

PRESS RELEASE OF THE SIXTH ANNUAL CONVOCATION-2019

NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY ODISHA

The Sixth Annual Convocation of the students of National Law University, Odisha (NLU Odisha) was held on 19 October 2019 at the Amphitheatre of National Law University Odisha, Cuttack. Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.M. Khanwilkar, Judge of the Supreme Court of India and Visitor NLU Odisha presided over the occasion and delivered the Presidential Address. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Kalpesh Satyendar Jhaveri, Chief Justice of Odisha High Court and Chancellor, NLU Odisha awarded the degrees and also addressed the gathering. Sitting Judges of High Court of Orissa, Senior Advocates, Judicial Officers were among the other dignitaries present.

A total of **152** graduands were awarded degrees, including 2 Ph.D. candidates, 41 LLM candidates, and 109 from undergraduate courses – 50 and 59 candidates respectively from the BA LLB (Hons.) and BBA LLB (Hons.) streams. A total number of 20 gold medals were given to the students in the convocation this year.

The Convocation Address was delivered by Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.M. Khanwilkar, Judge of the Supreme Court of India and Visitor NLU Odisha and Chief Guest for the occasion. Hon'ble Justice began his speech by congratulating all the awardees of graduate, post graduate and doctoral degrees and awardees of different medals for their achievements while acknowledging their hard work and dedication towards achieving the same.

Hon'ble Justice then acknowledged the remarkable achievements of National Law University Odisha, Cuttack in its decade of existence amongst the Indian Universities in imparting legal education and the fact that the achievement of the university had been recognised by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council which awarded the University 'A' grade and that the University Grants Commission in 2018 granted graded autonomy status by including NLU Odisha among the 62 other Universities in India imparting education. Hon'ble Justice also praised the fact that University had secured third rank by India Today Ranking for the second consecutive year. He congratulated the faculty, staff and students for all their achievements and making NLU Odisha as a centre of excellence in legal education.

Hon'ble Justice then went to highlight the achievements of National Law University Odisha in marking its existence beyond the borders of India. Hon'ble Justice highlighted the fact that the university had been performing tremendously well in international moot court competitions like the prestigious Philip C. Jessup and that the university had entered into MOUs with various foreign universities and praised the effective legal aid and access to justice programme of the university and the fact that the university is the only law university to join the Unnat Bharat

Abhiyan Initiative. Hon'ble Justice then went on to predict that in a few years National Law University Odisha would be amongst the top National Law Universities in the country.

Hon'ble Justice then gave his heartfelt tribute to Late Prof. N.R. Madhav Menon, calling him as the father of modern legal education and highlighted his contribution for laying down strong foundation for the National Law University movements in India. Hon'ble Justice then went on to highlight the fact that coincidentally most of the leaders of India's struggle for freedom were lawyers. He remembered the contribution of Mahatma Gandhi for independence and his non-violent struggle laying the foundation for Rule of Law in India. Hon'ble Justice asked the gathering to pledge in this 150th year of birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi to free India of ignorance, injustice, oppression, hatred, violence and bloodshed.

Hon'ble Justice then recollected and shared an event, when the time had come to select an official song for NLSIU and later for NUJS, Late Prof. Menon opted for Rabindranath Tagore's great poem, "Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high". Hon'ble Justice said that nothing else could better elucidate the aim of legal education and role of lawyers in the society. Hon'ble Justice then highlighted the responsibility of legal education and legal profession to ensure that 'the clear stream of reason' does not lose 'its way into the dreary desert sand of dead habit' and the world does not get 'broken up into fragments by narrow domestic walls'. Hon'ble Justice said that it was only possible when there is freedom to attain, exchange and impart knowledge, information and opinion and 'words come out from the depth of truth'.

Towards the conclusion of his address, Hon'ble Justice congratulated all the degree holders for their remarkable achievements and encouraged them to serve their nation as fellow human beings and expressed that India would remain awake into that heaven of freedom' that our great predecessors not only dreamt of but also established for us so that our minds remain without fear and our head is held high.. Hon'ble Justice then concluded his address by congratulating the graduating students, wishing them luck for their future endeavours.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Kalpesh Satyendar Jhaveri, Chief Justice of Odisha High Court and Chancellor, NLU Odisha heartily welcomed Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.M. Khanwilkar, Judge of the Supreme Court of India and Visitor NLU Odisha. Hon'ble Justice then congratulated all the graduating students for their hard work and perseverance and their parents for their support and acknowledged the journey of students in law school and the way they pursue their passion in diverse fields. Hon'ble Justice then recognised the achievements of the university in mooted competitions, research works and in field of sports and cultural activities. Hon'ble Justice expressed his pride in being the Chancellor to the university which holds a multi-talented profile. He then mentioned about the tireless efforts put in by all the members of the institution in fostering the unparalleled development of the university.

Hon'ble Justice emphasised about the toughness of the outside world and motivated the students to face the same and leave a legacy behind for the upcoming batches to admire. Hon'ble Justice also advised the students that it was important to remember to contribute to the society through their work and actions. Hon'ble Justice reiterated that, "there is no substitute to hard work" and that "there are no short cuts to success". Hon'ble Justice cautioned the students about the challenges that lie ahead in the field of law. Hon'ble Justice concluded his address by conveying his best wishes to the whole staff of National Law University Odisha for maintaining the university and congratulated the proud parents and conferred blessings upon the graduating students for their future endeavours.

The Hon'ble Vice Chancellor began his address by congratulating the graduates for their accomplishments in their journey with the University and to their proud families as well. He wished them happiness and joy for their future life. Hon'ble Vice Chancellor then expressed his contentment on the auspicious occasion of completion of 10 years of NLUO and quoted Late, Prof. N.R. Madhava Menon, founder of National Law University, saying that "Buildings, mortar will not make any institution great. It is the committed and dedicated group of teachers, students, staff and enabling academic environment of learning." Hon'ble Vice Chancellor then gave his heartfelt tribute to Late Prof. N.R. Madhav Menon, the father of modern legal education and highlighted his contribution for laying down strong foundation for the National Law University movements in India.

Hon'ble Vice Chancellor then highlighted the major events the University hosted in the year 2018-2019 such as the First Nani Palkhivala Memorial Lecture delivered by Hon'ble Mr. Justice C K Thakker, Former Judge, Supreme Court of India. The achievements of students of the University were then brought to light by the Vice Chancellor. These varied from the excellent performance of students in the prestigious Jessup International Moot court competition to their exemplary performance at various other international moot competition such as Oxford Price Media and the 11th NUJS HSF Corporate Law Moot Court Competition. Hon'ble Vice Chancellor further focused on the University's attempt to develop research culture and peer group learning through several workshops and training programmes such as the recent publication by Centre for International Trade Law in collaboration with Cambridge Scholars Press on Trade Facilitation and the WTO.

Hon'ble Vice Chancellor acknowledged the various National and International Collaborations of the University Centres such as the 'National Conference on Animal & Environmental Welfare' organized by Society for the Advancement of Animal and Environmental Welfare of NLUO in collaboration with the prestigious Humane Society International. Hon'ble Vice Chancellor briefed about the University's centered approach to cater the unmet legal needs under which the University has adopted 5 villages and regularly conducts legal awareness and sensitization programmes and its participation in Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, the flagship program of Ministry of Human Resources Development, Government of India. Hon'ble Vice Chancellor then emphasized

on the paralegal program which was first started by NLUO and introduced the Bachelor of Vocational Education Program (B.VoC) inspired by the success of the former. Hon'ble Vice Chancellor concluded his address by congratulating the new graduates and of their growth in the past five years and encouraged them to embrace a sense of responsibility towards the society and to chase their dreams. He regarded this day as the beginning of a new beginning in their lives.

Out of the **20** gold medals, NLU Odisha has instituted six, while various dignitaries of the legal fraternity have donated the remaining twelve. **Mr. Yash Dubey** received the **highest number** of gold medals- **six** gold medals. He was awarded the **M.L. Mitra Memorial Gold Medal** for first rank in B.B.A L.L.B (Hons.), **SKS Juris Legal Group Gold Medal, Ras Behari Ray Gold Medal, State Bank of India Gold Medal, Nisamoni Devi and Bhagabat Charan Mohanty Memorial Gold Medal and the Smart Chip Gold Medal.**

Mr. Akash Srinivasan was awarded **three** gold medals - **University Gold Medal** for second rank in BBA LLB (Hons.), **Shri Bichitrananda Mahanty Memorial Gold Medal** for All-Round Male Student and **Shri Gagan Bihari Das Memorial Gold Medal.**

Ms. Sanchita Kumari was awarded **two** gold medals - **University Gold Medal** for third rank in BBA LLB (Hons.) and The **Smt. Pavani Eswara Lakshmi Memorial Gold Medal** for being the girl with the highest score in BA LLB (Hons.)/BBA LLB (Hons.).

Ms. Ishita Saboo was awarded **two** gold medals- **University Gold Medal** for second rank in BA LLB (Hons.) and The **University Gold Medal** for Highest Score in Intellectual Property Laws in the B.B.A., LL.B. (Hons.) / B.A., LL.B. (Hons.) Degree.

Ms. Divya Rathore was awarded **two** gold medals- The **Ananta Misra & Annapurna Misra Gold Medal** for Best All-Round Female Student and **Satyakamal Memorial Gold Medal** for Highest Score in Personal Law in the B.B.A., LL.B. (Hons.) / B.A., LL.B. (Hons.) Degree.

The **University Gold Medal** for first rank in LL.M was to **Ms. Apala Goswami.** The **Dinabandhu Sahu Memorial Trust** for first rank in BA LLB (Hons.) was awarded to **Ms. Shreya Singh.** The **University Gold Medal** for third rank in BA LLB (Hons.) was awarded to **Ms. Arpita Tripathi.** The **Madhusudan Mohanty Memorial Gold Medal** for outstanding leadership was awarded to **Ms. Mamta Jain.** The **Ritwik Das Memorial Gold Medal** for outstanding performance in outdoor sports was awarded to **Ms. Apoorva Singh Parihar.**

The Registrar of NLU Odisha Dr. Yogesh Pratap Singh, a host of dignitaries from the legal fraternity, parents of students, staff of NLUO were also present in the occasion.
