

GNLU Air and Space Law Academy inaugurated at GNLU

Gandhinagar, August 27, 2018: The third edition of **GNLU Air and Space Law Academy (GASLA)** was inaugurated on an enthusiastic note at GNLU Campus, today.

The seven-day Academy is organised by the Gujarat National Law University in collaboration with the Institute of Air & Space Law, University of Cologne, Germany from 27th August to 2nd September 2018. This is the third edition of the Academy. The earlier two editions were received well by all the stakeholders.

The inauguration ceremony was graced by Distinguished Guests of Honour – Air Marshal R.K. Dhir PVSM AVSM VM ADC, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, SWAC (Indian Air Force); Shri A. S. Kiran Kumar (Member, Space Commission; Former Chairman and Vikram Sarabhai Distinguished Professor, Indian Space Research Organisation); and Prof. (Dr.) Stephan Hobe (Director of the Institute of Air and Space Law, University of Cologne, Germany).

While welcoming the distinguished dignitaries Prof. (Dr.) Bimal N. Patel Director, Gujarat National Law University, Member Law Commission of India and Member, National Security Advisory Board highlighted path-breaking contribution of Parker Solar Probe, NASA's Mars rover Curiosity, Chandrayan and Mangalyan in space exploration. He emphasized upon the declaration of the creation of space force by the US President and declaration by Indian Prime Minister to carry an Indian into space on an Indian spacecraft (Gaganyaan) from Indian soil by 2022. He also highlighted the growing contribution of GASLA in the training and research of Air and Space Law. He profusely thanked ISRO, University of Cologne and Airport Authority of India and other stakeholders in enabling GNLU realizing the dream of GASLA and looked forward to such annual editions for decades to come.

Prof. (Dr.) Stephan Hobe emphasised upon the competition issues faced in the aviation industry at the international level. He expressed concerns about the legal issues confronted regarding MH17. He warned against the emerging trend of movement towards unilateralism defying international consensus regarding space exploitation. He expressed immense hope regarding emerging outcomes of the endeavour of GASLA by GNLU in collaboration with the University of Cologne.

Shri A. S. Kiran Kumar (Member, Space Commission; Former Chairman and Vikram Sarabhai Distinguished Professor, Indian Space Research Organisation) explained how satellite constellations are changing the landscape of mapping of earth that too with the involvement of private players. He pointed out how space treaties fail to cater to the present realities of human space endeavours. He pointed out the need to develop space law in order to correspond to the contemporary challenges. He emphasized the role of ISRO in Indian Space Ventures and the increasing involvement of private players therein and consequential need of regulation.

Air Marshal R.K. Dhir referred to the role played by aviation in providing global connectivity to people in general. He emphasized that militarisation of space is bound to happen since a nation



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will always put its security concern as topmost priority. He highlighted the manner in which Indian Air Force has collaborated with other Indian authorities in opening up more airspace.

All the dignitaries acknowledged GASLA as a very welcome contribution to the niche field of Air and Space Law and to the greater cause of nation-building.

The Academy is set to provide a platform for meaningful and encouraging discourse amongst Defence Forces, Research Organisations, Industry Regulators, Academicians and students over a span of next seven days.