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Model United Nations
2020**

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AGENDA

- DECIDING THE FUTURE OF UNION OF INDIA

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Dear Delegates,

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the Council of Hindustan at the sixth edition of WELMUN. This committee is meeting to decide the future of the Union of India.

To begin with, you will have a lot of questions about the committee and the agenda. Despite having only a vague idea about what the committee would be, you signed up for the committee nonetheless. We thank you for taking this leap of faith. You will have questions about how the committee would function. Keeping such genuine questions in mind, this study guide has been designed in such a way that all your questions are answered. In this guide, the next few pages will talk about the nature of the committee, the type of debate that we propose and the use of directives and communiques.

A simulation like this is only successful if the EB and the participating delegates share the same idea of what the committee is. The communication with the delegates about the EB's idea of the committee through this guide is crucial. So that the EB can learn about what the delegates think the committee should look like during the sessions. This discrepancy between the EB's and the delegates' understanding should be minimal. Thus to act as that bridge of information, this study guide will be different than the usual guides. This one will contain minimal information on concepts and topics in general and it will be more about what the simulated committee is and how to prepare effectively.

The Bharatiya Janata Party's policy of Hindu hyper-nationalism is changing India ; to what extent remains to be seen. The majority is grouped under one primary identity and all differences between it are deemed inconsequential and irrelevant. The majority is always made to feel threatened and under attack from a perceived enemy. Who is ever-changing and ever expanding. There is a constant "otherisation" of minorities . Minorities are demonized as alien and foreign and as the root of all

malevolence. And those who question the party or the Prime Minister are declared as anti-national. Everyone from university graduates to political opponents is indiscriminately touted a traitor.

This is how much of the Modi's government's tenure looked like in the first half. Post that, in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, India struggled to prevent the virus from entering stage three or community transmission. The political clamour in the country was already high due to the passing of the Citizenship Amendment Act (2019). The shrill rhetoric during the Delhi elections set new lows for moral truncacy in Indian politics and played a crucial role in driving the communal violence that sparked in northeast Delhi in early 2020.

Communal hatred has seeped into almost every aspect of Indian society. The mainstream media's overall approach to journalism is sensationalising the news. The reporting is devoid of moral character and is driven by political and economic correctness rather than a true journalistic spirit to bring things to light. The media plays a crucial role in perception management and holds the public to only what the ruling class wants them to know.

When the circumstances are so appalling in these times, one can only speculate what the condition of the nation will be a couple years later. As the Lok Sabha of the future, your task will be to tackle the obstacles which arise as implications of our actions in the present.

The committee will be fast-paced and the executive board wishes to encompass a wide range of issues and crises which develop. A futuristic committee creates a lot of scope for introducing ideas which have not already been implemented today. The committee is expected to engage in thematic discussion and be well-researched. In-depth analysis of the current political scenario only will give you information which may need to be utilised in the committee.

Overall, the executive board expects spontaneity and active participation in the committee. The futuristic Lok Sabha will be an enriching experience for those who take keen interest in and are adept at Indian politics.

Feel free to contact the Executive Board if you have any query. Looking forward to seeing you this fall.

The Executive Board
Council of Hindustan
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|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Aarav Upadhyaya (Chair Person) | Yuvraj Gambhir (Director) | Argha Gupta (Director) | Vishal K. Gupta (Rapporteur) |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|

Section-A

Procedure

About The Committee (Structure and Nature of the Committee)

Talking about the structure of the committee, the committee being simulated is the Lok Sabha of the future; this exact time period is not specified to you, where the BJP is still at the centre. Thus, you can figure out political parties, party policy and alliances. Any addition to the current socio-political environment of the country that the Executive Board introduces, be it in the form of a formation of a new political party that has suddenly grown to power or say, a social movement gaining traction; it would be revealed to you in a separate document. We would be following the UNA/USA style of operating. The committee will function like any other crisis committee and it will follow the same ROP (Rules of Procedure) that a crisis committee generally follows. Any changes in the rules of procedure before or during the committee will be informed to you via the Executive Board.

The nature of our committee is hybrid. What is meant by this is while there will be a series of continuous crisis updates there will also be numerous occasions for a thematic debate and there will also be a lot of room for you to ideologically engage with the committee. What type of debate we are expecting and which areas you should explore while debating have been suggested in a separate column later in this guide.

That brings us to what sort of debate and crises to expect. The crises that will be introduced would be based upon or would draw inspiration from current events and actions of the current government. Thus you need to be really, really thorough with

governmental actions that have been in the public spotlight/ have been controversial,
each party's stance on major issues and the formation of alliances.

In terms of the committee progressing in time, there will be time jumps in the committee. The pace of these time jumps would be determined by how the committee reacts to the crisis updates. Please note that since we are simulating the various sessions of the Lok Sabha, the time jumps may encompass a few years too.

Documentation will be a significant part of the committee. The resolution of crises and conflicts will be expressed in the form of directives and bills.

There will also be situations where the EB would introduce multiple crises at the same time. These crises would not be similar to each other or related to each other. The committee would then have to prioritize and choose which particular crisis it wants to deal with, given what it deems is important. This is just a secondary piece of information, which is just to inform you about such a possibility.

Delegates please note that the introduction to the first crisis of the committee will be released after some time. So keep checking the website.

What we expect/ Type of debate

Even though it is a crisis committee and you would be focused on getting on top of the crises that are presented, do bear in mind that this is not a usual crisis committee wherein you would only have to worry about dealing with crisis according to your portfolio. If your approach is to methodically deal with the crises one after another, it would take the entire fun out of indulging in the proceedings of such a committee and waste the effort in making it the layered and multi dimensional discourse we would like it to be.

Since the crises are made in order to shape the future of the country, do take time out to talk about what vision you have for the country. Take time out to talk about issues and have discourse on a policy basis. Just like different parties would approach issues according to their stance, try and replicate that while debating. Say if there is a crisis about India's trading policy, try to get into themes and discuss whether India should be more protectionist to empower local industries or be more open to free trade to come across in our foreign policy as a modern, libertarian state and appeal to the western world.

Hence when you go into themes and start debating like that you would not only offer better solutions, but it would add another layer of dexterity to the committee's discussions.

How to prepare

The most important question. How to prepare for such a committee. To begin with, if you are doing an Indian committee for the first time, **start following the news about Indian politics** to get a rough idea about the **allies and blocs and how they operate**. You would also get a fair amount of idea about who is constantly in the news and making stories. Thus, you would have a good idea about all the actors that operate in the realm of the political world.

Secondly, start reading about the **most contentious issues and controversial moves** that the government has made. Read about policies and laws that you feel have a huge significance. As you start reading various pieces on governmental action, you will find that the **approval of governmental action is in extremes**. Either you would see complete disapproval and detest towards the government or you would be made to feel that there is nothing nobler than the government's intentions.

To the experienced delegates, as much as it is tempting to go to your fixed sources of information and build your research from there, try and also read what the writers from the other side of the spectrum write. Try and read about what the other side is saying. If you only rely on a specific section of the media to gain information, you run the risk of getting locked in an **information echo chamber**. Where you only believe your side of the story and fail to regard what the other side is saying. Thus you enter a debate thinking about the other side's inabilities and their failure to understand your viewpoint --which you think is the absolute truth. This will help you better engage with the opposition and prevent you from descending to name-calling and digging up old mistakes of your opposition to win the debate.

Most importantly, try and prepare a committee arc. Try to predict where the committee will go and what trajectory it will follow. If you prepare your own committee arc it will help greatly in anticipating crises and potential problems. Doing these few things would help you equip yourself with all the information that you need to handle the committee.

Use of communiques/directives/bills/press releases

While dealing with a crisis, you would have to use a variety of crisis notes like communiques and directives. And since this is an Indian committee, bills are also welcome. Each type of documentary presentation would be discussed in the guide.

1. Communiques: There are two types of communiques: **open communique** and **private communique**. Communiques are formal correspondents to the EB (private) or to other delegates and/or external actors (open) that are not present in the committee but you wish to communicate with. You can use communiques to involve different entities and interact with the crisis in your desired way. A communique can be written even to an entity that may or may not be under your control. Say, you have a hostage situation and you are representing the Secretary of Energy in the American Presidential Cabinet, you can still write a communique to the Director of the FBI requesting immediate action. They can be **used creatively** to **not only elicit action**, but **also be used to introduce crises via the EB**. A private communique to EB informing it about a certain action done can be introduced as a crisis and engagement of this type will be looked upon with great esteem.
1. Directives are a medium of taking action in the committee. They are immediate solutions to a problem that arises in the committee. A crisis committee generally involves a lot of directive writing because there is always a crisis at hand. You can either write an **individual directive** that exercises the power of your portfolio. Or you partner with other delegates to write a **public directive**, where you can come together to propose solutions to the crisis.
1. Press Releases: Press Releases are used by delegates to **inform the public about something**. Parties can use this to release statements and update the

media and the public of their standings on issues. Press Releases are used to interact with the public and disseminate information. You can use them to spread information/misinformation and control the public's reaction. You can also use these to win their support.

1. Bills: Parliamentarians can introduce bills. A bill is written in a very specific format and you would be expected to adhere to that. A bill is a **legislative tool** that either creates a new law or changes a law by amending the existing one.

Use communiques, directives and press releases to acquire prestige and power in the committee. They are marked on as documentation. They help in standing out from the rest of the committee and establishing your role.



