



SYMBIOSIS LAW SCHOOL, NAGPUR

Constituent of Symbiosis International (DEEMED UNIVERSITY), Pune

Re-accredited by NAAC with "A++" Grade- Awarded Category – I by UGC

Founder: Dr. S.B. Majumdar, M.Sc. Ph.D. (Awarded Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri by President of India)



**Report on the 2nd National Med-Arb Competition,
conducted by the Alternative Dispute Resolution Cell of Symbiosis Law School, Nagpur.**

March 02-03, 2024

"Mediation and arbitration competitions are not just contests of skill; they are crucibles for cultivating the architects of harmony. Here, emerging minds learn not only to navigate the turbulent waters of dispute but to transform them into bridges of understanding and resolution."

Objective:

In the fulfilment of its goals and following the success of its inaugural edition, the Alternative Dispute Resolution Cell (ADRC) at SLS, Nagpur, extended a warm invitation to law students nationwide to participate in the **2nd National Med-Arb Competition**, conducted on **March 02-03, 2024**. Med-Arb, a unique hybrid approach within the Alternative Dispute Resolution framework, seeks to equip future legal practitioners with effective dispute resolution techniques. The underlying object behind organizing this competition is deeply anchored in its design, which seeks to foster excellence in mediation and arbitration skills. Through this competition, law students were offered a comprehensive understanding of med-arb processes, education, and training. It provided an exemplary platform for showcasing the practical abilities of participants from diverse law institutions across the nation, with the aspiration of gaining international recognition in future editions.

This Competition was organized in collaboration with 'PSL Advocates & Solicitors, New Delhi' and knowledge partners SCC Online and Eastern Book Company (EBC) with excellent support and coordination from our supporting partners Dewani Associates and International Arbitration and Mediation Centre, Hyderabad (IAMC), which is a leading organization in the field of Alternative Dispute Resolution and SLS Nagpur expressed sincere gratitude for the support received from its distinguished partners.

Format of the competition:

Team composition:

Each participating team consisted of three members.

- Composition for Mediation Round: Each Team shall comprise a Mediator and a Mediating Pair; the Mediating Pair shall consist of a Counsel and a Client.
- Composition for Arbitration round: Each team shall consist of 2 counsels (The Mediating Pair from the Mediation Round acted as Counsel 1 and Counsel 2 and the Mediator as the Arbitrator)

The simulations were based on disputes arising from real-world scenarios, wherein participants were initially provided with General Information and were required to mediate the dispute during the first round. Subsequently, in the arbitration phase designated as the second-round individuals who previously assumed the roles of client and counsel transitioned into the positions of Counsel 1 and Counsel 2, respectively, while the erstwhile mediator assumed the role of the Arbitrator. The Arbitrator's engagement was of a passive nature. Following the completion of both preliminary rounds, the Arbitrator was responsible for composing the Arbitral Award, a process allocated a time frame of 90 minutes.

Structure of the Competition:

1. **Preliminary Rounds 1 and 2:** All the 12 competing teams
2. **Semi-Final Rounds:** 4 teams qualifying from the Preliminary Rounds 1 and 2
3. **Final Rounds:** 2 teams qualifying from the Semi-Finals

It was mandatory for all the teams to participate in both the sessions viz. Mediation and Arbitration Session in the Preliminary Rounds 1 & 2.

The schedule for the event:

Day 0, March 01, 2024:

1. Registrations
2. Draw of Lots and Exchange of Memorials

Day 1- March 02, 2024:

1. Inauguration
2. Talk with Legal Eagles
3. Preliminary Rounds 1 and 2.
4. Drafting of Arbitral Award.
5. Declaration of Results for Preliminary Rounds 1 and 2
6. Draw of Lots and Memorial Exchange

Day 2- March 03, 2024

1. Semi-Final Rounds
2. Declaration of Results for Semi-Final Rounds
3. Draw of Lots for Finals and Memorial Exchange.
4. Final Rounds
5. Valedictory Ceremony

DAY 1- 02 March, 2024

Inauguration:

The inauguration ceremony was graced by several notable luminaries, including **Hon'ble Mr. Justice (Retd.) Sh. Jayant Nath, Former Judge of Delhi High Court; Mr. Sameer Jain, Managing Partner, PSL Advocates and Solicitors, New Delhi; Mr. Ketan Gaur, Partner, Trilegal, New Delhi; Mr. Suvigya Awasthi Partner, PSL Advocates & Solicitors; and Mr. Jasmeet Singh, Advocate-on-Record, Supreme Court of India.** The convenors, **Ms. Sakshi Tolani** and **Mr. M. Gautam Seshadri**, served as the masters of ceremony for the inaugural event. The Inaugural ceremony began with a welcome address by **Dr. Sukhvinder Singh Dari**,

Director, SLS Nagpur followed by insights by the guests regarding law as a profession, nuances in arbitration proceedings, and commitment to ethical practice in legal profession. **Dr. Shilpa Sharma**, Faculty Incharge of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Cell, declared the event open, and **Dr. Deepti Khubalkar**, Assistant Professor delivered the Vote of Thanks which was followed by National Anthem.

Talk with Legal Eagles:

A panel discussion titled 'A Talk with Legal Eagles' was organised featuring Hon'ble Mr. Justice (Retd.) Sh. Jayant Nath, Mr Sameer Jain, Mr Ketan Gaur, and Mr Jasmeet Singh, moderated by Mr Suvigya Awasthy. The discussion centred around the Report by the Expert Committee on Arbitration Law, its critical recommendations for reforms in the Indian context. The discussion covered the need of recommendations for improving arbitration, judicial interventions, and the issue of delay and costs. The panellists further highlighted differences between Domestic and International Commercial Arbitration, stressing the difference in approach of the Courts and the parties. The necessity for substantial reforms in the governance and conduct of Indian arbitrators, with a particular emphasis on refining the appointment procedures, was underscored. Additionally, the influence of cultural preferences for traditional litigation over arbitration in India was discussed, with a call for better integration of arbitration in academic and judicial exam frameworks to foster change.

The event successfully facilitated a rich exchange of ideas on the arbitration landscape, highlighting the challenges and opportunities. It served as an illuminating platform for advancing the dialogue on arbitration law in the country, involving a diverse group of stakeholders in the discussion.

Preliminary Rounds 1 and 2:

The inauguration ceremony was followed by the **Preliminary Rounds 1 and 2**, which were organized into two categories: Mediation and Arbitration. The theme for the same was based on **construction arbitration** and the problem was drafted by PSL Advocates and Solicitors, New Delhi. These rounds witnessed enthusiastic participation from **12 teams**, representing various prestigious law schools across India. The judging panel comprised of six esteemed advocates which included: -

1. Mr. Vivek Joshi, Associate, PSL Advocates and Solicitors
2. Mr. Rohan Gulati Associate, PSL Advocates and Solicitors

3. Ms. Vatsala Pandey, Law Clerk and Research Assistant, Supreme Court of India
4. Mr. Aniket Dabadghao Advocate, Bombay High Court, Nagpur Bench
5. Mr. Sahil Dewani, Advocate, Bombay High Court, Nagpur Bench
6. Mr. Dhiraj Ailani, Advocate, Bombay High Court, Nagpur Bench.

The preliminary rounds were followed by the drafting of the Arbitral Awards which was meticulously carried out on the same day. The teams were evaluated on a range of criteria, including advocacy and negotiation skills, as well as body language to name a few and based on these marking criteria mentioned in the Rulebook, the results of this Round was declared in the evening of **March 02, 2024**.

Furthermore, to commemorate the commencement of the event, "Food Stalls" were established to provide both participants and the students of SIU with an array of delectable culinary delights. These stalls were organized outside the SLS Building from **March 02-03, 2024**.

DAY 02- March 03, 2024

Semi-Final Rounds:

The Semi-Final Rounds was marked by the zealous and competitive participation by the 4 qualifying teams, which were evaluated by a panel of eminent advocates specializing in this domain. The judging panel included: -

1. Mr. Raghav Kumar, Manager (Law) at SBI & Founder of TMP, Bhopal
2. Mr. Rohit Joshi, Advocate, Bombay High Court, Nagpur Bench
3. Mr. Shraddhanand Bhutada, Advocate, Bombay High Court, Nagpur Bench
4. Mr. Wilson Mathew, Senior Partner- Legal Counsel- Litigation.

Final Rounds:

The announcement of results was followed by the much-awaited Final Rounds which witnessed an impressive demonstration of competitive involvement, marked by composure and enthusiasm by the two qualifying teams. This round was graced and judged by some of the most distinguished personalities of this field including: -

1. Mr. Sameer Jain, Managing Partner, PSL Advocates and Solicitors
2. Mr. Suvigya Awasthi Partner, PSL Advocates & Solicitors
3. Mr. Ketan Gaur, Partner, Trilegal, New Delhi

4. Mr. Prateek Shanker Shrivastava Regional Legal Manager, Central India, Hindustan Unilever Limited.
5. Mr. Jasmeet Singh, Advocate-on-Record, Supreme Court of India.

Valedictory Ceremony:

Following the conclusion of the finals, the Valedictory Ceremony was conducted, during which distinguished guests addressed the gathering by providing some insightful remarks and their invaluable guidance on the domain of Alternative Dispute Resolution. The dignitaries also acknowledged the Institution for providing a platform to the young legal minds to hone and showcase their skills which would also contribute to their legal careers. This was followed by the display of the short film prepared by the PR and Media team of ADRC, Symbiosis Law School, Nagpur was displayed which gave a captivating overview of the journey of the two-day competition.

This was followed by the most awaited moment of the competition- The declaration of Results which was announced by the orchestrator of the event **Dr. Shilpa Sharma**; After two days of intense competition divided into 2 Preliminary Rounds, Semi Finals and Finals-

1. The accolade of **Best Mediator** was bagged by the **National Law University Odisha** who received an impressive trophy, a cash prize of Rs. 15,000, and a coveted internship at PSL Advocates and Solicitors, New Delhi while the **School of Law, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bangalore**, secured the position of the **Runner Up Mediator** and won a cash prize of Rs. 7500 with an eye-catching trophy along with a prestigious internship opportunity at IAMC, Hyderabad.
2. The Mediating Pair/Counselors from the **Indian Law Society's Law College, Pune**, emerged as the **Best Mediating Pair/ Counselors** and were awarded a cash prize of Rs. 30,000, a remarkable trophy, and an internship opportunity at PSL Advocates and Solicitors, New Delhi while the Runner Up position in the same category was secured by **Maharashtra National Law University, Mumbai** who won a cash prize of Rs. 20,000 with a trophy and an internship opportunity at IAMC, Hyderabad.
3. The **Best Written Submission** was bagged by the team from **National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata** with a stunning trophy and a cash prize of Rs. 15,000 and winner of **Best Arbitral Award** was team from **School of Law, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bangalore** with a cash prize of Rs. 7500 and an

attractive trophy sponsored by PSL Advocates and Solicitors, New Delhi.

The 2nd National Med-Arb Competition orchestrated by SLS Nagpur culminated in significant triumph, showcasing the remarkable legal acumen present within our nation. Moreover, the event's success can be attributed to the professionalism and dedication exhibited by the members of the ADRC throughout the competition, from whom we can anticipate continued excellence in the future.

The organization and execution of the National Med-Arb Competition were under the stewardship of **Dr. Shilpa Sharma**, Assistant Professor at Symbiosis Law School, Nagpur, and the faculty in-charge of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Cell (ADRC). Along with the constant support and guidance by the **Dr. Sukhvinder Singh Dari**, Director of SLS Nagpur. The ADRC's competent members, along with a team of dedicated volunteers, meticulously organized the entire event.

The Convenors of this event were **Ms. Sakshi Tolani**, **Mr. M. Gautam Seshadri** alongside the Co-Convenor **Mr. Saksham Bhatnagar**. Their leadership along with the unwavering support of the Advisory Members including **Mr. Saket Bansal**, **Ms. Vaidehi Bhangde** and **Ms. Naina Poddar** was pivotal in the seamless execution of the competition

Moreover, the ADRC's members invested significant effort to ensure the event's success. The committees, along with their respective leaders and members, were integral to the competition's organization, demonstrating a collective commitment to excellence and their names are as follows: -

1. Convenors:

Ms. Sakshi Tolani

Mr. M. Gautam Seshadri

Co-Convenor:

Mr. Saksham Bhatnagar

2. Judges Hospitality Committee:

Head: Ms. Elisha Manu V.

3. Participant Hospitality Committee:

Head: Ms. Tanaya Raut

Member: Ms. Khooshi Singh

4. Stage and Conference Room Committee:

Head: Ms. Gauri Malviya

Members: Ms. Trisha Rathi and Ms. Tanisha Tainwala

5. Registration Committee:

Head: Ms. Gauri Malviya

Member: Ms. Elisha Manu V.

6. Food Committee:

Head: Ms. Manasi Malviya

Members: Mr. Vedant Harde and Ms. Riya Andhare

7. Tabulation Committee:

Head: Ms. Naina Poddar

8. Drafting Committee:

Head: Mr. Saksham Bhatnagar

Members: Ms. Trisha Rathi, Ms. Tanaya Raut and Ms. Elisha Manu V.

9. Design Committee:

Head: Ms. Khooshi Singh

Members: Ms. Gauri Malviya and Ms. Tanisha Tainwala

10. PR and Media Committee:

Head: Ms. Khooshi Singh

Member: Ms. Vanshika Bhardwaj

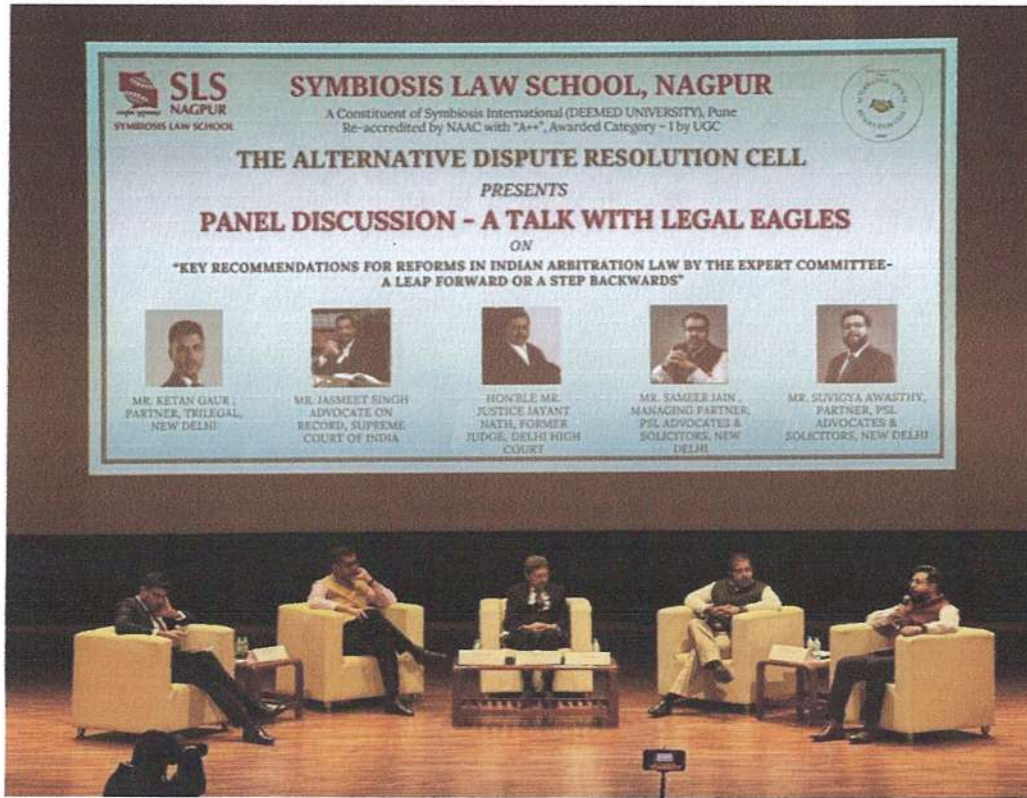
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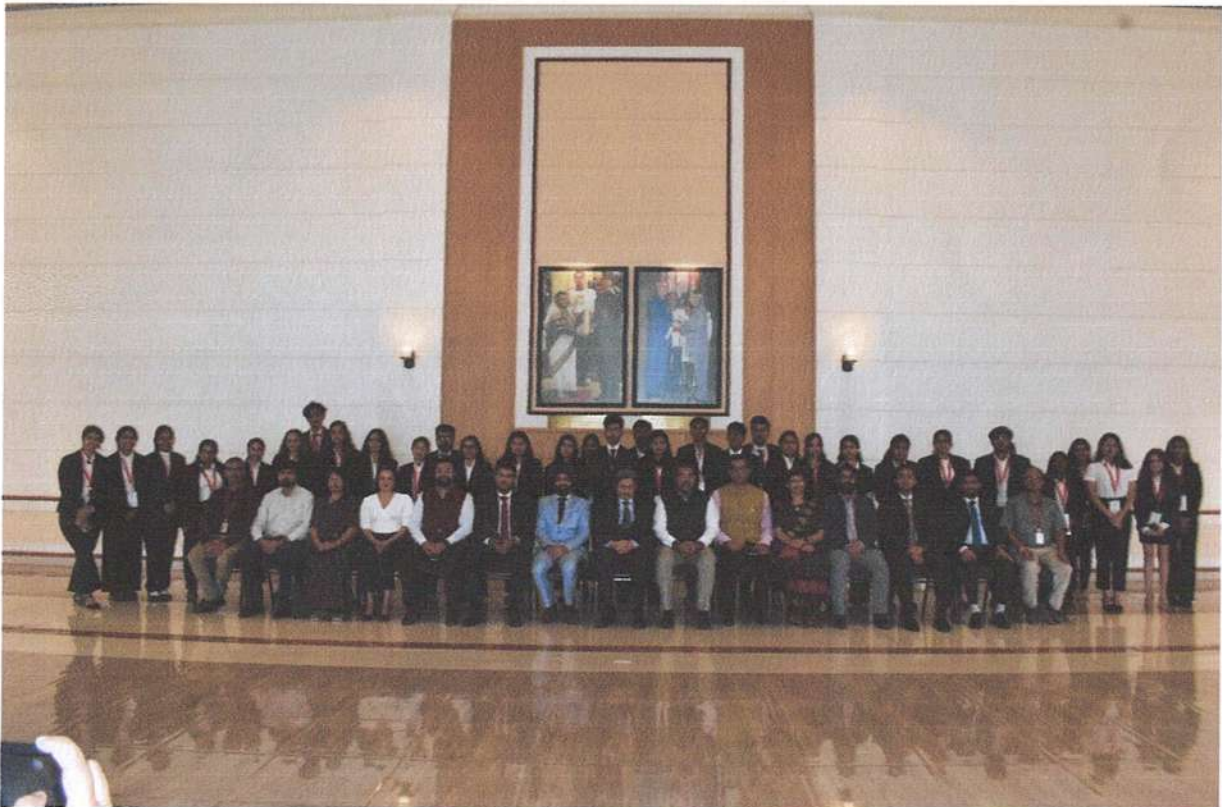
[THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY]



[GLIMPSES OF INAUGURATION CEREMONY]



[A TALK WITH LEGAL EAGLES]



**[GROUP PHOTOGRAPH OF THE ESTEEMED DIGNITARIES
WITH THE PARTICIPANTS]**



**[SNEAK PEAK INTO THE MEDIATION SESSION
OF THE PRELIMINARY ROUNDS]**



[ARBITRATION SESSION IN THE PRELIMINARY ROUNDS]



[THE WINNERS WITH THE LUMINARIES]

Bilpa



[Signature]
Director
Symbiosis Law School,
Nagpur