

Report on the participation in the 1st KIIT National Youth Parliament

Mr. Anish Guha Thakurta, a 2nd year student of B.Sc. Physical Science Program, participated in the 1st National Youth Parliament at KIIT He was nominated in the committee of All India Political Party Meet. The topic was Uniform Civil Code. He represented the portfolio of Mr. Ravi Shankar Prasad, Hon'ble Union Minister, Law & Justice. Mr. Anish Guha Thakurta also received a Medal for active participation in the debate.

On 16th and 17th of November KIIT School of Law organized its 1st National Youth Parliament. Anish Guha Thakurta, student of B. Sc (Physical Science) was nominated in the committee of All India Political Party Meet and was representing the portfolio of Ravi Shankar Prasad. The event started with the inauguration of the event with a Welcome Address by the Director Of The KIIT School of Law, Prof. (Dr .) Subhash Chander Raina followed by the Vote of Thanks and the start of the session.

This was followed by the first session of the day. The agenda of the Party Meet was the deliberation on the scope of the Uniform Civil Code. The student representative is the part of the Government, took the stand for the implementation of the Uniform Civil Code. The discussion started with the Leader of the House presenting the opening statement as well as laying down the idea of how the Government was trying to implement the Uniform Civil Code. The opening statement faced strong opposition as the delegates representing T. Ahmed and Raj Thackeray opposed with strong points on the repercussions the UCC will have on the citizens as well the effect it will have on the religions. The first session concluded with the debate on the agenda somewhat stuck in the religious aspect and the opposition requested the Government to present a rough draft on “What grounds will the Uniform Civil Code be implemented and the overview of the code it will follow?” With this, the session was adjourned.

After a brief break, the session resumed with the debate intensifying as well as covering more grounds. This session was also dominated by the religious aspect of the agenda but with a more in-depth discussion on the Shariat Law as well as all the laws which are religion-oriented. Despite the opposition's stance on the fact that UCC will remove the very essence of secularism that prevails in India, the Government tried to justify that it is necessary to bring uniformity in the diversity such that the social evil which is still predominant in India comes to an end. All the personal laws in the country, namely, The Kazis Act of 1880, The Hindu Marriage Act of 1955, Muslim Personal Law(Shariat) Application Act of 1937 which had the following Dissolution of Muslim Marriages Act of 1939, amongst many others were discussed in-depth and the Government submitted a rough draft which had 6 salient points which provided the backbone of the UCC. The rough draft was as follows:

“India has always been known as a humanitarian nation. Our Civil Code will bear a uniformity that will consider all the emotions that make up the essence of this country. Its main objective is to provide a code that will treat every citizen of this country, irrespective of their gender, religion, sexual orientation, as equal. It will:

- *Keep in mind all the religions, its practices, rituals of the tribal communities and will not make any such code that will hurt humanity in any way.*
- *Deal with the minority in such a way that they don't feel endangered in any way. This is will be decided but conducting a thorough survey among the minority community.*
- *Treat every person in this country as equal and violation of it will be treated as a violation of human rights.*
- *Have the registration of marriage, divorce, inheritance, adoption and any other civil events as mandatory.*
- *Will be given a test run on a particular area where the demographic situation is similar to that of India and the survey would be conducted on the reception of it after which the country will have graded imposition of the Code for a brief period which after being decided will not be subjected to any change.*
- *Give special attention to the marriage, divorce, inheritance and adoption law of the LGBTQ community.*

All the above are the pillars on which this code will be implemented and carried out for a better future."

The second session was adjourned after the presentation of the draft on the floor of the House. After lunch break, the last and final session of the day started of with all the Point of Information and clarification on the draft the government made and also were asked on how exactly tribal communities are to be involved in this particular code as their customary laws supersedes the UCC guidelines and also the point that if the UCC is aiming to address the problems of the Personal Laws then it is better of reform those laws instead of introducing a Uniform Civil Code. As this session was short so all these questions were not answered and was on top priority of the next session, along with that the Leader of Opposition was told to present a draft which reflects the thought of the opposition about the UCC Draft and the changes they want to bring so that their ideas can be incorporated while drafting the final bill. With this, the session was adjourned and this was followed by an entertainment session which was organized by the committee followed by dinner.

The next day, the first session started with a flurry of properly researched debate between the Government and the opposition after the opposition presented a draft that agreed to only one point of the draft by the government. The student representative had active participation that debate which lasted for three and a half hours, raising Point of Information as well as raising motions. He had a speech that received no opposition and a rousing response from the government. This session was the most enlightening as well as enchanting amongst all the sessions. The quality of debate and the oration was magnificent as well as educational. The session was adjourned after deciding that the next session will be on the consensus of the points mentioned.

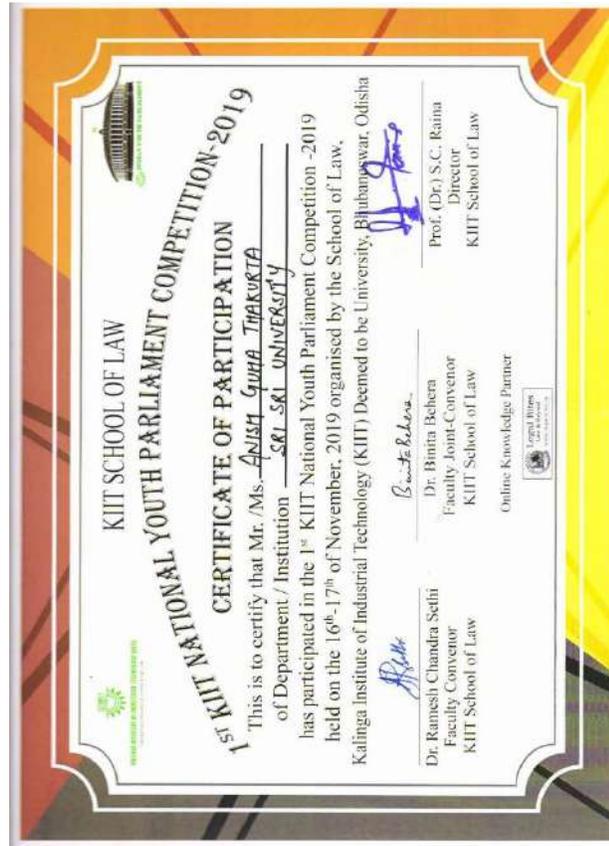
After the lunch break, the All India Political Party Meet entered its final session as the consensus of the points started. Five points were unanimously voted but one point faced dissent from few members and the government was asked to clarify the dissent. The clarification was unsatisfactory

so the Bill was put to vote. All the delegates were told to give a closing statement before the voting took place. After voting, the result was 12-14 in favor of the opposition, which meant that the bill was not passed. After this there was a Zero Hour Session which dealt with feedbacks from the delegates and their thoughts on the organization of the event.

After a brief break, the valedictory ceremony commenced with Opening Remarks by the Director of the KIIT School of Law, followed by the Sharing of Event Report by the Student co-ordinator, Mr. Ayush Verma. This was concluded with the Vote of Thanks and prize-distribution. Though our representative was unable to win any prize but has been acknowledged for his speech and grit and had a wonderful experience.

Personal experience: “Debates have been a part of my extra-curricular activity since my school days. But this was my first experience in a Youth Parliament and it was enlightening. I will look forward to the next Youth Parliament and I aim to do better in that. I received proper support and help from my Head of Department as well as Dr. Surjeet Kaushik, our Mathematics teacher. I am grateful for their support and blessings.”

Certificate and Medal:



Pictures from the event:

