

Module I: Introduction to International Law

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Module I: Introduction to International Law

- What is Law and What is IL?
- Why to Discuss IL in Int. Air Law Paper?
- Module on Introduction to IL Briefly covers:
- Definition, Nature, Scope, development, Perspectives and Basic Principles of Modern International Law
- Sources of International Law
- Subjects of International Law
- Relations between International Law and Municipal Law

What is International Law?

- **International law is also called as:**
- (1) Law of Nations--Law which regulate the behavior of nation- states
- (2) Public International Law-- there is private I.L. or conflict of Laws
- (3) Inter-state Law - I.L also provides a system of Rules governing the conduct of inter-state relations
- (4) Philip Jessup called I.L. as Trans-national Law
- (5) C.W. Jenks called I.L. as Common Law of Mankind etc.

Definitions of IL- Traditional

- Definitions of I.L – Two Views-Traditionalist View and Modernist View
- Traditional View – I.L. regulates the relations between or among states or states alone are the subjects of I.L. Ex: Oppenheim, J.L. Brierly, Hackworth etc.
- **Oppenheim:** Law of Nations or International Law is “the name for the body of customary and treaty rules which are considered legally binding by civilized states in their intercourse with each other.
- “There are three components in this definitions.(1) Body of rules governing the relations between states. (2) States regard these rules as binding on them in their relation with one another. And (3) such rules derived from customs and treaties.

Criticism of Oppenheim’s definition:

- Not only states but also international organization
- P.E.Corbett: “The future of IL is one with the future of Int. Organizations.
- Civilized states also criticized.
- Individuals and other private persons have rights and duties in Int. Law.
- Not only customary and conventional Int. Law but also general principles of Law.
- International Law is not only body of law but also like all living laws.

Modern Definitions of IL

- Modern definitions – International Law not only regulates the relations between states but also International organizations, individuals non – state entities etc. For example:
- J.G.Starke: Int. Law may be defined as that body of law which is composed for its greater part of the principles and rules of conduct which states feel themselves bound to observe, and therefore, do commonly observe in their relations with each other, and which includes also;
 - (a) The rules of law relating to the functioning of international institutions or organizations, their relations with each other, and their relations with states and individuals; and
 - (b) Certain rules of relating to individuals and non-states entities so far as the rights or duties of such individuals and non-state entities are the concern of the international community.

Nature of International Law

- There are two views on the subject :
- International Law is not a true law: John Austin, Hobbes, Holland, Pufendorf, and Bentham.
- Austin Definition of Law- Law is a Command of Sovereign given by political superior to political inferiors
- IL is not a true law: Austin's Classification Laws
- The rules of international law are positive morality:
- Holland Bentham, Brown etc., denied the legal character of international law.
- International law is not law because
- No agency for international legislation. . No organised force, No a determinate impartial arbitrator,
- The ICJ is no compulsory jurisdiction, Some writers called international law as a quasi-law,
- Starke: International law is a weak law, Queen Vs. Keyn: International law is not an exactly law.

Nature of IL Cont..

International Law is true LaW:

- Luis Henkin: Almost all nations observe almost all principals of IL almost all their obligations almost all the times.
 - (a) Objective of any law is implementation
 - (b) Means & Methods are not so important
- Oppenheim, Brierly, Starke, H.L.A.Hart, Pollock, etc.
- Sir Henry Maine – Historical jurisprudence – In primitive societies there was no sovereign political authority yet there were laws.
- Austin's concept of law denied customary rules of international law.
- Treaty and conventions are legislation of international law.
- When international questions states do not rely upon moral arguments but rely upon treaty precedents and opinion of specialists.
- States do not deny the existence of international law
- Some state (U.K. and USA) IL treated as part in their own true sense.
- As far as sanctions are concerned, iL does not completely lack it.
- Violations of law is in municipal laws also
- Decisions of ICJ are binding upon parties to the dispute.

History and Development of IL

First Phase from ancient times to 12th century.

- **Development of International Law in ancient period.**
- Egypt and ancient Jews
- Hindus: concept of Dharma, just wars and unjust wars,
- Ancient Greece , Ancient Rome:

Second Phase-- Development of International Law in middle Ages:

- Supremacy of church and the universality of its laws.
- Universal authority of Emperor and Feudalism.
- Sea Trade
- The growth of Maritime Law
- Renaissance and Reformation

Third Phase--Development of Modern International law –

- At the time of Grotius and other thinkers (17th and 18th centuries)
- 1648 Westphalia peace treaty
- Development of International law in 19th century
- The Hague conference of 1899 and 1907 – established the permanent court of arbitration,
- International conferences, International Arbitral Tribunals
- Hague conference of 1899 and 1907 – established the permanent court of arbitration;
- Development of International Law in 20th century was Before the World War I;
- Between World War I & II and After World War II

History and Development Cont..

- United Nations and IL— Objectives of the UN
- **Purposes:** Article 1 of the Charter:
 - to maintain international peace and security;
 - to develop friendly relations among nations;
 - to cooperate in solving international economic, social, cultural and humanitarian problems and in promoting respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;
 - to be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in attaining these ends.“the purpose of United Nation is world peace”.

Article 2 Principles of the UN Charter:

1. The principle of Sovereign Equality of all members.
 2. Good faith Principles.
 3. Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes.
 4. Principle of non-intervention.
 5. International Cooperation
 6. Non- members Obligations, for the maintenance of peace and security.
 7. Non- Intervention in domestic matters of state.
- Development of International law by UN & its various Specialized Agencies
 - WTO and International Law and IL in the 21st Centruy

Codification and Progressive Development of IL

- The term codification mean the process of reducing the whole body of law into Code in the form of enacted law.
- Codification before the League of Nations, **Declaration of Paris, 1856** , **The Two Hague Conferences**
- Codification of IL under the League of Nations: on 22 September 1924 initiated the process and in 1927 it convened a diplomatic conference to codify three topics out of the five that had been considered to be "sufficiently ripe," namely: (1) nationality;(2) territorial waters; and (3) the responsibility of states and represented by "main forms of civilization and the principal legal systems of the world."
- UN and Codification--Article 13 (1) (a) of the U.N. Charter lays down that the General Assembly shall initiate studies and make recommendations for the purpose if "promoting international co-operation in the political field" and "encouraging the progressive development of International Law and its codification"
- International Law Commission and the Codification of IL

Basis of IL or Theories of IL

- Natural Law Theory: According to this school, the Law of Nations are only part of the law of Nature. States relations are regulated by higher law “the law of Nature”. For Example the Romans divided laws into jus civile, jus genetum and jus naturale
- Pufendorf and Vattel are the chief exponents of this school.
- Positivism: The positivists base their views on the actual practices of states. Growth of International law to treaties and customs rather than human nature: Law is will of states.
- Chief Exponents of this school are Bynkershoek and Anzilotti

Theories Cont..

- Grotius Theory : He is the father of International law. His principal work, *De Jure Belli ac Pacis*, was continually relied upon as a work of reference and authority in the decisions of courts, and in the textbooks of later writers of standing.
- Grotius tried to establish that law governed the totality of relations between states.
- He secularized the concept of law of Nature and he further recognized that the individuals and the state composed of the individual were essential identical.
- Grotius maintained a fine distinction between Just and Unjust Wars and developed the qualified Neutrality.
- Grotius emphasized the binding force of promises and agreements in international sphere.
- He supported peaceful settlements between states.
- Grotius recognized Fundamental Rights Freedom of the individuals.

Theories Cont..

- Theory of consent: Supporters of this theory says consents of states in the basis for International Law. States observe IL because they have given their consent for it.
- Chief exponent of this school – Anzilotti, Tripele, Oppenheim. This theory supported to the positivism.
- Auto Limitation Theory: International law is binding upon states because they have restricted their power through the process of auto – limitations. Each state has a will, which is completely independent and free from external influence. But process of limitation they can restrict their powers and follow the international law. Jellinck is the chief exponent of this theory.
- Pacta Sunt Servanda: According to Anzilotti the binding force of international law is based on the supreme fundamental norm or principle. | This means that the agreements entered into by states will be respect and followed by them in good faith.
- Theory of fundamental rights: this theory is based on Naturalist. According to this, prior to the existence of state, man lived in natural state; in that state he possessed some fundamental rights such as independence, equality, right of self preservation. Like man state has possessed their rights because there was no world institution above the state.

Scope of International Law

- Scope of I.L. has expanded due to:
- 1. Inclusion of new subjects of I.L.
- 2. Establishment of Int. organizations
- 3. Emergence of New States
- 4. Emergence of New fields
- 5. Emergence of New Problems

Perspectives on Int. Law

- Division of World – based on ideology, economy, geography etc.,
- First World or Western Countries :They deserved the credit of developing the laws of-War & peace; Resolving the dispute through Arbitration; Prior declaration before the commencement of the war.
- Second World or Socialist Countries described Law & politics as the means by which the ruling class maintained their domination of society. Their Contribution includes Non-intervention in the internal affairs of the others states; The sovereignty of states, Good neighborhood; International co-operation;
- Third World or Developing Countries: Concept and Characteristics of Third World Countries, the demands and achievements of Third World Countries, Third World Countries and IL

Basic Principles of Modern I.L.

- Distinction between Intl. and domestic legal systems.
- Weak int. legal system led to chaos
- Survival in divided world: How possible ?
- Sovereign Equality of States
- Principle of Good Faith
- Peaceful Settlement of Int. Disputes
- Prohibition of Use of Force
- International Co-operation
- Non-Intervention, and
- Equal Rights and Self Determination

Sanctions or observance of international law

- Voluntary Consent
- Good Faith Principle
- Chapter VII of the United Nations
- Economic Globalization & Inter-dependency of World
- WTO & Changing notion of International Law

Sources of International law

- Sources-methods by which the rules have been created.
- Sources of Domestic Laws
- Classification of Sources of International Law
- Formal and Material Sources
- Primary and Secondary Sources
- Hard Law and Soft Law Sources
- Are the UN General Assembly Resolutions as Source of International Law?

Article 38 of the statute of ICJ

- (a) International convention whether general or particular establishing rules expressly recognized by the contesting states.
- (b) International Customs as evidence of a general practice accepted as law.
- (c) General Principles of law recognized by civilized nations.
- (d) Subject to article 59 judicial decisions and juristic works as subsidiary means for the determination of rules of law.
- This article not exhaustive-does not make reference to resolutions of the GA of the UN
- International Law dynamic and fast changing

Treaties

- Important source of international law
- Article 38(1) of the Statute of ICJ
- (a) Agreements between 2 or more states or between other subjects of international law by which they create a relationship between themselves.
- Bilateral and multilateral treaties.
- Formation or Conclusion of a treaty-Appointment of Representative, Negotiation, Adoption of text, Consents of the states, Ratification, Accession or Adhesion, Entry into force, Registration and publication and Application and enforcement
- Sometimes a state can make a “reservation in respect of a particular treaty, if this reservation is valid the treaty provision for which the reservation is made will not apply to that state.

Treaties Conti.

BILATERAL TREATIES

- ✚ To avoid double taxation
- ✚ FNC Treaties - Friendship, Navigation and Commerce
- ✚ BIT Treaties-Bilateral Investment Treaties

MULTILATERAL TREATIES

- ✚ Regulates trade between the contracting states in a more general way
- ✚ Aims at unification of law in order to facilitate trade and financing
- ✚ But most of them are not in force, applicable to very few countries
- ✚ Aims at Specific standards of treatment
 - Standard treatment
 - National treatment
- MFN clause Regionalism and Regional Treaties
- Commodity Agreements

International Customs

- Original and oldest source.
- Article 38(1)(b).
- Habits that are binding on the States.
- Created when a general practice followed by a number of states is recognized as law(*opinio juris*).
- Elements of custom.
- Duration
- Continuity
- Generality
- Ex: the right of a state to issue its own currency rules, and its obligation to punish counterfeiters of foreign currency

GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF LAW

- First under Article 38(3) of the PCIJ and then Article 38(1)(c) of the ICJ.
- Those principles of law recognized by most or all of the states of the world community in domestic law.
- Applicable to the maintenance of any legal system.
- Ex: Res judicata, estoppel, presumption, good faith etc.
- Has to be recognized by the world court.

JUDICIAL DECISION AND JURISTIC WORK

JUDICIAL DECISIONS

- Subsidiary means and an indirect source of IL.
- Article 38(1)(d) :Decisions of the courts do not create any precedent.
- Article 59 - No binding force - Only binding between parties.
- A means of recognizing law established by other sources

ICJ-not binding on international law

Awards of International tribunal, Decision of the municipal courts and ILC

JURISTIC WORKS

- Subsidiary means for determining of rules of law.
- Juristic Work is essential in developing rules that are sourced in treaties, customs ,general principles of laws.
- Ex: Paquata Habana Case 175 US (1900)677.

RESOLUTIONS OF INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

- The resolutions passed by international organizations are not binding on their member states, except for exceptional cases.
- They provide excellent base from which to launch new proposals.
- Thus their substance is often not a reflection of present law but a fore runner of future law.
- They offer a program for a creation of new law.
- Accord resolution: The text is unanimously adopted by un org then made a part of treaty then send for signatures of the member states.
- Resolution of the E.U: Resolutions, Directions, Decisions.
- UN Security council – not binding unless taken in framework of Chapter VII of UN Charter.
- UN General Assembly - only a starting point for development of international custom or soft law.

Subjects of International Law

- Subjects and Objects of Law
- Persons or entities to whome law attributes rights and duties are the subjects of law---The term subject of I.L. refers to entities endowed with legal personality, capable of exercising certain rights & duties under Int. legal system.
- Legal Personality & Recognition of Legal Personality-
- The possession of Int. personality means - an entity is a subject of I.L., and is “capable of possessing international rights and duties, and has the capacity to maintain its rights by bringing Int. claims”

Which Entities have Legal Personality ? Or Theories

- Definition of I.L.– Traditional Vs. Modern
- Realist Theory – States alone are the subjects of I.L.-Traditional definitions
- Fiction Theory- Individuals alone are the subjects of I.L. or Supports of Monism
- Functional Theory – jurists like J.G.Starke, oppenheim , Brownlie

State as Subject of I.L.

- Realist Theory, Dualism & Traditionalist Views.
- States alone are the subjects of I.L.-Why?
- “Since the Law of Nations is based on the common consent of individual states, and not of individual human beings, states solely and exclusively are the subjects of I.L.”
Oppenheim
- I.L. address to States, Under I.L. states have rights and duties, states declare war and peace, enter treaties with other states, etc.

Definition & Characteristics & Classification of States

- What is state? Different things to different people
- I.L. Context state is defined as "a group of societies within a defined geographical area united to ensure their mutual welfare and security"
- Article 1 of Montevideo Convention on rights and duties of states, 1933- permanent population, a defined territory, a govt. and capacity to enter relations with other states
- Classification or kinds of States- sovereign states, Federal States, Non-self governing territories, mandate and trust territories, Protectorate states, etc.,
- Sovereignty and sovereign equality...

State as subject..

- Fundamental Rights of states- Right to equality, right to co-existence and self determination, right to independence, right to respect dignity etc.,.
- ILC draft declaration on Rights and Duties of states, 1949- right to independence, right to jurisdiction, duty of non-intervention, right to equality, duty to protect Human rights and fundamental freedoms, duty to maintain peace and security, etc.,
- Condition of Admission of a state to membership in UN (Admission Case) 1948
- Art. 4 of UN Charter- A state, peace loving state, must accept obligations of UN Charter, must be able to carry out obligations, and must be willing to do so
- Competence of GA for the admission of a state to UN-1950

Int. Orgs. as Subject of I.L

- L. Tunkin “ Int. org. as an association of states established on the basis of treaty in accordance with I.L. in order to achieve specific objectives”- (1)Association of states-IGOs and INGOs (2)set up by treaty, (3) established for specific purposes,(4) possess int. personality and (5) created in accordance with I.L.
- Kinds of Int. Orgs- Intended duration-Ad hoc, Provisional and permanent
- Nature of their powers-Legislative, Administrative, Judicial etc.,
- Character of their objectives-single or multipurpose
- Geographical- Global, Regional & sub regional

Evolution of Int. Organizations.

- Int. orgs. before League of Nations- Int. orgs for prevention of wars, Grotius, Holy Alliance of 1815, Concert of Europe, the Hague Conventions of 1899 & 1907
- Public Int. Unions in 19th century- the ITU 1865, UPU 1874 etc.,
- Int. in the 20th century-The League of Nations and The U.N.
- Role of Int. organs. In the present day
- The UN and its specialized agencies- Ex. art. 100, 104 & 105 of UN Charter, Art. 39 of ILO, Art. 47 of ICAO.
- 1946 Convention on privileges and immunities of UN & Its members
- 1986 Vienna Convention on Law of Treaties between states & Int. orgns conformed that they have capacity to enter into treaties.
- 1994 Convention on the safety of UN & Associated Personnel. Art. 7 & 9

Supporting cases

- Reparation for injuries suffered in the service of UN of 1949-
- (1) the court was asked to determine the capacity of UN, as an organ, to bring an international claim for compensation against a state
- (2) the Court said "UN is Int. person & it is subject of I.L. and capable of possessing rights and duties and can bring int. claims.
- The above was reaffirmed by the ICJ in 1980 Interpretation of Agreement of 25th March 1951 between WHO and Egypt, the court said " Int. orgns. Are subject of I.L. and they are bound by any obligation incumbent upon them under general rules of I.L, under their constitutions or under int. agreements to which they are parties.
- 1. UN (immunities & privileges) Act 1947 to give effect to the Convention on the Privileges & Immunities of UN 1946
- UK made legislation to implement the 1994 convention on the safety of UN & Associated Personnel . In 1997 UK made legislation making crime under the above treaty is a crime under England.
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Individual as Subject of I.L.

- The status of Individual is one of the most important, yet difficult question of modern I.L.
- Supporters of Monism and Fiction Theory
- Historically, those rules which first developed imposed duties to prevent piracy and slave trade, and to protect the persons and states of foreign sovereigns and their diplomatic representatives.
- Greeks- human being is the measure of all things and people unite as family, tribes, society nation, etc. were meant to serve the humanity.
- Various Int. treaties, Judicial tribunals and courts have recognized individual personality & tried under I.L. Example..
- Treaty of 1907 between five central American states established Central American Court of Justice, which provided for individuals to bring cases directly before the court.
- Under Art. 304 of the Versailles Treaty 1919, Nations of Allied & Associate powers could bring cases against Germany in their own names for compensation.

Nuremberg, Tokyo Tribunals & Individual

- In his opening statement at Nuremberg trials, 1946 the US Chief prosecutor Justice Robert Jackson declared that “ crimes against I.L. are committed by men, not by abstract entities, and only by punishing individuals who committed such crimes can the provision of I.L. be enforced”.
- The above tribunals have pointed out that “ I.L. imposed duties & liabilities upon individuals” and they declared that
- the crime against peace, crime against humanity & conspiracy to commit these crimes, as international crimes.

Regionalism, Human Rights & Individual

- European Convention for Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, 1950 and the European Court of Human Rights and European Commission on Human Rights have recognized and tried cases against their home governments.
- American Convention on Human Rights, 1969 and American Court of Human Rights.
- African Charter 1981 and African Commission on Human & Peoples Rights
The ICSID, 1965 has enabled private foreign investor to have access to international machinery
- The Rescue Agreement of 1968 provides that “ State parties under the duty to Rescue and render services to Astronauts who landed in their territory or under their jurisdiction
- The International Convention on the Suppression & punishment of Crime of Apartheid of 1974 declared apartheid a Int. crime and individual is directly responsible.

Recent Int. developments & Individual

- The ILC Draft code of Crimes Against the Peace & Security of Mankind of 1991 has reiterated the individual responsibility under I.L.
- Two Res. of Security Council on Somalia situation in the early 1990s unanimously condemned breaches of humanitarian law and stated that “those who order their commission would be held individually responsible for them”
- The ICC provides that the Court has Universal jurisdiction over persons with respect to Genocide, Aggression, serious violations of laws of war and Crime against humanity.
- Although no international Criminal Court (before the ICC) or penal tribunals, various conventions have provided some scope and tried and punish individuals who have violated laws of war, engaged in genocide or committed int. terrorist acts.
- As Anthony D' Amato has speculated “in the 19th century I.L. was concerned states Vs state, in the 20th century I.L. concerned state Vs individual and in the 21st century I.L. is going to concerned individual Vs individual”

RELATION BETWEEN INTERNATIONAL LAW AND MUNICIPAL LAW

- Introduction
- Theories on the application of International Law within Municipal Law
- Municipal Law before International Tribunals
- International Law within Municipal Sphere
- State Practices on the Domestic Application of International law—USA and UK Practice
- Domestic Implementation of International law in India— The Role of the Executive, Legislature and the Judiciary

Why implementation of I.L.?

- Changing Notions of State Sovereignty
- Globalization and its Impact on Society
- Independent States to Interdependent states
- Law Makers to Law Takers
- Role of States as Regulator to Facilitator
- Status of IL is changing from a weak (unenforceable) to strong (enforceable) Law
- Implementation not by coercion or compulsion but by consensus or cooperation

How States Implement IL

Is IL and ML are same are different?

Difference of opinion among the scholars

1. Monist School
2. Dualist School
3. Transformation or Specific Adoption Theory
4. Delegation Theory
5. Harmonization Theory

Monistic Theory

- ✓ This theory initially was forwarded by Moser and Martens. It was later developed by jurists like Kelsen, Westlake and Lauterpacht.
- ✓ What is a “State”?
- ✓ Municipal law as well as International law are parts of one universal legal system.
- ✓ Municipal law is binding on individuals directly and International law is binding on them through States.
- ✓ Individuals are the root of all legal systems.

Dualistic Theory

- ✓ This theory was developed by German scholar Triepel in 1899. It was later followed by Italian jurist Anzilotti
- ✓ International law and Municipal law are two distinct, separate and self-contained legal systems.
- ✓ The two systems are distinct when it comes to sources, subjects, substance of law, principles and dynamism of subject matter.

Other Theories

Specific Adoption or Transformation
Theory:

- Supported by dualist.

4. Delegation Theory:

- Supported by monists.

5. Harmonisation Theory- Fitzmauric.

Compromise Formula:

National Law before Int. Courts and Tribunals.

Sources:

- Art 38(1)(c)
- *Resjudicata*, Estoppel, Principal of Natural Justice, etc.,
- Ex. Barcelona Traction Case 1970,
(Concept of limited liability)

National Law & Int. Obligations

States cannot plead the provisions of National law as a valid reason for violating Int.obligations.

Ex. 1. Alabama Claims Arbitration, 1872.

2. Exchange of Greek & Turkish population case

3. Lockerbie case.

4. Art 13 Draft Declaration on Rights and Duties of States, 1949.

5. Art 27 of Vienna Convention on Law of Treaties, 1969.

Domestic Enforcement of I.L. in India

- India followed the Dualism and Transformation and adoption
- Constitutional provisions relating to I.L.
- Pre-constitution: British practice
- Constitutional provisions (a) General art. 51
(b) Executive Provisions art. 53, 73, & 77 and
Legislative Provisions art. 245, 253, etc.

Indian Judiciary and IL

- Indian Judiciary, though not empowered to make legislations, is free to interpret India's obligations under international law into the municipal laws of the country in pronouncing its decision in a case concerning issues of international law.
- In this respect, the Indian judiciary has played a proactive role in implementing India's international obligations under International treaties, especially in the field of human rights and environmental law.
- In plethora of cases beginning with **In re Berubari** , **Magan Bhai v. U.O.I**, **Keshavanada Bharati v. State of Kerala**, **Vishakha v. State of Rajasthan**, the Supreme court re-iterated that various international covenants, particularly to which India is a signatory or party, becomes part of national law, in so far as there is no conflict between the two.
- Supreme Court in **Bishambhar v. State of Uttar Pradesh** held that in the exercise of the inherent sovereign powers of the state, the parliament can even enact laws for extra territorial operation AIR 1982 SC32

Indian Judiciary and IL

- The Supreme Court reflect the dualist approach of the Indian legal system. In the words of justice Krishna Iyer in [Jolly George Vergese v. Bank of Cochin](#), “until the [m]unicipal Law is changed to accommodate the [treaty], what binds the courts is the former not the latter”. Further, Supreme Court in [State of West Bengal v. Kesoram Industries](#) reiterated that India follows the “doctrine of dualism” and that “a treaty entered into by India cannot become law of the land...unless Parliament passes a law as required under Article 253”.
- [Vishaka v. State of Rajasthan](#), 1997, a landmark judgment on sexual harassment of women at workplaces, it was noted that “regard must be had to international conventions and norms for construing domestic law when there is no inconsistency between them and there is a void in the domestic law”

Int. Law and Indian Judiciary

- [National Legal Services Authority v. Union of India](#), 2014 – The case that recognised transgender as a third category of gender. The Supreme court said: ‘If parliament has made any legislation which is in conflict with the international law, then Indian courts are bound to give effect to the Indian law, rather than international law. However, in the absence of a contrary legislation, municipal courts in India would respect the rules of international law.
- In [Vellore Citizens’ Welfare Forum v. Union of India](#), 1996, the court said that there is no difficulty in accepting Customary International Law, not contrary to domestic law, as part of the Indian legal system
- the Supreme Court in **Peoples’ Union for Civil Rights v. Union of India**, held that it is an accepted proposition of law that the rules of customary international law which are not contrary to the municipal law shall be deemed to be incorporated in the domestic law.

- Thanks