

REPORT- LAW THEATRE
SYMBIOSIS LAW SCHOOL, PUNE

SYMBHAV 2023

Symbiosis Law School Pune, a constituent of Symbiosis International (Deemed University), has successfully hosted the Twelfth Edition of Law Theatre as the part of annual cultural festival Symbhav 2023 on 22nd March. The inception of this exceptional event was envisioned by **Dr. S.B Mujumdar, Chancellor of Symbiosis International (Deemed University)**, with the objective of harmonizing the realms of drama and law. This distinctive event was executed under the able guidance of **Prof. Dr. Shashikala Gurpur, Fulbright Scholar, Director, Symbiosis Law School, Pune, Dean, Faculty of Law, SIU, Jean Monnet Chair Professor (EUC – LAMP co-funded by EU)**.

This year's law theatre titled '*Sui aur Dhaaga*' (*Needle and Thread*) is directed by **Mr. Anindya Shankar Das**, a renowned name in the circles of theatre and direction and an alumnus of the Film and Television Institute of India, along with the co-director **Miss. Navya Om**, an alumnus of Symbiosis Law School Pune. This law theatre sheds light on the theme of Capital Punishment by exploring the avenues and facets of justice in both the Trial and the Supreme Court. The title refers to both '*Sui*' - the needle that the thread can fit into but is also an injection which can either be deemed as life-giving or lethal, and the '*Dhaaga*' that eventually makes the hangman's rope but is also a common thread that ties humanity together.

The theatrical drama portrayed two intertwining stories. One involved Kanshi Ram, a man from a lower caste who sought revenge for his family's murder by killing two upper caste men, resulting in a death sentence. The second story revolved around two doctors who illegally harvested organs from patients and pinned the blame on an innocent man Dr. Murthy. The Supreme Court, in considering Kanshi's case, recognized the brutality of his crime but deemed it insufficient to warrant capital punishment as it did not fall under the 'rarest of rare' category. The court referred to judgments like *Rajendra Prasad v. State of UP* and *Bacchan Singh v. State of Punjab* and suggested re-evaluating India's stance on the death penalty. Kanshi, who had tried all available avenues for justice and reformed after 12 years, was deemed undeserving of his punishment. In contrast, the trial court found the doctor couple's actions to be heinous and rare, resulting in a death sentence after being found guilty of murder, forgery, and criminal breach of trust.

The Law Theatre 2023 effectively conveyed the societal and legal implications of capital punishment in India, while also integrating humor to engage the audience. Through a compelling script and exceptional acting, the student performers effectively educated and sparked discussion among young viewers, evoking a range of emotions. The exemplary performance of the students abled everyone connect with the cause.

Prof. Dr. Shashikala Gurpur, Fulbright Scholar, Director, Symbiosis Law School, Pune, Dean, Faculty of Law, SIU, Jean Monnet Chair Professor (EUC – LAMP co-funded by EU) extended her warm congratulations to the team for organizing a flawless Law Theatre performance despite the challenges posed by the pandemic. She lauded the innovative pedagogical approach adopted, and expressed gratitude towards **Dr. S.B. Majumdar, Chancellor of Symbiosis International (Deemed University)**, for his vision in supporting the endeavor.

Mr. Anindya Shankar Das and Ms. Navya Om expressed their gratitude to the cast of the play for their outstanding performance, and to the audience for their unwavering support and encouragement. They admired the SLS-P faculty members, and the student body, for their exemplary support without which the event would not have been possible. Prof. Dr. Gurpur then felicitated the director and co-director. The event was a grand success and concluded with a vote of thanks.



The opening scene of the Law Theatre “Sui aur Dhaaga (Needle and Thread)”



The scene depicting equal access to education with any form of discrimination.



The scene portraying courtroom trial of the doctor for illegal organ trafficking



Prof. Dr. Shashikala Gurpur, Fulbright Scholar, Director, Symbiosis Law School, Pune, Dean, Faculty of Law, SIU, Jean Monnet Chair Professor (EUC – LAMP co-funded by EU) addressing the cast and the audience for the flawless law theatre performance



Prof. Dr. Shashikala Gurpur, Fulbright Scholar, Director, Symbiosis Law School, Pune, Dean, Faculty of Law, SIU, Jean Monnet Chair Professor (EUC – LAMP co-funded by EU) felicitating Mr. Anindya Shankar Das, the Director of Law Theatre 2023.



The entire cast after the grand success of the Law Theatre 2023