

**EIGHTH SYMBIOSIS LAW SCHOOL, PUNE - INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL TRIAL
ADVOCACY COMPETITION (SICTA), 2023**

INAUGURAL CEREMONY

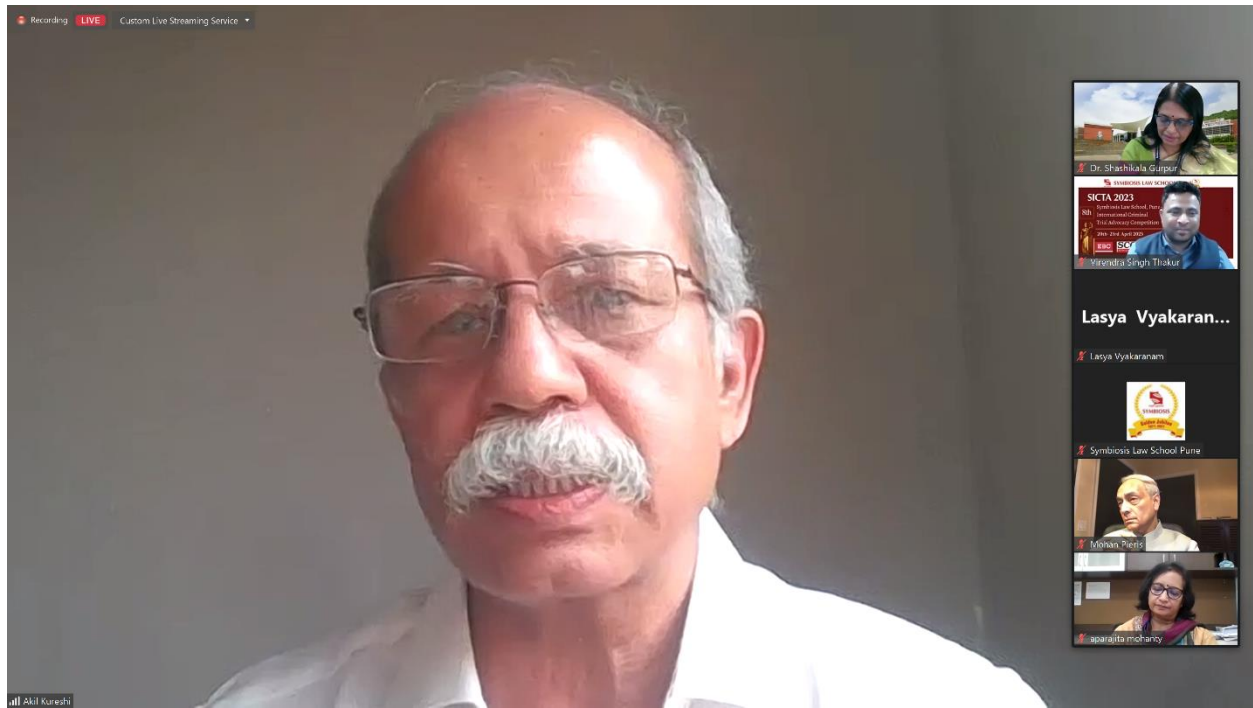
Symbiosis Law School Pune (SLS-P), a constituent of **Symbiosis International (Deemed University)** conducted the virtual inaugural ceremony for Eighth Edition of Symbiosis Law School, Pune - International Criminal Trial Advocacy Competition, 2023 (SICTA 2023) on 20th April 2023 at 5:00 P.M. IST, with more than 200 attendees.

Prof. (Dr.) Shashikala Gurpur, Fulbright Scholar, Jean Monnet Chair Professor (EUC-LAMP Co-funded by EU) Director, Symbiosis Law School Pune Dean, Faculty of Law, Symbiosis International (Deemed University) commenced the ceremony with a welcome address for the participants hailing from various parts of the world. Dr. Gurpur recounted the journey of SICTA over the years, including its inception. She lauded SICTA for playing a key role in augmenting legal education beyond the classroom by providing justice education. Dr. Gurpur commended the organizing team and volunteers for their efforts and acknowledged the potential of the immersive learning experience provided by SICTA for the said team members. Additionally, she expressed appreciation for the unique format of the competition, which distinguishes it as the only trial advocacy competition in India. Lastly, Dr. Gurpur conveyed her gratitude to SCC Online, Eastern Book Company, and Synlitigators for their consistent support throughout the organization process.

The Guest of Honour for the event was the **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mohan Peiris**, the Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations and a former Chief Justice of Sri Lanka. In his address, Justice Peiris began by acknowledging the success of the ICC since the signing of the Rome Statute and provided an in-depth analysis of the role that the ICC plays in upholding the rule of law. He further enlightened the students on the importance and advantages of trial advocacy, highlighting the practical skills that can be developed through this exercise. Justice Peiris concluded his address by wishing all participants good luck and urging them to cherish this unique experience.

The Chief Guest for the event was the **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Akil Kureshi**, a former Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court. In his address, Justice Kureshi expressed his appreciation for the initiative taken by SLS-Pune to host a unique format of competition. He highlighted the need for well-trained and bright professionals in the field of criminal litigation, which forms the basis for social change through the court system. Justice Kureshi also provided insight into the intricacies of the Indian Penal Code, 1860, and explained how the provisions need to be revamped to keep up with the changing times. Furthermore, he shared a personal anecdote to emphasize the importance of advocacy skills in litigation.

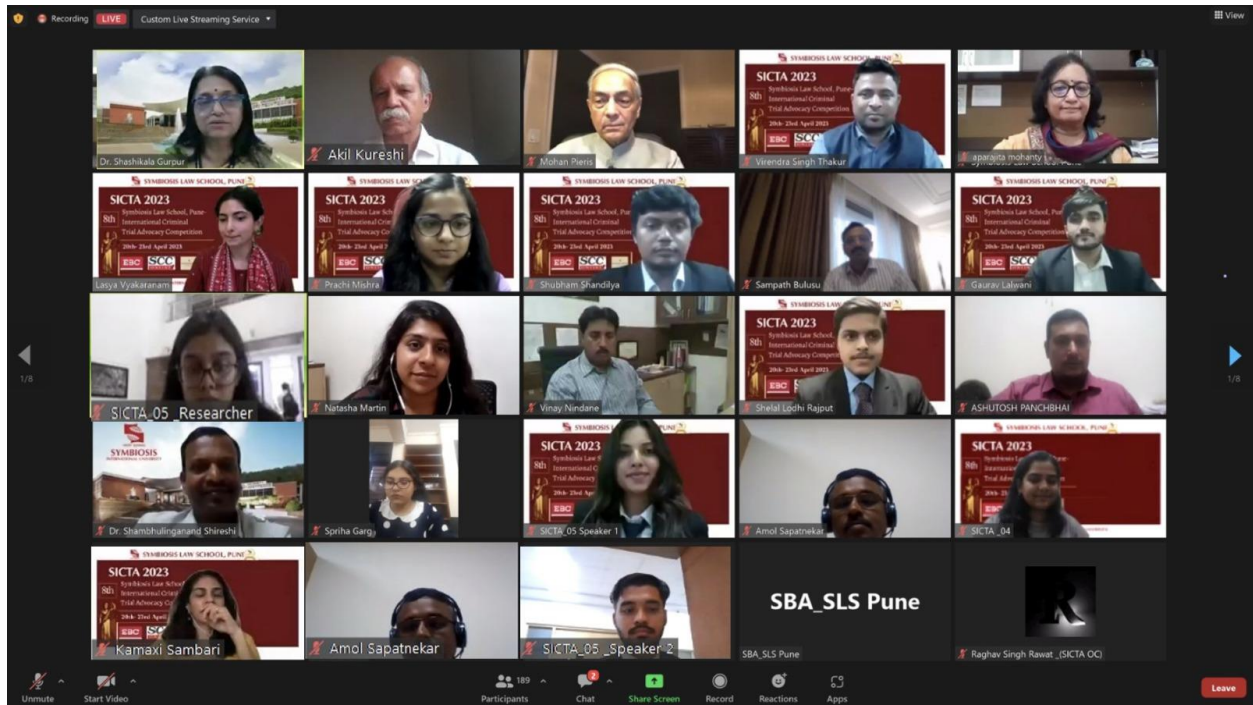
The inaugural ceremony concluded on a successful note with the Vote of Thanks delivered by **Dr. Aparajita Mohanty**, Deputy Director (Academics) at SLS-P.



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Akil Kureshi, a former Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court delivering the virtual Chief Guest Address for SICTA 2023, SLS-P.



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mohan Peiris, the Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations and a former Chief Justice of Sri Lanka delivering the virtual Guest of Honor Address for SICTA 2023, SLS-P.



Attendees of Inaugural Ceremony with Prof. Dr. Shashikala Gurpur, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Akil Kureshi, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mohan Peiris, Dr. Aparajita Mohanty, SLS-P Faculty Members, Students and Participants