



सत्ये स्थितो धर्मः

POST-EVENT PRESS RELEASE OF THE THIRTEENTH CONVOCATION-2026

National Law University, Odisha

On 12 September 2026 National Law University Odisha (NLUO) held its Thirteenth Convocation at the Amphitheatre of the University campus in Cuttack, marking an important milestone in the academic journey of 246 graduating students.

The Convocation was attended by several distinguished members of the legal and academic fraternity, including:

- Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dipankar Datta, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Visitor, NLUO
- Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sheel Nagu, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Member of the General Council, NLUO
- Hon'ble Mr. Justice Harish Tandon, Chief Justice, High Court of Orissa, Cuttack and Chancellor, NLUO
- Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay V. Gangapurwala, Former Chief Justice, Madras High Court
- Hon'ble Dr. Justice Sanjeeb Kumar Panigrahi, Judge, High Court of Orissa, Cuttack
- Hon'ble Miss Justice Savitri Ratho, Judge, High Court of Orissa, Cuttack
- Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mruganka Sekhar Sahoo, Judge, High Court of Orissa, Cuttack
- Hon'ble Mr. Justice Radha Krishna Pattanaik, Judge, High Court of Orissa, Cuttack
- Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sashikanta Mishra, Judge, High Court of Orissa, Cuttack
- Hon'ble Mr. Justice Aditya Kumar Mohapatra, Judge, High Court of Orissa, Cuttack
- Hon'ble Mr. Justice V. Narasingh, Judge, High Court of Orissa, Cuttack
- Hon'ble Mr. Justice Biraja Prasanna Satapathy, Judge, High Court of Orissa, Cuttack
- Hon'ble Mr. Justice Murahari Sri Raman, Judge, High Court of Orissa, Cuttack
- Hon'ble Shri Justice Sanjay Kumar Mishra, Judge, High Court of Orissa, Cuttack
- Hon'ble Mr. Justice Gourishankar Satapathy, Judge, High Court of Orissa, Cuttack
- Hon'ble Mr. Justice Chittaranjan Dash, Judge, High Court of Orissa, Cuttack
- Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sibho Sankar Mishra, Judge, High Court of Orissa, Cuttack
- Sri Pitambar Acharya, Hon'ble Advocate General of Odisha
- Shri Sitanshu Mohan Dwibedy, Chairman, Odisha State Bar Council

- Prof. (Dr.) Srikrishna Deva Rao, Vice-Chancellor, NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad
- Prof. (Dr.) R. Venkata Rao, Vice-Chancellor, IIULER, Goa and Chief Guest
- Prof. (Dr.) C.S. Patil, Director, Karnataka Institute for Law and Parliamentary Reform
- Prof. (Dr.) K. Vidyullatha Reddy, Vice-Chancellor, NLUO
- Prof. (Dr.) Rangin Pallav Tripathy, Registrar, NLUO

The Convocation was led by Prof. (Dr.) K. Vidyullatha Reddy, Vice-Chancellor, NLUO, who welcomed the gathering and presented the Report of the University. Prof. (Dr.) Rangin Pallav Tripathy, Registrar, NLUO, officiated the proceedings.

In her Welcome Address, Prof. (Dr.) K. Vidyullatha Reddy, Vice-Chancellor, NLUO, presented the Annual Report of the University, highlighting NLUO's key achievements, academic developments and institutional milestones over the past year. She thereafter welcomed the distinguished dignitaries and congratulated the graduating students. Emphasising that true excellence must be rooted in humanity, integrity, empathy and compassion, she urged the graduates to uphold justice, constitutional values and ethical standards, and to use their legal education for a larger social purpose. She also acknowledged the contribution of teachers and the University in shaping the students' journey and expressed gratitude to the Government of Odisha for its generous support.

Prof. (Dr.) R. Venkata Rao, Vice-Chancellor, IIULER, Goa, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and delivered the Convocation Address. In his Convocation Address, Prof. (Dr.) R. Venkata Rao, Vice-Chancellor, IIULER, Goa, thanked the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. (Dr.) K. Vidyullatha Reddy, and greeted the distinguished dignitaries and graduating students. Describing students as being closest to his heart, he expressed his delight at addressing the Convocation and reminded graduates that life beyond university would bring both opportunities and challenges. Reflecting on NLUO's remarkable journey, he praised its transformation into a vibrant residential campus and encouraged students to build their lives on the principles of passion, dedication, commitment to society, and an enduring spirit of curiosity and enthusiasm. He also advised the graduates to use social media responsibly and concluded by urging them to cultivate thoughtful, meaningful and reasoned ideas that would positively shape society.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Harish Tandon, Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court and Chancellor of NLUO, delivered the Chancellor's Address and conferred the degrees upon the graduating students. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dipankar Datta, Judge of the Supreme Court of India and Visitor, NLUO, delivered the Visitor's Address.

In his Chancellor's Address, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Harish Tandon, Chief Justice of the High Court of Orissa and Chancellor, NLUO, greeted the distinguished dignitaries and expressed his gratitude to the State of Odisha, where he spent the first 21 years of his life and received his foundational education. He congratulated the graduating students and described the occasion as a moment of immense pride,

expressing his hope that they would achieve greater heights in the years ahead. Addressing the graduates, he urged them never to disappoint the “three mothers” in their lives, their mother who gave them birth, the mother who helped them stand on their own feet, and Mother India, which nurtures and sustains them. He called upon the students to take a pledge to remain grateful to these sources of support and to become not merely successful professionals, but good human beings, emphasising that true service to society requires both a functioning mind and a compassionate heart. He urged the graduates to use their knowledge and skills to contribute meaningfully to society.

In his address, Hon’ble Mr. Justice Dipankar Datta, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Visitor, NLUO, greeted the distinguished dignitaries and congratulated the graduating students, faculty and their families. Reflecting on the significance of a Convocation, he described it as a day to take pride in one’s accomplishments while also marking the beginning of a new journey. He reminded the graduates that the professional world would present new challenges and encouraged them to compete with themselves rather than with others, maintain a positive attitude towards their work and embrace emerging technologies responsibly. Speaking on the growing role of AI, he stressed that its responsible use must be accompanied by discipline, which he described through the ten letters of the word “DISCIPLINE”: Diligence, Independence, Initiative, Integrity, Service, Consistency, Perseverance, Labour, Nobility and Energy. Concluding his address, he reminded the graduates that graduation is not an end goal but the beginning of a lifelong journey of learning, urging them to continue educating themselves, make the country proud, and respect their elders and those around them.

In his address, Hon’ble Mr. Justice Sheel Nagu, Judge of the Supreme Court of India, greeted the distinguished dignitaries and graduating students and wished the graduates success in their future endeavours. Beginning with an inspiring quote attributed to Martin Luther King Jr. - *“If you can’t fly, run; if you can’t run, walk; if you can’t walk, crawl; but keep moving”* - he urged the students to persevere through challenges and continue moving forward. He further shared a mantra for students to perform their Dharma, which he described through five principles: gaining knowledge, cultivating patience, sacrificing one’s vices, practising compassion, and upholding justice.

During the ceremony, the Hon’ble Visitor also formally released the inaugural edition of the NLUO Mediation Blogs, marking a new addition to the University's academic and scholarly initiatives.

The ceremony was further attended by distinguished Judges of the High Court of Orissa, senior bureaucrats, senior advocates, legal luminaries, academicians, parents and family members of the graduating students, and other distinguished invitees.

246 Students Conferred Degrees

A total of 246 graduates received their degrees at the Thirteenth Convocation. The graduating cohort comprised 6 Ph.D. scholars, 48 LL.M. graduates, and 192 graduates across the undergraduate programmes.

Among the undergraduate graduates, 100 students graduated from the B.A.LL.B. (Hons.) programme, 42 from the B.B.A.LL.B. (Hons.) programme, 37 from the 3-year LL.B. programme, and 13 from the B.A. (Law) (Hons.) programme. A significant milestone of this Convocation was the graduation of the first batch of students from NLUO's 3-year LL.B. programme, marking an important development in the University's academic journey.

23 Gold Medals Awarded

The Convocation also witnessed the conferment of 23 gold medals upon students for outstanding academic and overall achievement.

Two new prestigious awards were introduced this year. The Shri Pitambar Acharya Gold Medal Award, instituted by Shri Pitambar Acharya, Advocate General of Odisha, was awarded for securing the highest score in Jurisprudence. The Dr. Ananya Chakraborty Memorial Gold Medal, instituted by Shri Subir Chakraborty and Smt. Malati Chakraborty, was awarded to the highest-scoring girl student in the 3-year LL.B. programme.

These awards join the University's existing Gold Medals and other sponsored honours recognising academic excellence, leadership and achievements beyond the classroom.

Strong Placement Outcomes for the Graduating Batch

The graduating five-year LL.B. batch of 2026 also recorded strong placement outcomes. 76 placement outcomes were secured among the 94 students who participated in the recruitment process, translating to an overall placement rate of 80.85% among students who expressed an interest in participating in placements.

The achievement reflects the University's continued efforts towards preparing students for diverse professional pathways in the legal profession and allied fields.

The Thirteenth Convocation thus marked not only the culmination of the academic journey of the graduating students, but also a celebration of their achievements and the University's continued commitment to excellence in legal education, scholarship and professional development. As the graduates embark upon the next chapter of their careers, NLUO congratulates the graduating batch and wishes them success in their future endeavours.