



## OF SCIONS AND MEN: INDIAN NATIONAL WORKING COMMITTEE 1991

Tired of hearing about US elections? We have the perfect committee for you: the Indian National Congress Working Committee. The year is 1991 and the Congress party is gearing up for the elections led by the face of their party, Rajiv Gandhi. The party - and the country itself - are grappling with economic, political, religious, and caste-based tensions; to add the cherry on top, Rajiv Gandhi is about to be assassinated. Members of the Working Committee will be tasked with formulating a strategy for toppling the current administration and heading towards elections, navigating each of the day's controversies with a deft hand in order to prevent Congress from losing political support during the campaign. As delegates progress through this election cycle, they'll need to plan a political response to the Ayodhya Dispute, respond to the Mandal Commission protests, avoid the impending economic crisis, and more. Will the Congress party members be able to retain power and stay afloat during these turbulent times? Or will they be submerged by their opponents?

### BACKGROUND GUIDE

#### TANMAY GUPTA

##### CHAIR

Tanmay is a third-year majoring in math (theoretical and with no applications anywhere in the real world). He was born and raised in Delhi, India, which probably explains his deep interest in anything South Asian. He staffed "The Midnight Nightingale: Bahadur Shah Zafar and the Last Days of the Mughal Empire" at ChoMUN XXII, was Crisis Director of "Flight of the Golden Magpie: Provisional Government of Bangladesh, 1971" at (what was meant to be) ChoMUN XXIII, and is beyond excited to be running this committee alongside Roma and Aparna. Outside of MUN, Tanmay is very interested in reading and talking about Indian politics (legend says that this is the only thing he's emotionally invested in), looking up cool math he can't understand, trying to find Research Assistant positions, playing the guitar, re-watching Breaking Bad, and killing his apartment-mates at ping pong and FIFA (among other competitive activities). He hopes to go to pursue graduate study in economics and contribute to the understanding of the Indian and global economies. He looks forward to seeing everyone at ChoMUN XXIV; feel free to reach out to him at [tanmayg@uchicago.edu](mailto:tanmayg@uchicago.edu) in the meantime!

#### APARNA JAYASHANKAR

##### CRISIS DIRECTOR

Aparna Jayashankar is a rising third-year at UChicago majoring in Public Policy and Economics. She's originally from Brookfield, WI, but now she stays in the great state of Kansas. Last year, she was on the Bangladesh committee with Tanmay, Roma, and our wonderful USG Firouz. She's beyond excited to be running the INC Working Committee this year and cannot wait to meet all of the delegates this year! Apart from ChoMUN, she's also a USG for MUNUC, UChicago's conference for high school students, a research assistant for the American Bar Foundation, and an intern for Shakti, a nonprofit empowering women to access justice. In her spare time, you'll catch her going for long walks around campus or napping at her favorite spot - the comfy couches in Harper Library.

#### ROMA SHAH

##### CRISIS DIRECTOR

Roma is a third-year Public Policy Studies and Neuroscience double major from middle of nowhere Wisconsin. If you're curious about where, it's easiest to just google 'world's second largest round barn'. She is super excited for this year's ChoMUN as a CD for this committee! For the past two years, Roma's been an EAC and then AC, both times on a committee with our wonderful Chair Tanmay. Aparna, Tanmay, and Roma all braved the year of ChoMUN XXIII with our USG Firouz and were sad to not see the great Bangladesh committee through to the end but are hopeful this year will be even more fun than the last! Outside of ChoMUN, Roma is a research assistant for a professor and also in a lab (super cool someone ask her about brains), is a contributing writer for The Gate and WellNews on campus, and she is also a competitor and Board member of UChicago Mock Trial. When she's not in the middle of an existential crisis on the quad, or hunkering down for hours in her beloved Mansueto, you can find Roma sipping on many mugs of coffee, rambling about soccer (or screaming...take your pick), or stress baking. Her committee this year better be prepared for lots and LOTS of food. Roma is so excited to meet all the new prospective committee members and take on this upcoming conference with Aparna and Tanmay! If you have any questions or also would like to rant about soccer or perhaps you'd be willing to try one of her many concoctions...feel free to email her at [roma2@uchicago.edu](mailto:roma2@uchicago.edu)!

#### SECRETARIAT OVERSIGHT:

FIROUZ NIAZI, UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL