtv.com*. NDTV has, through its approach, influenced society. It has made a major contribution to Save Our Tigers, Greenathon, Health4U and other such movements. After joining the Broadcasters' Audience Research Board, it has become the most viewed Indian News Channel in the United Kingdom. In 2014 and 2015, it was rated the Most Trusted Brand for all forms of media by the TRA Trust Brand Report.

The *Editor-in-Chief* is **Prannoy Roy**, while **Suparna Singh** is the *Group CEO*.



BBC

The *British Broadcasting Company* was founded by John Reith in 1922. It is one of the most prominent news agencies in the world and is an integral part of the International Press. It is the oldest national broadcasting organization in the world. With its writing, it hints at a left center bias though it openly denying any political affiliation. BBC covers a range of topics from current affairs to follow ups on previous stories.

The *Editor-in-Chief* and *Director General* of the network is **Tony Hall**.



THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

The Wall Street Journal was founded by Charles Dow in 1898. Its main function was to report ongoing financial, business and economic news. This news agency has not only reported news but also uncovered scams and injustice. It was the first to discover and report the scam behind the nine-billion-dollar medical company Theranos. It had a major role in bringing to light Harvey Weinstein's crimes against women. It leans towards Economic Liberalism. It is one of the most widely read newspapers in The United States.

The former *Editor-in-Chief* is **Gerry Baker**, with the incumbent being **Matt Murray**. It is owned by **News Corp**, via **Dow Jones and Company**.

AFRICAN NEWS AGENCY

The African Agency was started by two African billionaires, Iqbal Surve and Ladislav Agbesi. It was launched in February 2015 in Cape Town. It was established after the liquidation of the *South African Press Association*. It mainly functions digitally and plans to replace the impoverished image of Africa with the actual vibrant and lively image. It covers multiple topics like politics, entertainment, sports and economics.

The *Editor-in-Chief* is **Lindiz Van Zilla**, while **Chris Borain** is the *CEO*.



THE NEW YORK TIMES

The New York Times is an American newspaper based in New York City with worldwide influence. The newspaper has won the most number of Pulitzer prizes and is ranked 17th in the world by circulation. Nicknamed "The Gray Lady", The New York Times has long been regarded within the industry as a national "newspaper of record". Criticized frequently by Donald Trump on his twitter account, the New York Times is considered a left-center biased newspaper.

The *Executive Editor* is **Dean Baquet**, while **Mark Thompson** is the *CEO*.

VOX

Vox is an American news and opinion website owned by *Vox Media*. The website was founded in 2014 by Melissa Bell, Matthew Yglesias, and

Ezra Klein. Vox's mission is to "explain the news", meaning it strives to make sure its readers "understand what just happened," by providing "contextual information that traditional news stories aren't designed to carry." It is online with no physical copies printed. As a news agency it has a different outlook than other traditional news agencies because it does not believe in sensationalizing news, rather it churns out articles on stories that its readers wish to read.

The *CEO* of *Vox Media* is **Jim Bankoff**



THE LUXEMBOURGISH PATRIOT LEAGUE

The Luxembourgish Patriot League was a national resistance movement during World War 2 in Luxembourg against their invaders: Nazis. It started with its primary organs being flyers and photos. It spread information on the acts of injustice by the Nazis and the corresponding actions of the allied troops. It also aimed at helping the people of Luxembourg escape from the country and join the allied forces in France or Belgium.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA

The Amrita Bazar Patrika is one of the oldest newspapers in South Asia and was started during the British colonial period. Its founders were the Ghosh brothers: Sisir Kumar Ghosh and Motilal Ghosh. It started off as a Bengali newspaper. Soon, English editions were published in Kolkata, Cuttack, Allahabad and so on. It has played a vital role in the freedom struggle of India by reporting progress in the national movement and belaboring the injustice caused by the British. It helped fight several injustices like exploitation of peasants by the indigo planters, partition of Bengal and Tilak's deportation.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA

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 the 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 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.

STANDARDIZATIONS

Grammar – Standard English Grammatical rules must be followed.

Spellings – There should be no spelling errors in submissions.

Title – The title should give an indication of the nature of the subject matter.

Abbreviations – Only officially used abbreviations are acceptable. Example – UN, UK, ECOSOC, UNESCO etc.

Currency – The International Organization for Standardization's Currency Code must be used for all currencies. Symbols of currencies are not acceptable. For example, INR should be used instead of ₹.

Numerals - All single or double-digit numbers must be spelled. Other digits may be written numerically. Ordinal numerals must be spelled out. For example, 1st must be written as first. Decimals should be used rather than fractions.

Quotations – Quotations may be used. However, the speaker must be mentioned and an ellipsis (.....) must be used to show omitted portions of the quote. For example, “.....therefore the policy is ineffective.”

Names of Member States – Member States must be referred to by their full name. For example, India must be referred to as the Republic of India.

Citations – Citing all sources is compulsory.

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