

NATIONAL LAW INSTITUTE UNIVERSITY

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National Law Institute University (NLIU) is a law school and centre for research located in Bhopal, India. Established in 1997 by the State of Madhya Pradesh, it is one of the first three law schools to have been established under the National Law School system. Since its establishment, NLIU has consistently been rated among the three best law schools in India. The University launched its first academic programme in 1998, with eminent Indian jurist Prof. V.S. Rekhi, as the Director. Recognized by the Bar Council of India, the university admits 100 undergraduates each year through the Common Law Admission Test, who complete 15 trimesters before being awarded a combined B.A., LL.B (Hons.) degree. The post-graduate course offered at the university is the LL.M. degree.

The University is a member of the Association of Indian Universities and the patron of the university is the Hon. Chief Justice of India. It works closely with the High Court of Madhya Pradesh, as well as the National Judicial Academy. Since 2009, NLIU has been home to the Rajiv Gandhi National Cyber Law Center, established by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India.

In India, legal education never received the attention that it deserved. It is a paradox that while the Indian constitution ushered in the Rule of Law and adopted a policy of development through law, little attention was paid to legal studies. It was increasingly realised by the professionals and academicians that the system of law teaching in India was thoroughly inadequate and unimaginative.

Justice J.S. Verma had proposed the first National Law School at Bhopal. However, the proposal could not take shape. National Law Institute University was set up in Bhopal by Act No. 41 of 1997, the "*Rashtriya Vidhi Sansthan Vishwavidyalaya Adhiniyam*" or the NLIU Act, 1997. The first programme was launched in 1998, and the courses commenced on September 1, 1998.

The Masters in Law (LL.M.) programme was launched in 2007, with the first batch graduating in 2009. The establishment of Student Bodies, Academic Cells and Associations commenced in 2002 with the establishment of the *NLIU Moot Court Association*. In 2007, the university witnessed the establishment of the *Alternative Dispute Resolution Cell (ADRC)* and the *Cell for Awareness and Research in Environmental Studies (CARES)*. The Centre for Business and Commercial Law was established in 2008. The University published the first edition of *Indian Law Review* in November, 2009. The *NLIU Law Review* was first published in 2010, and the *NLIU Journal of Intellectual Property Law* was first published in 2012.