

# NATIONAL PRESS CORPS

The background of the slide is a photograph of several microphones from different news organizations. Visible logos include CNN, IBN, and NDTV. The microphones are arranged in a cluster, with some having red foam covers. The image is slightly blurred and has a dark, muted color palette.

VSA MODEL PARLIMENT 2022

Agenda: The integrity and true purpose of journalism has been lost in an ocean of bias, censorship, and selective exclusion

## Letter from The Press

Welcome to the National Press Corps, where you will be the medium of communication between political and government institutions, and the outside world. We are delighted to have you join us, and look forward to reporting hard-hitting facts with you.

During the course of the two days,, we strive to embody the spirit of integrity that comes with being a journalist. We hope to delve into the issues of not only our own agenda, but also play an active role in the other committees through the exercise of our right to criticise. Our aim is to observe, to question, and to give a voice to the country as we provide the real and unfiltered picture. As representatives of the NPC, you will be dealing with a lot of sensitive issues and working with people whose beliefs and views do not necessarily align with your own. Keeping this in mind, we request you not to let your personal bias and beliefs colour how you address the situation. Kindly be mindful of your tone, vocabulary and conduct.

We look forward to this two day session and strive to make it a memorable and fun experience for you! We hope you enjoy it thoroughly and emerge with an air of confidence when representing your own views. We wish you all the best in your preparation and eagerly await all that you have to offer to this committee!

Warmest regards,

Heer Bedi & Evonne Christopher  
Executive Board, NPC

## INTRODUCTION TO THE AGENDA

To become a journalist is an act of character. The uncompromising integrity upheld by journalists in their work allows the citizens of this country to exercise their agency in a democracy. Journalism is the common man's link to their economic, social and political environments, and it empowers progressive change.

Freedom of speech and expression under Article 19(1) of the press confers the right to criticise the Government and its Institutions, hold it accountable for any acts of omission or commission, and express views that may be unpopular or unconventional.

As stated by the Supreme Court, "A citizen has a right to criticize or comment upon the measures undertaken by the Government and its functionaries, so long as he does not incite people to violence against the Government or with the intention of creating public disorder."

Section 124-A of the IPC, which entails the crime of sedition, has often been used to curtail various dissenting voices. Journalists have been among the most affected ones, with several of them slapped with sedition in the past few years. For instance, in January 2021 five prominent journalists—Rajdeep Sardesai, Mrinal Pande, Zafar Agha, Paresh Nath, Anant Nath, and Vinod K Jose—were booked under sedition law in five states over allegedly "spreading fake news of a farmer's death during tractor rally". Infact, it is those instruments of a democracy that are meant to freely exercise their right to criticise the government that are being censored in favour of protecting the image projected by the government.

## GUIDELINES:

### **REPORT WRITING:**

1. Report writing is the most integral part of this committee. Every report must include precise facts and data and may quote statements that have been made during the committee proceedings.
2. The word limit is 650-700 words per report.
3. The report must be submitted before we break for lunch on both days.

### **PRESS CONFERENCES:**

1. The Press Conference aims to address issues that were not discussed in committee as well as scrutinise inconsistencies in factual data, or logic made by participants.
2. As members of the NPC, you must actively listen to the discussions in each committee and structure your questions in a manner likened to your assigned news channel.  
[Further guidelines will be included regarding the specifics of news channel allocations, and ROP in the different committees]

### **BASIC GUIDELINES:**

1. Plagiarism is strictly *forbidden*. It is necessary to make citations and references in order to make your sources explicit.
2. Use proper and appropriate grammar in your reports as well as questions.
3. While questioning a delegate, address them as per the title allocated to them.
4. During committee proceedings, do not interrupt the participants or the executive board.
5. Do not make the sessions too long, keep it short and straightforward.
6. Do not contribute to proliferation or escalation of the conflict.
7. You may use your devices in order to record all instances as well as frame your questions.
8. Be honest and refrain from presenting unverified information.

## OTHER COMMITTEES AND THEIR AGENDA:

1. RBI- AGENDA: Reviewing and devising new monetary policies to counter inflation
2. Lok Sabha- reviewing the Armed Forces (Special Powers) act (AFSPA) and its need in upholding the integrity and sovereignty of the Indian Union.
3. Ministry of external affairs- To discuss China's recent expansionist steps with regard to Taiwan and the Indo-Pacific region and its implications to India's foreign policies?
4. Ministry of Defence- The LTTE Takeover of Sri-Lanka and the concomitantly the declaration of Tamil Nadu as a separate state from the Indian Union

*If you require any clarifications regarding any aspect of this committee, feel free to contact:*  
*Committee email ID: [npcvsamodelparliament@gmail.com](mailto:npcvsamodelparliament@gmail.com)*

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