

LA VOCE

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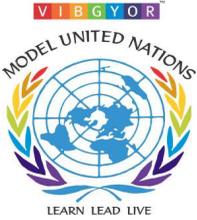
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LA VOICE

Note from the Editor Sanam Chaturvedi

Welcome back, delegates! One more year of VIBGYORMUN and we hope you haven't left any of that legendary wit behind. You know the Press is always watching and this time, no one's slipping from our prying eyes. We'll constantly be on the lookout for outrageous shoes, outlandish ties and electric debates. Contrary to popular belief, the Press room is more than just gossip and giggles. It's dynamic, it's challenging and it's, without a doubt, the most fun role at the conference. While you may not have paid heed to the cameras and notebooks, they definitely haven't ignored you. Please do not disappoint. We hope this year is just as enjoyable for you as it for us. It's a pleasure to welcome you back to our ninth year. Let the MUNning begin!

Mumbai Training Sessions

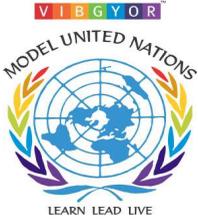
The ninth year of debate, discussion and deliberation launched into a stimulating start with an insatiably curious and excited band of delegates, all ready to "speak up" and change the world. NeelKabar Varsha Kapil (Secretary General), Nidhish Kakad (Director General), Garima Datta (Co-Chair: UNDP), Nathan Menezes (Chair: Security Council) Anish Jaswani (Co-chair: HSC) and Ishaan Vijai (Co-chair: DISEC), began the energized session with the basics: the cumbersome rules of procedure explanations, all the while trying to satisfy the unending questions, from eager and enthusiastic first timers.



It may have been pouring buckets outside the auditorium, but the atmosphere inside was – dare we say it – quite dry! While a number of delegates were sincerely interested, we will not mention how we saw several delegates gossiping in subtle whispers while our chairs introduced the 'Motion of Disruption', nor will we mention how we saw the delegates formulate smart-sounding questions in those same whispers, only to realise that the questions regarding 'chits' had been asked five times before anyway

On a more serious note, the dedication that the delegates displayed in the first mock session was quite striking and tremendously optimistic. We hope that the zest and zeal you showed in the first session is multiplied tenfold at the VIBGYORMUN, and if not, well, we hope to see some serious research nonetheless.

Happy MUNning delegates!



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Mock Session Reviews Historic Security Council

The first revelation of the Historic Security Council was admittedly a very devastating one. No, delegates, unfortunately, the co-chair of HSC, Anish Jaswani is *not* 'Shaktimaan', and he does not have any superpowers, except some really good debating skills. We feel your pain.

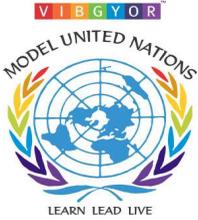
The first committee mock session saw a majority of first timers, with less than five experienced delegates, but we were remarkably impressed by the questions that the delegates asked, and the speeches that they gave, especially the heated exchange between the chair, Delegate of USA and the Delegate of UK, which ended in the now iconic line 'Arrey yaar, you have to PLEAD TO FOLLOW UP!' from the co-chair Anish Jaswani.



Between his sarcasm and the delegate of USA's 'USSR and Afghanistan are being stupid' comments, we cannot help but deny that the Historic Security Council was not at all interesting. In the midst of the chits, the weaponry and the Cold War (title alert), there were a lot of delegates who had – we are looking at you, Delegate of Iraq – probably memorized the definitions of every point, paper and everything in between.

In the midst of all the bickering details pleading for our attention, the Press could not help but notice also the more minute details of the committee session when the chair used his 'discretion' for a five-minute break, or when a delegate raised a point of privilege because the delegate of Canada was 'speaking too loudly and [his] ears were hurting'. We also noticed the inquisitive delegate of Algeria, when he asked a question to every speaker, the delegate of Afghanistan who pretended to cry for his dead president or another delegate's knowledge of guns and ammunition which led the committee to suspect that he was an avid player of 'PUBG'.

We hope to see the same mixture of debate and drama (along with serious research) at the VIBGYORMUN, delegates, and we also hope that you learn the pronunciations of 'caucus' and 'Afghanistan', rehearse it again, and show a little more fervour at the conference.



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Mock Session Reviews All India Political Parties Meet



For the first time, VIBGYOR Model United Nations introduced the All India Political Party Meet as a stage for deliberations concerning the Indian politics with delegates representing the prominent politicians of the country. The committee has gained popularity due to its magnetic agendas which include examining the applicability of articles 370 and 371 of the Indian Constitution in present-day India. Exploring ways to tackle agrarian distress in rural India is the second agenda that the delegates are also excited about. The entire mock session focused on explaining the the rules of procedure to delegates. Since the Chair and the Co-Chair were absent; Mishall Bhatena conducted the mock session.

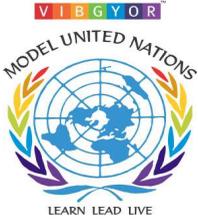


The session was not completely bland and dry. The rest were busy slouching, yawning, examining their nails, creating origami with their pluck cards, daydreaming and occasionally participating.



As Mishal explained the point of order he asked the committee members to avoid using it and said, "some of the chairs have big egos." Realizing that this would definitely cause trouble he changed his name to Ramesh Patel (like we'd buy that). Afraid of getting blacklisted from MUNs, 'He then tried to clarify his statement by saying, "All Chairs of MUNs OUTSIDE BOMBAY have big egos" (nice try). The most exceptional idea ever heard from a member in the history of MUNs was of a prewritten working paper (sarcasm completely intended).

After the break, Nathan Menezes took over and explained a few points to the members. The atmosphere became more formal and the members seemed quite intimidated as they kept referring to him as 'sir' and had most of them had no questions to ask. Due to the dearth of time, a mock debate could not happen but the members were hopefully more informed for the actual MUN at Hyatt.



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Mock Session Reviews Disarmament and Security Council

The fifteenth of June at Vibgyor High started off quite well; as we neared our conference, the delegates geared up for the mock session that was taken up by their respected co-chair. So, at 10, the DISEC conference room filled up with delegates, half of whom were skittish and flustered and lacked some much-needed confidence. The elephant in the room was the nervousness of the delegates (it looked as though they weren't so sure of the procedure) and DISEC's co-chair, Ishaan Vijai who was supervising the session, addressed the issue immediately and spent a good amount of time to answer the questions in quite an informal manner to make sure that all the delegates were thorough with all the points and motions.



At noon, the committee moved onto debate and voted on the agenda 'the current situation in North Korea'. The committee motioned for an un-moderated caucus so that they could research for the impromptu agenda. Chatter was heard (and a few discreet yawns were too) as everyone moved around in the room, talking to each other, forming alliances; soon everything started to settle as the un-moderated caucus came to an end.

The committee flowed back in session and the general speakers list began followed by a moderated caucus. Now, delegates, we predicted what happened next; the enthusiastic atmosphere grew frail by every passing second and turned into a lethargic one, at least at the back. Delegates fumbled with their things, dozed off every now and then opened their selfie cameras to stare at their faces. Nonetheless, the delegates participated keenly and for a committee brimming with nervous faces, DISEC did pretty well.





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Mock Session Reviews United Nations Women



UN Women began its mock session with the explanation of the functioning of the position paper, with live examples from the agendas. Initially the committee was engulfed in utter silence. The delegates had not yet assumed the role of their countries. Students were clarifying their doubts, typing away on their laptops, and some even discretely chatting away on Whatsapp; moreover, the committee was rather stagnant in the first half at least.



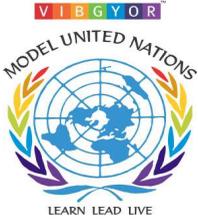
After the break, all the delegates were clearly rejuvenated, but their shields were still up. There was clearly uncertainty in the air as delegates reluctantly spoke in the rather casual GSL. However, once the delegates opened up and courageously spoke, it was evident that they had been well-prepared, as per the Chair's feedback while the excessive use of statistics further corroborated this. The informal committee discussed the agendas of UN Women, highlighting that South-east and African women earned quite meagre wages while the delegate of Croatia testified:

“Due to stereotypes, violence against women have been reported in thousands.”



At the same time, committee progressed with countries discussing their own stance in the issue and their solutions, while the Chair consistently provided feedback recommending the delegates to discuss how a solution could be implemented. Soon came the time of the discussion for working papers and draft resolutions. The Chairperson gave viable advice to the delegates and reminding them that the resolution should not violate the foreign policy. It was at this time the uncertainty broke and the delegates were at the highest energy levels with continuous muttering in the committee, however, at the end, the committee was wild.

For a committee that began on a monotonous and dreary note, it's successful and nascent progression into a confident and proactive delegation was impressive and promising.



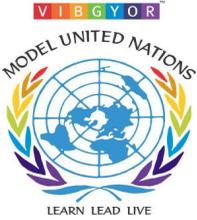
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Mock Session Reviews United Nations Development Programme

Winds of change have been lashing the coast of Mumbai this week. Cyclone Vayu assuaged in violent storms while VIBGYORMUN initiated its diplomatic waves of revolution in young minds for the 9th time. The second day of mock sessions in the UNDP committee witnessed two different mentors with conflicting personalities. Co-chair Miss Garima Datta, very charmingly dressed as always, being her usual quirky self, was seen being very informal and casual with the committee. Barefoot and chewing gum, she did a splendid job of leading a group of twenty-five jittery and nervous first-timers through the whole MUN procedure once again. It seemed that despite the excellent training session the previous day, the delegates had remained clueless regarding the basic procedure. Garima's friendly and informal attitude seemingly put the delegates at ease and created an easy-going, casual atmosphere.



The delegates were in for a surprise as a new trainer took place of their beloved co-chair. Unlike Miss Datta's patient and understanding approach to the ignorance of the inexperienced delegates, Mr. Mishall Bhatena had a more hostile and dynamic outlook on the same. Exasperated by the cross-talk, he resorted to switching positions of delegates saying, "Take everything, full basta-wasta everything." While some might say that his approach was a bit too unsympathetic, it can be said that his no-nonsense, stern attitude was exactly what was needed to break the 'snooze-fest'. Nonetheless, delegates like that of Ecuador remained utterly oblivious and clueless. Therefore, it can be said that Mishal wasn't too successful in capturing full attention of his audience as he'd hoped. However, we hope the delegates are not too traumatised by this encounter. Word of advice though, it would be quite beneficial for the delegates to research more and actually focus in committee which might help them come the days of the conference.



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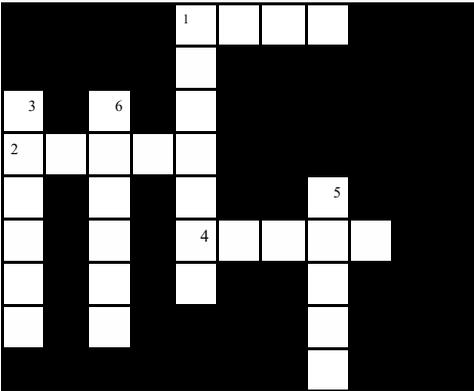
Moda-Rated

Fashion is undoubtedly the most exciting element of the conference. The prep starts weeks in advance and the sight of nervous young delegates scurrying around the nearest Zara trying to find that perfect outfit to help them stand out is a dead giveaway. While we appreciate all the effort, more often than not, the outcome is less than ideal. Oversized hand me downs sashaying down the halls of the Hyatt, heels that announce your arrival before you're within sight and lipstick brighter than traffic cones are an all-too-familiar sight. However, every once in a while, there'll be a delegate wearing a suit tailored to fit, a dress that allows sitting down comfortably and knows the importance of saving the athleisure for the gym.

We must also acknowledge the printed ties and quirky bow ties that get us talking for all the right reasons. They're the ones that we look forward to most every year.

Delegates, keep it clean, classy and comfortable. Remember that while power dressing makes an impression, substance is paramount.

Crossword



How well do you really know the members of the Secretariat and Executive Board? Try and solve this Crossword to find out!

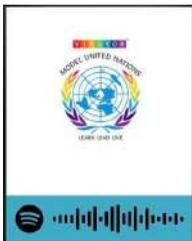
Across

- 1: Daulat, Shaurat, MUN experience
- 2: Drama King
- 4: Obsessive Compulsive Disorder

Down

- 1: Work hard, stay humble
- 3: "Y'all understood this much na?"
- 5: Ladies' Man
- 6: Mr. India

Answers: 1(Across): Neel 1(Down): Nidhis 2/Anish 3: Garima 4: Sanam 5: Kabir 6: Ritvik



VIBGYORMUN is now on Spotify!

Moderated Caucus, GSL, Resolutions, Directives... delegates, none of us are strangers to the adrenaline-packed, stressful highs of every conference. It's true, sometimes, the challenges of the three days can get tough. Well, these songs will get you going! VIBGYORMUN, in conjunction with Ishaan Vijai, Co Chair: DISEC, has curated a Spotify playlist, for just those moments. Simply scan this code on the Spotify app, for that perfect "MUN Music"! Brownie points if you already subscribe to @zivy.m's music.