



INTERNATIONAL (HISTORIC) PRESS CORPS, 1961
STUDY GUIDE
LMC MUN 2026

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EXECUTIVE BOARD'S ADDRESS

Greetings, Delegates!

Welcome to the International (Historic) Press Corps, 1961, where your role demands not just sharp writing and meticulous reporting, but, more importantly, an unwavering commitment to truth. Throughout this committee, we aim to explore how Yuri Gagarin's historic orbit shaped global perceptions of space exploration during the Cold War.

This year's agenda delves in a moment of dynamic landscape where information is both a treasure and a weapon. However, the main story, as we should call it, began after Yuri reached outer space. Since he was a cosmonaut, the Soviet Union called it the triumph of socialism, while the United States of America and the other Western countries disagreed with the Soviet and called it "personal interest of the person." Narratives are carefully rewritten to serve those in power. As journalists in committee, it will be your duty to study these patterns of suppression, understand their impact, and help build international mechanisms that protect the integrity of the press, even where freedom is denied.

We expect each one of you to maintain professionalism and integrity throughout the committee. Be inquisitive. Be bold. What you say must reflect both accuracy and creativity. As always, originality is key, and any reliance on AI tools or plagiarism will be dealt with strictly.

We encourage practising proper research methods, formatting, complying with policy, and proper lobbying, and appreciate proper courtesy in committee and request that you maintain decorum throughout. We have included some preliminary sources in this study guide that we suggest you use as a starting point for your research, but encourage you to use a wide range of reputable resources beyond what is included in this document. In this committee, we encourage you to embody the courage that journalists bravely reporting within these regimes display: do not be afraid to speak, do not be afraid to report. We also expect all members of the Press Corps to foster an environment where all efforts are respected. Any disparaging remarks toward first-time participants will not be tolerated and will lead to penalties. Respectful dialogue, collaborative effort, and clear communication between delegates are not only encouraged—they are essential to the success of this conference.

It is up to you, delegates, to prove that the pen is mightier than the sword!

The Executive Board,
International (Historic) Press Corps, 1961,
La Martiniere Calcutta Model United Nations 2026,
ipchistoriclmcmun26@gmail.com

INTRODUCTION TO COMMITTEE

The International Press Corps is divided into two factions:

- i) Debating on and providing solutions to a relevant agenda, discussing pertinent phenomena and issues that pose obstructions to journalism.
- ii) Reporting on and covering proceedings in all committees of LMCMUN'25, and presenting the gathered information through formal paperwork and engaging, creative presentation.

The Press Corps offers its correspondents a platform that fosters public debate and discourse, aiming to address issues such as yellow journalism, censorship, oppression against the press, and related concerns. It is a body committed to questioning unchecked authority and power, striving to ensure decisions are made exclusively in the public interest. International relations and foreign policy are considerably influenced by media narratives on world affairs, which in turn shape diplomatic ties and public sentiment. The Press Corps provides valuable insight into global developments, acting as a tool that enables the masses to stay updated and informed. Every news agency has, at one point or another, been associated with creating unrest, contributing to the spread of misinformation or exaggerated reporting. Delegates are expected to investigate and scrutinise the actions and intentions of various media organisations within committee, in order to gain a deeper understanding of their policies and nature, as informed by past instances.

A primary function of the Press Corps is to keep the public aware of present-day events, decisions by governments, policy outcomes, and developments on the world stage. Through objective and accurate reporting, the Press Corps enables individuals to make informed decisions, engage in civic processes, and demand accountability from their elected representatives.

A free and independent press is a cornerstone of democracy. The Press Corps functions as a watchdog — holding government representatives accountable, exposing corrupt practices, and promoting transparency. By serving as a counterbalance to power, the press upholds the principles of democracy.

INTRODUCTION TO COMMITTEE

Through in-depth journalism and investigative coverage, the Press Corps ensures that individuals and institutions are held accountable for their actions. Whether revealing instances of corruption, shedding light on human rights violations, or exposing government misconduct, the press remains vital in maintaining justice and transparency. It challenges abuse and advocates for reform and responsible governance.

The Press Corps also works to discern the difference between state-sponsored influence and state control over the media, since bias arising from political ideologies and affiliations has led to unrest in previous councils. This distinction becomes even more critical in authoritarian regimes, where the press is often muzzled, dissent is criminalised, and state-run narratives dominate the information ecosystem. Journalists working under such conditions risk persecution, imprisonment, or worse, as they strive to uphold truth in the face of fear.

Such is the ever-evolving nature of the International Press Corps, where delegates immerse themselves in both writing and verbal deliberation, experiencing the agenda under fire with enhanced clarity and fervour.

NOTE: The position papers are to be submitted by 8th May, 2026, to the official committee email ID. No position papers submitted past the mentioned deadline will be accepted.

MORE ON THE AGENDA

The date is 12th April, 1961.

For the first time, a person, Yuri Gagarin from earth has gone to outer space and has returned safely. That single orbit has rewritten history. In this moment, the International Press Corps steps into a dynamic landscape where information is both a treasure and a weapon. Within hours, newsrooms across every continent faced the same pressure: get the story out first. The race for headlines that followed was not merely a journalistic contest — it was a front line in the Cold War. Both superpowers understood that the global media's framing of Gagarin's flight would shape how hundreds of millions of people understood the competition between socialism and capitalism.

The Soviet propaganda apparatus operated on one devastatingly effective principle: release nothing until success is confirmed. TASS, the sole authorised news agency, withheld all information about the space programme until state approval was granted. Years of test flights went publicly unacknowledged. Failures were erased from the record. The consequence was that the Soviet public record in space consisted entirely of victories — a manufactured infallibility engineered to shape global perception.

When Gagarin's orbit was confirmed, the state media machine moved with orchestrated precision. Pravda framed the achievement as proof of socialism's systemic superiority over capitalism. Soviet Television broadcast his return and his meeting with Khrushchev. Radio Moscow looped congratulatory tributes, reinforcing the impression of universal acclaim. Even Gagarin's personal biography — worker's son, educated by the socialist state, disciplined through military service — was released in carefully structured form primed for international distribution. His subsequent 31-country tour was planned with diplomatic precision: every visit was an argument about socialism, delivered through a young man's smile.

For American newsrooms, 12th April 1961 posed an acute challenge: how to cover a devastating Soviet triumph with credibility intact. Unlike the Soviet press, American media could not suppress the story. The New York Times ran it above the fold without equivocation. Time framed it as a crisis of national purpose. The Washington Post conceded the blow to American prestige.

This openness came with its own cost. Competitive pressure to break the story first and frame it most dramatically produced inaccuracies in initial coverage, including errors about the orbit's duration and altitude. These were not merely technical failures; they illustrated a pattern where speed overtook verification.

Agencies are responsible not only to report the rise of the space age, but to ensure that the story is told with *honesty, credibility and insight*. Journalists should maintain the principles and ethics of their profession during a period when political and ideological rhetoric often clouds the truth; establish ethical standards in journalistic practice regarding space exploration; and properly record the beginning of the Space Race through honest and complete journalistic accounts. Amidst the charged environment of the Cold War every headline is a weapon, every omission a statement, every interpretation a national intent. It was only hours ago that Yuri Gagarin made the first orbit of the earth by man, an achievement that has not only been a technological triumph, but has sparked a world debate.

While our discussion will analyze ways to make sure that the flight of Gagarin is not discussed as a chessboard move, but rather as a step towards the whole of humanity, it is by no deliberation limited to it.

RELEVANT PRESS ISSUES

CENSORSHIP AND INFORMATION CONTROL IN THE USSR

The Press in the USSR does not act as an independent institution to deliver unbiased news to the public but acts as a direct instrument of the Communist Party, designed to control information, spread propaganda and shape public opinion. Unlike a free press that investigates and questions authorities when needed, the Soviet press acts as a propaganda-spreading machine and is made to ensure that all information reaching the public is state-approved and not against the state.

At the centre of this system is Glavit, a censorship authority established in 1922, which reviews all sorts of content and news before publication. Key newspapers such as Pravda and Izvestia operate under strict control from the Glavlit. The main purpose of Glavit is not to present the truth but to spread propaganda, promote government achievements and further spread Socialist Ideologies.

Journalists and media houses are expected to praise the state and present it in a positive way; if they do not, they face various consequences such as strict observation and censorship, imprisonment, permanent closure of their news agencies or even death at times.

The Soviet government maintains complete control over the press, having nationalised all publishing houses, journalists and media outlets. This eliminates all chances of independent or unbiased journalism. Information is carefully curated as negative opinions on the state, or anything against the socialist ideologies of the State are entirely suppressed.

State security agencies, including the Committee for State Security, constantly monitor both journalists and citizens, creating an atmosphere of fear amongst them. These state security agencies do not even spare typewriters to prevent the spread of self-publishing or underground literature. Even after this, some individuals continue to self-report information against the state; however, if caught, they are dealt with brutally.

Additionally, even foreign media is restricted to prevent public exposure to alternative views. The Soviet press remains heavily influenced and controlled, functioning as a mechanism of state control.

RELEVANT PRESS ISSUES

MEDIA ETHICS VS. NATIONAL INTEREST

Journalism has always faced challenges. The most intriguing ones are not governments with censorship laws; rather, the most compelling enemy of honest journalism is the idea that honesty itself can be dangerous. At its core, this debate revolves around two valid concepts pulling in different directions, with the media caught in the middle.

Media Ethics

To put it simply, media ethics is the internal code that journalists should follow. This includes accuracy, fairness, and telling the truth even when it makes powerful people uneasy. The Society of Professional Journalists established a version of this code as early as 1909. It emphasises that a free press is essential in a democracy, not a luxury. Ethical journalism requires reporters to do more than just record what they hear. They must verify information, ask questions, and publish what is true instead of what is convenient.

National Interest

This is the uncomfortable truth: sometimes, the government is right. Disclosing details about military operations, intelligence sources, or the identities of undercover agents can pose real risks, and any honest journalist would admit this. The issue is that "national interest" is a very flexible term in political language. It can stretch to cover almost anything the government finds problematic, including economic issues, political scandals, or outright lies. History shows many officials using national security not to protect the country but to shield themselves.

The First World War

The Espionage Act of 1917 made it a crime to publish anything seen as hindering the war effort. A year later, the Sedition Act went even further; criticising the government or the military became punishable. Newspapers faced shutdowns, editors were jailed, and George Creel's Committee on Public Information created what could only be called state-sponsored propaganda passing itself as journalism. The public had no reliable way to know what was occurring in a war they were being asked to support with their sons and taxes. Senator McCarthy's anti-Communist campaign earlier in the decade illustrated this issue in another way. Much of the press reported his baseless allegations without question because challenging him felt unpatriotic. It wasn't until Edward R. Murrow's CBS broadcast in March 1954, that someone pushed back—calmly, precisely, and far too late.

The state has a real interest in safeguarding sensitive information. Meanwhile, the press has a genuine duty to share the truth.

RELEVANT PRESS ISSUES

IMPACT OF YURI GAGARIN'S ORBIT ON FUTURE SPACE COVERAGE

The Mission: What the World Now Knows

In the early morning of 12 April 1961, the Soviet Union launched Cosmonaut Yuri Alekseyevich Gagarin aboard the Vostok 1 spacecraft from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in the Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic. Gagarin completed a single orbit of the Earth in approximately 108 minutes before re-entering the atmosphere and landing by parachute in the Saratov region of the Soviet Union. He is 27 years old.

The announcement was made by the Soviet state news agency TASS. This mission is not merely a technical achievement — it is the defining story of the decade. A human being left the planet. The age of spaceflight has begun.

"The Earth is blue. How wonderful. It is amazing." — Yuri Gagarin, reported by TASS, 12 April 1961.

The Vostok 1 mission places extraordinary pressure on press outlets. The editors are now facing a question no one has ever addressed: how do you report on the humans leaving Earth for the first time? As coverage deepens, questions arise: Who is Yuri Gagarin? What did he feel? In the days to come, Western outlets will develop a feeling of suspicion towards the state-controlled agencies. The Soviet press, on the other hand, will have exclusive access. They will use it to frame Gagarin not merely as an astronaut but as a symbol of socialist progress.

States to achieve superior spaceflight capability. Its international impact will change the course of the Cold War by demonstrating Soviet technical capability and will spark concerns in the United States about technological gaps and national security.

The Press & Public Opinion: What Comes Next

Within hours of the mission's completion, Soviet news agencies splash a headline across the front pages: The first man to enter space - Yuri Gagarin. The announcement hit the world like a thunderclap. The idea that a human being had left the planet, orbited it and returned alive has left the world in stunned disbelief. Soviet agencies are portraying Gagarin as brave, calm and discovering while American news agencies react with simmering rage. The Soviets have released no independent verification, permitted no outside observers, as they have a well-documented habit of controlling information absolutely. American editors are calling Gagarin's mission a total lie, a Soviet propaganda, engineered to impress the watching world rather than inform it.

RELEVANT PRESS ISSUES

THE ROLE OF RADIO, PRINT, AND EARLY TELEVISION IN SHAPING PUBLIC PERCEPTION (PRE-APRIL 12, 1961)

In the modern world of global communications, the role of mass media in influencing public opinion perception, national identity, and international relations are indispensable. As of April 12, 1961, radio, print, and early television emerged as important tools in the dissemination of public information, particularly in an era of political rivalry and scientific progress.

Radio is considered the most immediate and far-reaching means of communication. Its ability to cross geographical boundaries and provide timely updates has rendered it an indispensable tool for governments and journalists. During periods of war and political rivalry, radio communications have been used not only to inform but also to influence public perception.

In such contexts, nations have come to rely on radio broadcasts to promote unity and ideological narratives in foreign lands. International radio broadcasts, such as those of major world powers, have emerged as potent tools in extending political influence in foreign territories. These broadcasts are often used to provide updates on international events in alignment with national interests.

The print media, which includes newspapers, journals, and pamphlets, still acts as the foundation for detailed reports. Unlike radio, it offers in-depth reports, opinions, and even investigative journalism. It acts as a permanent record of events that have occurred. It is used as a reference point in all situations. Both democratic and central governments have used print media in shaping events through open debate or forced dissemination. The written word is always given greater importance. The headlines often set the tone for the response of citizens towards events. Especially in relation to scientific breakthroughs or geopolitical events, print media has played an extremely significant role in explaining complex events in simpler terms for the general population.

Early television, though in its development stage in most parts of the world, is an extremely significant development in the history of mass communication. It combines visual and auditory communication. Though in its nascent stages, television is still not as popular as radio in disseminating news. However, its impact is extremely significant where it is accessible. It provides a sense of authenticity that is missing in other media. Viewers get to witness events on television. It is recognised by governments that have started using it for announcements.

RELEVANT PRESS ISSUES

POLITICISATION OF SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENT

Politicisation of scientific achievement occurs when scientific discoveries, breakthroughs, or research outcomes are presented not purely as advancements of knowledge, but as tools or symbols serving political or ideological goals. When science becomes a means to score political points, the integrity of both science and journalism can be compromised.

Scientific reporting should focus on accuracy, context, and evidence-based explanation. Science journalism demands careful verification, clear presentation of methods and limitations, and distinction between empirical facts and political interpretation. However, media outlets and governments sometimes highlight scientific achievements in ways that serve national agendas, ideological narratives, or competitive rivalries.

The launch of the first artificial satellite in 1957, Sputnik1, marked the beginning of the space age and transformed global scientific and political dynamics. This technological milestone was not only a scientific achievement but also a geopolitical signal: it demonstrated that a nation had mastered a complex technology with potential military as well as scientific applications. The result was not merely admiration for engineering but widespread political concern and strategic competition.

In the United States, this competition directly influenced government policy. The political shock and national urgency that followed Sputnik's launch contributed to the creation of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in 1958. The U.S. government reorganised its scientific infrastructure to prioritise space exploration as part of national response and strategy during this period. NASA's formation was thus not simply about advancing science — it was a political commitment to lead in technology and to demonstrate national strength in the context of global rivalry.

This intertwining of science with political objectives illustrates the politicisation of scientific achievement. Scientific research and technological innovation became embedded in questions of national prestige, security, and ideological competition. Scientific milestones are discussed less as neutral truth and more as symbols of national position in world affairs.

Politicisation can influence which scientific stories get attention, how they are narrated, and what implications are emphasised. In the space age, media outlets frequently connected scientific results to broader questions of national progress and global influence, affirming to audiences that scientific breakthroughs were reflections of political systems as much as technical progress. While not inherently untrue, this framing gave scientific achievements a political lens that shaped public discourse and government priorities.

RELEVANT PRESS ISSUES

SELECTIVE REPORTING AND SUPPRESSION OF FAILURES

In the early years of the space race, from the launch of Sputnik 1 in October 1957 through the first quarter of 1961, several major powers treated the press as an extension of state communication policy rather than as an independent observer. The primary concern was preservation of national image before a domestic and global audience, a concern that systematically overrode any commitment to complete or truthful reporting. Two methods of press control dominated the period: selective reporting of achievements while concealing costs and failures, and the outright suppression of catastrophic events. While the United States and the Soviet Union were the primary actors, the United Kingdom, France, and China engaged in similar practices as they developed their own space ambitions.

Selective reporting involved the deliberate promotion of mission successes alongside the systematic omission of negative information such as financial costs, military applications, or technical limitations. Governments controlled press access by rewarding compliant journalists with exclusive briefings and punishing critical ones with denial of access. When the Soviet Union launched Sputnik 1 on October 4, 1957, Pravda and Izvestia covered its scientific achievements but did not mention the military origins of the R-7 rocket. The cost of the Soviet space program, consuming an estimated five to seven per cent of the defence budget by 1960, was never discussed. When the United States created NASA in July 1958, press reports focused on its civilian nature. Few outlets noted that its initial budget of 89 million dollars was a fraction of what would eventually be required. A journalist who asked such questions typically found his next request for access denied.

Outside the two superpowers, the United Kingdom controlled press coverage of the Black Knight and Blue Streak programs from 1957 onward. Official announcements highlighted successful test flights, while costs consuming three per cent of the defence budget by 1960 were rarely mentioned. France began its space program in 1959, and press coverage emphasised national prestige while the program's military funding and early failures went unreported. China, developing missiles from 1956, reported only successful tests of Soviet-supplied R-2 missiles while domestic failures remained state secrets.

The suppression of failures was more aggressive and left a more deceptive public record. In the Soviet Union, the first R-7 launch on May 15, 1957, failed after 103 seconds, but no mention appeared in Soviet media. Three lunar impact probes in 1958 all failed without announcement. When Luna 1 succeeded on January 4, 1959, it was presented as the first lunar mission ever attempted. The Nedelin catastrophe of October 24, 1960, saw an R-16 rocket explode at Baikonur, killing between 92 and 126 personnel, including Marshal Mitrofan Nedelin. The Soviet press reported that Nedelin had died in a plane crash, a fact not declassified until 1990. On March 23, 1961, cosmonaut candidate Valentin Bondarenko died in a high-pressure oxygen chamber fire. His name was erased from all records, and no public announcement was made. Two Mars 1M probes launched in October 1960, both failed and were never acknowledged.

Threshold Travel

GILMORE
Staff Correspondent
pulsating radio "beep" of the first
signalled today to the world that
into the age of travel through
announced it had won the race into
earth satellite Friday, a 184-pound, 22-
the earth at 18,000 miles an hour,

WEATHER

WEST VIRGINIA—Partly cloudy
with highest in the 60s today and
Sunday. Lowest tonight 50 we
and 40 east portions.
Fair with lowest 45
and 50 to 55

By UNITED PRESS
Here's how to look for the Russian
earth satellite which will be
whizzing through the sky at 18,000
miles an hour.
The best time to spot it is at
dawn or dusk when the sky is
semi-dark. There is a chance that
it could be seen if it travels
across the face of the moon at
night.
The best instruments to use are
ordinary binoculars or telescopes.
Powerful telescopes won't pick it
up because of their narrow fields.
Through optical instruments,
the satellite will look like the
faintest star which can be seen
with the naked eye.
Keep a sharp eye out. The
satellite travels so fast it may
appear on the horizon for only
seconds and chances of spotting
it have been estimated at one

RELEVANT PRESS ISSUES

ROLE OF WESTERN MEDIA IN SHAPING GLOBAL OPINION

The role of Western media in shaping global public opinion has been important, especially concerning international politics, conflict, and scientific progress. With its vast network of newspapers, radio broadcasts, and television platforms, Western media has significantly influenced how people around the world view events. One significant way Western media shapes opinions is through selective coverage. By deciding which events to highlight and which to ignore, media outlets effectively guide global attention. This process can spotlight certain crises while neglecting others, leading to a skewed understanding of international issues.

Linked to this, is the choice of language and terminology, which greatly impacts public perception. Words like “freedom fighter” or “terrorist” and “intervention” or “invasion” carry strong meanings and can sway how audiences respond. This use of language guides public interpretation without changing the factual content of the news. Visual representation also plays a crucial role. The choice of images and footage, often showing conflict, poverty, or instability in certain areas, can reinforce stereotypes and shape emotional reactions. Frequent exposure to such imagery may lead people to associate entire regions with specific conditions, regardless of the larger context.

Western media has shown it can influence government policy and international relations. By shaping public opinion, it can pressure governments to act, whether that means diplomatic intervention, economic sanctions, or military involvement. In this way, media influence goes beyond just sharing information and enters the realm of policymaking. In times of international tension, such reporting can also contribute to either the escalation or reduction of conflict, depending on whether the tone adopted is aggressive or balanced.

This influence was especially clear during the Cold War when Western media actively participated in ideological competition. Scientific achievements, particularly in space exploration, were often framed as a contest between opposing political systems. Victories were emphasised to boost national pride, while those of rival states were sometimes questioned or downplayed, contributing to a wider narrative of ideological superiority.

Another important factor is the trust associated with Western media. Due to established journalistic practices and a global reach, this media is often seen as reliable. However, this broad trust can lead to reliance on a single point of view, which limits the variety of opinions accessible to global audiences. Additionally, the ownership and

control of major Western media institutions, often concentrated in large corporations, may influence the perspectives presented, as economic or political interests can shape editorial decisions.

Moreover, Western media has a significant cultural impact, sharing not only information but also values, lifestyles, and ideologies. Ideas such as democracy, freedom, and progress are often conveyed through reporting, shaping how audiences around the world interpret political and social developments. At the same time, media content is also influenced by audience demand, creating a feedback loop in which public preferences help determine what is reported and how it is presented.

The speed at which information spreads enhance this influence. With modern communication systems, Western media can quickly broadcast narratives worldwide. Often, the first version of an event that reaches the public becomes the most accepted, even if later reports provide more context or corrections. At the same time, competition among media organisations can lead to sensationalism. To attract viewers, some reports might be exaggerated or dramatised, risking accuracy and balance.

Despite its influence, the Western media faces criticism. Many countries and observers have expressed concerns about bias and media dominance, claiming that global stories are often told from a Western perspective, while voices from developing regions may be underrepresented. This criticism has led to alternative narratives and challenges to the authority of Western reporting, highlighting a growing demand for more balanced and inclusive representation.

The Western media is a strong force in shaping global opinion. While it provides vital information and plays an important role in promoting accountability and awareness, its influence also brings significant responsibility. Ensuring fairness, accuracy, and balance in reporting is crucial for fostering a more informed and equitable global conversation.

RELEVANT PRESS ISSUES

THE SPACE RACE AS A PROPAGANDA BATTLEFIELD

The Space Race between the Soviet Union and the United States demonstrates not only scientific ambition to achieve superior spaceflight capability but also an ongoing struggle to influence global opinion during the Cold War. This era began in 1957 when Sputnik was launched into space, thus providing a precedent for enriched media space stories globally. Its international impact was such that it changed the course of the Cold War by demonstrating Soviet technical capability while also sparking concerns in the United States about technological gaps and national security. This framing was also extended internationally in regions across Asia and Africa, undergoing political transition. It was reported that the Soviet model could achieve rapid technological advancement without reliance on Western systems. Another significant mechanism is control and timing of information release. Soviet reporting consistently presented only confirmed successes, as seen in missions such as Luna 2 on 13 September 1959 and Luna 3 on 7 October 1959, both of which were publicized as uninterrupted progress. This kind of absence of publicly acknowledged failures results in an international perception of precision and reliability, linking space achievements to missile capability, thereby shaping global understanding through interpretation rather than omission. A further way in which propaganda operates is through the creation of psychological urgency. In the United States, coverage following Sputnik (1957) and subsequent Soviet lunar missions (1959) has contributed to a perception of technological competition requiring immediate response. This is reflected in policy developments such as the establishment of National Aeronautics and Space Administration on 29 July 1958, operational from 1 October 1958. Media narratives frequently present such initiatives as necessary to maintain parity, illustrating how propaganda can influence both public opinion and policy direction. International broadcasting and symbolic messaging extend propaganda beyond national borders. Soviet transmissions consistently highlight peaceful and collective progress. Meanwhile, American broadcasts highlight openness and experimentation, particularly in missions such as Mercury-Redstone 2 on 31 January 1961. These contrasting narratives are aimed at non-aligned nations, where technological progress is increasingly linked to political credibility.

RELEVANT PRESS ISSUES

SOVIET PROPAGANDA AND YURI GANGARIN

Gagarin's orbital occurs in the larger context of the Space Race, to achieve superior spaceflight capability. It follows earlier Soviet milestones that have been influencing space reporting. Gagarin's success is internationally being interpreted as a demonstration of Soviet advancement and a comparative analysis between competing powers.

He is being celebrated as a national hero and as a symbol of national accomplishment. A key element here is the construction of Gagarin's personal image emphasizing his background as the son of a carpenter and a trained industrial worker before becoming a pilot. This detail is used to highlight the principles of equality and social mobility while projecting extraordinary accomplishments through collective support and state organisation. His orbital flight is being compared with planned efforts of the U.S. Project Mercury-Redstone 2 on 31 January 1961 where objectives and complications were publicly discussed, unlike the selective presentation of technical information in Soviet reports.

Soviet media has ensured that the event signifies ideological significance along with technical achievement, all through selective emphasis, symbolic construction and controlled reporting. This intense Soviet celebration suggests that state-directed narratives are going to continue to shape how space exploration is going to be presented domestically and internationally. The public is now becoming deeply interested in space beyond elite scientific circles. Space coverage will now include both scientific and political threads. Future space milestones will place prominence on comparative national achievements and geopolitical implications alongside technical progress.

Space exploration will no longer remain a niche science subject but a visible measure of geopolitical competition, blending scientific achievement, national competition, human interest and political significance.

NEWS AGENCIES

1) Reuters



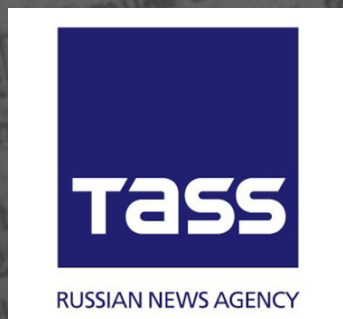
Reuters is an international news agency that has been in operation for over 170 years, founded in 1851 in London by German baron Paul Reuters. It is widely regarded as one of the largest and most credible sources of news in the world, with a reputation for providing impartial and objective reporting. Reuters has been recognized for its commitment to accuracy in reporting, with a strong reputation for fact-checking and verification.

2) Pravda



Pravda, founded in 1912, served as the official newspaper of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. This publication presented news from a strong political point of view supporting socialist ideas. Its deliberate and persuasive language is closely aligned with the party's ideology, enabling to influence public opinion and to interpret events in a way that favored the Communist Party.

3) Telegraph Agency of the Soviet Union (TASS)



TASS (Telegraph Agency of the Soviet Union), established in 1925, functioned as the official state news agency of the Soviet Union. The way TASS reported the news was very formal and precise, making it a trusted source for official information and other media outlets often followed its lead. As a result, it played a big role in shaping the way people thought about current events.

NEWS AGENCIES

4) Tanjug



The Yugoslav state news agency Tanjug was set up in 1943 during World War II. By 1961, it had become an important global news agency catering primarily to the non-aligned and developing nations. It helped promote the views of Yugoslavia, which was playing a major role in the Non-Aligned Movement.

5) Middle East News Agency (MENA)



The Middle East News Agency (MENA) was formed in 1955 in Egypt. By 1961, it had become a major news agency covering events in politics, society, and economics in the Arab world. MENA represented the political situation in the region at that time and was a product of Arab nationalism led by Egypt.

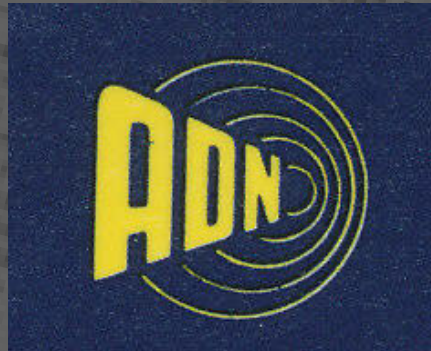
6) Izvestia



Izvestia is a Russian daily newspaper founded in 1917. During the Soviet period it served as the official voice of the government. The paper mostly focused on politics and happenings around the world. Even after the Soviet Union fell apart, Izvestia kept going as a national newspaper in Russia. It's still widely read and covers a lot of important topics, including what's going on in Russia and other countries. Over time, the newspaper had to adapt to changes in the country and the world, but it remains a significant source of news and information.

NEWS AGENCIES

7) The Allgemeiner Deutscher Nachrichtendienst (ADN)



The Allgemeiner Deutscher Nachrichtendienst (ADN) was the official state news agency of the German Democratic Republic (GDR). Founded in 1946 with support from the Soviet Military Administration, it was transformed into a government-controlled monopoly under the Socialist Unity Party (SED) in 1953, supplying news dispatches, reports, articles and photographs for nearly all newspapers, radio and television broadcasters in the GDR. ADN set the standards for media censorship, shaped public opinion through propaganda and operated domestic and foreign bureaus. It declined after German reunification and was dissolved in May 1992.

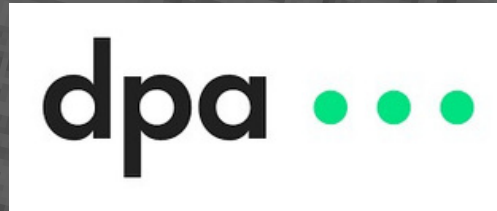
8) Radio Moscow



Radio Moscow commenced operations in 1929 as the Soviet Union's official international broadcasting service. It disseminated news and cultural programming in multiple languages, projecting the USSR's perspective to a global audience. The government kept a close eye on what was being broadcast, making sure it fit with their message. During the Cold War, it was a powerful tool for spreading their ideas to other countries. Its distinctiveness lay in its transnational reach in other countries directly, through the radio, and tell them what the USSR wanted them to know. This was a big deal, because it let the USSR influence people in other countries, and shape what they thought about the world.

NEWS AGENCIES

9) Deutsche Presse-Agentur



The Deutsche Presse-Agentur functions as Germany's national news agency which began operations in 1949 from its Hamburg headquarters. The organization provides news reports to media outlets throughout West Germany and other countries. The DPA established itself as a reliable news organization during the 1960s because it operated as a main source of news in post-war Germany.

10) Agencia EFE



The Agencia EFE news organization operates as the main news agency of Spain which launched its services in 1939 and established its main office in Madrid. The organization distributes news through its Spanish language content and multiple languages which it delivers throughout Spain and Latin American countries. The EFE news organization developed into a major news source for Spanish-speaking audiences during its global expansion which reached international markets by 1961.

11) Agenzia Nazionale Stampa Associata



The Agenzia Nazionale Stampa Associata serves as Italy's most important news organization which established its operations in 1945. The organization operates from Rome to deliver news about Italian and international events. ANSA developed into a trustworthy news source for political and economic and international news by 1961. 22

NEWS AGENCIES

12) The New York Times

The New York Times

The New York Times is one of the world's most influential and widely read news publications. Founded in 1851, it is considered as the longest running and most influential "newspapers of record" in the United States. The New York Times is widely recognized for its legacy of investigative, national and international reporting. It provides a comprehensive coverage of significant events and emphasises independent journalism.

13) Agence France-Press



Agence France-Press began its operations in 1944 while its headquarters located in Paris delivers international coverage of news in different languages. AFP became established in 1961 as an international news source that provided news content to newspapers, radio stations and government bodies throughout the world.

14) Polish Press Agency



The Polish Press Agency or PAP, is the national news agency of Poland founded in 1918 as Polish Telegraphic Agency (PAT). A dozen bulletins in multiple languages, a regular newspaper and photo service were a few services provided by the PAP. In 1944, PAT became PAP, during the Soviet occupation of Poland during World War 2 and was converted to a government institution which is heavily censored.

NEWS AGENCIES

15) British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)



The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) is the United Kingdom's national public broadcaster, founded in 1922 and renamed in 1927. Headquartered in London, it is the world's oldest broadcasting organization. It broadcasts current affairs within the United Kingdom and from around the world. It is paid for and owned by the British public. It is known as a reliable source of factual reporting.

16) Tidningarnas Telegrambyrå (TT)



Tidningarnas Telegrambyrå (TT), which started in 1921, was Sweden's main news agency. TT was owned by Swedish newspapers and provided news from around the world and in Sweden. By the early 1960s, it was very important for keeping the public informed in Sweden. It did this by focusing on factual reporting and staying neutral, which was in line with Sweden's non-aligned foreign policy.

17) The Swiss Telegraphic Agency (ATS)



Founded in 1894, the Swiss Telegraphic Agency (ATS) was the country's main news agency. ATS worked from a neutral country and focused on giving Swiss newspapers accurate and balanced news in a number of languages, such as German, French, and Italian. By 1961, it had a reputation for being neutral and accurate, which was in line with Switzerland's general political stance in international affairs.

NEWS AGENCIES

18) Finnish News Agency (STT)



The Finnish News Agency (STT) was set up in 1887 and was the main way for news to get around in Finland. By 1961, STT was providing news to Finnish media in both Finnish and Swedish. Because Finland was in a tricky geopolitical spot during the Cold War, STT kept its reporting careful and balanced to stay credible while dealing with sensitive international issues.

19) The Press Trust of India (PTI)



The Press Trust of India (PTI) was founded in 1947, the year India became independent. It is now the country's largest news agency. By 1961, Indian newspapers relied on PTI for a lot of national and international news. It helped people in a newly independent country understand things better by focusing on development, governance, and India's role in world affairs, especially in the Non-Aligned Movement.

20) Komsomolskaya Pravda



Komsomolskaya Pravda was established in 1925. This Soviet newspaper is the official publication of the Communist youth organization, the Komsomol. It primarily focuses on youth affairs, socialist values, and national development. The agency plays a significant role in promoting the ideals of the Soviet state among young citizens.

NEWS AGENCIES

21) The Washington Post

The Washington Post

The Washington Post is one of the preeminent and long-standing news organizations in the United States. Founded in 1877, it gained prominence due to its long and storied tradition of investigative journalism. The Washington Post continues to shape public opinion and political discourse guided by the principles of Eugene Meyer in 1933. True to its slogan, "Democracy Dies in Darkness" it informs national and global readers with in-depth analysis and engaging opinions.

22) The Voice of America



The Voice of America was established in 1942. It is an international broadcasting service funded by the United States government. The agency provides news and information in multiple languages, aiming to present American policies and viewpoints to global audiences. It is widely recognized for its role in international communication.

23) Xinhua News Agency



This prominent Chinese news agency, headquartered in Beijing, has been the official press organization of the Chinese government since 1931. As the largest and most influential media organization in China, this platform plays an important part in shaping Chinese media. The agency's reach also extends beyond China, with its news stories often being picked up by other media outlets around the world.

NEWS AGENCIES

24) Novosti Press Agency



The Novosti Press Agency was founded in 1961. It is a Soviet state-run news agency aimed at presenting the Soviet Union's perspective to international audiences. The agency focuses on global news, cultural exchange, and promoting Soviet achievements worldwide.

25) Agerpres



Agerpres, the Romanian news agency founded in 1889 was used to circulate state directed information and was vital in this context throughout the communist era. Agerpres excelled at presenting international information in a manner that fostered nationalistic and ideologically driven responses to world events. In the context of the 1961 orbital flight the agency presented the Soviet success as a symbol of socialist achievement and garnered support for the cause among the Romanian public.

26) The Hungarian Telegraphic Office (MTI)



The Hungarian Telegraphic Office (MTI) founded in 1881 is the second oldest in Europe and was a state controlled organisation throughout the Cold War era; its news service supported socialist ideologies and ensured that information disseminated to the Hungarian public was not out of step with the policies being pursued by the Hungarian socialist government. This had particular relevance for ensuring a constant national perspective of events that would reflect government ideals. Its reporting of Gagarin's flight celebrated the event as a common victory for all socialist countries and reaffirmed a feeling of solidarity and pride among socialist countries.

NEWS AGENCIES

27) United Press International

The logo for United Press International (UPI) consists of the letters "UPI" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font, centered within a white rectangular box.

The United Press International was established in 1907 as United Press and later expanded. It is an American international news agency known for providing news to newspapers, radio, and other media outlets. The agency has gained recognition for its wide network of correspondents and timely reporting on global events.

28) Associated Press

The logo for the Associated Press (AP) features the letters "AP" in a bold, black, sans-serif font, centered within a white rectangular box. A solid red horizontal bar is positioned below the white box.

The Associated Press was founded in 1846. It is an independent American news agency operated as a cooperative, owned by its member newspapers and broadcasters. The agency is widely known for its fast and reliable reporting from across the world. It has built a strong reputation for factual journalism and extensive global coverage.

29) The Times (London)

The logo for The Times newspaper features the words "THE" and "TIMES" in a bold, black, serif font, separated by a central crest or coat of arms. The entire logo is centered within a white rectangular box.

Founded in 1785, *The Times* is one of the United Kingdom's most respected newspapers, known for its thoughtful analysis and well-researched coverage of politics, business, culture, and global affairs. Its strong editorials and investigative reporting have played an important role in shaping public opinion, helping it remain both credible and relevant even today.

NEWS AGENCIES

30) Central News Agency



Established in 1924, the Central News Agency (CNA) is Taiwan's national news agency, providing clear and reliable coverage of governance, the economy, technology, and international issues. Known for its accuracy and speed, it has expanded its global reach through digital platforms while continuing to maintain high journalistic standards.

REQUIRED PAPERWORK

I. Position Paper [Deadline: 8th May, 2026]

Members of the International (Historic) Press Corps will be reporting on the happenings of the various committees at LCMUN 2026. Delegates will be required to send a Position Paper comprising of:

- a. The history of your news channel, and its role in the modern news network.
- b. The position of your news channel in the agenda of your allotted committees.

II. Beat Article

Beat Articles focus on the coverage of specific topics rather than the agenda in its entirety; a specialised coverage of specific areas or topics. Reporters are expected to submit a beat article covering a particular discussion in the committee (a particular moderated caucus, or a delegate's speech, for example).

- a. It should be objective and unbiased, and cannot contain the opinion that the reporter holds.
- b. It is essential that this article be accurate and to the point.
- c. It may contain direct quotes by delegates or statistical data.
- d. Word limit is 300 - 500 words

III. Opinionated-Editorial

An Op-Ed is a reflection piece, allowing authors to use their own insight and offer facts that align with their ideas on crucial problems. The author provides a critical examination of a scenario with personal political biases, prompting readers to reflect more. Op-Eds can be controversial. Although subjective in nature, an Op-Ed should not comprise baseless arguments and should be concise.

Word limit: 350 words

IV. Feature Article

Journalism welcomes creativity and hence delegates are expected to get crafty while writing their feature article. They are given absolute freedom, where they can choose to report any form of news, information, proceedings, or the agenda in a creative manner. One might write a story, or decide to write a poem, or submit a doodle or artwork. We also expect delegates to indulge in yellow journalism and keep the piece of art they create based on true happenings. The political slant of the journalists' news agency portfolio will be irrelevant here, and they will be free to create the item in their own image.

No templates are mandatory here.

V. Interview Article

Delegates are suggested to interview a fellow delegate of their allotted committee in a verbal manner, or through the usage of chits.

Delegates are suggested to narrow down and extensively conduct research on a single “idea” or topic that they want to interview a delegate on. Following this, they must develop questions regarding the same. An interview article can be written in 3 ways:

- a. Literal: In this article reporters simply write down the questions and the answers given by the delegate who is interviewed.
- b. Hybrid: In this the reporter writes down what the delegate said in third person, drawing in conclusions whenever required; but it must include verbatim quotations from the delegates as well.
- c. This can be a video report as well, wherein, a written transcript of the interview will be sent, with a video or a short clip attached, of the delegate being interviewed/making a remark.

VI. Press-Conference Report

During a specific time-slot, all IPC Delegates will be allowed to officially question the delegates of their allotted committees in the Press Conference. This event will be presided over by the Executive Board of the Press Corps, and reporters will be expected to use their time judiciously to ask questions to the various delegates of their committees and finally produce a Press Conference Report for the same. They need to be well researched regarding their respective committee’s agendas. The report should contain the IPC-Delegate’s questions, and the answers received from the Reporting-Committee’s Delegate.

VII. Communiques

May include multimedia, with videos, handwritten scripts, vernacular languages, voice-recordings, images, etc. The word Count is unrestrained. We look forward to as many Communiques as the Delegate wishes to submit, within the duration that communication lines are open.

RULES & REGULATIONS

i) Originality: The main aspect of any press article is its originality. We expect all reporters to bring forward their original works and give due credit to sites if they are quoting any. That said, all submitted articles will be thoroughly checked for plagiarism, and if found, reporters will be severely negatively marked.

ii) Abbreviations: Use of approved and conventional abbreviations is permitted and encouraged. If the reporter is unsure of whether an abbreviation is permitted or not, they are to define it at the start of their reports.

For Example:

“The delegate of the United States of America (USA) decided to call for joint action from all member nations. The delegate of the USA further added that peace could be achieved by political dialogue among the concerned countries.”

In the above example, as shown, an abbreviation is clearly defined and then used.

iii) Capitalisation: When using abbreviations, all words should be capitalised. Furthermore, when writing the names of countries or individuals, proper capitalisation is to be maintained.

iv) Currency: Formal abbreviations of currency are to be used at all times. For example, the United States Dollar is to be written as USD while Indian Rupees is INR, and not Rupees.

v) Format of Reports/Articles: Your article must be structured with a recognisable introduction, body and conclusion. It must also include a title and a byline (in italics). Try giving witty titles and bylines to your articles. All articles must be written in Size 12, Times New Roman font.

Articles must be submitted in the following manner:

Allotment_CommitteeName_Day.docx

Note: No pdf files will be accepted and articles are to be written only in word format.

Delegates are to be referred according to their portfolio and not original names.

Avoid the usage of contractions, such as can't, don't, and wouldn't.

JUDGING CRITERION:

We shall be judging all reporters based on the following:

Position Papers as submitted by all reporters.

Committee presence and interaction in debate during the IPC debate sessions.

Article writing style and content for all articles. The same goes for video reporting.

Questions asked during the Press Conference and relevance of the Press Conference Report.

Threshold
Travel

EL F. GILMORE
Staff Correspondent
pulsating radio "beep" of the first
signalled today to the world that
into the age of travel through
announced it had won the race into
earth satellite Friday, a 184-pound, 22-
ing the earth at 18,000 miles an hour,

WEATHER

WEST VIRGINIA—Partly cloudy
with highest in the 60s today and
Sunday. Lowest tonight 50 we
and 40 east portions.
Fair with lowest 45
and 50 to 55

Spot
Up Satellite
Program
By UNITED PRESS
Here's how to look for the Russian
earth satellite which will
whizzing through the sky at 18,
000 miles an hour.
The best time to spot it is at
dawn or dusk when the sky is
semi-dark. There is a chance that
it could be seen if it travels
across the face of the moon at
night.
The best instruments to use are
ordinary binoculars or telescopes.
Powerful telescopes won't pick it
up because of their narrow fields.
Through optical instruments,
the satellite will look like the
faintest star which can be seen
with the naked eye.
Keep a sharp eye out. The
satellite travels so fast it may
appear on the horizon for only
seconds and chances of spotting
it have been estimated at one

CODE OF CONDUCT

- i) As with any other committee, the Press Corps is a distinguished body and its members are expected to practise what they preach, which is inclusivity, diplomacy, courtesy and unity. Reporters must be respectful at all times towards every delegate, teacher, and member of the Executive Board. The spirit of competitiveness should not come in the way of teamwork, and it is important to remember that there is a fine line between asserting one's opinion and purposefully offending one's opposition.
- ii) When the committee commences, every delegate is expected to come fully prepared with thorough research on the agenda at hand, their agency's stance, and a lot of smaller details. No internet access will be permitted during the conference, and so reliance upon last minute-research will only result in stress and inadequate preparation. It is also a given that when assigned a specific agency with its own prerequisites, no delegate can debate from their own personal bias, and instead must incorporate their agency's perspective when debating.
- iii) Plagiarism is the easiest way to be subjected to negative marking. The IPC, just like the Press agencies of the real world, has a strict plagiarism policy, and any violation of it will be heavily condemned. To avoid this, it is crucial to understand the research material at hand and be able to translate it in your own words, so as to maintain originality and leave room for creativity.
- iv) Misinformation is ostensibly a sure-fire sign of half-hearted work, and it blatantly goes against the essence of IPC itself. Make sure you can back up your research with real facts and quotations, since false or exaggerated information will be penalised.
- v) Disruption in committee by a delegate, if it is not urgently necessary, contradicts the code of conduct. If a reporter needs to streamline communication with another person, they must wait till a lobbying session or break to do so, or utilise communication via notes.