SAARCLAW India Chapter, Indian Law Institute and Justice and Care jointly organized an International Conference on “Human Trafficking: Legal and Technological Perspectives for Solutions within South Asia” on March 24, 2018 at India International Centre, New Delhi. The Chief Guest of the program was Hon’ble Mr. Justice Dipak Misra, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of India. The Conference commenced with the Welcome Address by Prof. (Dr.) Manoj K. Sinha, Director, Indian Law Institute. Hon’ble Mr. Justice Dipak Misra in an inaugural speech of the conference said that in today’s world human trafficking is one of the major crimes and the fastest growing criminal enterprises. He added, “The menace isn’t confined to the domestic sphere but has become a cross border phenomenon”. The people involved in it considered human beings as commodity and the commoditization of human beings has become an industry in itself. He added that the younger generation has to be the torchbearers against human trafficking as it is a great menace to the present and the future generation. He said slavery was the human trafficking of the past and it exists even today in a different manner. Hon’ble Justice Ms. Sapana Pradhan Malla said, “Technology has become a strong tool in the hands of perpetrators, has created the market for human trafficking and made the victim more vulnerable”. She underlined that the cyber space is not the exclusive domain of the perpetrators but rather a powerful tool in the hands of authorities.

Hon’ble Justice Gita Mittal spoke about the need to disrupt the demand and supply chains of trafficking and get to the root of the black money that funds it. She further added that the law needs to be in place to penalize customers and curb the menace. Mr. K. K. Venugopal, Attorney General of India & Patron, SAARCLAW on his special address mentioned various statutes in the Indian legal system to curb human trafficking. The conference was attended by the various SAARC country judges to discuss on the need for solutions to the technological challenges faced by the law enforcement agencies on human trafficking.
SAARCLAW and Solidarity Centre Bangladesh jointly organised a Roundtable Stakeholder Meeting at Hotel Lake Castle in Dhaka on Saturday. The Hon’ble Mr. Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed, High Court Division of the Supreme Court, Bangladesh was the Chief Guest and the Roundtable was presided over and moderated by Mr. Muhammad Mohsen Rashid, Secretary General, SAARCLAW.

Hon’ble Mr. Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed said that Bangladesh government would have to be ‘more Labour friendly’ to execute relevant laws and to protect rights of the migrant workers. Barrister Ms. Lutfun Kadir said, “3500 cases were filed across the country since formulation of the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act in 2012 and not a single case has been disposed of” based on a research paper. She added that court proceedings are lengthy and there is no separate tribunal for quick disposal of cases.

Mr. M. K. Rahman, Vice President, SAARCLAW in his closing remarks, said that there were weaknesses in the migration law in 2013 which needed to be emended. Including senior lawyers, migrants’ rights campaigners, trade union leaders and returnee workers almost 54 participants actively took part in the discussion.
The World Happiness Report is a landmark survey of the state of global happiness. The World Happiness Report 2018, ranks 156 countries by their happiness levels, and 117 countries by the happiness of their immigrants. The main focus of this year’s report, in addition to its usual ranking of the levels and changes in happiness around the world, is on migration within and between countries.

The overall rankings of country happiness are based on the pooled results from Gallup World Poll surveys from 2015-2017, and show both change and stability. All the top countries tend to have high values for all six of the key variables that have been found to support wellbeing: income, healthy life expectancy, social support, freedom, trust and generosity. Among the top countries, differences are small enough that year-to-year changes in the rankings are to be expected.

The report studies rural-urban among the South Asian countries, Pakistan is ranked on the top position with 75th position in the overall ranking, while Nepal was ranked at 101st. Bhutan has been placed at 97th rank and Sri Lanka at 116th position. Bangladesh is ranked at 115th in the happiness index.


Based on expert opinion from around the world, the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) measures the perceived levels of public sector corruption worldwide. The CPI uses a scale of zero (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean). Of the 180 countries assessed in the 2017 index, more than 2/3 score below 50. This means over 6 billion people live in countries that are corrupt. No country scores perfectly, however. Many less corrupt countries still suffer from opaque decision-making or have weak law enforcement. Governments around the world must do more to serve their citizens, engage civil society, support free press, protect activists and journalists and ensure transparency and accountability in public and private sectors. These are vital steps in the global fight against corruption.

Source: https://www.transparency.org/news/featurecorruption_perceptions_index_2017
## BANGLADESH

1. Tenure of reserved seats for women in parliament increased by 25 years
   
   [Link](http://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/politics/2018/01/29/tenure-reserved-seats-women-parliament-increased-25-years/)

## INDIA

1. In a first, collegium selects woman advocate for SC judge
   

2. Arbitration law set to be changed again, in line with global best practices
   

## NEPAL

1. Provision to be made to register cases online
   
   [Article](https://kathmandutribune.com/provision-made-register-cases-online/)

## PAKISTAN

1. Age of Child To Be Inserted in Constitution to Align With International Standards
   

## SRI LANKA

1. No taxes imposed on migrant workers in 2018 budget, Foreign Employment Minister assures
   
   [Article](http://www.colombopage.com/archive_17B/Dec12_1513050868CH.php)

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