

A Report

Two Credit Certificate Course on International Criminal Law

The Centre for Advanced Study in International Humanitarian Law at the Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab recently completed a Two Credit Certificate Course on International Criminal Law from September 30th to November 5th 2023. The total one hundred thirty-two (132) candidates registered in this course from different universities/ institutes all over India. The objective of the Course was to sensitize the participants to the contemporary relevance of international criminal law and its associated nuances. It also equipped the learners with a thorough understanding of the legal and regulatory aspects of the international criminal justice system.

The Course, spanning twenty-nine hours over six weeks, featured dynamic and interactive sessions with distinguished speakers offering diverse perspectives and insights. It began with Dr. Nafees Ahmed's lecture on the overview and origins of the international criminal justice system, discussing its foundational principles and elements. The subsequent week's lecture by Prof (Dr) Anupam Jha focused on the establishment and jurisdiction of various international tribunals and their significance in contemporary international relations. He also delved deeper into the role of the United Nations Security Council and the Office of the Prosecutor in the functioning of the International Criminal Court. For the third lecture, Dr Abhishek Mishra focused on 'core' international crimes under the Rome Statute, including genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and crimes of aggression. During the fourth lecture, Dr Rashmi Salpekar explored the concept of individual criminal responsibility under international criminal law, including their exceptions. She also analysed contemporary developments in formulating crimes against the environment. The Course's penultimate lecture was delivered by Dr Sangeeta Taak. She elaborated on the procedural guidelines of the International Criminal Court, including the role of investigative mechanisms and collection of evidence. She also outlined the rights available to victims and accused under the Rome Statute. The final lecture of the course was led by the Faculty Co-ordinator, Dr. Sukhwinder Kaur Virk. She critically analysed recent cases of various international criminal tribunals as well as the International Criminal Court, along with their influence in developing contemporary international criminal law. The Course was finally concluded with a vote of thanks by the Faculty Co-ordinator, Mr Saurabh Sharma, Assistant Professor of Legal Research at RGNUL, Punjab.

A two-hour application-based multiple-choice question (MCQ) test was administered to participants as part of the Course's evaluation, followed by the presentation of certificates to eligible candidates. This Course offered participants an invaluable platform for learning, equipping them with the requisite knowledge and expertise to understand the diverse challenges prevalent in international criminal justice.
