1. 31st August to 2nd September, 2011

SPIRITUS 2011-12 – INTER-VARSITY SPORTS FESTIVAL EXCLUSIVELY FOR LAW STUDENTS

Organised by: Sports Committee (Students)

The 11th edition of the annual inter-varsity sports fest, Spiritus, held by National Law School of India University, the premier law college in India, recently came to a conclusion. The fest was held between 31st August and 2nd September 2011, attracted over 1000 students from 25 different law colleges not only from Bangalore but from across India including the National Academy of Legal Studies and Research, Hyderabad, National University of Juridical Studies, Kolkata, and National Law University, Jodhpur.

The opening ceremony which was held on the 30th of August was presided over by Krishnapppa M, the MLA from Vijaynagar constituency. He declared the meet open, with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp. Unlike most sport festivals which have a limited variety of events, this year’s Spiritus was witness to over 20 competitive sporting events. A unique blend of indoor and outdoor events were held, including Basketball, Football, Snooker, Chess, Badminton, Volleyball, Throwball (women), Carom, Tennis, Counter Strike and Table Tennis. Volleyball (girls) was added to this year’s edition. These events were held at different locations in Bangalore--the NLSIU campus, Sports Authority of India, Bangalore University Campus and he Club, Bangalore. Technical
support, as well as referees for the various events was provided by SAI, which is a Government of India Agency.

The sponsors for Spiritus 2011-2012 were Tzinga and Hercules Sport. The NLSIU home teams won Basketball (women), Football (men) and Tennis (women), and were finalist or semi-finalist in most other sports. NLSIU won the overall shield with 50 points, closely followed by Symbiosis with 45 points and BILS with 35 points. The fest gave a chance to all the law colleges to develop their relationships. The fest was a huge success and all the colleges seemed enthusiastic about participating in the 12th edition of Spiritus i.e. Spiritus 2012.

2. 2nd September, 2011 – SOUTHERN REGIONAL CONSULTATION FOR UPR-2012

Organised by: NHRC in partnership with NLSIU

Coordinated by: Ms. Anuradha Saibaba

Southern Regional Consultation for UPR 2012 was held at the Training Centre on 2nd September, 2011.

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in collaboration with National Law School of India University, Bangalore organized a One day Southern Regional Consultation for Universal Periodic Review on 2nd September, 2011 for Southern States covering the States/UTs of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Lakshadweep and Puducherry.
Shri. Satyabrata Pal, Member, NHRC who is of the status of Judge of Supreme Court of India attended the programme. Other members of NHRC including Shri. J S Kochher, Joint Secretary (Training), National Human Rights Commission and Dr. Savita Bhakhry, Deputy Secretary (Research) and Shri. Nishit, PRP&P Divison for SRC for UPR attended the consultation programme. The total number of other participants attending the Consultation was around 70 including IAS officers, Senior officials from the States/UTs, representatives of State Human Rights Commissions, other State Commissions’ and NGOs etc.

Issues in States/UTs oncerning Civil and Political Rights, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Rights of Women, Rights of Children, Strengthening of Human Rights Education, Human Rights Challenges - Energizing of Existing Mechanisms were discussed at length. The programme was held at the International Training Centre, National Law School of India University

3. 5th September, 2011 – TEACHERS’ DAY CELEBRATION

Teachers’ day was celebrated by faculty members and students at the campus. Benjamin’s Fig was planted in the campus. High Tea was arranged in the evening for faculty members by the students.
4. 5th and 6th September, 2011 – CONFERENCE ON LEGAL STRATEGIES FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS

Organised by: NLSIU in association with Institute for International Education (IIE)

Coordinated by: Dr. Sarasu Esther Thomas

The Law School hosted a two day Conference sponsored by The Ford Foundation/ IIE coordinated by Dr Sarasu Esther Thomas on Legal Strategies for the Enforcement of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on the 5th and 6th of September 2011. The conference was both a stocktaking exercise and an opportunity for the legal community to look critically at how economic and social rights on paper may be ‘enforced’. Central to these debates was also the idea of ‘progressive realization’ of these rights and importantly the accessing of rights by the marginalized.

Five Panels with expert presentators and commentators were moderated by Dr Sarasu Esther Thomas, Ms Akila RS and Ms Kalyani Ramnath. The Panels focused on key issues on ESC Rights. Panel details are given below. The Conference is being followed up with a publication containing brief proceedings as well as invited papers on ESC Rights.

Panel 1: Roti, Kapda, Makan: Revisiting the Fundamental Questions in ESC rights
Moderator: Kalyani Ramnath
Comments: Flavia Agnes, Mihir Desai, Sitharamam Kakarala, Usha Ramanathan

Panel 2: For the Common Good: The Case for Natural Resources ‘Management’
Moderator: Akila R.S.
Panelists: Arun Agarwal, Kshithij Urs, Sairam Bhat
*Panel 3: Cultural Rights: Enforcing Diversity, Encouraging Expression*
Moderator: Kalyani Ramnath
Panelists: Flavia Agnes, Madhu Mehra, Sitharamam Kakarala
*Panel 4: Labour and Livelihood: Pushing Boundaries*
Moderator: Sarasu Esther Thomas
Panelists: Roopa Madhav, Usha Ramanathan, Vasanthi Nimushkavi
*Panel 5: The Right to Education Act, 2005 and its Discontents*
Moderator: Akila R.S.
Panelists: Jayna Kothari, Parth Shah, Rishad Chowdhury
*Panel 6: Reflections on Conference Proceedings*
Moderator: Sarasu Esther Thomas

5. 6th September, 2011 - SPIC-MACAY – SUFI MUSIC BY SHRI. MADAN GOPAL SINGH

The evening of 6th September was an evening with a difference. The bliss of Sufi Music, where all the audience were taken to rapturous heights was rendered by Maestro Shri. Madan Gopal Singh. He enthralled all with his soul stirring melodies.
6. **12th September, 2011 – ADMIT ONE**

**Coordinated by: Cultural and Fine Arts Committee (Students)**

NLSIU’s three-day theatre festival ended on Monday, 12 September 2011, bringing to a close a weekend of great acting, high emotion and unadulterated entertainment.

The fest involved the participation by college students from cities all over the country, including IIT Kharagpur, NID Ahmedabad and MOP Vaishnav from Chennai among many others. With an overwhelming participation by around 20 teams, the fest certainly turned out to be an amalgamation of the force of passion, magic of expression and a multitude of emotions that kept the audience on the edge of their seats through all three days.

The plays depicted covered a variety of themes – ranging from a play on the trials and tribulations in the volatile relationship of a married couple, to one on the relations between the haves and the have-nots, and further, a satire on a television talk-show where participants battle it out to win a handshake from the President. The winning play, that of MOP Vaishnav College for Women, Chennai, revolved around the death of a blind boy and its impact on his relationship with five different women - a mother, a friend, a sister, a girlfriend and a teacher. IIT Kharagpur, who were placed a close second, was a mimeographical thriller about a spate of murders in a small town after the arrival of a Fair and the mysterious prophesizing Somnambulist.

Rohit Chotai (IIT Kharagpur) and Neelima (Mount Carmel College) won the awards for the Best Actor and Best Actress respectively. IIT KGP also received the Best Director award, while MOP Vaishnav walked away with the Best Original Script Award. Admit One 2011 was the
first screening for Thespo 13, for the first time ever in Bangalore, and the event brought out gems of talent in the world of theatre. And finally, with the successful end of Admit One this year, NLSIU has once more proved that its not just a law school, but the right balance between work and play for the students.

7. 15th September, 2011 - II NLS UNION DEBATE

Coordinated by: Literary & Debating Society (Students)

The II NLS Union Debate was conducted on Thursday, 15 September in the National Law School of India University campus. This is an effort by the Literary and Debating Society to encourage discussion and debate on relevant policy matters. The motion on debate was “This House believes that intelligence agencies in India ought to be regulated by legislation.”

The evening began with a speech by Jayadev Ranade, former official of the Research and Analysis Wing who gave an insight into the internal working of intelligence agencies, outlining the problems that they face. He spoke of how lack of funds and politicisation are two issues that could possibly be resolved through legislation. He further elaborated on how a specialised cadre for intelligence agencies would increase their efficiencies.

The debate featured eminent speakers, faculty members and students. Adithya Sondhi, practicing advocate of the Karnataka High Court, and Dr ST Ramesh, retired DG who served as Additional Director of Intelligence Bureau were the main speakers for the proposition and opposition respectively. Along with Mr Sondhi on the proposition were Prof. Joga Rao, Professor of Law NLSIU and Ms Radhika Chitkara, a fourth year student. Mr ST Ramesh was assisted by Prof. Sidharth Chauhan, Visiting Faculty, NLSIU and Ms. Leeneshwari Makhijani, fifth year student. Mr Sondhi was the first speaker of the proposition who pointed out that Intelligence Agencies do not have any backing in law, questioning the legitimacy of their mandate. He pointed out that
just as defence services are regulated under an act, the same should apply to intelligence agencies. He said that putting the agencies under legislation would increase accountability and in a sense provide greater security to the intelligence agents.

He was followed by Dr. ST Ramesh who countered the arguments by stating the activities of intelligence cannot be defined or put under specific heads. Regulation of these activities would actually make it tougher for agents to carry out their mandate effectively as these are best carried out in an informal atmosphere. Having a legislation is restricting the scope of duty of intelligence agents and may have adverse consequences in the long run.

Prof. Joga Rao expressed concern that intelligence bureaus often defend their autonomy on the pretext of national security which is not a strong enough reason to impinge upon citizen’s rights. He further stated that bureaus can ensure secrecy but not at the cost of accountability. Prof. Sidharth Chauhan on the other hand pointed out the dangers of over-legislation and that ordinary norms of investigation do not apply in this case. The creation of a statute will not solve the problems that intelligence agencies face. The student speakers backed up these arguments by speaking of the conflict between liberty and security and discussed the need and effectiveness of legislation.

A vote taken at the end of the debate showed that the audience was convinced by the proposition’s arguments and were in favour of legislation of intelligence bureaus.