






**RAJIV GANDHI NATIONAL
UNIVERSITY OF LAW, PUNJAB**

**CENTRE FOR ADVANCED STUDY IN
INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN
LAW**

SYMPOSIUM

THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS AT 76: CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES

Date: 12th August, 2025
Time: 10:00 a.m. onwards
Venue: RGNUL, Punjab
Mode: Hybrid (Webex)

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ABOUT RGNUL

The Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law (RGNUL), Punjab, was established by the State Legislature of Punjab by passing the Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab Act, 2006 (Punjab Act No. 12 of 2006). The Act incorporated a University of Law of national stature in Punjab, to fulfil the need for a Centre of Excellence in legal education. More than 1,000 students receive state-of-the-art legal education in a well-equipped, fully developed residential campus that offers comprehensive infrastructure and dedicated personnel to support their holistic development. It is considered one of India's best national law schools built on the five-year law degree model proposed and implemented by the Bar Council of India.



ABOUT THE CENTRE

The Centre for Advanced Study in International Humanitarian Law (CASH) is an esteemed research Centre of the Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law dedicated to research in International Humanitarian Law (IHL). It aims to ensure creating awareness and interest among the students and promoting teaching and research in the area of IHL. The Centre aims to contribute to the community with the latest developments in this sector via its blog posts, certificate courses, newsletters, and interviews of experts on contemporary developments in the field of International Humanitarian Law.

ABOUT THE EVENT

The Geneva Conventions of 1949, and their Additional Protocols, constitute the core of international humanitarian law (IHL), which seeks to limit the effects of armed conflict by protecting persons who are not or are no longer participating in hostilities. In a rapidly evolving geopolitical and technological landscape, the relevance, application, and challenges of IHL demand urgent and sustained academic and policy attention.

CASH aims to commemorate Geneva Conventions Day 2025 by organizing a high-level panel discussion featuring eminent legal and military experts. The discussion will reflect on the evolution of IHL, its interpretation in the Indian context, and the responsibilities of states and armed forces in upholding humanitarian norms.

The event shall be followed by a discussion session of approximately 10-15 minutes by each panelist.

PANELISTS



MAJOR GENERAL P.K. GOSWAMI, VSM (RETD.)

Major General PK Goswami, VSM (Retd.), is an Indian Army veteran, a former Military Observer in United Nations Verification Mission at Angola (UNAVEM) and Senior Faculty Member at National Defence College, New Delhi. Presently, he is Deputy

Director General and Head of Centre for UN Studies, the United Service Institution of India (USI), New Delhi.

He regularly participates in discussions on strategic matters, UN Peacekeeping and International Humanitarian Law (IHL), at USI, Service Headquarters, diplomatic missions in India and abroad. He is closely associated with all UN Peacekeeping related initiatives and conducts webinars, round table discussions, seminar & conferences at USI. Working closely with Challenges Forum, NUPI, EPON, GCSP, Global Alliance for Peace Operations, SIPRI, and ICRC, as well as Indian Centre for UN Peacekeeping, Indian Army. Spreading awareness by training armed forces officers and peacekeepers on IHL and Geneva Conventions, is the focus of collaboration with ICRC.

He participated in EPON Week (10-12 May 2022) at UN HQ, and conducted Challenges Annual Forum 2022 on “Future of Peace Operations” at USI, in collaboration with Challenges Forum, on 06 - 07 Oct 22. USI Annual UN Forum on “IHL and Peacekeeping” on 21 -22 Nov 2023, and “Changing Character of Conflicts: Challenges to Peace Operations and IHL”, on 27-28 Nov 2024, and a symposium on “Protection of Civilians in Modern Conflicts and IHL”, on 27 May 2025, in collaboration with ICRC. He has been nominated by ICRC India, to participate in ‘16th Advanced Seminar in IHL for Academics and Policymakers, at Geneva, 25 - 29 Aug 2025.

He is credited with numerous articles and eight monographs on various UN Peacekeeping, Protection of Civilians and IHL themes. His book “The India and UN Peacekeeping: Through the Prism of Time” was released by Mr Jean Pierre Lacroix, Under Secretary General for Peace Operations, United Nations, on 07 Oct 2022 at USI, and his new book “75 Years of India’s Contribution to UN Peacekeeping” is under publication.

PANELISTS



WING COMMANDER DR. U C JHA (RETD.)

Dr. U. C. Jha is a distinguished air veteran and student of international humanitarian law (IHL) and military law. An alumnus of the Indian Academy of International Law at ISIL, he has an impressive academic background, holding four master's degrees in

Life Sciences, Defence and Strategic Studies, Business Administration, and Law. He earned his Ph D from Jawaharlal Nehru University, where he also served as a Visiting Fellow at the Centre for the Study of Law and Governance.

With 24 years of experience as an officer in the Indian Air Force's administrative branch, Dr. Jha took premature retirement as a Wing Commander. His expertise has been shared on various prestigious platforms where he has presented papers and offered insights on international humanitarian law and military law. These venues include the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva, the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Russia, and multiple South Asian Teaching Sessions organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross across several countries, including Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Nepal, and Iran. His contributions also extend to numerous universities in India and the Indian Army Commands.

Dr Jha has been invited four times by the Indian Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence to provide his perspective on crucial military legislation, such as the Armed Forces Tribunal Bill, the Common Code for the Armed Forces, and issues related to stress management within the armed forces.

His scholarly work includes the authorship of 35 books, contributions to six additional books, and the publication of over 160 papers and articles focusing on a range of topics, including international humanitarian law, the military legal system, environmental issues, human rights, and refugee law.

PANELISTS

ARETI SIANNI **CHIEF OF MISSION, UNHCR INDIA** **AND THE MALDIVES**



Areti Sianni has worked for thirty years on refugee protection at country, regional and headquarters levels in Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, and Asia-Pacific regions including in emergency operations.

Prior to taking her assignment in India, she served as Assistant Representative (Protection) with UNHCR Yemen and as

Assistant Chief of Mission (Protection) with UNHCR Libya. Areti has also served as Senior Protection Adviser with UNHCR's Regional Bureau for the Middle East and North Africa and in a policy advisory capacity on responses to mixed population flows in various countries. From 2012-2014, she was seconded to the Bali Process Regional Support Office where she advised on protection-sensitive responses to mixed movements of refugees and migrants including by sea. Before joining UNHCR in 2008, Areti worked as an independent consultant as well as with international NGOs including the European Council on Refugees and Exiles, Amnesty International - International Secretariat and the Barrow Cadbury Trust. Areti Sianni holds degrees in Development Studies (MSc, London School of Economics, UK), Politics (MA, Macquarie University, Australia) and Political Science and Public Administration (University of Athens, Greece).

MODERATOR

DR. SUNOD JACOB



Dr. Sunod Jacob, is currently serving as Government Liaison Officer with the UNHCR. Earlier he was with the TPF. He has also served as Associate Professor of law at GD Goenka University; Assistant Professor of law at ITM University; Legal Adviser to the ICRC South Asia Regional Delegation; Senior Research Fellow at the University of Madras.

He holds a Doctorate in law and Masters in Public International Law. He has served as the lead researcher of the ICRCs Customary International Humanitarian Law study for India state practice (2008-2014). He holds a PhD from the University of Madras on Energy Security in International Law. A Gold Medallist during his Masters in International Law and Institutions from the University of Madras, He has served as an expert resource person in Track 1 and Track 2 forums across South Asia. Two of his books were approved and recommended by the MEAs book committee in 2021.

PANELISTS

Prof. (Dr.) Jai Shankar Singh

Vice Chancellor, RGNUL, Punjab

Topic: 76 Years of the Geneva Conventions: Gaps and Achievement

Dr. Ivneet Walia

Associate Professor of Law, (Officiating Registrar)

Topic: Artificial Intelligence & International Humanitarian Law

MINUTE-TO-MINUTE SCHEDULE

10:00 AM – 10:30 AM

Lighting of the Lamp

☪ Introductory Remarks by Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Jai Shankar Singh

10:30 AM – 11:10 AM

Address by Ms. Areti Sianni

Chief of Mission, UNHCR India and the Maldives

11:10 AM – 11:50 AM

Address by Wing Commander Dr. U. C. Jha (Retd.)

11:50 AM – 12:30 PM

Address by Major General P. K. Goswami, VSM (Retd.)

12:30 PM – 1:10 PM

Address by Prof. Dr. Ivneet Ma'am

1:10 PM – 2:00 PM

Open House Discussion

Moderator: Dr. Sunod Jacob, Government Liaison Officer with the UNHCR

REGISTRATION

For Participants within RGNUL *(free of cost)*

Form Link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdlW7mZmXYNvWJHJPAAnsQ7uWqpn2fbNdYrvIgBw5ZxZJgzXBA/viewform?usp=dialog>

For Participants outside of RGNUL

Form Link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdbRJwO6zumNoTgQbMyLU-W8gUR3vuxV2Dvu3AkZghP0CFbDA/viewform?usp=dialog>

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PATRON IN CHIEF



PROF.(DR.) J.S. SINGH
Vice-Chancellor, RGNUL, Punjab

PATRON

DR. IVNEET WALIA
Assistant Professor of Law, RGNUL,
Punjab
Officiating Registrar, RGNUL,
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