

INDIAN NATIONAL PRESS MEET



STUDY GUIDE



AGENDAS:

- 1) Deliberation on the role of Indian news agencies in shaping public perception through the coverage of election during the 2024 General Elections.**
- 2) Coverage of the Conference**

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Greetings Delegates,

It is an absolute pleasure to welcome you to the **Indian National Press Meet (INPM)** at **SSMUN 2026**.

INPM was created with a clear goal: to make sure the press in a Model UN isn't just taking notes on the sidelines, but actively debating the real issues shaping media today. In this committee, we step back to examine the power, duty, and ethics of journalism both in India and worldwide.

This year's agenda looks at a defining moment for Indian democracy. Over the course of the session, we will examine how wire agencies guided national stories, the impact of sensationalism and misleading exit polls, and how modern media affects the way people vote.

Representing India's top news outlets, you will face a fast, exciting committee filled with live debates, quick article deadlines, and breaking updates. When you become one of the journalists of INPM, you can expect dynamic debate coupled with the exhilaration of reporting and article writing. With our agenda, we hope for interesting communiques, updates and a dramatic, fast-paced committee. We also look forward to reading some brilliant, well-thought-out articles from all the news agencies attending. The INPM delegates are expected to maintain adherence to journalistic ethics in order to uphold truth, accuracy, objectivity and integrity. In this edition as well, we look forward to enthralling debate by you all and hope to see everyone come up with effective solutions to tackle the issues at hand.

As you step into this committee, we leave you with a reminder:

"Freedom of the press is not just important to democracy; it is democracy." -
Walter Cronkite

*The Executive Board,
Indian National Press Meet,
Sri Sri Academy, Kolkata Model United Nations 2026*

INTRODUCTION

The Indian National Press Meet is the proud creation of the Sri Sri Academy Model United Nations. Established with the vision of upholding the ideals of a free press, INPM aims to empower individuals and collectives who possess the conviction, skill, and integrity to carry journalism into a future defined by truth, transparency, and accountability.

Acting as a forum for like-minded individuals representing diverse media institutions, INPM brings under one roof journalists who shape public discourse in their own unique ways. Guided by carefully chosen agendas, delegates will engage in rigorous debate and collaborative problem-solving with the shared objective of fostering a fairer and more resilient press in India and beyond.

This year, the committee sets its sights on two pressing challenges that lie at the intersection of media, governance, and society:

Agenda 1.0: Deliberation on the role of Indian news agencies in shaping public perception through the coverage of elections during the 2024 General Elections

Agenda 2.0: Coverage of the Conference

Unlike traditional Press Corps bodies found in most Model United Nations conferences, the INPM is a specialised and dynamic institution at SSMUN. It is committed to sparking informed dialogues, thoughtful deliberations, and critical debates on matters concerning the fourth estate of democracy. At the same time, delegates are tasked with delivering authentic, objective, and high-quality reports on the proceedings of other committees, making their role uniquely dual in nature, both as journalists and as delegates.

It is important to note that the India National Press Meet will be acting as an unbiased multinational associated press of the United Nations. Therefore, delegates are prohibited from following traditional practices and patterns of journalism followed by their respective news agencies. All respected delegates are a part of the Indian National Press Meet first and their news agencies thereafter.

This Committee is purely a work of fiction and resemblance to any such committee shall be purely coincidental.

AGENDA 1.0:

*Deliberation on the role of Indian news
agencies in shaping public perception through
the coverage of elections during the 2024
General Elections*

INTRODUCTION TO THE AGENDA

The 2024 General Elections to the Lok Sabha took place in seven phases, starting from 19th April and ending on 1st June, 2024. The results were declared on 4th June 2024. These elections were the biggest in India's history in terms of voters, with 968 million people eligible to vote. There were more than one million polling stations set up across the country. The campaign also unfolded in a media environment compared to previous elections, especially since 2019.

Today India has over 140,000 registered publications. There are more than 900 television channels that broadcast news and entertainment. According to some estimates, more than 750 million people use the internet in India, and about 460 million are active on social media. This means that no election in India's past has been discussed, criticised, or even attacked by many different media platforms as the 2024 election.

The cost of the 2024 election is believed to have reached as high as 1.2 lakh crore Indian Rupees, which is about 120 billion rupees or 14 billion US dollars. A large part of this money was spent on the media. Political parties bought ads on TV, online platforms and in newspapers. There was also a lot of spending that was not reported, known as "paid news." This refers to news articles written in a news style but actually serving as paid advertisements.

There were four media-related developments during the 2024 election. First, 24-hour television debates became the way politics was discussed. Second, artificial intelligence was used to create videos and audio clips of real people, making it harder to know what was real. Third, a lot of communication moved to private messaging apps like WhatsApp. This made it difficult for fact-checkers and regulators to keep track of what was being shared. Fourth, a long debate about whether India's news channels and digital media're acting as the fourth estate or simply supporting the government.

The fourth estate does not just report on elections. It shapes how people see the election. Media outlets build a story around the election and its results. Voters take

in this story. Use it to judge the process. The question, for those involved in the election, is whether Indian news outlets did their job properly during the 2024 General Election. If not, what would a news outlet do to be responsible and ethical when covering such an event?



HISTORICAL EVOLUTION OF ELECTION REPORTING IN INDIA

India's relationship with election journalism is nearly as old as the Republic itself. Sukumar Sen, the country's first Chief Election Commissioner, recorded in his official report on the first General Election of 1951-52 that the electioneering season had prompted the launch of nearly 400 new newspapers across the country, most of which existed to serve one party's campaign or another and folded soon after polling ended. All India Radio supplemented this coverage with special election features, women's programmes and dramatised broadcasts encouraging citizens to exercise their vote and preserve the secrecy of the ballot.

For the next four decades, election coverage remained the preserve of print and state-controlled broadcasting through Doordarshan and All India Radio, both of which operated under close government oversight. The liberalisation of the airwaves in the 1990s and the launch of India's first 24-hour private news channel in 1996 changed the terms of engagement permanently. Elections could now be watched live, argued over live, and, delegates should note, misreported live.

The Rise of "Paid News"

The idea of paid news, which the Press Council of India defines as any news or analysis published in print or electronic media in exchange for money or other benefits, first gained attention during the 2009 General Elections. At that time, the Press Council recorded cases where candidates paid newspapers and TV channels for coverage often disguised as independent reporting. In 2014, the then Election Commissioner H.S. Brahma made headlines by calling Mumbai the country's "paid news capital." He later apologised for the remark. The comment highlighted a deep concern the Election Commission has struggled to fully address. According to the Commission, over 1,000 cases of paid news were registered across the country after the 2010 Bihar elections. Since then, the problem has only grown worse with every election cycle.

From Television Debates to the Smartphone Election

By the time of the 2014 and 2019 General Elections, prime-time television debates had become the way many urban Indians followed election news. These debates favoured loud arguments over thoughtful analysis. Commentators, both in India and abroad, began using the term "Godi media" or "lap media" to describe channels seen as loyal to the ruling government. This criticism grew stronger, not weaker, as the 2024 elections approached.

The 2024 General Elections were different because most political messaging moved online to smartphones. Media and internet access had spread to towns and rural areas more than ever before. WhatsApp messages, Instagram, YouTube commentary channels became as important as television and newspapers for delivering political messages. In some areas, these platforms even replaced traditional media. The problem? Much of the information shared was not accurate. Voters often had no way to know what was true.

The Arrival of the Deepfake

What made the 2024 elections truly different was the use of artificial intelligence to create fake audio and video clips of real people, especially Bollywood actors and political leaders saying things they never actually said. Experts at the threat-intelligence firm Resolver tracked an increase in AI-generated and manipulated content during the election. Much of this content was designed to provoke anger, fuel division or cast doubt on the fairness of the voting process. Some videos falsely claimed that voting machines had been tampered with. These deepfakes were shared widely, making it harder for voters to trust what they saw or heard.

BRIEF OF 2024 GENERAL ELECTIONS

General elections in India represent the ultimate exercise of popular sovereignty and the world's largest operational exercise in democratic governance. Held every five years to constitute the Lok Sabha- the lower house of Parliament- these elections convene a vast and diverse electorate across varied geographical, cultural, and linguistic demographics. Since the inaugural general election of 1951–52, the Indian electoral process has evolved into an intricate, multi-phase mechanism managed by the Election Commission of India (ECI), transitioning from traditional paper ballots to universal Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) architecture. Beyond the mechanics of voting, Indian general elections serve as a crucial barometer of national sentiment, where complex socio-economic demands, regional aspirations, federal relationships, and national narratives converge. In this democratic architecture, the press acts as the vital mediating organ, translating political rhetoric into public discourse and informing citizen choices across urban centres and remote rural constituencies.

The 2024 Lok Sabha General Elections stood as an unprecedented milestone in human history, engaging over 960 million registered voters across seven distinct phases from April 19 to June 1, 2024, with more than 642 million citizens exercising their franchise. The political contest was anchored by two major national coalitions: the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA), led by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), seeking a historic third consecutive mandate, and the newly consolidated opposition coalition, the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (I.N.D.I.A.), spearheaded by the Indian National Congress (INC) along with prominent regional parties. The campaign cycle witnessed fierce debates centred around economic growth, inflation, unemployment, social welfare distribution, constitutional identity, federalism, the weaponisation of investigative agencies, and controversial financial mechanisms like electoral bonds.

Throughout this marathon campaign, primary news agencies- such as Press Trust of India (PTI), Asian News International (ANI), and Indo-Asian News Service (IANS)- alongside major national broadcasting syndicates, operated as the central nervous system of information flow. Regional news networks, vernacular dailies,

and digital aggregators depended almost entirely on these central wire feeds for real-time field reports, campaign speeches, and policy breakdowns. Consequently, editorial decisions regarding framing, headline emphasis, and airtime allocation carried an exponential multiplier effect, directly influencing how millions of voters perceived party manifestos, institutional integrity, and political leadership. This reliance brought to light critical concerns over media independence, as accusations surfaced regarding asymmetric airtime distribution, selective reporting of opposition campaigns, and the deepening polarisation of outlets into partisan camps.

The operational challenges of the 2024 coverage peaked around the exit poll broadcasts on June 1 and the subsequent counting day on June 4. A majority of primary news syndicates published exit poll projections predicting an overwhelming supermajority for the ruling coalition. When official results declared that the BJP had secured 240 individual seats - requiring regional coalition partners like the TDP and JD(U) to reach the 272-seat majority mark and form an NDA government with 293 seats - the sharp divergence from agency forecasts triggered massive volatility in the Indian financial markets.

Simultaneously, the opposition I.N.D.I.A. bloc secured 232 seats, re-establishing a strong parliamentary opposition. Coupled with the proliferation of sensationalist studio debates, hyper-dramatised coverage, and the rapid spread of AI-generated deepfakes on social media, the 2024 election cycle underscored a profound crisis in journalistic verification and ethics. As delegates in the Indian National Press Meet, your mandate is to scrutinise this institutional conduct, analyse the systemic pressures behind media bias and sensationalism, and formulate robust self-regulatory frameworks to safeguard public perception and journalistic integrity in future electoral cycles.

TIMELINE OF THE 2024 GENERAL ELECTIONS

- **Announcement of Schedule & Model Code of Conduct**

March 16, 2024

The Election Commission of India (ECI) formally announced the election schedule for the 18th Lok Sabha. With the announcement, the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) immediately came into force across the country, setting guidelines for campaigning, media advertising, and government announcements.

- **Phase 1: Voting Begins Across 102 Constituencies**

April 19, 2024

The largest phase of the election saw voting across 102 parliamentary constituencies spread over 21 states and Union Territories. Media coverage focused heavily on initial voter turnout trends, manifesto promises, and early campaign narratives.

- **Phase 2: Polling Across 89 Constituencies**

April 26, 2024

Voting took place across 89 constituencies in 13 states. During this phase, political rhetoric intensified, accompanied by an increase in sensationalist reporting and polarised studio debates regarding national security and economic policies.

- **Phase 3: Polling Across 94 Constituencies**

May 7, 2024

Elections moved into key belts across 12 states covering 94 constituencies. News agencies faced growing pressure to verify campaign speeches and track social media narratives as digital propaganda accelerated.

- **Phase 4: Polling Across 96 Constituencies**

May 13, 2024

Voting expanded across 96 constituencies in 10 states. Mid-election coverage shifted significantly toward localised issues, welfare distribution, and regional coalition dynamics.

- **Phase 5: Polling Across 49 Constituencies**

May 20, 2024

Covering 49 constituencies across 8 states, including crucial urban centres. Wire agencies heavily reported on voter turnout numbers and high-profile candidate campaigns.

- **Phase 6: Polling Across 57 Constituencies**

May 25, 2024

Polling took place across 57 constituencies in 7 states. Media scrutiny spiked around heatwave conditions impacting voter turnout and political rallies across Northern India.

- **Phase 7: Final Phase of Polling**

June 1, 2024

Voting concluded across the final 57 constituencies in 8 states, marking the end of a 44-day national election exercise.

- **Exit Poll Broadcasts & Market Volatility**

June 1–3, 2024

Major broadcasting networks and polling agencies released exit poll projections predicting a decisive supermajority for the ruling NDA alliance. These projections led to massive swings and record highs in the Indian stock markets.

- **Counting Day & Election Results Declaration**

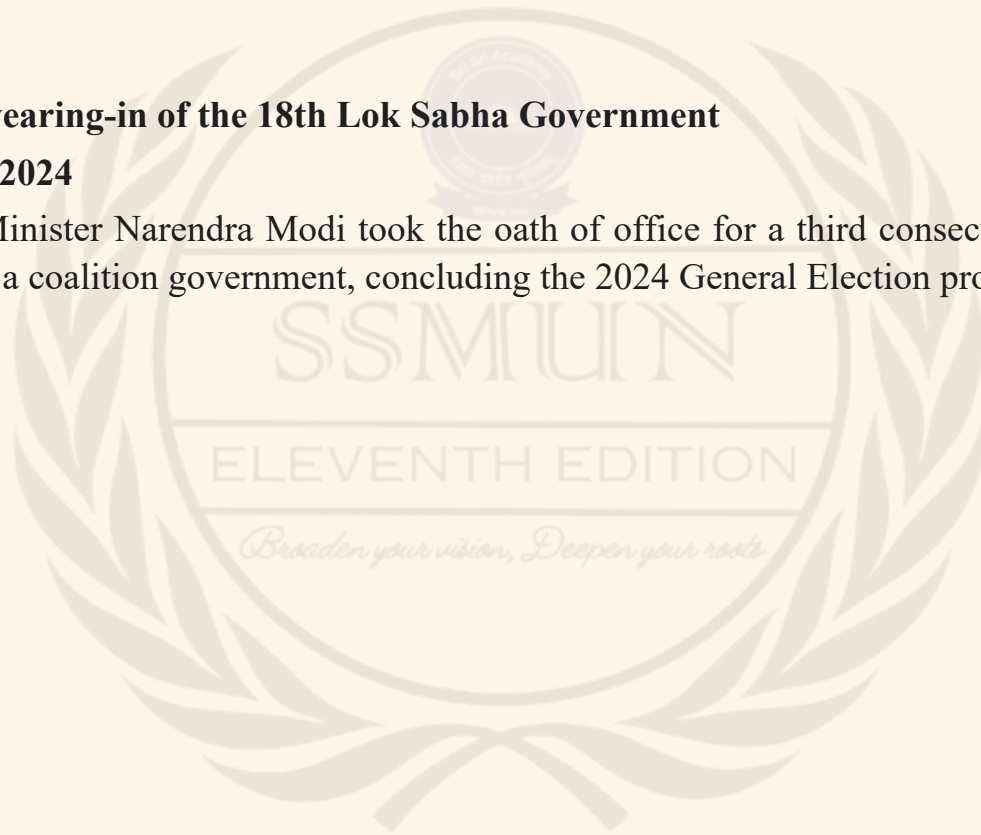
June 4, 2024

Official vote counting revealed a sharp divergence from exit poll predictions. The BJP won 240 seats, relying on coalition partners (TDP, JD(U)) to take the NDA to 293 seats, while the opposition I.N.D.I.A. bloc secured 234 seats. News agencies faced intense public scrutiny for the exit poll failure and the resulting financial market instability.

- **Swearing-in of the 18th Lok Sabha Government**

June 9, 2024

Prime Minister Narendra Modi took the oath of office for a third consecutive term heading a coalition government, concluding the 2024 General Election process.



LEGAL, REGULATORY, AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS

During an election news agencies do more than report events. They decide which stories to share, how to shape the story and how much attention to give it. That decision can shape the information that voters receive. In the 2024 General Elections news agencies covered the story on channels: television, print, digital platforms and news wires. They highlighted topics such as advertising, misinformation, exit polls, community appeals and the verification of electoral claims. Because of this the legal and regulatory framework becomes very important. It sets the limits on what news agencies can do and ensures that election coverage remains free, accurate, fair and responsible. These provisions list the rights, electoral laws and regulatory mechanisms that keep this balance.

- **Constitutional Rights and Guarantees**

- **Article 19(1)(a) Freedom of Speech and Expression:** Serves as the constitutional foundation for press freedom in India, guaranteeing news agencies the right to gather, publish, and syndicate news without prior restraint.
- **Article 19(2) Reasonable Restrictions:** Empowers the state to impose legal limits on freedom of expression in the interests of sovereignty, national security, public order, decency, morality, defamation, or incitement to an offence.

- **Statutory Election Laws & Statutory Oversight**

- **Section 126 of the Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1951:** Prohibits news media and agencies from broadcasting, displaying, or syndicating any election matter or political propaganda via television or digital platforms during the **48-hour "silence period"** before the conclusion of polling.
- **Section 126A of RPA, 1951:** Imposes a strict legal ban on conducting, publishing, or syndicating **exit polls** through print,

electronic, or digital media from the commencement of polling in the first phase until half an hour after the close of voting in the final phase.

- **Section 125 of RPA, 1951:** Penalises news outlets or media agencies that publish or syndicate content intended to promote feelings of enmity, hatred, or ill-will between different classes of citizens on grounds of religion, race, caste, community, or language during elections.

- **Election Commission of India (ECI) Directives & Model Code of Conduct (MCC)**

- **Media Certification and Monitoring Committees (MCMC):**

- Mandates that all political advertisements syndicated by newswire agencies or broadcast by networks must receive pre-certification from MCMC bodies to prevent covert political funding and unregistered campaigning.

- **Guidelines on Paid News and Disguised Content:** Directs media outlets and news agencies to explicitly categorise sponsored political content, barring the practice of masking paid political advertisements as objective editorial reporting.

- **Equal Airtime & Neutral Coverage Directives:** Advises state and private news agencies to maintain equitable airtime distribution, fair access, and balanced coverage across all political parties and candidates.

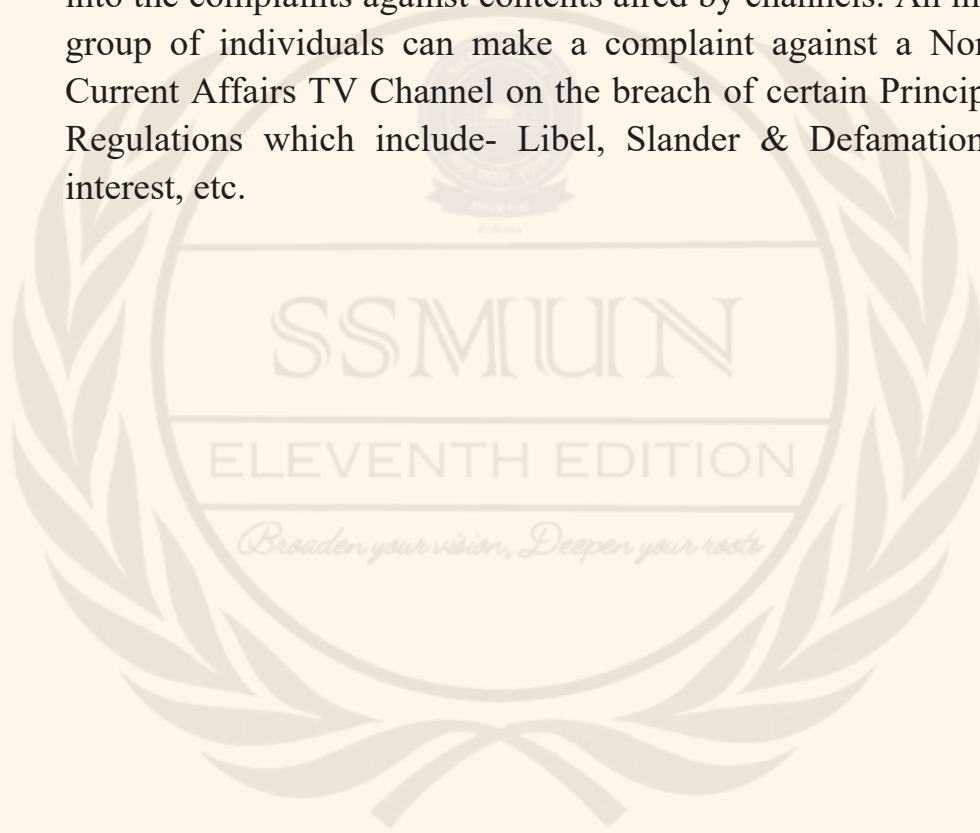
- **Self-Regulatory and Press Statutory Bodies**

- **Press Council of India (PCI) Guidelines for Election Reporting:**

- Issued under the Press Council Act, 1978, these statutory norms direct print wire agencies and newspapers to refrain from publishing unverified allegations, rumours, or inflammatory statements during campaign cycles.

- **News Broadcasting & Digital Standards Authority (NBDSA):** Enforces self-regulatory codes of ethics for television news networks and digital feeds, penalising outlets for broadcasting biased, unverified, or sensationalised content during elections.

- **Fact-Checking & Misinformation Mandates:** Advises primary wire services to maintain rigorous internal verification procedures before syndicating breaking news, audio clips, or visual feeds to client newsrooms.
- **Indian Broadcast Foundation:** IBF or IBDF is the apex body of television broadcasters in India. Set up in 1999, IBDF comprises 400+ channels with nearly 90% of viewership in the country. It also looks into the complaints against contents aired by channels. An individual or group of individuals can make a complaint against a Non News & Current Affairs TV Channel on the breach of certain Principles of Self Regulations which include- Libel, Slander & Defamation, National interest, etc.



GUIDELINES FOR RESPONSIBLE ELECTION COVERAGE

- 1. Verification Before Virality-** Based on the deepfake and misinformation wave of 2024: AI-cloned voices of Mamata Banerjee, fake videos of Modi, doctored clips of opposition leaders. The recurring scandal was channels and anchors amplifying these before any authentication sometimes even after they'd been debunked. It's also the substance of the ECI's voluntary code with platforms.
- 2. Disclosure of Paid or Sponsored Content -** This is India's chronic "paid news" problem: front-page "news" items that are actually political ads, camouflaged as editorial. Both the Press Council of India and the ECI have flagged it for over a decade, yet there's still no statutory definition of paid news, which is precisely why it keeps appearing during elections.
- 3. Proportionate and Balanced Airtime -** This is the central criticism of the 2024 coverage: studies found Modi rallies and BJP events dominated primetime, while opposition campaigns (e.g., Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra) got a fraction of the coverage. "Panel debates stacked to produce a predetermined narrative" is a direct reference to the prime-time debate format that dominated 2019–2024.
- 4. Neutral, Non-Inflammatory Language -** Grounded in the ECI's Model Code of Conduct provisions against communal appeals, and in how coverage of the Ram Mandir inauguration, the "400 paar" campaign, and religiously charged rhetoric spilt into channels' own framing. It's also consistent with your 2025 guide's point about identifying victims/attackers by religion during communal violence.
- 5. Respecting the Exit Poll Blackout -** This one is not just ethical but legal: Section 126A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 bans displaying or disseminating exit polls from ~48 hours before polling ends until the last phase closes. The 2024 controversy was the opposite of a flood of "400 paar" opinion polls months out, and exit polls on June 1 that nearly all

predicted a BJP sweep and were dramatically wrong on June 4. This point also ties to criticism that channels present probabilistic polls as certainty.

6. Rapid and Visible Correction - Based on documented cases where channels ran false claims (wrong attribution of videos, inflated crowd numbers, misattributed quotes), and corrections when issued at all were quiet footnotes while the original claim had already reached millions. "Equal prominence" is the standard press-ethics answer to that asymmetry.



REAL LIFE CASES

Paid News and the 2024 General Elections

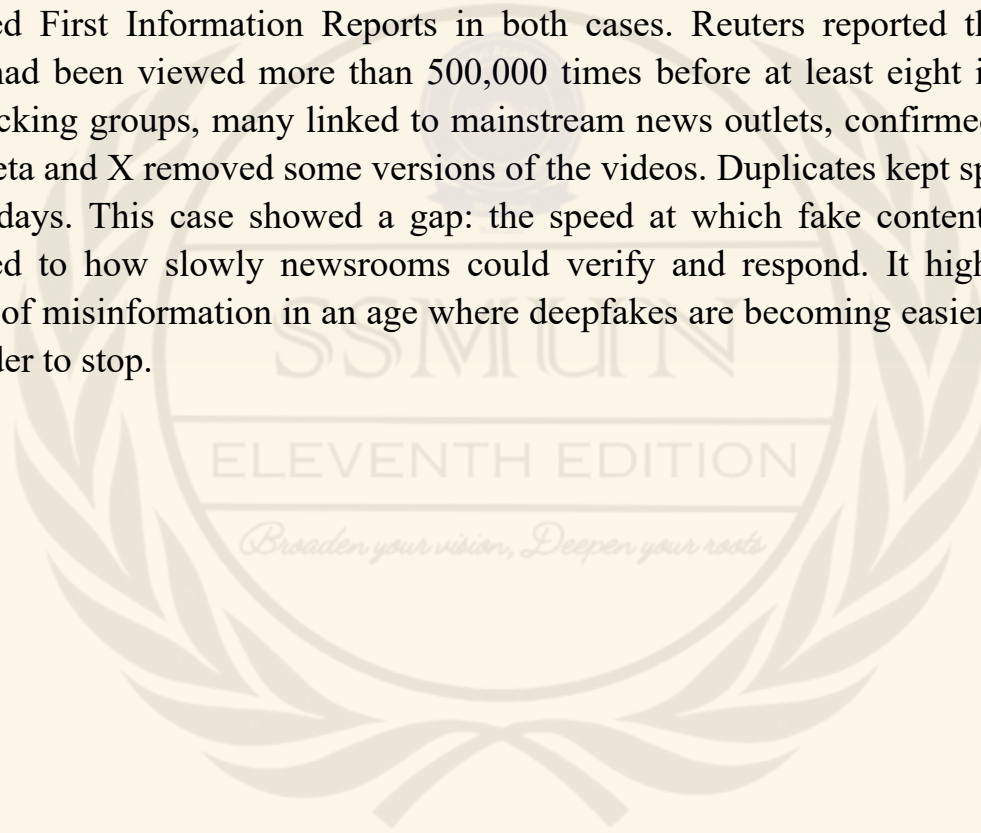
Data presented to Parliament by the Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, Dr L. Murugan, revealed an increase in confirmed paid-news cases during the 2024 election cycle. The numbers went from 74 cases in 2021-22 and 76 in 2022-23 to 28 in 2023-24, then jumped to 290 cases in 2024-25 the financial year that covered the seven-phase Lok Sabha election. Under a system run jointly by Media Certification and Monitoring Committees and the Press Council of India, a confirmed case of paid news does not lead to a fine for the newspaper or channel that published it. Instead, the cost of the coverage, calculated using the outlet's advertising rate card, is added retroactively to the candidate's declared election spending. The ten-fold rise in confirmed cases between 2023-24 and 2024-25 shows the scale of paid political coverage during India's largest-ever election. It also highlights the lack of any penalty for the media outlet itself three general elections after the Press Council first raised the issue.

Televisions Exit Poll Coverage and the 4 June Reckoning

On 1 June 2024, after the seventh and final phase of polling ended, nearly every major exit poll predicted a strong majority for the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance. Some projections suggested 350 seats, and one even went over 400. These numbers dominated hours of prime-time analysis and panel discussions across news channels that evening. When the results were announced on 4 June, the NDA won only 293 seats. The BJP alone secured 240 seats 63 fewer than in 2019. Meanwhile, the opposition INDIA bloc, which most exit polls had placed below 150 seats, won 234. The magnitude of the error, described by commentators as one of the largest exit poll failures in Indian history, led to renewed questions about the way television networks structure their result-day coverage. It also raised concerns about whether the drive to fill hours with dramatic predictions had outpaced the actual accuracy of exit polling. The reliance on data for entertainment and spectacle became harder to ignore.

Verifying the Unverifiable: The Aamir Khan and Ranveer Singh Deepfakes

In mid-April 2024, a manipulated video began spreading. It used footage of actor Aamir Khan from a television appearance made a decade earlier. The audio had been altered using artificial intelligence, making it sound as if he was endorsing a political party. A day later, a second deepfake appeared. This one used footage of actor Ranveer Singh from an interview during a trip to Varanasi. His voice was cloned to make it seem as though he was criticising the Prime Minister over unemployment and inflation and urging people to vote for the Congress party. Both actors denied any involvement and filed police complaints. The Mumbai Police Cyber Crime Cell registered First Information Reports in both cases. Reuters reported that the two videos had been viewed more than 500,000 times before at least eight independent fact-checking groups, many linked to mainstream news outlets, confirmed they were fake. Meta and X removed some versions of the videos. Duplicates kept spreading for several days. This case showed a gap: the speed at which fake content went viral compared to how slowly newsrooms could verify and respond. It highlighted the dangers of misinformation in an age where deepfakes are becoming easier to produce and harder to stop.



ISSUES ARISING FROM DIFFERENTIAL AGENCY COVERAGE

During the 2024 General Elections, varying editorial priorities, corporate dependencies, and access limitations created severe disparities in how news agencies reported on the campaign. These differences led to structural friction across the media landscape, raising critical operational and ethical concerns.

- **Asymmetric Airtime and Selective Coverage Distribution**

A primary systemic issue was the unequal allocation of coverage given to competing political alliances. Leading primary agencies and broadcast syndicates devoted significantly higher volume and prime-time visibility to ruling coalition rallies, official policy announcements, and key cabinet figures. Conversely, opposition press conferences, campaign manifestos, and rallies frequently received delayed coverage, abbreviated summaries, or were relegated to non-peak hours. This airtime asymmetry distorted the visibility of competing political narratives, directly impacting the electorate's ability to evaluate party promises on an equal footing.

- **Corporate Ownership, Revenue Dependencies, and Editorial Independence**

The financial and corporate structures backing major news syndicates created severe conflicts of interest during election coverage. Media outlets rely heavily on commercial advertising revenues, state government publicity budgets, and corporate sponsorships to sustain large-scale election operations. This economic dependency often exerted unspoken pressure on newsrooms to soften investigative reporting, avoid critical policy breakdowns, or align lead wire feeds with the interests of major advertisers and political stakeholders. As a result, commercial survival frequently superseded editorial independence and objective journalism.

- **Media Polarisation: The "Godi Media" vs. "Anti-Establishment" Division**

The 2024 election cycle reinforced a deep ideological rift within the press corps, splitting agencies into hostile editorial camps. Outlets dubbed "Godi media" by

critics were accused of functioning as promotional channels for the incumbent administration, framing official claims uncritically and running hostile panels against opposition figures. On the other hand, self-identified "anti-establishment" or independent platforms often adopted an opposing stance, focusing almost exclusively on government failures and institutional critiques. This binary polarisation left little room for balanced, neutral, and fact-driven reporting, leaving voters with partisan information bubbles.

● **Differential Access Barriers and Political Boycotts**

Operational challenges were further heightened by unequal access granted to journalists on the ground. Ruling party machinery frequently favoured specific wire agencies with exclusive interviews, priority press passes, and seats on campaign aircraft, while denying similar access to critical or independent reporters. Simultaneously, opposition alliances instituted formal boycotts of specific news channels and prime-time anchors, refusing to send party spokespersons to their debates. This mutual exclusion obstructed comprehensive reporting, preventing agencies from delivering well-rounded, multi-perspective coverage of the national campaign.

ELEVENTH EDITION

Broaden your vision, Deepen your roots

ETHICAL BREACHES AND DIGITAL THREATS ON ELECTION COVERAGE

1. Clickbait Headlines

During the 2024 General Elections, the intense competition for Television Rating Points (TRPs) and web traffic drove many news outlets toward sensationalist reporting techniques. Prime-time coverage was routinely dominated by high-decibel debates, aggressive background music, and alarming lower-third tickers designed to project an atmosphere of perpetual conflict. Instead of delivering deep policy breakdowns of party manifestos, wire services and television networks frequently highlighted inflammatory remarks, personal attacks, and out-of-context soundbites. This emphasis on dramatic studio spectacles over substantive issues like economic policy, rural employment, and local governance significantly degraded the quality of democratic discourse available to the voter.

2. Exit Poll Flops:

The media coverage surrounding the June 2024 exit polls represented one of the most visible institutional failures of the election cycle. Major polling agencies and primary broadcast syndicates projected an overwhelming supermajority for the ruling coalition, forecasts that proved wildly inaccurate when actual results were declared on June 4. The divergence exposed severe methodological flaws, including insufficient sample sizes, flawed field data verification, and commercial pressures to present definitive, sensational outcomes to prime-time audiences. The broadcast of these unverified projections triggered extreme volatility in the Indian financial markets driving stocks to record highs on June 3 before causing a massive single-day crash on counting day raising serious questions regarding market manipulation, lack of polling transparency, and journalistic accountability.

3. The "Paid News" Phenomenon

Despite regulatory oversight from the Election Commission of India (ECI) and guidelines issued by the Press Council of India (PCI), the practice of "paid news" remained a pervasive ethical challenge throughout the campaign. Candidates and political parties routinely secured favourable publicity by purchasing disguised

political advertisements, soft-focus profiles, and glowing feature articles that were presented to the public as independent editorial reporting. Furthermore, wire agencies faced sharp criticism for syndicating unverified political press releases and party claims directly into client newsrooms without proper fact-checking or attribution. This blurring of paid propaganda with objective reporting compromised media integrity and misled voters attempting to make informed decisions.

4.AI, Deepfakes and Synthetic Media

The 2024 elections introduced an unprecedented digital challenge: the widespread deployment of artificial intelligence, synthetic voice clones, and deepfake videos designed to manipulate public perception. Throughout the campaign, manipulated media ranging from fake videos of political leaders endorsing parties to doctored audio clips alleging electoral fraud circulated rapidly on platforms like WhatsApp, YouTube, and X. Primary wire agencies found themselves struggling under the operational pressure of verifying these high-tech fabrications before syndicating news feeds downstream. The speed at which synthetic media spread often outpaced traditional fact-checking mechanisms, leading to cases where mainstream outlets picked up unverified or doctored digital content, highlighting a critical gap in media readiness against digital deception.

CRITICISM FOR THE MEDIA CONDUCT DURING THE 2024 ELECTIONS

1. Perceived Partisanship and the "Godi Media" Critique

Opposition politicians, press-freedom organisations and many commentators have repeatedly said that much of the television news during the 2024 campaign did not act as an independent check on the government of the day. Instead, Indian television news served to amplify the government's own messages, a situation that critics call "Godi media." Reporters Without Borders ranked India 159th out of 180 countries in its 2024 World Press Freedom Index. This was a rise from its 2023 rank of 161st. The organisation said the change was mostly due to scores in other countries, not because India has improved. In fact, India's own score has slipped in the year.

2. The "Horse-Race" Problem

Coverage that focuses on seat projections, exit-poll guesses and how many people attended rallies has taken up most of the air time. Several media researchers say that little time is left for meaningful discussion of manifesto promises, unemployment figures, inflation trends or how well the government has governed. These are the facts voters need to make a decision.

3. The "Scale and Limits of Paid News Enforcement"

The Centre for Media Studies said that paid coverage during the 2019 General Elections alone made up a large part of the about ₹6,000 crore spent on election media. Independent estimates of spending for the 2024 election include media reach as high as 1.2 lakh crore. Even though MCMCs watch television and print output closely during the campaign, the Election Commission admits that its enforcement tools catch a small number of suspected cases. When paid news is proven, the Press Council may only issue a warning, not a financial fine.

4. Platform Governance Gaps on Closed Networks

The Code of Ethics that the Election Commission and social media platforms signed works best on public platforms like X, Facebook and YouTube, where posts can be reported, traced and removed if needed. WhatsApp is different. It uses end-to-end encryption, so the platform, the Election Commission, and fact-checkers cannot see the messages. This makes WhatsApp, one of the popular channels for political messages in India, largely outside the rules that apply to other parts of the digital world.

5. Slow and Uneven Correction of Manipulated Content

When fact-checking groups manage to expose a fake video within hours or days like the deepfakes of Aamir Khan and Ranveer Singh the original false clip usually spreads to a much larger audience than the correction that comes after. Researchers call this the durability gap between a false story and its counter-story.

6. Sensationalism

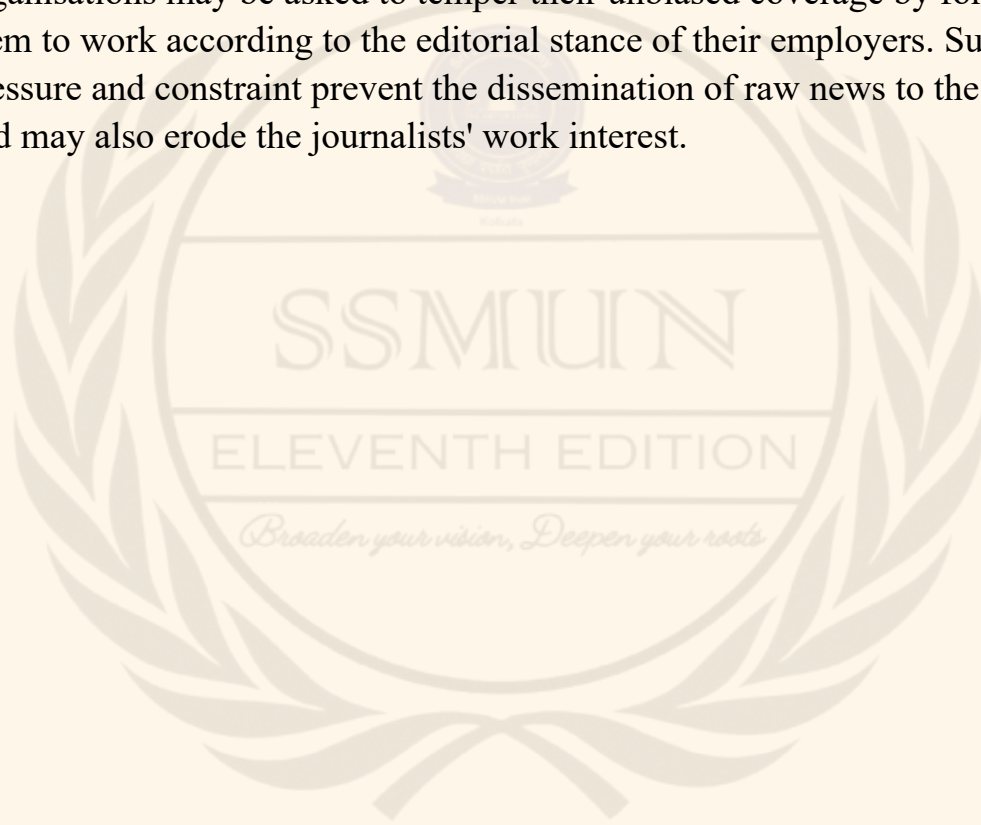
A widely discussed example of sensationalism during the 2024 Indian General Elections was Prime Minister Narendra Modi's campaign speech in Rajasthan, where he claimed that the opposition intended to redistribute citizens' wealth to Muslims and referred to "infiltrators" and people with "more children." The remarks sparked nationwide debate, extensive media coverage, and fact-checking by news organizations, with critics arguing that the language heightened fear and polarization, while supporters viewed it as a political critique of the opposition's policies. The episode is considered an example of sensationalism because it relied on emotionally charged messaging that intensified public attention around a controversial issue rather than focusing solely on policy details.

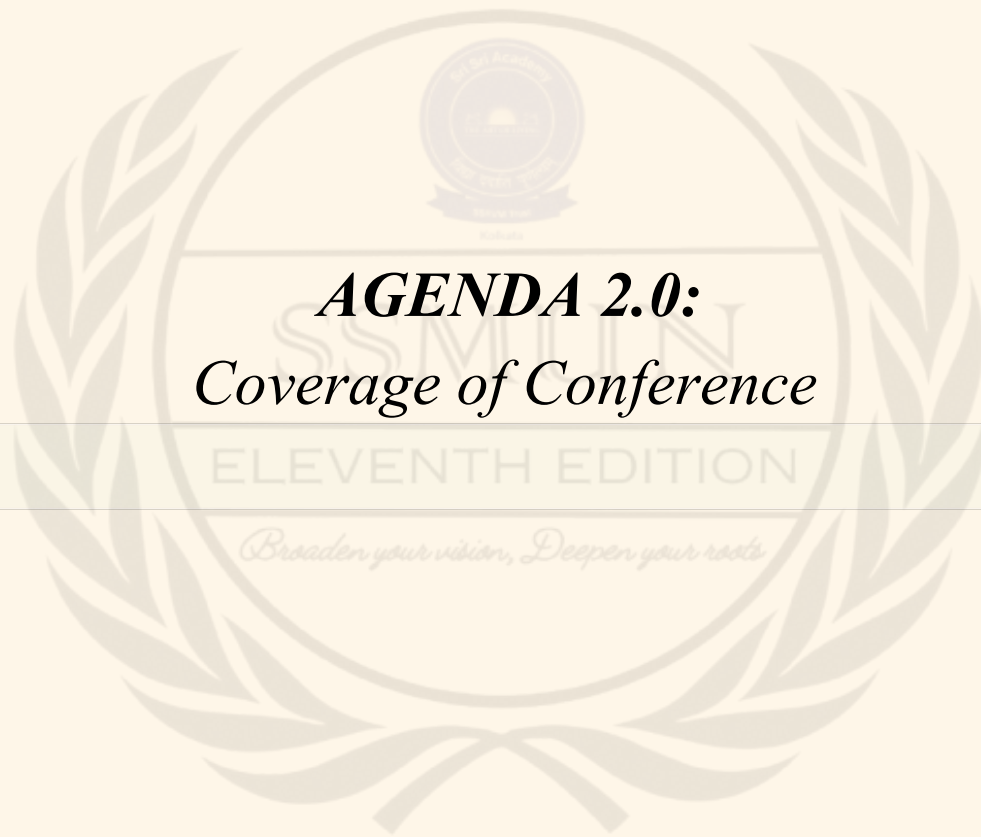
NEED FOR REGULATION

While an overly intrusive regulatory regime risks chilling legitimate political speech and investigative journalism precisely when scrutiny of power matters most, the 2024 General Elections demonstrated that a wholly unregulated media and information environment carries its own, arguably graver, risks to electoral integrity. Some of the specific needs delegates should consider include:

- **Closing the Paid News Enforcement Gap-** Strengthening the Press Council's investigative capacity and considering whether it, or another body, should have the power to impose meaningful financial penalties rather than advisories alone.
- **A Statutory Framework for AI-Generated Political Content-** Moving beyond genral-purpose impersonation and cheating provisions toward dedicated legal obligations requiring the labelling, watermarking or disclosure of AI-generated or AI-altered political content, of the kind the Ministry's March 2024 advisory recommended but did not mandate.
- **Extending Accountability to Closed Platforms-** Exploring mechanisms, consistent with legitimate privacy and encryption interests, through which verifiably viral political misinformation on platforms such as WhatsApp can be identified and addressed without undermining end-to-end encryption for private communication generally.
- **Transparency in Political Advertising Spend-** Requiring digital platforms to maintain a genuinely comprehensive, real-time, publicly searchable register of political advertisement spending, extending the disclosure norms already required of print and television media to digital and social platforms.
- **Media Literacy as a Complement to Regulation-** Recognising that no legal framework can verify every forward before it is read, and that voter education on how to identify manipulated media is a necessary complement to, not a substitute for, stronger institutional enforcement.

- **Safeguarding Editorial Independence-** Ensuring that any strengthened regulatory framework targets demonstrable deception, such as undisclosed paid news and fabricated media, rather than being drafted or applied in a manner that could be used to suppress legitimate criticism of those in power.
- **Editorial Interference and Pressure on Journalists-** Pressure on journalists may be one of the most unjust issues they face. Although journalists are expected to have journalistic freedom, that freedom is seldom granted and remains merely nominal. Journalists working within organisations may be asked to temper their unbiased coverage by forcing them to work according to the editorial stance of their employers. Such pressure and constraint prevent the dissemination of raw news to the public and may also erode the journalists' work interest.





ROLE AS REPORTERS

Aside from debating in their own committee, INPM delegates as journalists will have a separate role as well, which will be covered under the third agenda. Each INPM delegate will be assigned another committee to scrutinise and cover. The committee will be assigned by the Executive Board of INPM and will remain unchanged throughout the three days of the committee. The reporters are expected to have a general idea about the agenda of their covering committees, and hence it is suggested they do so by going through their allotted committees' study guides. The covering committees will be given to the delegates before the conference starts.

EXPECTATIONS FROM INPM DELEGATES

As members of a respectable and prestigious national associated press working, delegates are required to meet certain standards of conduct for proper functioning of the committee. The reports as drafted by the reporters should align with standard ethics of journalism. The committee values accuracy, objectivity, truthfulness, impartiality and moderation of sensationalism as the basic tenets of ethical journalism. The Executive Board will not tolerate any form of plagiarism, prejudice, or bias. If any reports are found to be AI-generated, the reports will not be marked, and there will be heavy demarcation. Reports should be formatted and written in such a way as to allow the readers to think and formulate their own opinions. It should be remembered that the objective of journalism is to help shape mass opinions and not control them. The failure in following the deadline while submitting the articles will not be tolerated- unless deemed absolutely valid by the Executive Board.

SCHEDULE FOR AGENDA 2

Each day will begin with a formal session following the UNA-USA procedure of debate (go through the Conference Handbook for clear understanding) where we will be debating on our own agendas. The time when they will go to their respective committees will be informed to them during the 1st session of each day. Thereafter, members will go to their respective committees and take action in accordance with their reporting committee.

SCHEDULE OF THE REPORTS:

Day 1 (12th October 2026) - Beat Article and Feature Article

Day 2 (13th October 2026) - Op-ed Article, Press Conference Article, Overview Article

RULES REGARDING REPORT/ARTICLE SUBMISSION

- All reports must be handed to the Executive Board, **ONLY** on the official email ID provided.
- Subject of the mail should be: *Delegation-Committee reporting to-Day of the committee-Report Number; Example:BBC-UNHRC-Day2-Report Number 1.0*
- Report to be sent in PDF format ONLY. PDF file should be renamed to the delegate's portfolio. Example: Delegate of BBC News should rename their PDF file to "BBC News"

POINTS TO BE NOTED:

Abbreviations

Only standard acronyms and abbreviations should be used. Letters of the names of abbreviated organisations or agencies should NOT be separated by periods. It is advised to spell the organisations or agencies in full on their first occurrence in the article, followed by the acronym/abbreviation within parentheses. For example, " ...raised in the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC). However, the agenda of UNHRC... "

Names

Names that are mentioned in the articles should be verified; no assumptions are to be made by the reporters while reporting a certain person by his/her name. Only standard abbreviations for titles should be used, like Mr., Mrs., Dr., etc. However, no UN designations can be abbreviated. For example, the Chairperson should not become Chair or the Secretary-General should not become Sec Gen. When referring to any nation or organisation, the standard UN country and organisation

names should be used. For example: Use China instead of the People's Republic of China.

Numbers

Any numeral ten or less should be spelt 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.

Text Capitalization

Only abbreviations and proper nouns are to be abbreviated. Italics: Sources, websites, books or print sources should be italicised. Proper currency symbols are to be used. Indian rupees should be written as INR and not Rs.

References

Every article must consist of sources, mentioned at the end of an article, from which facts/information have been cited in the article. Please ensure that the sources are credible.

Plagiarism

Plagiarised articles will not be published or be eligible for marking. Journalists are expected to submit their original work only.

Contractions

Usage of contractions such as 'don't', 'won't,' and 'shouldn't' instead of 'do not,' 'would not,' or 'should not' is not acceptable.

USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

Delegates are strictly prohibited from relying on AI-generated content for their submissions. Any paper found exceeding the 4-5% AI usage threshold will face heavy deduction and may not be marked. Authenticity, originality, and independent research are expected from the delegates.

ARTICLES TO BE SUBMITTED

1. BEAT-BASED ARTICLE

Your integral role within the framework of the Committees mandates a vigilant observation of the unfolding proceedings, with the ultimate objective of crafting astute beat articles. In the pursuit of this endeavour, it is imperative that the principles of journalistic integrity remain at the forefront of your reporting. Beat articles are those which do not include each and every speech or discussion in the committee but it involves the coverage of any particular substantial information that may be regarded as extremely significant in that committee. These may encompass any particular speech by a delegate that sparked controversy in the committee, an interesting open floor or anything of such sort. These articles tend to be more specific than general. ‘Beat’ refers to the topic based on which the article is formulated.

Each correspondent is entrusted with beat the task of delivering two distinct articles—a testament to the multifaceted nature of your engagement. The first article shall delve into the events of Day 1, while the second article shall encapsulate the occurrences of Day 2, both within your designated committees. Evaluative criteria contain not only the cogency of your narratives but also the manifestation of a mature and lucid expression. The pivotal attributes of coherence, refinement, and a holistic presentation shall inform the assessment process. Proper use of grammar is appreciated. Prudence dictates that your literary compositions adhere to a succinct structure, not exceeding the threshold of 400-450 words. Adherence to originality is paramount, as a stringent plagiarism assessment will be conducted, with articles deviating beyond 5% similarity in content incurring commensurate penalties.

Format of a sample beat article

BEAT ARTICLE

DAY 1

From: Yedioth Ahronoth

To the Executive Board

WHO NEEDS TRUTH WHEN YOU HAVE COSTUMES?

Uniforms, bullets and a President playing hide and seek, how fast will a war be declared?

Yedioth Ahronoth |

If anyone thinks that this is just about a canal now, they have clearly lost track of the committee. At this point, it is less of international diplomacy and more of a Money Heist episode with a special Cairo Edition where instead of a bank robbery, regional stability is being robbed, one secret operation at a time.

From fake presidential abductions due to threat to his security to foreign uniforms being found on enemy corpses, this is no longer a political crisis, it is the prologue to a war which will shake this world to its very foundations.

Egypt indirectly accepts its own incompetency in being able to defend its very own President and they justify that it was staged as a counterintelligence maneuver, allegedly to root out the Muslim Brotherhood infiltration. So while the entire world gasped and strived to speak in support of Egypt who played the victim card, as they were “so so worried” about the safety of their President, that President was sipping tea and relaxing in a safehouse near Faiyum, conveniently directing operations.

The result of this? A surgical strike conducted west of Ismailia, executed by Egypt’s elite Republican Guard commandos and tactical support from Soviet GRU advisors and Chinese field surveillance units. Eight senior Muslime Brotherhood operatives were confirmed killed, including high-profile fugitives Sayid Qutb and Hassan al-Hudaybi. But what truly set off alarm bells is the fact that two foreign nationals who were also found dead on this scene were reported wearing British and French military uniforms.

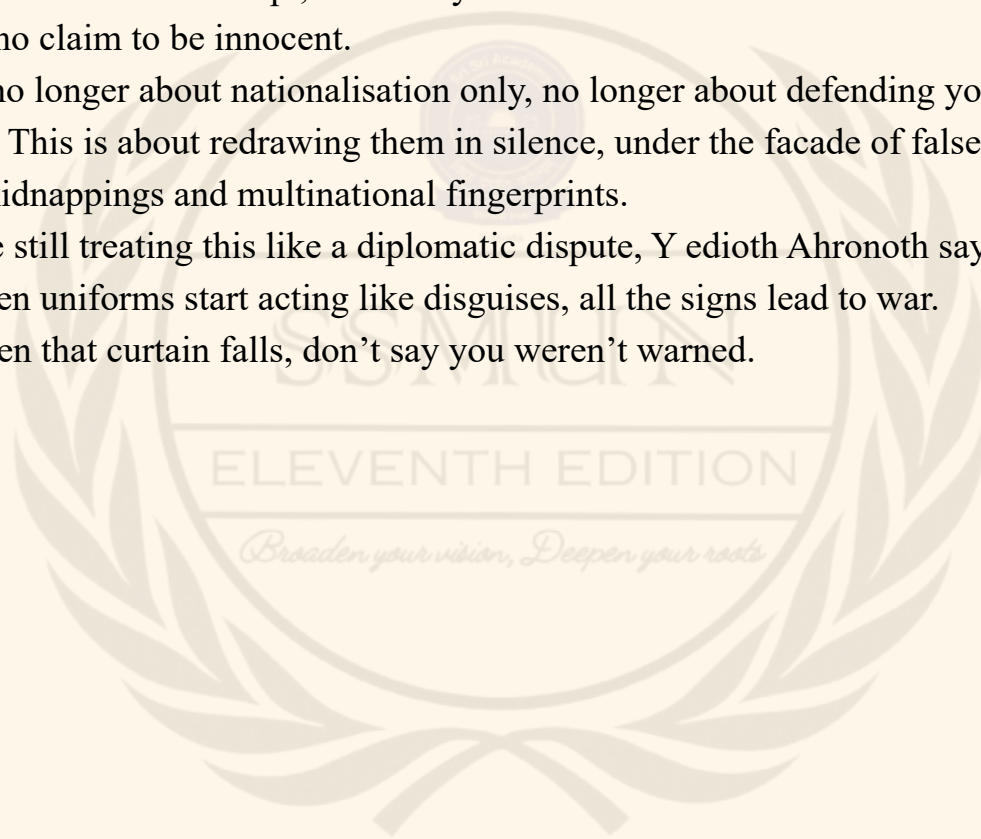
The question obviously arises that if Egypt could so convincingly lie to the committee about the fact that their President has been kidnapped then how can we believe a word of what they report about anything?

And now, as if that wasn't enough of a crisis, we're also supposed to believe that two Brotherhood operatives so easily picked up British and French military costumes off the rack? Either the people involved are running a well-funded costume department, or this is something far more dangerous, a glimpse into covert Western involvement.

And let's not forget the conveniently recovered whiteboard with phrases like "Haifa to Port Said," "Sinai incursion," and "Israeli Air Wing to lead." These aren't scribbles. It is a script, written by those who benefit from chaos and from those who claim to be innocent.

This is no longer about nationalisation only, no longer about defending your borders. This is about redrawing them in silence, under the facade of false reports, staged kidnappings and multinational fingerprints.

To those still treating this like a diplomatic dispute, Yedioth Ahronoth says only this, when uniforms start acting like disguises, all the signs lead to war. And when that curtain falls, don't say you weren't warned.



2. OPINIONATED EDITORIAL/OP-ED ARTICLE

For those enrolled within the Press Committee, a specific and intellectually stimulating task awaits. Each delegate, with resolute precision, is enjoined to craft an Op-ed article founded upon the salient agenda of the committee to which they shall be duly assigned. This piece shall, in essence, serve as an articulation of the delegate's cognisance and viewpoint regarding the intricate political terrain enveloping the committee's proceedings. In Op-eds we seek the deliberate adoption of perspective and a skilful exposition of intricacies. The idea of an opinionated editorial is to give a reporter the prospect of portraying their own firm and informed opinions to the intended audience concerning the operations of the respective reporting committees. Albeit op-ed articles do not solely contain factual information, these articles should definitely be accurate and based on facts.

To this end, it is imperative that a certain orientation be masterfully conveyed by the conclusion of the exposition. It is with no small emphasis that an invitation is extended for the pursuit of independent research in this endeavour. This scholarly pursuit is not only endorsed but highly recommended, for it shall imbue the resultant composition with a robust foundation of informed perspectives and credible insights. In adherence to structural clarity, the resultant article is to be contained within a word limit of 800. A matter of utmost gravity pertains to the issue of plagiarism, which unequivocally shall find no quarter within this discourse. The intellectual integrity of the exercise shall bring no transgressions, and articles found in breach shall face a corresponding deduction in their appraisal.

Format of a sample op-ed article

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OP-ED ARTICLE

DAY 2

From: Dhruv Rathee

To: The Executive Board

AFSPA, AARTI AND OUR GOVERNMENT: A GUIDEBOOK TO HOW TO LOSE DEMOCRACY IN 10 DAYS

Can the proposition and opposition ever come to a common consensus? Or will their fight be without restraint and with total legal immunity? Will it eventually result in the nation tearing apart?

Dhruv Rathee |

Let us not mince words anymore and drop the masks and show everyone's real faces; after all, it's not a masquerade ball in an episode of Gossip Girl, is it? But might as well be, because the Indian Government never disappoints when it comes to behaving like the ruling family in The Royals-obsessed with appearances, drunk on power, stabbing each other in the back in designer kurtas, while having zero concern for the people they are supposed to "serve".

The first agenda for our beloved Parliament was discussing the National Security Policy in relation to Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh, with special emphasis on stability and scope of power granted to the authorities in the region. This is the part where the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) comes into question. AFSPA is not a security measure; it is a state-issued license to kill.

Delegates and reporters, welcome to the Republic of Denial, where dissent means sedition, press freedom means nothing, and India's democracy is dying not with a bang, but with a bhajan. AFSPA has effectively ensured that the military has unchecked power to reduce their workload; they are easily and conveniently handing it over to the army and police force, whose solutions to problems are guns and rifles. AFSPA has made Kashmir a military-occupied ghost town where homes are raided every other day, be it afternoon or night; children are labelled as stone-pelters just for throwing pebbles, and the very people we proudly call to be a part of our country are treated like they are in enemy territory. Is this what was envisioned by the AFSPA Act? Soldiers who are operating with zero accountability, zero restraint and total legal immunity.

Moreover, this act also violates the basic fundamental rights of Indians under Article 14 and 21 due to the act's broad powers. But do not worry at all because this is not where the story ends; it continues like a true movie, climax after climax and straight into temples, mosques and century-old grudges because, hey, if you are not waging war on your citizens then you might as well wage a war over their gods.

The second agenda deliberates upon the situation of communal tensions in India with special emphasis on the Places of Worship Act and the necessity to repeal the said Act. The Act faces criticism for using an arbitrary date, 15th August 1947, to determine the status of religious places, which potentially ignores historical injustices. The Act also prevents judicial review, which is a fundamental aspect of the Constitution. Moreover, in every situation, the Muslims are expected to always be the ones who adjust; they are supposed to adjust when their mosques are declared "disputed". Cherry on top? If they protest, they are "extremists" or "potential threats to law and order".

It is nothing less than irony when a government that proudly follows the principles of Lord Ram cannot seem to understand that Lord Ram never asked anyone to destroy another person's place of worship in his name. If the Places of Worship Act wants to hold any real value, it should be used in protecting the rights of the minority instead of using it to advocate for the BJP government's "hatred" for the Muslims.

This is the delegate of Dhruv Rathee, as always, reporting the deep, unapologetic truth. For Rathee will not apologise for being loud and will definitely not tone down.
###

3. FEATURE ARTICLE

Feature articles differ from many other kinds of news articles because they share a general perspective on a subject, instead of reporting news about a particular situation. This makes feature articles last longer, as they are less likely to lose relevance as time passes. A feature article grants the reporter full

creative liberty, as they may express their write-ups in the form of a poem, story, picture, poster, and so on. There exists no designated word limit in the feature article, as no one is simply expected to let their artistry flow blended with ingenuity, and convert what is to be disseminated among the masses into something picturesque.

Sample Feature Article

###

FEATURE ARTICLE

DAY 1

From: Le Monde

To: Executive Board

The Birthday Boy

An Autobiography of the Palestinian Terrorist

I did not write the article.

I did not ask for a birthday wish.

I did not even celebrate my own birthday.

Yet, I woke up, more famous than Tom Cruise.

Al Jazeera posted my name, a wish, as caring it was to be remembered by a news agency on my birthday and wake up to an official post; I did not ask for the extra attention. In a world ruled by headlines, even my existence is too loud.

They called it a caring act, a tribute even.

They called me a terrorist.

They called the press a criminal.

But none of them read the post; they read into the invisible subtext, which was not even visible to the writers, the consequences of wishing a man wanted by both the pebbles and the very people we proudly call to be a part of our country

United States of America and the United Nations General Assembly.

The media? It just wants engagement, viewership and excitement.

Even as a fugitive, I have realised that people do not argue with the fact; instead, they question why the facts exist at all.

And so here I am, dead or missing, depending on your source,

A weapon in a war of agencies I did not sign up for, sometimes called a freedom fighter, sometimes a murderer,
But all I am is a name in an article
That no one bothered to finish reading.
###

4. PRESS CONFERENCE ARTICLE

On the second day, an imperative press conference will be of utmost importance. During this event, press correspondents will be allowed to engage with delegates from the allotted reporting Committees, directing their inquiries towards the heart of each committee's agendas.

Reporters will be allocated a succinct window of 5 minutes each, during which they may pose up to 3 inquiries to the Delegates. Furthermore, there may exist the latitude for supplementary inquiries, which may be granted on evaluation of the momentousness and appropriateness of the primary inquiry. The inquiries must be concise, transparent, and forthright, abstaining from verbosity or convoluted phrasing. In their interactions with the delegate(s), the reporter is entrusted with the maintenance of a climate of mutual respect, underscored by rudimentary verbal and behavioural decorum. Employment of language or comportment that strays into the realm of "unparliamentary" will invoke consequential repercussions of a pebble and the very people we proudly call to be a part of our country's grave nature.

Format of sample press conference article

###

PRESS CONFERENCE ARTICLE

DAY 2

From: Yedioth Ahronoth
To The Executive Board

BREAKING NEWS: THE WAR CABINET HAS COME INTO ACTION Welcome to the committee where Iraq breaks foreign policy while the others move towards war.

Yedioth Ahronoth |

If today's press conference has proved anything, it is that international diplomacy has been officially swapped from providing truth to elaborate justifications which is a poor attempt, really. The committee has delved into a very tragic episode of House of Fumbles where hypocrisy is the best policy and every delegate thinks that they are the best at upholding their policy, but it is someone's responsibility to burst their bubble, right?

We began with the United States and asked the delegate a very simple question: How are American-made weapons being smuggled across the globe without any knowledge of the US, and how were they planning to respond to this lack of strict regulations on their arms? However, the United States of Hypocrisy, as it has been referred to so many times in the committee, said that there is a difference between "American-made" and "American-distributed". So essentially, once a weapon leaves their territory they will not track it since it is "not possible" for their government to do so. Maybe next time, we can expect these smuggled arms to come with a tag saying, "Made in the USA. Lost in transit." They came to Iraq, which has very happily violated their foreign policy not once, not afternoon or night; children are labelled as stone-pelters just for throwing twice but innumerable times. When asked how it could withdraw from the pebbles and the very people we proudly call to be a part of our country Baghdad Pact despite reaping its military and economic benefits, Iraq offered the most basic justification that they were and

I quote, "Acting in the best interests of are treated like they are in enemy territory. Is this what was envisioned by its people?. Following this answer, a very obvious question was asked, which I quote was, "Delegate, what do you think is the current policy of all countries present here?" Justifying every action by saying that it was in the "interests of my people" will then become a very common loophole and then will be used to justify every single murder, backstabbing or invasion. It becomes a get-out-of-treaty-free card, does it not? This is the situation of the committee which now has declared war and transformed into a war cabinet. So, while this committee proceeds, remember that Yedioth Ahronoth will be watching because someone needs to keep the world informed about the actual truth, and we aim at doing so.

###

5. OVERVIEW ARTICLE

This report, within a limit of 500-550 words, will commence with a short introductory paragraph in not more than 50 words in italics. The overview article will consist of the proceedings that took place over all three days of the reporting committees, ranging from embracing controversial speeches responsible for sparking heated discussions to solutions contemplated or even formulation of writing papers.

Format of a sample overview article

###

DAY 2

OVERVIEW ARTICLE

From: Yedioth Ahronoth

To the Executive Board

WELCOME TO THE MOST DRAMATIC BLOCKBUSTER OF 1956

Yedioth Ahronoth uncovering secrets one by one. This committee has been discussing the effects of Egypt's nationalisation since day 1, and now it has evolved from a "diplomatic" dialogue to an official war cabinet with the Western bloc and the Eastern bloc declaring war on each other.

If you still think this is just about a canal, you've missed half the show. What started as a supposedly sovereign move by Egypt to nationalise the Suez Canal has now unfolded into a full-blown Cold War action film, which is complete with fake abductions, dead bodies in foreign uniform and American ammunition showing up in all the wrong places while the government plays the role of an "innocent" child.

Let us go back to what happened in the committee. On July 26th, President Gamal Abdel Nasser announced the nationalisation of the Suez Canal in retaliation for the U.S. and Britain pulling funding from the Aswan High Dam, a decision prompted by Egypt's growing friendship with the Soviet bloc which was. In reality, all the countries are throwing their own tantrums.

Then came the Tora Prison shootout, a very “random” firefight where Egyptian investigators recovered over two dozen. 30-06 rounds, which are standard issue for the U.S. military and marked “LC54” from the Lake City Ammunition Plant. Egypt doesn’t own such rifles. They were never purchased. So how did these American bullets end up embedded in Cairo’s walls? The U.S. government’s reply?

“Not our responsibility.”

As the committee tried to process that, Egypt casually revealed that President Nasser’s problems are guns and rifles. Nasser was never abducted; the kidnapping was a staged counterintelligence operation in a ghost town where homes are raided every other day, be it operations that they could protect him from escaped Brotherhood members and afternoon or night, children are labelled as stone-pelters just for allegedly sniffing out foreign influence. Apparently, while the global media wept for pebbles and the very people we proudly call to be a part of our country, he, Nasser was reclining in a Fayoum villa with a Soviet radio and sipping tea, enjoying his life.

The plot twist arrived with a surgical strike west of Ismailia, where Egypt’s elite commandos, assisted by Soviet GRU and Chinese surveillance teams, neutralised several Brotherhood operatives. Among the dead? Not just ideologues like Sayid Qutb, but also two foreign nationals in British and French military uniforms.

And then came the whiteboard discovered in the Brotherhood compound, scrawled with notes like “Israeli Air Wing to lead,” “Haifa to Port Said,” and “Sinai incursion timing.” Because nothing says grassroots insurgency like multi-national war plans in Hebrew and English.

To top it off, documents were leaked detailing a “Prague Diversion” and secret transfers to Eilat via “Sandstone Commodities II.” Sounds like someone’s been busy writing their own Cold War screenplay.

At Yedioth Ahronoth, we’ve stopped calling this a canal crisis. It’s a costume drama starring false flags, real bullets, and actors who forgot which side they’re on. And when the final curtain falls? Don’t say you weren’t warned. This is because this committee is moving towards war, and the results will be disastrous for everyone involved in it, directly or indirectly.

PAPERWORK

COMMUNIQUE

INPM delegates are granted the right to creatively formulate communiques which are tremendously encouraged. Communiques are required to be pioneering to foster genuine intrigue in reading. Usage of pictures, videos, and voice messages is permitted alongside write-ups. There is no limit to the number of communiques a delegate can send.

POSITION PAPER

INPM requires delegates to submit a position paper, an extensive report covering their agency's perspective on the mentioned agendas for the conference. Crafting a thorough position paper, alongside letting you accumulate a vast amount of ideas and information regarding the agendas, creates an opportunity to gain a comprehensive perspective of your agency's stance with respect to the agendas at hand. Certain guidelines are expected to be adhered to by the INPM delegates while drafting the Position Paper.

These are to be focused upon-

- A heading, which will give the chairpersons an idea regarding the fundamental essence of the position paper.
- A brief account concerning the agendas which would serve as a background to your position paper.
- Your agency's stance pertaining to the agenda.
- Efforts taken by your agency to tackle the issues concerned.

The position paper should remain within a threshold of 10 pages, and this is to be mailed by the 8th of October 2026 by 11:59 p.m. to inpm.ssmun2026@gmail.com .

DRAFT RESOLUTION

A draft resolution is the ideal end product of any committee. Solutions that are proposed in the committee will be bundled together into the final paperwork which is called the draft resolution. It is a formal document upon which voting takes place, and amendments shall be made by the committee itself.

Drafting the Resolution

Every good resolution should fulfil “the Three Cs”: comprehensive, collaborative, and conceivable. Virtually all the problems that the UN tackles are quite complex; for a resolution to be a good solution to a problem of global importance, it must be comprehensive. If the resolution is to gain enough support to be passed by the committee, then it must also be collaborative. Finally, if the resolution is to gain the approval of the Director, then it must be conceivable. The realistic resolution takes into account the UN’s limitations and the current international balance of power to make the most effective use of diplomacy.

Finalising the Resolution

One should type the resolution out. Only soft copy shall be accepted, and resolutions submitted on paper shall not be considered by the Chairperson. At this stage, it is important to carefully check over grammar, syntax, style, etc. You must now get the required number of delegate signatures. When attempting to get signatures, it is important to remind delegates hesitant to sign that their signature does not bind them in any way to any future support; a signature only implies a desire to see the resolution out on the committee floor.

All paperwork is to be submitted to inpm.ssmun2026@gmail.com

EXPECTED OUTCOMES OF THE COMMITTEE

Framing laws for press conduct during communal violence

The Committee should deliberate on whether a comprehensive law or regulatory framework is necessary to guide media conduct during communal violence.

- **Statutory Crisis Standards:** Evaluating legal guidelines to prevent media outlets from broadcasting unverified rumours, hate speech, or provocative visuals during communal outbreaks.
- **Balancing Security and Freedom:** Formulating proportional restrictions under Article 19(2) to curb sensationalism during civil unrest while protecting legitimate ground journalism.

Drafting rules for media regulation by the Committee

The Committee should explore mechanisms for establishing universal rules or codes of conduct for media coverage during communal unrest.

- **Unified Regulatory Code:** Drafting a cross-platform code of ethics applicable across print, wire services, television networks, and digital news portals.
- **Strengthening Enforcement:** Recommending binding statutory powers for regulatory bodies like the PCI and NBDSA beyond voluntary compliance and basic censures.

Creating safeguards against misuse of OTT and Social Media Regulation: The Committee should deliberate on whether additional checks and balances are needed to ensure that regulatory powers are not misused to stifle dissent.

- **Checks Against Overreach:** Designing independent oversight to prevent IT regulations and emergency blocking powers from being used to suppress political opposition or dissent.
- **Judicial Review Limits:** Establishing clear procedural rules to ensure executive content takedowns on OTT and social media remain transparent and subject to legal review.

Protecting user rights and transparency

The Committee should deliberate on rules ensuring that users are informed when content is removed or restricted, and they should have access to appeal methods.

- **Mandatory Takedown Notices:** Requiring digital platforms and aggregators to inform users explicitly whenever their content or accounts are restricted or removed.
- **Appellate Redressal:** Establishing accessible, time-bound appeal mechanisms and clear labelling standards for AI-generated deepfakes and synthetic media.



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- <https://reutersinstitute.politics.ox.ac.uk/digital-news-report/2025/india?utm>
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