

SHRI MUN 2024 BACKGROUND GUIDE



INTERNATIONAL PRESS



**UNITED NATIONS
CORRESPONDENT'S ASSOCIATION**

Letter from the Executive Board

Dear Delegates,

It gives us immense pleasure to welcome you to the second edition of interschool Shri MUN in 2024. We hope that you all have a wonderful MUN experience and that these three days in committee result in some fruitful debate on a very pertinent issue.

To give you a helping hand on how to prepare yourselves for this committee, we suggest familiarising yourself with the history and workings of the United Nations Correspondents Association (UNCA). The committee will involve journalists, photographers, and caricaturists. Ensure you have a strong understanding of media ethics, freedom of the press, and the role of media in shaping public opinion. Make sure that you have your facts in place and be confident while speaking. We would like to reiterate that this background guide points you in the direction of committee, the rest would be dependent on the nature of the other committees. However, read up thoroughly on the issue at hand and do not restrict yourselves to this background guide.

Remember that each delegate is the representative of their respective nation and the views and strategies expressed by you should be in line with the fundamental beliefs of the nation that you represent. Any formal queries regarding Shri MUN or our committee can be directed to our official email address: shrimun@tsrs.org. Please note that any form of documentation sent prior to the beginning of committee sessions will not be entertained. Best of luck!

Warm regards,

UNCA Executive Board

Introduction to the Press Corps

The United Nations Correspondents Association (UNCA) Press Corps plays a crucial role in the functioning of the United Nations and its relationship with the global public. As the UN serves as a platform for international dialogue and cooperation on issues ranging from peacekeeping to environmental protection and economic development, the press acts as a vital link between the organization and the world's citizens.

The primary function of the UNCA Press Corps is to inform the public about UN proceedings and initiatives. This coverage is essential for several reasons. By reporting on UN activities, the press enables citizens to monitor their representatives' actions and hold them accountable. This ensures that delegates truly represent their countries' interests and opinions. Additionally, media coverage facilitates interaction between communities and their representatives on various global issues, fostering public participation in international affairs. The press can also provide a platform for marginalized or oppressed groups, giving voice to those who might otherwise go unheard in international forums. Through in-depth reporting and investigative journalism, the press can uncover and highlight important issues that might otherwise be overlooked, contributing to a more comprehensive understanding of global challenges.

The UNCA Press Corps embodies the principle of press freedom, a fundamental civil liberty essential for the effective functioning of democratic societies and international organizations. The work of the UNCA Press Corps is integral to the UN's mission of fostering international cooperation and understanding. By ensuring transparency, promoting accountability, and facilitating public engagement, the press corps plays a vital role in bridging the gap between the United Nations and the global citizenry it serves.

The UNCA serves as the journalistic arm of the Shri Model United Nations (MUN) conferences, capturing and sharing the core aspects of the MUN experience. With a diverse team of reporters, photographers, and caricature artists, the UNCA provides thorough coverage and documentation of Shri MUN events.

Reporters are the backbone of the UNCA team, serving as the eyes and ears of the conference. Their primary responsibilities include:

1. **Committee Coverage:** Reporters attend committee sessions, carefully observing and documenting the proceedings. They capture key debates, negotiations, and decision-making processes.
2. **Information Gathering:** Through attentive listening and note-taking, reporters collect vital information on the topics under discussion. This includes tracking the positions of different delegations, alliances formed, and evolving arguments.
3. **Delegate Interviews:** Reporters interview delegates to gain deeper insights into their countries' stances, proposed solutions, and diplomatic strategies.
4. **Article Writing:** Using the information gathered, reporters craft concise, informative articles that summarise committee proceedings, highlight significant developments, and provide analysis of the issues at hand.
5. **Expert Commentary:** Reporters often include expert commentary in their articles, offering context and a deeper understanding of complex global issues being debated.
6. **Resolution Tracking:** As committees work towards resolutions, reporters document the drafting process, amendments, and final voting outcomes.
7. **Cross-Committee Awareness:** While primarily focused on their assigned committees, reporters also stay informed about developments in other committees to identify potential cross-cutting issues or collaborations.

Photographers are tasked with creating a visual chronicle of the MUN conference. Their key responsibilities include:

1. **Visual Documentation:** Photographers capture the essence of the conference through powerful images, preserving key moments, interactions, and the overall atmosphere of the event.
2. **Storytelling Through Images:** Using their artistic eye, photographers create visual narratives that convey the energy, emotion, and intensity of committee sessions and other conference activities.
3. **Delegate Portraiture:** Photographers take portraits of delegates, often catching them in moments of deep concentration, passionate debate, or collaborative discussion.
4. **Event Coverage:** From opening ceremonies to committee sessions and social events, photographers ensure comprehensive visual coverage of all aspects of the conference.
5. **Candid Moments:** Skilled photographers capture spontaneous, unscripted moments that truly reflect the spirit of diplomacy and international cooperation.
6. **Visual Support for Articles:** Photographers work closely with reporters, providing images that complement and enhance written articles.
7. **Conference Atmosphere:** Through their lens, photographers convey the unique atmosphere of each committee and the conference as a whole, from formal debates to behind-the-scenes preparations.
8. **Technical Expertise:** Photographers must navigate various lighting conditions and settings to produce high-quality images that effectively communicate the MUN experience.

Caricaturists bring a unique artistic perspective to the UNCA team, offering witty and insightful commentary through their art. Their key responsibilities include:

1. **Political Commentary:** Creating bold, thought-provoking caricatures that encapsulate complex political and diplomatic themes discussed during the conference.
2. **Delegate Portrayals:** Producing exaggerated yet recognizable depictions of delegates, capturing their personalities and stances in a humorous light.
3. **Issue Illustration:** Using visual metaphors and symbolism to illustrate key issues, debates, and resolutions in a memorable and often satirical manner.
4. **Real-time Sketching:** Creating quick, on-the-spot caricatures during committee sessions or social events to capture the immediate mood and dynamics.

The work of UNCA caricaturists adds a layer of artistic interpretation to the conference proceedings, encouraging delegates to view issues from different perspectives and often injecting humor into serious debates. Their art serves as both entertainment and a form of visual editorial, stimulating thought and discussion among participants.

Committee Procedure

The UNCA Press Corps operates under a unique dynamic compared to other committees, reflecting its journalistic nature:

1. **Field Reporting:** Reporters are expected to spend a significant portion of their time visiting other committees, rather than remaining in the Press Corps headquarters. This allows for comprehensive coverage of the conference proceedings.
2. **Information Gathering:** Members are tasked with collecting relevant information through careful observation of committee sessions and conducting interviews with delegates and chairs.

3. **Content Production:** Reporters are responsible for writing articles, creating newflashes, and producing other forms of media content to keep the conference informed of ongoing developments.
4. **Agency Representation:** Each reporter is assigned a specific news agency with its own editorial stance. It is crucial that members adhere to their agency's perspective while maintaining journalistic integrity.
5. **Ideological Spectrum:** Agencies may range from unbiased to those with distinct political leanings. Reporters must navigate these editorial policies skillfully in their coverage.
6. **Ethical Reporting:** While respecting their assigned agency's editorial stance, reporters have a duty to produce high-quality, factual work that enhances the overall conference experience.
7. **Time Management:** Given the mobile nature of their role, reporters must efficiently balance their time between attending committee sessions, conducting interviews, and producing content.
8. **Coordination with UNCA Team:** Reporters should maintain regular communication with photographers and caricaturists to ensure comprehensive and cohesive coverage.

Each morning, all delegates are required to convene at the UNCA Venue for a comprehensive briefing. During these sessions, the Executive Board will outline the day's proceedings, assign individual tasks, and clearly communicate both qualitative and quantitative expectations for each assignment. Crucially, delegates will be informed of strict deadlines for every task, mirroring the time-sensitive nature of modern press operations. All deadlines must be met without exception, as punctuality is a key factor in the Executive Board's evaluation.

During reporting sessions, delegates have the flexibility to either attend committee proceedings or remain in designated areas to complete their assignments. Those who choose to observe committees must adhere to strict guidelines: press members are not permitted to interfere with committee procedures and must maintain a purely observational role. However, communication with delegates through written notes is encouraged, and the Executive Board may be approached if necessary.

A select number of high-quality submissions from all branches will be published in the Shri MUN newsletter, based solely on merit. This newsletter serves as both a showcase of exceptional work and a motivational tool to enhance delegates' performance. Participants are encouraged to evaluate their peers' work, as this process can offer valuable new perspectives and insights into effective reporting techniques.

Content Requirements

Beat: *(400-600 words)*

A beat article is a focused analytical report that delves into a specific thread of committee debate. This type of content requires reporters to be acutely attuned to the nuances of committee discussions, as the entirety of the article's material must be sourced from the proceedings.

Structure and Components:

1. **Topic Statement:** A clear, concise introduction to the specific issue being addressed.
2. **Supporting Argument:** Presentation of a delegate's stance in favor of a particular position.
3. **Opposing Argument:** Counterpoints from another delegate, offering a different perspective.
4. **Conclusion:** A summation that ties together the presented viewpoints without taking sides.

A well-crafted Beat Article goes beyond mere minutes, offering analytical depth without personal bias. It presents information in a logical, often chronological order, incorporating relevant

observations that provide context to the debate. The article should draw connections between various delegates' stances, engaging the reader through skillful writing. While maintaining objectivity, reporters may employ subtle rhetorical devices such as sarcasm or rhetorical questions, provided they enhance rather than detract from the article's purpose. The key is to balance thorough, unbiased reporting with an engaging narrative style, all while ensuring that every element serves the article's core objective of illuminating a specific thread of committee debate.

Expectations for Reporters:

- **Careful Curation:** Select the most pertinent information from the committee proceedings.
- **Unbiased Presentation:** Maintain neutrality while presenting diverse viewpoints.
- **Conciseness:** Avoid extraneous information that doesn't serve the article's purpose.
- **Analytical Skill:** Provide insightful analysis of the debate without inserting personal views.

Opinion Editorial: (600-800 words)

An Opinion Editorial, or Op-Ed, is a thought-provoking piece that offers an in-depth analysis of the committee's agenda through the lens of the reporter's perspective. This format allows journalists to express their views explicitly while critically examining opposing standpoints. The structure typically comprises a clear thesis statement, followed by a well-researched and logically presented argument. Op-Eds culminate in proposing feasible solutions to the issues at hand. Unlike more objective forms of reporting, these pieces are intentionally opinionated, addressing pertinent problems within the committee's scope. The challenge for reporters lies in crafting a persuasive narrative that not only highlights issues but also offers compelling, actionable solutions. While personal viewpoints are central to Op-Eds, they must still be grounded in factual information and demonstrate a thorough understanding of the committee's proceedings and the broader context of the debate.

Feature Article: (200-1000 words)

A Feature Article offers reporters a unique opportunity to blend creativity with journalistic insight. While still anchored to the assigned agenda, this format allows for greater artistic expression and experimentation with various writing styles. Feature articles can take many forms, ranging from narrative stories and poetic compositions to dialogues or even experimental formats. The key is to maintain relevance to the committee's agenda while exploring themes in innovative ways.

Feature articles grant reporters considerable creative freedom, enabling them to choose a specific theme within the broader context of the committee's focus and craft their piece accordingly. Reporters might opt for unconventional approaches such as crafting diary entries from different perspectives, composing thematic poems, or developing cleverly structured narratives that illuminate complex issues in engaging ways.

Despite the creative latitude, it's crucial for delegates to remain mindful of their assigned news agency's editorial stance. The challenge lies in balancing inventive storytelling with adherence to the agency's bias, all while providing valuable insights into the committee's agenda. Feature articles thus serve as a platform for reporters to demonstrate both their journalistic acumen and their creative prowess, offering readers a fresh and engaging perspective on the issues at hand.

Interview Report: (500-800 words)

An Interview Report is a structured account of a professional, guided conversation between a reporter and delegates from various committees. This format combines direct quotations with analytical commentary, offering readers insights into delegates' perspectives and the reporter's interpretation of these views.

The process begins with the reporter carefully crafting questions that probe into key issues of the committee's agenda, always mindful of their assigned news agency's editorial stance. During the interview, the journalist records responses meticulously, capturing not just the words but also the context and nuances of the delegates' statements.

Following a press conference or individual interviews, the reporter synthesizes the gathered information into a cohesive narrative. This typically opens with an overview of the current committee dynamics and the broader context of the agenda. The body of the report presents key questions and answers, interspersed with the journalist's analysis.

Reporters are encouraged to critically evaluate the responses, highlighting strengths, identifying shortcomings, and drawing connections to broader themes or issues. This analysis should reflect the news agency's bias, influencing both the framing of questions and the interpretation of answers.

The challenge for reporters lies in balancing accurate representation of delegates' views with insightful commentary, all while maintaining the editorial perspective of their assigned agency. A well-crafted interview report not only informs readers about delegates' positions but also provides a deeper understanding of the complexities and nuances of the issues being debated.

Press Conference Report:

The Press Conference is a designated event where International Press Corps (IPC) Delegates have the opportunity to formally interview delegates from their assigned committees. This session is overseen by the Press Corps Executive Board. IPC Delegates are expected to:

1. Prepare thoroughly, researching their committee's agendas in advance
2. Use their allotted time efficiently to pose questions to various committee delegates
3. Compile a Press Conference Report afterwards

The report should include questions asked by the IPC Delegate and responses provided by the committee delegates, allowing for a comprehensive record of the exchange between the press and committee representatives.

Communiqués:

Communiqués represent a versatile and dynamic form of reporting that allows delegates to leverage multiple media formats to convey information and perspectives. This format is characterized by its flexibility and lack of strict structural constraints, encouraging reporters to explore creative ways of presenting news and analysis.

The key feature of communiqués is their multimedia integration. Reporters can incorporate a wide range of media elements, including videos, handwritten scripts, vernacular language texts, voice recordings, and images. This multi-format approach allows for rich, immersive storytelling that can capture nuances often lost in traditional text-only reports. Unlike other formats, communiqués do not have a prescribed length, allowing reporters to delve into topics as deeply as they deem necessary.

Delegates are encouraged to submit multiple communiqués throughout the conference, as long as communication lines remain open. This enables real-time reporting and frequent updates on evolving situations. The format allows for significant creative expression, enabling reporters to tailor their communication style to best suit the content and context of their reporting. The inclusion of vernacular languages and culturally specific elements can add authenticity and depth to the reporting, especially when covering regional issues.

News Agencies:

Al Jazeera

Al Jazeera is a Qatar-based news organization founded in 1996. Owned by the Al Jazeera Media Network and funded by Qatar's ruling family, it has grown into a global media player reaching over 220 million households worldwide. Initially focused on Arabic-speaking audiences, Al Jazeera has expanded to include an English-language website and subsidiaries in various regions.

The network's international reach and Middle Eastern perspective offer a unique voice in global news reporting. However, its state funding and expansion efforts, particularly in the United States, have led to both opportunities and challenges. Al Jazeera's role raises important questions about media influence, state interests, and diverse perspectives in international journalism.

BBC News

The BBC is a prominent media organization unique in its status as a Quasi-Autonomous Non-Governmental Organization (QUANGO) in the United Kingdom. Established by royal charter, it operates with a degree of independence while receiving government subsidies.

Although widely recognized for its online news presence, the BBC's reach extends beyond digital platforms. Its World Service division offers content across radio, television, and print media, making it a comprehensive and influential global news source.

The BBC's structure as a QUANGO raises interesting questions about the balance between public service broadcasting, government influence, and editorial independence in the modern media landscape. Its model of operation and funding differs from both purely commercial and state-controlled media, offering a distinct approach to news dissemination and public information.

Xinhua

Xinhua News Agency, founded in 1931, is the official press organization of the Chinese government. Headquartered in Beijing, it was originally known as the Red Chinese News Agency. As China's state-run news service, Xinhua holds significant influence within the country's media landscape.

While Xinhua serves as a primary source of news for Chinese citizens, its close ties to the government have led some observers to view it as a conduit for official propaganda. This perception highlights the complex relationship between state-controlled media and information dissemination in China.

Xinhua's role raises important questions about media independence, government influence on journalism, and the balance between national interests and objective reporting in the context of international news coverage.

Kyodo

Kyodo News was established in November 1945, following the dissolution of the Domei News Agency, which had served as the official news service of the Japanese government since 1936. Founded by Furuno Inosuke, Kyodo News was created as a nonprofit cooperative news agency to ensure independence from government and commercial influences.

CNN

Cable News Network is a popular American news channel launched in 1980, and was the first channel to provide 24-hour news coverage. It has since become a household name with a global reach, with a focus on providing news from around the world. CNN's slogan "The Most Trusted Name in News" speaks to its reputation as a reliable news source.

Down to Earth

Down To Earth is a prominent environmental magazine published by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) in India. Launched in 1992, it was founded by environmentalist Anil Agarwal

with the aim of providing in-depth analysis and reporting on environmental issues, sustainable development, and science and technology.

Indian Express

Indian Express is one of India's most reputable English-language newspapers, established in 1932 by Ramnath Goenka. Known for its investigative journalism and in-depth coverage, Indian Express has played a significant role in India's media landscape. The newspaper covers a wide range of topics including politics, sports, business, entertainment, and more, with a focus on presenting unbiased and factual reporting. Over the years, Indian Express has garnered several national and international awards, cementing its place as a trusted source of news and information.

Associated Press of Pakistan

Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) is the national news agency of Pakistan, established in 1947 following the country's independence. APP serves as the primary source of news for many Pakistani newspapers, radio, and television channels. It covers a broad spectrum of news topics, including politics, economics, sports, and culture, both within Pakistan and internationally. The agency aims to provide accurate, timely, and comprehensive news to its audience, maintaining a focus on the country's developmental and socio-political issues.

The Australian

The Australian is a leading national daily newspaper in Australia, first published in 1964. Owned by News Corp Australia, The Australian is known for its comprehensive coverage of national and international news, politics, business, and cultural affairs. It positions itself as a newspaper of record and has a reputation for high-quality journalism and in-depth analysis. The paper has a wide readership among influential business and political circles, and it often features prominent columnists and thought leaders.

The Guardian

The Guardian is a British daily newspaper, known for its independent and liberal editorial stance. Founded in 1821 as The Manchester Guardian, it has grown to become a leading global news organisation with a strong online presence. The Guardian covers a wide array of topics including politics, environmental issues, social justice, culture, and sports. It is renowned for its investigative journalism, especially in the areas of government and corporate transparency. The Guardian's commitment to high ethical standards and reader-supported model has earned it a loyal readership worldwide.

The New York Times

The New York Times (NYT) is one of the most prestigious newspapers in the world, with a history dating back to 1851. Known for its in-depth reporting, comprehensive news coverage, and influential opinion pieces, The New York Times covers a broad range of topics from international affairs to culture and science. The NYT has won numerous Pulitzer Prizes and is recognized for its rigorous journalistic standards and commitment to uncovering the truth. It maintains a significant global influence, with a large digital presence complementing its traditional print publication.

Reuters

Reuters is a global news organisation and financial information provider, headquartered in London. Founded in 1851 by Paul Julius Reuter, it has grown to become one of the world's largest international news agencies. Reuters is known for its fast, accurate, and unbiased reporting, covering news from all corners of the globe. It supplies news to newspapers, television and radio stations, and digital platforms, with a particular emphasis on financial and business news. Reuters' reputation for reliability and integrity makes it a cornerstone of international journalism.

TASS

TASS is the leading Russian state-owned news agency, established in 1904 as the Telegraph Agency of the Soviet Union. It is one of the oldest news agencies in the world and provides news coverage on a wide range of topics, including politics, economy, science, culture, and sports. TASS has a global network of correspondents and offers news in multiple languages. Despite its state affiliation, TASS is a major source of news both within Russia and internationally, known for its extensive reach and comprehensive reporting.

Rules and Submission Guidelines:

1. **Deadlines:** All assignments must be submitted by the specified deadlines. Late submissions may result in penalties or non-publication of work.

2. **Plagiarism and Fabrication:** Any form of plagiarism or fabrication of information is strictly prohibited.

3. **Article Structure and Formatting:** All reports and articles must adhere to the following format: a) **Title:** Each piece must have a creative and engaging title that captures the essence of the content. Witty titles are encouraged and will be evaluated as part of the overall assessment. b) **By-line:** Include a by-line in italics below the title, featuring the author's name and assigned news agency. c) **Structure:** Articles must have a clear and recognizable structure consisting of:

- **Introduction:** Setting the context and main focus of the piece
- **Body:** Developing the main points, arguments, or narrative
- **Conclusion:** Summarizing key takeaways or providing a final perspective

d) **Paragraphing:** Use appropriate paragraphing to enhance readability and organize ideas effectively. Adherence to this structure and inclusion of all elements is mandatory. The quality of titles, by-lines, and overall organization will be factored into the evaluation of each submission.

4. **Font:** All articles must be written in size 12, Times New Roman font.

5. **Articles and all required submissions are to be named in the following manner:**

YourName_Day_Committee_TypeOfArticle