

# International Press

## BACKGROUND GUIDE FOR DELEGATES

<b>Committee</b>	International Press
<b>Agenda</b>	Reporting, Analysing, and Shaping Public Discourse on International and National Affairs at SCIMUN 2026
<b>Conference</b>	SCIMUN 2026 · The Eighth Edition
<b>Venue</b>	The Scindia School, Fort Gwalior
<b>Dates</b>	April 10–13, 2026
<b>Theme</b>	Pretia Imperii: The Cost of Power

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## C H A P T E R I

# A Note from the Executive Board

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To the Delegates of the International Press Corps,

Welcome to the International Press at SCIMUN 2026. The IP is unlike any other committee at this conference. There are no resolutions to pass, no blocs to build, and no voting procedure to master. There is only the story — and the question of whether you have the discipline, the curiosity, and the editorial rigour to tell it well.

SCIMUN 2026 is simulating Press Corps with an idealistic vision. It will not simulate any single news agency but will emerge as an indigenous journal reflecting the editorial policy of organisations such as Reuters and Al Jazeera. Contrary to popular belief, there is not much difference in their reporting style — all are objective and pursue a level of neutrality. The only difference lies in the issues they choose to cover and how deeply they examine them.

*The newsletter that the International Press produces will be filled with formal reports, analytical articles, editorials, op-eds, interviews, press conference coverage, and a subtle form of intelligent humour. This Study Guide will familiarise you with each of these forms in turn.*

*Ms. Zoya Arora, Chairperson · Mr. Aadi Dev Goel, Vice Chairperson*

**C H A P T E R   I I**

# About the International Press

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The International Press (IP) committee provides a platform for delegates to explore the critical role of media in global affairs. At SCIMUN 2026, the IP will focus on reporting, analysing, and shaping public discourse on international and national issues, including diplomacy, security, and social challenges. Delegates will act as journalists, editors, or media correspondents, balancing factual reporting with ethical responsibility while navigating diverse political and social perspectives.

This committee emphasises research, investigative skills, and clear, compelling communication. Delegates will produce articles, press releases, and news updates, experiencing firsthand how media influences policy, public opinion, and decision-making. The IP simulation encourages creativity, critical thinking, and ethical reflection, providing participants with a realistic and dynamic understanding of journalism's impact on the world stage.

The reporter will not merely report council proceedings but will also draw upon the debate and analyse it. The essence of this newsletter will be political analytical articles, debate drawings, and interviews. This is a deliberative and well-researched simulation of Press Corps — it will not simulate any news agency but come out as an indigenous journal that reflects the editorial policies of Reuters and Al Jazeera, both of which are objective and pursue a level of neutrality.

## C H A P T E R   I I I

## Reporting (Formal)

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One of the most important tasks that journalists in the International Press perform is formal reportage. They are primarily required to cover the event and describe it to others in the most structured and concise way possible, taking notes and submitting articles that contain the major happenings and discussions in their respective councils. A good news report ought to be articulate, succinct, neutral in tone and opinion, and be able to convey the essence of a discussion or occurrence to someone who has not personally witnessed it.

### | Key Points for Formal Reporting

1. Keep your article brief and to-the-point. Council reports should ideally not exceed 300-350 words.
2. Your article must not betray your personal perspective on the agenda. Objectivity and neutrality are paramount — this is the key difference between reporting and writing an op-ed. Be meticulous with your notes and include quotes wherever possible with due credit. The correct format is: "Those people are criminals who want to take over the city," said Sheikh Rafe'a Abdulkareem Albu Fahad.
3. Your article must be coherent and well-structured: an identifiable opening, two descriptive paragraphs, and a conclusion. Give your article a relevant headline and a by-line containing 'By (Your Name)'. Lack of the same may result in negative marking. Every line must be pertinent to the idea you are attempting to convey.
4. Grammar and punctuation must not be compromised. A spell-check of the final draft is essential.

## C H A P T E R I V

## Beat Reporting

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Considering that any Model United Nations conference has multiple discussions in every session, it is virtually impossible to report every caucus or point in your article. Therefore, your focus should not be on putting in as much information as you can, but on putting in only the most relevant information. The best way to achieve this is to recognise a 'beat' and write a beat-based article.

A beat-based article is a specialised article wherein the journalist presents in-depth coverage of a particular issue, situation, institution, or development. The beat is the central idea around which the contents are formed — it is the core concern to which every single line of the article must pertain. You will be able to identify the beat of the day's discussion only through careful observation and attention. Be present, mentally and physically, during all formal sessions.

### | Beat Capturing Exercise

Consider this excerpt: 'President Barack Obama and Afghan President Hamid Karzai agreed on Friday to speed up the handover of combat operations in Afghanistan to Afghan forces, raising the prospect of an accelerated U.S. withdrawal from the country.' Three possible beats present themselves: (a) Obama and Karzai accelerate the end of US combat role in Afghanistan; (b) USA set to withdraw troops from Afghanistan; (c) Afghanistan welcomes US peace talks. The correct answer is (a), because it most precisely conveys the bilateral nature of the decision and its accelerated character.

All the rules of formal reporting apply to beat reporting as well. Include as many factual details and quotes as possible, as facts help readers understand your work better. For further practice, visit [www.aljazeera.com](http://www.aljazeera.com) and read daily reports, familiarising yourself with the reporting style.

## C H A P T E R V

## Opinion Pieces (Op-Ed)

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Op-Ed, in very simple terms, refers to an opinionated article — often an abbreviation for 'opinion editorial' or 'opposite to the editorial page'. An op-ed is a comment, but it cannot be a senseless one. The first step to writing any op-ed is research: not just finding or verifying facts, but examining different perspectives on an issue.

Some of the functions that op-eds perform include, but are not restricted to:

- Debating a proposition and/or providing rebuttals
- Providing background and/or historical perspective on a contemporary issue
- Highlighting aspects and dimensions not covered by news pieces
- Providing suggestions and/or mapping out a plan of action
- Explaining an idea or concept in detail and sharing expertise

An op-ed differs from an editorial in the sense that an op-ed reflects an individual's views while an editorial reflects a newspaper's policy. The key defining feature of an op-ed is ANALYSIS — examining an argument against different perspectives and paradigms. An argument should begin with a statement of the proposition, followed by the reasoning, and if possible, concluded with an example. Arguments not backed with reasoning become assertions, and assertions make an op-ed shallow.

### | Key Principles for Op-Ed Writing

- Op-eds should be based on verified, accurate facts even though they are opinion pieces. Not knowing the right date of a key event defeats the entire purpose.
- Structure your op-ed so the audience does not lose interest. Too many points can lead to confusion — use the word limit as a yardstick for how many aspects can be covered.
- The more perspectives you engage with, the more holistic the analysis will be. Read publications from multiple countries and ideologies on your chosen issue.
- Consider a conventional structure: focus on a single point and arrange arguments so they build up to the concluding, final point. Alternatively, multi-dimensional analysis can work if well-structured.

## C H A P T E R V I

# Interviews

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Conducting interviews for news stories is an important skill for any journalist. A source — anyone a journalist interviews — can provide basic factual information, perspective and context on the topic being discussed, direct quotes, ideas on how to approach the story, and names of other people to interview.

## | Preparing for the Interview

- **Research:** Do as much research as you can before the interview. If you are going to interview a head of state, read up on the subject and make sure you understand basic terms. A well-prepared reporter inspires confidence in the person being interviewed.
- **Developing Questions:** Once you have thoroughly researched your topic, prepare a list of questions to ask. That will help you remember all the points you want to cover once the interview is underway.

## | Keys to a Successful Interview

- **Establish a Rapport** — When starting out, do not abruptly launch into your questions. Chatting a little puts your source at ease.
- **Keep it Natural** — Keep things conversational. Instead of mechanically reading questions, weave your queries naturally into the flow of conversation. Maintain eye contact as much as possible.
- **Be Open** — Do not be so focused on getting through your list of questions that you miss something interesting. If your source mentions an unexpected development, ask about it.
- **Maintain Control** — Be open, but do not waste your time. Gently steer the conversation back to the topic at hand if your source rambles.
- **Wrapping Up** — Ask your source if there is anything they want to discuss that you had not asked about. Double-check the meanings of any terms you are unsure about.

Note on interviews at SCIMUN: The constant debating may provide little opportunity for detailed interviews. The ideal interview times are refreshment breaks. Chits may also be used to bring out relevant points and take permission for a prior interview.

## C H A P T E R V I I

## Elements of Style

The following style guidelines govern all publications produced by the International Press at SCIMUN 2026. Adherence to these standards is mandatory for all reporters, editors, photographers, and caricaturists.

### Style Guidelines – Complete Reference

- **ABBREVIATIONS:** No periods separating letters of an abbreviated organisation. Only standard acronyms and approved abbreviations should be used (e.g., SCIMUN, UN, US, UK, NATO).
- **APOSTROPHES:** Used only to indicate possessive nouns or secondary quotations. Never used to indicate pluralisation.
- **CURRENCY:** Dollar values displayed with appropriate symbol. Values at or greater than one million summarised (e.g., \$214 million). Indian Rupees written as INR, not Rs.
- **CAPITALISATION:** Nowhere shall anything but abbreviations be capitalised within body text.
- **BOLDFACE:** No situation in which boldface should be used in an article. Headlines and article titles may be bolded by the Publisher only.
- **DEVELOPING NATIONS:** The term 'Third World' is actively discouraged. No nation will be referred to as 'Third World.'
- **DIPLOMATIC COURTESY:** No quotation should violate the dictates of diplomatic courtesy. If a quotation is discourteous, the representative should be encouraged to rephrase it, or it risks being omitted.
- **NUMERALS:** Any numeral ten or less should be spelled out in English. Numerals over ten use standard Arabic numerals. Numerals with five or more digits include commas (e.g., 1,345,000). Fractions reported as decimal numerals or percentages (e.g., 0.5 or 50%).
- **PERCENTAGES:** Percent symbols used throughout (e.g., 35.8%).
- **QUOTATION MARKS:** Punctuation at the conclusion of a quotation must always be included inside the closing quotation mark.
- **NAMES:** Reporters should never guess the spelling of a person's name. Verbal verification is mandatory on all named sources.
- **TITLES:** Standard professional titles include periods (Mr., Ms., Amb., Dr., Pres.). UN official titles are never abbreviated. Secretary-General shall never be abbreviated as Sec Gen.
- **SPELLING:** All articles must be spell-checked before the editorial deadline.

## C H A P T E R V I I I

## Photography and Caricature

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### | Photography

Photography is a powerful journalistic medium. Photographs are far more attractive than written media alone and speak a thousand words at a time. Photographs of committee proceedings and delegates may be taken throughout the session, but photojournalism should not be taken lightly.

- Photographs of delegates should be un-posed and impromptu, and professional in nature.
- Good photographs generally show committee proceedings: a delegate raising a placard, discussion of a resolution, or informal discussion amongst delegates.
- Subjects of photographs generally should not be directly looking into the camera, or the photographs may appear staged.
- Journalists may take pictures to supplement their articles, or post them as stand-alone stories.
- Photography will be evaluated taking into consideration its formal structure and its storytelling value.
- Journalists must bring their own cameras and cables for transferring photographs if necessary.

### | Caricature — Elements of Style

Caricaturists must research the committee they are assigned. A situation cannot be simplified or artistically portrayed if the cartoonist themselves cannot interpret it. Collaborate with journalists to create joint articles, and work as a team — the International Press is a single, unified newsroom.

- Know the issue: Research the agenda in great depth; read background guides and conduct a thorough internet search on the perspectives involved.
- Choose your stance: Does your cartoon attack or defend? Support or counter? Think about how you will portray your stance through your cartoon.
- Use symbolism: Political cartoons often make use of symbols or images that represent larger or more complex ideas. Decide on your symbol before drawing to maintain a clear focus.
- Consider exaggeration or analogies: Exaggeration adds a humorous touch and can attract viewers. Analogies connect a complex idea with a more well-known one to make the message understandable.
- Label elements: Use labels to make the message clearer, but do not overuse them. Try using labels on things that may otherwise be unclear.
- Add dialogue and captions: Use speech or thought bubbles if required. Give your cartoon an interesting, catchy caption.

## C H A P T E R I X

## Research Methodology

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The confines of an in-house conference limit investigative journalism, but preparations must be thorough. The following guidelines support effective research:

- Go through the background guides for basic understanding of each committee's agenda, then follow the documents and links they mention.
- Read about the agenda and various perspectives on it. Form an opinion — but remember the distinction between forming a view and inserting it into formal reporting.
- Understand the legal, social, cultural, and economic implications of the debates you are covering.
- Read about the foreign policy and agenda perspective of nations that will majorly impact the debate.
- Access the quality of research required through [www.aljazeera.com](http://www.aljazeera.com) and observe how research and content is balanced.

## CHAPTER X

# The Executive Board

## CHAIRPERSON

**Ms. Zoya Arora**

Pursuing a BA in Global Studies. A forward-thinking scholar with a strong interest in international affairs and policy dialogue. Believes in the power of dialogue, inclusivity, and collective effort to drive sustainable and impactful change. Combines academic insight with initiative and adaptability.

## VICE CHAIRPERSON

**Mr. Aadi Dev Goel**

'In an age where narratives travel faster than nations move, the quiet authority of the written word endures.' For Aadi, the International Press is less a committee and more a living newsroom. Pens replace gavels, notebooks become lenses. Encourages journalists to observe closely — to notice not only speeches, but silences, alliances, and moments where diplomacy truly unfolds.

## A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

This Background Guide is a starting point for research — not an exhaustive account, and not a document that may be cited or used as evidence in committee. Delegates are expected to undertake independent research, verify facts through primary sources, and develop well-researched positions. The quality of preparation will directly shape the depth and direction of debate.

The International Press at SCIMUN 2026 is designed to develop the capacity for reasoned argument, diplomatic sensitivity, and genuine engagement with the issues at hand. Arrive prepared. Argue with precision. Engage with integrity.

*The Executive Board*  
International Press · SCIMUN 2026