



# The Indian Society of International Law NEWSLETTER

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For members only

## EDITORIAL

### *Obligations of States with Respect to Climate Change*

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) held historic hearings from 2 to 13 December 2024 addressing States' obligations under international law to combat climate change, a process spearheaded by small island nations facing existential threats. 96 countries and 11 international organizations presented their arguments. The case focused on the obligations of major greenhouse gas-emitting nations to address climate change and the legal mechanisms to hold them accountable for its devastating impacts. At the forefront of this historic effort are Vanuatu and other vulnerable Pacific Island nations, whose very survival is threatened by rising sea levels and intensifying storms. Despite contributing minimally to global emissions, these nations face disproportionately severe consequences. Their leaders are demanding a clear and unequivocal declaration that the environmental devastation caused by unchecked carbon emissions constitutes a violation of international law. Nations from the Global South stressed that climate change threatens their very survival. They highlighted the stark inequity: a small group of industrialized nations, primarily responsible for the crisis, continues to exploit fossil fuels while countries like Zambia argued that climate change affects every aspect of their economies. Meanwhile, major emitters—including the U.S., U.K., Germany, Saudi Arabia, and China—contended that the ICJ was not the appropriate venue to clarify climate obligations. They argued that existing treaties were sufficient and that additional legal accountability could discourage participation in global climate processes. The United States acknowledged the severity of the climate crisis but argued that international treaties like the Paris Agreement are not legally binding. Margaret Taylor, the US representative, also rejected the notion that “common but differentiated responsibilities” is a fundamental principle of international law. On the other hand, the European Union (EU) emphasised cooperation and stressed the non-adversarial nature of the advisory proceedings. EU representatives pointed to the importance of existing treaties in addressing climate change but stopped short of calling for enforcement mechanisms.

**India's Response:** India slammed developed countries for causing the climate crisis saying they exploited the global carbon budget, failed to honour climate finance promises and are now demanding that developing countries restrict their resource use. Making submissions on behalf of India, Dr Luther Rangreji, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), said, "If the contribution to degradation is unequal, the responsibility must also be unequal." Developing nations were the hardest hit by climate change, despite contributing the least to it. "The developed world, which historically contributed the most, is ironically the best equipped with the technological and economic means to address this challenge." He criticised rich countries for enjoying the benefits of fossil fuels while discouraging developing nations from using their own energy resources. "Countries which have reaped development benefits from exploiting fossil fuels demand developing countries to not utilise the national energy resources available to them," he said. India also slammed the lack of action on climate finance commitments. "The \$100 billion pledged at the Copenhagen COP in 2009 by developed country parties and the doubling of the contribution to the Adaptation Fund have not yet been translated into any concrete actions." It called the new climate finance package for the Global South agreed at COP29 in Baku "too little, too distant" to meet the urgent needs of developing countries. India also reaffirmed its commitment to its climate targets under the Paris Agreement, but warned against overburdening its citizens. "There is a limit on how much we burden our citizens, even when India is pursuing Sustainable Development Goals for one-sixth of humanity," it said. The hearing is the result of years of campaigning by Pacific Island nations and Vanuatu, which led to a UN resolution asking the ICJ for an advisory opinion. Though non-binding, the ICJ's opinion could set a moral and legal benchmark in the global fight against climate change.

Prof. (Dr) Manoj Kumar Sinha

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# RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

## The UN Climate Change Conference (COP29)

The UN Climate Change Conference (COP29) held from 11- 22 November 2024, in Baku, Azerbaijan, brought together nearly 200 countries. COP 29, with a central focus on climate finance, reached a breakthrough agreement that will triple finance to developing countries, from the previous goal of USD 100 billion annually, to USD 300 billion annually by 2035; secure efforts of all actors to work together to scale up finance to developing countries, from public and private sources, to the amount of USD 1.3 trillion per year by 2035. Known formally as the New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance (NCQG), it was agreed after two weeks of intensive negotiations and several years of preparatory work, in a process that requires all nations to unanimously agree on every word of the agreement. Simon Stiell, Executive Secretary of UN Climate Change said "This new finance goal is an insurance policy for humanity, amid worsening climate impacts hitting every country." "But like any insurance policy – it only works – if premiums are paid in full, and on time. Promises must be kept, to protect billions of lives." COP29 also reached agreement on carbon markets – which several previous COPs had not been able to achieve. These agreements will help countries deliver their climate plans more quickly and cheaply, and make faster progress in halving global emissions this decade, as required by science.

Some of the key takeaways of COP 29 are as follows:

### Article 6 of the Paris Agreement

A notable achievement during the event was the progress made on carbon markets. After nearly a decade of work, countries have agreed on the final building blocks that set out how carbon markets will operate under the Paris Agreement, making country-to-country trading and a carbon crediting mechanism fully operational. On country-to-country trading (Article 6.2), the decision out of COP29 provides clarity on how countries will authorize the trade of carbon credits and how registries tracking this will operate. And there is now reassurance that environmental integrity will be ensured up front through technical reviews in a transparent process. On day one of COP29, countries agreed standards for a centralized carbon market under the UN

(Article 6.4 mechanism). These new flows of finance will benefit developing countries and least developed countries, who will be benefited by getting the capacity-building support they need to get a foothold in the market. This mechanism, known as the Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism, is underpinned by mandatory checks for projects against strong environmental and human rights protections, including safeguards that ensure a project can't go ahead without explicit, informed agreement from Indigenous Peoples. It also allows anyone affected by a project to appeal a decision or file a complaint. Under the text agreed on Article 6.4, there is a clear mandate for the UN carbon market to align with science. It tasks the Supervisory Body getting this market up and running to consider the best available science across all work going forward. The work on carbon markets doesn't stop in Baku. The Supervisory Body setting up the new carbon crediting mechanism has been handed a long 2025 to-do list by Parties and will continue to be accountable to them.

### Transparency

Transparent climate reporting made big strides forward in Baku, building a stronger evidence base to strengthen climate policies over time, and helping to identify financing needs and opportunities. 13 Parties have submitted their first Biennial Transparency Report (BTR). In addition, all transparency negotiating items concluded successfully at COP29, with Parties expressing their appreciation for the timely completion of the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) reporting tools, the technical trainings, the support provided to developing countries for reporting under the ETF that took place in 2024, and the successful launch of the review process. A total of 42 events were organized under #Together4Transparency, a UNFCCC collaborative initiative that promotes climate transparency with Parties and non-Party stakeholders. These events emphasized the vital role of transparency in preparing NDCs and net-zero pathways, as well as in recognizing climate action from non-Party stakeholders. Events included high-level sessions, mandated events and training sessions to prepare countries for their BTRs, as well as to equip technical experts for the upcoming review process. The critical role of REDD+ was recognized through a £3 million pledge by the UK International Forest Unit to support UN

Climate Change's work over four years. This funding will bolster REDD+ activities in many countries, enabling the secretariat to create dedicated spaces for REDD+ experts to engage in technical dialogue. These efforts are expected to enhance the transparency and implementation of REDD+, in line with the Global Stocktake objective to halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation by 2030.

### Adaptation

COP29 was an important moment for adaptation, with the delivery of several key outcomes. The COP decision on matters relating to the least developed countries (LDCs) contains a provision for the establishment of a support programme for the implementation of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) for the LDCs. The outcome on the global goal on adaptation sets a clear path forward on the road to COP30 for the indicators work programme, providing a process for experts to continue their technical work before passing the baton to Parties. COP29 also launched the Baku Adaptation Road Map and Baku high-level dialogue on adaptation to enhance the implementation of the UAE Framework. Finally, the outcome raises ambition by agreeing to continue unpacking transformational adaptation moving forward.

COP29 took a decisive step forward to elevate the voices of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in climate action, adopting the Baku Workplan and renewing the mandate of the Facilitative Working Group (FWG) of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP). The adopted decision acknowledges the progress made by the FWG in fostering collaboration among Parties, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and underscores the leadership of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in addressing the climate crisis.

### Gender and climate change

Countries agreed a decision on gender and climate change, extending the enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender and Climate Change for another 10 years, reaffirming the importance of gender equality and advancing gender mainstreaming throughout the convention. They also agreed to develop a new gender action plan for adoption at COP30, which will set the direction for concrete implementation.



## Civil society participation, children and youth

World leaders at COP29 were joined by civil society, sub nationals, business, Indigenous Peoples, youth, philanthropy, and international organizations. More than 55,000 people attended COP29 to share ideas, solutions, and build partnerships and coalitions.

The decisions taken at COP29 also reemphasize the critical importance of empowering all stakeholders to engage in climate action; in particular under Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE). Parties recalled the importance of integrating ACE elements into national climate change policies, plans, strategies and action, and noted the secretariat's compendium of good practices for integrating ACE elements into NDCs.

COP29 marked a significant milestone as dedicated spaces were created to ensure the meaningful participation of children within the Youth-led Climate Forum for the first time. Four children, including the youngest at just 10 years old, took on roles as moderators and speakers, engaging directly with Parties and observer organizations. Their participation highlighted the importance of inclusivity and intergenerational collaboration in driving climate action.

## ICC Issued Arrest Warrant Against Israeli and Hamas Officials

On November 21, 2024, the International Criminal Court (ICC) Pre-Trial Chamber issued arrest warrant for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former Defence Minister Yoav Gallant. The warrants cite allegations of war crimes and crimes against humanity committed against the civilian population in Gaza. On the same day, the Chamber also issued arrest warrant for Mohammed Diab Ibrahim Al-Masri, commonly known as "Deif," the commander of Hamas's al-Qassam Brigades, for alleged crimes against humanity and war crimes committed during the October 7, 2023, attacks and subsequent events. The Chamber found reasonable grounds to believe that Netanyahu and Gallant, during the period between October 8, 2023, and May 20, 2024, intentionally deprived Gaza's civilians of food, water, medicine, and fuel. These actions reportedly obstructed humanitarian aid efforts, severely disrupted access to essential goods, and led to widespread suffering, including deaths from malnutrition and dehydration. The allegations also include

the war crime of starvation as a method of warfare and crimes against humanity for inhumane acts and persecution. The Chamber determined that medical supplies were deliberately blocked, forcing doctors to perform surgeries without proper anaesthesia, causing extreme pain and suffering.

Similarly, Deif faces accusations of bearing responsibility for widespread atrocities, including murder, torture, hostage-taking, and sexual violence, committed during and after the October 7 operation. The ICC noted that these crimes formed part of a coordinated attack on civilians. While Deif's reported death remains unconfirmed, the Chamber issued the warrant to ensure accountability and to address ongoing conduct such as the holding of hostages.

## India Re-elected to UN Peacebuilding Commission

On November 28, 2024 India has been re-elected to the U.N. Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) for 2025–2026. As a founding member and major contributor to UN Peacekeeping, India is committed to continuing its engagement with the PBC to work towards global peace and stability. The Peacebuilding Commission is an intergovernmental advisory body that supports peace efforts in conflict-affected countries and is a key addition to the capacity of the International Community in the broad peace agenda.

## United Nations General Assembly Adopted Resolution on Request for An Advisory Opinion of The International Court of Justice on The Obligations of Israel in Relation to The Presence and Activities of The United Nations, Other International Organizations and Third States

On December 19, 2024 the United Nations General Assembly has adopted a resolution calling on the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to issue an advisory opinion on Israel's humanitarian obligations in Gaza. The resolution, introduced by Norway, passed with 137 votes in favor, while Israel, the United States, and 10 other countries voted against it. A total of 22 countries abstained from voting. The resolution specifically requests the ICJ to examine Israel's duties as the occupying power in Palestinian territories, particularly regarding the facilitation of humanitarian aid to the Palestinian people. This includes ensuring the delivery of vital relief materials,

development assistance, and essential services, as well as supporting the right of Palestinians to self-determination. The resolution emphasizes the role of foreign nations and UN agencies, including the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), in providing aid. The move comes in response to Israel's decision to prohibit UNRWA operations starting in late January 2025, as well as other obstacles faced by UN agencies in their humanitarian work in Gaza over the past year. The resolution also expressed "grave concern over the catastrophic humanitarian situation in the occupied Palestinian territories" and urged Israel to uphold its obligations, avoiding any further barriers to the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

UN officials and members of the Security Council have consistently described UNRWA as the cornerstone of humanitarian assistance in Gaza. A report from a global food security expert panel last month warned of the "strong likelihood" of an impending famine in northern Gaza.

This resolution follows the adoption of another resolution by the General Assembly, which affirmed the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination (A/C.3/79/L.49), with overwhelming support.

## UN Adopted Convention Against Cybercrime

United Nations General Assembly on 24 December 2024 adopted Convention Against Cybercrime, a landmark global treaty aimed at strengthening international cooperation to combat cybercrime and protecting societies from digital threats. The Convention against Cybercrime acknowledges the significant risks posed by the misuse of information and communications technologies (ICT), which enable criminal activities on an unprecedented scale, speed, and scope. It highlights the adverse impacts such crimes can have on States, enterprises, and the well-being of individuals and society, and focuses on protecting them from offenses such as terrorism, human trafficking, drug smuggling and online financial crimes. It also recognises the growing impact of cybercrime on victims and prioritises justice, especially for vulnerable groups. It further underscores the need for technical assistance, capacity-building and collaboration among States and other stakeholders.

# RECENT ACTIVITIES

## Tenth International Conference on International Law



The ISIL organised the 10th International conference on the theme “International Law: Issues & Challenges” from 25-27 October 2024 at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. The inaugural session was graced by Hon'ble Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Judge Supreme Court of India, as the Chief Guest. Sh. Narinder Singh, Secretary General, ISIL delivered the welcome address, followed by the presidential address from Sh. PH Parekh, President, ISIL. Special addresses were given by Mr Kedir Awol Omar, Head of Delegation of the ICRC Regional Delegation for India, Nepal, Bhutan, and Maldives and Dr Christophe Bernasconi, Secretary General of the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCCH). Hon'ble Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, delivered the inaugural address, highlighting the conference theme “Issues & Challenges in International Law.” Prof. (Dr) Manoj Kumar Sinha, Vice Chancellor

Dharamshastra National Law University, Jabalpur, concluded the session with vote of thanks. A total of 27 sessions were held covering a range of contemporary issues in international law, including the law of the sea; climate change and protection of the environment; cyber laws; private international law, international trade laws, investment law, and international humanitarian and refugee law. Over 350 participants were present during the proceedings including 40 international delegates from Australia, England, France, Germany, Holland, Hong Kong, Italy, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Scotland, Sierra Leone, Spain and the USA.

The first day of the Conference comprised of 6 parallel technical sessions. First session focussed on “Emerging Issues in Human Rights” and was chaired by Prof. Anju Vali Tikoo, Dean, Faculty of Law, Delhi University and co-chaired by Mr. Kishore Singh,

Former Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education. Dr Sudhir Krishnaswamy, VC, NLSIU joined online to deliver the special address. Nine papers were presented by distinguished speakers on various human rights issues. Second parallel session addressed the theme “International Humanitarian Law in Contemporary Conflicts: Challenges and Compliance” was chaired by Prof. Rashmi Salpekar, Dean, Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies, Delhi and Mr. Harbachan Singh (Barrister-at-law) Ex. UN HQ (Admin & Management). The third session titled “Private International Law- Judgments Convention” was chaired by Dr Christoph Bernasconi, Secretary General, Hague Conference on Private International Law and Sh GG Hegde, Dr Christoph Bernasconi delivered keynote address. The fourth parallel session on the theme “Trade and Investment: Balancing Global Markets and Legal Frameworks” was chaired by Sh. Ujal



Singh Bhatia, Former Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to the WTO. Prof. C. Jayaraj delivered the keynote address. The fifth session “Navigating International Trade: Policy, Law and Practice” was chaired by Prof. V G Hegde, Chairperson Centre for International Legal Studies, JNU and Prof. Vijay Kumar Singh, Dean, SRM University. The sixth parallel session titled “Climate Change and International: Challenges and Solutions” was chaired by Mr Sanjay Parikh, Senior Advocate and Dr Luther Rangreji, Joint Secretary, L&T Division, Ministry of External Affairs.

Second day of the conference began with the session seven on “Private International Law” was chaired by Dr Christoph Bernasconi, Secretary General, Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH). The eminent presenters in the session were Ms. Laura Martinez, Diplomatic Lawyer, HCCH, Dr PK Chaudhary, Former Joint Secretary, L&T Division, Ministry of External Affairs, Mr Anil Malhotra (Managing Partner) and Mr Ankit Malhotra, online, Malhotra and Malhotra Associates, Prof. Kondaiah Jonnalagadda, MNLU, Aurangabad, Dr Stellina Jolly, South Asian University. The eighth parallel session of second day focussed on “Space and Sovereignty: International Law's Response to Outer Space Challenges” and was chaired by Dr Ricky J Lee, University of Canterbury and Mrs Ranjana Kaul, Partner, Dua Associates. The session was moderated by Adithya Variath. The ninth session was on the theme “Justice For All: International Law and the Future of Human Rights Protections” and chaired by Prof. (Dr) Manoj Kumar Sinha, Vice Chancellor, Dharamshastra National Law University, Jabalpur, MP and Prof. (Dr) Anupam Jha, PIC Law Centre II, Faculty of Law, DU.

Tenth session titled “International Trade and Investment Law” was organised by CTIL on the theme “Rise of Emerging

Countries and Its Implications on International Trade and Investment Law” was chaired Prof (Dr) James Nedumpara, Professor and Executive Director, Centre for International Trade and Investment Law. The parallel eleventh session was themed on the topic “Climate Change and Legal Challenges: Shaping a Greener Future through International Law” and was chaired by Dr Luther Rangreji, Joint Secretary, L&T Division, Ministry of External Affairs and Dr Shibani Ghosh, SFC. Twelfth session held on “Seas of Change: International Law and the Future of Maritime Disputes” was chaired by Prof. M Gandhi, Vice President, ISIL and Dr G.V. Rao, Vice President, ISIL. The thirteenth session was hosted by the International Committee of the Red Cross. The theme of the session was “The Geneva Conventions at 75: New Humanitarian Challenges and Emerging Responses” and was chaired by Dr Andrei Kozik, Regional Legal Advisor for South Asia, ICRC with distinguished panellists Dr Srinivas Burra and Col. (Dr) DPK Pillay, MP-IDSA. The parallel fourteenth session was themed on Virtual Justice: International Law in the Realm of Cybersecurity” chaired by Dr G R Raghavender, Senior Consultant (IPR) (DPIIT) Govt. of India and Dr Pavan Duggal, Cyber Law Expert, Advocate Supreme Court of India. Fifteenth session was on “Arbitration in a Globalised World: International Law and Cross Border Disputes” and chaired by Mr A.K Ganguly, Senior Advocate and Sh GG Hegde, Associate Professor, NLSIU. Prof. Benarji Chakka, Dean and Professor, VIT AP, School of Law chaired the sixteenth session on “International Humanitarian Law.” The seventeenth session was themed on “The Global Code: International Law's Influence on Technology and IPR” and was chaired by Prof. Yogesh Pratap Singh, VC, NLU, Tripura. Mr. Kishore Singh, Former Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education, delivered the

keynote address on “Artificial Intelligence: Evolving International Regulatory Framework.” The last session of second day, eighteenth session was held on “SAARC Due Diligence Mechanism” and chaired by Prof. Shirley Scott, UNSE Canberra and Amb. Narinder Singh, Secretary General, ISIL. Prof. Shirley Scott, delivered the keynote address on “Four Stages in Geopolitical Evolution of the Multilateral Treaty Since World War II.”

Third day of the conference was commenced with nineteenth session titled “From Shore to Ocean Floor: International Law and the Law of the Sea” chaired by Dr Neeru Chadha, Judge, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS). Prof. Anju Vali Tikoo, Dean, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi chaired the twentieth session themed on “War Crimes and International Criminal Court.” Parallel session on “Crime Across Borders: The Challenges of International Law in Combating Organised Crime” was chaired by Prof. BT Kaul, Advocate Supreme Court of India. Session on “International Refugee Law” was hosted by UNHCR and chaired by Margriet Veenma, Deputy Chief of Mission, UNHCR and Dr Ragini Trakroo Zutshi, UNHCR. Parallel session on “International Law” was chaired by Amb Narinder Singh, Secretary General, ISIL. Another parallel session was themed on “International Law's Role in Tackling Climate Change” and was chaired by Dr Shikhar Ranjan, Director, AALCO and Dr Anwar Sadat, Senior Assistant Professor, ISIL. The last session of the conference was themed on “Panel Discussion on Teaching and Research in International Law” moderated and chaired by Prof VG Hegde and Prof. Manoj Kumar Sinha. The conference was a great success.

# RECENT ACTIVITIES

## Triennial Election of ISIL



Prof. (Dr) Manoj Kumar Sinha, President



Prof. (Dr) VG Hegde  
Executive President



Dr Srinivas Burra  
Vice President



Prof. M Gandhi  
Vice President



Sh. Pradeep Kumar  
Rai Vice President



Prof. (Dr) Anupam Jha  
Treasurer



Prof. Dabiru Sridhar Patnaik  
EC Member



Prof. C. Jayaraj  
EC Member



Dr. Anna Bashir  
EC Member



Shri Govindaraja G. Hegde  
EC Member



Dr. Shikhar Ranjan  
EC Member



Prof. (Dr.) Y.S.R. Murthy  
EC Member



Mrs. A. Swarupa Reddy  
EC Member



Shri Saju Jakob  
EC Member



Prof. (Dr.) Benarji Chakka  
EC Member



Prof. James J. Nedumpara  
EC Member



Shri Sanjay Parikh  
EC Member



Dr. Sunil Kumar Agrawal  
EC Member

Triennial election of ISIL was held on 17 November 2024 in hybrid mode. Hon'ble Justice Madan B Lokur, former Judge Supreme Court of India was the Election Commissioner. Total 275 Life Members casted their vote. Of which 168 life members casted their vote online and 107 in person.

Prof. Manoj Kumar Sinha was elected as President, Prof. VG Hegde as Executive President, Dr Srinivas Burra, Prof. M Gandhi, Sh. Pradeep Kumar Rai as Vice President, Prof. Dr Anupam Jha as Treasurer. Prof. Dabiru Sridhar Patnaik, Prof. C. Jayaraj, Dr. Anna Bashir, Shri Govindaraja G. Hegde, Dr. Shikhar

Ranjan, Prof. (Dr.) Y.S.R. Murthy, Mrs. A. Swarupa Reddy, Shri Saju Jakob, Prof. (Dr.) Benarji Chakka, Prof. James J. Nedumpara, Shri Sanjay Parikh, Dr. Sunil Kumar Agrawal were elected as Executive Council Members.

## Special Lecture on Fostering Collaboration Between Korea and India in Ocean Affairs- Opportunities and Potential Areas of Cooperation



On 20th November, 2024 ISIL organized a Special Lecture on "Fostering Collaboration Between Korea and India in Ocean Affairs- Opportunities and Potential Areas of Cooperation" by Dr. Park Young Kil, Director of Korea Maritime Institute. Dr Park in his talk mentioned about the issues of the Law of the Sea in Northeast Asia. He focused on the history of India Korea relations. In addition, stressed upon Japan China, Korea Japan and Korea China Fisheries agreements. He further, mentioned that how Korea responded to the issues related to illegal fisheries, North Korea and China. Other issues he dealt with were related to air

defense identification zone and maritime cooperation between India and Korea. Dr VD Sharma, former Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs also addressed the gathering mentioning how important are the oceans for life, transportation and environment. He focused on two categories of ocean affairs first concerning international and national affairs including common heritage of mankind and the other managing the coasts in national and international context. The lecture concluded with healthy discussion, questions by the participants and formal vote of thanks.



## Fourth Justice Rajindar Sachar Memorial Lecture on Civil Liberties and the Indian Experience



The ISIL organised Fourth Justice Rajindar Sachar Memorial Lecture on “Civil Liberties and the Indian Experience” on 13th December 2024 by Hon'ble Mr. Justice S Muralidhar, Former Chief Justice Orissa High Court. Lecture began with the felicitation of Chief Guest Hon'ble Mr. Justice S Muralidhar by Prof. Manoj Kumar Sinha, President, ISIL. Dr Srinivas Burra, Vice President, ISIL delivered the welcome address, Prof. VG Hegde, Executive President, ISIL delivered the special address. Presidential remarks were given by Prof. Manoj Kumar Sinha, President, ISIL. Shri Sanjay Parikh, Senior Advocate and Executive

Council member, ISIL delivered the introductory remarks on Justice Rajindar Sachar. Hon'ble Mr. Justice S Muralidhar, in his lecture spoke on the contributions, conviction and achievement of Justice Sachar in the field of human rights. He began with the judgment delivered by of Mumbai High Court on December 6, 2024 in *Manvi Hakka Sanrakshan and Jagruti and Anr v. Charity Commissioner of Maharashtra and Ors* wherein Division Bench issued the direction to remind the Maharashtra government on technical points that they did not have the powers under the Maharashtra Public Trusts Act, 1950 to issue any circular using the

expression human rights, bhrashtachar virodhi andolan in the title of the trust name. Further, he referred to Human Development Report, 2023-24 titled Managing Interdependence in the Polarised World. He also spoke about the importance of civil society groups engaged in India in defending civil liberties beginning from the nineteenth century, pre-independence era and post independence era referring to various movements. He concluded the lecture by reciting the poem by Faiz Ahmed Faiz. Formal Vote of thanks was delivered by Prof. Manoj Kumar Sinha, President, ISIL.

# RECENT ACTIVITIES

## 14th Winter Course on Alternative Dispute Resolution: Harmonizing International and National Practises



Fourteenth Winter Course on “Alternative Dispute Resolution: Harmonizing International and National Practises” was organised by the ISIL on 23-28 December 2024. The course was inaugurated by Sh. PK Malhotra, Former Secretary, Ministry of Law, Prof. Dr Upendra Dev Acharya, Director, Global Legal Education, Gonzaga University, Prof. VG Hegde, Executive President, ISIL and Justice, Adv Saju Jakob, EC Member, ISIL. 104 students across the country attended the course. The five days course covered the areas including foundations and legal framework of ADR in international and national perspective, International and Indian Commercial Arbitration: Institutions, Rules and Practices, Investment arbitration, procedural rule under UNCITRAL, PCA, Arbitration and Conciliation Act and recent amendments, drafting of arbitration clause, enforcement of arbitral award in Indian and abroad, arbitration in construction industry, maritime

arbitration in practice, Asian-African Perspective on international arbitration, online dispute resolution, arbitrability of IP Disputes, Role of conciliation in modern ADR mechanisms, mediation, its stages and mediated settlement agreement, The Singapore Convention on Mediation and Mediation Act 2023, Emerging trends in ADR, AI Blockchain and future of dispute resolution. Lectures were delivered by renowned professors, advocates and resource persons from various organisations namely, Sh. PK Malhotra, Prof (Dr) James J. Nedumpara, EC Member, ISIL and Prof. & Head, CTIL, Dr Sai Ramani Garimella, Associate Prof., SAU, Adv. Saju Jakob, EC Member, ISIL and Adv. (India)& Solicitor (UK, Ireland, Germany), Mr Gauhar Mirza, Partner, Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas, Brig Amit Kathpalia (Retd.) MRICS Managing Partner, Klaims and Quantum International, Dr Vishwapati Trivedi, Former Union Secretary in the Ministry of Shipping and the Ministry of

Mines, Mr Pranav Raina, Founding Partner, Vachaspatey Partners, Mr Shujoy Mazumdar, Legal Officer, AALCO, Dr Dinesh Dayma, Assistant Prof. CLC, DU, Dr Vikrant Naryan Vasudeva, AOR, Supreme Court of India, Dr Apoorva Dixit, Assistant Prof. Senior Grade, GD Goenka University, Ms. Aarzu Khatter, Founder, Truce Legal, Dr Govindraj Hegde, Associate Professor, NLSIU, Bangalore and EC Member, ISIL, Ms Nitya Bansal. A practical session on negotiation and arbitration was also conducted by Mr. Subash Bhutoria, Founder, IPR Laws, Ms. Mehak Rathee, Adv. Delhi High Court and Dr Parineet Kaur, Assistant Prof. ISIL. The course concluded with the valedictory speech and distribution of certificates to the participants by the Hon'ble Justice Mukundkum Sharma. Prof. (Dr) Anupam Jha, Treasurer, ISIL addressed the gathering with welcome address and formal vote of thanks was presented by Dr Sunil Kumar Agarwal, EC Member, ISIL.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Special Lecture on “Anti-Avoidance Rule in International Tax Law: Russian and Global Approaches” 10 Feb 2025**

**International Conference on “Navigating the Future: Ethics, Regulations and Sustainability in the age of Artificial Intelligence” by Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab in Collaboration with Indian Society of International Law, New Delhi 15 Feb 2025**

(This issue of newsletter has covered the activities of ISIL for the period from October to December 2024)