

HON'BLE VC's PROGRESS REPORT

Hon'ble Mr. Justice G.S. Singhvi, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Chief Guest of the Sixth Convocation;

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Amitava Roy, Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court & Chancellor of National Law University, Jodhpur;

Hon'ble Members of the General Council, Executive Council, Academic Council, Finance Committee & Advisory Board;

Hon'ble Judges of the High Court, past and present;

Learned Members of the faculty;

Registrar and the Staff Members;

Esteemed Parents;

Proud recipients of degree & medals;

Dear Students;

Ladies & Gentlemen

1. It is my pleasure to welcome you all to the VI Convocation of National Law University, Jodhpur.
2. Today in this Convocation, degree is going to be conferred on **78 students** of B.A., LL.B. (Hons),

B.Sc., LL.B. (Hons) and B.B.A., LL.B. (Hons); post-graduate degree of MBA (Insurance) on **15 students**; MBA-MBL on **21 students**; MBA (Finance) on **11 students** and MS (Insurance) on **7 students**. Doctoral degree will also be awarded to **8 scholars**.

My heartiest congratulations to all of them.

3. In a moment, I shall present the report highlighting the activities of the National Law University, Jodhpur, but before I do that, at the very outset, I have pleasure in welcoming the Chief Guest of VI Convocation **Justice G.S. Singhvi**, a distinguished personality with an illustrative career spanning nearly 42 years. Justice G.S. Singhvi graduated in the year 1968 from the Jodhpur University and passed LL.B. examination in the year 1971 with Gold Medal from the Rajasthan University. He joined the legal profession in July 1971. I had the good fortune to see him and work with him as a colleague in the profession. I found him to be a lawyer with a most fertile and receptive mind. It was not only his ability and intellect which impressed me, but whosoever came in his contact was greatly moved by his innate courtesy and his keenness to pursue justice. Even as a lawyer, he looked every bit a Judge. He was elevated to the Bench of the Rajasthan High Court in July 1990. He served Rajasthan High Court, Punjab and Haryana High Court and Gujarat High Court with

distinction. He was the Chief Justice in Andhra Pradesh High Court and elevated as Judge, Supreme Court in November 2007. He is brilliant and versatile belonging to the crusader class of Judges. Our sincere thanks to you for accepting our invitation to be the Chief Guest of this Convocation and for kindly agreeing to deliver the Convocation Address.

4. I also welcome **Mr. Justice Amitava Roy**, Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court and the Chancellor of the National Law University, Jodhpur. Justice Amitava Roy belongs to a distinct family of Judges and Lawyers. Justice Amitava Roy, after completing post-graduation in Physics from Dibrugarh University, did LL.B. from the same University in 1976. He joined the Bar in February 1976 and soon developed a large practice. He had been the Senior Advocate of Government of Arunachal and Guwahati High Court. He was designated as Senior Advocate in the year 1999. He was also a Member of Assam Law Commission. He was elevated to the Bench in the year 2002 and administered oath of Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court on 2 January, 2013. I thank Justice Amitava Roy for agreeing to preside over the VI Convocation of this University.
5. I also welcome the Hon'ble Judges, present and past, and other distinguished guests.

6. The presence of such distinguished personalities will be a source of inspiration for our bright young graduates and post-graduates poised to take up a challenging career. It will enthuse in them the vigor to serve our country and benefit mankind.
7. Ladies and gentleman, at this Sixth Convocation of the university, I am happy to report that in the short span of 11 years, this University has acquired the reputation of being a premier law university of the country and has achieved global visibility. I place on record a special word of gratitude to eminent former Visitors, Chancellors, members of the different statutory and non-statutory bodies whose inspirational guidance and wise counsel has been crucial in making the National Law University, Jodhpur, a leading law school in India. A great deal of credit for placing the university among the top law universities in the country must go to my two esteemed predecessors, **Prof. N.L. Mitra**, **Prof. A.K. Koul** as well as the Faculty, students and administrative staff. Here a word of commendation is also due to the First Registrar **Shri Ratan Lahoti, IAS** who by his excellent administrative and managerial skill equally helped the University in reaching its present height.
8. Ladies and Gentlemen, National Law University, Jodhpur provides unparalleled academic and career enhancement programs. Our commitment is towards holistic personality development and we intend to create academia of first rate that will

endeavor to transform human lives. We create strategic lawyers with a global mind set. We are working to define and fortify justice education in India and offer the widest choice of courses to students, which include *viz.*, B.B.A., LL.B. (Hons.); B.A., LL.B. (Hons.) and B.Sc., LL.B. (Hons.). Our experimentation in trying to combine management with law at the Undergraduate level is unique and has achieved global recognition. At the postgraduate level, the university offers LL.M. in Corporate Laws and IPR & Technology Laws as well as MBA and MS in Insurance Studies. Being committed to the mission of achieving excellence in higher education, the university offers Doctorate and Post Doctorate programs in various spheres of knowledge. National Law University, Jodhpur has a flourishing Distance Education Program, designed to update knowledge and skills through e-learning and regular contact classes. Under the distance education mode, we offer LL.M. in international Trade Law & WTO and Masters Degree in Corporate Laws. We also offer MS in Cyber Law and Cyber Security.

9. Our curriculum framing is done with a global perspective and delivered at world class standard to generate especially skilled global legal professionals. The curriculum undergoes regular updating with inputs from some of the brightest legal minds in the country and abroad.

10. I am happy to report that National Law University, Jodhpur is equipped with distinguished Professors of national repute as well as a good mix of highly qualified and experienced young associates. A number of faculty members have exposure of having studied in universities of international fame such as University of California, Oxford, Warwick, Sydney, King's College London and University College London which in turn benefits our meritorious students. With a view to promote comparative scholarship and expose students and faculty alike to new ideas, the university has also taken initiative to invite scholars from leading universities abroad. In recent years, we have had visiting faculty from universities such as **University of Freiburg-Germany, Ural State Law Academy-Federal Russia, Regent University of Law-Virginia, William S. Boyd Schools of Law-USA** etc. National Law University, Jodhpur is also a favorite destination for **Fulbright Scholars of United States-India Educational Foundation (USIEF)**. In the previous semester, we had with us **Prof. Sophie M. Sparrow** from **New Hampshire University**. Under our Alumni Visiting Faculty Program, some of our alumni who have acquired higher qualifications from prestigious institutions and garnered varied experience share their learning on topics of contemporary interest in law and practice for the benefit of the students. We have faculty which provides meaningful inputs in exposing

students to practical facets of law. We have approached leading national and international law firms to organize workshops on market intensive subjects for enhancing the knowledge of our students. In the year 2012, our students received multifarious exposure in the form of Workshops on Mergers & Acquisitions by leading law Firm Amarchand & Mangaldas, on WTO Dispute Settlement by the leading Law Officer of WTO, on Investors' Education by SEBI, on Due Diligence by Vaish & Associates, a week long colloquium on Securities' Law and a symposium on “**Electoral Reforms**” wherein Chief Election Commissioner **Shri V S Sampath** was the main speaker. **Justice Yatinder Singh**, Hon'ble Judge of Allahabad High Court, presently Chief Justice Chattisgarh High Court delivered an interesting and educative lecture on “**Open Source Software and I.P.R.**”

I am happy to add that Oxford University along with Herbert Smith, London is organizing a week long lecture program from 4th to 8th February 2013. The team is led by Prof. Timothy Endicott, Dean, Faculty of Law, Oxford University and Mr. Chris Parson, Chairman India Group Herbert Smith, another leading firm of U.K. M/s Allen and Overy is organizing lecture program during the period 12th to 15th February 2013.

Our highly qualified and dedicated faculty members deserve commendation for the high

quality of legal education offered to the students of the University.

11. Time constraints prevent me from submission of a detailed account of achievement of students and faculty in the academic year 2011-2012. Let me share the **pinnacle of mooting glory** attained by our students in winning the **World Cup** in mooting. I here refer to the Stetson International Environmental Law Moot Court competition which was captured by our students Aritra Roy, N.Lakshmi & Jai Sahai Endlaw. Besides this laudatory achievement, our students also brought laurels to their alma mater in many national and international moots.
12. The academic achievements of our students also warrant a special mention. **Mr. Vatsal Vasudev**, a student of this University, was adjudged the '**Best Essay Writer**' out of thousands of entries across the globe for his submission on “**Interdependence of Nations and Human Rights**”. He was also given an opportunity to visit the UNO Office and honored by **Secretary General Mr. Ban-Ki-Moon**. Similarly, our alumnus **Shashank P.Kumar** has also brought glory to the nation by joining the International Court of Justice (ICJ) as a University Trainee/Clerk for 2012-13. **He is the first Indian to have acquired this coveted post.**
13. The faculty of the University has also made a

significant contribution in proposing and receiving grants for various research projects from notable organizations like UGC, DST and ICSSR. They have also actively participated in various national and international conferences, and in undertaking teaching and research assignments. We have established varied specialized centers of learning, to cultivate research aptitude and to provide opportunities for exchange of ideas with renowned academicians. They are

- Research and Advisory Centre on International Economic Law (RACIEL)
- Research Centre on Transactional Law (RECENT LAW)
- Centre for Advanced Research & Training in Arbitration Law CARTAL
- Centre for Tax Law (CTL)
- Centre for Intellectual Property Studies
- Centre for Competition Law and Policy
- Centre for Media Law and Policy
- Centre on Social Entrepreneurship and Social Innovation
- Centre for Corporate and Commercial Law (CCCL)
- Centre for Corporate Governance (CCG)
- Centre for Human Rights Education Research and Studies (CHEARS)
- Centre for Environmental Law & Policy

- Centre for Studies in Banking and Finance (CSBF)
- Centre for Criminal Law Studies (CCLS)
- Centre for Legal Aid and Support Services (CLASS)
- Centre for Human Welfare and Empowerment
- Centre for Human Rights of Children and Institutional Law Development (CHILD)
- Centre for Human Resources Initiatives and Industrial Relations Studies (CHRIIRS)
- Centre for Advanced Studies & Research in Public International Law

14. Recognizing the academic potential of this prestigious institution, a number of Endowments and Grants have been initiated by various agencies. They include the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India which has instituted the Chair worth Rs. 1.5 crore to promote teaching and research in IPR. New India Insurance Corporation has also established an Insurance Chair of Rs. 40 lakhs for studies in insurance. General Insurance Corporation has established a chair worth Rs. 35 lakhs to encourage research analysis and comparison between contemporary insurance trends. Reserve Bank of India has granted a Corpus Fund of Rs. 40 lakhs for studies in Banking and Finance. As a philanthropic endeavor, Maharana of Mewar Charitable Foundation, Udaipur has commenced since 2008, a grant of Rs. 5 lakhs per annum to facilitate the talented students

who wish to go abroad and participate in international moot court and arbitration competitions. **Shri Dushyant Dave**, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India has graciously contributed a sum of Rs. 10 lakhs for library development. **Dr. J.C. Maloo** of Manidhari Hospital has presented to the National Law University, Jodhpur a good collection of books in the memory of his late father and Senior Advocate **Shri Inder Chand Maloo**.

15. In an effort to encourage greater exchange of ideas and knowledge, the University remains actively involved in strengthening its External Initiatives by signing MoU's & Collaborations with International Institutions of repute. This year we have signed academic and **research exchange MoU's** with **University of Johannesburg** and **University of Arizona**.
16. We at NLU prepare our students rigorously to emerge with flying colors at International platforms. Student societies on campus organize regular academic and co-curricular events. We host a number of moot court competitions on intra and inter University level. We have already organized three editions of the Anti- Trust Moot Court Competition in collaboration with Competition Commission of India and sponsored by notable Indian law firms. We also organize a popular cultural and literary fest strategically named 'NH-

65' and a sports meet appropriately titled '**Yuwardha**' as bi-annual events. In the year 2012, the second edition of NH-65 saw active participation of 450 students from all the prestigious national law universities. The campus acquired a multi-hued, multi-cultural aura during the fest.

17. It is a source of immense pleasure and satisfaction that a good number of our students have opted for the legal profession. Their presence can be noticed in almost every High Court of the country. A Good number of students have worked as Judicial Clerks with Hon'ble Judges of the Supreme Court; some have commenced practice in Supreme Court while others have taken on the challenge of administrative services including Indian Foreign Services. A good number of students have been admitted into top institutions of higher learning abroad i.e. Harvard, Yale, Washington, Columbia, Oxford, Cambridge, Freiburg, etc. while a few have been inclined to join academics, including National Judicial Academy. There have been hundred percent Placements for those who have opted for corporate or law firms. National Law University, Jodhpur is a preferred and priority destination for national and international law firms. I quote the most renowned international law firm **Herbert Smith** which says, "**We have very high regard for National Law University, Jodhpur and we consider it to be a key school as**

part of our international recruitment program”. The alumnus of National Law University, Jodhpur are visible in top positions in national and international law firms. Our students have also found a place in permanent court of Arbitration at WTO in Geneva.

18. Ladies and Gentlemen, at this stage it is significant to mention that NLU, Jodhpur maintains complete academic and financial autonomy. Being self-sufficient, the University does not accept any recurring grant either from the University Grants Commission or from the State Government. The University sustains itself from the students' fees. We generate revenue from Distance Education Programs, Research projects and other consultation programmes. We maintain financial balance through rational management of resources. This insistence on academic autonomy has yielded rich results in the form of best faculty recruitment, student care and quality education. As a note of clarification, the University accepts modest grant from the State Government and the UGC for infrastructure development which are also carried out only by the Government agencies. In 11 years, the University has received infrastructure grant amounting to a total sum of Rs.28 crores. However, I am proud to say that even from the point of view of infrastructure; the University is rated very high. Its Halls of Learning (both wings) are equipped with all modern facilities. Halls of Residence are

equipped with all modern amenities; easy access to Library, excellent Mess, Health Care Centre and Sports and Culture Centre. The Convention Centre is under construction. Library has a collection of 20 thousand volumes covering wide range of Journals with specialized subjects. Keeping in mind the vision of an e-Law School, the University subscribes to many on-line journals, Wi-Fi internet connection, campus networking, intra-net and internet and highly modernized audio-video equipments are readily available for use; on-line access filters in through Legal Information Institution of India. Banking facility is also available at the University. Sports and multi facility Gymnasium with qualified instructor takes care of the physical well being of our students. Recently, in the month of November 2012, **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Rajasthan Shri Ashok Gehlot** inaugurated the **extension to the Halls of Learning, Rajasthan Bar Council Advocates' Academy, NLUJ Auditorium, Legal Aid Centre and School of Insurance Studies**. NLUJ Auditorium enjoys the fair distinction of being one of the most well-equipped, most acoustic friendly auditoriums. It is designed with international benchmark of acoustics, multi-media and it's a unique specimen of the State of the Art technology and facilities.

19. I am happy to say that the **Rajasthan Bar Council** has set an example for the entire country by playing

a leading role in establishing Advocates' Academy in collaboration with NLU, Jodhpur, contributing a sum of **Rs.50 lac** for the purpose. The main spirit behind continuing legal education is the need to maintain and sharpen the skills of lawyers already admitted to the Bar and of keeping them up-dated with developments in law and the legal profession.

20. NLU, Jodhpur has also established a Legal Service Centre to provide opportunity to the students to use their academic knowledge particularly for community upliftment purposes.
21. Ladies and Gentlemen, the students of NLU, Jodhpur, aspiring to be conscious legal professionals, also conducted volunteer programs under the banner of MAD (Making A Difference by being the Difference). NLU, Jodhpur students have conducted 2 clean-up activities in Mandore garden area of Jodhpur city. The students cleaned-up over 1000 kg of garbage. The students also generated awareness among the people; street-plays were organized by the students which became a big hit with the locals and were widely appreciated. The students also visited the Central Jail, Jodhpur under the project of **SWADHIKAR**, a Commonwealth Human Rights initiative. The visit focused primarily on under-trial prisoners through interactions with them. The students tried to grasp implications of trial pendency issues. The girls' students spent much time with the women

prisoners.

22. **Dear students**, my relations with you have not been confined only to that of Vice-Chancellor, but also as a teacher and students. I have been with you in the class-room for almost two semesters. My constant advice to you has been which I reiterate at the cost of repetition, is to take the profession with responsibility and loyalty. Show due diligence in handling clients' affairs, in the management of tasks and commitment towards quality in all circumstances. Continued self-education is the attribute of a professional. Competence and its continued maintenance is itself a professional value. Integrity and honesty always pay in the profession. Respect for the rule of law is another value which no professional can ignore at any time. Obligation to serve the cause of justice or fight injustice is an abiding value in a practitioner.
23. **Graduating students**, this is a special occasion for all of you. You carry fond memories of NLU, Jodhpur which has been your alma-mater. Now it is your duty to ensure its qualitative growth. I hope you will take care of your alma-mater throughout your life and support it in whatsoever way you can. I am confident you will do well in your life and wish you all the best.
24. **JAI HIND.**