

JAMNABAI NARSEE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



GMC

Study Guide

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Letter from the Head

Dear Delegates,

I am elated to introduce you to the Global Media Consortium of IYC 2018. This year, to reflect the changing landscape of news and photography, we have incorporated the new standards of journalism - social media and the internet. The blazing epicentre of this new era of reporting is social media. The exponentially increasing accessibility of the internet, has given more people than ever before a voice. However, this leaves some to question the credibility of these voices. 'Journalism' has now become an umbrella term, with even the common man taking on the role of a journalist by simply documenting events on their smartphone. This has resulted in the ever-growing issue of news bias. Politics has wormed its way to the heart of this profession and warped its words. Hence, this year the delegates will report for a variety of news platforms, with a variety of biases. You will have to fully explore the intricacies of your newspaper to push the world to believe your truth. Photographers must distort the narrative in the favour of their nation. For the first time at IYC, the delegates of photography will be given the freedom to post their views on an official social media account. After all, social media is free for all, with absolutely no censorship. Journalists will receive the opportunity to make each delegate sweat by shining a light on their wrongdoings during an in-committee panel conference scheduled in every committee IYC has to offer. Keeping with the theme of social media, delegates will have the opportunity to invade the privacy of the greatest nation's representatives. On behalf of the entire EB, we wish you the very best. May the wittiest win.

Regards,

Nakshatra Akella

HEAD	SUB-HEAD	TEAM	TEAM	TEAM	TEAM	TEAM
Nakshatra Akella	Aditi Parikh	Saanya Kanwar	Dhvani Parekh	Ishika Chabria	Pritha Mukherji	Kehan Shetty

I. Introduction

“The truth doesn’t matter. It only matters what the people believe.”

In a world where the truth is a blurred construct, the media operates in the grey area between right and wrong. The media can either be the great equalizer, lending a voice to the voiceless and marginalized, or it can be a tool of complicity for the powerful.

From Twitter revolutions in Egypt to media coverage swaying presidential elections in the USA, it is indisputable that the media has the power to influence populations of countries, and to spark drastic, and even violent, change.

Whether it be through the written word or a filtered lens, the press has influenced the opinions of the common man for centuries, and in today’s open journalistic climate, statements turn into perspectives and perspectives turn into facts.

As a member of the Global Media Consortium, you will wield this power in order to manipulate the opinion of the public in the favour of your stance. Delegates will not just play the role of news providers, but opinion creators. This time, every photograph taken, every article written will change the tide of the situation at hand.

With a simple goal of presenting the most compelling side of history, can you convince the public that yours should be heard?

II. Journalism

The onslaught of social media platforms as a source of legitimate news reports and the evolution from traditional print journalism to online journalism are themes that the Global Media Consortium extensively explores.

Delegates selected to be part of the GMC will have the challenging task of representing and replicating the writings of unique and distinct newspapers from all over the globe. As a journalist solely responsible for maintaining the standards and stance of the newspaper assigned, it is of the utmost importance to retain the essence and political ideologies of the same. Each delegate will be assigned a specific committee as well as a newspaper and will be expected to produce 2 articles (350-400 words each) reflecting and analysing the committee sessions with the predisposition of their respective newspapers. You have been provided with the basic profiles of the newspapers with their political stances and a link to an article published by the outlets to help you understand their writing style. You will be required to conduct further extensive research to ensure your articles align with these criteria.

Delegates will also be given the unique opportunity to conduct press conferences in their committees. Each delegate will be given the floor to ask 3 pre-approved questions

to the countries of their choice and their ability to ask relevant questions that possess the power to sway committee proceedings will be judged.

To wreak havoc, the journalists will also generate a steady stream of News Blasts interspersing committee sessions. These News Blasts must have the potential to alter the course of the committee.

III. NEWSPAPER LIST

• G8

United States of America: The New York Times

The New York Times, founded in 1851, has always been a credible, revolutionary source of information, providing generations with well sourced, balanced news. However, the newspaper has been consistent in its liberal stance and outlook on current affairs. In 2004, Daniel Okrent, the newspaper's public editor stated that "the Op-Ed page editors do an even-handed job of representing a range of views – but you need an awfully heavy counterweight to balance a page that also bears the work of seven opinionated columnists, only two of whom could be classified as conservative." The highly acclaimed newspaper, has endorsed only Democratic Party members in the US Presidential Race since 1960. A prominent facet of the writings in the newspaper, is the strict profanity policy imposed by its administration upon each writer.

[The New York Times | History & Facts | Britannica.com](#)

[The New York Times Company](#)

England: The Daily Mirror

Founded in 1903, the Daily Mirror is a tabloid newspaper for the masses. Lord Rothermere, Chairman and a close ally and friend of German dictator Adolf Hitler and Fascist leader Benito Mussolini, aligned the newspaper's ideology in accordance to these personal relationships. Therefore, until 1935, the Daily Mirror had a pro-Nazi and Fascist stance and was very often criticized due to this policy. In 1935, when the newspaper was sold to Hugh Cudlip and H.G. Bartholomew, the outlet adopted a right-wing stance and began to support conservatives. Today, however, their official website states that "politically the Mirror sits left of centre." It follows a tabloid format, rich in photos and has often published sensationalized content. Their articles generally possess a "common man versus bureaucracy" tone.

<https://www.theguardian.com/media/greenslade/2011/dec/06/dailymail-oswald-mosley> [https://www.britannica.com/topic/That he-Mirror-British-newspaper](https://www.britannica.com/topic/That-he-Mirror-British-newspaper)

Russia: The Moscow Times

Founded in 1992, it is amongst the leading English newspapers in Russia. It prides itself on its independent political stance and its target audience are foreigners, expats and 'internationally oriented Russians.'

The Moscow Times has a moderate liberal bias, primarily reporting on incidents and events of the Western world through the skewed lens of a leftist outlook. Russian columnist, Israel Shamir called it a 'militant anti-Putin paper, a digest of the Western press with extreme bias in covering events in Russia.' The newspaper has often been critical of the Russian government and is believed to have an anti-Kremlin attitude. Its credibility has often come under question and the newspaper has often been accused of promoting Western propaganda.

[Moscow Times - Media Bias/Fact Check](#)

[The Moscow Times — News, Business, Culture & Events](#)

Japan: Japan Times

The Japan Times managed to stay independent of governmental influence until the 1930s. But, in the build up to the 2nd World War, the Japanese government seized control of the media and the newspaper was forced to adopt a pro-Seiyukai government stance. Under the military state's censorship, it religiously justified Japan's merciless conquest of Asia and encouraged widespread hatred and boycott of the British and the Americans. It became an official vessel of governmental propaganda. The government employed the use of manipulation and propaganda techniques like big, boastful headlines and the glorification of Japan, to further their cause and force their message upon the readership. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/120th-anniversary-special/lineage-dates-back-edo-period/>

<http://www.worldeyereports.com/media-the-japan-times/>

• G14

China: People's Daily

The newspaper articles submitted by journalists are vetted and approved by the Chinese government, and subsequently, the articles have a largely pro-government stance. The newspaper receives direct information and exclusive quotes from the government, and it largely maintains a formal, informative tone. Finding the balance between helping its government maintain a positive image and reporting the absolute truth has been an ongoing struggle for the newspaper. The editorial has also received its fair share of dissatisfied customers with a significantly younger crowd claiming that the newspaper does not carry out its due-diligence by sharing with them the whole truth behind important political affairs.

<http://en.people.cn>

Pakistan: Dawn

Dawn, Pakistan's oldest newspaper, has held a significant place in the country's history and was a prominent vehicle for the advocacy of the Partition of India and the official newspaper of the Muslim League. Today, it is considered massively independent of governmental influences in a country where censorship is severely implemented. It is generally believed to have a moderate liberal bias and leans towards the left. According to research conducted comparing the reporting of two Pakistani newspapers, the Daily News and Dawn, extensive analysis showed that Dawn, reported the identical events in a 'neutral and objective' manner. The results fortified Dawn's image as a dependable, credible and well sourced media outlet.

[http://gu.edu.pk/New/GUJR/PDF/June-2013/118-128.Mirza%20Jan%20Print%20media%20on%20coverage%20of%20political%20parties%20in%20Pakistan\(1\).pdf](http://gu.edu.pk/New/GUJR/PDF/June-2013/118-128.Mirza%20Jan%20Print%20media%20on%20coverage%20of%20political%20parties%20in%20Pakistan(1).pdf)

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/06/02/opinion/pakistan-military-politics-press-freedom.html>

<https://reutersinstitute.politics.ox.ac.uk/sites/default/files/research/files/Razeshta%20Sethna%20-%20Caught%20between%20Five%20Extremes.%20Reporting%20Pakistan.pdf>

India: The Statesman

The Statesman has been consistent in its left leaning, liberal views since its conception. Its anti-establishment stance has always been valued for its independence and its terse style of reporting.

The newspaper strongly opposed the shifting of India's capital to New Delhi from Calcutta in 1911, quoting "The British have gone to the city of graveyards to be buried there". Despite the British Raj's attempts to censor and suppress the newspaper, it printed gruesome images of the Bengal Famine of 1943, induced by the government's ignorance. Its outright opposition of Indira Gandhi's Proclamation of Emergency between 1975- 1977, was unprecedented and fortified its historical significance as an independent newspaper. It often utilizes loaded words, misleading information and appeals to stereotypes and emotions to protect the liberal cause.

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/The-Statesman>

[The Statesman: Latest News, India, Bengal News, Breaking News ...](#)

United States of America: The Huffington Post

Founded in 2005, the Huffington Post is the self-proclaimed 'original internet newspaper'.

The Huffington Post identifies itself as an overtly liberal news and information site, and it leans towards the left. Articles posted by the Huffington Post appeal to readers by using informal, casual language as opposed to a formal writing style. Journalists for the Huffington Post are known to inculcate their own personal voice and style into their pieces to create a diverse range of emotions and tones. Being an online news platform, journalists heavily rely on enticing and bold headings to attract a larger number of readers. The Huffington Post journalists also write in the form of 'HuffPost Opinion' pieces, where journalists present an original stance on long debated agendas.

<https://guestblogging.com/huffington-post-toolkit/editorial-style-guide/>

[https://www.huffingtonpost.com/greg-gutfeld/the-huffington-post-style b 16095.html](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/greg-gutfeld/the-huffington-post-style-b-16095.html)

Russia: Pravda Report

Pravda Report, is an online newspaper founded in 1999.

The newspaper has been noted of having a strong leftist ideology and has consistently supported liberal causes. It has been criticized for publishing pro-government, nationalist and neo-Soviet news. It makes extensive utilization of non-credible sources and makes false claims based on little to no evidence. A newspaper akin to tabloids, it has very often come under attack for its frequent sensationalization of world events with headlines like "Aliens forced Americans from the Moon", "Nuclear Strike hits Yemen" and "Nazi Germany achieved its technological advantage with aliens' help." It is also severely criticized for its frequent publishing of conspiracy theories.

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Pravda>

https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/entertainment/books/1987/08/09/the-truth-about-pravda/d0f81468-3ed5-4b6b-a4e4-4fcd53e6c8af/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.5c57a1624599

Vietnam: Nhan Dan

Originally published in 1951 during the anti-French Resistance War, Nhan Dan is the official mouthpiece of the Communist Party of Vietnam. The newspaper's official site also states that it was "a driving force behind the nation's two patriotic wars against France and the United States."

According to the newspaper, it is "the voice of the Party, State and people of Vietnam." It reflects the ruling party's ideology and disseminates information aligning with its demands and policies. It carries articles written by party leaders and transcripts of party speeches. Every member of the Vietnamese government and Communist Party are

obligated to read the newspaper each day. <http://www.pressreference.com/Uz-Z/Vietnam.html#ixzz5KYbTobbKNhan Dan>

• G20

United States of America: Fox News

Fox News, was launched in 1996 under the helm of Roger Ailes, a former media consultant to Republican Presidents such as Nixon, Reagan and Bush Sr. This conservative Republican political leaning of the media outlet has subsequently shaped the newspaper's profile throughout its lifetime. The newspaper's story selection and political affiliation has, in recent years, brought it under the scrutiny and attack of liberal groups and has given it a notorious status as an all-weather support of U.S. President Donald Trump. Their use of misleading reporting as well as their frequent distortion of facts clearly highlight the newspaper's political ideology. Critics say that Fox News has manipulated quotes from President Obama and Vice President Biden, using them out of context, and used footage from other events that did not match the event reported to further their ideas.

[Fox News - Breaking News Updates | Latest News Headlines | Photos ...](#)

USSR: Pravda Report-

Pravda Report, is an online newspaper founded in 1999. The newspaper has been accused of having a strong leftist ideology and has consistently supported liberal causes. It has been criticized for publishing pro-government, nationalist and neo-Soviet news. It makes extensive utilization of non-credible sources and makes false claims based on little to no evidence. It frequently sensationalizes world events with headlines like "Aliens forced Americans from the Mood", and "Nazi Germany achieved its technological advantage with aliens' help." It is also severely criticized for its frequent publishing of conspiracy theories.

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Pravda>

https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/entertainment/books/1987/08/09/the-truth-about-pravda/d0f81468-3ed5-4b6b-a4e4-4fcd53e6c8af/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.5c57a1624599

China: People's Daily

The newspaper articles submitted by journalists are vetted and approved by the Chinese government, and subsequently the articles are observed having a largely pro-government stance. The newspaper receives direct information and exclusive quotes from the government, and it largely maintains a formal, informative tone. Finding the balance between helping its government maintain a positive image and reporting the absolute truth has been an ongoing struggle for the newspaper. The editorial has also

received its fair share of dissatisfied customers with a significantly younger crowd claiming that the newspaper does not carry out its due-diligence by sharing with them the whole truth behind important political affairs.

<http://en.people.cn>

India: The Pioneer

The Pioneer, founded in 1865 by George Allen, has been long renowned for its conservative stance on Indian politics. Its website states- “At a time when information and knowledge are a flood on digital platforms, *The Pioneer* stands apart, offering views rather than news, generating diverse opinions.” This clearly indicated the newspapers predisposition for publishing biased reports making elusive usage of misleading language and appealing to specific sentiments and emotions within its audience. In recent years, the BJP’s Rajya Sabha Member, Chandan Mitra, was assigned as the Chief Editor of the newspaper. This has translated in a visibly conservative and pro-government stance on the part of The Pioneer. Numerous columnists of the newspaper, have been severely criticized for their pro-BJP content.

[The Pioneer: English News | Breaking News | Latest News in English ...](#)

Israel: Haaretz

Haaretz, an independent daily newspaper in Israel, was founded in 1919. In 1935, the paper was placed in the ownership of Salman Schoken, a businessman who had fled persecution in Nazi Germany. His son, Gustav took over, giving the newspaper its Left wing, liberal political stance. The New Yorker considers it to be ‘easily the most liberal newspaper in Israel’, and has very often come under attack by the government and the people alike for its adamant opposition of current Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s right leaning government. The newspaper writes scathing articles criticizing oppressive Israeli policies and sympathises with the hardships incurred by the Palestinians in the West Bank. It has often opposed the followers of Orthodox Judaism and has also been accused of being “anti-Semitic.” Haaretz is a highly ideological, highly independent and highly regarded Israeli newspaper with Golda Meir once stating that “the only government that Haaretz ever supported was the British Mandate, before the birth of the state.” <https://www.haaretz.com/1.5349621>

<http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/problems-at-israel-s-haaretz-newspaper-without-a-country-a-599005.html>

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2011/02/28/the-dissenters>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/11/opinion/the-people-vs-haaretz.html>

• GSO

USA: Breitbart

Founded in 2007, by conservative commentator Andrew Breitbart, it is notorious for its alt-right take on American politics. Under Steve Bannon, the digital news source was declared as “the platform for the alt-right”. It became the unofficial rallying spot for Donald Trump’s conservative Republican supporters. The site has very often been criticized for its heavily ideology driven, homophobic, neo-Nazi reportage. The digital news platform is rife with conspiracy theories and xenophobic and racist undertones and has also come under fire for its outright support of white supremacist groups. Breitbart’s very own Editor-in-Chief, Alex Marlow, admitted to foul play and biased reporting regarding its coverage of the Roy Moore race.

<http://www.theamericanconservative.com/dreher/breitbart-fake-news-alex-marlow/>

<https://www.vox.com/2016/8/24/12552602/breitbart-trump-explained>

Russia: Moscow Times

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[Moscow Times - Media Bias/Fact Check](#)

[The Moscow Times — News, Business, Culture & Events](#)

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<http://en.people.cn>

Iran: Tehran Times

Founded in 1979, the newspaper states that its ideology is fundamentally based on Ayatollah Beheshti's: "The Tehran Times is not the newspaper of the government; it must be a loud voice of the Islamic Revolution and the loudspeaker of the oppressed people of the world." In current times, it has taken up the role of a pro-government, well connected Rightist news outlet. Its conservative political stance is visible through the writing style and story selection. The daily believes it to be its duty to address and pay special attention to religious and cultural issues. An explicit utilization of loaded words and misleading information in instances like- "General: the U.S. will become aware of Iran's capabilities when it's late" and "Iran threatens to exit nuclear deal if talks become a 'waste of time'" has made it a target of criticism. Moreover, the news agency has been accused of using poorly sourced data or extensively quoting biased informants.

<http://www.tehrantimes.com/news/300000/about-us>

<http://www.academypublication.com/ojs/index.php/tpls/article/viewFile/tpls051021312137/432>

Saudi Arabia: Al-Jazeera Arabic

Al Jazeera Arabic was launched in 1996 and was founded and continues to be financed by the Government of Qatar. While the company denies any relation or accountability to the government, it has often been accused of a pro-Qatari government bias. While, the network's English counterpart is lauded for unbiased, centered reporting, Al Jazeera Arabic has come under fire for fanning Anti- American sentiments, providing a skewed account of the Syrian conflict and encouraging violence. It is also believed to promote pro-Sunni and anti-Shia attitudes. The news outlet is believed to provide only 'Islamist' perspectives to world events. The propaganda in the Arabic version of the newspaper is exponentially more explicit than that in the English version and the newspaper has also been accused of cultivating anti-Western mindsets in the Middle East.

<https://www.meforum.org/articles/2012/the-two-faces-of-al-jazeera>

<http://studies.aljazeera.net/mritems/Documents/2013/8/5/20138582257502580EN%20-%20Academic%20Research.pdf> <https://www.poynter.org/news/al-jazeera-memo-illustrates-importance-word-choice>

Lebanon: An-Nahar

A Nahar, launched in 1933 by Gebran Tueni is a leading Arabic daily newspaper. Journalist Charles Glass claims that it is Lebanon's equivalent of the New York Times. Tueni's grandson was assassinated in Beirut in 2005, as independent journalists were a great threat to Lebanon's government in its times of political instability. The newspaper has a left leaning political bias and has been more or less independent of state interference. However, the liberal newspaper has solid ties to the traditional Christian community as Tueni's family belonged to an orthodox Christian background. It also has

a more Western outlook and its moderate ideology caters primarily to the urban Lebanese intelligentsia. Since 2005, the newspaper has adopted an opposing attitude to the Syrian regime due to its association to the March 14 Political Alliance.

<https://voxeurop.eu/en/content/source-information/971771-nahar>

[Al-Nahar - Al-Monitor](#)

IV. Photography

The art of photography has been used for generations to manipulate the beliefs of audiences by providing a narrow and focused perspective on an event. The fabrication of photographs to contribute to propaganda and garner public support was seen not only in President Donald Trump's Inauguration Day images but also assisted Stalin in seizing power in Communist Russia by manipulating images from the Russian Revolution.

With the dawn of modern day journalism, a camera has become an extremely potent and volatile tool in the hands of opinion generators. And, has been extensively exploited by countries to sway the public's opinion in the favour of their aims and ideologies.

The delegates chosen to be a part of GMC will be given the stance of an important nation. These nations play a crucial role in cementing peaceful resolutions for the agendas at hand in each committee. However, with each nation's representative selfishly on the lookout for their best interests, it is up to the photographers to convince the public of the worthiness of their own leader. With the liberty of fully accessing the official GMC social media account, you can either choose to portray the good side of your nation's representative or display the shortcomings of your enemies to crush their authority.

Each delegate will be given the freedom to post between 5 to 8 photographs and 2 short videos, along with a short, cleverly-crafted caption to express their nation's views. Delegates will be judged based on adherence to their stance, quality, and public reaction. The layout, composition, and content of the posts will be judged in addition to the delegate's ability to extricate a strong reaction from viewers.

The study guide below will explain in brief the stances of the nations, integral to the committees, to provide delegates with more clarity in terms of direction.

V. COMMITTEE COUNTRIES LIST

- **G8**

Agenda: Move to World War II

1931-1936

USA

The events of 1929, in the United States, set off a universal economic disaster, prompting deflation and mass unemployment. In the 1930s, the United States adopted an isolationist policy, dismissing global meetings, and concentrating on reciprocal tariff agreements with smaller countries of Latin America. The government never agreed to the terms of the Treaty of Versailles and in spite of the fact that the League of Nations was partially-crafted by President Woodrow Wilson, America never joined the League of Nations. Majority of the Americans wanted to keep the country out of European conflicts due to the losses incurred by the USA in WW1. Additionally, joining the association implied incurring setbacks to the economy. Until the Great Depression, the US had good relations with western European powers, and they were not anti-communist yet but frowned upon it.

England

After Great Britain won World War 1, it had been placed in a unique position, as funding the war had severely affected its economy. From being the world's largest overseas investor, it became one of its biggest debtors. As the country's economic state steadily deteriorated, so did the public's faith in the government. Anti-war protests were frequent and with the stock market crash in 1929, the sustainability deteriorated which further strengthened the common man's opposition. England was a capitalist nation and hence depended on international trade which in turn relied on the peacetime economy. After the Great Depression, the British economy was crippled and increased the prospects of England going to war. In order to prevent this, the British government took precautions that would prevent an outbreak of another war in the form of the Policy of Appeasement.

USSR

After seizing control, the Bolsheviks promised to deliver 'Peace, Bread and Land' to the beleaguered people of Russia. The Treaty of Brest-Litovsk was a peace treaty signed in 1918 between the new Bolshevik government of Soviet Russia and the Central Powers, that ended Russia's participation in World War 1. The war caused economic unrest and an exponential increase in population. Due to these conundrums, the policy of

isolationism was adopted which resulted in a monumental growth of governmental power in USSR. Communism was a new ideology that swept USSR by storm and simultaneously left the Western Nations aghast due to the shunning of capitalism. The USSR wasn't offered a seat at the League of Nations until 1934 because of the rise in Communism.

Japan

The Meiji Restoration is the primitive time frame when The General who ruled Japan lost his power and the Emperor's reign was re-established. Following the Restoration, Japan regained complete control of its foreign trade, international affairs, and the legal system. Surpassing its initial objectives, Japan proceeded to modernize its entire society. Japan was victorious in the 1st World War and was only scarcely affected by it. However, the Japanese population increased exponentially in the early 19th century and Japan's economy was further weakened by the Great Depression. To solve all of its economic issues, Japan decided to invade China, beginning the conquest of its imperialistic ambitions. In 1931, Japan attacked Manchuria without a pretext of war, violating the guidelines of the League of Nations. Japan proceeded to walk out of the League of Nations allowing it more freedom to pursue its independent foreign policy and gain a firmer control over China.

• G14

Agenda: Trade Route Conflicts in South Asia

People's Republic of China

With strategic plans for the One Belt One Road Initiative, China believes that an access to Pakistan's Gwadar port will give access to new markets and its resources. China is also keen to include India in its CPEC project as a means to gain access to the Indian ocean and improve bilateral ties. China continues to refer to Pakistan as the "Iron brother" and believes that CPEC is a "win-win" situation for them. Although many nations have urged it to abide by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, China has refrained by basing its argument on unclear historical records. Moreover, China also claims to own the Spratly Islands and the Paracel islands under the pretext of them being located within the nine-dash line region of the South China sea, creating turmoil amongst other nations.

Pakistan

Although Pakistan is unclear as to how much debt CPEC will put it under, it is excited for the economic change that China will bring about, but it feels slightly disconnected from China's big plans for the OBOR initiative. It hopes that China will help keep the Pakistani economy afloat once CPEC is in action. Pakistan also aims to create an alliance with Russia, through the help of the OBOR initiative, to neutralize growing Indian power.

Although Pakistan lacks close proximity to the South China sea, it has expressed its unassailable support towards China.

India

Despite its non-alignment strategy for foreign policy, India supports USA in its movement to curb Chinese expansion. India believes that CPEC gives China more access to the Gwadar port which can easily lead to the Indian Ocean. This would lead to major socio-political instability in the nation. Furthermore, India envisions that CPEC will also cause territorial instability in regions of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, further triggering Indo-Pakistani tension. Being the third largest consumer of oil, the potential energy deposits in the South China Sea have drawn India's attention over the last two years. India aims to keep integral sea lanes, through the South China Sea, easily accessible and maintain cordial relations with other South Asian nations to ensure that no potentially aggressive external power comes to dominate the region.

United States of America

USA believes that the OBOR project is a threat to US-Pakistani relations, now progressing towards distrust and suspicion. USA is directly at odds with China as it claims CPEC involves "disturbed, vulnerable territory". The OBOR project is viewed, by US, as a threat to its economic and military development. USA continues to express its disappointment towards China due to its disregard to the terms of the UNCLOS. USA's recent entry to a zone within 12 nautical miles of a Chinese sovereign territory has put China and USA at odds once again.

Russian Federation

Russia wishes to expand the scope of CPEC and urges India to consider China's offer to join the OBOR initiative. Through CPEC, Russia believes it can improve the 3 -power alliance with China and Pakistan, in order to effectively neutralize USA's growing dominance. Russia also believes that taking calculated steps can strengthen the Pakistan-Russia military alliances signed earlier this year, and curb terrorism rooted in Afghanistan. While Russia is not directly involved in the dispute with the other South Asian nations, it is an old ally of China and thus expresses its solidarity with them. The Russian Federation plans to have a joint naval drill with China later this year to express its power in the South China sea.

Vietnam

Vietnam has demanded that the Chinese government remove all rumoured Chinese missiles from the Spratly Islands. Vietnam and China appear to be in a constant state of conflict as Vietnam drills for oil in regions that clash with areas that China claims using the nine-dash line. A Vietnamese fishing boat was also sunk upon its crash with a Chinese vessel.

• G20

Agenda 1: Combating Cyber Threats in the 4th Industrial Revolution

The USA

Amidst concerns over numerous cases of high-profile hacking, Homeland Security recently unveiled a new national strategy. U.S. intelligence officials fear that Russia may intervene in the upcoming midterm Congressional Elections as they had in 2016. Furthermore, in 2015, the U.S. Office of Personnel Management experienced its biggest data breach when 21.5 million records were stolen. Taking these events into consideration, the US Government has started taking steps to eliminate every possible threat to its cyber security, including invoking notifications regarding healthcare information, public-private partnerships to improve cyber-security, etc.

Russia

Due to allegations of having the 4th highest hacking activity in the world, the Russian government is taking steps to curb the threat posed by such activity. The government has devised a strategy termed “International Information Security”. Several legislative changes have been announced by the government including rules regarding the regulation of big data and the processing of biometric personal data. However, recently President Vladimir Putin fired his internet advisor on the grounds of “failing to cultivate an influence” and has appointed a team of his own.

China

In order to fight cybercrime, China initiated the Cyber Security Law which helps in combating the primary cause of cybercrime i.e. anonymity. It also allows the government to control the data within the country and internet access through its “Great Firewall”. In addition to that, recently President Xi Jinping has pledged to even support smaller nations in their fight against cybercrime at the 86th Annual Interpol General Assembly. The government has also planned to set up an international law enforcement college to offer training to 20,000 law enforcement personnel from developing countries under its Ministry of Public Security.

India

Post the documents leak by whistle-blower Edward Snowden which revealed that much of the surveillance of the NSA was focused on Indian Politics and their interests, the Indian Government implemented the National Cyber Security Policy in 2013. According to the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, the policy’s main objectives include “to create a secure cyber ecosystem in the country, generate adequate trust and confidence in IT system and transactions in cyberspace and thereby enhance adoption of IT in all sectors of the economy”. To accomplish this objective,

many strategies have been planned which include securing e-government services, creating a mechanism for security threats and many more.

Israel

Israel is considered to have cyber supremacy due to its advanced cybersecurity systems. Having recognised the fact that technology is evolving at an unprecedented speed, the National Cyber- security Taskforce proposed to develop an ecosystem which can identify any potential threat to the cyber etiquette of the country. The ecosystem is a constantly evolving framework for collaboration between the government, businesses, and universities, with the government playing mostly a guiding, advisory role. This system allows the nation to continually gather intelligence and develop cybersecurity measures with respect to the rapid changes, resulting in the country being titled as the cybersecurity powerhouse.

Agenda 2: Tackling Infrastructural deficits for inclusive development

The USA

Reports state that the US government spends only 2.4% of its GDP on infrastructure. The American Society of Civil Engineers fears that most American dams do not possess the ability to withstand the current predictions regarding large floods and earthquakes. Even the water and bridge infrastructure are in a dire state. The ASCE has already given a grade of D-plus to the infrastructure of America as a whole. Overall, says the society, \$4.6tn (£3.6tn) will be needed by 2025 to bring US infrastructure to an acceptable standard.

China

Infrastructure development remains the top priority of the Chinese Government. They believe that a modern economy runs on reliable roads and rails, electricity, and telecommunications. China has set 2020 as its target year for its infrastructure to be fully developed and also aims to bring in new projects on stream. Currently, China aims to improve its transport system to serve to the benefit of the entire economy. With the rate infrastructure is developing in China, it promises to be a land full of opportunities and therefore a great place for investors to invest.

Russia

Compared to other countries, Russia has a long way to go in terms of infrastructure development. Currently, 4% of its GDP goes into infrastructure projects and the share of the private sector as a percentage of cumulative infrastructure investments in Russia over the last four years is estimated at 16% as compared to other nations such as India which is at 40%. Due to a high amount of public finances and a high demand for such

projects, Russia has a long-term potential for development in this sector. It is now working on its approach towards the project life cycle.

India

According to the Economic Survey 2017-18. There has been a massive under-development in the infrastructure sector due to the collapse of public-private partnerships, issues related to land and forest clearances. India urgently needs to fill up the infrastructure-investment gap by generating funds from institutions which support infrastructure development. The survey also pointed out that there is a large scope of improvement in the shipbuilding industry in India. It stated that there had been a decline in the share of Indian Railways in the freight movement primarily due to a non-competitive tariff structure which it follows. These are some of the major areas where India needs to work upon for its infrastructure to be better developed.

- **GSO**

Agenda 1: South Sudan Dinka vs Nur Conflict

The United States of America

During the Obama administration, South Sudan was included in the CSPA that prohibits the government from furnishing security assistance and selling arms to any government that has been seen to recruit children into its armed forces. The United States failed South Sudan by not upholding the act. In 2015, the UN and US's plan to enforce economic and military sanctions on South Sudan failed. Consequently, in October 2016, Obama waived CSPA sanctions on South Sudan again. Obama's liberal use of the waiver has led to severe consequences. However, things have been slightly different during Trump's administration. According to US President Donald Trump, "The US is losing their patience and the government of South Sudan has already lost their credibility." And, in February 2018, they banned the export of weapons to South Sudan and are now urging other nations as well as the UN to adopt a global arms embargo.

Russia

Russia views the South Sudan crisis through a discredited colonial prism and believes that any attempt to intervene to restore law through political mechanism will fail. UN Russian Ambassador Petre Ilichev says that the views of regional countries should be acknowledged in order to make such a decision and that an arms embargo and targeted measures to disarm civilians and demobilize them won't help.

China

The International Monetary Fund has stated that in 2016, the annual inflation in South Sudan was peaking at 550% and a 'precipitous' currency depreciation was being

observed as well. As a result, South Sudan has asked China for nearly \$2-billion (USD) to redevelop oil fields and to restore roads. In addition, South Sudan has asked China to reopen a key petroleum-supplying field in Unity State and to rebuild a critical road between Juba, the capital, and Wau, a major city in the western part of the country.

Agenda 2- Iran Saudi proxy war

Iran

Home of Shiite Islam, Iran is an important ally of the Syrian government and provides funds in order to support the government in its Civil war. Iran also provided the Assad regime with elite forces, intelligence, and training. Iran was recently accused of providing the missiles launched at Saudi Arabia, but this claim was denied along with the allegations of initiating an act of war with Saudi Arabia. In addition, Iran is also backing Hezbollah- a Shi'a Islamist political party and militant group based in Lebanon, and the Yemen rebels.

Saudi Arabia

Majority of the Sunni-Muslim kingdom resides in Saudi Arabia. Since it's change in leadership, Saudi Arabia's approach towards Iran has become more aggressive and continues to be so with the support of the US President, Donald Trump. Saudi Arabia backs the Sunni rebels in Syria and helps the government of Yemen by providing firepower following an attack by the Houthis; a Shiite-linked militant group. Saudi Arabia also recently intercepted a missile launched by Iran-backed Houthis at its capital, Riyadh. The alleged supply of this missile by Iran may potentially lead to it being considered as an act of war against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Lebanon

Lebanon is currently facing a political crisis. Iran has a large amount of influence in Lebanon via Hezbollah – a militant group based in Lebanon that is considered by the US to be a terrorist organization. Saad Hariri, Prime Minister of Lebanon recently retired under circumstances that could be considered suspicious. He was in Saudi Arabia while he abruptly resigned, criticizing Iran and its powerful proxy Hezbollah while doing so. There have been claims that pressure from Saudi Arabia forced him to resign against his will. Hariri's resignation has currently been put on hold.

United States of America

Saudi Arabia and the US have always been allies, though their relationship in recent times grew a little strained due to the engagement policy adopted by the Obama administration in relation to Iran. Saudi Arabia is the primary destination for U.S. arms sales, but the U.S.' concern about the Saudi rule's power has gotten graver under the Salman.

President Trump has disavowed the landmark nuclear deal signed by Iran with Obama's government and supports the claim that Iran provided the missile launched at Saudi

Arabia.U.S. will now have to act to protect its central military, economic and counter-terrorism interests in the Gulf, especially in Saudi Arabia, Yemen, and Bahrain.

