With the success of the 1st ITMU Moot Court Competition, it climbed another ladder by organising the 2nd edition of its National Moot Court Competition from 14th-15th March 2014. The Second Edition of ITMU Law School National Moot Court Competition, 2014 received tremendous response from colleges and universities throughout the country. In an attempt to ensure highest quality, the number of teams participating in the event was restricted to sixteen. All participating teams represent top law schools and universities across India including six National Law Schools. In a short span of two years, ITMU Law School has carved a niche for itself, as a leader in Environment Law Moot Court Competition. This year’s problem was based on a debate between first generation and second generation environmental rights, in light of the proposed setting up of Small Hydroelectric Power plants and perceived environmental harms there-from.

(From L to R: Hon’ble Mr. Justice V.B. Gupta, Prof. S. Shanthakumar, Prof. Prem Vrat, Mr. Pramod Ahuja at the Inaugural Session)

The Inaugural Session for the Second ITMU Law School National Moot Court Competition was held on Wednesday, March 12, 2014. The Chief Guest for the occasion was Hon’ble Mr. Justice V.B. Gupta, Former Judge, High Court of Delhi and presently Member, National Consumer Disputes Redressal
Commission (NCDRC). Hon’ble Vice Chancellor & Professor of Eminence, ITM University, Prof. Prem Vrat presided over the session and Mr. Pramod Ahuja, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India was the Guest of Honour.

Ms. Neha Tripathi, student of First year, BBA LL.B. programme of ITM University, Gurgaon coordinated the Inaugural Session and welcomed all the guests. This was followed by the invocation to Goddess Saraswati and lighting of the ceremonial lamp by all the dignitaries present on the occasion. Prof. S. Shanthakumar, Director, ITMU Law School, welcomed all the participants and introduced the guests for the evening. UCOL Advocates & Consultants, were the Principal Sponsors for the event and Ahuja Residency, provided accommodation facilities to all participants free of cost. mylaw.net sponsored online law courses for all participants and winners. Hon’ble Vice Chancellor in his Presidential Address appreciated the theme of the Competition and the need for moot court competitions and called them the 'laboratories of law'. He also spoke of the ‘Triple Bottom Line’ concept whereby every project must satisfy the needs of People, Planet and Profit. He discussed as to how environment protection and economic development are not adversarial in nature and need to go hand-in-hand and he ended his address by blessing all the participants and wishing them all the very best.

Mr. Pramod Ahuja, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India, in his Special Address, stressed on the need for practical knowledge in the practice of law and spoke about how moot court competitions were a step in the right direction. Hon’ble Mr. Justice V.B. Gupta, formally declared the Competition open. In his address, Justice Gupta stated that each child is different and will certainly excel in his / her chosen field. He urged students to go ahead and live their dreams and concluded his address by speaking about how even small contributions matter in the field of environment protection. The Preliminary Rounds for the Competition were conducted in four sessions in four different court rooms on Thursday, March 13, 2014. Each team got the opportunity to present their case from the side of the Petitioner as well as the Respondent and were judged by a panel drawn from academia, law practice and law firms. The top eight teams advanced to the quarter finals, which were conducted in the afternoon session the same day. The best four teams from the Quarter Finals stage, namely, GNLU Gandhinagar, ILS Law College Pune, School of Law Christ University and NLIU Bhopal advanced to the Semi Finals, which was held...
during the forenoon of Friday, March 14, 2014. The Final Rounds witnessed a very closely fought battle for the trophy between School of Law Christ University, Bengaluru and NLIU Bhopal with both teams displaying great calibre and advocacy skills. The final rounds were judged by Hon’ble Mr. Justice S.K. Katriar, Former Judge, High Court of Bihar; Hon’ble Mr. Justice S.N. Jha, Former Chief Justice, High Court of Rajasthan, Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, Hon’y Secy., Supreme Court Bar Association and Prof. S Shanthakumar, Director, ITMU Law School. Aradhyanayan Tiwari was adjudged the Best Male Speaker, Reshma Raja the Best Female Speaker [both from School of Law, Christ University] and NUSRL Ranchi was adjudged to have the best Memorials. The all-girl team from NLIU Bhopal emerged as the Winners of the Competition with School of Law, Christ University as the Runners Up. The Valedictory Ceremony and Prize Distribution were held on the same day. Hon’ble Mr. Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva, Judge, High Court of Delhi was the Chief Guest for the ceremony. Other guests included Hon’ble Mr. Justice S.K. Katriar, Former Judge, High Court of Bihar; Hon’ble Mr. Justice S.N. Jha, Former Chief Justice, High Court of Rajasthan, Ms. Kaadambari Puri, MD, UCOL, Mr. Pramod Ahuja, Sr. Advocate, High Court of Delhi, Mr. Dinesh Kumar Mishra, Judge, CBI Court, Ms. Laika Agarwal (Ahuja Residency) and Mr. Kunal Mehra (Rainmaker). The Ceremony started with the welcome address by Prof. S. Shanthakumar who welcomed all the guests and thanked them for their presence, while introducing them to the gathering. He expressed his happiness at the great sportsman spirit shown by all teams over the course of the 2 day competition and hoped for greater participation in future. He thanked Ms. Aakanksha Kumar, faculty coordinator for the event also all the student volunteers for making this event a grand success. Mr. Kunal Mehra, VP, Rainmaker spoke to the participants and handed out the usernames and passwords to the Online Environmental Law Course at myLaw.net which was given as a participation prize to all participants, free of charge. Ms. Kaadambari Puri in her short address marvelled at the turn out for the competition and expressed her gratitude to the institution for enabling her organisation to be part of such a grand event. Hon’ble Mr. Justice S K Katriar exalted the benefits of moot court competitions for law students in his address and expressed the difficulty in judging the final rounds of the
competition, given the great level of skill and persuasiveness expressed by both teams. Hon’ble Mr. Justice SN Jha echoed Justice Katriar’s views on judging and also complemented the organisers for choosing such a contemporary issue for a moot court competition. Mr. Dinesh Mishra spoke of how a specialist moot court competition on environmental law is the need of the hour in the country and how ITMU Law School is taking strides in the direction of carving for itself a niche in the area. Hon’ble Mr. Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva in his Valedictory Address highlighted the nuances of great advocacy skills and highlighted the difference between a “good lawyer and a great lawyer” through an anecdote about smoking while praying. He congratulated the winners and the participants and expressed his wish to continue his association with ITMU Law School, while branding the ITMU Law School National Moot as the “Stetson Moot in India”, to a thunderous round of applause from the organising committee and the participants alike.

The ITMU Law School’s National Moot, though just into its 3rd year, has already gained popularity among the law student fraternity as a one of its kind.