



THE SUMMIT SNAPSHOT

11th Government Law College International Law Summit, 2021



An Overview

The 11th Government Law College International Law Summit, organised by the Students for the Promotion of International Law (SPIL), Mumbai, was held from 29th April to 1st May 2021. The summit consisted of the Keynote address, a Panel discussion and unveiling of the SPIL International Law Journal' (ILJ), Volume 1, along with the Judgment Deliberation Competition (JDC), which was conceived within the portals of our institution.

The theme for the 11th Government Law College International Law Summit, 2021 was 'International Maritime Law', a field of law that has gained great relevance due to contemporary Geo-Political happenings. While acknowledging the scope of improvement and the growing importance of this field of law which has evolved over the years in an international sphere, this was chosen as the theme of the International Law Summit sponsored by Informa Law and Knowledge Thrust as the Knowledge Partners. The Summit was touted as a great success with attention rendered by myriad sections of the intelligentsia comprising legal luminaries, educationists, professionals and students from all over the globe.

A phenomenal success yet again, the Summit of 2021 received attention from diverse sections of the legal fraternity and eclectic intelligentsia from all over the country and around the world.

29th-30th April, 2021

The *first day* of the 11th Government Law College International Law Summit, 2021, 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 address* was delivered by *Hon'ble Justice G. S. Patel*, Sitting Judge of the Hon'ble Bombay High Court. Although he could not join us at the summit, he graced the occasion with an inspirational pre-recorded message in which he lauded the efforts of the committee and welcomed the revival of the SPIL International Law Journal. He also gave words of advice to the participants of the Judgement Deliberation Competition and encouraged them to do their best.

Born in Mumbai on 26th April 1962, Mr Justice G. S. Patel is a graduate of St. Xavier's College and Government Law College. He started practice in 1987 in Mumbai, working on commercial, corporate and civil litigation and also appearing in a large number of environmental public interest litigation. In 1994-1995, Mr Justice Patel received the First international Fellowship at Pacific Energy & Resources Center, Sausalito, California in environmental law. He served as the Honorary Secretary of the Bombay Bar Association for two three-year terms from 1999 to 2005 and served on the Association's Standing Committee till his appointment as a High Court judge. Mr. Justice Patel wrote a weekly newspaper column in the Mumbai Mirror for three years.

Prof. Dr Asmita Vaidya, Principal of the Government Law College, Mumbai, gave all the guests and participants a heart-warming welcome address. This was followed by the *preliminary rounds of the Judgement Deliberation Competition*, which saw nine teams from law colleges throughout the country qualifying for the Quarter Finals. The day was finally brought to an end by the President of SPIL, Mumbai, Ms Alessandra Shroff, through her Vote of Thanks dedicated to all those who made the materialisation of the Summit possible.

The *second day* of the Summit entailed the *Quarter Final rounds* of the Judgement Deliberation Competition (JDC). A total of six teams qualified for the Semi-Final rounds after two rigorous preliminary rounds.

1st May, 2021

The final day of the Summit entailed the *Semi-Final* as well as the *Final rounds* of the Judgement Deliberation Competition. The Semi-Final rounds of the JDC were judged by Mr Aishwarye Dubey, Maritime Lawyer and Strategist at MNG Legal; Ms Damayanti Sen, Principal Associate at Bose & Mitra & Co; Mr Shahezad Kazi, Partner at S&R Associates and Mr Aditya Raut, Associate Partner at Desai Desai Carrimjee & Mulla. Finally, exhibiting high mastery and efficiency, three teams qualified for the final round of the JDC: Government Law College, Mumbai; K.E.S Shri. Jayantilal H. Law College, Mumbai and K.C. Law College, Mumbai.



The *final round* of deliberation was presided over by Ms Sonali Mathur, partner at AZB & Partners; Ms Sindhura Polepalli, Maritime legal consultant at Directorate General of Shipping and Prof. Kishu Daswani, Global Peace Index Ambassador and Professor at Government Law College, Mumbai. Intensive deliberation by the teams and fierce questioning by our judges finally resulted in Devika Kakoo and Hetvi Dharod, KES Shri. Jayantilal H. Law College, emerging as the winners of the Judgment Deliberation Competition, followed by Mallika Iyer and Drishti Israni, Government Law College, Mumbai, securing the Runner-Up position. The best-written judgement was by Jai Joshi and RS Sanjanaa of Symbiosis Law School, Pune. The second-best written judgement was by Sonam Pandey and Ganesh Murali of DY Patil Deemed to be University School of Law, Mumbai. After the rounds, as the scores were tallied, the judges gave 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.

Panel Discussion

"An Indo-Pacific Legal Maritime Framework: A Promising Future or Risking the Balance?"



The apotheosis of the day was the highly engrossing *Panel Discussion* on ‘*An Indo-Pacific Legal Maritime Framework: A promising Future or Risking the Balance?*’, deftly moderated by Professor Kishu Daswani, Professor at Government Law College, Mumbai.

The Panel Discussion featured illustrious panelists including Captain Sarabjeet S. Parmar, Executive Director at National Maritime Foundation (NMF), Rear Admiral Sudarshan Y. Shrikhande at AVSM, IN (Retd.), Prof. James Kraska who is Chair and Charles H. Stockton Professor of International Maritime Law in U.S. Naval War College, Ms Pooja Bhatt, Assistant Professor at Rashtriya Raksha University in Gandhinagar, Gujarat and Mr Kashish Parpiani who is Fellow at Observer Research Foundation (ORF).

The Panel Discussion witnessed an engaging exchange of viewpoints on India’s stance on Indo-Pacific Legal Maritime framework from various experts in the field. The goal was to facilitate a dialogue between academics and policy practitioners that would be of great interest and considerable use to the international cast of scholars and decision-makers whose work focuses on the Indo-Pacific. Tasked with shedding light on the concept of a Rules-Based order in the Indo-Pacific, they provided a range of perspectives to clarify just how fraught and contentious such an order-building (and order-defending) project is.

Panel Discussion



Prof. Daswani is a Global Peace Index Ambassador and has been teaching at GLC, Mumbai for over 30 years. Besides being a resource person for the Harvard College in Asia Program, he is a Professor of International and Humanitarian Law at the Rotary Peace and Conflict Resolution Centre at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand.



Captain Sarabjeet S. Parmar, having received numerous accolades in the field of maritime law, Captain Parmar presently serves as an Executive Director, National Maritime Foundation (NMF). Besides his other multifarious achievements, the officer is a Sea King pilot who has commanded two ships and a frontline squadron.



Rear Admiral Sudarshan Y. Shrikhande who is a graduate of both the Soviet Naval War College (1988) and the U.S. Naval War College (2003). He has served at sea and been defense attaché in Australia. As a flag officer, he served as head of Naval Intelligence, as chief of staff of the Indian Navy's training command, in various joint staff positions, and in the nuclear forces.



Ms Pooja Bhatt, is an Assistant Professor at Rashtriya Raksha University, Gandhinagar, Gujarat. Besides being an UGC Senior Research Fellow in Defense and Strategic Studies, she is a Research Associate at Centre for Air Power Studies (CAPS), New Delhi where she has worked on Nine Dash Line project.



Mr Kashish Parpiani is a Fellow at ORF's Mumbai centre. Having been published in numerous international publications, he has also presented papers at international conferences organised by the Shanghai University, the International Studies Association (ISA), and London School of Economics-IDEAS.

Panel Discussion



Prof. James Kraska who is chair and Charles H. Stockton Professor of International Maritime Law in the Stockton Center for International Law at the U.S. Naval War College, where he is a tenured full professor. Amongst his other multifarious achievements, he is also a Visiting Professor of Law and John Harvey Gregory Lecturer on World Organization at Harvard Law School, where he teaches International Law of the Sea.

International Law Journal

SPIIL, Mumbai unveiled the SPIIL International Law Journal' (ILJ), Volume 1 (Revival Edition). The journal features academic articles, essays and legislative commentaries addressing developments in public and private international law and foreign relations law. The foreword for the journal was written by the esteemed Hon'ble Justice G.S. Patel. Along with the tremendous efforts of our Editor-in-Chief, Ms Niyati Karia, who worked day and night to breathe life to this far-fetched idea of reviving our journal. With the unveiling of the Journal, we hope to further promote international law as an area of inquiry and study far beyond the realms of the classroom.

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