

SYMBIOSIS LAW SCHOOL, NAGPUR

Constituent of Symbiosis International (DEEMED UNIVERSITY), Pune

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

Founder: Dr. S.B. Mujumdar, M.Sc. Ph.D.

Election Commission of India initiative – "Mera Pahala Vote Desh ke Liye"

13th March 2024

In accordance with UGC regulations, Colleges throughout India took part in the "Mera Pahla Vote Desh ke Liye" campaign, which has been launched by the Ministry of Education (MoE) in partnership with the Ministry of Youth Affairs. The principal objectives of this campaign are to encourage first-time voters to cast ballots, and reinforce the importance of voting for the betterment of this Nation. The Election Commission of India is encouraging students of various universities to actively participate in the upcoming festival of Democracy by login in to My Govt portal and give their contribution in various initiatives carried out by ECI. The Symbiosis Law School, Nagpur, have designed a number of initiatives to encourage youth to be sensitized with the process through an array of activities which was carried out on, March 13, 2024, in Assembly Hall and Moot Court Hall.

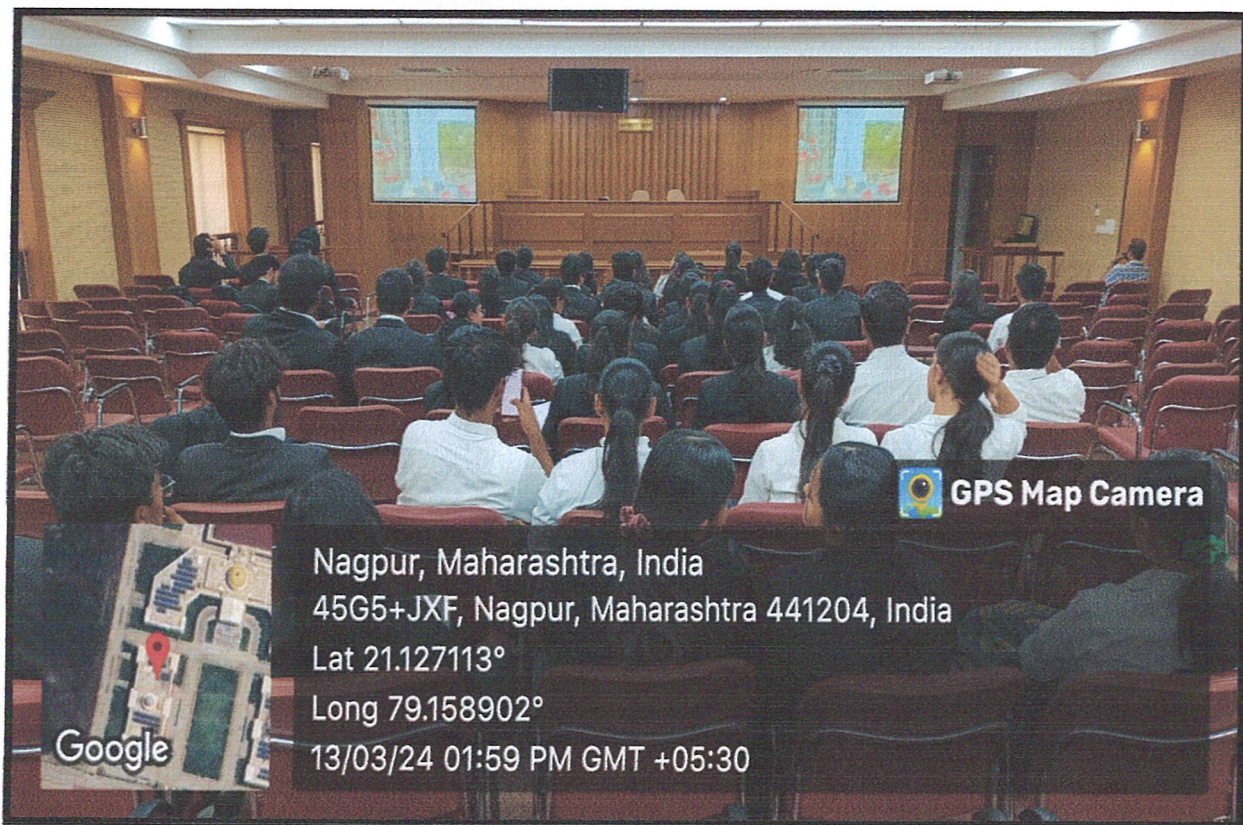
Students were made aware of the value of voting in a democratic system by presenting audio-visual information in the Moot Court Hall to kick off the campaign. The younger generation of today is very passionate about taking pictures, especially with selfie frames, so SLS also introduced the voting process and gave a brief explanation of how it works. Additionally, by making these selfie frames, SLS hopes to make voting experience more memorable for first-time voters and create lifelong memories.

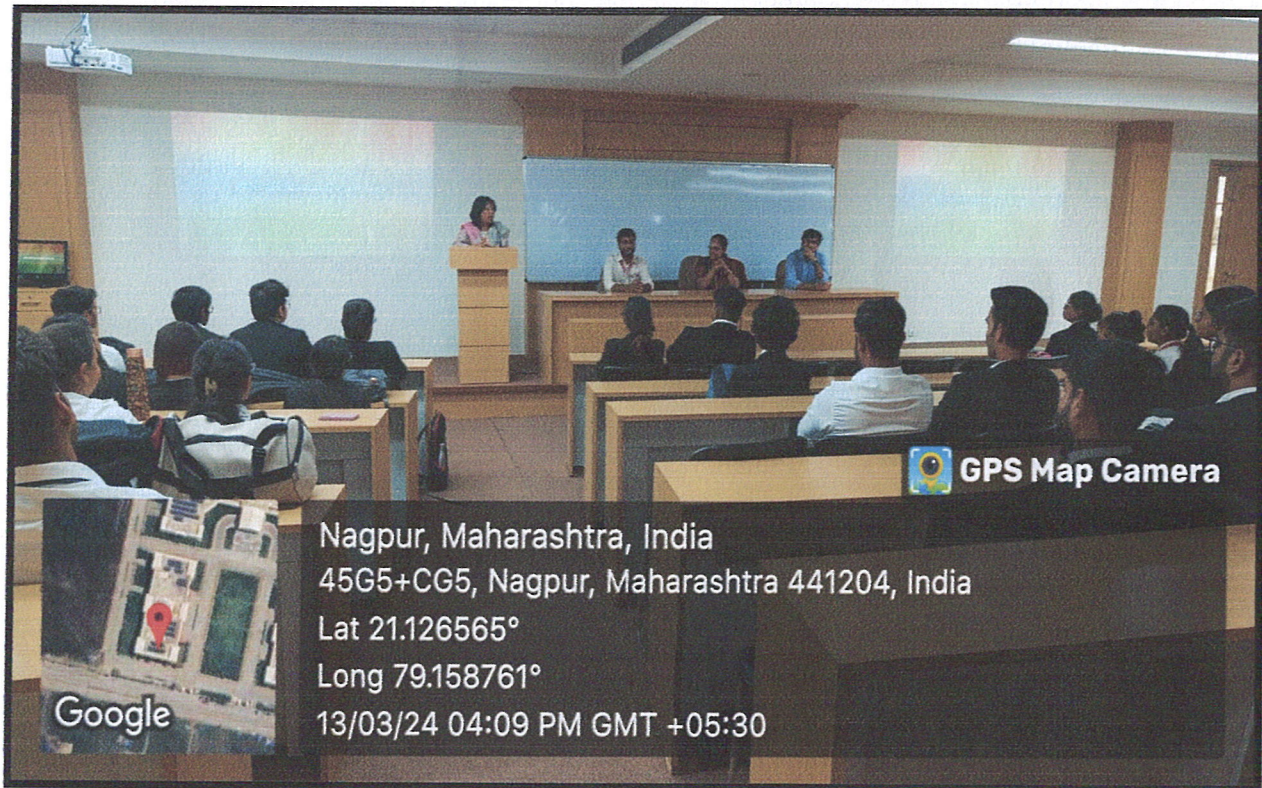
A Seminar was conducted at the Assembly Hall under able guidance of Dr. Sukhvinder Singh Dari, Director SLS, Nagpur where esteemed faculty members Dr. Aarti Kalnawat, Dr. Deepti Khubalkar and Prof Parth Sharma addressed the gathering and shared their valuable insights about the importance of voting in a democratic setup and students got a firsthand experience on the importance of even single vote matter in an election.

In their respective addresses Dr. Kalnawat discussed the importance of voting and how every vote has the ability to shape our nation's future. That our votes are not just marks on the ballot paper, but they are manifestations of hopes and dreams for better tomorrow. Before making an informed decision, she advised reading the party manifestos and finding out information about the candidates. Dr. Khubalkar highlighted the power and responsibility that comes with voting, she emphasized on exercising wisdom while choosing the candidate for voting.

Quoting constitutional provision and cases she advised them to be informed voters, and one must seek reliable sources of information. Prof. Sharma reminded the students that all is not centric to rights but one must also remember duties to bring in the balance in the National Interest. He reminded them that voting is their duty and discussed that taking the initial step towards responsible citizenship is need of the hour. He briefed them about NOTA (none of the above) option and urged to cast vote on the day of election as their primary duty.

The underlying theme was that the democracy is not a spectator sport, and we must actively participate in our communities, advocating for positive change and holding elected representatives accountable. The enthusiastic participation from first time voters helped in resounding success of the seminar. Seminar was moderated and coordinated by Prof Rakesh Nair.





Dr. Aarti Kalnawat, and Dr. Deepti Khubalkar, addressing the students.



Prof Rakesh Nair and Prof Parth Sharma addressing the students.



Students at SLS Nagpur at voting booth.

K. KASH



[Handwritten Signature]

Director
 Symbiosis Law School,
 Nagpur