

# COURTING DISTINCTION

The institute is gearing up its students with knowledge of new-age tools like Gen AI to prepare them for the legal battles of the future

BY AJAY SUKUMARAN

**T**

he verdant campus of the National Law School of India University (NLSIU) in Bengaluru has had a makeover in the past year. A new amphitheatre has come up next to the library block while landscaped ponds have been built into some of the open spaces on the campus, to give students more space for interaction. Meanwhile, the main walkway has been redesigned with tactile paving to assist the vision-impaired. At India's premier

law institute, where inclusivity and diversity are guiding principles, the infrastructure facelift is in tandem with its academic growth phase.

In 2024, the institute will welcome 300 students in its flagship BA LLB course, 120 in the three-year LLB programme and a like number in the LLM course, taking the total headcount across batches to around 1,300, says Vice Chancellor Sudhir Krishnaswamy. To keep pace with the growing student population, NLSIU has increased its faculty strength. "Starting July 2024, we will touch (a headcount of) 100 in faculty, and we will go all the way to 125," he says. This will help maintain a teacher-student ratio of roughly 1:15.

In academics, a big area of change over the past 12-18 months has been in Generative Artificial Intelligence, or Gen AI. "Law is one of those professions that is likely to be deeply disrupted by the emergence of Gen AI. For us, as a law university, that means at least three things," says Krishnaswamy. "First, we get our students to become expert users and familiar with these new tools but, much more than that, in a cur-



HEMANT MISHRA

**No. 1 NATIONAL LAW SCHOOL OF INDIA UNIVERSITY (NLSIU), BENGALURU**

## GURUSPEAK

**"We coach our students to ask why the law is as it is. And we coach our students to ask what the law should be. We graduate students who are creative thinkers with very strong academic foundations"**

**PROFESSOR SUDHIR KRISHNASWAMY**  
Vice Chancellor, NLSIU



## TOP 10 COLLEGES 2024

	RANK 2024	RANK 2023	COLLEGE	CITY
↔	1	1	NATIONAL LAW SCHOOL OF INDIA UNIVERSITY	Bengaluru
↔	2	2	THE WEST BENGAL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF JURIDICAL SCIENCES	Kolkata
↑	3	4	GUJARAT NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY	Gandhinagar
↓	4	3	NATIONAL LAW INSTITUTE UNIVERSITY	Bhopal
↑	5	6	HIDAYATULLAH NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY	Raipur
↓	6	5	SYMBIOSIS LAW SCHOOL	Pune
↑	7	8	NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY ODISHA	Cuttack
↓	8	7	DR RAM MANOHAR LOHIYA NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY	Lucknow
↑	9	11	THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF ADVANCED LEGAL STUDIES	Kochi
↑	10	14	LLOYD LAW COLLEGE	Greater Noida

ricular sense, get them to learn how this technology works so that they are both designers and builders of this new tool. Finally, we think that, pedagogically, Gen AI has great potential to put a tutor in every student's phone." ■

## WHAT SETS IT APART

➤ The **average annual salary (domestic)** offered to NLSIU students is Rs 14.3 lakh; the highest is Rs 19.5 lakh

➤ **Rs 1.6 crore worth of research and consultancy work** was offered to the college in the past year

➤ It has an **NAAC CGPA** score of 3.1/4



## TOP 10 PRIVATE LAW COLLEGES

RANK	COLLEGE	CITY
1	SYMBIOSIS LAW SCHOOL	Pune
2	LLOYD LAW COLLEGE	Greater Noida
3	ILS LAW COLLEGE	Pune
4	SCHOOL OF LAW, CHRIST (DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)	Bengaluru
5	ARMY INSTITUTE OF LAW	Mohali
6	RAMAIAH COLLEGE OF LAW	Bengaluru
7	INSTITUTE OF LAW, NIRMA UNIVERSITY	Ahmedabad
8	ICFAI LAW SCHOOL, HYDERABAD	Hyderabad
9	KLE SOCIETY'S LAW COLLEGE	Bengaluru
10	AMITY LAW SCHOOL, NOIDA	Noida



### ALUMNISPEAK

“We studied law but there was a different dimension in terms of the approach, even to subjects like history, or issues such as violence. Students who came as first-year students with a particular validation were completely changed after the 5th year”

**NAYANA MOTAMMA**

MLA, Karnataka

BA LLB (Hons), Batch of 2003



## TOP 10 COLLEGES WITH LOWEST FEES

RANK	COLLEGE	CITY	COURSE FEE* (ENTIRE DURATION)
1	FACULTY OF LAW, BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY	Varanasi	₹8,700
2	MANIKCHAND PAHADE LAW COLLEGE	Aurangabad	₹14,375
3	KISHINCHAND CHELLARAM LAW COLLEGE	Mumbai	₹ 21,271
4	V.M. SALGAOCAR COLLEGE OF LAW	Panaji	₹33,482
5	VVM'S GOVIND RAMNATH KARE COLLEGE OF LAW	Margao, Goa	₹39,280
6	FACULTY OF LAW, ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY	Aligarh	₹42,500
7	FACULTY OF LAW, JAMIA MILLIA ISLAMIA	New Delhi	₹52,000
8	ST WILFRED'S COLLEGE OF LAW	Jaipur	₹58,500
8	ST WILFRED'S COLLEGE OF LAW, PANVEL	Navi Mumbai	₹58,500
10	DR B.R. AMBEDKAR COLLEGE OF LAW	Visakhapatnam	₹60,000

\*Course fee = Tuition fee + other fees

➤ More than **25 NLSIU alumni** have been **Rhodes** scholars

➤ The premier institute boasts of modern infrastructure, superb academic records and **healthy teacher-student ratio**

➤ It has been offering nearly **10 elective courses related to Artificial Intelligence** in the past three years

### DID YOU KNOW?

➤ Since November, NLSIU has been heading a research project in collaboration with IIT Bombay and the Department of Consumer Affairs and supported by tech company Meta to create and evaluate a **proof-of-concept of a citizen-centric chatbot and a decision-assist tool** in the area of consumer law. This is an initiative to develop cutting-edge appli-



Website: <https://bestcolleges.indiatoday.in/>

## LAW

### TOP 10 COLLEGES WITH BEST VALUE FOR MONEY

RANK	COLLEGE	CITY	RoI*
1	FACULTY OF LAW, BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY	Varanasi	94.25
2	MANIKCHAND PAHADE LAW COLLEGE	Aurangabad	29.01
3	FACULTY OF LAW, ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY	Aligarh	28.24
4	KISHINCHAND CHELLARAM LAW COLLEGE	Mumbai	28.21
5	M.K.E.S. COLLEGE OF LAW	Mumbai	6.16
6	ILS LAW COLLEGE	Pune	5.24
7	NIMT COLLEGE OF LAW	Kotputli, Rajasthan	5.05
8	ICFAI LAW SCHOOL, ICFAI UNIVERSITY TRIPURA	Agartala	2.23
9	SCHOOL OF LAW, GALGOTIAS UNIVERSITY	Greater Noida	1.87
10	NATIONAL LAW INSTITUTE UNIVERSITY BHOPAL	Bhopal	1.35

\*RoI (return on investment) is calculated based on average annual salary / course fee for entire duration

### TOP 10 EMERGING COLLEGES

Highest-scoring colleges among those set up in and after 2000

RANK 2024	COLLEGE	CITY
1	THE WEST BENGAL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF JURIDICAL SCIENCES	Kolkata
2	GUJARAT NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY	Gandhinagar
3	NATIONAL LAW INSTITUTE UNIVERSITY BHOPAL	Bhopal
4	HIDAYATULLAH NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY	Raipur
5	NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY ODISHA	Cuttack
6	DR. RAM MANOHAR LOHIYA NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY	Lucknow
7	THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF ADVANCED LEGAL STUDIES	Kochi
8	LLOYD LAW COLLEGE	Greater Noida
9	SCHOOL OF LAW, CHRIST (DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)	Bengaluru
10	ARMY INSTITUTE OF LAW	Mohali

### NEW ENTRANTS

Colleges that feature among the top 25 for the first time

RANK 2024	COLLEGE	CITY
21	KLE SOCIETY'S LAW COLLEGE	Bengaluru
22	UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW AND LEGAL STUDIES	New Delhi
24	IMS LAW COLLEGE NOIDA	Noida
25	SCHOOL OF LAW, GALGOTIAS UNIVERSITY	Greater Noida

cations across multiple large language models including ChatGPT

### 3-YEAR LLB VS 5-YEAR LLB: WHICH IS BETTER?

The five-year LLB course and the three-year one cater to different cohorts of students. The former, **an integrated undergraduate course**, is typically the preferred route for young students keen on pursuing a degree in law immediately after their 10+2 qualifying examination. The three-year LLB course, meanwhile, is an option for students who **already have an undergraduate degree in any discipline**, which is also an eligibility criterion for admission.

The three-year LLB programme is the older of the two law degrees, predating the reforms in legal education by the establishment of specialised law universities. India's first five-year integrated BA LLB programme was started by NLSIU in 1988. Subsequently,

several other law universities have been set up over the past three decades with the five-year integrated LLB course as their flagship programme.

Typically, most graduates of the five-year LLB pursue a placement in corporate law firms or opt for a career in litigation.

In 2022, NLSIU launched a three-year LLB (Hons) programme with the objective of providing an opportunity to **students who had specialised in other disciplines** to pursue legal education. The three-year LLB programme at NLSIU offers a theoretically more rigorous course compared to the BA LLB, according to Sudhir Krishnaswamy. The first batch of NLSIU students of the three-year LLB will graduate in July 2025.

### FIVE THINGS ASSOCIATED WITH A LAW DEGREE

- **Reading is integral** to legal education and the legal profession. One must read widely, including fiction and non-fiction
- Being **well-organised and structured** in your work
- Possessing a **research mindset** to resolve novel, current and future problems
- You can **train for multiple career** pathways with a law degree
- It is also an opportunity to engage with, and **make a difference in, the world** through law and public policy reform

### FIVE NEW TRENDS IN LEGAL EDUCATION

- Rapid transformation of legal curriculum to accommodate **emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence**, Blockchain and Machine Learning
- Experiential learning through **clinical lawyering**, externships and transactional courses
- Deepening **multidisciplinary approach**, by allowing students to major in a key social science or humanities discipline
- Proactively supporting **multiple learning trajectories**

- **Global integration** through exchanges, dual and joint degrees as well as research collaborations with world's leading universities

### FIVE NEW-AGE SPECIALISATIONS IN LAW COURSES

- **AI and Law**
- **Bioethics**
- **Climate Change and Just Transitions**
- **International trade and Investment law in a fragmenting world order**
- **Competition law and digital markets.**



JURIS PRODIGIES Students at West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata

DEBALYOTI CHAKRABORTY

For the full ranking of the 1,779 colleges and their comparative analysis, go to <https://bestcolleges.indiatoday.in>

## ACCURATE GROUP OF INSTITUTIONS

**Courses Offered:**

B.TECH • BBA • BCA • B.COM (H)  
MBA • MCA • PGDM • BALLB • LLB  
B.ARCH • PHARMACY • POLYTECHNIC

Campus: 49, Knowledge Park - III, Greater Noida (U.P), Mob No.: 95601 48370, Toll Free 1800-180-3515