

REPORT

CURRENT INTERNATIONAL CRISIS

HUMANITARIAN DIPLOMACY AND CHALLENGES

**ARYABHATTA COLLEGE, NEW DELHI
15 JANUARY 2018**

Organised by
**ARYABHATTA COLLEGE, DELHI UNIVERSITY, NEW DELHI
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS, NEW DELHI**



ICRC

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The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in collaboration with Aryabhata College, Delhi University organised a talk on **Current International Crisis: Humanitarian Diplomacy and Challenges** on 15 January 2018. The ICRC also exhibited a selection of photographs highlighting its work around the world.



Dr Manoj Sinha, Principal of Aryabhata College, welcomed the guests and highlighted the relevance of humanitarian diplomacy as a measure to meet challenges posed by the various international crises around us. He hoped that the association between the ICRC and Aryabhata College would be the first of many.



Prof Swaran Singh, Chairperson of Diplomacy and Disarmament at the Centre for International Politics, Organization and Disarmament (CIPOD), Jawaharlal Nehru University, began by highlighting the limitations and challenges faced by States due to technology led globalisation which is bringing citizens to the centre of world politics. This, he said, has led to opinions being formed across borders, transcending traditional boundaries.



Dr Hugo Slim, Head of Policy at the ICRC began by explaining the work undertaken by the organisation in conflict zones. He highlighted the three methods of engagement that the organisation has developed – law, operations and policies. He stated that the establishment of the ‘rules of war’ was one of the first steps towards engaging States through humanitarian diplomacy. The ICRC in 1863 worked with 18 States in Europe to draft the first Geneva Conventions on the protection of those wounded in war. On operations, Dr Slim highlighted the role of the ICRC in bringing relief to people on all sides of the conflict by adhering to the principle of neutrality and basing its actions on the Geneva Conventions. He said that the ICRC creates guidelines and protocols around various conflict related issues and these policies work in tandem with themes of security, health and migration to name a few.

Explaining the nature of humanitarian diplomacy, he stated that the ICRC represents the interest of the people affected by armed conflict. The organisation believes in taking cognisance of the rules of war, also known as the International Humanitarian Law (IHL), to deliberate and improve upon them and as a consequence, prevent or limit the loss of lives. With the changing nature of the world, the ICRC employs several different kinds of diplomacy; bilateral, multilateral and public diplomacy to achieve this. The increase in the usage of digital media as a platform for sharing ideas and opinions has pushed the ICRC to innovate the ways in which it conducts dialogues with different parties. However, IHL continues to remain the cornerstone for improving conduct of hostilities.

Dr Slim took this opportunity to talk about India's increasing relevance in world politics. He informed the audience about the Raisina Dialogue and ICRC's participation in the same to discuss challenges posed by new age weapons. Jeremy England, Head of the ICRC Regional Delegation in New Delhi added that the organisation in collaboration with the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) is keen to partner with India on issues like gender equality, disability and sanitation.

Prof Swaran Singh thanked the speaker and opened the session to the audience for comments. The comments revolved around the working methodologies of the ICRC in Asia and beyond and ICRC policy matters.



Dr Satish Kumar Jha, Associate Professor at Aryabhata College delivered the vote of thanks bringing the session to an end.

Rapporteurs

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