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PROLOGUE

~ Professor (Dr.) Harpreet Kaur *

Being one of the three largest higher education systems of the world, Indian higher education system must gear up for meeting global standards of not only quality education but providing access to higher education too. The National Education Policy (2020) aimed for improving gross enrolment ratio and bring Indian universities into the top global rankings. Legal Education too is required to match up with global standards and being an integral part of access to justice machinery should take necessary steps in this regard.

A transformative vision for legal education was set in motion by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on April 30, 2022 — a moment that, unbeknownst to many, would spark sweeping changes across the legal landscape. It culminated in the circular issued by Bar Council of India on May 20, 2024, which amounted to a call to action for law schools to evolve with the times and embrace pivotal reforms.

Amid such transformative shifts in legal education, NLUJ Law Review proudly unveils Special Issue 11.1 — a landmark edition featuring visionary perspectives from the Vice Chancellors of esteemed law institutions on “*The Future of Legal Education in India.*” This issue provides a

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timely and thought-provoking examination of how legal education in India can embrace progress, and adapt to the dawn of the new era.

The factors that have influenced the shift in legal education majorly include globalisation, multidisciplinary learning, and the enhanced role of technology as a tool of delivery. Particularly, a common recurring theme is the incorporation of technology in the form of artificial intelligence into legal education. This issue aims to furnish discourse on the broad scope of how legal education can evolve with technological developments, and the need to work conjunctively to adapt to a rapidly changing world.

Another common theme explored is the need for an interdisciplinary approach to the study of law. The contributors argue that a legal education system confined to traditional boundaries cannot adequately prepare students for the complexities of contemporary legal issues. By integrating fields such as business, healthcare, technology etc., students can address complex issues emerging from societal challenges.

The emphasis on social justice and the necessity of democratising access to legal education is another recurrent subject. Making legal education more accessible is crucial, in order to give underprivileged groups, the chance to participate in and gain from the legal system.

Furthermore, on the internationalisation of legal education, the contributors have recommended various strategies that Indian law schools can follow, such as altering curriculum to meet with international

expectations while preserving our indigenous legal practices, to match with the tenets of the fast-changing legal world.

Lastly, contributors have also examined ideas on policy and regulatory frameworks by considering the need for the Bar Council Regulations to evolve with the times, with emphasis on practical experience.

This special issue, thus, aims to provide a roadmap in finalising the legal education reform agenda in India. By addressing the need to integrate technology into legal education, achieve social justice and promote multidisciplinary approaches to legal education, the contributors urge for a reimagination of legal education in India.

We extend our deepest gratitude to all the Vice Chancellors who have contributed to this landmark edition, aimed at shaping legal education to be more inclusive, flexible, and future-oriented.