

GNLU team talks it out in Vienna

Just 18, FY student Aastha Mehta is representing GNLU at international moot court as its arguing counsel. She shares her excitement

It is pretty chilly in Vienna right now, but the incessant arguments and discussions is turning the city hot! Teams from 300 prestigious universities across the world are busy presenting their cases and arguing with a conviction that can puzzle and confuse top arbitrators in the world.

Welcome to the 20th International Moot Competition which is on at Juridicum (Law faculty) at Vienna University that has over 63,000 students from 130 countries studying in its various faculties. The International Moot Competition is an event that aspiring law students from all over the world really look forward to. However, some get lucky. Like me. I am part of the six-member GNLU team representing our university at the moot competition which is also called the Olympics for Law Students.

While there are several issues, one of the main topics is whether a party to an international commercial contract can seek damages for breach by the other party when the first party indulges in child labour, an unethical practice. The case topic is very close to my heart.

All counsels will be arguing for and against all propositions. I will be arguing for a defaulting party that has indulged in child labour against one university. And in another round, I will be doing the exact opposite.

Imagine young brains from 300 top universities of the world focusing on



Aastha Mehta (R) is attending the International Moot Competition being held at Juridicum at Vienna University



MOOT COMPETITION

The International Moot Competition was conceived by Professor Eric Bergsten, former secretary of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL). The basic structure of this moot is based on a hypothetical case, based generally on United Nations Convention on International Sale of Goods (CISG) and principles of UNCITRAL and International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT) made by the United Nations.

Academy of Comparative Law and chairman of CISG Advisory Council, Dr Stefan Kroll, leading German expert on international commercial arbitration and honorary professor at Bucerius Law School in Germany as well as Dr Christina Ramberg, a professor of Private International Law at Stockholm University and a Swedish delegate at UNCITRAL World Group in UNO.

Thankfully, all's not just work. We are having a great time, too. Vienna is a beautiful city and people are friendly here. I love the architecture, very Roman and Gothic. The Austrians are very proud that for the second consecutive time the city has been adjudged the most liveable city of the world by international consulting firm Mercer. The city is a great place to explore European art and culture.

one issue with various legal aspects. It is a 360-degree experience.

So far, we have faced competitors from University of Hanover in Germany, University of Masaryk in Czech Republic, University of Pantheon Sorbonne in Paris, and University of Turku in Finland. We will know the result on March 29.

I am passionately and articulately arguing the case, covering various legal angles. It is a matter of great privilege for me. I am just 18, and the youngest member of our team which also includes my co-student Shivansh Jolly who is addressing the procedural part

of the case.

Pooja Parikh and Kriti Kishore from second year, Shaival Shelat from first year and Shardad Sharma from fourth year work hard to research the case and provide in-depth insights. Our coach is Soumyadipta Chanda, a fifth year law student who guides us through the rigorous process of international moot court competition.

Law students across the world and arbitrators, who have come from various countries, say they have immensely enjoyed listening to our legal submissions on this vital issue. This moot gives us the chance to develop our arguing

skills, since each team argues from both sides of the case, forcing law students to look at all dimensions of a matter.

Each university holds *inter se* competition to select students for the international competition. At GNLU, first year students to those studying Master of Law stake part in the contest. Though I am a first year student, the university chose me to be the arguing counsel. It is an honour.

So far, we have had the rare privilege of meeting eminent personalities in the field of International Commercial Arbitration like Dr Ingeborg Schwenzer, an associate member of International