

Online National level Debate Competition

“It is better to debate a question without settling it than to settle a question without debating it”

-Joseph Joubert, French Writer.

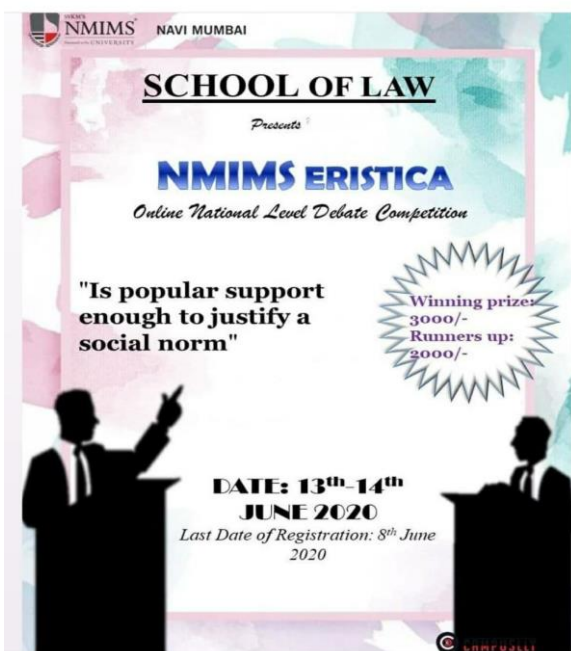
Date: 13-14 June, 2020

Platform: ZOOM Application

Topic: Is popular Support is enough to justify Social norm

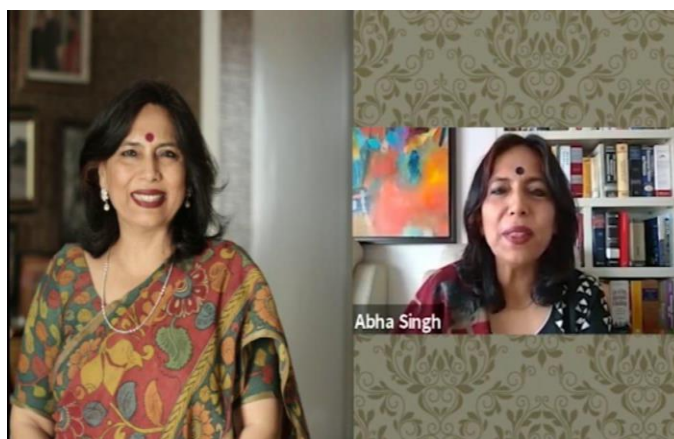
Organiser: Debate Committee

The Debate Committee of School of Law, NMIMS, Navi Mumbai successfully organised its First edition of NMIMS “ERISTICA” on February 13-14 June , 2020. The competition was held on Zoom application in lieu of the pandemic and saw the attendance and participation of students from all over India. The competition had total 44 participants from all over the nation.



rounds: Preliminary round , semi-finals and final round. All the participants were awarded E-certificates for participation. The competition had three moderators for the event: Shruti Navayath , Astitva Srivastava and Anshita Naidu. All the moderators were from second year, School of law.

Debate was conducted in Lincoln-Douglas debate format, i.e. one on one debate on the topic "Is popular Support is enough to justify Social norm" . The competition comprised of three





The competition began with the opening ceremony in the special presence of Chief Guest Abha Singh and with our Associate dean, faculty members and participants.

Advocate Abha Singh enlightened the participants by her views and guided them to look at different perspectives in situations.

She also explained that how , The Indian Constitution provides its citizens the Right to Freedom of Speech and Expression and at the same time, provides the Right to Dissent. The distinction between the two and the usage of the two play a vital role in law making, for our country is based on the principles of Liberty and Fraternity. The 21ST century has brought about an exponential boom with the internet. Due to the advent of media, particularly social media, speedy awareness of various issues has drastically increased. This, coupled with the increase in literacy, has led to diversity in definitive opinion.

The performance of students during the Debate Competition was phenomenal and very professional. This debate competition was judged by 3 honourable judges:

Advocate Siddharth Tiwari , Advocate Nidhi Singhvi , Advocate Medha Shrivastava.



After the end of the event judges threw light on the fact that being a part of the upcoming generations, it is imperative to discuss and debate over the problems in society and any solutions for the same that may arise as students are future law makers of the country. The politically charged atmosphere in the country raises many issues, especially with regards to law making and delivery of justice, which often motivates a mob psychology. Hence, the topic for the debate, "Is popular support enough to justify a social norm", is befitting not just at this time, but since and for time immemorial in a democracy.

The competition ended by Prof. Saurabh Chaturvedi (Associate Dean) announcing the winners of the competition and paved the way to the candidates for a bright and optimistic future through his words. He also

emphasized on the fact that Opinions, when in near or perfect consensus with the population can prove to be problematic due to the increase in mob psychology. On the contrary, it provides the perfect foundation for a Democratic society. It is paramount for today's generation to discuss and deliberate if, truly, popular opinion



should solely attest to be the standard of proof for the legitimacy of a law or a social norm. He also put forth that how important it is to discuss the question “Is popular support enough to justify a social norm” in today's era.

Lastly the vote of thanks was given by Bhavya Godawat , President of the debate committee and congratulated the participants for their mesmerizing performance.