

Inaugural International Arbitration Competition 2025 - Event Report

In its ongoing commitment to providing students of Symbiosis Law School, Nagpur, with essential skills and knowledge, the Alternative Dispute Resolution Cell (ADRC) of SLS, Nagpur successfully organized the **Inaugural International Arbitration Competition, 2025**. This event, held on **March 1st and 2nd, 2025**, marked a significant milestone in the growth of ADRC's initiatives, taking the competition to an international level with participation from teams based in **Dubai**. The competition brought together teams from across **India**, providing them with a valuable opportunity to enhance their arbitration and dispute resolution skills.

Evolution of ADRC Competitions

The ADRC had previously organized two successful **National Mediation and Arbitration Competitions**, which have become an integral part of the ADRC's activities. This year, the ADRC took a monumental step by inviting international teams, stretching its arms to the global realms of competitive spirit and academic excellence. The participation of teams from Dubai added a new dimension to the competition, highlighting the ADRC's commitment to providing students with diverse and global perspectives on arbitration.

Event Structure and Collaborations

The **Inaugural International Arbitration Competition** took place over two days, beginning on **March 1st, 2025**, and kicked off with an **Inauguration Ceremony**.



Arrival of the guest

The event was graced by distinguished guests and dignitaries, including **Hon'ble Justice Urmila Joshi Phalke**, Judge, Bombay High Court, **Senior Advocate Sunil Manohar**, Bombay High Court, **Adv Vivek Joshi**, Senior partner at PSL Advocates and Solicitors, New Delhi, who addressed the participants and emphasized the importance of international arbitration in today's legal landscape. Their presence was an affirmation of the growing relevance of arbitration as a means of resolving international disputes.

This competition was conducted in collaboration with **PSL Advocates and Solicitors**, who played a key role in supporting and sponsoring the event. **Live Law** served as the outreach partner, helping to spread awareness of the competition across the legal community. Additionally, **SCC Online** was the knowledge partner, providing valuable resources and tools that greatly enhanced the experience for both participants and organizers. All awards and cash prizes were sponsored by **PSL Advocates and Solicitors**, further elevating the prestige of the event.

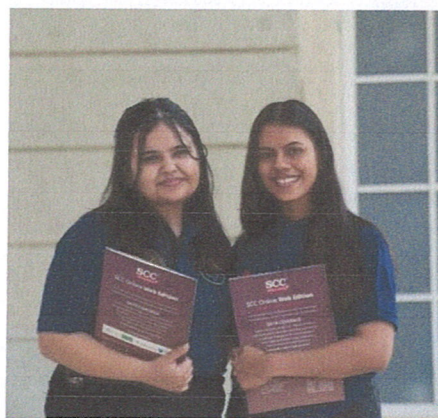


The Inauguration ceremony.

Dr. Shilpa Sharma, Sr. Adv. Sunil Manohar, Hon'ble Justice Urmila Sachin Joshi Phalke, Adv. Vivek Joshi, (Prof.) Dr. Sukhvinder Singh Dari

The Organizing Team

The successful execution of the competition would not have been possible without the dedicated efforts of the **ADRC team**, led by the event's **Convenors, Gauri Malviya and Khooshi Singh**. Both are penultimate-year law students who demonstrated exceptional leadership, coordination, and attention to detail in planning and organizing the event. Their tireless work ensured that every aspect of the competition was carefully managed. The organizing committee also consisted of ADRC members who played crucial roles in ensuring the event ran smoothly.



The conveners, Ms. Khooshi Singh and Ms. Gauri Malviya.

Preparation and Registration Process

Preparations for the **International Arbitration Competition** began well in advance, with the ADRC laying the groundwork for a seamless experience. The registration process was opened to students from all years across **India**, and a total of **14 teams** were selected to participate in the competition.

The registered teams were provided with essential information about the competition in advance, giving them ample time to develop their written submissions. The written submissions, which laid out the key interests and objectives of each party involved, were submitted by last date and formed a key part of the competition's evaluation criteria.

A **Draw of Lots** was conducted on **28th Feb** to determine the teams' respective roles in the arbitration process and to allocate conference rooms. This ensured fairness and transparency in the competition's proceedings.

Competition Execution

On March 1st, 2025, the event officially began with the arrival of esteemed judges. Among the distinguished guests on the dais, during the inauguration, were Hon'ble Justice Urmila Sachin Joshi-Phalke, Judge at the Bombay High Court, whose invaluable insights and wisdom greatly enriched the competition. Her distinguished career and profound understanding of the legal landscape added immense value to the event, further enhancing the prestige and significance of the Inaugural International Arbitration Competition, 2025.



Hon'ble Ladyship Urmila Sachin Joshi Phalke addressing the audience.



Also gracing the event was Senior Advocate Sunil Manohar, whose extensive experience and profound expertise in litigation and alternative dispute resolution significantly enriched the competition. His participation highlighted the importance of strategic advocacy and its pivotal role in arbitration, offering invaluable guidance and inspiration to all participants.





(Prof.) Dr. Sukhvinder Singh Dari welcoming Sr. Adv. Sunil Manohar

Mr. Vivek Joshi, Senior Associate at PSL Advocates & Solicitors, was another key figure on the dais. With his vast experience in arbitration and dispute resolution, Mr. Joshi's expertise and guidance contributed greatly to the success of the event. His valuable insights into the intricacies of arbitration provided participants with a deeper understanding of the practical aspects of the field.

Prof. (Dr.) Sukhvinder Singh Dari, Director of Symbiosis Law School, Nagpur, also graced the occasion with his presence. With his extensive academic background and leadership in legal education, Prof. Dari's remarks on the evolving landscape of arbitration and the critical role of legal professionals in fostering effective dispute resolution provided invaluable insights, inspiring the next generation of legal practitioners and advocates in the field of arbitration.

Additionally, Dr. Shilpa Sharma, Faculty In-charge of ADRC, played a pivotal role in ensuring the smooth execution of the event. Her leadership and dedication to alternative dispute resolution were evident throughout the competition, contributing significantly to its success.

Off the dais, we had the privilege of having Dr. Deepti Khubalkar, Deputy Director of Symbiosis Law School, Nagpur, whose support and guidance were instrumental in organizing the event. Mr. Rohan Gulati, Associate at PSL Advocates & Solicitors, also attended and contributed with his valuable insights into the field of arbitration.

The event was further enriched by the presence of the dedicated teaching and non-teaching staff, along with participants from across India and students of Symbiosis Law School, Nagpur. Their enthusiasm and engagement made the competition a resounding success, fostering a dynamic and insightful environment for all involved.

These distinguished dignitaries and attendees contributed significantly to the success and prestige of the Inaugural International Arbitration Competition, 2025.



The group photo with Dignitaries

The judges were welcomed by (Prof.) Dr. Sukhvinder Singh Dari and by the ADRC faculty in charge, Dr. Shilpa Sharma. Their unwavering dedication and steadfast commitment to the Alternative Dispute Resolution Cell (ADRC) played a central role in the resounding success of the event. Their ability to effectively guide the team, make strategic decisions, and address challenges with poise and professionalism truly set the tone for the event. Their significant contributions were indispensable in shaping not only the seamless flow of the competition but also in fostering an

environment that highlighted the importance of Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanisms. The success of this event owes much to both of them and their remarkable leadership and commitment to excellence, cementing as a key force in the ADRC's accomplishments.

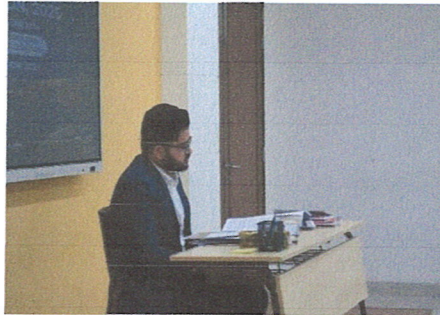


Each arbitration session was meticulously timed and followed a structured format, including both the main arbitration and arbitral award writing. The competition consisted of a total of four rounds: Prelims 1 and 2, the Semi-Finals, and the Finals.

For the preliminary rounds, a total of seven conference rooms were used, **eight judges** evaluated the competition, with **two of them judging remotely in an online mode**, ensuring accessibility and diverse perspectives in the arbitration process.



Adv. Rohan Gulati, the judge for prelims 1&2



Adv. Sahil Dewani, the judge for prelims 1&2



Ms. Vatsala Pandey judging the Prelims 1 & 2 through remotely

The Semi-Finals were conducted in two rooms, with four judges presiding over the proceedings.



The Judges for Semi Finals.

Adv. Nikhil Padhye, Adv. Prasad Abhyankar, Dr. Shilpa Sharma, Adv. Renuka Sirpukar, Adv. Asmita Dhawade

The Finals featured a panel of three judges, ensuring a rigorous and well-evaluated conclusion to the competition.



The Judges for the final rounds.

The event ran smoothly thanks to the efforts of volunteers and sub-committees who helped with various tasks, including timekeeping, overseeing the competition rooms, and assisting the judges.

The cooperation between judges' ushers, ADRC members, and the organizing committee ensured that every session was well-managed and that the event adhered to the set timelines.

Judges and Evaluation:

The competition featured **15 judges** (*Adv. Vivek Joshi, Adv. Rohan Gulati, Adv. Parth Malviya, Adv. Aniket Dhabadgaon, Adv. Sahil Dewani, Adv Saurabh Tapadia, Ms. Vatsala Pandey, Adv. Nachiket Morier, Adv. Renuka Sirpurkar, Adv. Nikhil Padhye, Adv. Prasad Abhyankar, Adv. Asmita Dhawade, Ms. Priyanka Shetty, Adv. Wilson Mathew and Mr. Suvigya Awasthy* are from prestigious backgrounds, including experienced professionals from **PSL Advocates and Solicitors**, as well as **AZB & partners** and the **Bombay High Court**.

These judges presided over each round, providing valuable feedback on the teams' performance and offering insights into the skills required to succeed in international arbitration. Their expertise

and commitment played an instrumental role in evaluating the teams and ensuring a fair and competitive environment.

Rounds:

The competition was mapped out in the course of 2 days, 1st and 2nd of March, 2025, in four different rounds. The first day, i.e., 1st March, 2025, consisted of preliminary rounds 1 and 2 and a separate round for Arbitral Award drafting, which was unique to the Arbitrators of the different teams. The marks of the rounds held on this day then determined the semi-finalists who would then compete against each other the next day. On the following day, the remaining two rounds, which were the most crucial, took place, with the Final Rounds taking place in the college's esteemed Moot Court Hall, being witnessed by all the other participants along with the keen students of SLS Nagpur.

Conclusion of the Event:

The final rounds showcased a strong neck on neck between the finalists who upheld great competitive spirit and demonstrated great presence of mind and promptness in answering the questions that were fired towards them. The judges for the final rounds, being pioneers of the field, ensured qualitative competition, by constructively testing the participants' knowledge on the subject matter whilst also keeping the spectators to the same on their haunches. The final rounds were then followed by the valedictory ceremony where the distinguished judges of the final rounds, Ms Priyanka Shetty, Adv. Wilson Mathew and Adv. Suvigya Awasthy were felicitated by Dr (Prof.) Sukhvinder Singh Dari and Dr, Shilpa Sharma. The competition concluded with a formal **Prize Distribution Ceremony**, where the **Best written submission, best speaker, best team, Best Arbitrator** and **runners' up** awards were presented. These awards recognized the teams that had demonstrated exceptional skills in international arbitration.

The awardees for the SLS Nagpur 1st International Arbitration Competition were declared to be as follows:

Best Team: O.P Jindal Global University

Runners Up Team: Symbiosis Law School, Pune

Best Arbitrator: Mr Sumit Mishra, GNLU

Best Speaker: Ms Yashaswini Jhunjunwala, NMIMS Mumbai

Best Written Submissions: GNLU



Winners of the competition

After the final round of arbitration and the valedictory ceremony, the judges provided detailed feedback on the teams' performances, highlighting areas of strength and suggesting improvements. The competition also served as a platform for networking, as it brought together legal professionals, students, and faculty from across the globe, facilitating valuable exchanges of knowledge and perspectives on international arbitration.

Acknowledgements and Future Prospects:

The success of the **Inaugural International Arbitration Competition** would not have been possible without the unwavering support and guidance of **Dr. Sukhvinder Singh Dari**, Director of SLS, Nagpur, whose leadership has been instrumental in fostering an environment of excellence in ADR education. The ADRC also expresses sincere gratitude to the faculty, judges, volunteers, and all participants who contributed to making this event a resounding success.

Looking ahead, the ADRC is excited to continue expanding the scope of its competitions and providing students with opportunities to engage in global legal discussions and develop their dispute resolution skills. The **International Arbitration Competition** will undoubtedly become

a key event in the future, helping students gain the expertise needed to excel in the rapidly evolving world of international arbitration.

Glimpses:





Bulpa



Director
Symbiosis Law School,
Nagpur