

Statement from the Student Bar Association on the NLAT

Dear All,

We understand this has been a difficult time for all aspirants, with all this uncertainty and unpleasant surprises, especially in the middle of a pandemic. We agree that the exam has certain inherent issues that effectively might lead to access and accessibility issues for several students from marginalized backgrounds. We also understand the multitude of concerns that have been raised with respect to the exam other than this and we are with you, in agreement and solidarity that these concerns need to be accommodated and addressed.

As the student body, we stand with the aspirants who might be disadvantaged owing to these issues, and we have brought them to the notice of the University. We realize there are multiple concerns regarding the accessibility of NLAT especially given the technical requirements and lack of clarity regarding several points. We have been informed that a notification for SAP students will be released soon (by tomorrow or the day after) and that work is underway to ensure that technical glitches or internet drops do not prejudice the exam.

There are numerous objections that have been raised at various forums in this regard and we also realize there is a petition pending before the Jharkhand HC. In any case, regardless of the outcome of these objections, we want to ensure that the issues faced by aspirants are accommodated and we want to do our part in the same. As students of NLS, we are committed to do our best to help bridge this issue of access. Taking the lead, some of our students had already started an initiative to ensure technical equipment such as laptops, dongles, etc, at least are available to aspirants who need them. Building upon this, student representatives from across various NLU student bodies have come together and are collaborating to create a database of students who would be willing to assist aspirants, wherever they are, in whatever access issues they might be facing-be it laptops or other equipment required for the exam.

If you are facing any such grave issues with respect to access, we request you to fill the attached <u>Google Form</u> with your details such as name, address, phone number, the nature of the issue you are facing, and we would try to assist you in however way we can. We request you to reach out at the earliest, as it might take a little time for us to process the logistics. Please do not hesitate to reach out, and we will ensure we do our best to help out.

If you want to reach out to us about a particular issue you can do so at laptopsfornlat@gmail.com.