SPECIAL ISSUE

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Cover by NILANJAN DAS

CLARIFICATION: A caption in our feature 'Demographic Downside' (May 7) indicated that some elderly residents of Sobha Hermitage in Kerala were being charged for accommodation and services. In fact, the 11 remaining senior citizens housed at this institution are looked after entirely free of cost. The error is regretted.



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NATIONAL LAW SCHOOL OF

SCALES OF JUSTICE

Legal education is at a crossroads today. Skillsets and knowledge have to factor in the demands of a transforming society and a globalising system of governance

By N.R. Madhava Menon



NATIONAL LAW SCHOOL OF INDIA UNIVERSITY

Bengaluru

WEST BENGAL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF JURIDICAL **SCIENCES**

Kolkata

3 SYMBIOSIS LAW SCHOOL

4 ILS LAW COLLEGE

Pune

J FACULTY OF LAW, BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY

Varanasi

6 AMITY LAW SCHOOL DELHI

7 FACULTY OF LAW, **ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY** Aligarh

NEW LAW COLLEGE

9 FACULTY OF LAW, JAMIA MILLIA ISLAMIA UNIVERSITY, New Delhi

10 SCHOOL OF LAW, CHRIST (DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY) Bengaluru



SANDESH RAVIKUMAR

ndia will celebrate 75 years as a democratic republic under rule of law in 2025. The constitutional vision projected in the preamble will be a reference point to measure the progress made and the distance yet to be covered. The role of law, lawyers and legal institutions in national reconstruction and socioeconomic justice will naturally be assessed in this journey. It is in this context that the National Knowledge Commission (2007) report articulated the goals of legal education to include "justice-oriented education directed to the realisation of values enshrined in the Constitution of India". The report further said, "Legal education must aim at preparing legally qualified persons who will play decisive leadership roles, not only as advocates practising in courts, but also as legislators, policy makers, public officials, academics, civil society activists... maintaining highest standards of professional ethics and a spirit of public service."

SETTING THE AGENDA

A few things are obvious from the above finding of the National Knowledge Commission Report. Firstly, legal education is supposed to be both a private

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professional institutions (those with the capacity to prepare legal practitioners or graduates ready to practise law) from those which prepare students for academic degrees for spreading legal awareness or for different jobs in government and private sectors, there is no hope for a real breakthrough in improving standards of professional legal studies.

The Madras High Court, through a reasoned judgment in 2016, has asked the Bar Council of India to acknowledge this distinction and concentrate only on institutions which have the capacity to prepare professionals. These professional colleges, the court said, have to be selective in their admission policies, rigorous in their instructional programmes and globally competitive in setting standards and performance assessment. Neither the regulator nor the government seems inclined to take necessary steps to reform the regulatory system evolved in the 1960s under the Advocates Act, not realising the damage it causes to the development agenda and the barriers it puts to providing justice to the defenceless.

TEACHER EXCELLENCE

In the final analysis, standards and excellence in professional education are directly proportional to the calibre and commitment of the teacher, the kingpin in the entire edifice. Unfortunately, there is no system in place to produce excellent law teachers who can not only inspire students on the intellectual challenges in legal practice but also prepare them to be practice-ready when they pass out. Post-graduate legal education is in a total shambles. Every other law college offers LLM courses which contain nothing more than what is already provided in the degree programme! Naturally, meritorious LLB graduates do not care to opt for post-graduate studies which make them eligible to become a teacher.

A proposal was made by a committee appointed by the University Grants Commission in 2012 to make LLM a one-year programme (as it is in developed

WHAT'S NEW IN THE CAMPUS

> For the first time in the 30-year history of the National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Bengaluru, the undergraduate council is headed by an institute alumnus (Prof. Rabut Singhi

- Academic honours for 20 students for emerging toppers in their classes. a first-time initiative to motivate students
- Maintained its winning streak in international moot court competitions. such as Jessuo and Manfred Lachs

≥ NLSIU is pioneering

a consortium of law schools across the country to pool talent and resources apart from exchange learnings and research work

> Focusing on emerging issues, like cyber security, internet privacy. artificial intelligence. DNA profiling and genetic engineering

GURUSPEAK



"THE NLSIU BELIEVES IN CONTINUOUS EXPERIMEN-TATION AND INNOVATION. ANY ACHIEVEMENT IS MEANINGLESS ONCE WE ACHIEVE IT. THEREFORE. WE PURSUE EXCELLENCE IN WHATEVER WE DO. CONSISTENT EFFORTS BY STAKEHOLDERS OF THE INSTITUTE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR SHAPING NUSIU INTO THE BEST IN THE COUNTRY"

PROF. (DR) R. VENKATA RAO. VICE-CHANCELLOR, NLSIU

WITH BEST AVERAGE ANNUAL SALARY

RANK	COLLEGE
	NATIONAL LAW SCHOOL OF INDIA UNIVERSITY, Bengeluru
	WEST BENGAL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF JURIDICAL SCIENCES, Kolkata
3	SYMBIOSIS LAW SCHOOL, Pune
4.	ILS LAW COLLEGE, Pune
5	ARMY INSTITUTE OF LAW, Mohali

AVG SALARY	GOVT	PVT	OVERALL			
OFFERED AT TOP 10 COLLEGES (P.A.)	₹7,28,800	₹7,12,656	₹7,20,728			
AVG SALARY OFFERED AT TOP 25 COLLEGES	₹ 7,06,286	₹5,12,627	₹5,66,851			

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VALUE FOR MONEY IN

TOP COLLEGES

RANK	COLLEGE	TUITION FEE (₹) FOR FULL COURSE	AVERAGE ANNUAL SALARY (₹)
	NATIONAL LAW SCHOOL OF INDIA UNIVERSITY, Bengaluru	6,30,000	14,50,000
17	WEST BENGAL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF JURIDICAL SCIENCES, Kolkata	7,32,000	13,00,000
	SYMBIOSIS LAW SCHOOL, Pune	11,75,000	9,60,000
Q.	ILS LAW COLLEGE, Pune	45,000	8,02,000
6	FACULTY OF LAW, BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY, Varanasi	6,846	N/A

TOP COLLEGES

WITH BEST VALUE FOR MONEY

RANK	COLLEGE	RETURN ON INVESTMENT
1	FACULTY OF LAW, BANARAS HINDU University, Varanesi	87.64
To the second	SOUTH CALCUTTA LAW COLLEGE, Kolkata	32
6	FACULTY OF LAW, JAMIA MILLIA ISLAMIA UNIVERSITY, New Delh:	26.73
4	ILS LAW COLLEGE, Pune	17.82
10 B	INSTITUTE OF LAW, KURUKSHETRA UNIVERSITY, Kurukshetra	14

* Rol (return on investment) is calculated based on average annual salary/tuition fees for entire course

countries), to be offered in select law schools declared eligible for the purpose by UGC. Instead of teaching substantive law, the course content will include curriculum development, syllabus and teaching plan preparation, multiple ways of law teaching, research methods and legal writing, supervision and performance assessment of student learning, organising co-curricular activities and extension services, law school administration and

TEACHERS MUST **USE CLINICAL** METHODS OF TEACH-ING LAW IF THEY WANT STUDENTS TO BE PRACTICE-READY

writing a thesis of publishable standard. Naturally, instruction in the LLM programme has to be through clinical and experiential learning methods. In fact, the panel recommended that the degree awarded should be 'LLM in Teaching and Research' rather than LLM in any branch of substantive law.

For those already in service, a oneyear 'Diploma in Teaching and Research' with an equivalent curriculum offered by the recognised law schools can address the problem to some extent. Without such a two-pronged strategy, legal education will remain largely academic without the law graduates becoming practice-ready when they enrol with the bar councils. Today, teachers in many colleges are not able to teach except through conventional lecture methods which are ineffective for skills training. And lawyering is about problem-solving which is skills-based and justice-oriented. Teachers have to employ clinical methods of teaching law if they want their students to be practice-ready.

MAKING LAW GRADUATES PRACTICE-READY

Legal practice is a private enterprise and lawyers are self-employed professionals offering services in the legal market. But today it is not what was obtained in the country in the last century. On the one hand, the "rights revolution" has forced legal changes in the accepted standards of relationship between individuals and the state as well as between individuals themselves generating demand for legal services of a different variety and quality. On the other, economic liberalisation and technological developments have introduced multiple legal regimes of the kind unknown in the past, creating knowledge and skill deficits. Legal education is largely untouched by these developments, partly because of the mindset of regulators and partly due to the inability of the teachers to rise up to the challenges with an innovative contemporary curriculum.

The objects of the clinical (practical training) component in the LLB cur-

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riculum are to impart the essential skills, attributes and ethics to students who want to a make a career in the ever-expanding field of law governance and administration of justice. Increasingly, mediators, conciliators and arbitrators are more in demand than litigators. Anticipating the demand, Parliament amended in 2006 the civil and criminal procedure codes providing for negotiated settlement of civil and criminal cases. But the law schools continue instruction in the traditional model. Lawyers and law firms recruiting law graduates have to spend considerable time and resources to train them again for the job. Students from lawyer families find their way through professional connections and support systems; others either drop out and seek other jobs or adopt unethical practices to survive in the profession.

Language and communication skills are part of the basic equipment of a lawyer and they are part of the problem with legal education today. Besides proficiency in English, lawyers have to be competent to deal with legal transactions in the vernacular where he or she practises. Use of simple and plain language unambiguously expressing the idea in legal transactions must be cultivated in the five years at law school for which the curriculum must be restructured, whatever the costs.

Problem-solving in legal practice, inter alia, involves a bundle of skills like gathering evidence to prove facts, drafting and conveyancing of documents, negotiating agreements in a manner advantageous to the party, selecting legal provisions relevant to the issue and interpreting them appropriately, seeking alternative strategies to address the problem for the parties to make an informed decision and acquiring advocacy skills that are persuasive. To be successful, lawyers also have to be critical consumers of knowledge outside law, particularly from the domain of science and technology. All these demands make legal education intellectually stimulating but organisationally challenging. This awareness, alas, is lacking among most legal educators.

It is possible to make Indian legal education world-class, if resources permit

ZONE-WISE TOP 3 PRIVATE COLLEGES

NORTH	NATIONAL RANK
AMITY LAW SCHOOL DELHI, Noida	6
ARMY INSTITUTE OF LAW, Mohali	12
LLOYO LAW COLLEGE, Greater Noida	16
EAST	
KIIT SCHOOL OF LAW, Bhubaneswar	19
ICFAI LAW SCHOOL, Agartala	28
BENGAL LAW COLLEGE, Boipur	30
SOUTH	
SCHOOL OF LAW, CHRIST, Bengaluru	10
M.S. RAMAIAH COLLEGE OF LAW, Bengaluru	13
DR B.R. AMBEDKAR COLLEGE OF LAW, Visakhapatnam	14
WEST	
SYMBIOSIS LAW SCHOOL, Pune	3
LS LAW COLLEGE, Pung	4
NEW LAW COLLEGE, Pune	8

Note: The above tables were prepared based on objective data submitted by the colleges

and the freedom to innovate is made available to the academic legal community. One essential input is already available-a steady supply of highly talented students who still join law schools in preference to other professional studies. The second input is a body of brilliant legal educators. An innovative curriculum with emphasis on skills, attitudes and ethics can be organised with the collective efforts of teachers who want to transform legal education into justice education. A lawyer incubation clinic will also be a good addition in the law school organisation. The system should also ensure that every graduate is exposed to the legal services needs of the marginalised sections. A year-long service in rural/tribal areas for fresh graduates in pro bono work and public interest/legal aid/develop-

ment lawyering is a good idea to be adopted. This can help imbibe social responsibility and professional ethics dimensions in legal practice in the context of denial of justice to the poor and marginalised in Indian society.

Legal education in a constitutional democracy is an essential public good. The profession must exist for the people, and not for the markets alone. As such, legal education should not be left just to the private sector to manage with little investment from the state. There is need for a public sector in the legal profession if the constitutional dream of "justice, social, economic and political" is to be secured for every citizen in equal measure.

> The writer is a renowned legal luminary and educationist

LAW / TOP 40 COLLEGES



OVERALL RANK 2018	NAME OF COLLEGE	INTAKE QUALITY & GOVERNANCE	ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE	INFRASTRUC- TURE & LIVING EXPERIENCE	PERSONALITY & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT	CAREER Progression & Placement	OBJECTIVE SCORE	PERCEPTU- AL SCORE	OVERALL SCORE
2010		210	300	180	240	270	1,200	800	2,000
1	NATIONAL LAW SCHOOL OF INDIA UNIVERSITY, BERGALORO	183.4	244.5	162.1	216.5	249.2	1055.7	780	1,835.7
2	WEST BENGAL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF JURIDICAL SCIENCES,	156	241.4	162.4	177.4	233	970.2	708.4	1,678.6
3	SYMBIOSIS LAW SCHOOL, PHKE	141.1	203	161.1	194.9	228.7	928.8	725.1	1,653.9
4	ILS LAW COLLEGE, PONE	177.1	209.5	148.4	170.3	211.9	917.2	730.3	1,647.5
5	FACULTY OF LAW, BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY, VARANASI	167.3	207.9	149.7	161.8	172.1	858.8	693.2	1,552
6	AMITY LAW SCHOOL DELHI, NOEDA	146.4	202.1	140.2	166.4	206.9	862	657.2	1,519.2
7	FACULTY OF LAW, ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY, ALIGARH	145.3	208.6	152.3	194.9	168.8	869.9	628.5	1,498.4
8	NEW LAW COLLEGE, PUNE, PUNE	136.6	193.4	138.7	165.3	207.5	841.5	603.1	1,444.6
9	FACULTY OF LAW, JAMIA MILLIA ISLAMIA UNIVERSITY, NEW DEERS	130.4	199.6	161.9	179.6	135.1	806.6	636	1,442.6
10	SCHOOL OF LAW, CHRIST, BENGALURU	134.2	187.7	167.4	166.8	170.8	826.9	561.1	1,388
11	FACULTY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF LUCKNOW, LUCKNOW	141	184.8	140.4	135.1	186.6	787.9	598.3	1,386.2
12	ARMY. INSTITUTE OF LAW, MOHAEL	133.8	206.6	143.5	153.5	168.1	805.5	476.4	1,281.9
13	M.S. RAMAIAH COLLEGE OF LAW, BENGALERU	117.9	141.7	145.7	142.6	140.8	688.7	589	1,277.7
14	DR B.R. AMBEDKAR COLLEGE OF LAW, VISAKHAPATHAM	142.4	169.4	138.3	152.7	171.1	773.9	502.5	1,276.4
15	ICFAI LAW SCHOOL, NYDERABAD	123.8	196.9	154	171.1	156.2	802	474.3	1,276.3



)VERALL SCORE

,835.7

,678.6

,653.9

,647.5

1,552

,519.2

444.6

386.2

281.9

276.4

276.3

LAW / TOP 40 COLLEGES

OVERALL RANK 2018	NAME OF COLLEGE	INTAKE QUALITY & GOVERNANCE	ACADEMIC Excellence	INFRASTRUC- TURE & LIVING EXPERIENCE	PERSONALITY & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT	CAREER PROGRESSION & PLACEMENT	OBJECTIVE SCORE	PERCEPTU- AL SCORE	OVERALL SCORE
16	LLOYD LAW COLLEGE, GREATER WOODA	131.6	193.4	137.6	188.3	169.1	820.0	445.7	1265.7
17	INSTITUTE OF LAW, KURUKSHETRA UNIVERSITY, KURUKSHETRA	127.6	130.2	130.3	126.0	183.7	697.8	567.3	1265.1
18	CMR LAW SCHOOL, BANGALORE	124.0	181.0	155.4	163.0	138.8	762.2	477.3	1239.5
19	KHT SCHOOL OF LAW, BHUBANESWAR	129.9	179.3	150.3	164.0	161.8	785.3	423.5	1208.8
20	INDORE INSTITUTE OF LAW, IMPORE	118.2	173.4	134.6	160.7	171.1	758.0	446.0	1204.0
21	SDM LAW COLLEGE, MANGALORE	145.4	159.2	106.5	170.1	128.8	710.0	445.3	1155.3
22	V.M. SALGAOCAR COLLEGE OF LAW, PANAJI	126.7	159.6	94.3	107.0	163.3	650.9	477.7	1128.6
23	ICFAI LAW SCHOOL, DEHRADUN, DEBRADUN	140.7	178.0	142.1	108.3	100.0	669.1	450.6	1119.7
24	BANGALORE INSTITUTE OF LEGAL STUDIES, BANGALORE	146.9	90.4	116.0	85.1	158.3	596.7	461.1	1057.8
25	K.L.E. SOCIETY'S LAW COLLEGE, BANGALORE	129.7	134.6	127.7	122.2	173.5	687.7	321.2	1008.9
26	SCHOOL OF LAW, IMS UNISON UNIVERSITY, DEHRADDR	127.6	178.3	134.7	145.9	163.8	750.3	232.4	982.7
27	MANIKCHAND PAHADE LAW COLLEGE, AURANGABAD	124.1	153.8	118.2	96.8	137.4	630.3	323.3	953.6
28	ICFAI LAW SCHOOL, TRIPURA, AGARTALA	109.3	138.2	148.1	166.7	23.9	586.2	326.7	912.9
29	LAW COLLEGE DEHRADUN, UTTARANCHAL UNIVERSITY, DEHRABUN	147.7	181.1	133.1	144.8	165.7	772.4	69.5	841.9
30	BENGAL LAW COLLEGE, BOLFUR	130.2	65.2	122.6	101.0	114.0	533.0	306.8	839.8
31	SOUTH CALCUTTA LAW COLLEGE, KOLKATA	122.4	105.8	92.0	51.5	164.1	535.8	286.8	822.6
32	SEEDLING SCHOOL OF LAW & GOVERNANCE, JAIPUR NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, JAIPUR	130.0	186.3	150.4	157.6	155.9	780.2	0.0	780.2
33	CHANDER PRABHU JAIN COLLEGE OF HIGHER STUDIES & SCHOOL OF LAW, NEW DELHI	134.8	175.3	112.1	144.8	157.8	724.8	0.0	724.8
34	MODERN LAW COLLEGE, PUME	128.0	152.0	119.5	140.9	178.1	718.5	0.0	718.5
35	GEETA INSTITUTE OF LAW, PARIPAT	116.3	151.9	144.6	146.5	122.8	682.1	0.0	682.1
36	ST. SOLDIER LAW COLLEGE, JALANDHAR	102.4	128.5	127.1	136.6	159.8	654.4	0.0	654.4
37	SINHGAD LAW COLLEGE, PUNE	125.6	124.9	131.6	100.0	151.0	633.1	0.0	633.1
38	S.A. MANVI LAW COLLEGE, GADAG	125.2	101.0	131.6	101.9	116.6	576.3	0.0	576.3
39	VAIKUNTA BALIGA COLLEGE OF LAW, UOUP!	125.9	114.7	126.7	135.1	50.7	553.1	0.0	553.1
40	DEPARTMENT OF LAW, MAHARISHI MARKANDESHWAR (DEEMED UNIVERSITY), AMBALA	88.9	137.6	150.5	96.3	40.5	513.8	0.0	513.8

NB: Institutes like NALSAR, Hyderabad; NLU, Delhi; GNLU, Gandhinagar; NLU, Jodhpur; Faculty of Law, Delhi University did not submit objective data on time or refused to participate. All scores have been rounded off to one decimal place. Those colleges not ranked during perceptual survey have got nil marks for perceptual score