

Knowledge based subject mission: Law in Pune and Delhi**Index:**

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Introduction

A knowledge mission in Law was convened in India in the cities of Pune and Delhi in January 2014. The mission commenced in Pune and concluded in Delhi. The following report throws light on the detailed follow through on the mission in both cities.

A group of eight UK universities wanting to explore collaborative and recruitment opportunities visited educational institutions in Pune on 13 and 14 January 2014. The mission comprised visits to higher education institutions specialising in the fields of law.

The UK delegation comprised of delegation from the below institutions:

1. Durham University
2. University of Exeter
3. University of Law
4. University of Leeds
5. University of Leicester
6. SOAS, University of London
7. University of Southampton
8. Swansea University

At the educational institution, the delegation had the opportunity to deliver seminars to the student audience on pre designated specific research topics. Post the presentation to the student audience, a faculty discussion was convened wherein the respective faculty from the local institutions had the opportunity to showcase their areas of research and explore opportunities for collaborations post research interests shared by the UK delegation. Both the local and the UK institutions also highlighted the existing models of collaboration across other institutions globally.

Mission in Pune

The first day comprised a visit to the DES Law College, ILS Law College and Symbiosis Law School. The following day had visits planned to Bharati Vidyapeeth Law College and Pune University, Faculty of Law.

An evening networking reception was hosted by the British council on 14 January inviting key contacts from the education industry and eminent practicing lawyers both at the high courts as well as corporate. It was a good platform for the UK academicians to connect with the educational and corporate contacts to explore opportunities for working in liaison in future.

The following is the detailed follow through of the programme with highlights at each visiting institution.

Key highlights:**Day 1: 13 January 2014****1) D.E.S. Law College: (www.ilslaw.edu/)****Student Interaction:**

A series of seminars* were delivered by the UK delegation to the student audience comprising of graduate students. The following research topics were dwelled upon with the help of the student seminars.

- University of Leeds: Information and Technology Law
- University of Exeter: Environmental Law – Regulation of nanotechnologies and nanomaterial
- Swansea University: Jurisprudence
- University of Law: Professional programmes
- University of Southampton: Corporate Law and rescue regimes
- University of Leicester: International Human Rights Act
- Durham University: Human Rights and sex work
- SOAS, University of London: Constitutional Law

*The above group delivered these seminars on the above mentioned topics at all visiting institutions hence it shall not be repeated in the following section of the report.

Faculty Interaction:

At DES, it was discussed that around 20 % of the students graduating opt in for corporate employment while around 30 % get into practice. With regards to overseas education it was observed that around 20 % of the student population opted for higher education.

The following aspects were discussed amongst the faculty which have been explained below:

- Joint conference
- Research exchange (Joint authoring)
- Split PhDs (Joint supervisor)
- Fellow programmes
- Online teaching
- Visiting fellowship scheme

The discussions amongst faculty revolved around opening up platforms for research exchange using the full capacity utilisation (joint authoring) for each of the entities for a joint research initiative. Apart from research exchange a discussion was spelled around faculty exchange programmes for time duration of two to four weeks.

The students were currently drafting a law on socio economic patterns e.g. surrogacy which was explored intensively for a research exchange. The students at DES work with the judges (dissenting judgement) were also explored as another area for combined research. The other critical aspect discussed was the fact that all LLM programmes being offered across colleges affiliated to the University of Pune were 2 years in duration as against the one year offered by the private universities and solely by the faculty of law, University of Pune. This was observed as a disadvantage for the institutions coming under the purview of the university.

Through this visit 245 students and 27 faculties were met

2) ILS Law College (www.ilslaw.edu/)

Student Interaction:

A series of seminars were delivered by the UK delegation to the student audience comprising undergraduate students. The seminars were followed by an interesting round of Q & A where the students had the opportunity to clarify their doubts on the specialised research sessions cascaded by the UK academicians.

Faculty Interaction:

Based on the research specialisations of each of the UK academics, the faculty at ILS had planned to have individual one – on – one discussions pertaining to the respective research areas of the faculty at ILS. Post this the entire group regained to have an overall discussion on opportunities for working on a common platform.

The following aspects were discussed amongst the faculty which have been explained below:

- International Symposiums
- Online courses and tutoring
- Student exchange for PhD programme
- Law clinics
- Faculty exchange - tutoring
- Short term research projects

The discussions entailed a comprehensive overview of their current on-going projects like the outreach community programmes where they work on a collaborative level within certain geographies (adopting villages) on sensitive aspects like human rights. There was a specific mention of a programme called International Centre for Policy which is a platform for international faculty and students via the online medium characterised by nine modules leading to compete research project publication. Another existing collaboration that was discussed was with VU University for doctorate in law and mental health where in it would be jointly supervised by both the institutions a mandatory requirement of which would be a minimum of five publications per year. An interesting aspect discussed was an exchange programme on international feminist jurisprudence which would be an intensive course ranging from two to three weeks; the funding for the travel was discussed and its feasibility to formulate a strong proposal.

Finally a discussion evolved around the 'Grand Challenge Canada' which is a global funding agency promoting self-help groups working on social causes and extends support on collaborative efforts across countries.

Through this visit 112 students and 17 faculties were met

3) Symbiosis Law School (www.symlaw.ac.in/)

Student Interaction:

A series of seminars were delivered by the UK delegation to the student audience comprising undergraduate students. The seminars were followed by an interesting round of Q & A where the students had the opportunity to clarify their doubts on the specialised research sessions cascaded by the UK academicians.

Faculty Interaction:

The following aspects were discussed amongst the faculty which have been explained below:

- Student Exchange – credit exchange
- Joint research papers
- Split side PhDs
- Visiting scholarship scheme
- Joint conferences and symposiums
- Summer programmes
- Joint funding applications
- Online tutoring and learning
- Bursaries for LLMS
- Funding – European Union

The discussions primarily revolved around student exchange programmes with the objective of institutionalisation which would involve the exchange of credits for the time duration spent. At the faculty level exchange programme were discussed which would involve teaching/tutoring methodologies, doctoral research and subsequent publications. Split side doctoral programmes along with visiting scholarship schemes was explored strongly and equally accepted for taking the initiative further by some of the UK academics. As far as the online programme is concerned, a couple of methodologies were discussed, those being online videos for research seminars/webinars and blended learning. With regards to research exchanges, joint projects were explored which would involve a grant being offered by either of the institutions of a funding agency as discussed earlier. The other finer aspects discussed were joint funding applications, summer programmes, bursaries for LLM programmes and funding from the European Union.

Through this visit 256 students and 26 faculties were met

Day 2: 14 January 2014

4) Bharati Vidyapeeth's New Law college (<http://nlcpune.bharatvidyapeeth.edu/>)

Student Interaction:

A series of seminars were delivered by the UK delegation to the student audience comprising undergraduate students. The seminars were followed by an interesting round of Q & A where the students had the opportunity to clarify their doubts on the specialised research sessions cascaded by the UK academicians.

Faculty Interaction:

The faculty discussion commenced with the principal giving an overview of the diploma programmes as top up programmes over the traditional law programmes. It was highlighted that diploma programmes and their collaborations did not require the permissions from the University Grants Commission (UGC) or the Bar council of India (BCI). Hence to create a collaborative association it is good to commence with certificate or diploma programmes. The working of the UGC regulation Act 2012 which got duly implemented was discussed wherein it was stated that it would be a regulation for all, academic institutions except technical ones, pertaining to degree or diploma, with the minimum of five years of good standing. The procedure was explained which entailed a written MOU, prior approval from the commission, reporting with copy of the MOU leaving one month lead time for processing and six months for approval, the validity of which would be five years. The regulatory framework of the BCI was summarised for recognition of foreign universities programmes and the due approvals from the Legal Education Committee (LEC) leading to the enlisting of the university in Schedule V.

The following aspects were discussed amongst the faculty which have been explained below:

- Short term Courses
- LLB semester exchange
- Joint research
- Student exchange
- Scholarships programme
- Funding agencies
- Faculty Exchange
- International Moot court competition
- International conferences
- Tutoring – videoconferencing

The principal was primarily interested in opening up the platform for short term courses. Summer programmes or diplomas, the possibility of having one semester exchange in the LLB programme with an exemption of fees post evaluation and feasibility study. As far as research exchange was concerned, joint research projects were explored having a funding source either from the European Union or the United Nations or the Human Rights commission. The discussions for organising seminars, international moot court competitions and online blended learning were duly explored. Videoconferencing of specialised subjects (ICT teaching methods) to multiple colleges in a single time frame was discussed and accepted positively by the universities. Faculty exchanges on a cost sharing basis would be possible based on the existing models with universities from other countries. Finally the scholarship programmes for meritorious students was initiated which entailed

sponsoring a five year stay in the country to serve the judiciary which is duly supported even by the Supreme court of India. The thrust areas for collaborative research were as follows: Human rights, Intellectual Property Rights, foreign investment, Cyber Laws, International Arbitration and International Commercial Law.

Through this visit 312 students and 34 faculties were met

5) Pune University – Faculty of Law (<http://www.unipune.ac.in/>)

Student Interaction:

A series of seminars were delivered by the UK delegation to the student audience comprising postgraduate students. The seminars were followed by an interesting round of Q & A where the students had the opportunity to clarify their doubts on the specialised research sessions cascaded by the UK academicians.

Faculty Interaction:

The session commenced with the director giving an overview of the universities' existing collaborations with universities across the world. Further an overview was given on the process for approaching for an exchange which duly comprised of a synopsis, draft proposal, project validation, sustainability and final reporting and commission. The discussion with the faculty comprised all local faculty explain their key research areas primarily for joint research projects and set up the platform for publications as a follow through mechanism. The faculty of law, Pune University was the only department (barring the private universities) that offered the one year LLM programme which opened a platform to carry out a 1 + 1 programme the arrangements and the feasibility of which would be discussed with the interested universities. Faculty exchanges were positively explored considering the fact that there was sufficient funding to support this platform. Doctoral split sode programmes were discussed as a strong opportunity as the university offered the postgraduate programme only. Student exchanges for a shorter time duration was discussed checking on the model for sustainability at both ends. The areas for joint research discussed were as follows: Healthcare Law, commercial Law and Cyber law.

Through this visit 110 students and 6 faculties were met

Total Audience in Pune:

Students: 1035

Faculty: 110

Summary & Conclusion:

The mission was a successful platform for exploring opportunities in transnational education at the undergraduate and postgraduate level in the form of student, faculty and research based exchanges. The discussions explored during the mission would be taken forward by the participating UK and Indian institutions keeping the British Council informed of the developments.

Feedback from participating delegates:

- Most delegates were extremely happy with the meetings at Symbiosis, ILS and Pune University Law School
- 100% delegates gave feedback that the mission met their expectation and that the support provided by the British Council was excellent
- 80% delegates mentioned that the quality of institutions was 'Good'
- *I found that a number of the institutions were very keen on collaborating on some very important research topics, and I hope to return to Pune for a visiting scholarship in Symbiosis later this year or next. Moreover, there was a keenness to explore student exchange, but the difficulty is that not all the universities had facilities of the standard we would require to send our students. Overall, however, I think that I have made a lot of contact I wish to pursue. – Durham University*
- *A number of openings arose and we are reviewing these with our India Office- University of Exeter*
- *Potential rather specific opportunities were identified which I can explore further with my Head of School and the Dean of Faculty – University of Southampton*
- *This was a productive visit. We learned a good deal about the structure and organisation of Indian legal education. We are in the process of developing a follow up plan with Indian institutions - Swansea University*

Learning points:

- It will be helpful to have a substantial lunch break
- It could be worth having a small table where students could pick up marketing material for each university near where the student presentations were being held.

Photographs:

DES Law College, Pune





ILS Law College, Pune





Bharati Vidyapeeth's New Law College, Pune







Pune University – Faculty of Law





Networking reception:



Mission in Delhi

Day 3: 15 January 2014

Meeting with Bar Council of India officials:

The delegation of Law Mission had a meeting with Mr. J R Sharma, Secretary, Bar Council of India, Mr. Ashok Kumar Pandey, Joint Secretary, Bar Council of India and other officials. The Bar Council of India visits and inspects Universities/Law colleges in the country as part of its statutory function of promoting legal education and laying down standards in consultation with the Universities in India and the State Bar Councils.

The main agenda of the meeting was to understand the criterion followed by the Bar Council of India while providing accreditation for the law courses by the foreign universities and their stance on joint degrees being offered by UK universities.

Some of the delegates from the universities which do not currently have an accreditation discussed the details of the process to be followed to obtain one.

Clarity was offered by the officials of the Bar on the above points.

These details are available on the Bar Council website at www.barcouncilofindia.org/about/legal-education/recognition-of-a-degree-in-law-from-a-foreign-university/

With regard to offering joint degrees with Indian institutions, Bar Council suggested that if UK universities are planning such arrangements they could keep the Bar Council in loop so that the discussions and resultant agreement is in line with the requirements of the Bar Council of India and further students do not have to worry about the recognition of such degrees. The officials shared that they are doing a similar exercise for some Australian institutions. The delegates found the discussion to be very lucid and useful.

The meeting was followed by evening drinks and dinner reception hosted at the residence of Ottolie Wekezer, Regional Director, SIEM - South Asia.

Key Highlights:

Day Four: 16 January 2014

1. **Amity School of Law:** www.amity.edu/alsn

Keeping in mind the objective of the mission, the programme at the institution comprised of student interactions through specific seminars, campus tours, discussions related to potential mode of collaborations with the Faculty of Amity Law Schools. The student interaction was done in four simultaneous sessions on the topics as detailed below

Topics:

- University of Leeds: Information and Technology Law
- University of Exeter: Environmental Law – Regulation of nanotechnologies and nanomaterial
- Swansea University: Jurisprudence
- University of Law: Professional programmes
- University of Southampton: Corporate Law and rescue regimes
- University of Leicester: International Human Rights Act
- Durham University: Human Rights and sex work
- SOAS, University of London: Constitutional Law

It was attended by third and fourth year students pursuing the five year integrated LLb course from Amity Law School I and II.

After the interaction and the campus tour, there were discussions regarding the potential modes of collaborations with officials and academics from Amity Law Schools of

- Amity Law School Delhi
- Amity Law School Jaipur
- Amity Law School Lucknow
- Amity Law School Gurgaon, Manesar

- Amity Law School, Noida

The Dean International of Amity Law School gave an overview of the university and their existing collaborations. The Vice Chancellor provided a structured plan of the areas of collaboration and details of how they would like to take the discussion forward. All delegates shared their views on the various possibilities at their institutions.

2. Faculty of Law – Delhi University: www.du.ac.in/index.php?id=344

The Faculty of Law was established in 1924 and attracts students from every state of India and more than 20 countries across Asia, Europe, America and South Africa. The alumni of this institution include Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts, Ministers of Union and State Governments, civil servants, and many of India's prominent lawyers. It has been consistently ranked in the top three laws schools of the country and finished at the second position in the year 2012.

As a part of the visit to the institution there were student seminars. Pairs of were formed and simultaneous seminars were delivered in four different classes. The students had an option to attend seminars in any one of them. In all around 210 students and 10 faculty members attended these seminars. The attendees were a mix of third and fourth year students pursuing five year integrated LLb course.

Faculty Interaction: After the student seminars there were faculty interactions which had faculty members from Campus Law Centre I and II. The main point of discussions were –

- Work on common projects for collaborative research
- Fully or partial funded scholarships options could be an attraction for students to study abroad.
- Joint research bids
- Visiting faculty to deliver lectures as per pre scheduled calendar.
- Faculty exchange programmes

There was a discussion about the limitations faced by the institutions that are funded by the central government and do not enjoy absolute financial and academic autonomy. Thus, collaborations related to joint degrees etc. could take longer to materialise. However, there are various other areas of collaboration which could be looked. The dean of Campus Law Centre has a close association with UK education as he has completed his master's degree and couple of short term courses from renowned UK universities. During discussions he encouraged other faculty members to take up academic progression through various courses being offered at the UK.

Day Five: 17 January 2014

3. Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University (GGSIPU), Dwarka : <http://ggsipu.nic.in>

Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University is a member of the Association of Commonwealth Universities, Association of Indian Universities. The university is governed by a board of management, headed by the vice-chancellor and is appointed by the Government of Delhi. The university has been graded 'A' by NAAC. University School of Law & Legal Studies is one of the constituent schools of Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University. It is an institution dedicated to Law and was the first State Government Law School in Delhi.

The university has a number of MoU's with various European countries especially in the subject area of Management. They are very enthusiastic about having collaborations with UK universities.

The College welcomed the delegates by giving a brief background about the courses available. This was followed by seminars held in classrooms informing the students on different law subjects. The seminar ended with a question and answer session which were handled actively by the delegates.

There was a discussion with the faculty members of the Law School after the student seminar. The main objective of the discussion was to initiate ideas and possibilities to bring together law institutions in the UK and India and to discuss how students can benefit from such tie ups. In the light of the discussion following were the ideas emerged:

- Transfer of credit points
- Short term courses for students
- Student exchange program
- Joint Research options- Since research programmes is a forte of IP college the UK universities could benefit from the quality of program that IP college has to offer.

The delegates discussed what the different possibilities of engaging their universities and how it could be taken forward. It was agreed that the delegated faculty member from the Law School, GGSIPU will send a proposal to all delegates accordingly.

4. ITM Law School, Gurgaon - <http://law.itmindia.edu/>

The ITM Law School is a next generation law school established with the object of providing world class legal education. It aims to train the students to specialize in international trade practices, comparative law, conflict of laws, international human rights law, environmental law, gender justice, space law, biomedical law, bio-ethics, international advocacy etc. They also acquire a general knowledge of American, English, and European Union legal system apart from a working knowledge of few foreign languages like French, German, etc.

Faculty and student seminar: Prof. Shantha Kumar, Director, ITM Law School gave us an insight on the institution, its achievements and the methodology followed in day to day teaching. The university is an ISO 9001: 2008 certified. It is ranked as one of the top university in Haryana.

After introductions student seminars were held. These were attended by around 180 students. The student interactions were good during these seminars.

After this there was in-depth discussion on various ideas on the collaboration between UK and India law colleges. ITM university shared the areas of collaborations they are looking to develop and the UK counterparts conveyed the various possibilities at their end. The options initiated between the delegates and the law faculty at ITM University are listed below:

- Student internship and exchange programmes
- Use of IT in teaching clinical legal education.
- Faculty exchange programmes for few semesters.
- Collaborative Research on specific topics
- Joint publications
-

Visiting faculty from UK universities to deliver lectures at ITM Law School

Below is the summary of the various collaborative areas discussed at various institutions.

- 1) Student exchange programmes: this was a common theme echoed by both the host institutions and the delegates. The student exchange program will enable the students to understand the environment, culture and the study scenario in India and UK. The duration and student number can be decided between the collaborating institutes as an initiating step. e.g summer programmes for students.
- 2) Faculty exchange programmes: There is a strong need for faculty exchange since the UK delegates thought that the quality of faculty members present in India and the knowledge base they have would be very useful for the students in the UK.
- 3) Acceptance of credit points: One of the interesting ideas given by the Amity University was the transfer/ acceptance of credit points to a UK university if the student is interested to further enrol into a law programme in the UK.
- 4) Identification of areas for joint consulting
- 5) Joint bidding for projects: An option for joint bidding of research projects across various national and international organisation e.g. UN where the possibility of getting the project increases. Both the universities could work together for project completion.
- 6) Internship exchange programmes: Giving an opportunity to understand the professional scenario in India and abroad could be made possible through internship exchange programs for students.

Summary & Conclusion:

On the whole the visit to four Law institutions provided an insight and was an initial step to initiate possible future collaborations. For delegates it was a varied experience as two out of these were private, modern universities which are quick to adapt to emerging trends in international education. The other two were public funded universities; one with central funding and the other funded by state of Delhi. They enjoy a good reputation and have some of the best students in the given subject area. However, because of the nature of institution they have a bureaucratic setup which might become a limitation when it comes to certain collaborative areas. The primitive infrastructure at one of the institutions might be another hindrance especially for student exchanges.

