

INTERNATIONAL PRESS CORPS



BACKGROUND GUIDE

HPSMUN2025

Note from the Secretary-General



In retrospect, my first MUN was pretty much a joke. I had no idea where to start my research, I didn't understand half the terminology, and my confidence was somewhere under the table. I was inexperienced, underprepared, and incredibly anxious. But today, when I look back at my most recent MUN as a delegate, everything stood in sharp contrast. I was confident, I was working with my atmosphere. I had a grasp on what I was doing — every last detail.

And yet, despite all that growth, I couldn't figure out what to write for this Sec-Gen note. Not because I didn't know how to write it. Believe it or not, I put off writing this one note for over a week simply because I was just not satisfied with what I was coming up with.

But then something caught my attention the other day. I looked across the table and saw my team working — quietly, diligently, brilliantly. It was a beautiful yet rare sight. And at that exact moment, I finally realized what it truly means to be a Secretary-General.

Being a Sec-Gen isn't about being the best delegate in the room. It isn't about delivering perfect speeches, or making resolutions, or position papers. It's about being someone people can rely on. Someone who gets things (shit) done. Someone who can spearhead an event of this significance and make it exceptional. And when I ask myself how I learned all of this — how I reached a point where I could humbly call myself a Sec-Gen — I realized something important. MUNs didn't just teach me confidence or reduce my anxiety. MUNs taught me how to organize, how to manage, and how to lead. People often think MUN is only about public speaking or writing resolutions. But that's just the superficial tip of the iceberg. MUN teaches you how to network, how to collaborate, how to lobby and how to enjoy doing it. The first Inter-School HPS MUN was never established just for awards, certificates, or recognition. It was created so you could learn, grow, and — most importantly — enjoy the journey. Because the moment you start having fun, you absorb more than any workshop or handbook can ever teach you. You learn how to build connections, make memories, and use those connections meaningfully.

It may not make sense to you now — but when you've played the delegate game long enough, everything comes together. It's like watching a painting come to life. Every MUN you attend becomes a stroke on the canvas. Every experience adds color, depth, meaning. And when you finally step back and look at the whole picture... you realize how beautiful the journey truly was. That's exactly what happened to me. And if there's anything I hope for, it's that each one of you gets to experience that same transformation — in your own way, at your own pace.

For now, this is all I can write as your Secretary-General.
And maybe... that's enough.

Note from the IP Head



I am Anurag, a Junior Research Fellow and PhD Scholar in Sociology at IIT Dhanbad. I hold an Integrated Master's degree in Sociology from the University of Hyderabad, and my research focuses on sustainable socio-technical transitions toward a Circular Economy. Although I've been away from the MUN circuit for some time, I'm excited to return—for what I like to call “yet another one last time.” I look forward to an engaging and successful conference and extend my best wishes to the IP team and all stakeholders of HPS MUN 2025.

Note from the Editor-in-Chief



I am Arnav Nandal, the Editor-in-Chief for IP at HPSMUN 2025. This role holds great meaning for me—my very first MUN experience was in IP, encouraged by a close friend who pushed me to take that initial step. Ever since, MUNs have helped me understand myself better, push my limits, and grow in ways I never expected. I hope to offer the same inspiration to others this year.

Having grown up moving across cities and experiencing different cultures, I deeply value IP for what it represents: understanding through observation and analysis. While delegates debate, we in IP capture the essence of those discussions—by watching closely, thinking critically, and reporting truthfully. That is exactly what I aim to uphold through my work this year.

Note from the Director of Photography



I am Abhimanyu, an A-Level student who brings a creative and multidimensional perspective to the IP team. My interests span acting, writing, literature, photography, and computer science. I have been pursuing photography since the age of four and have created several short films, along with receiving multiple photography awards.

As a Trinity College London ‘Distinction’ recipient, a national award-winning actor, and a published author, I am always exploring creativity in every form it takes. In my free time, I enjoy acting, writing, watching films and TV shows, capturing photos, and gaming. Through IP, I hope to merge my artistic passions with thoughtful observation to contribute meaningfully to HPSMUN 2025.

Letter from the Executive Board

Greetings, members of the International Press!

It is my absolute pleasure to welcome you all as part of the International Press Team at HPS MUN 2025. I look forward to facilitating an intense, mind-boggling, and truly memorable experience for each one of you. The International Press has always been the binding force between the people and their rulers, and it remains the medium through which unspoken words and unvoiced opinions find expression. As the Executive Board of the International Press, I would like to gently, yet firmly, draw your attention to the seriousness and significance of the responsibility you are about to assume. A Model UN conference is a simulation of the United Nations, and every participant embodies a role including the Press. As journalists both reporters & photojournalists a certain degree of professionalism becomes non-negotiable. You are expected to uphold the highest standards of diplomacy, clarity, ethics, and transparency in the work you produce. Always remember that you are part of a team. Individual competition may exist, but our primary goal remains the same: to produce meaningful, well-crafted articles and pictures that come together to create an informative, engaging newsletter.

We are in this together.

Our vision is to ensure that this becomes a genuine learning experience for all of you.

We hope to embark on this journey by creating a fusion of words, ideas, and experiences you will carry forward long after the conference ends. There will be moments of challenge, but growth requires a willingness to push yourselves and experiment with your own writing.

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As William H. Gass beautifully reminds us, “The true alchemists do not change lead into gold; they change the world into words.” I hope you find your own alchemy over the next few days.

May the force be with you!

Looking forward to an engaging conference and to working with all of you. Please feel free to reach out in case of any queries.

Regards,
Executive Board

Anurag Dwibhashyam: IP Head

Arnav Nandal :Editor- In- Chief

Abhimanyu Shah: Director of photography

Executive Board – International Press

HPS Model United Nations 2025

HPSMUN

FOR THE REPORTERS

The International Press (IP) is neither a traditional committee of the United Nations nor an authentic part of any of the other UN committees. Here, the IP refers to the collection of international press agencies that gather from all the corners of the world to report on the activities of the proceedings of various United Nations committees. One of the most important tasks that journalists in the International Press perform is formal reporting. They are primarily required to cover the event and describe it to others in the best thought-out and concise way possible, and for this purpose, they are supposed to take notes and submit articles that contain the major discussions in their respective councils. A good news article ought to be articulate, brief and be able to convey the very essence of any discussion. There are three things which come as a part and parcel of any International Press Team at a Model UN Conference simulation.

1. RESEARCH:

Comprehensive research forms the basic framework of the art of reporting. A journalist in a committee needs to be well informed, rather better equipped with their research since it is not going to be country specific. Half-baked knowledge on the agendas reflects factual inconsistency in the articles. Kindly go through the background guides of your respective committees to have a better understanding of the agenda. Knowledge of current debates pertaining to the agenda is also encouraged.

2. UNITY:

The International Press team will consist of a number of reporters & photojournalists, who need to be working in synchronisation with each other. The spirit of competitiveness should never come in the way of team-work, and all the efforts should be to publish a prosperous newsletter.

3. CODE OF CONDUCT:

Reporters are expected to maintain diplomatic courtesy at all times towards fellow members of the team, delegates, executive board and the Secretariat. Even while critically looking at council proceedings; it is imperative that respect be extended to the delegates. Frivolous reporting, like reporting on a delegate's attire or manner of speaking, is highly discouraged.

TYPES OF SUBMISSIONS & TASKS

OPINIONATED EDITORIAL

An Opinion editorials (Op-Ed) is an article that appears opposite the editorial page of practically all newspapers. This is a place where the writer gets an opportunity to pen down his/her perspective on the agenda. Research is of utmost importance and opinions must be backed by relevant facts. These are one of the most impactful articles and creativity here is boundless.

Word Limit - 500 to 600 words

BEAT

A beat-based article is a specialised article where the Reporter presents an in-depth coverage of a particular issue, situation, institution, or likewise. It involves amassment of more knowledge than a traditional news report. The beat is a central idea around which the contents of the article revolve. Ideally, it is the core concern or subject and should pertain to every single line used in the forming of the article. Requiring clear observations and grasping power, beats should be devoid of the reporter's opinion.

Word Limit - 250 to 350 words

CREATIVE PIECE / FEATURES

‘But out of limitations, comes creativity.’ This is the only submission where the reporters are allowed to explore any format of their own. It just has to adhere to the agenda of the respective committee.

Word limit - 300 to 500 words

INTERVIEW

This provides an opportunity for direct interaction with one or more representatives, or a member of the Executive Board. The questions must be precise and must be verified by the Executive Board of the International Press. The format should be that of a report. Reporters are to ensure that the essence of the views put forth remain intact.

Word Limit - 350 to 500 words

OPINION POLLS

This particular type of article allows you to express your opinion in any manner you want. Again, the content needs to be restricted to the agenda. The use of graphs, pie - charts or any other statistical analysis is highly encouraged.

Word Limit - 250 to 350 words

PRESS CONFERENCE

The Press Conference is another opportunity for the reporters to ask the representatives about any of their statements or policies in the committee. Reporters must establish dialogue with the representatives and are required to adhere to diplomatic courtesy. Decorum and composure regardless of the situation must be maintained. Moreover, facts must be derived from credible sources; if challenged, the burden of proof rests on the reporter.

SUBMISSION DEADLINES

All reporters are expected to strictly adhere to the deadlines allotted to them. The deadlines for each day will be notified at the beginning of the first session for the day.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

- Reporters are required to adhere to our Lingua Franca, British English.

- Formatting Guidelines:

Font - Times New Roman

Size - Title - 14 points, Bold

By - line - 13 points, Italics

Body - 12 points

Alignment - Justified

- By - lines are mandatory for all types of submissions.

- The submission files should be in the format Name_Type of submission_Committee_Day

For example; Anurag_Beat_UNSC_1

- Abbreviations are to be used only once they have been introduced.

For example, A Life sentence in the United Kingdom (UK) does not necessarily mean a prisoner will spend the rest of their days in prison.

- Plagiarism will be dealt with strictly. Cite your sources and references without fail.

- Refrain from referring to a delegate by his/her name. Address them by the profile/country they are representing.

For example; The Delegate of India highlighted the mass influx of refugees into the country post the Rohingya Crises.

- Deadlines are of prime importance. In the words of William Shakespeare, ‘Better three hours too soon than a minute too late.’
- Numbers beyond within hundred must appear in words here as, anything beyond hundred can be expressed in numbers.
- Stick to the timeline of your committee. If your committee is based on an event in history, adhere to the time period of that event.
- Avoid using contractions in sentences. For example; use ‘do not’ instead of ‘don’t’, ‘cannot’ instead of ‘can’t’.
- Sentences must be well punctuated with the inclusion of semi colons, full stops, apostrophes, and hyphens/dashes wherever necessary.
- Relevant pictures must be attached to each of the assigned articles.
- Diplomatic courtesy must be maintained while reporting. Ensure that negative language used by any representative is expressed very subtly without offending anybody.
- In your articles, refrain from mentioning things like, ‘The Board entertained a motion to break for lunch.’

MARKING SCHEME

The following parameters would be taken into account for marking the journalists:

- Punctuality in submission of articles (-0.5 for every delayed hour)
- Quality of research
- Quality of content in your article
- Grammatical consistency
- Originality and aesthetics
- Appropriateness of title and formatting
- Your hold on the committee during the press conference

Note:

- This is just a brief of the marking scheme. The original marking scheme is much more comprehensive.
- The marking of an individual will be done by taking an average of all their articles, each marked comprehensively.

NOTE ON ETHICAL USE OF AI

As reporters, your writing represents the voice and credibility of the International Press. You are expected to rely on your own research, observations, your interactions with delegates, and your understanding of committee proceedings. AI tools are allowed only within clear ethical limits.

You may use AI for small tasks such as checking grammar, rephrasing for clarity or cleaning up wording. You may also use it to remove typing errors or help with basic structure. You should not use AI to generate full articles, fabricate quotes, invent information or create content you did not witness yourself. This goes against the spirit of the press. The purpose of reporting in a Model UN is to sharpen your own skills in writing, interpreting, and storytelling. AI cannot replace those abilities. If you ever feel tempted to let AI write the entire piece, remember that your voice is what we want to hear. A good article grows through your research & thinking, not automated output. Please note that the Executive Board can always tell the difference.

AI can be a helpful assistant for polishing your work, but it should not become the author of your work. Do your research, write what you observe, critique what you understand and let the final article reflect your own honesty and clarity. Above all, stay truthful in your reporting. Accuracy is the most important part of journalism, and every story you publish should come from your own mind and your own observation.

FOR THE PHOTOJOURNALISTS

As photojournalists, your job is going to be one of the most substantive ones throughout the conference – right from the beginning to the end. Your photographs help tie together the story of the committee, its people, and the atmosphere that unfolds over the two days. Think of your camera as a medium through which the conference speaks. Think of this guide as a simple walkthrough to help you approach your work with clarity, respect and confidence.

Put this in your head. Your photos don't need to be perfect, but they should feel honest. The rest will follow.

YOUR ROLE

Remember that you part of a team that works together. Reporters write the stories and you bring them to life visually. Make sure you stay in constant unity with them. If a reporter needs a specific shot, angle or expression, do your best to support them. Communicate openly and give them the visuals that help their stories flow.

At least one photographer must be present in every committee at all times. Rotate among yourselves and ensure that no committee is left uncovered. Sometimes, many of the best photos arrive when the room looks quiet from the outside. Your job is to be there when they happen. You will be observing, moving quietly and capturing the rhythm of the conference. With the right mindset, your photographs will speak clearly without needing extra explanation.

PROFESSIONALISM, PRIVACY & CONDUCT RESPECT IS ESSENTIAL WHEN YOU WALK INTO A ROOM WITH A CAMERA. A FEW THINGS TO NOTE:

- Do not make anyone uncomfortable while taking photographs.
- Avoid pointing the camera too close to someone's face during formal sessions.
- Never photograph confidential documents, notes, or screens.
- Always respect personal boundaries.
- Move silently and unobtrusively.
- Do not interrupt, pause, or distract delegates, EB members, or staff.
- Follow all instructions from the IP Executive Board.

- Maintain the dignity and neutrality expected from a journalist.

Delegates must feel comfortable enough to act naturally. Do not photograph confidential notes, screens or paperwork. Keep a reasonable distance from people so they do not feel watched or cornered. If a participant looks uncomfortable, simply step aside and give them space. Move slowly during committee sessions and pay attention to the decorum of the room. You should blend into the background. This helps you observe better and keeps the committee functioning smoothly.

WHAT TO CAPTURE

Every committee has its own texture. Don't overthink this. Just look for:

- Delegates speaking
- Reactions during debates
- Groups forming during unmoderated caucuses
- Chairs moderating
- Drafting, planning, and quiet moments
- Candid smiles, confusion, intensity, focus
- Behind-the-scenes moments (but only when appropriate)
- Opening ceremony, closing ceremony, awards, and press conference

TECHNICAL ELEMENTS TO GUIDE YOU

Although we expect you to have a good camera, please note that a good eye and sincere effort carry more weight than any gadget. Still, a few basic technical ideas help you create clearer and stronger images.

Basic Composition Rules Composition is how elements are arranged within the frame.

- **Rule of Thirds:** Divide your frame into nine equal parts and place important subjects near the intersections.

- **Leading Lines:** Use natural lines (tables, walls or rows of chairs) to guide the viewer's eye.
- **Patterns and Repetition:** Patterns are naturally pleasing; but breaking the pattern adds interest.
- **Golden Ratio:** Try using a balanced, natural spiral that leads the viewer's eye smoothly through the image.
- **Centre Dominant Eye:** When photographing people, place their dominant eye near the centre for a more engaging portrait.

Other basic elements like shape, form, texture, colour and depth also affect how your photo feels. Notice them and let your instinct lead you.

Exposure Basics:

Exposure is controlled by Aperture, Shutter Speed, and ISO.

Aperture (f-stop)

- Low f-stop → more light, blurrier background (useful for portraits).
- High f-stop → less light, deeper focus (useful for committee-wide shots).

Shutter Speed

- Fast (1/500s, 1/1000s) → freezes motion, but reduces light.
- Slow (1/30s, 1s) → more light, but risk of blur. If you have shaky hands or low light, increase shutter speed or stabilize the camera.

ISO

- Low ISO → clean image.
- High ISO → useful in low light but introduces grain. Do not push ISO beyond what looks natural.

STORYTELLING THROUGH PHOTOS

Please note that photojournalism is strongest when each image communicates a story or emotion. Following are a few elements of storytelling for your quick reference:

- Emotion – A strong photo makes the viewer feel something.
- Choosing the right subject – Choose moments that say something about the room.
- Timing – Sometimes single second can change the entire frame, so stay alert..
- Mood – Lighting, expressions, and composition decide the mood.
- Perspective – Think about where you shoot from; it changes the story.

- Lighting & Composition – Both guide how the viewer reads the image.
- Colour and tone – Warm or cool tones can shape the emotion of your shots, while Black and white can emphasise emotion.
- Interaction – Sometimes talking to the subject helps you understand the moment better.

WORKING WITH THE REPORTERS

Always remember that you and the reporters are two halves of the same team. Your visuals help their writing and their writing often guides your visuals. Keep in mind to:

- Make time for daily coordination.
- Share your best photos quickly.
- Take their requests seriously.
- Communicate openly about what is possible.

DEADLINES & SUBMISSIONS

All details about submissions, timings and requirements will be explained during the conference itself.

MARKING CRITERIA

You will be marked based on the following criteria:

1. Framing: How clearly and intentionally your subject appears in the image.
2. Composition: Arrangement of elements, clarity and balance.
3. Lighting: How naturally the subject is lit without harsh shadows or blown highlights.
4. Overall Impact: The impression the image leaves and its strength in communicating meaning.
5. Creativity: Originality, thought, and willingness to experiment.
6. Coordination: How well you coordinate with the rest of the team.

ALL THE BEST!!!



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