

RYCMUN 24'
CHAPTER 1

BACKGROUND GUIDE
INTERNATIONAL PRESS



RAJASTHAN
YOUTH
CONFERENCE



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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Dear Delegates,

It is with great enthusiasm that I welcome you to the International Press Committee at the Rajasthan Youth Conference Model United Nations (RYC MUN). As your Chairperson, I am honored to guide our discussions and facilitate meaningful exchanges on pressing global issues.

Our committee's focus lies at the intersection of information, diplomacy, and storytelling. We are the eyes and ears of this conference, tasked with capturing the essence of each debate, resolution, and diplomatic maneuver. Our words will shape narratives, influence perspectives, and contribute to the collective understanding of the world's challenges.

The Role of the International Press Committee:

- Our mandate extends beyond mere reporting; it is about weaving narratives that resonate with truth, empathy, and clarity.
- We will delve into the heart of the MUN experience, capturing the spirit of diplomacy, negotiation, and collaboration.
- Through our articles, interviews, and analyses, we will illuminate the diverse perspectives that converge within these walls.

Our Agenda:

Our critical journey begins with a focus on the conditions of refugees and migrants in conflict zones. This topic is both urgent and complex, reflecting the human rights challenges faced by millions worldwide. As we explore this multifaceted issue, we will consider:

1. Access to Basic Necessities: How can we ensure that displaced individuals receive essential resources, including food, shelter, and medical care?
2. Asylum and Protection: What mechanisms can safeguard the rights and dignity of refugees seeking asylum?
3. Humanitarian Aid: How can the international community collaborate to



provide effective humanitarian assistance?

4. Vulnerable Groups: What specific measures can protect vulnerable populations, including women, children, and the elderly?

The Global Context:

Our time frame is anchored in the present, where conflicts in regions such as Syria, Yemen, South Sudan, and Palestine have led to unprecedented displacement. As we deliberate, we must balance immediate humanitarian responses with long-term strategies for stability and integration.

Your Role:

I encourage each delegate to bring forward creative, informed, and viable solutions. Root your contributions in international law, guided by empathy and a commitment to sustainable outcomes. Let us draft resolutions that uphold the dignity and rights of displaced persons, ensuring that our discussions lead to actionable results.

A Personal Commitment:

As someone deeply passionate about human rights, especially for the displaced, I seek measures that are both just and innovative. Together, we will address this critical issue with the seriousness and compassion it deserves.

I look forward to witnessing your journalistic prowess, your ability to capture the essence of our debates, and your commitment to truth.

Sincerely,
Rushal Sharma
Chairperson- International Press
lpc.ryc@gmail.com



INTRODUCTION

As the eyes and ears of global media, the International Press Corps is tasked with the responsibility of objectively documenting, analyzing, and disseminating information regarding the deliberations, debates, and resolutions emerging from each committee session. It is a collection of esteemed and reputed news agencies and media companies from across the world —both regional and international.

Delegates of the IPC, are expected to embody the spirit of journalistic integrity to provide an overview of all the happenings within other committees throughout the conference, all within the scope of their respective portfolios. This is where you get to spend valuable time honing your writing, reporting, and media skills, collaborate with fantastic people, and receive critical feedback from the Executive Board for the future.

So good luck and have fun!

THE IPC CODE OF CONDUCT

Aside from the general code of conduct expected from delegates at the conference as outlined in the Conference Policy, the IPC expects an extra set of displayed behaviors from all delegates.

- **Accuracy and Integrity:** While you might distort information for the sake of adhering to your assigned press, no other delegate in the conference must feel they have been misrepresented in a bad light due to the content generated by a delegate of the IPC.
- **Impartiality in Attention:** A responsible journalist must pay attention to and judge the involvement and contributions of every delegate in a committee.
- **Respect and Professionalism:** A delegate of the IPC is also a delegate of their assigned committee, and so must adhere to the expectations of their assigned committee's Executive Board and respect all members equally. No delegate of the IPC



is expected to show a lackadaisical attitude in any committee session.

PORTFOLIO OVERVIEWS

This overview of each portfolio seeks to only serve as a base for all delegates to follow. We highly encourage you to conduct your research to develop a stance and understanding of the news agency, unique to your vision for this MUN conference. Yet, we still urge you to carefully read every portfolio to pick up on certain nuances that will certainly be helpful during the conference, especially when considering collaboration or research into specific matters — helping you adjust to the dynamic environment the committee will try to bring about.

The New York Times: The New York Times, an American daily newspaper with a vast global readership, has been widely acclaimed for its exceptional standards and excellence, having won 130 Pulitzer Prizes. The newspaper adheres to the standard 8-column format for its publications. While The New York Times adopts a liberal editorial stance, it does occasionally publish right-leaning perspectives.

The Hindu: The Hindu is an English-language newspaper that is published daily, having originated as a weekly publication in 1878 before being converted to a daily one in 1889.

It is the second most widely circulated English newspaper in India and is present in 21 locations across 11 states in the country. The Hindu holds the distinction of being the first Indian newspaper to establish an online presence, launching its website in 1995. The Times has recognized The Hindu as one of the top 10 newspapers worldwide, and it has also been presented with the World Press Achievement Award by the American Newspaper Publishers' Association. While the publication was initially known for its liberal stance, in recent times, it has faced allegations of having a left-leaning bias.

Dainik Bhaskar: Being a Hindi language daily, Dainik Bhaskar caters to a diverse readership within the Hindi-speaking community in India. Therefore, they subsequently provide coverage for various topics such as



politics, current affairs, and entertainment within India. They aim their news at a large portion of the Indian population and demographics is an extremely important consideration for the newspaper. They follow a strict journalistic value system but still have regional and cultural biases at times in their reporting. Keeping in mind that the majority of the MUN conference would be expecting IPC to function in English, there is a great responsibility to use the Hindi language effectively and accurately.

BBC News: BBC News is the branch of the British Broadcasting Corporation responsible for collecting and airing news and current affairs. Established in 1997, it is the largest broadcast news organization globally, which produces approximately 120 hours of television and radio programming daily, in addition to digital news coverage. The department has over 250 journalists and 50 international news bureaus. However, BBC News has been criticized for prioritizing conservative viewpoints over progressive ones.

CNN: Being very extensive in every aspect, CNN is an American news network that has become one of the largest and the most influential in the world. It goes without saying at this point that without following strong journalistic codes of conduct and integrity it is hard to be a media giant. However, CNN still receives more criticism than other agencies in its league such as the BBC, with people having claimed a liberal or left-wing bias being present. They are also often accused of sensationalizing news and going after catchy headlines and news rather than being unbiased and open in their reporting. Despite all of this, CNN is most known for covering breaking news and providing fast, accurate, in-depth analyses and investigative reporting.

ROLE OF A DELEGATE

BASICS OF NEWS ARTICLES

Every news article, though unique, is often cut from the same mould and must contain certain common elements.

Lede: A lede is a slang term in journalism that refers to the first sentence of an article that hooks readers. As such it must summarise the key essence of the article and convey its most important information while not



being comprehensive enough to make reading the article mundane or predictable.

5 Ws (Who, What, Where, Why, When): Traditional news articles often try to answer these five questions in their news articles, although keeping in mind the limitations of a MUN, one could skip on mentioning where or when the events of their article took place in cases where it is not relevant to the story. The point of keeping these questions in mind while writing articles is to give a 360-degree view of the event reported on as the purpose of a news article is to educate the reader on the event.

Inverted Pyramid Structure: This means prioritizing the most fundamental information in the lead paragraph and going into depth of certain beats in the following paragraphs for people who are truly interested in delving deep into the topic.

Simple Vocabulary: Delegates must prioritize delivering information rather than using extensive vocabulary as newspapers' main objective is to convey information to the masses in simple, understandable language. Stephen King, who has sold more novels than most, when reflecting on his craft also drew a similar message: "One of the really bad things you can do to your writing is to dress up the vocabulary, looking for long words because you are maybe a little bit ashamed of your short ones. This is like dressing up a household pet in evening clothes. The pet is embarrassed and the person who committed this act of premeditated cuteness should be even more embarrassed."

POINTS TO NOTE

Make sure that your articles are concise and straightforward, with a recommended length of 400-500 words.

- Articles must adhere to the specific news agency's policies and present the information in a manner the agency's previously published articles did with similar biases and writing style. The same shall be given heavy importance during the marking of submissions.
- Your article should be well-structured and easy-flowing, with a clear line and a minimum of three paragraphs in total with a clear introduction and conclusion. It is important to include a relevant and captivating headline



to avoid receiving negative marks.

- It is imperative to maintain proper grammar and punctuation. There should be no spelling errors in the final submission. We would recommend all reporters run their articles through Grammarly or any relevant software before submission.

TYPES OF PIECES

- Beat Article
- Editorials and Op-Eds
- Interviews
- Press conference
- Social Media
- Cartoons and Comic Strips
- Photojournalism

BEAT ARTICLES

Beat Articles are fact-based pieces that include information about the committee's agenda, some background information and crucial details about its proceedings. Remember that a certain level of accuracy is required for every piece written. To ensure accuracy, reporters should seek clarification from the delegate or the Executive Board as per the requirement, when it comes to facts. If you read any news article from a reputable newspaper or magazine, the proceedings are less important than the outcome. This entails paying close attention to the matters being discussed and focusing on one line of inquiry. Once you have chosen what you want to write about, you gather a range of viewpoints and connect them to the actual happenings in the world. To write about just one subject, a lot of research on the agenda is needed. You must practise your ability to analyse a problem and concisely explain it.

Roughly, the following can be used as a structure for a beat-based article:

Para 1: Stating the Beat

Para 2: Elaboration upon the said Beat

Para 3: State if you are for or against the Beat

Para 4: Mention any incidents or events that have led to the Beat

Para 5: Expectations of events to follow or repercussions of the Beat

(Beats are not meant to be longer than 400 words.)



OPINION EDITORIALS

Op-ed, which is the short form for 'Opinion Editorials' is simply an opinionated and reflective piece. Op-eds can be written in a variety of different ways and for several different reasons, so it is crucial to do your homework before you start. Verifying information and investigating many perspectives on the subject at hand are examples of this. For instance, to acquire an informed judgement about the US forces' withdrawal from Afghanistan, an Indian writer needs to examine materials from Pakistan, India, and the US. An opinionated piece is ultimately just another form of a comment, but it cannot be an absurd one. Opinionated pieces typically include the reporter's viewpoint on a subject.

Editorials and Op-eds have to maintain high standards of writing and expression, and publication shall be at the subject discretion of the Editorial Board. In clear words, Editorials and Op-eds differ from news articles in matters of substance rather than events. For example, a strongly opinionated piece includes a compelling narrative of facts with supporting strands of argumentation that only serve to build its point. Reporters must carefully consider the argument they are going to make and how to deliver it to engage a wider audience because an opinionated piece is evaluated on the facts and views offered. After they have finished covering their respective committees or councils, reporters may draft Op Eds for the newsletter that includes their ideas on the agenda. Editorials and Op-eds do not have to detail what transpired in the council or committee but instead, they are meant to focus on the author's opinion of the topic at hand.

The phrase "The delegates gave good solutions in the Moderated Caucus" does not sound like a well-justified statement. However, the following statement does look like a well-structured one that includes substantial evidence as well: "The delegates proposed moderately substantial solutions, putting special emphasis upon the establishment of exclusive institutions which will help, to some extent, in discontinuing the practice of child marriage, preventing adolescent pregnancy, and ensuring gender equality in Africa." Reporters frequently have to quote some delegates while keeping in mind that the main objective is to give their viewpoint an appropriate, precise and factual foundation equipped with



the reporter's opinion.

FLOW OF THE COMMITTEE

Such articles will describe the events transpiring in a committee for a given day, in the order in which they occurred. At their root, these articles will be a chronological retelling of the events of a committee from a neutral point of view. These articles must include the major beats of the committee. All information not relevant to the overall proceedings must be purged. Submissions will be marked based on their flow from beat to beat and their accuracy to the true proceedings.

ADDITIONAL CONTENT

This subsection can be divided into three parts with delegates being able to choose which one(s) they are most comfortable with and submitting the same. A delegate is permitted to give more than one submission from more than one category. It is important to note that these submissions go hand-in-hand with your article submissions for the day and there must be a recognisable link between the two.

SOCIAL MEDIA

The International Press recognises the importance of several different social media platforms today as the primary modes of communication and hence, we plan on aiding delegates express their creativity in releasing content by incorporating tweets and social media posts into the unique blend of our committee. Under this subsection of submissions, reporters can include verbatim statements from delegates in their committee relevant to their articles. Reporters will also have to adhere to the regulations of their respective social media platforms being used. For example, all tweets cannot exceed 280 characters. Please note that the aforementioned pieces are not to be posted online. Rather, they should be sent to the Executive Board as an attachment in your e-mail submissions to ipc.ryc@gmail.com.

Photojournalism

The International Press Corps asks its delegates to explore and embrace



their artistic skills. Photojournalism is an incredibly crucial aspect of reporting that conveys important pieces of information through cogent and compelling photography. We would incorporate two basic genres of photojournalism in RYCMUN 24 which include making caricatures and political memes.

These artistic pieces should strictly adhere to the regulations of the International Press Corps and avoid any extensively offensive dialogue that could put the journalist's entire work in jeopardy. An example of such work (a caricature of Donald Trump) is attached below for your reference.



It is important to note that these must add value to your articles and must not be placed solely out of compulsion. Additionally, keeping in mind the limitations of some delegates in this regard, we will not be marking submissions based on their aesthetic appeal, but rather on the idea or intention of the piece. In case a submission is drawn or doodled on paper, we request you take a clear scanned picture of your work and email it to the official email address: ipc.ryc@gmail.com.

INTERVIEWS

Press interviews are one-on-one conversations between an IPC



journalist and a delegate of relevance conducted for a publication or broadcast. The objective of an interview is to collect newsworthy and relevant information to write better articles. An IPC delegate can conduct interviews during Unmoderated Caucuses or Refreshment Breaks between sessions at the interviewee's discretion. Interviews must be transcribed before submission and can be recorded for convenience only with the permission of the interviewee. It is advised that journalists realise the key points to be discussed with them to avoid deviating from the topic. Journalists are advised against constantly referring to a written set of questions and to act natural during the interview to keep the interviewee at ease. Interviews are generally recommended to be 3-4 minutes long. Once again a successful interview is assured if the IPC delegates have adequately researched the topic and possess holistic knowledge on the subject. Interviews will be marked by the quality of questions asked and their implementation in written pieces.

The following is a comprehensive guide to a successful interview:

Build an affinity: To create a comfortable atmosphere, it is best to begin with small talk before jumping into your questions.

Be Natural: When conducting an interview, it is important to keep the flow of the conversation natural. Rather than sticking to a rigid list of questions, try to incorporate them smoothly into the discussion. Additionally, maintaining eye contact is crucial, as it can be unsettling for the interviewee if the interview

Maintain Control: Although it is important to be open during a conversation, it is also crucial to avoid wasting time. If the interviewee deviates from the relevant topic, it is acceptable to steer the conversation back to the main subject in a gentle yet firm manner.

Finishing the interview: After finishing the interview, make sure to ask the interviewee if there is anything important they would like to add that you might have missed. Additionally, if there were any terms or phrases they used that you did not understand, clarify their meanings. Lastly, ask if they have any recommendations for other people you could speak to for further information.



Note-Taking: Reporters often spoil their notes in an attempt to jot down every quote of the interviewee. Hence, the interviewer needs to note only the important quotes that they will surely incorporate into their Beat articles or Op-eds to validate their arguments.

PRESS CONFERENCES

Press conferences are a tool used in MUNs to stimulate the real-world effect of the press in dictating the direction of world events. These provide journalists with a platform to represent their news agency's stance on certain issues through relevant questions posed to delegates to scrutinise their recent actions and shift the committee's views on certain matters. Once again research is imperative to produce good quality questions, held together with facts and logic.

On either the second or third day of the conference, with the approval of your Executive Board, you will be permitted to question around five delegates from your respective committees. However, the possibility of holding a press conference will be constrained by the organisers' time limits. The International Press delegations will be notified 30 minutes prior if a press conference is available and they are required to send their questions to the Executive Board for a quality check in advance.

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

As an IPC delegate, you will have mainly three things to worry about:

1. Writing
2. Reporting
3. Adhering

Yes, writing and reporting come under two separate categories—because while writing is important as a journalist, so is every other way of emanating and disseminating information. While writing includes your assigned tasks, reporting includes press conferences, interviews, photos, cartoons, tweets and the like. All this extra media is extremely crucial in the IPC.

Then, comes the third point, adhering to both the assigned committee and the assigned portfolio — the specifics of which will vary and are now



up to you to figure out.

ELEMENTS OF STYLE

Abbreviations: When writing the names of committees, countries, organisations, or agencies, only use standard acronyms and do not include any punctuation marks such as periods or commas. For instance, instead of writing 'United Nations Security Council', use the acronym 'UNSC'.

Apostrophes: This punctuation mark will only be used to indicate possessive nouns or secondary quotations. Apostrophes are never used to indicate pluralization.

Currency: To display the monetary values correctly, use the Dollar symbol '\$' before the amount. Any money amounts greater than one million dollars should be presented as summarised figures. For instance, \$20300, \$177000 and \$512 million.

Capitalisation: Only abbreviations are required to be capitalised.

Boldface text: Under no circumstances should boldface be used by delegates in their articles. Headlines and article titles may be made bold by the Publisher.

Books and print sources: Names of all books and print sources should be italicised, such as the newsletters *New York Times* and *The Economist*.

Developing nations: Within the international community, the use of the term "Third world" is actively discouraged. No nation will be referred to as "Third World", rather they shall be termed as developing nations.

Diplomatic courtesy: The IPC encourages reporters to include quotes and statements from other delegations in their reports, but they should ensure that their quotes do not violate diplomatic courtesy. All written material such as opinion editorials, press releases and letters should be written courteously towards all delegates of RYCMUN'24. If a reporter feels that a delegate's quote was not civil, they should rephrase it in a



way that is acceptable and polite, as otherwise, it may be removed from their article.

Hyphenation: Hyphens should solely be applied according to British English grammar. Examples of typically hyphenated prefixes include non-, sub-, ex-, etc. Some compound words are hyphenated as well, such as socio-political.

Member States: In print, references to the United Nations 'Member States' should be initially capitalised.

Names: Reporters should never guess the spelling of a person's name to be reported. Verbal verification is mandatory on all named sources. Note that all participants at RYCMUN wear credentials with their names prominently displayed. Naturally, all proper nouns are capitalised.

National references: Reporters are required to use the standard UN country names when referring to any UN Member State, which should match the names they have signed in the UN charter. For instance, 'China' should be used instead of 'The Republic of China' and 'Libyan Arab Jamahiriya' should be used for 'Libya', as recognised by the United Nations.

Numerals: Any numeral ten or less should be spelled out in English. Numerals over ten are reported using standard Arabic numerals, such as 2001. Numerals with five or more digits should include commas, such as 1,345,000. Fractions and decimal numbers should be reported as decimal numerals or percentages, such as 0.5 or 50%. Roman numerals are used only when referring to a source that was originally designated using Roman numerals, such as Chapter VII of the UN Charter. 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.

Percentages: The appropriate symbol of percentage will be used to report a percentage number, for example, 12.0% or 0.57%.

Quotations: All quoted statements within articles should be incorporated correctly into the sentence being written. Additional capitalization should



be avoided. If only part of a sentence is being used in a quotation, an ellipsis should be used to indicate the omitted portions of the 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 that would be unclear to the reader, the Reporter may interject a clarification within brackets. 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. Amb. Kamal explained that “...while the matters are being studied by the UN, there is a commitment by the UN, such as the UNV [United Nations Volunteers], to take part in conflict zones.”

Copyright Usage: Delegates are permitted to use references from official and trusted sources, including quotes, within their submissions. Attention must be paid to citations though. Towards the end of their pieces, all references must be cited properly with due credit to the source. It is recommended that reporters do not plagiarise their content beyond the acceptable limit of 7%.

Political Leaning: When talking about any other nations with regards to any facet of their identity, be it economic, political, cultural or social, the political leanings and ideologies of your respective agency will have to be kept in mind at all times. For example, if you are The People’s Daily (China), then you will be biased towards China, speak well of Russia and disparagingly of the Western nations, especially the US. Propaganda.

Spacing: While separating words, only one space will be used. There should be a space succeeding 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 are required to spell-check all articles before the editorial deadline. This will greatly assist the Editor.

Titles: Two types of titles should be used:

- Standard professional titles: When using Standard Professional Titles, such as Mr., Mrs., Ms., Dr., Amb., or Pres., make sure to include a period



after the abbreviation.

- **UN titles:** The following titles should not be abbreviated. UN and official titles include: Secretary-General, Director-General, Deputy Secretary-General, President, etc. Secretary-General shall never be abbreviated as Sec Gen.

SUBMISSION AND DEADLINES

DEADLINES

Meeting deadlines is essential to being an IPC Delegate, not only is it your obligation to the committee, but it also speaks volumes on your character and your respect for the Executive Board. The inability to meet deadlines will not be excused unless under extreme circumstances and will provoke the executive board to negatively mark your submission. The committee will provide clear instructions on deadlines that are to be followed, however, its brief is listed below:

- News reports [Beat Articles] will need to be submitted every single day, exactly **one hour** after the **last committee session has concluded**. News reports will be required for the first and second days and will be optional for the third day.
- The submission of Opinion Editorials is scheduled **exclusively** for the **second day**, and they are expected to reach the inbox **one hour after the news reports**. Despite the Opinion Editorials being optional, we strongly encourage all reporters to submit one.
- It is mandated that all tweets must be submitted within **15 minutes** after the committee session has ended, and any tweets submitted after that period will not be considered. Delegates are required to submit a minimum of 1 tweet per day, while the upper limit for tweets per day is set at 5.
- A minimum of one interview is **mandatory** and may be submitted along with the news reports **one hour** after committee sessions end.

ARTICLE FORMAT

Your portfolio's name should be followed by an underscore, then your article's title and designated committee (Name_Title_Alloted Committee). For instance, if your article is about unrest in the Middle East it could be titled: "CNN_Hamas Accepts Proposal For Ceasefire_UNSC".



INTERVIEW FORMAT

Your interviews must be transcribed in a question-answer format should they be recorded. When submitting the transcribed interview, be sure to title the file in the following format: Portfolio Name_Interviewed Delegate_Allotted Committee. For example: "BBC_United States of America_UNSC". However, the headline for the interview can be the most significant quote from the interview, for instance, "The World Cannot Survive a Sequel to Oppenheimer".

SUBMISSION

All submissions must be sent to the official email address: ipc.ryc@gmail.com, with the subject of the email in the following format: Portfolio Name_Allotted Committee_Type of Material Submitted. For instance: "The Hindu_Lok Sabha_Op- ed". All submissions must be made in the form of both PDFs and .docx should you want them to be published through. The font size to be used in all submissions will be 12, Times New Roman, although headings can differ in font size.



PARTING NOTE

This Background Guide, while rather comprehensive, only serves as a base of exploration. The International Press Corps is an extremely dynamic committee and thus, there is only so much you can prepare yourself for.

Once again, good luck, and have fun!



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