



SYMBIOSIS LAW SCHOOL, NAGPUR

Constituent of Symbiosis International (DEEMED UNIVERSITY), Pune

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

Report on the Inauguration of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Cell (ADRC)

September 24th, 2022

As author Joyce Meyer said, "Patience is not the ability to wait but the ability to keep a good attitude while waiting."

After almost two years of wait, ADRC was officially inaugurated by **Adv. Tariq Khan** on 24th September, 2022.

About the ADRC:-

ADRC, a student run-cell of the Symbiosis Law School, Nagpur (SLS Nagpur), was established in the year 2020 with the aim of providing practical learning experiences with regard to ADR and its allied mechanisms to the students of the institution. Adhering to this aim, ADRC has conducted a number of webinars, workshops and Internal competitions like Intra-mediation & Intra client-counselling competitions in the past academic months, in order to provide an effective learning experience to all the students.

With the same ardour, the Alternative Dispute Resolution Cell (ADRC) of SLS Nagpur was inaugurated by **Adv. Tariq Khan, an advocate practising in Delhi High Court and Supreme Court of India and is currently working as the Registrar of the International Arbitration and Mediation Centre (IAMC), Hyderabad** and he delivered the guest lecture on *“Journey from Alternative Dispute Resolution to Preferred Dispute Resolution”*.

The Inauguration began with the moderator greeting the participants and the guest speaker. After the brief introduction of the guest speaker, Adv. Tariq Khan was felicitated by Dr. Sukhvinder Singh Dari.

It was then followed by Dr. Sukhvinder Singh Dari, the Director of SLS Nagpur and Dr. Shilpa Sharma, faculty in-charge of the ADRC, delivering the welcome speech for the guest speaker. After the welcome speeches, the inauguration ceremony was officiated by Adv. Tariq Khan by unveiling the Opening Ceremony Plaque.

Adv. Tariq Khan then went ahead with his speech-cum-discussion and shared his insightful knowledge with the attendees on the said topic of the guest lecture. During his speech, Sir emphasized on why he prefers to call ADR mechanisms as a “Preferred form of dispute resolution” rather than an “Alternative form of dispute resolution.” The guest speaker first told the International history of Arbitration i.e. from King Solomon being the first Arbitrator and proceeded with the Indian history covering:-

1. “Indian Arbitration Act 1899” which was applicable only in the three presidency towns.
2. Then the second schedule of CPC 1908 which mentioned about the Arbitration.
3. The Arbitration Act, 1940 but as there was no provision for a foreign award, it was also repealed.
4. Arbitration & Conciliation Act, 1996 came into force and how the 2015 Amendment to it was a gamechanger.

He further talked about his life at law school and the internships he had done during that time

and how he ventured into the field of Arbitration and mediation. He emphasised upon doing smart work, to have long term goals rather than the short term goals and how to start building your own CV. And also told that networking is the key to meet people and make connections.

The guest speaker then advised on how following your passion is very important, moreover having honesty in doing the work is very important. He said, *"To shine like the sun first burn like the sun"*. He also narrated the story of how Japanese people love their fish, fresh and active. That they put a shark in the tank through which they carry the fishes from the deep ocean so that they are always active. The lesson he explained was that you always need to be on your toes, meaning- to have a healthy competition.

He then shifted back as to how Mediation Bill which is going to come, should/will make Arbitration mandatory, especially mediation advocacy, mediation training and promoting the culture of institutionalising mediation. He also mentioned that **maritime, sports, and technology (Blockchain) arbitration** is the future and some of the best areas of practising arbitration in. He also talked about how Arbitration and mediation is the future and the advantages of getting into this field, such as:-

1. Demand for mediation
2. Mediation serves a cause and is a preferred form of dispute resolution
3. In Arbitration- 18 months is the time to resolve a dispute.
 - a. Ensures neutrality
 - b. Confidentiality (especially the big companies- MNCs/ Top Corporate houses)
 - c. Party autonomy
 - d. Flexibility (as the technicalities of law need not to be followed)
4. India being the country where it is easy to file a case (Right to justice)- pendency of cases is huge.

His speech was more of a discussion and he diligently answered the questions put forth to him by the students and explained the lacunas in the Draft Mediation Bill 2021 and shared his views on

Online Dispute Resolution Methods (ODR). He also revealed that the majority arbitration happens on construction and energy disputes, how Arbitration is the preferred form of dispute resolution in the cases of “**Metaverse**”, and how the problem arises after the award comes and as per section 34 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996- Rule is to enforce the award and setting aside is only in the exceptional cases.

In all, his speech and discussions were very insightful and all the students learnt a lot from it.

The Inauguration ceremony was planned and executed by the **faculty in-charge of the ADR Cell, Dr. Shilpa Sharma, Assistant Professor, Symbiosis Law School, Nagpur** along with constant guidance from **Dr. Sukhvinder Singh Dari, Director of Symbiosis Law School, Nagpur** and lastly by **Saket Bansal, the Student in-charge** of the Inauguration event and all the members of the ADRC.

The inauguration event was moderated by the members of the ADR Cell- **Ms. Pratikshya Priyadarshini (4th Year student)** and the vote of thanks was delivered by **Mr. Saket Bansal (4th Year student)**.

Photo gallery



[Unveiling the opening ceremony plaque]



[During the felicitation of Adv. Tariq Khan]




[ADRC members, faculty in-charge, Dr. Shilpa Sharma and Dr. Sukhvinder Singh Dari with Adv. Tariq Khan]



[Attendees during the Inauguration event]




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