

Press Release Report

Professional Development and Continuous Legal Education Programme for NABARD Law Officers

11th – 13th May 2026 | Sandipani, SIU Hilltop Campus, Lavale, Pune

Symbiosis Law School, Pune, a constituent of Symbiosis International (Deemed University), in collaboration with the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), successfully organised the “Professional Development and Continuous Legal Education Programme for NABARD Law Officers” from 11th to 13th May 2026 at Sandipani, SIU Hilltop Campus, Lavale, Pune. The three-day residential programme was thoughtfully curated to create a meaningful platform for professional learning, institutional dialogue, and practical legal engagement for officers functioning within NABARD’s legal ecosystem.

Day 1 commenced with the arrival of dignitaries, felicitation of guests, and the ceremonial watering of the Bilwa sapling, symbolising growth, sustainability, and institutional commitment to knowledge. Following the screening of the SIU film, the formal proceedings began with the Opening Address by Prof. (Dr.) Shashikala Gurpur, Fulbright Scholar, Jean Monnet Chair Professor, Director, Symbiosis Law School, Pune, Dean of the Faculty of Law at SIU, and Honorary Professor at the Irish Human Rights Centre and the School of Law, University of Galway, Ireland. Her address set the tone for the programme’s deliberations and learning objectives. The Special Address was delivered by Shri Rajeev Kumar Saxena, General Manager, Law Department, Head Office, NABARD, and Shri Pankaj Kumar Tripathi, Deputy General Manager, National Bank Staff College, NABARD. Both speakers highlighted the importance of professional development and capacity-building initiatives for strengthening legal engagement at the grassroots level.

Day 1 featured five technical sessions covering contemporary legal and regulatory developments. Dr. Rupal Routdesai, Visiting Professor and Research Advisor, Symbiosis Law School, Pune, conducted a session on the Digital Personal Data Protection Act (DPDP Act). Dr. Raj Verma, Assistant Professor, Symbiosis Law School, Pune, delivered a lecture on Cyber Laws and Cyber Security, while Dr. Atmaram Shelke, Professor, SLS Pune, addressed the Right to Information (RTI). A group activity was initiated by Prof. (Dr.) Shashikala Gurpur based on practical scenarios under the DPDP Act involving agricultural financing and banking-related legal challenges. Participants were divided into four groups and encouraged to deliberate on legal provisions and practical solutions. Following the discussion, Dr. Gurpur emphasised the need for strengthening institutional data governance, robust data-sharing agreements, and enhanced cybersecurity measures. Adv. Akash Katavati, Corporate Lawyer, Legal Consultant, and Visiting Faculty at Symbiosis Law School, Pune, conducted a session on Investments, Loans, Mortgages, Sanctioning to Disbursal, and Non-Performing Assets (NPA). Adv. Shailendra Aglave, Civil and Cooperative Litigant and Visiting Faculty at Symbiosis Law School, Pune, elaborated on Investments, Loans, Mortgages, Sanctioning to Disbursal, NPA, Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT), and the SARFAESI Act.

Day 2 of the programme included five specialised sessions. Adv. Nelson Noronha, Legal Practitioner and Visiting Faculty at Symbiosis Law School, Pune and FLAME University, delivered a session on the New Labour Codes with special reference to Contract Labour. Prof.

(Dr.) Shashikala Gurpur conducted a comprehensive session on the Prevention of Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (PoSH Act). Dr. Sagar Dhanraj Pande, Associate Professor at Symbiosis Institute of Technology, Pune, delivered a lecture titled “Understanding AI & Prompt: From Concepts to Practical Application.” Adv. Harini Shrinivasan, AGM and Head Legal at Axis Trustee Services, spoke on Project Finance: Grants and Loans with a focus on documentation. Adv. Abhishek Rastogi, a prominent lawyer practising before the Supreme Court of India, conducted a session on the use of Artificial Intelligence in contract drafting, review, and prompt engineering, with special emphasis on banking practices.

Day 3 featured advanced discussions on evolving legal and regulatory developments. Dr. Akash, Assistant Professor, SLS Pune, delivered a session on recent case laws in Service Jurisprudence and provided a detailed analysis of the evolving legal landscape governing public employment. Dr. Mehak Vohra, Assistant Professor, SLS Pune, conducted a session on Cooperative Law, Company Law Framework, and Farmers Produce. Ms. Monica Salwaan, Vice President – Legal, Kotak Mahindra Bank, addressed RBI Master Circulars with a focus on retail liability and regulatory frameworks relating to financial inclusion and cyber fraud in rural and semi-urban areas. Mr. Vijay Haldavnekar, who possesses over 29 years of experience in the banking sector with institutions including ICICI Bank and RBL Bank, delivered an insightful session on Asset Liability, Loans, and DRT proceedings. His practical banking expertise and academic engagement added immense value to the programme. Dr. Trupti Rathi, Assistant Professor of Law associated with NICMAR University, Pune, jointly with Mr. Vijay Haldavnekar, discussed the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code along with recent trends and landmark case laws. Adv. Suhas Tuljapurkar, Founder and Managing Partner of Legasis Partners, conducted a session on the Supervisory Review Process, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, with emphasis on accountability and due diligence. Adv. Kamaxi Sambari, Lawyer, Mediator, Psychologist, and Visiting Faculty at Symbiosis Law School, Pune, conducted a session on Practical Skills and Alternative Dispute Resolution (Mediation), highlighting the growing importance of mediation and restorative approaches in dispute resolution and workplace harmony.

The Valedictory Session was presided over by Prof. (Dr.) Shashikala Gurpur along with Shri Niladhari Laskar, General Manager, Law Department, NABARD, and Shri Pankaj Kumar Tripathi, Deputy General Manager, National Bank Staff College, NABARD. The dignitaries highlighted the significance of the programme and appreciated Symbiosis Law School, Pune, for successfully organising the event. Certificates were distributed among the participants, following which the NABARD Law Officers shared their reflections and experiences from the three-day programme. The event successfully reflected the spirit of collaborative legal learning between academia and institutional practice. It also provided a valuable platform for deliberation on contemporary developments in banking law, institutional governance, compliance systems, digital regulation, and dispute resolution. The engaging interactions, practical discussions, and exchange of professional experiences contributed significantly to the programme’s success.

The programme was smoothly compered by Dr. Aditi Mane, Assistant Professor, Symbiosis Law School, Pune. The event concluded with a formal Vote of Thanks delivered by Dr. Gunjan Deshpande, Assistant Professor, Symbiosis Law School, Pune.



Inaugural Session



Prof. (Dr.) Gurpur along with NABARD Law Officers



A glimpse of Training Session by Prof. (Dr.) Gurpur



Distribution of Certificates among participants



Valedictory Session