

Instruction Manual for Members

Simulation of the Indian National Security Council

(Uri Attack & Surgical Strike Planning, 2016)

The members must understand, the nature of this committee is different than the other regular committees of the Model UN. It is a crisis committee that will simulate the National Security Council (NSC) of India in the immediate aftermath of any attacks or a crisis situation, like in this instance, the 2016 Uri Attack.

A Crisis Committee in Model United Nations (MUN) is a small, specialized committee designed to simulate high-stakes, rapidly evolving situations that require delegates to respond to real-time challenges. Unlike traditional MUN committees that focus on long-term policy making, crisis committees thrust delegates into dynamic scenarios such as wars, natural disasters, political upheavals, or economic crises where they must make decisions under pressure to influence the outcome of the situation.

Similarly, this simulation, like any other crisis committee, will place you in the roles of key decision-makers in the Indian government, military, and intelligence community as they navigate the complex security, diplomatic, and strategic challenges that followed the terrorist attack on the Uri Army Brigade headquarters. Your goal is to make informed decisions that reflect India's national interests, manage the risk of escalation with a nuclear-armed neighbour, and formulate India's response before any concrete plan of action exists.

Crisis Simulation Mandate

Freeze Date: 18 September 2016 | 1200 Hours IST

1. As members of the National Security Council, delegates are ordered to bypass standard administrative bureaucratic delays. The freeze date strictly seals all historical events up to this hour. Any subsequent real-world developments, military actions, or statements made after 1200 hours on 18 September 2016 are considered non-existent and cannot be cited. Your immediate objectives are:
 - Secure the international border and LoC against secondary breaches.
 - Formulate a multi-layered response strategy (Diplomatic, Economic, and Kinetic).
 - Manage domestic narrative and media volatility to prevent internal unrest.

2. The committee receives frequent “crisis updates” from the Crisis Staff (or “the executive board”), introducing new developments that delegates must address immediately. These updates are the fulcrum of this committee as they dictate the flow and direction of the debate and discussions throughout. Since this committee simulates an active security crisis, frequent crisis updates can be expected.
3. Delegates are required to write and prepare directives to respond to crises, rather than drafting lengthy resolutions. The crisis directives are short, actionable orders & forms a part of the formal documentation process which is the **Plan of Action**.

Objectives of the Simulation

The objective of this crisis simulation is to provide participants with an immersive, educational experience that replicates the strategic, diplomatic, military, and ethical challenges faced by decision-makers in the hours after a major cross-border terrorist attack. Below are the key objectives:

1) Critical Thinking and Decision-Making:

- Develop skills in analysing complex, high-stakes situations under time pressure.
- Encourage participants to weigh trade-offs between military, diplomatic, economic, and humanitarian priorities.

2) Teamwork and Collaboration:

- Foster cooperation among participants as they work together to formulate cohesive strategies.
- Simulate the dynamics of group decision-making, including negotiation and conflict resolution.

3) Strategic and Tactical Skills:

- Enhance understanding of military strategy, resource allocation, and operational planning, including the constraints of a covert or calibrated response.
- Practice diplomatic negotiation and crisis management in a simulated geopolitical environment.

4) Real-World Application:

- Develop transferable skills like leadership, communication, and problem-solving applicable to fields like international relations, policy analysis, or history.
- Provide insights into how governments and institutions manage crises in real-world scenarios.

Key Issues for the Simulation

In the real-time updates, the issues that a participant is required to solve and address are broadly discussed below:

- 1) **Immediate Security & Border Management:** Securing the international border and Line of Control (LoC) against secondary infiltration attempts, and reviewing force posture at forward military installations.
- 2) **Retaliatory Strategy:** Formulating and evaluating kinetic (military), diplomatic, and economic response options against Pakistan-based terror infrastructure, without triggering full-scale conventional conflict between two nuclear-armed states.
- 3) **Diplomacy:** Managing India's international standing and building a case for Pakistan's diplomatic isolation and navigating the reactions of the US, China, and other major powers.
- 4) **Domestic Politics & Media Management:** Balancing intense public outrage and round-the-clock media pressure for retaliation against the need for a calibrated, deliberate response, without compromising operational secrecy.
- 5) **Intelligence Assessment:** Evaluating Jaish-e-Mohammed's (JeM) specific involvement, the extent of Pakistani state complicity, and existing intelligence on terror launchpads across the LoC.

Apart from these issues, participants can expect some new insights or angle coming out of the crisis updates given by the board.

Simulation Flow & Structure

- 1) **Opening Statements:** The Prime Minister opens the committee with the Crisis Simulation Mandate above, sealed at 12:00 hours IST on 18 September 2016. Each participant, after a detailed analysis and as their dedicated portfolio and department has to provide insights by addressing the attack and how they perceive this as a threat to national sovereignty and security.
- 2) **NSC Meetings (Multiple Rounds):** Participants convene as the NSC to debate and decide on India's response. Each round focuses on a specific issue (e.g., LoC security, retaliatory strike options, or diplomatic isolation of Pakistan). The Prime Minister moderates the discussions, solicits input, and makes final decisions.
- 3) **Real-Time Developments:** The Prime Minister's Analyst introduces "crisis updates" (e.g., ceasefire violations along the LoC, international statements, or media leaks about troop movements) to simulate real-time challenges. Participants must adapt their strategies accordingly. Since there are multiple portfolios and some of them are dedicated to specific areas there's a possibility of them receiving something what we call as secret note which they may read out to the committee once they have received it and that will also be considered as a part of the update.
- 4) **Paperwork that may include Press Release/ Communique/ Directives/ Etc.:** The participant is required to submit paperwork, whether as a team or individual, to the board in response to the latest developments given through the updates. Research the assigned portfolio's background, responsibilities, and perspective so as to respond appropriately to the given situation.

Preparation Guidelines

To ensure a productive and immersive simulation, you may follow these suggestions:

1) Portfolio research:

- Embody your assigned role's perspective, priorities, and limitations.
- Use historical knowledge to inform your decisions but adapt to the simulation's developments.
- The more you will embody your assigned portfolio, the more you will be able to perform better and grasp the depth of the updates. Remember that your portfolio is important to address and provide insights and suggestions to the Prime Minister in making his decision for Counter Strike and hence that makes you and your words important for the Council.

2) Respect the Chain of Command:

- The Prime Minister has the final say, but all members should contribute ideas and arguments.
- Subordinates (e.g., military chiefs, Foreign Secretary) must defer to their respective ministers unless instructed otherwise.
- It is also important to note that at the end this is an Indian comedy and we would not like to take that element from it. You will be allowed to use rhetorics and some fancy examples so far these do not disrupt the proceedings and do not result in the insult of the Council and its members.

3) Use Evidence-Based Arguments:

- Support your recommendations with factual grounding, intelligence provided in your dossier, or logical reasoning.
- Avoid anachronistic arguments (e.g., referencing any real-world event or statement after 12:00 hours IST, 18 September 2016).

4) Collaborate and Negotiate:

- Work as a team to balance competing priorities (e.g., military vs. economic concerns).
- Engage in diplomatic negotiations with external actors (simulated by the instructor or other students).

- We agree to the fact that this is more of a confidential body and not your regular Lok Sabha where you are to crosstalk and enjoy some ruckus that takes place. However, as we already stated that the element is not completely taken away. There can be some disagreements between the members themselves and heated arguments are allowed rather welcomed. However to ensure that the committee moves in a smooth manner, it has to be noted that no such arguments should cross or breach any of the diplomatic boundaries.

5) Confidentiality:

- Do not share your secret note's (if provided) contents with others unless instructed.
- Simulate the secrecy of sensitive intelligence or diplomatic communications.

6) Respectful Conduct:

- Maintain professionalism, even during heated debates.
- Avoid personal attacks; focus on policy disagreements.

Conclusive Remarks

This Uri Attack and Surgical Strike Planning simulation offers a unique opportunity to step into the shoes of India's national security leadership at one of the most consequential decision points in recent Indian history. By engaging in strategic debates, navigating international pressure, and weighing the risks of escalation, you will gain a deeper understanding of national security decision-making and the complexities of responding to cross-border terrorism as a nuclear-armed state.

Prepare thoroughly, collaborate effectively, and approach the simulation with creativity and critical thinking.

Good luck, and lead India wisely!