

PRESS RELEASE – National Law School of India University, Bengaluru
29TH ANNUAL CONVOCATION
OCTOBER 31, 2021

October 31, 2021: The 29th Annual Convocation of the National Law School of India University was held virtually on Sunday, October 31, 2021. The Convocation was pre-recorded and streamed at 11 am on our website and YouTube channel.

The recorded video of the Convocation ceremony is available [here](#).

Vice Chancellor of NLSIU, Prof (Dr.) Sudhir Krishnaswamy presented his Annual Report and congratulated the faculty, staff and students for ensuring that the Annual Convocation was held on schedule despite the disruptions arising out of the coronavirus pandemic.

He thanked the Chancellor, Honourable Chief Justice of India and Chancellor of the University, Shri N V Ramana, and the Chief Guest, Shri Gopalkrishna Gandhi for their time and effort to ensure a successful virtual Convocation.

Graduates:

This year, 865 students graduated from the various academic programmes of NLSIU. This includes:

4 from the Ph.D Programme

4 from the Master of Philosophy

45 from the Master of Public Policy Programme

46 from the Master of Laws Programme

83 from the Bachelor of Arts and Laws (Honours) Programme and,

683 students from the Distance Education Programmes: This includes the Master of Business Laws Degree and other Postgraduate Diploma off-campus programmes.

Medals & Prizes:

Saarthak Jain who graduated from the B.A. LL.B. (Hons.) programmes received 8 gold medals, followed by Siddhi Gupta and Daksh Kadian, who received 5 and 4 gold medals, respectively. The University conferred 38 gold medals in the B.A. LL.B. (Hons.) programme this year. Sheetal Shinde, graduating from the LL.M. programme received 4 gold medals while Udit Singh and A B Rajasekaran received two medals each.

Rohit Ranjan Rai, graduating from the MPP programme; and Mehak Gupta and Choksi Priyanshi Mitil Nandita from the Distance Education Programme Masters of Business Law received gold medals as well.

The full list of Gold Medal winners is available [here](#).

Inaugural Address and Convocation Report

NLSIU Vice Chancellor Sudhir Krishnaswamy drew attention to the core purpose of the University, which is to be a national and international pioneer in legal education. With the adoption of the Inclusion and Expansion plan, the University is set to

- Increase student intake while implementing a new inclusion policy
- Expand faculty and research capabilities through recruitments
- Secure additional land from the Government of Karnataka to expand the campus

Counting the university's initiatives in this endeavour, he spoke about how NLSIU has recruited nearly 20 exceptional faculty with graduate and doctoral degrees from the best Universities around the world in the last two years. "Further, we've engaged over a 100 visiting faculty from the legal profession and academics from across the world to diversify the intellectual and educational experience at the University. These efforts have already brought fresh perspectives, rigour and diligence to the academic programmes at the University. We will continue to recruit and grow our core and visiting faculty pool in the years ahead and are committed to ensuring that NLSIU remains the first institution of choice for the most talented and committed faculty in India and beyond," he said.

Launching the three-year LL.B programme

Speaking about the NLSIU legacy, he said, "In 1988, the University was launched on the back of an audacious curricular experiment - the five-year integrated B.A. LL.B (Hons.) programme. This experiment succeeded beyond expectations and secured NLSIU's legacy as the institution that incubated and radically disrupted legal education in India."

Today, three decades later, Dr. Krishnaswamy announced the launch of a new interdisciplinary three-year LL.B embedded in an experiential learning pedagogy. The University has secured the necessary regulatory approvals from the regulatory authorities as well as the governing bodies to launch this programme. "The inaugural batch will begin their education in July 2022, and will help re-energize and transform postgraduate legal education across India in the years ahead. We have assembled the best faculty team to redevelop India's oldest law degree and we invite the brightest and the best graduates from any discipline to join us as we set out to radically transform legal education yet again!" he said.

The full Convocation Report is available [here](#).

Convocation Address

The 29th Annual Convocation coincides with the 75th year celebrations of India's freedom from colonial rule. This Convocation celebrates this historic milestone by inviting Shri Gopalkrishna Gandhi as our Chief Guest.

Shri Gopalkrishna Gandhi read for a degree in English Literature and History at St Stephen's College, Delhi University. He entered the prestigious Indian Administrative Service where he served in several positions in Tamil Nadu and New Delhi including as Secretary to the President of India from 1997 to 2000, and as Founder Director of the Nehru Centre in the High Commission of India in London. Subsequently he served as the High Commissioner for India in South Africa and Lesotho, Sri Lanka and Ambassador of India to Norway and Iceland. He was appointed as the Governor of West Bengal from 2004 to 2009.

He was the first recipient of Dr. S. Radhakrishnan Centenary Award for Excellence in the field of Social Sciences by the University of Mysore in 2016. He was conferred the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award for Excellence in Public Administration, Academics and Management by the Lal Bahadur Shastri Institute of Management, Delhi in 2016. In 2018 he was awarded the Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavana Award for outstanding contribution towards promotion of communal harmony, national integration and peace. In Spring 2020 Shri Gandhi was a Fellow at the Centre for Contemporary South Asia, Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, Brown University.

Addressing the graduating students at the ceremony, he spoke about respect for the law and the importance of fairness, balance, and cultivating *nambikkai* (trust). "Finding the pulse of *nyaaya* (justice) is your task graduating students. If you face it with respect, you will go miles." he said.