



9th Government Law College International Law Summit

9th – 11th March, 2018



International Humanitarian Law

Pablo Picasso: Guernica (1937)

AN OVERVIEW

The 9th Government Law College International Law Summit, organized by the Students for the Promotion of International Law (SPIL), Mumbai, was held from 9th March to 11th March 2018, encompassing various illuminating seminars, an engaging Panel Discussion, Webinars, Call for Papers and two novel competitions - the Treaty Appreciation Competition (TAC) and the Judgment Deliberation Competition (JDC).

The theme for the 9th Government Law College International Law Summit, 2018, supported by the World Trade Organization (WTO), Geneva, was 'International Humanitarian Law', for which, in the present time of appalling violence across the globe; there is a need to revisit and reanalyse it. It is whilst acknowledging the scope of improvement and growing importance of this field of law which has evolved over the years in the international sphere, that SPIL, Mumbai, envisioned organizing the 9th Government Law College International Law Summit, 2018 with 'International Humanitarian Law' as its theme.

A phenomenal success yet again, the Summit, 2018, received attention from diverse sections of the legal fraternity and eclectic intelligentsia from all over the country and around the world.

9TH MARCH, 2018

20 DOWNTOWN HALL, EROS

The first day of the 9th Government Law College International Law Summit, 2018 commenced in a grand fashion by the sheer stature and the august presence of the esteemed guests presiding over the event, among other eminent personalities.



The Keynote speaker was **Mr. Kishore Mandhyan, Former Director, Executive Office/Cabinet of United Nations Secretary General**. He was the Special Rapporteur of UN Secretary General in the Serbia-Bosnia Genocide case. He began his address by explaining the reasons for why the rules of movement in International Law are not permanent and how they evolve over time with the change in power. He elucidated the role of UN in international humanitarian crisis and astutely summarised it by quoting Dag Hammarskjöld, "It has been said that the United Nations was not created in order to bring us to heaven, but in order to save us from hell". The peroration of his speech shed light on the part played by the journalists in highlighting and accentuating an international humanitarian crisis and educating the masses about the same.

The Guest Speaker next in line was **Mr. Girish Kuber, Editor, LokSatta** who spoke about the results of the Red Line Agreement which paved way to oil cartel monopoly with vast influence. He elucidated on the history of oil politics and linked it to humanitarian issues by supporting his claims with instances such as the U.S. funding the Taliban in Afghanistan in return for the establishment of the Trans-Afghanistan Pipeline Project and the role of Osama Bin Laden in the attack on the Saudi Arabian oil infrastructure. He threw light on the Deepwater Horizon oil spill for which civilians had to pay the price.



Next, **Ms. Jasdeep Randhawa, Transboundary Water Specialist, World Bank**, brought to the table extensive research on migration, displacement and the ongoing refugee crisis in Syria, Chad Basin, Mali, Sudan and Jordan. She further threw light on possible solutions that can be adopted such as conflict prevention, usage of early warning systems, empowerment of local actors, change in public perception, use of technology, encouragement to local entrepreneurship and budgetary changes for addressing humanitarian issues.



WEBINAR



Maika Oshikawa: Officer in Charge, Accessions Division, WTO, thereafter joined us to deliver a webinar on the topic - 'WTO Accessions: Helping Conflict-Affected and Fragile Economies'. The session began with a short introduction to GATT, WTO, the g7+ WTO Accessions Group and how it has contributed in accelerating the growth rate of member countries. Further, she elucidated upon the 2010 Dili Declaration of g7+ and the Kabul Communique of g7+ which focused on facilitating integration of post conflict economies into multi-lateral trading systems.

Ms. Yukiko Koyama, Senior Protection Officer, UNHCR India and **Ms. Ragini Trakroo Zutshi, Associate Protection Officer, UNHCR India**, conducted another webinar on the topic - 'UNHCR's Global Mandate and Persons of Concern'. They began the session with a brief introduction to UNHCR and its functions. They discussed customary laws and principles like non-refoulment and international protection. The session concluded with deliberation on alarming statistics on refugees and consideration of durable solutions.

UNVEILING OF SOUVENIR



The Souvenir of the 9th Government Law College International Law Summit, 2018 was unveiled by the dignitaries on the dais. A heart-warming welcome address by **Judge Smt. Suvarna Keole, Principal, Government Law College, Mumbai**, followed the unveiling of the Summit Souvenir. The day was finally brought to an end by the Vice-President of SPIL, Mumbai, **Ms. Dikshita Baruah**, through her Vote of Thanks dedicated to all those who made the materialization of the Summit possible.

10TH MARCH, 2018

GOVERNMENT LAW COLLEGE, MUMBAI

The second day of the Summit entailed the preliminary rounds of the Judgment Deliberation Competition (JDC) and the Treaty Appreciation Competition (TAC).

The Preliminary rounds of the JDC were judged by:

1. Mr. Aritra Roy, Senior Associate, Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas;
2. Mr. Oishik Bagchi, Senior Associate, Khaitan & Co.;
3. Mr. Shahezad Kazi, Associate, S & R Associates;

4. Ms. Saloni Kapadia, Senior Associate, Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas;
5. Mr. Swapnil Bangur, Advocate, Bombay High Court.

The rounds of the TAC were judged by:

1. Prof. Kishu Daswani, Professor, Government Law College, Mumbai.
2. Ms. Sonali Mathur, Partner, AZB & Partners.



The semi-final rounds of the JDC were judged by:

1. Mr. Vismay Shroff, Associate, Parimal K. Shroff & Co.;
2. Mr. Advait Sethna, Advocate, Bombay High Court.



Finally three teams qualified for the final round of the JDC:-

- Indian Law Society, Pune;
- Pravin Gandhi College of Law, Mumbai;
- School of Law, Christ University, Bengaluru.

11TH MARCH, 2018

MUMBAI UNIVERSITY CONVOCATION HALL



The final day of the Summit entailed the final round of the Judgment Deliberation Competition. **Mr. Rafique Dada, Senior Advocate, Bombay High Court, Mr. Shardul Thacker, Senior Partner, Mulla & Mulla & Craigie Blunt & Caroe, and Mr. Rizwan Merchant, Advocate, Bombay High Court** presided over the final round of deliberations.

Intensive deliberation by the teams and fierce questioning by our judges finally resulted in Pravin Gandhi College of Law, Mumbai, emerging as the winner of the Judgment Deliberation Competition, followed by Indian Law Society, Pune, securing the Runner-Up position. After the rounds, as the scores were tallied, the judges gave an insightful feedback praising the detailed research of all the participants and the high level of the competition. The competition successfully achieved its objective of broadening perspectives and encouraging rational discourse.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The engaging addresses were followed by a Paper Presentation session by the winners of the 'Best Paper' and 'Second Best Paper' of the Call for Papers, 2018. 'Lost in Ambiguity- Human Trafficking in Conflict Zones' by Chitresh Baheti and Kartikey Pandey, and 'Reinforcing India's Commitment to International Humanitarian Law- A Case for Ratification of Additional Protocols to Geneva Conventions ' by Rohitesh Tak and Palada Dharma Teja were adjudged the 'Best Paper' and the 'Second Best Paper' respectively.

PANEL DISCUSSION



The apotheosis of the day was the highly engrossing Panel Discussion on 'Is India's Refugee Policy a Case of Smoke and Mirrors?' deftly moderated by Mr. Shardul Thacker, Senior Partner, Mulla & Mulla & Craigie Blunt & Caroe, that featured illustrious panellists including Mr. Rizwan Merchant, Advocate, Bombay High Court, Dr. K. M. Parivelan, Chairperson, Centre for Statlessness and Refugee Studies, TISS, Mumbai, Ms.

Teesta Setalvad Indian Civil Rights Activist and Journalist, Mr. Vijay Hiremath, Advocate, Bombay High Court, Vismay Shroff, Associate, Parimal K. Shroff & Co. and Prof. Kishu Daswani, Professor, Government Law College, Mumbai.

The Panel Discussion witnessed an engaging exchange of viewpoints on India's stance on the issue of Rohingya refugees. The panellists analysed the principle of non-refoulment and India's response to similar situations in the past, wherein India granted asylum to Bangladeshi, Tibetan, Afghani and Sri Lankan refugees. The discussants drew attention to the inhumane conditions in which the refugees have been living in India and the need to recognise them so as to provide them with basic amenities for their sustenance.



The discussion also shed light on the increase in the propaganda and the growing threat of the ISIS, and the effect it has had on the perception of Rohingya refugees. The discourse centred on reasons for India to be a signatory to the Additional Protocols so as to have a stable refugee policy. The intricate and overriding responsibilities of the State Governments and the Centre were also analysed in identifying the security requirements of today.

VALEDICTORY CEREMONY

Treaty Appreciation Competition

- Best Team – Symbiosis Law School, Pune;
- Runner-Up Team –NALSAR, Hyderabad;
- Best Member – Ishita Soni, Symbiosis Law School, Pune
- Best Critique – NALSAR, Hyderabad.

Judgment Deliberation Competition

- Best Team – Pravin Gandhi College of Law, Mumbai;
- Runner-Up Team – Indian Law Society, Pune;
- Best Judgment – Symbiosis Law School, Pune;
- Second-Best Judgment – School of Law, Christ, Bengaluru and Pravin Gandhi College of Law, Mumbai.



An earnest Vote of Thanks by the **SPIL President –Mr. Avirup Mandal**, tied together the events of the day, bringing a close to the 9th Government Law College International Law Summit, 2018. The President attributed the success of the Summit to the constant support of its patrons, sponsors and mentors with the invaluable effort of the team of SPIL, Mumbai, students, lawyers, and academicians at an innovative, interactive, and enlightening forum.

"It was an absolute privilege to participate in the 9th Government Law College International Law Summit, 2017. The event identified a highly relevant transboundary and inter-disciplinary problem that provoked highly analytical and thoughtful discussions. The high success of the event goes to the incredible SPIL organizing committee – the hardworking, dedicated and meticulous GLC students, who have indeed set a precedent to provoking and highlighting the central role of the youth in influencing and shaping policy and opinion. Congratulations!"

- Ms. Jasdeep Randhawa, Transboundary Water Specialist, World Bank

Title Sponsor, Judgement
Deliberation Competition



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