



NO. **1** NATIONAL LAW SCHOOL OF  
INDIA UNIVERSITY, Bengaluru

# THE VIRTUAL VERDICT

By **PROF. (DR) SUDHIR KRISHNASWAMY**

**T**he Indian court system has adapted to the Covid pandemic quite remarkably. After the

initial few months of delays and uncertainty, the higher courts adopted web-based platforms and applications and litigation went virtual for the first time in the history of India. Lawyers, clients and judges all were acutely aware of the importance of taking their work online. A long-awaited transformation had finally happened. However, the lower courts still need to be brought online. We don't need videos in all rooms; we can manage with audio. For example, the audio hearings work very well for the US Supreme Court. Appropriate technology will help

the lower courts become highly functional not just for now, but also in the post-Covid environment. Going online will also help make the court customer-oriented. For instance, it would help those who may not always be able to come to court in person.

The legal profession is broadly divided into two parts—litigation in courts and transactional law. Both these areas have undergone a digital transformation thanks to tools of video and audio communication enabling virtual collaboration and distributed workspaces. One must now self-organise their work day to allow teams to work online towards a deadline.

One aspect of the digital shift is related to technology, but the other aspect has to do with the changing work culture. At NLSIU, students have been

## GURUSPEAK

**“Digital applications are set to transform the legal profession in a big way”**

**- PROF. (DR) SUDHIR KRISHNASWAMY,**  
Vice Chancellor, National Law School of India University, Bengaluru



HEMANT MISHRA

**AIM TO LEAD** Prof. (Dr)  
Krishnaswamy at  
the NLSIU campus

learning in online classrooms for almost 16 months. This virtual education will serve them well in the years to come. In addition to the regular classroom, we have put in place an online method to simulate moot courts and online clinical courses that allow students to prepare for how their workplaces will actually operate. NLSIU students are very privileged to have this opportunity.

Another area that we have been looking into over the past 14 months has been the use of artificial intelligence and machine learning. At NLSIU, we aim to become not just knowledge leaders with the ability to use both computer science and legal knowledge to develop new applications that will seamlessly combine legal knowledge and tech, but we also aim to equip our students with the knowhow of using these applications in new ways so that they are ready for what is likely one of the biggest transformations the legal profession will undergo in the years to come. Another element of change in legal education is the blurring of the line between online off-campus education



**TOP 5 LAW UNIVERSITIES**

RANK 2021	UNIVERSITY	RANK 2020	RANK 2019	RANK 2018
1	NATIONAL LAW SCHOOL OF INDIA UNIVERSITY <i>Bengaluru</i>	1	1	1
2	THE WEST BENGAL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF JURIDICAL SCIENCES, <i>Kolkata</i>	NP*	NP	2
3	NATIONAL LAW INSTITUTE UNIVERSITY, <i>Bhopal</i>	2	2	NP
4	GUJARAT NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, <i>Gandhinagar</i>	3	NP	NP
5	DR RAM MANOHAR LOHIYA NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, <i>Lucknow</i>	4	7	NP

\*NP: Not participated

**5 LAW UNIVERSITIES WITH LOWEST TUITION FEES**

RANK 2021	UNIVERSITY	TUITION FEES
1	THE WEST BENGAL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF JURIDICAL SCIENCES, <i>Kolkata</i>	₹ 68,000
2	DR. RAM MANOHAR LOHIYA NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, <i>Lucknow</i>	₹ 69,000
3	NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY ODISHA, <i>Cuttack</i>	₹ 70,000
4	THE TAMIL NADU DR AMBEDKAR LAW UNIVERSITY, <i>Chennai</i>	₹ 70,200
5	GUJARAT NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, <i>Gandhinagar</i>	₹ 80,000

**5 LAW UNIVERSITIES WITH BEST FACULTY STUDENT RATIO**

RANK 2021	UNIVERSITY	RATIO
1	THE TAMIL NADU DR AMBEDKAR LAW UNIVERSITY, <i>Chennai</i>	1.41
2	DAMODARAM SANJIVAYYA NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, <i>Visakhapatnam</i>	1.39
3	NATIONAL LAW INSTITUTE UNIVERSITY, <i>Bhopal</i>	1.33
4	NATIONAL LAW SCHOOL OF INDIA UNIVERSITY, <i>Bengaluru</i>	1.28
5	THE WEST BENGAL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF JURIDICAL SCIENCES, <i>Kolkata</i>	1.22

Note: LLM student count was taken to calculate the ratio

**5 LAW UNIVERSITIES THAT PRODUCED HIGHEST NO. OF PhDs IN THE PAST 3 YEARS**

RANK 2021	UNIVERSITY	NO. OF STUDENTS
1	NATIONAL LAW SCHOOL OF INDIA UNIVERSITY, <i>Bengaluru</i>	26
2	THE WEST BENGAL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF JURIDICAL SCIENCES, <i>Kolkata</i>	24
3	DR RAM MANOHAR LOHIYA NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, <i>Lucknow</i>	18
4	THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF ADVANCED LEGAL STUDIES, <i>Kochi</i>	9
5	NATIONAL LAW INSTITUTE UNIVERSITY, <i>Bhopal</i>	6

**5 LAW UNIVERSITIES WITH MAXIMUM VICTORIES IN INTER-UNIVERSITY MOOT COURT COMPETITIONS**

RANK 2021	UNIVERSITY	COMPETITIONS WON
1	DR RAM MANOHAR LOHIYA NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, <i>Lucknow</i>	22
2	GUJARAT NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, <i>Gandhinagar</i>	21
3	THE WEST BENGAL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF JURIDICAL SCIENCES, <i>Kolkata</i>	9
4	THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF ADVANCED LEGAL STUDIES, <i>Kochi</i>	5
5	NATIONAL LAW INSTITUTE UNIVERSITY, <i>Bhopal</i>	4
5	NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY ODISHA, <i>Cuttack</i>	4

**STUDENTSPEAK**



“Being a residential campus, NLSIU gives us the opportunity to explore other areas of interest and the campus is always buzzing with cultural activities and moot court competitions which happen very frequently here”

-DIVYA KUMAR GARG, NLSIU student, 2021 batch

and on-campus physical education. Doing quizzes and tests online or collaborative group activities is crucial. This is an area of the new model of legal education that we aim to be leaders in. For us, the online education space is opening up and we hope that in a year or two, we can go from being leaders in off-campus education to ones in online legal education. ■

—As told to Aravind Gowda