

Detailed Report

SYMROLIC CONFERENCE 2023

Introduction

Symbiosis Law School, Pune, a constituent of Symbiosis International (Deemed University) hosted the 11th Annual International Research Conference-Rule of Law in Context: Globalisation and Indian Resonances to Sustainable Development Goals (SYMROLIC 2023) in association with its sister institutes SLS NOIDA, SLS Hyderabad and SLS Nagpur in a hybrid mode on 5th and 6th May 2023. It is an inter-disciplinary conference which emphasizes Law & Life Interface in the spheres of Innovation, Science, Technology, Human Behaviour, Global Policy and Governance. The conference has built a global reputation over the years and has endowed an international platform to discuss, collaborate and explore diverse issues in the field of legal studies. It invites some of the great minds from within and outside India to share and discuss their ideas on contemporary research. Another important feature of this conference is the workshops organized on several areas of research and publication. On second day of the conference, a workshop was dedicated to learning the Indian Philosophy in Research (focusing on the Nyaya School of Thought dealing with thinking skills) which was organized as under the 21st Teach Skills Project.

The Inaugural

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. The Conference Abstract Compilation was released by, *the Director*, 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 *other guests* such as Prof. (Dr.) KVS Sharma, *Vice Chancellor*, Maharashtra National Law University, Aurangabad, Prof. (Dr.) YSR Murthy, *Vice Chancellor and Founding Dean*, School of Law R V University, and Prof. (Dr.) Bindu Ronald, Faculty in-charge of SCALSAR, SLS-P.

Another highlight of the opening ceremony of the conference was the inauguration of Symbiosis Centre for International and Comparative Child Rights Law. A video screening was presented to provide an overview of the Centre and 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. (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'.



Inaugural Ceremony of SYMROLIC 2023 with esteemed dignitaries - Dr. YSR Murthy, Prof. Dr. Purvi Pokhariyal, Prof. Dr. Shashikala Gurpur, Prof. Dr. KVS Sharma and Dr. Bindu Ronald

The Plenary

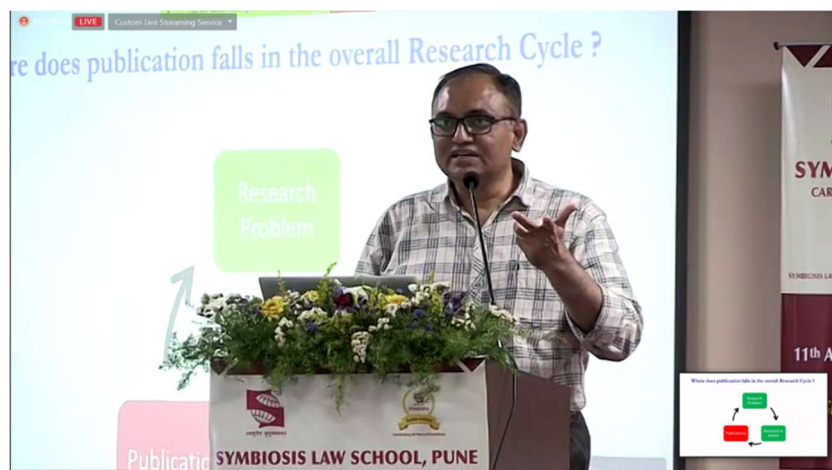
The plenary session, themed "Legal Pathways to Sustainable Development Goals: Global and Indian Perspectives," was initiated by Prof. (Dr.) Shashikala Gurpur, *Director*, Symbiosis Law School, Pune who examined the roots of interdependence and the evolution of global objectives from the Millennium Development Goals. Dr. MK Ramesh, *Professor*, NLSIU Bangalore, *Chair Professor*, Urban Poor and the Law (Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, GoI) then virtually discussed the Indian Constitutional Vision's role in realizing SDGs, highlighting global and Indian perspectives and the influence of the Make in India initiative on enterprise growth and global demand. Prof. (Dr.) Purvi Pokhariyal, *Director*, National Forensic Science University addressed the significance of adopting a societal approach towards SDGs and the effects of sensitization on SDG localization in her discussion on "Law and Human Behavior." Dr. Asha Bajpai, *International Child Rights Expert*, TISS, Mumbai emphasized on child rights and SDGs, particularly regarding disabled children, gender equality, and child marriage as a form of harassment. She advocated for a convergence between the Right to Education Act and the Persons with Disability Act to achieve SDGs.



Prof. (Dr.) Shashikala Gurpur, Dr. Asha Bajpai and Dr. MK Ramesh in the Plenary Session

Workshop on Day 1

Prof. (Dr.) Yogesh Patil, *Professor and Head - Research Publications at Symbiosis Centre for Research and Innovation (SCRI)* conducted the Workshop Session on “Choosing the Right Journal and Writing to Suit a Journal”. Prof. Patil discussed research metrics, objectives, and key components, as well as identifying suitable journals and understanding relevant theories. He covered SIU publication standards, academic and technical writing aspects, and addressed the rigorous review process and challenges in publishing. Dr. Patil highlighted common errors, the importance of result analysis, and shared his publication mantra, "Publish Good Mantras or Perish." He concluded with a focus on quality indicators and a hands-on exercise on paper citations and index calculations.



Dr. Yogesh Patil conducting the research workshop

Tracks during the conference of two days

Track 1, centered on Law and Human Behaviour, covered various focal areas such as poverty, hunger, health, education, gender equality, and legal systems. The panel comprised of Dr. YSR Murthy, *Vice Chancellor and Founding Dean*, School of Law, RV University; Dr. Santosh Aghav, *Director*, SLS, Hyderabad and Prof. (Dr) K I Vibhute, *Professor of Law, Distinguished Visiting Faculty*, SLS-P. After the panel members address the track included 14 paper presentations wherein after their presentations and evaluation, Samara Sahu of SLS-P and Shivaramakrishnan M. and Kaustubh Balaji of Sastra University were declared to be the track winner and runners-up respectively.

Track 2, focused on Business, Trade, Commerce, Management and Law with initial address from the panellists being Prof. (Dr.) KVS Sharma, *Vice-Chancellor* Maharashtra National Law University, Aurangabad, Prof. (Dr.) Indrajit Dubey, *Vice Chancellor*, NLU, Meghalaya, and Prof. Lindsay Trotman, *Associate Professor*, Massey University of New Zealand. A total of 7 papers were presented in the track. After evaluations of all presentations, Yash Singh Naruka and Prerna Singh of NUSRL, Ranchi and Ashish Vinod Naik and Sanskruti Mahale of SLS-P were declared as the track winners and runners-up respectively.

Track 3, themed around International Law, Policy, and Governance addressed focal areas such as climate change, international migration, global inequalities, and legal empowerment. The track had Dr. Suhas Tuljapurkar, *Founder and Managing Director*, Legasis Partner; Prof. (Dr.) Sanoj Rajan, *Distinguished Professor of International Law*, Zhejiang Gongshang University and Prof. Dr. John Quigley, *Moritz College of Law, Professor Emeritus*, The Ohio State University as the panel members. The track further included 14 paper presentations with Akshay Triloki Nath of Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and Hardik Jain and Rishi Khemnani of SLS-P being adjudged as the track winner and runners-up respectively.

Track 4 themed around EU Climate Justice Law, Governance, Management and Policy, addressed focal areas such as Climate Change, Clean Water and Sanitation, Climate Action, Cascading to Community, Corporate Compliances, SDG Lawyering and reforms. The track had Dr. Prakash Rao, *Deputy Director*, SIIB and Dr. Przemyslaw Tacik, *Assistant Professor* at the Institute of European Studies of the Jagiellonian University of Kraków, Poland as panellists. The track further included 8 paper presentations wherein the paper authored by Sridattha Charan, Dr. Aparajita Mohanty, Dr. Sujata Arya and Yash of SLS-P was adjudged as the winner in the track and the one authored by Ms. Vindhya Gupta, PhD Scholar of SLS-P won the runner-up position.

Track 5 was in the area of Innovation, Science, Technology and Law, and addressed focal areas such as Affordable and Clean Energy, AI, Healthcare, Data Science, Law Tech, 21st Teach Skills, Green Technology, Alternative Energy, IT Law, Cyber Forensics, Data Protection, Blockchain, Digital Currency, IOT, Cloud Computing, Laws pertaining to Fake News, IP Laws, AI and IP, Patenting Nanotechnology, Traditional

Knowledge, Biodiversity, SDG Lawyering and reforms. The track had Prof. (Dr.) Naresh Kumar Vats *Professor of Law & Dean Academics*, Rajiv Gandhi National Law University, Prof. Dr. Rupal Rautdesai, *Visiting Professor* and Intellectual Property Consultant, Dr. Saurabh Chandra, *Deputy Director*, SLS, NOIDA as the panellists. After the address of the panellists, the track included 17 paper presentations. After all the presentations and their evaluations, the paper presented by Akshay Chugh, Dr. Shirish Kulkarni and Sangramjit Chavan of SLS-P was adjudged as the winner and the paper presented by Prof. Jivantika Gulati and Radha Ranjan of SLS-P won the runners-up position.

Track 6 themed around Public Law, Society and Governance, and addressed focal areas namely Decent Work and Economic Growth Role of State (SDG No. 8), Public Health, Constitutionalism, Governance and Environment, Life Below Water (SDG No. 14), Life on Land, Peace and Justice Strong Institutions, Dispute Resolution, Mental Health Law, Access to medicine, Patient's rights, Food Security, Poverty, Conserving the Earth, SDG Lawyering and reforms. Prof. (Dr.) Nirmal Kanti Chakraborti, Vice Chancellor, WBNUJS, and Prof. Kris Gledhill, Professor, Auckland University of Technology New Zealand as panellists. The track further included 9 paper presentations wherein the paper presented by Aradome Belai Khan of SLS-P was adjudged the winner and another paper presented by Aradhya Bindal and SM Aamir Ali of SLS-P was adjudged as the runners-up in the track.

Workshop on Day 2

Dr. Satya Sundar Sethy, Associate Professor in the Department of Humanities & Social Sciences, IIT Madras, Chennai, conducted an engaging workshop on the topic of "Indian Philosophy in Research", which was organised under the ERASMUS+ CBHE Project on Teacher Training with Specialization on life and information technology skills (in short known as the 21st Teach Skills or 21TS project). The 21st Teach Skills project is co-funded by the European Union.

Within the vast area of Indian Philosophy in Research, the expert focused on the teachings of the Nyaya School of thought (Model of Critical Thinking) which deals with logic and epistemology as it has a universal appeal and relevance across multiple disciplines. The idea was to enable students across disciplines to enhance their critical thinking abilities and become aware of diverse perspectives. The key takeaways from the workshop were as follows:

1. **Logic and Reasoning:** As the Nyaya school is a system of logic, learning about its logical framework can improve students' reasoning abilities and provide them with the confidence to approach complex real-world problems.

2. **Critical Thinking:** This school encourages detailed analysis and critical thinking, which are important skills for any discipline. Such skills are essential in various fields of research and can aid in the interpretation and evaluation of complex information.
3. **Understanding of Epistemology:** Nyaya examines various concepts like:
 - How do we know what we know?
 - What is the basis for our knowledge?
 - How do we justify our beliefs?This is essential in any discipline that involves critical thinking, inquiry and valuation of information.
4. **Familiarity with Indian Traditions and comparative studies:** The principles of this school provide a deeper contextual understanding of Indian philosophical traditions of logic and can be taken as a foundation for comparative study with Western philosophies by Indian Students.
5. **Enhancing Argumentation and Debating Skills:** By focusing on the art of argumentation it teaches students not only 'what' to argue but also 'how' to argue which is a valuable lesson for students of all disciplines seeking to present a structured and coherent argument.
6. **Ethical Insights:** Nyaya encourages ethical insights, promotes rigorous analysis and fairness. Thus, the ethical dimensions of decision making are taken into consideration which is integral to all disciplines.
7. **Inclusivity in Education:** Studying Non-Western philosophies can help diversify and globalize students' understanding of critical thinking which encourages a more inclusive, pluralistic view of education that values and integrates diverse perspectives.



Dr. Satya Sundar Sethy, Associate Professor in the Department of Humanities & Social Sciences, IIT Madras, Chennai, conducting the workshop on 'Indian Philosophy (Nyaya School) in Research' as a part of ERASMUS+ CBHE 21st TEACH SKILL Project (Co-funded by EU)

Valedictory

The Valedictory Ceremony of SYMROLIC 2023 was graced by 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), Dr. Aparajita Mohanty, Deputy Director (Academics), and Prof. (Dr.) Bindu Ronald Professor of Law, Symbiosis Law School, Pune). Prof. Gurpur addressed the attendees about the importance of the process of research and presenting the findings in the conference. She suggested expanding the research domain and emphasized on the integration of law and technology as the new trend. Prof. Gurpur stressed on the need for legal research to focus on the context of rule of law and also talked about the dynamic dimension of the legal domain. She congratulated the team members on the successful organisation of SYMROLIC 2023 conference, citing an increase in the number of papers (68 papers in 2023 compared to 54 papers last year) and abstracts (115 in 2023 compared to 110 last year) received this time. Prof. Gurpur concluded by stating that every SYMROLIC celebration is an amalgamation of ideas that explore new research avenues. The ceremony proceeded with the prize distribution and special mention of a few papers which did not win but were of very good quality. It was further informed that the papers will further undergo a process of blind peer review and selection for publication. Finally, the conference concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Aparajita Mohanty, Deputy Director (Academics) Symbiosis Law School, Pune.



SYMROLIC 2023 Track winners being felicitated and awarded by Dr. Shashikala Gurpur, Dr. Aparajita Mohanty and Dr. Bindu Ronald