



SYMBIOSIS LAW SCHOOL, NAGPUR

Constituent of Symbiosis International (DEEMED UNIVERSITY), Pune

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

**Detailed Report on the 1st National Med-Arb Competition,
conducted by the Alternative Dispute Resolution Cell of Symbiosis Law School, Nagpur.
March 18-19, 2023**

“The Mediation-Arbitration (“Med-Arb”) Competition is conducted to make the student fraternity accustomed to resolving disputes efficiently and to understand the benefits of the ADR mechanisms.”

Objective:

In fulfilment of such goals, SLS, Nagpur through its cell – ADRC cordially invited law students from all across the nation to participate in its 1st National Med-Arb Competition which was held on March 18-19, 2023. Med-Arb is a distinct hybrid format of Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanism which aims at developing the future members of the legal fraternity with efficient methods of resolving disputes in the legal arena. The underlying reason for organizing the Med-Arb Competition is deep-rooted in the fact that the structure is developed to promote excellence in mediation skills and arbitration advocacy by providing law students with the knowledge of mediation-arbitration education and training. The competition served as a premier stage to recognize and portray the practical skills of participants from various law schools across the country and further aimed at becoming an internationally recognized competition in the coming years.

The Competition was held in collaboration with, ‘PSL Advocates & Solicitors, New Delhi’ and the media partners- ‘Indian Dispute Resolution Centre’ & ‘Latest Laws’. ‘International Arbitration and Mediation Centre, Hyderabad (IAMC)’, a leading organization in the field of ADR, was the Chief Knowledge Partner for the Competition. The Organization provided valuable insights and expertise to the Competition, ensuring that the event adheres to the highest standards of ADR Practice. And Dewani Associates, Nagpur and SCC Online were the supporting partner and knowledge partner for the Competition respectively and SLS Nagpur was grateful to have the support of such esteemed partners.

Format of the competition:***Team composition:***

Each participating team consisted of three members.

- Composition for Mediation Round: A Team shall comprise a Mediator and a Mediating Pair; the Mediating Pair shall consist of a Counsel and a Client and the third member as a Mediator.
- Composition for Arbitration round: The Arbitration Round(s) constituted of 4 Counsels (The Client-Counsel Team viz. the Mediating Pair, in the Mediation Round, acted as a Pair of Counsels and the Mediator acted as the Arbitrator).

The simulations were based on real-life disputes and the participants were given the general information and was asked to mediate the dispute in the first round and in the second round viz. Arbitration round, the participants who acted as the client-counsel became the Counsel 1 and 2 and the mediator became the Arbitrator. The Arbitrator's role was a passive one and after the culmination of both the rounds i.e. Prelims 1 & 2, the Arbitrator drafted the Arbitral Award and the time duration for the same was 90 minutes.

Structure of the competition:

1. Preliminary Round 1: All Competing Teams.
2. Preliminary Round 2: All Competing Teams.
3. Semi-Finals: Top 4 Teams qualifying from the Preliminary Round.
4. Finals: Top 2 Teams qualifying from the Semi-Final Rounds.

All the teams participated in both sessions (a Mediation Session followed by an Arbitration Session) in the Preliminary Rounds. The Qualifying Teams then participated in both sessions for the Semi-Finals & Final Round.

The schedule of the 2-day event was as follows:

Day 1: March 18, 2023:

1. Inauguration Ceremony
2. Talk with legal eagles
3. Preliminary round 1 & 2
4. Declaration of results and draw of lots for the semi-final round

Day 2: March 19, 2023:

1. Semi-final round

2. Declaration of results and draw of lots for the Final Round
3. Finals
4. Valedictory Ceremony

DAY 1: MARCH 18, 2023

The Chief Guests for the Inauguration ceremony were Hon'ble Shri Justice Anil Kilor of Bombay High Court, from our collaborators we had Mr. Suvigya Awasthy, Associate Partner PSL Advocates & Solicitors, Mr. Tariq Khan from IAMC, Hyderabad, Mr. Suadat Ahmad Kirmani, Arbitration & Litigation Advocate, Manager at Tatva Legal, Hyderabad and Dr. Ali Najeeb, Vice Rector, Villa College, Maldives.

The Inauguration ceremony began with the welcome address by Dr. Sukhvinder Singh Dari, Director of Symbiosis Law School, Nagpur and opening remarks by Dr. Shilpa Sharma, Faculty in-charge of ADR Cell. Followed by Mr. Suvigya Awasthy, Mr. Tariq Khan and Hon'ble Shri Justice Anil S. Kilor addressing the gathering.

About the Chief Guests of the Inauguration ceremony:

1. Hon'ble Shri Justice Anil Kilor of Bombay High Court,
2. Mr. Tariq Khan from IAMC, Hyderabad,
3. Mr. Suadat Ahmad Kirmani, Arbitration & Litigation Advocate, Manager at Tatva Legal, Hyderabad and,
4. Mr. Suvigya Awasthy, Associate Partner PSL Advocates & Solicitors.

After the inauguration ceremony, a **panel discussion was held on the topic: Appointment of Arbitrators in India: Issues, Challenges and Way forward.** On the panel were our esteemed guests: Mr. Suadat Ahmad Kirmani, Mr. Tariq Khan and Mr. Suvigya Awasthy. These renowned practitioners shared their insights with the young legal mind of SLS Nagpur and with the participants of the Competition.

Thereafter, the preliminary round 1 and 2 were conducted. The Judges for the Preliminary Rounds 1 & 2 were:

1. Mr. Vivek Joshi, Associate at PSL Advocates & Solicitors (Litigation and Dispute Resolution team).
2. Mr. Rohan Gulati, Associate at PSL Advocates & Solicitors (Dispute Resolution team).
3. Ms. Vatsala Pandey, Judicial Law Clerk- cum- Research Assistant at the Supreme Court

of India under Hon'ble Mr. Justice JK Maheswari.

4. Mr. Sahil Dewani, Advocate, Bombay High Court, Nagpur Bench.
5. Mr. Deoul Pathak, Advocate, Bombay High Court, Nagpur Bench.
6. Mr. Dhiraj Ailani, Advocate, Bombay High Court, Nagpur Bench.

Based on the marking criteria as per the rule-book of the Competition, the results were declared in the evening of March 18, 2023 followed by the draw of lots for the semi-finals.

In addition to this, to mark the start of the event, "Food Stalls" were set up to serve the participants as well as the students of SIU with delicious and mouth-watering food items. The Food stalls were organized outside the SLS Building on March 17-18, 2023.

DAY 2: MARCH 19, 2023

The day-2 started with the welcoming of the four judges for the semi-final round, namely:

1. Mr. Devendra Chauhan, Advocate, Bombay High Court, Nagpur Bench
2. Mr. Suvigya Awasthy, Associate Partner PSL Advocates & Solicitors
3. Mr. Akshay Naik, Advocate, Bombay High Court, Nagpur Bench
4. Mr. Wilson Mathew, Senior Partner, Lead Counsel- Litigation, Counsel Quest, Nagpur

After the announcement of the results for the semi-final round, the finals were held in the Moot Court Hall of SLS Nagpur. The atmosphere was charged with a lot of excitement and nervousness. The final round was particularly impressive with both the teams demonstrating high level of competence in the med-arb processes.

The Final round was judged by the panel of experts in the field, namely:

1. Hon'ble Shri Justice V.C. Daga, Former judge, Bombay High Court.
2. Mr. Tariq Khan, Registrar, International Arbitration & Mediation Centre (IAMC) Hyderabad.
3. Mr. Sameer Jain, Founder and Managing Partner of PSL Advocates & Solicitors, New Delhi.
4. Mr. Suadat Ahmad Kirmani, Arbitration & Litigation Advocate, Manager at Tatva Legal, Hyderabad.

To culminate the two-day event, Former Hon'ble Shri Justice V.C. Daga of Bombay High Court marked his presence for the finals and valedictory ceremony. The ceremony concluded with some insightful remarks made by Mr. Sameer Jain, who emphasized on practicing trial advocacy and improving the art of cross-examination to set the foundations in the field of arbitration. He further

acknowledged that the competition provided an excellent platform for the students to enhance their skills and knowledge in resolving disputes. Further Hon'ble Shri Justice V.C. Daga encouraged the audience to take part in such competitions to extemporize and stressed the importance of how ADR Mechanisms have helped the judicial infrastructure by reducing the burden on the Courts. Lastly the event concluded with the vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Shilpa Sharma (Faculty in-charge of ADRC).

CLOSING REMARKS

In the 2-day event organized by SLS Nagpur, the atmosphere was charged with excitement as the competitors engaged in heated arguments and negotiations. The judges, consisting of seasoned legal professionals, carefully observed and evaluated each participant's performance. The participants demonstrated remarkable poise and professionalism, impressing the judges with their knowledge of the law and negotiation techniques. The judges evaluated the participants based on their ability to mediate effectively, and make sound legal arguments, and render fair and reasoned decisions as arbitrators.

After several rounds of intense competition i.e. consisting of 4 rounds viz. Prelims 1 & 2, Semi-Finals and Finals: -

1. 'School of Law, Christ (Deemed to be University)' emerged as the winner of the Best Mediator, with 'O.P. Jindal Global University' securing the second place.
2. 'Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies, Guru Gobind Singh Indraprasth University' emerged as the winning Mediating pair and counsel, with 'School of Law Christ (Deemed to be University)' securing the position of Runner-up Mediating pair and counsel.
3. Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, National Law University won the Best Arbitral Award and NMIMS Kirit P Mehta, School of Law, Mumbai won the Best Written Submission Award.

All other participants also showcased exceptional skills with their legal excellence, receiving recommendations from the judges.

Overall, the 1st National Med-Arb competition organized by the ADRC of Symbiosis Law School, Nagpur was a great success. It provided the participants with an opportunity to develop their skills in mediation and arbitration, as well as to interact and network with professionals in the field of dispute resolution. The competition was well-received by participants, judges, and the media, and it is hoped that it will be held annually to promote Med-Arb as a viable alternative to traditional dispute resolution mechanisms.

The National Med-Arb Competition was planned and executed by the faculty in-charge of ADRC, Dr. Shilpa Sharma, Assistant Professor, Symbiosis Law School, Nagpur along with the constant guidance from Dr. Sukhvinder Singh Dari, Director of Symbiosis Law School, Nagpur. The entire competition was organized by the proficient members of ADRC with the help of the volunteers.

To conclude, the 1st National Med-Arb Competition organized by SLS Nagpur was an enormous success, highlighting exceptional legal talent our country has to offer. And lastly, the whole event was a success because of the professionalism and commitment that the members of ADRC had shown throughout the Competition, with whom we can expect great things in future as well.

The Convener of the event was Mr. Saket Bansal and co-convener were Ms. Aditi Uttamani and Ms. Vaidehi Bhangde (4th year students).

In addition to them, the members of ADRC have worked extensively hard to make this event successful. The committees and their respective heads & members were as follows:

1. Judges' hospitality committee:

Head: Saksham Bhatnagar

Members: Vaibhvee Jangid

2. Participants' hospitality committee:

Head: Mounish Chanukya

Members: Apoorv Raj Singh and Maanvi Kapoor

3. Food Committee:

Head: Dilpreet Singh Dardi

Members: Apoorv Raj Singh and Milind Chopra

4. Tabulation, Memorial exchange and draw of lots:

Head: Naina Poddar

Members: Sakshi Tolani

5. Logistics & Travel committee:

Head: Mahak Agrawal

Members: Gauri Malviya

6. Stage and conference committee:

Head: Apurva Pandey

Members: Shruti Khatri, Khooshi Singh, Pratikshya Priyadarshini

7. PR and Design Committee:

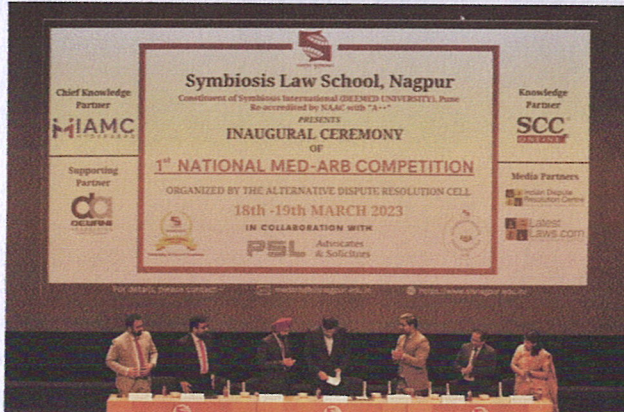
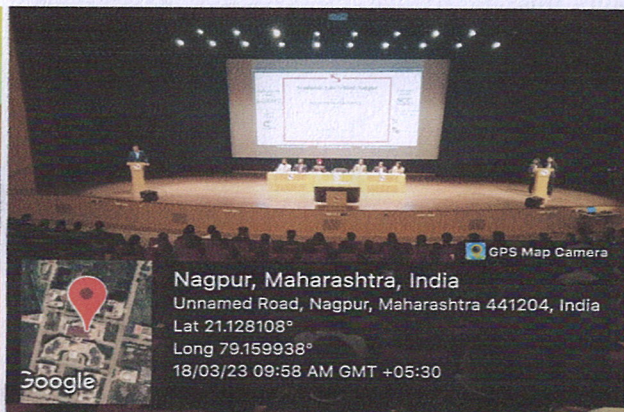
Head: Pratikshya Priyadarshini
Members: Gauri Malviya and Khooshi Singh

8. Content Drafting Committee:
Head: Vaibhvee Jangid
Members: Saksham Bhatnagar and Sakshi Tolani

9. Registration committee:
Head: Pratikshya Priyadarshini
Members: Naina Poddar and Milind Chopra

10. Bench Memorial committee:
Head: Sakshi Tolani
Members: Apurva Pandey, Maanvi Kapoor and Saksham Bhatnagar

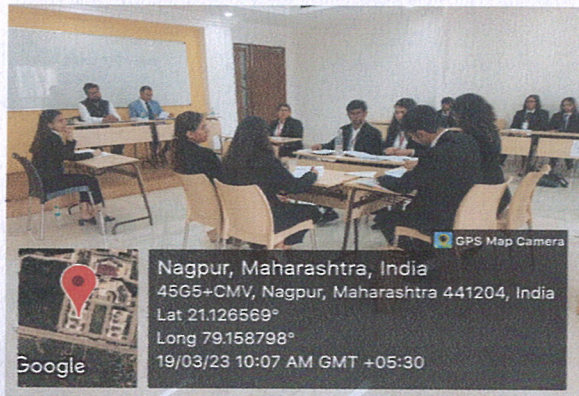
PHOTO GALLERY



[During the Inauguration ceremony held in the Auditorium]



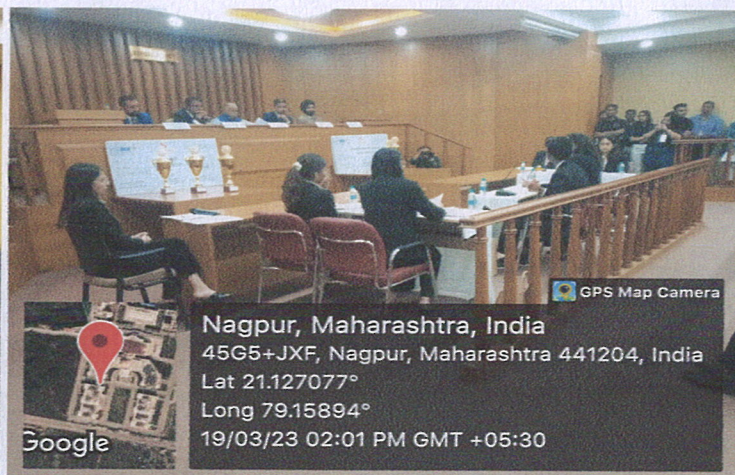
[During the Panel discussion on the topic: Appointment of Arbitrators in India: Issues, Challenges and Way forward]



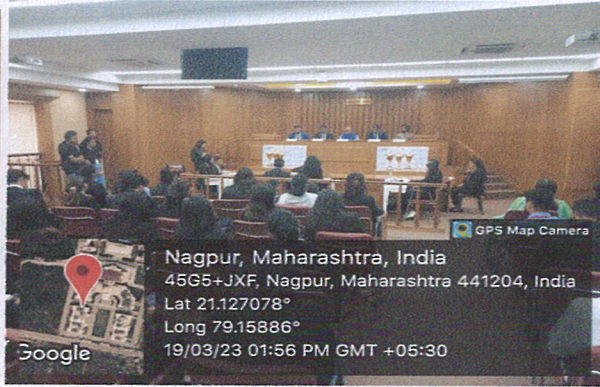
[During Preliminary rounds 1 & 2 and Semi-finals; inside the conference rooms]



[During the draw of lots on March 18, 2023]



[During the Final Round on March 19, 2023]



[During the valedictory ceremony]



[ADRC members and the volunteers with Mr. Tariq Khan, Dr. Sukhvinder Singh Dari and Dr. Shilpa Sharma]

Shilpa Sharma

Director

**Symbiosis Law School
Nagpur**

Shilpa

