

NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL VISIT

DATE: 14TH AUGUST 2019

INTRODUCTION:

This report elaborates the experience of the field visit undertaken by the final year students of BA LLB and BBA LLB. The place of the field visit was National Green Tribunal (NGT), Western Zone located at Camp, Pune. The visit was organized in collaboration with the New Law College's Environment Cell on 14th of August 2019.

The purpose of the visit was to coax the young minds of the future lawyers towards the environment laws of the country. The NGT has been established under The National Green Tribunal Act, 2010. The Act came when Mr. Jairam Ramesh was the Minister of Environment and Forest. Since the NGT is a tribunal the laws of Civil Procedure Code and the laws of Evidence are not applicable here. NGT has the jurisdiction over environment matters to the exclusion of the civil courts.

The NGT is an independent body which works for the betterment of the environment in India. Its mission is to ensure the expeditious and effective disposal of all the cases related to our environment. It also undertakes the task of formulating rules and regulations for the conservation of the environment and natural resources.

OBJECTIVE:

The objective behind visiting the NGT was to show how the tribunal functions and how it ensures that the environment remains clean. The visit enlightened the students on the procedure of the cases filed before the NGT, the composition of the bench of the NGT, the qualifications and terms of the members and other functions of the National Green Tribunal.

The visit further brought to light the issues faced by the NGT because of the failure of the Central Government to appoint the members to the tribunal.

STRUCTURE:

The National Green Tribunal has been established on 18.10.2010 under the National Green Tribunal Act 2010. The Tribunal shall not be bound by the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908. However, the Tribunal shall be guided by principles of Natural Justice. The Principal bench of the Tribunal is at New Delhi while Zonal benches are situated at Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata and Chennai.

The Tribunal's dedicated jurisdiction in environmental matters shall provide speedy environmental justice. The purpose of this is to help reduce the burden of litigation in the higher courts.

EXECUTION:

The visit was organized on the 14th day of August 2019, where students of the final year of BBA LLB and BA LLB visited the NGT campus. At the campus the students visited the court room where the proceedings are conducted and the video conferencing room.

An interactive session was conducted between Advocate Anirudha Kulkarni who is a practicing advocate in the Shivajinagar Court, Pune and also deals with the matter relating to environment before the NGT and the students of New Law College, Pune. Also, Mr. Gupta who is the Deputy Registrar of the NGT Regional Bench, Pune was present there. Sir explained in detail the types of pollution, the functions of the NGT, the punishment that the NGT can award and the powers of the NGT.

TIME:

The visit took around one and a half hour. During the first hour Adv. Anirudha gave an overview of the NGT, the principal bench, the number of zonal benches and regional benches in India. After that Mr. Gupta went on to give the details of the NGT and in the last half hour the students visited the video conferencing room where the discussions were held followed by a question and answer round.

NUMBER OF STUDENTS:

The final year students from both BBA LLB and BA LLB were a part of this NGT visit. There were around 40 students from both the batches.

OUTCOME:

The visit brought to light the scope and opportunities that the NGT beholds for the future lawyers. It forced the students to wonder about the kind of power that vests with the NGT. The visit also enlightened the students about the hurdles and the difficulties that the tribunal is facing due to the non-appointment of the expert members. And most of all it made them realize about the importance of protecting the environment.

SUGGESTIONS:

The NGT visit was a great success because it paved the way for a healthy conversation between the experts and the students which is the most essential thing. It is only when the students indulge in such activities that they can be more aware of the things happening around them in their country as well as worldwide. Such visits must be conducted every now and then so that the students can get practical knowledge also.

ACTIVITY DONE:

The NGT visit was one of its kind because India is the third country after Australia and New Zealand who has established a separate cell to deal with the environment matters. The NGT visit and the learning session were both a way to ensure that the young minds are directed towards working for a better tomorrow.



