

THE DIPLOMATIC SIMULATION EXERCISE JAGRAV-2 – Preparatory Session

Date: 09 February 2024

Time: 1.20 pm – 3.00 pm

Venue: De Nobili Hall, Old LIBA building, Loyola College

The Department of International Relations, Loyola College (Autonomous) along with the Department of International Studies, WCC and Stella Maris and the Department of Defence and Strategic Studies, University of Madras have collaboratively organised the simulation exercise JAGRAV 2 at Loyola College on 9th, 12th and 13th February 2024.

The event started with the welcome speech delivered by Ms. Shilpa Joseph from the control syndicate, and she invited Major General Vinaya Chandran to address the gathering. Mr. Vinaya Chandran talked about various concepts of international relations as well as his experience as a professor and motivated the students to participate in the simulation with an intention to learn. Each country syndicate was given time to prepare for the upcoming two-day Jagrav exercise for an hour. At the same time, media syndicates were conducting interviews with government officials and heads of state to publish news bulletins on day one of Jagrav 2. Following a break session, the event came to an end with a vote of thanks.

SIMULATION EXERCISE JAGRAV 2 2024- DAY 1 (12/02/2024)

The first day of the Jagrav 2 simulation exercise was set to begin by 9:45 AM. The agenda for the 12th of February had the presentation from all 6 Heads of the States of China, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. The presentations were followed by a lunch break for all the participants. Following this, the question-answer session happened for the India Syndicate and the Pakistan Syndicate where the members of the respective country syndicates were questioned by the other country syndicates and the media. After this, the bilateral meeting between the country syndicates happened. For example, 2+2 Ministerial meetings happened between India and Nepal, bilateral meetings between Bangladesh and Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka, and many more. The media syndicate conducted interviews side by side during the proceedings of the presentations and bilateral meetings as well. Many bilateral agreements were formed between the country syndicates as well setting the stage for day 2 of the Jagrav 2. The Day 1 of Jagrav 2 concluded at 5:30 PM along with all the bilateral meetings. In the event overall, there were many rising tensions between the country syndicates.

Day II Jagrav

“All diplomacy is a continuation of war by other means.” ~Zhou Enlai

Ten minutes before the session commenced, the audience took their seats, eagerly anticipating the unfolding events. The entire program was expertly hosted by Shilpa Joseph and Dhalia from the Control Syndicate. With the esteemed presence of General Vinay Chandran and other faculty members from various departments, the program commenced promptly at half past nine in the morning. The initial segment featured a quadrilateral meeting on railway connectivity from Nepal to Bangladesh, engaging representatives from Nepal, India, China, and Bangladesh. Discussions delved deeply into topics such as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), military and economic strategies, and the looming threat of terrorism, particularly in relation to Pakistan and achieving stable governance. The meeting also underscored the pivotal roles of Nepal and Bangladesh as primary stakeholders, expressing concerns over perceived marginalization amidst the influence of the Chinese and Indian Syndicates. Press inquiries following the meeting sought clarification on several key points.

The afternoon session witnessed updates from various news outlets and social media platforms, penned by India's Gazette and Beijing Bulletin. Press conferences, personal interviews, and press releases from nations such as Pakistan, China, and Nepal added layers of complexity to the evolving diplomatic landscape. As the clock struck four, General Vinay Chandran delivered his closing remarks, lauding the collective efforts of all syndicates involved and expressing gratitude to the control and media syndicates for their seamless coordination. Acknowledgment was also extended to Loyola College and the logistics team for their invaluable support as hosts. With bated breath, the declaration arrived—the Indian Syndicate emerged victorious, hailed for their adept diplomatic maneuvers. The event had been truly enlightening, bringing out both traits of the fox and the lion amongst leaders and diplomats.

The event culminated with the emcee extending heartfelt gratitude to all participants, followed by a spirited group photo capturing the camaraderie forged amidst diplomatic battles. Placards held high, students celebrated the culmination of a momentous event, brimming with newfound connections and invaluable learning experiences.