

## **Gopalan Model United Nations Conference 2019**

### **Post-Conference Report**

The GMUNC 2019 was held on 30th and 31st August, 2019. More than 200 delegates took part in the conference, all from various schools around the city.

It was a two-day conference organised in five sessions spread across both the days. Sessions were held as part of six committees- United Nations Security Council(UNSC), United Nations Economic and Social Council(ECOSOC), International Summit on Human Rights(ISHR), Continuous Crisis Committee(CCC), All India Political Party Meet (AIPPM) and the International Press Corps(IPC).The conference was led by the Secretary General of GMUN 2019- Vaania Kapoor Achutan. She was aided by Rishab Jain as the Undersecretary General. The UNSC was led by Niranjan Sridhar as director, and co directed by Alden D'Souza, and moderated by Manavi Srinivas. The ECOSOC was led by Sanjith Harsha Kumar as Director, Kripal Gowda was the Assistant Director and Kiara Jacobs was the moderator in committee. ISHR was led by Alekhya Bhat as Director, VedanthBhargavasa as Assistant Director, and committee was moderated by Cheshna Chawla. CCC was directed by Sarvesh Gupta, with Dhanush S as Assistant Director and MonishaShivaraj as the moderator of committee. The International Press Corps was led by Aman Dubey as the Director, Sinhani Prem as the Assistant Director, and had Sharanya Mohan as the Moderator. The AIPPM was a new introduction to GMUN where the students had a mock up of a domestic political debate through role play as a schooling in the first step to international diplomacy. This committee was Directed by the Under Secretary Rishab Jain and had two Assistant Directors Madhav Prakash and Anshul Khandelwal. Committee was moderated by Zara Kennedy.

The conference was initiated through the opening ceremony at the school amphitheatre that began at 9.30 AM, where the lamp was lit, the members of the Executive Board were introduced and the session was declared open after a short speech by the Secretary-General, Vaania Kapoor. After the opening ceremony, the students were treated to a short break for snacks before proceeding to their respective committee rooms.

#### **United Nations Futuristic Security Council**

The Security Council saw twenty-nine delegates debating an agenda set to take place in 2025. Many of the delegates were first-time MUNners, and the Executive Board members of the UNSC took time out of the first session to debrief the delegates about the committee rules of procedure. The session was initiated with a roll call, followed by a General Speakers List where many of the countries stated their stance on the agenda. The session did not see much action with regards to solutions for the crisis, but so many directives were passed to the EB that they had to temporarily suspend all directives.

The crisis updates completely changed the pace of the committee, bringing in many new twists towards the decisions being taken. The delegates representing the large countries took many aggressive actions which led to a lot of conflict and debate in the committee. At one instance, when the delegate of Russia commanded an economic blockade in the Gulf of Oman, a moderated caucus and a heated unmoderated caucus were held to discuss the potential effects that this action could have.

However, the pace of the committee was still quite slow, and the Executive Board took the decision of changing the committee from a semi-crisis to a continuous crisis, urging us to move towards writing committee-wide directives. At one point, the Islamic State was introduced to provide a plot twist in the

committee procedures, and the situation, while morbid, was fairly entertaining because of the speech provided by the representative of this organisation.

Two committee-wide directives were framed - one by the Russia Bloc and one by the US Bloc. Unfortunately, both directives were rejected because of the dissatisfaction of the permanent members of the committee, who decided to use their veto power against the directive of the opposing bloc. As a result, the committee was a failure and all attempts to ensue peace were destroyed.

The delegates, however, realised that rather than victory or loss, it was the learning experience that held the most meaning in the committee. Bonds were formed over the proceedings, and while the delegates may not have been allies during the MUN, they all emerged as friends at the end.

### **Economic and Social Council**

The delegates moved to their committee room and shuffled their placards around the desks to easily stay in touch with their allies. The start of the session was marked with an eccentric but nervous atmosphere. They started the session after the executive board had explained the rules again. Through the Executive Board, the delegates realised that the committee wasn't moving forward. During lunch time, they discussed on how to proceed and decided that they had to get the committee moving. The delegates even decided to make a Whatsapp group, just before the following day. The number of messages on the group exceeded 250, but it was fine as long as we weren't fooling around.

The next day, which was much better than the previous one, started by directly heading to the respective rooms. Everyone had a lot of research with them, some having more than a hundred pages. There were quite a few inter-committee problems, but we arrived at a solution to all of them. The IPC was ravenous. The first IPC delegate went all-out on the delegate of Brazil, having done his research, which was a source of amusement for many delegates. After a certain period of time, they reached the final stage, the drafting of this resolution. The resolution wasn't great, but since there was only one draft resolution, the delegates understood that it was vital to pass it or the committee would fail. So, the not-so-great resolution was passed after quite a few amendments, with happiness in the authors' eyes.

### **International Summit on Human Rights**

After the opening ceremony, the delegates were guided to the committee rooms by members of the logistics team. At the committee rooms, the members of our EB introduced themselves. After a roll call the delegates moved onto the General Speakers List. The agenda for the committee was about protecting the rights of indigenous people. So most of the speeches were regarding what the various countries had done about this issue. The moderated caucus topics were mostly regarding specific issues faced by these people, such as poverty, land deprivation, human trafficking, etc. Though in committee there was an issue of several moderated caucus topics being failed which was a serious issue and so was personally addressed by the general secretary. One of the main parts of the committee was the press conference. Members of the press were always present, seated at the back of the committee room taking notes on everything the delegates said. During breaks they were allowed to take delegates out and interview them. During the press conference, all the members of the press stepped up and were allowed to call up and question any delegate in committee. The questions in the press conference committee were mostly regarding what actions the countries were taking with regards to the agenda.

### **Continuous Crisis Committee**

On the first session, after the rules of procedure were explained, rudimentary alliances were made. Russia and Serbia on one side and the rest remained neutral except Germany that was on the side of Austro-Hungarian Empire. A few interviews were conducted via chit by the press present in the back rows. Accusations were poured from all sides toward the Serbian organization, the Black Hand. Serbia claimed to have nothing to do with the Black Hand, instead declared that the organization was formed without government knowledge. However this was not what the German Empire, Wilhelm II believed. His beloved friend, Archduke Franz Ferdinand had just been murdered and he was keen on punishing the people behind it. Many countries agreed that an entire nation should not be punished for the works of a single organisation.

Soon after the first crisis update was received by the world leaders. A group of unidentified individuals were seen crossing international waters between Austria Hungary and Russia. Thus questioning everyone whether this was the first sign of war arising. The Russian lieutenant convoy was ambushed by an unknown group. As the unknown group was said to be from Austria Hungary, both these countries led an investigation to come to a conclusion on the origin and motives of this group. Other countries requested to be part of this investigation to ensure total transparency. Each country was allowed to send in one investigator if the investigation was not concluded within seven days.

An unknown group of people started an uproar all around the world, claiming that they were the Global Justice League or GJL for short. They claimed that they were sick and tired of the world leaders, putting the lives of innocents at risk, only for the status of a super power. They claimed that they were the voice of the people and were against the actions of the government. They declared that the world leaders were incompetent, sitting in their fancy homes with fancy suits, while their people suffered on the streets. They dared any world leader to hold a gun and stand in the front lines during war, and only then will they respect them.

The Ottoman Empire and Germany wanted to negotiate with the GJL as they understood their concerns for the people of their country, while others believed that the GJL may be a terrorist group. The GJL then claimed to be the unknown group that had poisoned the Seine river and hijacked the US vessel, after which all countries unanimously agreed that the GJL cannot be negotiated with.

The committee took an absurd turn when the vice chair, Dhanush, became the delegate of the Republic of China. However at that moment, the Republic of China ceased to exist. When told this, Dhanush stated "I'm the vice chair, I can do whatever I want". Although at war with Japan, China had now declared war against Russia, Britain supporting them. The rudimentary alliances broke along with treaties, forming two new blocs. On one side, it consisted of China, Britain, USA, France, Italy, and surprisingly Austria Hungary. Austria-Hungary declared war on the Ottoman Empire and Britain declared war on Germany along with China. Russia declared war on China and the world was now falling to pieces. With little time left, communiques were sent from both sides. But the German communique lost by a few votes, hence ripping the countries on the German bloc from their powers and territories, while the British bloc celebrated their new found glory.

### **All India Political Party Meet**

The Committee started with the discussion of the implementation of the UCC. It commenced with the Opening speech of each delegate for a time period of 2 minutes. During the first day unmoderated and moderated caucuses were held where the delegates, representing eminent political figures, expressed their views on the agenda and on the rights of the citizens. Many topics were addressed, such as the rights of women in Islam culture, polygamy and the crisis updates produced by the Executive Board.

The second day started with a Round robin which requires all the delegates to address the current issues being discussed in the committee for a time period of 1 minute. The delegates delivered speeches about issues such as the ban of women into the Sabarimala temple, Divorce laws, Marriage laws etc. The committee then continued to have a question and answer round in which the delegates questioned each other. After the draft resolution was presented in front of the committee, the delegates from either parties questioned each other about the points present in the draft. A vote was then casted regarding the implementation of the UCC, the results of which were announced after the lunch break.

The delegates had five involving sessions over the course of the conference, which was finally completed with the closing ceremony where delegates from the different committees were commended on their performance and given the awards of Honorable Delegate, Outstanding Delegate and Best Delegate. Sri Kumaran's Children's Home walked away with the Best school Delegation award. The Executive Board and members of the Organizing Committee were facilitated for the effort they put into making the conference a success. The conference was concluded with a speech from the Secretary-General – Vaania Kapoor and the senior academic coordinator – Ms. Amutha Mary Edward of GIS. The GMUNC 2019 was, overall, a success in terms of the feedback from the delegates, who were all very happy with the experience they had during their committee sessions.