

## **NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY: HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY**

### 1. A BEGINNING

Rome was not built in a day. In inner message of the proverb is that philosophy and history of no institution can be built in a day. The National Law University, Jodhpur (NLU) has been established by the National Law University Act, 1999 (Act XXII of 1999) of Rajasthan. How can one write history of such a newly born baby? Surely, it has the present but not the past. After all, history lies in the past. Naturally, any exercise of writing history of NLU would be futile. Of course in conceiving any institution there remains a saga of untold story, many sacrifices and debates of conflicting interest. NLU is no exception. Sometimes, we find that the development of philosophy of an institution lies deep in this untold story of the birth pang of the institution. Tracing that saga of untold story could, then, really throw light on the institutional growth. Knowledge of that love-labor is important to the progeny in the institution for perspective-development, of course if one could compose the untold story until it gets buried down the memory-lane.

### 2. BEGINNING OF THE BEGINNING: THE SAGA OF UNTOLD STORY

In 1994 the then Dean and Head of the Department of Law of Jai Narayan Vyas University, Jodhpur (JNV University), Dr.S.R.Bhansali visited National Law School of India University, Bangalore (NLSIU), and was immediately impressed with the development and the experiment on five years' integrated legal education in India by a few personalities under determined academic and executive leadership. Dr. Bhansali with his teaching and administrative experience of almost three decades was touched by the sincerity of purpose, excellence in quality education and

dedication in the experiment. He thought for a while, why not such an experiment in North India and why not in Jodhpur! He came back to Jodhpur with complete determination. A Society was formed and registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 for the establishment of Indian Institute of Legal Education and Research in Jodhpur in 1994. Dr. S.S. Bhandawat, a senior advocate of Rajasthan High Court, was made President and Prof. S.R. Bhansali himself became its General Secretary. In 1994 the Society planned to establish an Indian Institute of Legal Education and Research in Jodhpur. Simultaneously they continued to lobby with the Bar Council of India to sponsor the second National Law School in the line of NLSIU, Bangalore.

The untold story of anxiety, ambition, aspiration and approaches during 1994 to 1999 is really very touching. A day of hope was dashed next day by equal degree of despair! The team under Dr. Bhansali was not only fighting against all other states for having the second National Law School of the Country but was also fighting for Jodhpur. An uproar of initial success was there in 1996 when Chairman, Bar Council of India on principle agreed to have a Law School in Jodhpur, but before the methodology was ready the news broke out in 1997 that Andhra Pradesh was getting ready with the proposal of housing the Second Law School. As a matter of fact starting late in 1997 Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh got the distinction of having second and the third National Law School of the country respectively. It was both a pleasure and also pain to experience that later efforts succeeding in AP and MP though effort started earlier in Rajasthan dashing hope against hope. The fight however continued. At times some even felt the proposal was lost in the dark-hole!

In 1997 the Society got the patronage of a NRI donor, Mr. Bhandawat, younger brother of the President of the Society, who came forward to promise a donation of rupees one crore immediately had the University been named after his father. This was tremendous ray of hope at the end of the dark-hole. The members of the Society also drafted a Bill for a full-fledged University in the pattern of the NLSIU, Bangalore. There was a shot in the arm of the members of the Society when the then Chief

Minister informally declared the University in the name of the father of the donor, who deposited the amount in the Bank immediately. But intra-conflict continued to zoom large notwithstanding a decision in favor of Jodhpur. Rajasthan lost the battle for getting the second or third Law School, can Jodhpur win for the fourth? That was the question. Experience in Hyderabad and Bhopal motivated some other states also to come forward. Gujarat and West Bengal now came up to propose a Law University in the same pattern. But again Rajasthan remained in the maze of conflict about the site and the Government of Rajasthan was not ready to resolve the dispute. Meanwhile Government of West Bengal came out in the middle of 1998 and marched ahead with the fourth institution. Every day the members of the Society spent in utter distress looking at the incapacity and indecisive nature of the Government to pilot the Bill.

Meanwhile the Society secured the approval of Chief Justice of India to adorn the position of the Visitor of the University and Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court to be the Chancellor of the University. The historic contest between Jaipur and Jodhpur was having dampening effect. Leading personalities were involved. There is no evidence to show that the real debate of determining a site for a national or world standard institution to be established has ever been discussed on merit. A national and international level institution requires good links for locomoting national and international level faculties and attract new faculties from far and wide, quick transportation of students community and their family members, good municipal governance with standard public goods abundantly available, quick mobility of elites from the community of members from the Bar and the Bench and adequate provision of land and other infra-structural needs of the University. No one argued anything on that, no project report could be traced in the file, no debate was generated where could the institution be ideally located. There is no trace of any project planning and project finance that had been articulated. Somebody wanted to provide some finance, somebody some land and somebody could see a vision! Is it sufficient to give birth to a national institution leave aside, international!

## 3. FORMAL STEP

Meantime a new government took over the administration. There was new energy with which a new waive of demand was made for a National Law University. The new government wanted to consider the project. Dr. M.K. Vyas, Associate Professor, Faculty of Law of JNV University was nominated by the Vice Chancellor of JNV University to be the Project Officer. The Project Officer consulted the Executive body of the Society. The project report only comprised the proposal with a draft legislation, which was submitted to the Government. There were several rounds of discussion with groups of teachers and senior citizens of the city. Ultimately the government came out with a Bill and passed the National Law University Act, 1999. The notification was **made** on June 19, 2000 for the establishment of National Law University, Jodhpur (NLU). Eventually, Mr. Ratan Lahoti, a senior member of the Rajasthan Administrative Service was posted as OSD to take preliminary steps to establish the University in September 2000. Mr. Lahoti started his task from the Office of the Divisional Commissioner, Jodhpur.

By the end of 2000, the government of Rajasthan and the Chancellor of the University, the then Chief Justice of Rajasthan were trying to search for a right academician and a proven visionary and an excellent academic planner who could establish and develop the University. Professor N.L.Mitra who retired from his assignment of Directorship of the NLSIU, Bangalore, was ultimately requested to take the mantle of the University as its founder Vice Chancellor. Prof. Mitra took his office when it was agreed between all the parties concerned that (a) the Institution would be truly national, (b) it would be completely autonomous and (c) there would be complete independence and accountability of the University for curriculum design, setting up of university administration and bringing the institution as an institution of excellence.

#### 4. FOUNDER VICE-CHANCELLOR TOOK OVER: A FEW IMMEDIATE STEPS

Soon Dr. Mitra occupied his office in March 2001 several immediate steps were taken, (i) The action of Mr. Lahoti representing the University to take up the Administrative Block of JNV University on rent for housing the University for initial years was finalized, (ii) The land allotment at Mandore was given effect to. (iii) City Administrative Office of the University was established in the rented premises in Paota Road, Jodhpur and office started functioning with a first few office staff in March 2001. (iv) Decision to start the academic program of the University from the year 2001-2002 was taken commencing from July 2001. (v) The proposal of renting the Administrative Block of JNV University was finalized, (vi) Course designs for the first academic year were provisionally drafted and announced, (vii) A proposal of National Entrance Test (NET) was announced to take place at nine major cities of the country on last Sunday of May 2001. (ix) All preliminary steps were taken to hold the test, (x) Steps were taken to assemble the first batch of faculty in Management, Policy Sciences, Language, Science and Law. (x) Founder Architect of the University was appointed and (xi) Construction Company was appointed.

Prof. Mitra announced his vision statement immediately. The vision statement was published in the Prospectus 2001, as follows.

#### 5. THE VISION STATEMENT

##### *THE UNIVERSITY: A LEARNING MODEL*

*National Law University is an institution of excellence devoted to multidisciplinary study and research relating to legal sciences. The concept, jurisprudence, really means the prudence or wisdom of the class of people who really decide. In a society people are the real power holders. As such, the wisdom of human being lies in making individuals in the society understand the basic mechanism that ought to regulate interpersonal relations as well as individual relations with the society that makes the society a better place for*

*living. Law and justice administration is a cultural process, which emanates from the entire body of knowledge. In this sense, law is seen as dharma, that holds the society. This University shall involve itself in the development of this holistic approach towards understanding law and justice from a multidisciplinary standpoint. A Law University of this nature is essentially different from a law school. A law school has to deal exclusively with the process of sharpening legal skills and legal knowledge. This University shall try not only to achieve excellence in skill learning and its application, but also shall examine and research in the broad spectrum of human nature and habitation in the context of which skills ought to be applied. In this pursuit of multidisciplinary knowledge on the bedrock of which only skills are to be applied, is really a fascinating social experiment in which law develops as an instrument of culture and management of public and private affairs. The University shall develop in a phased manner, the following schools in which legal principles, application of law, law as an instrument of public administration and management, shall be developed critically and reviewed periodically. These twelve Schools shall provide inter-disciplinary inputs in legal education in the undergraduate level. These Schools, as such will not float any undergraduate courses of their own. The legal education thus obtained is the synergy of knowledge and skills. The Schools might float postgraduate programs independently or in conjunctions and develop fundamental and applied research. Ultimately these Schools would be autonomous excepting their working in the undergraduate program, which is a co-operative and synergy product.*

*The School of Constitutional Governance (SCG)*

*This is the first School in the country for study and research on governments. Principles of Public Administration, role of Government in a society, the place of civil society in governance and policy dimension in various public services and principles of good governance as a vehicle of modern civilization - all these are subjects of study and research in this School. There shall be emphasis on research and development of human resources for good governance both at the fundamental policy-making level as*

*well as at the functional level. The School shall have specialized Centers on Human Rights Studies, Local Self Government, Population Studies, Civil Society, Media and the Law, Legislative drafting, Environment studies, Clinical Education, Studies on Big Projects and Project Displacements, Sustainable Development, Macro Economic Management and Taxation Studies and Resource Management. These centers shall also develop an integrated research program for advising the Union and the State Governments as well as other interested groups on matters relating their subject of research. The Government of Rajasthan has already approached the Center for Taxation studies for its suggestions on some taxation issues. This School has been now named after Dr. L. M. Singhvi.*

*The School of Administration of Justice (SAJ)*

*It shall research and review as well as develop skills of delivering justice - economically efficient, structurally communicable and effective. That is what a modern society requires. The School shall develop its theory of justice looking at social context and complexity, design clinical and training course for students, young lawyers and judges to effectively deliver justice. Judicial administration shall be researched into so as to systematize the mechanical aspect of procedure and develop a system for making justice reach in time.*

*The School of Policy Science (SPS)*

*The School shall develop multidisciplinary knowledge essentially necessary to appreciate and apply legal skills in the context of social values. It shall also develop policy choices and options in administration of social and economic justice. The School shall emphasize research on various policy dimensions, understanding of economic principles, application of historical perspectives and social values in developing the foundation of legal reform. The Departments in the School are Department of Economics, Political Science, History, Sociology, Psychology and Philosophy.*

*The School of Science and Technology (SST)*

*The School has to provide knowledge in various physical and Life Sciences including Electronics and telecommunication, information technology, food technology, biotechnology and agricultural sciences. The present development of the knowledge society essentially brings us face to face with science and technology. Law and administration of justice are required to keep pace with the development of science and technology. Such a rapid development of technology and progress of human race towards a knowledge society throws new challenges to law and legal principles. To hold the society and yet allow the society to develop multicultural, multi-linguistic and multi-religious is one of the biggest challenges to a modern society. The understanding of science and technology shall not only emphasize scientific and rationalistic way of life, but shall also strengthen the Rule of Law. In the modern world, if law has to be a successful instrument of social engineering, it has to be based on protective, prohibitive and preventive understanding of science and technology. Naturally, science and ethics interface is constantly a pursuit of knowledge, which strengthens the basic fabric of the justice delivery system. Knowledge of science enhances the appreciative values in the people. Legal principles in this sense are to be universal and science and technology enable their universal application. Forensic Science is the alternative to colonial way of fact finding. The skill of forensic science is the surest way of analyzing a fact in the knowledge society with e-governance. In an electronically operative system of trade, commerce and industries the knowledge of science is of basic importance. The knowledge of forensic science is, thus, fundamental to rule of law. Departments in the Schools are Physics, Chemistry, Life Science, Information Technology, Forensic Science and Biotechnology.*

*The School of Administration of Criminal Justice (SACrJ)*

*The School is primarily concerned with the management of society based on certain basic human understanding. The School shall develop research competence on systemic analysis on the management of a society. Criminology, Criminalistics, Criminal*

*Psychology; International Criminal Law and Justice, Terrorism and Drug trafficking, Police Science, Art and Science of Investigation and Fact Finding; Comparative Criminal law and procedure, Prison administration, Law and Medicine - all these branches of knowledge are too important for the students and social scholars. Similarly, social offences and economic offences are presently the areas of interest to the public administration. The School shall research to acquire systematic knowledge and develop expertise for managing the society. There shall be training and instructional courses for the institutions to achieve greater, competence to manage the society. It will have specialized centers on Law & Medicine, International Crime and International Criminal Court, Police Science, Prison Administration, Juvenile Justice, Women and the Law and Social Offences.*

#### *The School of Management Sciences (SMS)*

*The School shall develop insight in understanding the skills of management necessary for various sectors of production, distribution and services.. The School shall develop interdisciplinary courses on management, human resource development, management technique in public and private administration, appreciation of basic principles and values of management science in the context of law, financial management, standardized accounting practice and marketing management. The management skill added to the corporate lawyers coming out of the institution would match the world standard of lawyers' skills.*

#### *The School of Law & Agriculture (SLA)*

*The School shall endeavor to develop intensive fundamental research in the area of systems of land dialectics and land management with land use and farming. It shall also look into the complex dimension of agricultural marketing, marketing instruments and system of settlement of contracts. The rationale of agro-finance being separated from the industrial finance is to be researched into in the context of country's strength and weaknesses. It is urgently necessary to fine tune agricultural laws in the country in the context of technology and its upgradation. The*

*School shall also develop techniques of dissemination of essential knowledge to the agriculture administrators and farmers. It shall develop critical insights into the system of law and justice concerning global understanding and development of rules in International Trade under the World Trade Organization so that the role of India in this multipartite world body is constructive and simultaneously, protective of national interest. The school shall develop course on law and practice in the area of agriculture for sectoral management, public administration and farm management. Training and educational courses shall be designed based on future needs of the country.*

#### *The School of Business Law (SBL)*

*The School is concerned with law and governance, which are basic infrastructure for growth and development. Unfortunately, there has never been a holistic approach towards law and management especially keeping in view the development of trade, industries and commerce. The country now faces critical challenges for developing a rule based contract society, replacing the present arbitrary bureaucratic system. Any commitment towards the School of Law requires law to be seen as the basic instrument of management. We require rapid development of infrastructure system for global technology and investment. But we do not have lawyers worth the name to structuralize domain-based contract, such as pipeline contract; or metropolitan multi-transport mode contract, shipping contract etc. on the principle of rule of law. We want rapid development of investment market with foreign players to participate but we still do not have a strong rule based regulatory system, a chain of multi-facultative public lawyers and a good brand of corporate lawyers capable of developing market instruments. We are now facing challenges in the arena of intellectual property in both national and international spheres. We have a very little expertise in patent specification writing, drafting protocols and do not have a brand of lawyers who can defend indigenous knowledge and culture and protect intellectual property in various other fields. India is both strong and weak in the domain of intellectual property. In some places we are global players in industries such as cinematograph, music, dance and*

*drama, software and a host of traditional knowledge. We are a developing country in industries. Naturally industrial property protection is important subject of public interest. We are extremely weak in protecting farmers' and breeders' rights, developing and protecting data bank Obviously we have not developed an economic diplomacy based on wider participation of the civil society and interested groups. Often our national interest is seen contradictory to the interest of developing countries. But we have not yet had a brand of good lawyers who can participate in the international policymaking and also protect Indian scientists, technologists and managers. We talk about corporate governance but did not build up a system of good governance with people capable of becoming independent directors and also add value to governance.*

*This Business Law School, the first of this kind in India, will try to develop closely in association with various management schools, institutes of technology and investment institutions multi-facultative advocacy and research skills blending appropriate legal scholarship with infra-structural input of the knowledge society. The country is now in the process of opening up all sectors of investment but without having human resources adequately trained to run our insurance, banking and other corporate sectors based on principles of rule of law.*

*The schools shall have various specialized centers like Center for Labor Studies, Center for Small Scale Industries, Center for WTO Studies, Center for Intellectual property Rights, Center for Corporate Governance, Center for Information Technology, Center for Mines and Minerals, Center for Insurance studies, Center for Banking and Investment system, Center for Financial Market Management. The School shall build up an agenda for quickly developing human resources through training and educational courses. It shall also develop a strong fundamental ongoing research center. All these cannot be built up in a day but without these the country's future is certainly going to be weaker on account of lack of legal environment as a basic input of good governance in a liberal democratic political framework.*

*The School of International Legal Studies (SILS)*

*The two modern currents of globalization and universalization have brought fundamental changes in the concept of development in International Law. Whereas the requirements of humanity for life and liberty universalize the basic rules of governance, technology globalizes international activities in production and distribution. Someone said that if United Nations is a success in one singular area, it is in the area of development of International Law and model national law prepared by various agencies of the UN in the last fifty years. It is understandable that Rule of Law is not the only objective of India's game plan in determining international relations in the last fifty years. There are several other competing interests. Lawyers, law academicians and legal scholars did play only a marginal role in India's participation even when the task was of international law making. It is time we develop a school of excellence in International Legal Studies in order to develop research skills on norm building and appropriate human resources in the field. Though India can certainly boast of a few giant legal scholars in the field of International Law and practice including, Syed Amir Ali, Radhabinod Pal, Dr. Nagendra Singh, most of them had the privilege of learning International Law and relations in the corridors of British Universities. This will now be an effort to develop a systematic branch of knowledge here in India. The School shall have various specialized centers such as Center for European studies, Law and Diplomacy, Law and International Relations, Drafting of Treatises and Conveyance, Humanitarian Law, International Human Rights, International Trade Law, Refugee Studies, Oceanography and Ocean Resources and Center for Air and Space Law. These centers shall research on development of law in contextual relations and ground realities. A third movement in the International Law is rationalization. There shall be specialized centers for study of European Union, Organization of African Union, ASEAN and SAARC in order to learn from each other's experiences.*

*The School of Oriental and European Studies (SOES)*

*The School shall develop investigative and comparative studies and research on various oriental and occidental legal systems in regulating the state, society and family relations. The School shall also develop studies of comparative jurisprudence in oriental and occidental systems. The understanding of jurisprudence as a science and philosophy of law is based on a strong appreciation of a society and the behavior of individuals in the society. SOES is going to play a significant role in the development of research and academic curriculum in the area of sociology of law, comparative jurisprudence, comparative family relations and host of contemporary enquiries in areas such as euthanasia, infanticide, feticide, patricide, surrogate motherhood and adoption.*

*The School of Languages (SoL)*

*Law and Culture are closely interrelated with language of a society. In spite of the fact that some languages have become international media of communication, national languages do play a significant role in making jurists to understand comparative nuances of a national legal system. A successful jurist and a lawyer is also found to be an excellent material for language learning. The School of Languages shall gradually develop several language learning systems. It may also develop understanding of some national languages side by side with major international languages gradually and encourage students to take both credit and non-credit courses in languages. Each student of National Law University shall be encouraged to take at least one more international language from widening chain of options.*

*The School of Economics (SE)*

*A Supreme Court Judge in the US once commented that a lawyer without any knowledge of Economics is a social enemy. At no time in the past this statement was felt more appropriate. There are reputed schools in Law and Economics in the US, UK, Germany and France. Unfortunately in India, there has never been an attempt to arrange a marriage of Law and Economics. As a result,*

*we have very sectional understanding of this cross-border knowledge. Law and Economics interface is now a distinct branch of knowledge where legal principles are tested in the parameter of economic interest (American way of understanding Law and Economics is evaluation of cost effective nature of the legal instrument and institution.). Economics as a science of policy option and appreciation requires constant support of legal regime and comparison of legal analysis. This cross-border understanding is at least as old as Marshalian Scissors and Benthamite Utilitarianism, if not as old as India's oriental concept of Rajadharmā. The School shall develop various research and academic courses to see the market driven interface as well as public interest issues. The School shall also run training courses for various policy-holders and power addressee and disseminate information to the civil society.*

#### *Civil Society and the Institution*

*Such a multidisciplinary University focusing on application of legal skills in many walks of life cannot be developed by or contribution of a State only. It requires public and private participation in resource building. Schools and Centers and the professorial chairs can be dedicated by endowments. The cost of education, in spite of making best efforts, to be affordable by lower middle class, cannot but be reasonable and obviously comparable to educational expenses at centers of excellence like IIT's, IIM's and national level Law Schools. It is, therefore, necessary that leaders of the profession and eminent citizens may come forward to make such educational investment possible and aid meritorious students from poor families under the annual scheme of 'Each one Reach one', which shall provide adequate scholarships for able students. Our motto should be that no student selected on the basis of national competitive examination be deprived of this excellent education because of financial inability. The University shall make an effort to develop a scholarship fund, the income of which can supplement private resources of the guardians/parents. The University shall also arrange for bank loans with some Scheduled Banks, which will be made known to students in the course of time.*

## 6. MANDORE: THE NEW NAME OF TAKHSHILA

About fifty acres of land at Mandore was given possession to the University and transferred to the University by the Government in July 2001. The foundation stone of the University was laid down by the Chief Justice of India (CJI) on August 26, 2001 in the presence of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of the State of Rajasthan. The University Architect was appointed. The agreement was entered into in September 2001 with the Rajasthan State Road Development and Construction Corporation Limited for the campus development in phases. The first phase included the boundary wall, three Halls of Residence, students' welfare complex including the Cafeteria, School of Science and all other incidental facilities. The Halls of Residences would have single seated rooms with LAN facilities and direct Internet connection. Each student of the University would have complete exposure to the information technology. This is the first University of the country where student computer ratio is 1:1. Dr. L.M. Singhvi, Member of Parliament from Jodhpur in *Rajya Sabha*, himself a leading constitutional lawyer and scholar of the country and a successful diplomat, who was the Guest of Honor of the Inaugural function, promised to help the University in all respects every year so long he remained the MP to see its infrastructure growth.

## 7. HOW DID THE JOURNEY BEGIN?

The University proposed to establish the School of Constitutional Governance in the name of Rajasthan's own all time famous constitutional scholar, Dr. L. M. Singhvi. Incidentally this would be the first School on Government studies- in the country. The construction of the School of Science and Technology and School of Constitutional Governance was started in January 2002. Each of the 12 Schools that the University is going to build up in course of time on the NLU campus would be centrally air conditioned to provide maximum facility for learning and research for 280 days a year. This is the first University of the country, which has the teaching-learning and research calendar of 280 days in a year.

## 8. UNIVERSITY BODIES

Four faculties were established at the beginning in September 2001. These were Law, Management, Policy Science and Science. Each of these faculties are headed by the respective Dean. Various bodies of the University were constituted by May 2001 and the inaugural assembly of these bodies took place in the Meeting Hall of the High Court under the chairmanship of the Chancellor. Various amendments to the statutes were suggested, approved and notified.

## 9. THE FACULTY

The first batch of faculty members was assembled in different disciplines in June 2001 and 16 faculty members joined the University at the beginning of July 2001. They were inducted through a 15 days' orientation course. 42 students were admitted from more than 600 applicants in the first batch in July 2001. Five students were admitted in two masters degree program in Law and Management and Constitutional Governance. The University had to take on lease two residential buildings comprising 16 flats and other covered facilities extending to about 6000 sq. feet in 'Lav Kush' apartment complex in Choupasani. Arrangement for classes was done at the JNV University Administrative Block and at Chaupasani during forenoon and evening respectively. Residential flats were fully furnished by the University for the students and the faculties. Thus was the journey of the University started, a small but determined step quickly taken to announce that it has arrived! When the second batch of students was taken in 2002 session, the University rented another complex of 16 flats in 'Mahavir Palace' at the heart of the city. Now in third academic session, 2003-2004, there are 230 students in Under-graduate program and 26 students in three Masters Degree Program in IPR, Finance, Insurance and Management with Law housed in the University's own Halls of Residence at Mandore. Presently, the teaching faculty comprises of 46 members in the faculties of Science, Management, Policy Science and Law as against 230 students. It is a unique teacher student ratio of 1:5, the best in India at present. Of course the figure has to stabilize by 2005-6 at the ideal figure of 1:8. There

was introduced a regular evaluation system for teaching learning by students, self and peer group. These assessments were taken into consideration in constant updating of the courses.

#### 10. THE TOTAL EXPERIMENT ON CONVERGENCE OF KNOWLEDGE AND SKILL BASED EDUCATION

This innovative experiment of integrated multidisciplinary legal education centering the Rule of Law and attempting to integrate knowledge base in all disciplines of knowledge with legal skill learning is not only unique in India but also in whole of Asia. The Fifth National Law University, thus, has become the first in India to provide the leadership in totally integrated legal learning, where students learn law with science, or with policy science, or with technology, or with management. Such a centrality to 'rule of law' education is based on the philosophy that law as *dharma* is in every walk of life. Lawyers, administrators and judges of tomorrow have to come from all walks of life and all branches of knowledge. Thus, NLU Jodhpur started the latest experiment in legal education to match challenges to excellence in the science of learning.

#### 11. TEACHING-LEARNING METHODOLOGY

Faculty members undergo regular courses at the beginning and end of each semester on methodology of designing courses, various types of methodologies of teaching-learning, and evaluation system. The learning system suitably incorporates various methods of teaching-learning, like individual research and self-learning, case-study, regular courtroom exercises, cooperative teaching with association of faculties, tutorial and seminar. Senior students also conduct academic support service for the quality improvement of the junior batches.

#### 12. THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM

The program is truly a reflection of convergence of knowledge and legal acumen. At the undergraduate level there were three programs of integrated legal education. The first program was on

Law and Policy Science. The policy sciences like philosophy, sociology, political science, economics and history providing various options are punctuated with legal studies that leads to integrated five year law program of B.A., LL.B (Hons.). Most of the public legal process and institutions prepare lawyer with proper understanding of the people and society. The second program was designed collapsing management sciences with legal studies that would lead to B.B.A., LL.B. (Hons.). The whole corporate sector of tomorrow requires managers having legal awareness and lawyers with management and finance awareness. The third program is the combination of science courses and with legal subjects leading to B.Sc, LL.B. (Hons.). The world is progressing towards knowledge society. More and more science and technology issues would arise in the legal conflict and conflict resolution. It would be essential for a modern lawyer to appreciate facts and evidences, which would have high science and technology orientation. A modern lawyer would be a burden to the society who cannot appreciate evidences from fact around us. Advancement of electronics and telecommunication, information technology, biotechnology or food technology would necessarily indicate development of law and justice. Post-Graduate courses would also have such convergence. The first two programs for post-graduate were on (i) six-semester course on Law and Management leading to MBA.,LL.M., and (ii) four-semester course on government studies. The course on government studies is a course first time introduced in India looking to the importance of public services at the Union and the State level. The Constitution of India mandated the mechanism of justice delivery system suitable to provide social, economic and political justice. For that reason a new generation of public service and public servants would be necessary. This course was designed in view of the need of those services and servants. Gradually, the University is planning to introduce double and triple Honors courses, and courses on technologies in the under-graduate level. The University has already introduced post-graduate courses on Intellectual Property Rights and on Insurance Studies.

### 13. EVALUATION SYSTEM

The faculty designed a continuous system of assessment. There is a regular system of appreciating the pathology of a class and design appropriate evaluation system comprising measurement of information level, application ability, and evaluation of faculty improvement. Classroom participation, daily, weekly, module-based, monthly tests comprise continuous format of the test. There is snap as well as notified tests to evaluate different basis and level of quality assessment. Project assessment is often made with public presentation.

### 14. THE LIBRARY

The heart of a Teaching-Learning institution of excellence lies in the Library. A modern Library is a *sine qua non* for an institution of learning aiming excellence. The University promptly established the University Library under Assistant Librarian in charge. The library and the computer laboratory developed an integrated system with Internet access through Lexis-Nexis, West Law, Manupatra, SCC online and the like. The University LAN is connected to its own access. The computer center with about 20 sets with its server and LAN was established in October 2001 with personal assistance from local MLAs. The Library has by now more than 1500 titles of text books, 2500 back volume of national and international journals and connected with major Libraries of the world through Westlaw. Presently the University has wireless to wire connectivity with all student rooms and in the research stations.

### 15. SPECIALIZED CENTERS OF RESEARCH STUDIES

The University established various Centers of Excellence namely Center for Criminal Law and Criminology, Center for Studies in Agriculture, Center for WTO Studies, Insurance Studies, Banking and Finance, Intellectual Property Right Studies and Center for Human Rights Education and Research. A Director or an Executive Faculty administers each of these Centers. Each Center consists of besides a Director or an Executive Faculty to coordinate

the activities some research Scholars and assistants. The lists of research work of these Centers are also impressive. The Center for Studies in Banking and Finance has carried out research projects on Securitisation and Regulatory Framework, Security lending instruments and legal framework, Lenders' Liability, E-Commerce and Sales Tax, Financial Fraud and Regulatory Mechanism. Center for Agriculture is working on a project for the Minister of Agriculture, Government of India on 'Agricultural Produce Marketing Reforms'. The Center has proposed draft legislation - 'Secondary Agricultural Produce Marketing Bill'.

The Center for Human Rights Education and Research has organized a four-day workshop in October 2002 on 'Human Rights Education and Conscience'. NGO's, Academicians and Experts, Senior Police and Army personnel attended the workshop. The first endowment for creating a chair on Insurance Studies was created by the New India Assurance Company in December 2001 at the presence of the Hon'ble Finance Minister of the country at the end of a three days course conducted by the Center for Insurance Studies.

#### 16. A NEW STAR, A NEW HORIZON

It has now been an established fact that this institution of learning is unique in character and it has started its journey with its vision of learning, convergence of knowledge and legal skills for the purpose of using rule of law as the ultimate life-support system.

*Y.K. Tiwari*

'Professor of Law & Dean, Faculty of Law, National Law University, Jodhpur