

BILLABONG HIGH  
INTERNATIONAL  
SCHOOL, MALAD

ISSUE #1

ACCESSIBILITY



MINDS IN  
MOTION

AUGUST 7TH, 2021

# BHISMUN 21



Dear Delegates,

With immense pride and pleasure we, the International Press team present to you the 1st issue of our BHISMUN 2021 conference newsletter; the Minds in Motion for 7th August, Saturday 2021.

To begin with I'd like to thank you all for your lively participation; we wouldn't have arrived at this magnificent event if you didn't step forward and rise to the occasion. Your participation alone is proof to your will to learn.

"We are not developing nations, we are not developed nations, we are the United Nations."

This quote perfectly summarises the rationale supporting BHISMUN; we aim to see everyone as equal and worthy, and join hands to find solutions regardless of social, economical and financial divisions.

It has been an incredibly zealous day full of enthused debate and discussion. Amongst fierce discourse and thought provoking questions raised by the delegates, we see our learners think critically and constructively.

Through this issue we offer you an unbiased and thorough outlook on the proceedings of the conference. We hope you enjoy reading this and have the opportunity to relive the event through our words.

Happy Reading!

- Alexia D'souza,  
IP Head

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# OPENING CEREMONY



The opening ceremony to the BHISMUN 21 conference set the stage for a weekend of enthusiastic and dynamic discussion and debate. Hosted by the Presidents of the student council at BHIS Malad, the ceremony passed as a thought-provoking and engaging event.

The accessibility of resources is a key aspect in dictating a person's quality of life; following this line of thought and taking inspiration from a much loved international event taking the world by storm- the 2020 Tokyo Summer Olympics, we discussed the Accessibility of resources- be it coaches, equipment, training grounds or even funding in the Sporting sector.

To gain a better insight into the Sports environment in our country; we invited Mr Sanjeeva Singh to have a candid conversation with us as we discussed pressing questions such as how can we cultivate a pipeline of talented sportsmen in our nation, and make such resources and opportunities more accessible to the vastly marginalised population of our athletes. As an Ace Archer, recipient of the Arjuna and Dronacharya award, as well as being the founder of the Tata Archery Academy, Mr Singh shared an unparalleled understanding of the intricate workings of the sports culture in India.

Our conversation with him left us with the deeply inspiring message to take charge and contribute to our future of tomorrow. We have as much role to play in implementing measures as the authoritative bodies have in making provisions of these available to us.

The assembly was then addressed by our charismatic and capable Secretary-General, Mr Adit Seth, and Deputy Secretary-General Mr Shreyan Das who warmly welcomed the delegates and zealously invigorated them to make the effort to speak up and create well-informed statements while also lauding them for stepping out of their comfort zones.

The Opening Ceremony thus ended on a hopeful, joyous note and the delegates formally commenced their committee sessions.

By Ujjwal Sharma





BY AVNI AGARWAL

## UNGA: Myanmar: Will democracy prevail?

by Aishwarya kumar

The first session of the conference begins with a quick visit by the secretary general. The Chair, Vice chair and co-chair welcomed the delegates with great enthusiasm and further guided them through the ROP. The inaugural motion is presented by the delegate of the UK. ASEAN countries are seen engaging in discussions vividly. The main agenda discussed throughout this motion is the state of the Rohingya Muslims and how their migration has impacted these countries. The delegates go on to explain and further elaborate on the measures taken by their country to aid the refugees. A few vastly developed countries suggest a neutral stance despite their strong relations with Myanmar. While most countries were conservative in their approach, the delegate of the UK showed a definitive stance on promoting democracy.

The delegates are then sent to an unmoderated caucus with their respective blocs to discuss their approach. As the committee recommences; the delegate of Myanmar stated that the National League for Democracy(NLD) does not stand for discipline whereas the military; the Tatmadaw does. He further went on to say that he believes that their rule will guide the nation towards economic prosperity, but he aspires to keep this structure only until the economy is stable, after which it will be returned back to a democracy.

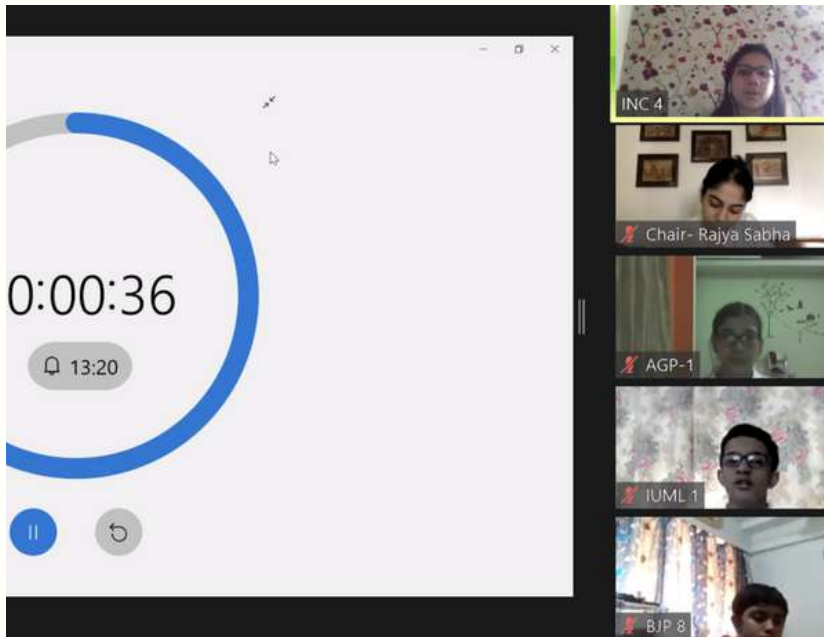
The delegate of the UK however, appeared to be on the opposite spectrum as they strongly attested that the NLD is a better alternative to Tatmadaw's rule.

In the Moderated Caucus that ensued, the delegate of Myanmar said that it would not give citizenship to the Rohingya Muslims unless they provided them with proof of their economic contribution in the forms of employment certificates or legal documents.

An Unmoderated caucus followed next with Myanmar discussing the situation with its allies. In a foot, mouth moment the delegate stated outright and admitted that his country had taken part in Ethnic Cleansing.

Day 1 was concluded with a very dynamic set of discussions and fierce debates as the blocs turned in their working papers.





## RAJYA SABHA: Romanticism or Political Opportunism?

by Soumya Sinha

The first day of Rajya Sabha started with some thrilled, intrigued and nervous delegates joining the committee session to a welcoming executive board. The chair opened the floor to motions for which the delegate of Indian Union Muslim League(IUML) raised a motion to commence the General Speakers List(GSL), the delegate of Indian Nationalist Congress(INC) who aptly stated 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan' while expressing concerns as to why amendments are required in the Farm Bills. The committee then moved to an unmoderated caucus followed by moderated caucus on the topic 'Benefits of the Farmers Empowerment and Protection Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Service Bills 2020'.

An Independent delegate questioned the Bhartiya Janta Party(BJP), 'If these bills have so many advantages, why was it passed in a rush by just a voice vote?' to which the delegate of BJP reiterated that the farm bills are in reality very beneficial to farmers and only a small number of farmers are protesting, adding that if farmers understood the laws, they would know that it is well-intended. After discussing various facets of the previously introduced topic, the committee reverted back to unmoderated caucus, when led to a break.

Following the break, the committee launched into a moderated caucus and when asked about using water cannons to stop farmer protests, the BJP insensitively said, 'Water cannons just hurt slightly and if farmers would have attended negotiations then perhaps, the Farm Bills would have been amended.'

Conclusively; day 1 ended on a hopeful note as the delegates presented their speeches during another moderated caucus on the topic 'How the absence of MSP in trade with private corporations affects farmers' as initiated by the delegate of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).



# UNFCCC: The earth is a fine place and worth fighting for.

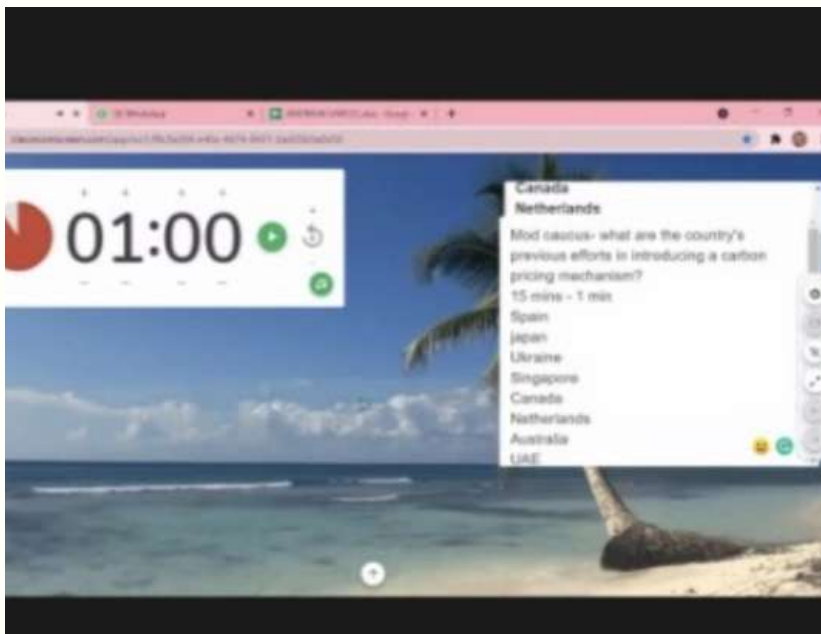
by Khushi Gupta

The first day began with a brief explanation of the ROP. The co-chair was understanding and lenient, keeping in mind that most of the delegates were first-timers. His calm and comfortable demeanour set the mood for the conference and put the delegates at ease immediately.

The roll call was followed by the General Speakers List (GSL) which had a rocky start but was saved by well-prepared speeches of the delegates. Delegates of Spain as well as Japan then proposed a motion on the topic, 'What are the previous efforts being made by the countries in introducing carbon pricing mechanisms?', which passed. Following this, a brief continuation of the GSL ensued. Motions were then proposed by several delegates, and the motion proposed by the delegate of Spain on the topic 'The importance of carbon pricing' was passed with clear majority. Despite being novices, many delegates participated actively. The co-chair was impressed by the extent of research done by the delegates and actively posed questions to them. After the passing of another motion, the delegates were sent to an unmoderated caucus for lobbying, which continued until it was time for break 1.

The second session was more engaging, as the delegate of Ukraine made statements that seemed contradictory, thus provoking questions from the co-chair. However, the delegate responded promptly, resulting in an acknowledgement by the co-chair. To make things lively, the chair proposed an informal debate with one of the co-chairs, who made a bold speech against other countries, resulting in a heated debate with accusations flying around. Despite the strong accusations against China, the delegate was unable to disprove these accusations. This resulted in him being overwhelmed by the other delegates as to why he was unable to defend his host country.

After the commencement of the final session, the chair explained the Working Paper and the DRAFT RESOLUTION to the delegates, who were then sent to an unmoderated caucus, thus concluding the conference for the day.





BY AVNI AGARWAL

## UNSC: Russia and UK at Loggerheads: Will it be Ethiopia Who Suffers?

by Ujjwal Sharma

This committee has been a rollercoaster ride. The Delegates of UK and Russia constantly at odds, the Delegate of France calling for a task force to be sent in for investigation and help, Delegate of Sudan getting worried to the extent that this may even lead to a genocide... the committee didn't have a single moment lacking debate. The Tigray condition has been a complicated, yet sensitive situation, with various contrasting views and a lot of debate. A lot was said, yet, the fact remains, there is a long road the UNSC must go down before it achieves the goal of a viable resolution, and a lot of internal conflict to handle before that can be achieved.

The committee's first session commenced with the chair and co-chair recapitulating the Rules of Procedure of the MUN before the formal General Speakers List (GSL).

Ethiopia stated they would like to compensate those affected and would gladly divert all resources needed to solve the Tigray crisis, which was met with much scepticism. While the consensus seemed to be that of calling a ceasefire, France made it clear that it was not a temporary solution they were looking for. It became clear that everyone wanted to achieve the same goal, though implemented with different terms.



During the discussion, Sudan expressed their fear of this escalating to a major war. The Delegate of UK then started questioning the competence and actions of the other nations. The co-chair visibly disliked this, but the same continued for quite a while until the Delegate of France intervened, asking the UK and Russia who had taken the discussion personally to put apart their differences and co-operate.

The event ended on the note of Russia and UK at loggerheads, with Russia threatening UK in open forum not to provoke them. China asked for internal peace first through a chit, siding slightly with Russia, though careful not to suggest they are biased in any way. There is a lot of work to be done before any agreement between the countries can be reached. Ethiopia must hope day two progresses differently, for the sake of its population.

## ITU : Pro-Privacy or Anti-Privacy?

by Khushii Mathur

The first day in the committee began with a warm welcome from the chair and co-chair. The delegates seemed a little nervous at first, but eventually got comfortable. The delegates were then informed about the Rules of Procedure (RoP) and put into their respective breakout rooms for an Unmoderated Caucus. Following this, the General Speakers List (GSL) began. After the GSL, a motion was raised by the delegate of Russia on the topic 'Definition of Privacy' and was passed with the majority votes. The debate started to build up intensity as the chairs had started to question the delegates' statements. After a fiercely engaging debate, the motion was concluded. Following this, the GSL recommenced with the delegate of Italy speaking. During the GSL, the delegates participated impressively and cross-questioned the opposing countries' stance on privacy. This further led to a debate on the topic 'Is surveillance necessary?' Delegates of many countries stated some very controversial statements. This formal debate ended on a riveting note and the committee broke for lunch.

After the break, the Moderated caucus was resumed, followed by an Unmoderated Caucus. The delegates then discussed their agendas and divided themselves into two blocs: Pro-privacy and Anti-privacy. Another motion was raised by the delegate of Russia on 'Mechanism and Methodology to grant extra provisions for journalists/ whistleblowers against state-surveillance.' During this formal debate, many delegates seemed a little confused on their stance. Hence, the session ended on a shaky note and the delegates were asked to rethink their stance and prepare a speech for the following day. The Co-Chair then explained what a Working Paper is to the delegates and bid goodbye for the day.

Day one in the committee ITU was quite a success with a lot of great topics discussed and the delegates will be back tomorrow with a fresh mind and more enthralling opinions.







## UNCSW: Tradition? Torture? SEXISM.

by Tara Kharat

The first day of the UNCSW Committee commenced with a roll call followed by the eager first-timers notified about the ROP. The co-chair empathised with the apprehensive first-timers and shared words of motivation to ease their anxious selves. The committee then moved to the General Speaking List(GSL) motioned by the delegate of Kenya. The invigorating speakers' list included zealous delegates stressing the importance of abolishing Female Genital Mutilation(FGM) for non-medical reasons along with how this vile practice is the product of years of stifling traditions and other religious practices for the woman to be 'pure.'

After an avid discussion on picking the topics for the moderated caucus, the committee moved to a moderated caucus on the topic: "Can culture be used to justify FGM?" with 10 speakers each getting 60 seconds, followed by the second topic- "Psychological consequences of FGM and stance of the government." The committee then entered an unmoderated caucus followed by a break for lunch. Post break, the committee returned eager to start with the GSL, initiated by the delegate of Germany followed by another moderated caucus for the topic "FGM is not just a woman's issue but a universal humanitarian issue" with 10 speakers, given 60 seconds each.

After 45 minutes of an unmoderated caucus, the delegates return to discuss the topic "Reconstructive surgery and its after-effects" followed by "Superstitions regarding FGM which aid in its rise."

The chair encouraged the delegates to work on individual working papers and advised them for the proceedings of the next day, which concluded the first day of the committee.

The delegates were extremely involved and passionate every time they spoke, showing collaboration and cooperation, especially the first-timers who seemed comfortable enough to put forth their opinions and question others. All in all, the first day was a major success with an abundance of topics heatedly debated, and great things can be expected for tomorrow!



## UNHRC: War of words: Human Rights Violations

by *Mrinali Rao*

The executive board at UNHRC welcomed a group of anxious delegates. The committee session began with a brief explanation of the ROP during which the chair patiently answered all the queries by the first-timers. Right after this was the Primary Speakers' List followed by the General Speakers' List. Quite a few good motions raised weren't passed due to the lack of a majority. Fortunately, the motion raised for an unmoderated caucus was immediately passed. After a detailed discussion, the Delegate of Japan proposed a moderated caucus on the topic: "Institutionalised Discrimination faces by the Palestinians from Israelis" which was passed.

The PSL for Belarus was next as the delegate entered late. This was followed by the GSL and an unmoderated caucus. After lunch, several motions were raised among which the one for a moderated caucus on the topic "Human Rights Violations of Extremists Groups like the Hamas" passed. The GSL then took an interesting turn with delegates of the USA, Canada and Syria constantly emphasising the elimination of Hamas and making provocative jabs at the other party. A moderated caucus raised by Japan on the topic: "Al Aqsa dispute" was spoken on next. After an unmoderated caucus, the delegates eagerly voted on the topic "Compensation owed for Human Rights Violations". The EB was disappointed as the topics were seeming too repetitive. The delegate of Japan constructively implemented the chair's feedback during the GSL.

The committee once again moved into an unmoderated caucus to discuss the working paper. After the tea break, The Pro-Israel Bloc proposed their working paper. The working paper has valid and detailed solutions but delegates spotted some loopholes and suggested amendments.

As a matter of fact, Israel did not completely agree with the working paper. The Palestine Bloc presented their working paper next which received complete hostility from the Israel Bloc. The United States seemed to have taken an antagonistic stance towards the paper. Amateur delegates seemed dismissive of the formal address that had to be followed. The session had a few instances of questioning by other delegates which led to debate. The delegates seemed a little passive but now that they are familiar with the whole procedure, we hope for a more interactive session tomorrow.



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# Press Conference

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## ITU

The questions asked in the conference centred on a few discrepancies seen in the statements made by the delegates and prospective actions being taken to prevent any vulnerabilities.

Notably, a question was directed towards the delegate of Germany. The delegate had previously stated that they do not support tracking a citizen's private life and then proceeded to say that tracking where the individual is and at what time is essential, which was quite contradictory. Ms D'souza asked the delegate where they would draw the line between a person's personal life and their whereabouts, how do they differentiate between the two. To this, the delegate answered confidently and stated that only the metadata is stored and the details of the citizen's life itself are not.

The next question was for the delegate of the USA who was asked to justify the occurrence of the 2013 data breach in the NSA with regards to Edward Snowden and what they are doing to ensure such a situation doesn't take place again. The delegate stated that America is working towards making its firewalls stronger. It was then pointed out by the co-chair that this incident had nothing to do with cyber-security but in fact, the building had been invaded and the data had been violated physically. To this, the delegate had no response and was unable to defend the country.

Overall, it seemed to be a fruitful conference, most of the delegates took the questions well and were able to justify their countries.

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## UNGA

Questions in the committee pertained to the political standing and certain contradictory, incriminating statements made by the delegates;

The Delegate of Myanmar was questioned on his statement as to why the country will not give citizenship to the Rohingya Muslims, to which he clarified that citizenship would only be given if the refugees showed proof of their economic contribution, and went on to say that the country will make amendments to implement increased employment sources for them.

In other questions, the delegates were asked to defend their stance on their alignment with the NDL and the Tatmadaw.

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