

BHIS FairGaze Model United Nations



International Press Corps **~ *Background Guide* ~**

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Letter from the International Press Facilitators

Greetings International Press Corps,

I feel extremely honoured to invite you to the grand simulation of the International Press at the BHIS E-Model United Nations, facilitated by the GlenGaze Model United Nations. It is, for me, a privilege to preside by the International Press Corps as the IP Facilitator.

We are all here, to resonate the anthem of press, which is free and independent, that which has no foundation of bias and mean. We are all here, to generate ideas which can mobilise the masses in a way, which is impeccable and integral. You need to understand the power of the ink, that which can preside by any fervid mind, in a matter of minutes, therefore it is extremely crucial to understand the inevitable role of press in conferences that carries an ability, to both affect and impact, lives counting in billions, across pan.

We are sure that it is in your inherent knowledge, that IP is one of the strongest and the most impactful tenet of the contemporary world. Establishment of public opinion as an authoritative critique and its aftermath has created a dimension that has changed the course of history as we know it. The vision here is to create a journal which echoes the power of press. We are here, to simulate articles and artworks which give the readers food for thought combined with well-placed satire.

Remember, an ideal press member is an interjector during simulations of international organizations and whose think-tanks requires more research and presence of mind than an international delegate.

This is a guide that will take you step by step in the realm of who you've become for this one day of conference.

Just remember to ***create what you aspire and that what inspires!***

Always at your disposal,

Priyal Jain, Editor in Chief (priyalj1516@gmail.com)

Exploring the realms of Journalism

Overview

The International Press for Journalists is as exciting as it seems to be and I as the Editorial Facilitator of the IP, can assure you all to have an enticing time for both ink and spectating. The International Press for journalism is basically a platform to explore the crises at hand an present to the masses, with content that is immaculate enough to generate moral perceptions. Your articles can be of broadly five categories, which are discussed further in this guide.

All that I expect from you all is unbiased content, genuine research about the topic beforehand, argumentation, professionalism and satire, to make your article – **an art of ink that makes all the difference.**

Remember, the work of the journalists is not to demean the delegations, rather broaden even their prospective. **Deliver change with harmony, subtle yet immense.**

Golden Tips

You can take these best practices into account, not only for this Model United Nations Conference but for other Model United Nations Conferences as well.

- All submissions need to be made in the following format: YourName_Committee_ArticleType_Day.
For example, if I am a journalist writing a beat for UNSC on Day 1, then I submit it as - PriyalJain_UNSC_Beat_Day1,
- Each submission has to follow these specifications:
 - **Font**
 - **For headlines:** Size 14
 - **For body text:** Size 12
 - **Font Style:** Times New Roman
 - **Word Limits:** have to be taken into consideration. The word limit shall be informed during the International Press Briefing Session on the day of the conference (however +/-20 words do work),
 - **By-lines** and **headlines** have to be provided,
For example, “Is Kashmir only a piece of international politics and propaganda? Are the Kashmiris only meant for

exploitation? Is Kashmir issue only a sensitive tension because it implores a threat to security? Or do officials actually consider it sensitive to the humanitarian crisis? Priyal Jain explores the facts and implores her opinions, for the topic being, Indo-Pakistan with special emphasis on the United Nations' Security Council's Resolution 47."

- Submissions have to be made via email at priyalj1516@gmail.com,
- Re-read each article piece before submission and ensure no kind of plagiarism is hunted,
- The usage of grammar and punctuation must be immaculate,
- Remember, we are looking for creativity, and it is your job to ensure that the work you put forward is your creative best,
- Language used has to be simple and understandable. While using big words may seem enticing, you need to understand that not everyone understands heavy English, and even if they do they do not have the time to decipher tough words,
- The **deadlines** have to be carefully adhered to, or else, the journalist might have to face negative marking. The deadlines will be notified during the International Press Briefing only.

Types of Articles

In this section of the study guide, we shall be talking about the five different categories or types of articles, this is a highly crucial part of the background guide, kindly read every subheading twice.

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 on this sub-topic. Beat based article is a type of article that revolves around a subject, known as the beat. It is a specialised piece which requires an in-depth research and offers more 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, and the facts attached to the same.
- 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.

Citations (here, direct quotes) from the content verbalized by any delegation is to be entertained.

2. Opinionated Articles/Opinion Editorials

Opinion Editorials are articles wherein the 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, she/he also offers their own point of view.

We expect the Journalists to be well-read with agendas of their specific committees, so that the article put forward show 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. Some of the functions that op-eds perform include, but are not restricted to:

- ✚ Debating a proposition and/or providing rebuttals
- ✚ 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 to 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 Member Nation, and helps them work on the said points.

Things to keep in mind while writing an OpEd:

- ✚ It should be based on verifiable facts, but should not necessarily contain them
- ✚ It is bound by word limit, and hence you need to be concise and to the point.
- ✚ It has to express opinions- however; opinions do not mean baseless arguments.
- ✚ The number of aspects covered in an OpEd's argument is upto the author, but it is necessary to keep in mind that the argument(s) showcased are not too fuzzy.
- ✚ Arguments should be comprehended in a manner that they lead to a final concluding paragraph and not just an abrupt ending.

3. Features

Features are articles where a journalist gets to show his/her creativity to the maximum. Not essentially as important or relevant as an OpEd or a Report/Beat, features allow the journalist to unleash their creativity in the form of poetry, prose, diary entries, open letters and a lot more. These, however, need to be committee-centric; otherwise they do not really serve the purpose of being a part of a MUN newsletter.

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,

- Features, while do not require a heavy work on research, but stand for the purpose of influential symbolism to reflect the agenda at hand,
- While we understand that limiting creativity to a word limit is not right, you have to keep in mind that this is, eventually, a newsletter, and we need to stick to a word limit.

4. Interviews

Interviews are another very crucial feature of any Model United Nations conference. These can be conducted in person or via chats, because we understand that catching hold of any delegate while the committee is going on is not possible. A source - anyone a journalist interviews - can provide the following elements that are vital to any news story

- Basic factual information,
- Perspective and context on the topic being discussed,
- Direct quotes,
- Ideas on how to approach the story,
- Names and contact information of other people to interview.

Points to remember for conducting an Interview:

- Research is necessary,
- Do not necessarily stick to your prepared questions if you see the delegate giving you better, more meaningful information,
- Stick to not more than 3-4 questions per delegate,
- 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.

All interviews have to be submitted in a questions/answers form.

5. 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. **Citations (here, direct quotes) from the content verbalized by any delegation is to be entertained.**

Elements of Style

- ✚ **Abbreviations**- No periods should be used separating letters of an abbreviated organization or agency. Only standard acronyms and approved abbreviations should be used. Some example abbreviations include: ECOSOC, GA, HSC, ICJ, IPD, NATO, UK, UN, US, USSR.
- ✚ **Apostrophes**- This punctuation mark will only be used to indicate possessive secondary quotations. Apostrophes are never used to indicate pluralisation.
- ✚ **Currency**- Dollar values are displayed with the appropriate currency symbol. Values on orders at or greater than one million are summarized, for example \$54,000, \$135,000 or \$214 million. Indian Rupees shall be written as INR and not Rs.
- ✚ **Capitalization**- Nowhere shall anything but Abbreviations be capitalized.
- ✚ **Books and print sources**- Names of all books and print sources should be capitalized and italicized, such as the newsletter, 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."
- ✚ **Diplomatic courtesy**- While Reporters are encouraged to faithfully report on the statements of representatives within each Excalibur MUN simulation, no quotation should violate the dictates of diplomatic courtesy. If a Reporter feels that a quotation by a representative is discourteous, the representative should be encouraged to rephrase the statement in a more courteous fashion or risk having it omitted from the Reporter's article.

- ✚ **Hyphenation-** Hyphens should only be applied according to American English grammar. If questions arise, consult the Editors. Examples of typically hyphenated prefixes include non-, sub- and ex-. Some compound words are hyphenated as well, such as socio-political.
 - Member States- In print, references to United Nations "Member States" should be initially capitalized.
- ✚ **Names-** Reporters should never guess the spelling of a person's name or portfolio to be reported. Verbal verification is mandatory on all named sources. Naturally, all proper names are capitalized.
- ✚ **National references-** When referring to any UN Member State or Observer, standard UN country names should be used. These names match those with which each nation signed the UN Charter. For example, the People's Republic of China should always be referred to as "China." Additionally, some national names are longer than those commonly used. For example, Libya is recognized at the UN as "Libyan Arab Jamahiriya."
- ✚ **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 which was originally designated using Roman numerals, such as Chapter VII of the UN Charter (articles of the UN Charter are written as "Article 7"). Ordinal numerals are spelled out within the text of an article, such as the First Committee of the General Assembly.
- ✚ **Percentages-** Percent symbols will be used to report percentages, for example 35.8%.
- ✚ **Quotation marks-** As per Standard English grammar, punctuation at the conclusion of quotation must always be included inside the closing quotation mark.
- ✚ **Quotations-** All quoted statements within articles should be incorporated grammatically into the sentence being written. Additional capitalizations should be avoided. If only part of a sentence is being used in a quotation, an ellipsis (i.e. ...) 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 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.

- ✚ **Spacing**- One space is used to separate words, as well as following commas, semicolons, colons and periods.
- ✚ **Spelling**- Reporters should be sure to spell check all articles before the editorial deadline. This will greatly assist the Editor.

Marking Criteria

- ✚ **Creativity and originality** - 05 marks
 - ✚ **Language** - 07 marks
 - ✚ **Plagiarism** - 05 marks
 - ✚ **Word limit** - 03 marks
 - ✚ **Presentation** - 02 marks
 - ✚ **Punctuality** - 05 Marks
 - ✚ **Coherence and Grammar** - 10 marks
 - ✚ **Research** - 05 Marks
 - ✚ **Fluency** - 03 Marks
 - ✚ **Format** - 05 Marks
 - ✚ **Hence, total** = 50 marks
- ✚ **Additional 5 marks** on the usage of each of the below-mentioned:
- Professionalism,
 - Argumentation,
 - Satire and humour.