

PRESS REPORT

Symbiosis Law School, Pune- International Criminal Trial Advocacy Competition, 2024

Inaugural Ceremony

Date: 18.04.2024

Symbiosis Law School, Pune, a constituent of Symbiosis International University, orchestrated the grand **Inaugural Ceremony** of the **Ninth Symbiosis Law School, Pune- International Criminal Trial Advocacy Competition (SICTA), 2024** on **April 18, 2024** based on the theme *“Prosecution against forced displacement of civilians as an international crime under the ambit of the Rome Statute”*. This prestigious event was conducted in collaboration with **EBC Reader, SCC Online, and SCC Online TIMES**, bolstered by the invaluable support of SLS – Pune’s esteemed alumni. The ceremony commenced at 4 PM IST on April 18, 2024, at the illustrious Symbiosis Ishanya Auditorium, situated at Symbiosis International School, Viman Nagar, Pune.

The ceremony began with the watering of the Bilva Sapling by the dignitaries on the dais, namely, **Prof. (Dr.) Shashikala Gurpur, Fulbright Scholar, Director, Symbiosis Law School, Pune, Dean, Faculty of Law, Symbiosis International (Deemed University), Jean Monnet Chair Professor (EUC-LAMP Co-funded by EU); Dr. Rama Joga Rao, Additional Legal Advisor, Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law & Justice, Government of India; Retd. Hon’ble Justice Mr. Mandhata Seetharama Murthi, Chairperson, Andhra Pradesh State Human Rights Commission, Adv. Sampath Bulusu, Convener, SLSP Alumni, Director, Legal and Corporate Affairs, Shell Energy India & Hazira Port, and Prof. Virendra Singh Thakur, Faculty In-Charge, Student Bar Association, Symbiosis Law School, Pune.**

Prof. (Dr.) Shashikala Gurpur extended a gracious **welcome address** setting the tone for the proceedings with great poise. Eloquenty, she highlighted the genesis of SICTA and the strong brand value it holds as an inter-collegiate competition. She highlighted the contributions of alumni who have been instrumental for the tremendous success of the competition. She outlined the vision of **Dr. S.B. Majumdar, Chancellor, Symbiosis International University**, in making the institution a pioneer in legal education. She also emphasized the growth of SICTA as

a competition that resonates with the ICC criminal proceedings and that its stature is highly commendable not just in terms of the competition, but also the hospitality. She underscored the role of the trial advocacy competition in honing the legal and analytical skills of the participants. Finally, she advised the attendees to continue the pursuit of justice through the legal profession.

Prof. (Dr.) Shashikala Gurpur felicitated the Chief Guest, Retd. Hon'ble Justice Mr. Mandhata Seetharama Murti, the Guest of Honour, Dr. Rama Joga Rao, and Advocate Sampath Bulusu. In his address, Adv. Sampath Bulusu emphasized the unique quality of SICTA in being conceptualized by the students of the institution. He further credited the alumni involved in giving shape the SICTA and also underlined his personal connection with SICTA, owing to his interest in criminal law combined with his liking for the trial advocacy format of the competition. He concluded his remarks by sharing personal insights in relation to the city of Pune and his inspirations in life.

The Guest of Honour, Dr. Rama Joga Rao Additional Legal Advisor, Department of Legal Affairs Ministry of Law & Justice, Government of India, in the keynote address, contextualized the situation of today by explaining that how globalization has reduced the mass trade barriers massively. Consequently, he stressed on the crucial role of lawyers in the era of technological advancement. He emphasized the significance of competence by quoting Saint Kabir. He reiterated that the trial advocacy competition is a useful instrument, especially, in the metamorphosing legal arena. He wrapped up by delving into the intricacies of criminal trial, notably, the process of cross-examining the witness.

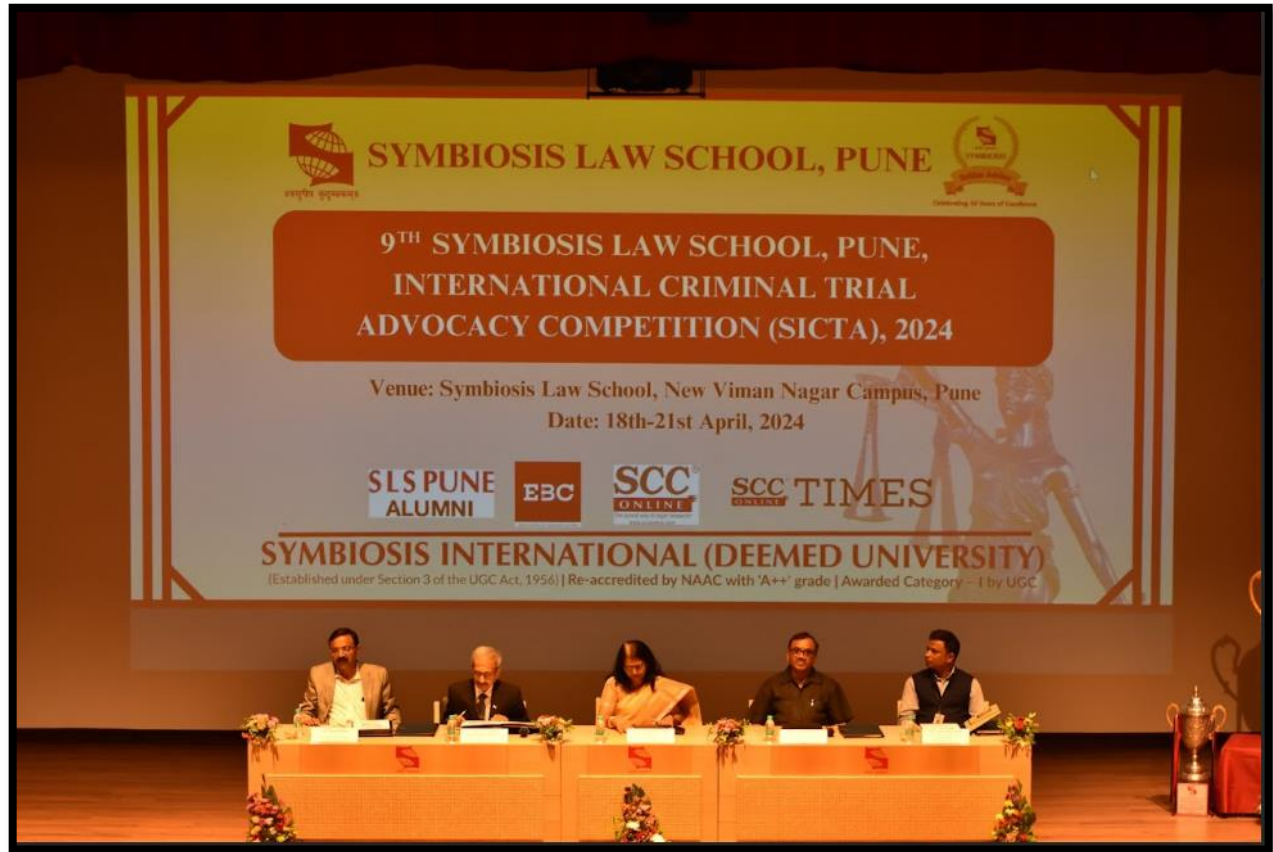
The Chief Guest, Retd. Hon'ble Justice Mr. Mandhata Seetharama Murti, Chairperson, Andhra Pradesh State Human Rights Commission, shared his humble thoughts by crediting his parents and teachers for their positive role. He acknowledged that the legal sphere is a notion whose horizons are ever widening. He asserted that the presence of young lawyers in the Court is instrumental in shaping their future. In his address, Mr. Murti outlined the fundamental principles of criminal jurisprudence and explained the nuances of criminal law in detail. His address was packed with gems of knowledge on criminal law and criminal trial advocacy.

The inaugural ceremony culminated triumphantly with the Vote of Thanks delivered by **Dr. Aparajita Mohanty, Deputy Director (Academics) Symbiosis Law School, Pune.**

PHOTOS FROM THE EVENT

Prof. (Dr.) Shashikala Gurpur, Retd. Hon'ble Justice Mr. Mandhata Seetharama Murthi, Dr. Rama Joga Rao, Advocate Sampath Bulusu and Prof. Virendra Singh Thakur watering the Bilva Sapling.





The dignitaries on the dais for the Inaugural Ceremony of the 9th Symbiosis Law School, Pune, International Criminal Trial Advocacy Competition (SICTA), 2024

Prof. (Dr.) Shashikala Gurpur felicitating the Chief Guest, Retd. Hon'ble Justice Mr. Mandhata Seetharama Murthi along with the other dignitaries.

