

INAUGURATION CEREMONY REPORT

SYMROLIC 2023

11TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE-RULE OF LAW IN CONTEXT: GLOBALISATION AND INDIAN RESONANCES TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Symbiosis Law School, Pune, a constituent of **Symbiosis International (Deemed University)** is hosting the **11th Annual International Research Conference-Rule of Law in Context: Globalisation and Indian Resonances to Sustainable Development Goals (SYMROLIC 2023)** in association with **SLS NOIDA, SLS Hyderabad and SLS Nagpur** in hybrid mode on 5th and 6th May 2023. The Inauguration Ceremony was held on **5th May, 2023 at 10:30 A.M. IST at Symbiosis Law School, Pune.**

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) delivered the Welcome Address immediately after the ceremonial lighting of the lamp with the esteemed dignitaries. In her Welcome address Dr. Gurpur expounded on the genesis of the event dating back to its inception in 2012. In reference to the event's theme, she underscored the paucity of attention given to the intersection between legal research and other domains of human activity. Dr. Gurpur emphasized the imperative for legal practitioners to address policy lacunae, while also ensuring that the interests of marginalized communities are safeguarded. Additionally, she highlighted the notable achievements of SLS Pune, ranked among the top 1000 law schools worldwide and securing the third rank in NIRF, while holding an A++ NAAC accreditation, along with the 11th edition of SYMROLIC. Prof. (Dr.) Gurpur highlighted that SYMROLIC has evolved from its modest beginnings as an internal platform for presenting research to its current international recognition. She emphasized the event's significance in promoting interdisciplinary research and urged legal scholars, lawyers, and jurists to broaden their understanding of the rule of law beyond the confines of technical legal principles. Dr. Gurpur emphasized that SYMROLIC provides a unique opportunity to critically analyze and illuminate pertinent issues that may otherwise remain obscure. She described SYMROLIC as a forum for unpacking and deconstructing complex topics to facilitate greater understanding and awareness.

The **Conference Abstract Compilation** was released by **Prof. (Dr.) Shashikala Gurpur**, the Chief Guest, **Prof. (Dr.) Purvi Pokhariyal, Dean, School of Law, Forensic Justice and Policy Studies, National Forensic Sciences University**, along with **Prof. Dr. KVS Sharma, Vice Chancellor Maharashtra National Law University, Aurangabad, Dr. YSR Murthy, Vice Chancellor and Founding Dean, School of Law RV University**, and **Prof. Dr. Bindu Ronald, Professor SLS-P**.

A video screening was presented to provide an overview of the **Symbiosis Centre for International and Comparative Child Rights Law**. Subsequently, the Guest of Honour, **Prof. (Dr.) Asha Bajpai**, an expert in International Child Rights and Professor at TISS, Mumbai, inaugurated the Centre virtually via the Zoom platform. Prof. Bajpai extended her felicitations to the institution for this innovative initiative and acknowledged the indispensable contributions of the team in accomplishing this extraordinary achievement.

Prof. (Dr.) Shashikala Gurpur provided an introduction to the Symbiosis Centre for International and Comparative Child Rights Law. With her experience advising the National Women's Commission on a child's rights agenda, she highlighted the need for trans-disciplinary approaches to child's rights issues. Prof. Gurpur emphasized that the commitment to the welfare of vulnerable children is a deeply entrenched concern shared by the Centre's stakeholders. The Centre's primary areas of focus are 'Children in Need of Care' and 'Children who are in Conflict with Law'. Prof. Gurpur underscored each child's right to self-actualization and emphasized the importance of aligning this objective with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. The Centre seeks to bridge the skill gap, provide consultation, capacity-building and training, and attract publications from scholars globally. Prof. Gurpur concluded by emphasizing the critical role of depoliticized research in informing policy decisions.

Prof. (Dr.) Purvi Pokhariyal, the Dean of the School of Law, Forensic Justice and Policy Studies at the National Forensic Sciences University, delivered the Chief Guest's address on the theme of '*Legal Road to SDG*'. She expressed her unwavering belief in the transformative power of education, which she perceives as a force that humanizes and empowers individuals. Prof. Pokhariyal commended Symbiosis Law School, Pune, for its unwavering commitment to upholding and promoting the rule of law, emphasizing the pivotal role that lawyers play as social engineers in shaping society. She underscored the significance of instilling the ethos of the rule of law in the minds of aspiring legal professionals. Prof. Pokhariyal proceeded to explain how the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are poised to revolutionize the world

and bring about a paradigm shift. She cited the Sanskrit shlok "*Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah*" as a clarion call to all member nations to work towards promoting peace and prosperity. In the global context, the SDGs consist of 169 targets and 239 performance indicators that serve to monitor and assess progress. Prof. (Dr.) Pokhariyal viewed the SDGs as global blueprints, noting that they provide a framework of indicators that enable periodic reviews of progress. She called for the establishment of a dedicated research group comprising scholars who exclusively focus on identifying ways to improve the nation's standing in the Rule of Law index. This research endeavor will generate a policy intervention brief that can be presented to the Government of India with regard to the Rule of Law index. Prof. (Dr.) Pokhariyal concluded her address with a hope that the two-day conference would serve as a constructive collaboration exercise, fostering new ideas and perspectives.

The session concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by **Dr. Aparajita Mohanty, Associate Professor & Deputy Director (Academics), SLS-P.**



Prof. (Dr.) Shashikala Gurpur along with Prof. (Dr.) Purvi Pokhariyal and Dr. YSR Murthy in the ceremonial lighting of the lamp.



Right to Left: Dr. YSR Murthy, Prof. Dr. Purvi Pokhariyal, Prof. Dr. Shashikala Gurpur, Prof. Dr. KVS Sharma and Prof. Dr. Bindu Ronald releasing Conference Abstract Compilation