



THE GOENKA MUN' 23

SUSTAINING IDEAS | CREATING CHANGE



INTERNATIONAL PRESS

"JOURNALISTS, CARICATURISTS
AND PHOTOGRAPHERS"

BACKGROUND GUIDE

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

To all International Press Members, Welcome to The Goenka MUN'23!

We are delighted to have you on board for the MUN and are extremely honoured to be working with you these two days of the conference.

We, Sanyam and Panav, are both passionate, emphatic writers who have immense respect for the idea of the Free Press.

As humans, we tend to only value freedom when it is snatched away from us. Therefore, Indians were perhaps most united when they joined hands to push out the British and gain independence. However, are we still as united today as we were during the dark days of colonial rule? Have we, in some sense, lost our regard for freedom? Have we, by any chance, taken our freedom for granted?

You, the young journalists, caricaturists and photographers of the International Press, stand as a powerful, awe-inspiring force, screaming to the world, "No, we have not!"

The Press is the forgotten fourth pillar of democracy. It has cracks, and sometimes it might even appear to be on the verge of collapse, Nonetheless, it still stands. It is our job, as its sustainers, to not only make sure it stands, but also to mend the cracks and renovate the pillar, thereby adding strength and resilience to it. The work we expect from you, the work for which we have prepared this background guide, is work that is an ode to this responsibility of the youthful sustainers of the Press.

News media must be honest, creative, and informative. Through this background guide, we seek to assist you in understanding how you must make you work this way. We believe in you immensely, and would just like you to keep in mind one thing for the entire MUN- **Be original, be bold, and be fearless in all that you create!**

Warm Regards and Best of Luck!

Panav Minocha (Head of International Press)

Sanyam Jain (Head of International Press)

JOURNALISM

Overview

In an MUN, journalists use their writing skills to shed light on the various issues being discussed in the committees. We desire writing which is original and creative, while not compromising on authenticity. Most importantly, however, we want writing which makes a reader grasp a complete idea of the proceedings of a committee. As for formatting and submitting, we have certain guidelines, which are expressed below. We urge you to read them thoroughly, so as to avoid confusion during the conference.

Guidelines

- All submissions must be made in the following format:
Yourname_CommitteeAssigned_ArticleType_Day (for example:
Panav_LokSabha_Beat_Day1)
- The following specifications must be adhered to:
Font: Times New Roman
Font Size for Headlines: Size 16
Font Size for Body Text: Size 12
- The word limits, as and when shared, should be adhered to.
- Headlines must not exceed 10 words.
- We have absolutely zero tolerance towards plagiarism. All articles submitted to us will undergo a plagiarism check and any Press Member engaging in plagiarism will be at risk of being disqualified.
- Deadlines, as and when shared, must be adhered to.

Types of Articles

These are the different types of articles you might be asked to write during the committee :

1. **Beat Articles:** While the agenda forms the umbrella that shall reign over the committee on these two days, deliberation shall extend to every sphere of relevance. The delegates pursue all strands of contention related to the issue at hand, and seek to delve greater into various subtopics. The beat based article is a type of article that revolves around a subject, known as the beat. It is a specialised piece which requires in-depth research and offers knowledge to the reader. The beat is to be taken from the proceedings and happenings of the committee and must be a topic important enough to attract readership. It will take the mantle as the core concern of the article, and the content should obsequiously conform to the central idea.

To capture the beat, ensure that you are actively present in the committee to be able to identify the form and shape of the discussion. You can use the first half of the day to collect data and select the core idea of your article, and utilise the remaining time to give a factual backing to the same.

- A beat-based article is a specialised, factual article, and can include direct quotes from delegates, and/or statistical data.
- It has no requirement of a personal opinion, and is only restricted to the happenings in the committee around the beat. Some commentary, however, is encouraged.
- The data used in a beat-based article should use the correct data, including the names of delegates and the facts stated. The inclusion of factual details and direct quotes of the delegates enhances the credibility of the article.
- Once the beat is identified in the committee, the reporter also has the liberty to shed light on a segment of the topic based on his/her research.

2. **Opinionated Articles/Opinion Editorials:** Opinion Editorials are articles wherein journalists are expected to express their own point of view. OpEds can be based on the agenda of the committee discussion. Here, the journalist talks not only about the discussion at hand, but they also offer their own point of view. We expect the journalists to be well-read with the agendas of their specific committees so that the article put forward shows their research as well as their knowledge. Having an opinion is of utmost importance in an OpEd, and this has to show through the style of writing chosen. An OpEd must be interesting, original and opinionated. Some of the functions that op-eds perform include, but are not restricted to:

- Providing background and/or historical perspective on a contemporary issue
- Highlighting aspects/dimensions that are hitherto not covered by 'news pieces'
- Provide suggestions and/or map out a plan of action Explain an idea, concept in immense detail
- Share expertise

As mentioned above, one of the key features of an Opinion Editorial is research. One cannot form an opinion if they aren't well-researched, and under-researched articles lack quality. Further, your articulation needs to be such that your point is put forward clearly. Remember, we're not looking for an essay, which is somewhat holistic and neutral in its approach- we're looking at an article that puts down your thoughts clearly, taking sides, for your opinion cannot be neutral. Constructive Criticism is of key here, i.e. putting out criticism in a manner that puts forward your thought clearly without hurting the sentiments of a delegate or member and helps them work on the said points.

3. **Feature Articles:** Features are articles where a journalist gets to show their creativity to the maximum. Feature articles can be in the form of poetry, prose, short stories, letters, diary entries and a lot more. These, however, need to be related to the agenda at hand in your assigned committee.

Points to remember while writing a feature:

- Make them as creative as possible, Make sure they are committee-centric, For Example, in a committee debating about the Syrian crisis, the journalist could write a feature from the point of view of the Syrian refugees, children, and et cetera, the possibilities are endless.
- In features, while research doesn't really play a big role, symbolism and impact is important, which again can only be delivered with a good understanding of the topic.

4. **Interviews:** Interviews are another very crucial feature of any Model United Nations conference. Interviews may be of chairs of the various committees, Secretariat members, delegates etc. You will be judged based on the quality of your questions. In an interview submission, we want only the question asked, and the answers given, without any commentary or opinion whatsoever. The answers need to be direct quotes of the interviewee, but journalists may choose not to write every single thing the interviewee has said.

- Points to remember for conducting an Interview:
- Research is necessary.
- Do not necessarily stick to your prepared questions if you see the interviewee giving you better, more meaningful information.
- Stick to not more than 3-4 questions per interviewee
- Keep the transcribing concise and to-the-point
- Include all important information the interviewee speaks about, Be authentic and feel free about speaking on issues.

5. **Formal Reports:** In an MUN conference, a report is a summary of events that have taken place in the committee. Here, however, one needs to remember that we do not expect you to write about the discussion on Rules of Procedures (RoPs) - by summary, we mean quality content that has been spoken about in the committee. Reports are formal, neutral and concise. They explain the happenings of a committee without personal bias, and journalists have to ensure that they cover the event to its entirety. They need to ensure that someone who is not a part of the committee can still read a report to understand what is going on. Incidents may be reported, but they cannot have an opinion.

CARICATURE

Overview

The Press is made to question, and thereby to improve. Therefore, as a cartoonist, as an artist, you have the power to create whatever happens in committee and combine that with your artistic freedom to create a visual representation of the heavy political debate that takes place. To do this, you will most certainly need to be mindful of the language you use and what you are presenting – and it must represent the committee well. Never shy from critiquing or challenging an idea.

Guidelines

- All cartoons must be submitted to us physically as well as mailed to us in the form of a jpeg
- The name of the cartoonist, committee assigned and task number must be written in pencil on the back of the page. While submitting us an image the following format is to be followed : Yourname _ CommitteeAssigned _ Task no. _ Day
(for example: Sanyam _ LokSabha _ Task 1 _ Day1)
- Cartoons must be creative. While we refrain from curbing creative freedom in any way whatsoever, we request that the submissions must not contain borderline obscenity.

Tips

- **Know the issue:** Research on the issue you have chosen in great depth. Read the background guides for the agendas and do a thorough internet search for information to provide a base to your caricature. Research about the various people, countries and perspectives involved.
- **Choose your stance:** After learning about the different perspectives, choose the one you want to showcase through your cartoon. Does it attack or defend? Support or counter? Think about how you'll portray your stance through your cartoon.
- **Use Symbolism:** Political cartoons often make use of symbols or images that represent larger or more complex ideas. Decide on what element of your cartoon will be used to symbolise your chosen idea prior to drawing in order to maintain a clear focus.

- **Consider Using Exaggeration or Analogies:** Exaggeration is commonly used while drawing caricatures of political figures, emphasising one of their prominent features. This adds a humorous touch to the cartoon and can help attract viewers. Analogies are used to connect a particular idea with a more well-known one, in order to make the message more understandable to the public. For instance, an international dispute can be shown by two children arguing over a toy. Label elements You can include labels to make the message of the cartoon clearer. Although not often used in other types of cartoons, they are often used in political ones to increase the impact of the message. Try using labels on things that may otherwise be unclear, but don't overuse them.
- **Add Dialogue and Captions:** In the end, add dialogue (if required) using speech bubbles or thought bubbles. Also, be sure to give your cartoon an interesting, catchy caption.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Overview

Photography plays a crucial role in the international press of a Model United Nations (MUN) conference. As delegates engage in intense debates and negotiations, photographers capture poignant moments that reflect the essence of diplomacy and global cooperation. These images serve as powerful storytelling tools, conveying the emotions, diversity, and complexities of international relations. They provide a visual narrative, fostering a deeper understanding of MUN's impact on young leaders and their commitment to finding solutions for real-world challenges. Furthermore, these photographs help promote MUN's mission, inspiring more individuals to participate in shaping a better, more interconnected world.

Guidelines

- All photographs will be submitted digitally via email
- Format while submitting : Yourname _ CommitteeAssigned _ Task name _ Day
- Photographers must have a DSLR camera, and must take all photos using one.
- Photos must be in colour unless specified otherwise.
- All photographers must be well versed with the process of transferring photos from the DSLR to their Laptop.