



SVKM'S
NMIMS
Deemed to be UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF LAW
INDORE CAMPUS

1ST NATIONAL

DEBATE

COMPETITION-2020

About the Institution:

Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies (NMIMS), established in 1981, is today a globally reputed deemed to be University in Mumbai. It stands proud with its campuses spread across various corners of the country at Indore, Shirpur, Dhule, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Navi Mumbai and Chandigarh, presently with 17 specialized schools, more than 17000 students and about 750 full-time faculty members. It runs various undergraduate, post graduate, integrated programs, Ph.D programmes as well as diploma and certificate programmes in the fields of Engineering & technology, Design, Liberal Arts, performing arts, Law, Pharmacy, Architecture, Branding and advertisement, etc.,

About Schools of Law: NMIMS offers legal education by undergraduate programmes-B.A.LL.B and B.B.A.LL.B, presently through its Schools of Law, approved by the **Bar Council of India** at Indore, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Navi Mumbai. It has upcoming schools, duly approved by the Bar Council of India in Dhule and Chandigarh, commencing the programmes this year. It also provides post graduate programmes-LL.M and Ph.D programmes through its school of law at Mumbai.

We, at School of Law, inculcate and nourish all the professional virtues in a well calculated and planned manner, without undermining the 'societal values'. The aim of our schools constantly remains to refine students' competence by engaging them in curricular and extra-curricular activities along with excellent academic deliveries through qualified faculties. The schools have ample infrastructure, well equipped library facilities, online databases and e-learning modules, Seminar Halls, Moot Court Rooms, Computer Labs and English Digital Language Labs to serve the versatile requirements of learners.

reliable guidance on the same. As technological advancement is moving on an unprecedented scale and creating new normal for the entire world; the whole idea of mis – information, dis – information and mal – information along with the valuable information is affecting our domains. From government policies to symptoms and treatment to its origin and vaccination et al. – infodemics have duly engulfed humanity alongside the pandemic itself. And it often influences our perceptions, physical attributes and psychological paradigms. Hence, the topic for this debate competition, '*Bombardment of Infodemic in Times of Pandemic*', gyrates around the same phenomenon. The whole idea through this particular activity is to provide platform to students from various universities to come forward, share their views and learn from each other. After all the whole idea of 'argumentative traditions', remains India's important legacy and was cornerstone to the 'idea of India'.

About the Topic:

COVID 19 has thrown various challenges in front of the world. In the absence of its medical solution, one of the biggest challenges is considered to be the rapid spread of infodemic. On 28th March 2020, the Director General of World Health Organisation (WHO) Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus stated that:

“We are not just fighting an epidemic; we are also fighting an infodemic”.

Merriam Webster dictionary defines 'Infodemic' as – a blend of information and epidemic, which typically refers to a rapid and far reaching spread of both 'accurate' and 'inaccurate' information about something, such as disease. As the world remains technologically well knitted and the global pandemic has affected the entire planet - Indian sub-continent is also facing the dual challenge of pandemic and infodemic both.

One cannot deny the fact that, in a digitalised world - citizens are now 'netizens' and in the times of current global crisis, information through technology is the need of the hour. The 'new normal' under the shadow of pandemic has duly channelized our professional and personal lives and will continue to do so in future. This 'new normal' under lock down, social distancing norms, home quarantine, online academia, virtual dispensation of information, work from home et al. sustains upon Information and Communications Technology (ICT). But as the world now remains greatly dependent on the virtual world of communication for the right information, misinformation too is at its full play. From fake news to myths to fake information to data security and privacy - it has all together thrown new challenges towards us. Government regulations and cyber or IT laws are being mooted upon for checks and balances. It has opened a range of discussions about the information technology, infodemic and future discourses. The case related to infodemic is a case of classic dilemma. Information needs a communicating platform in a digitalised world; but at the same time false information creates a trust deficit and crisis. Responsible information informs and educates masses, but irresponsible information simply does the opposite. And this whole phenomenon raises various moot points such as - In what ways this particular dilemma should be analysed? Do we need more stringent laws and regulations or it should be left on individual's freedom of choice and rationality? Should the tech giants and media regulators become more ethical and less profit oriented? How civil societies should stand up to these dilemmas? In what ways infodemic keeps us informed and connected; but, at same time misinformed and disconnected? et al.

It is in this context that – students, budding lawyers and young generation' needs to debate discuss, reflect and find solutions for the proper channels of communication and disseminating information. Information technology remains most essential tool

for our generation to circulate information from macro to micro level; but at the same time, it has wide range to limitations too. Hence, the topic of this national debate '*Bombardment of Infodemic in Times of Pandemic*' remains quite central to our space and times. The whole activity when peered through the spectrum of pandemic will not only enhance our thought processes; but our daily lives too in a positive manner. And it will also highlight the fact that – where we have failed and where we have to try to get to.

Eligibility:

- The competition is open to all the **undergraduate students** of any UGC recognised university/institution.
- By applying for the competition, the teams shall be deemed to have accepted the terms and conditions of the organizing institution.

RULES OF DEBATE:

- The competition will be a virtual one and will be conducted via **Zoom application**.
- **Two** participants will be allowed from each University/Institution
- The debate will be chaired by a '**speaker**', who will read out the motion.
- The participants of every university/institution will be required to prepare for both the sides – **FOR** and **AGAINST** the motion.
- Each Candidate will be allotted **3 minutes** for their respective stand.
- **Four awards and prizes** will be announced – two for winners and two for runners' up (for and against the motion).
- Medium of Communication will be **English** only.
- Decision made by the panel of **Judges** will be final and binding.

- The **dress code** for the activity is western or Indian formals
- At any point of conflict, the decision of **Host Institution** (NMIMS, Indore), will be final and participants have to follow the same.
- **School of Law, NMIMS, Indore** reserves the right to alter or change the rules or procedure of the competition
- Details and information concerning the debate will be shared through **Email** and **WhatsApp** by the organizing committee.

Penalties and Disqualification:

- Use of foul language or use of any written document/chits/any other source during debate will result in disqualification of the candidate.
- Candidates are required to have a proper internet connection failing which will result in the disqualification of the candidate.
- If a violation of the rules is believed to have been committed by a team or one of its members, the organising committee may in its own discretion, upon its initiative or complaint from another team or assessor, impose a penalty or disqualify the team.
- The Competition Grievance Panel shall be informed before any action of disqualification is taken. The panel shall consist of the head of the Host institution, the chief coordinator of the organising committee, and two assessors from the panel of assessors.

Registration Process:

Step 1- Participants need to fill details in the Google Forms. Google Form Link- https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdqXMPH4kCs8oqJ1qygPp5FHAXDCJ5HtU83mForZExzXCHXHg/viewform?usp=sf_link

Step 2- If the registration of Participants is being accepted they will receive a conformation mail to their registered Email address.

Step 3- The participants will have to pay the registration fees of **Rs. 500 per university/Institution (Individually - 250)**

Step 4- After Successful Payment, participants will be informed about the same and they need to follow further instructions, which the participants will be receiving through emails.

IMPORTANT DATES-

***LAST DATE OF REGISTRATION- 21ST JULY'20**

DATE OF EVENT- 25TH JULY'20

Organizing Committee:

Coordinators	Contact Details
Dr. Biplove Kumar	biplove.kumar@nmims.edu
Prakhar Swarup	9810898309
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***Note:** Contact our coordinators for any activity related information or queries.

School of Law, NMIMS, Indore: Intellectual Quotient



Dr. Prachi Gharpure

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