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26th Annual Course in International Law Librarianship: GLOBAL CHALLENGES & THE INDIAN LEGAL

UMA NARAYAN*

What follows is a brief overview of the 26th Annual Course of the International Association of Law Libraries, the first of its kind to be held in India.

The International Association of Law Libraries organized its 26th Annual Course in International Law Librarianship at the National Center of Performing Arts, Nariman Point, Mumbai, India between the 1st and 5th of December, 2007.



The inaugural function of the conference was held on Saturday, the 1st December, 2007 between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. The conference was inaugurated by the Honorable Justice Y.V. Chandrachud, Former Chief Justice of India.

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The inaugural function began with an Indian Classical Dance Fusion



This was followed by a traditional Indian lighting of the lamp ceremony, performed by Justice Y.V. Chandrachud, Mr. Jules Winterton, Mr. Holger Knudsen and Mr. Halvor Kongshavn to mark the occasion.

The formal welcome address by Mr. Jules Winterton, President of IALL, was followed by the Presidential address by the Honorable Mr. Justice Y.V. Chandrachud.





Folk and Bollywood Dances of India performed by Kala Parichaya group of Dr. Sandhya Purecha were the highlight of the day.

The academic sessions of the conference were held between December 2, 2007 and December 4, 2007. The first lecture was delivered by the Honorable Mr. Justice B.N. Srikrishna, Former Judge, Supreme Court of India. The other speakers were:

- the Honorable Dr. Justice S.Radhakrishnan, Judge, Bombay High Court;
- the Honorable Dr. Justice D.Y.Chandrachud, Judge, Bombay High Court;
- Dr. Chandra Krishnamurthy, Vice Chancellor of S.N.D.T. Women's University;
- Ms. Flavia Agnes, Lawyer and Women's rights activist;
- Dr. V.V. Tulzapurkar, Senior Counsel, Bombay High Court;
- Mr. Shiraz Rustomjee, Environmental Lawyer, Bombay High Court;
- Mr. Nishith Desai, International Legal & Tax Expert of Nishith Desai Associates;
- Mr. Pavan Duggal, Cyber Law Expert and Advocate, Supreme Court of India;
- Mr. Talwant Singh, General Secretary INDLII;
- Mr. Surendra Malik, Chief Editor of Supreme Court Cases, India; and
- Mr. Rakesh Kumar Srivastava, Chief Librarian of Supreme Court of India.
- Prof. Carl Monk, President of International Association of Law Schools spoke about his Association.

The IALL Annual General Meeting was held on December 3, 2007. The representatives of Westlaw International, Hein Online and Eastern Book Company made presentations in the publishers' session. The publishers' exhibits were displayed each day at the conference venue.



The conference's social events included a Mumbai city tour. There was also the Bombay Heritage Walk to historic landmarks and architectural gems of Mumbai, and Library visits to Mumbai University Library, the Asiatic Library, State Central Library, David Sasoon Library, and the K.R. Cama Oriental Institute Library.

There were dinners at the Khyber Restaurant and the Sachin Tendulkar's Restaurant, which was the venue for IALL Annual Dinner.





The conference concluded with a trip to Elephanta Island, UNESCO World Heritage Site. Conference attendees viewed rock-cut cave temples dating to the 4th - 9th Centuries and dedicated to Lord Shiva the Hindu God. The most impressive feature of the cave is a six-metre high carving of Shiva: TRIMURTI statue which represents the three incarnations of creation, destruction and preservation.