



SICTA 2026 – Press Release

SYMBIOSIS LAW SCHOOL, PUNE

ELEVENTH EDITION OF THE SYMBIOSIS LAW SCHOOL, PUNE -
INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL TRIAL ADVOCACY (SICTA), 2026

Symbiosis Law School, Pune, a constituent of Symbiosis International (Deemed University), proudly hosted the Eleventh Edition of the Symbiosis Law School, Pune - International Criminal Trial Advocacy (SICTA), 2026 from April 2 to April 5, 2026. Known for its academic rigour and global outlook, the institution is the only law school in India offering a platform for participants to simulate proceedings before the International Criminal Court. The competition has consistently attracted premier law schools from India and across the world, including teams from China, U.K., Poland, Malaysia, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, South Africa, and Kuwait.

The Inaugural Ceremony took place on April 2, 2026, at 4:00 PM IST, in the Moot Court Hall at the New Viman Nagar Campus of Symbiosis Law School, Pune. The event was graced by the presence of the **Chief Guest, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Tarlok Singh Chauhan**, Former Chief Justice of the Jharkhand High Court. The **Welcome Address** was delivered by **Prof. (Dr.) Shashikala Gurpur**, Fulbright Scholar, Director of Symbiosis Law School – Pune, Dean of Faculty of Law, SIU, Jean Monnet Chair Professor (EUC-LAMP, co-funded by the European Union) and Honorary Professor, University of Galway, Ireland.

This year's theme for SICTA 2026 was formally announced as: ***“International conflict occasioned due to inequitable distribution of access to critical large language models, especially in the context of inter-governmental policies adverse to refugees and migrant.”*** The moot proposition revolved around the procedural and interpretative challenges that arise before the International Criminal Court while navigating international treaties in the evolving domain of international criminal law.

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The Preliminary Rounds were conducted on April 3 and April 4, the Semi-Final Rounds were held on April 4, 2026, and witnessed enthusiastic participation from 27 national and international teams. Following closely contested rounds of legal arguments, 9 teams proceeded to the Semi-Final Rounds. After further rigorous competition, 3 teams advanced to the Final Round: *National Law School of India University, Bengaluru, Lloyd Law College and Christ School of Law, Bengaluru.*

The Final Round, held on April 5, 2026, saw *National Law School of India University, Bengaluru*, emerge as the Winner of the Eleventh Edition of SICTA. In recognition of outstanding performances, *NALSAR, Hyderabad*, was awarded Best Memorial, while *ILS Law College, Pune*, received the Second-Best Memorial award. The Best Witness Award went to *Komahal Jayaseelan* and the Second-Best Witness Award was presented to *Suraj Pareek.*

The final rounds were adjudicated by an esteemed and accomplished panel comprising **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arun R. Pedneker**, Judge of Bombay High Court, **Adv. Percival Billimoria**, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India, **Mr. Umasankar Yedla**, Joint Secretary (Legal & Treaties), Ministry of External Affairs & International Law Advisor, **Prof. Dr. T.R. Subramanya**, Dean, School of Legal Studies, CMR University, Bengaluru, **Adv. Dinyar Jalnawalla**, Advocate and Former Visiting Faculty, University of Brunel, London and **Adv. Sampath Bulusu**, Director, Legal and Corporate Affairs, Shell Energy India & Hazira Port, each of whom brought unparalleled expertise to the bench.

The competition concluded with a Valedictory Ceremony, which was honoured by the presence of the **Chief Guest, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arun R. Pedneker** and the **Guest of Honour, Adv. Dinyar Jalnawalla.** Their presence, along with that of many distinguished guests and faculty members, marked the end of a thought-provoking and intellectually enriching competition that continues to set a benchmark in the arena of international criminal law advocacy.

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Prof. (Dr.) Shashikala Gurpur Ma'am and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arun R. Pedneker presenting the certificate of 'Winners' to Managya Sinha (NLSIU).



Prof. (Dr.) Shashikala Gurpur Ma'am and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arun R. Pedneker presenting the Trophy to 2nd Runners Up, Lloyd College.