SCHOLAR PROFILES

Swabhiman Jayant Patil
National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Bangalore

Mayank Kumar
NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad

Rishiraj Chandan
National Law University (NLU), Delhi

Alapan Porel
West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences (WBNUJS), Kolkata

Ratan Ram
West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences (WBNUJS), Kolkata

Anmol Raj
National Law University, Jodhpur (NLUJ)

Loveneesh Dhakad
National Law Institute University (NLIU), Bhopal

Mrídula Manoj
National University of Advanced Legal Studies (NUALS), Kochi

Banavath Brahmam
National Law University Odisha (NLUO), Cuttack

Gyanesh Mishra
National Law University Odisha (NLUO), Cuttack

Sumyya
Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University (RMLNLU), Lucknow

Intisar Aslam
National University of Study and Research in Law (NUSRL), Ranchi

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Swabhiman Jayant Patil
National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Bangalore

Swabhiman Jayant Patil comes from a small village, Kurdu, in the Solapur district of Maharashtra. His parents and elder sister constitute his small family. His father is a farmer and his mother, a homemaker. His father actively engages in social activities and is an organiser of Sarpanches in Maharashtra. His sister recently graduated with a degree in BSc. His family is no stranger to the importance of education and to encourage a brighter future for their children, they moved to Pune. After excelling in his 10th standard by scoring 90%, he became familiar with law as a career option through an IDIA awareness session. Swabhiman came across IDIA through the sensitisation conducted by IDIA volunteers at the Fergusson College, Pune where he was studying. He was selected as an IDIA Trainee after qualifying in the IDIA National Aptitude Test and the interviews conducted by IDIA. Never the one to pass opportunities, he gave his best to get into the IDIA program with the hopes of achieving his dreams.

Strongly determined to become a lawyer, he wishes to work towards fighting injustice, and towards the betterment of society. He was motivated by reading about the great lawyers of India and the differences they made in society. Swabhiman was very diligent with his preparation for the law entrance exams. From reading newspapers every day without fail to solving more than 80 mock tests, he left no stone unturned. As an IDIA Trainee, he was a dedicated, punctual, and curious student who would give his best in everything. We helped him by training him rigorously through lectures, mocks, and tests, and by clearing all his doubts, analysing his mocks, and revising the syllabus with him.

His hard work finally paid off. Swabhiman secured an AIR 42 in CLAT 2021 by scoring 106.75 marks out of 150. His dream of getting into a top National Law University is very close. Please come forward and help Swabhiman achieve his dream of becoming a lawyer!
Mayank Kumar

NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad

Mayank Kumar hails from Khagaria district of Bihar. He is a hardworking, goal oriented and a focused individual. He completed his 10th and 12th standard studies from his home district and scored 72.6% and 81.6% respectively. He comes from a financially weak background where his father is the sole bread earner of the family and earns around Rs. 15,000 - 20,000 monthly through his dairy business and farming, while his mother takes care of their home. Mayank has four sisters with two of them studying in colleges and two still studying in schools.

Mayank’s uncle suggested that he should attempt CLAT and pursue legal education. Mayank started researching on the internet for scholarships for law and he came across IDIA. Mayank believes that law is a tool which helps society to prosper. He would like to help the community at large by spreading awareness about law’s power to help overcome the existing inequalities. He also aims to train and help new aspirants to enter into the career field of their choice.

Mayank overcame many challenges during his preparation phase through rigorous patience, persistence and practice. His proficiency in English and Current Affairs was weak. However, he was determined to excel. He developed a rigorous reading habit that covered a variety of sources and subjects including Science, Economics, International Relations and Literature. Mayank believes that he has improved his vocabulary manifolds during the preparation for the law entrance examinations. His hard work is evident from the drastic improvement in his performance and ranks during the preparation.

The preparation wasn’t easy as the pandemic forced Mayank’s family to move to his village where it was very difficult for him to study in a two room house. He also lacked technical resources including a laptop. His community stepped in to help him. One of his generous neighbors accommodated him in his house and another helped him by providing a laptop. Mayank gives credit of his success to his community and wants to give back to them.

Apart from studies, Mayank also has considerable interest in computer programming. He is credited to have developed several softwares and a drone in his early school days. He is also a badminton player and has qualified for the zonal level badminton tournament. We are delighted to see that his hard work has yielded results and wish him all the best.

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Rishiraj Chandan
National Law University (NLU), Delhi

Rishiraj, a cheerful young man who can brighten your day with his positive energy, hails from the Banka district of Bihar, which is one of the most underdeveloped districts of the state when it comes to educational infrastructure. He completed his 10th standard from Simaria with a CGPA of 10 out of 10 and 12th standard from Tarapur with a score of about 76.6%. He has an elder brother who is preparing for government services after his graduation. His father is the sole bread earner of the family. His father works as a medical representative, earning around Rs. 20,000 monthly for a family of four.

Rishiraj's inclination towards the field of law came at an early age of 15 when he interacted with an alumni of National Law University, Jodhpur. At that moment he realised that law requires every skill that he is interested in and that he aspires to learn and use, such as - reading, writing, and debating. Later, he researched various opportunities on the internet for scholarships and came to know about IDIA. He reached out to our Bihar Chapter and was inducted as a Trainee by them. He describes law as the wheels of a vehicle. He says - “If any of the wheels are removed or mishandled then the whole vehicle would collapse. So, law for me is those wheels of society which leads it to run smoothly. Once I get to know more about the field after joining it, I would work to empower the people and community as I come from an underprivileged community which suffers. I will be familiar with the issues involved and problems faced by them, therefore, I can address them efficiently. To the society in large, I will work to enlighten people about the powers they have and also about the wrongs that need to be extirpated.”

Rishiraj says that law has turned him into an ambitious person with an aim of providing justice and eliminating the social oppression taking place in society. He wants to be inducted in the justice delivery mechanism. Rishiraj feels financially restrained as he never had the resources to afford proper education. He calls his struggle a blessing, which has taught him to have a positive outlook and become an ambitious person. The lack of privilege is something, which he believes taught him to respect things more than others and not to take things for granted. He is of the firm belief that education is the only tool to change the future.

Apart from studies, Rishiraj plays badminton and cricket. He was the school cricket team captain and led his school to win many accolades.

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Alapan Porel
West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences (WBNUJS), Kolkata

Alapan Porel lives in a village named Kotshimul which is located in the Purba Burdwan district of West Bengal. He completed his schooling from Nirbhoupur B.G. Nilkantha Shiksha Niketan and secured 74% in his 12th standard. He had enrolled in Jogesh Chandra Choudhary Law College, while preparing for the law entrance examinations with IDIA.

Alapan is a single child, and both his parents are working individuals. His father works as a daily wage labourer, and his mother is an Anganwadi worker. Through their hard work, they earn Rs. 9,500 per month to support the family. As both of his parents are working outside the house, Alapan takes care of many of the daily chores in the household.

Alapan has had an interesting journey when it comes to choosing his careers. He has explored options like the medical field and the defence services before zeroing in on pursuing a career in law. Alapan discovered National Law Universities while looking for alternative career options but was deterred by the high amount of fees charged at these institutes. He came to know about IDIA through social media, which ignited his hopes of securing a place at the premier law schools in the country. He joined a regional college while he was preparing for law entrance examinations as he was determined to become a lawyer.

Alapan overcame many difficulties during the pandemic when the training was happening online. These included lack of good internet connection, frequent power cuts, and difficulty with English as he did his schooling in a vernacular medium.

Alapan is an avid reader and enjoys reading biographies and books on science with his favourite being 'A Brief History of Time' by Stephen Hawking. He also loves reading crime and detective novels in his free time. Alapan has a strong social spirit and wants to contribute to society. He takes out time to teach the children from his village free of cost. He also has a keen interest in politics. He believes in giving back to the community and aspires to join the judicial services and spend time with NGOs doing ground-level work. He was one of the volunteers who helped IDIA create a database of resources in West Bengal during the second wave of COVID-19. We believe that Alapan has the right spirit that we want to see in our Scholars.
Ratan Ram
West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences (WBNUJS), Kolkata

Ratan is the son of a farmer who earns Rs. 90,000 annually. Both his parents have not attended college. He belongs to the Scheduled Caste category and has three siblings (one brother and two sisters). He is a very bright student who has scored 88% and 71% in the 10th and 12th standards, respectively, in spite of many hurdles. He loves to play cricket and is also interested in solving mathematical problems.

Ratan wants to be a lawyer because being a villager, he knows the problems faced by the people of the village, especially related to land rights and caste discrimination. Due to the lack of legal knowledge and unawareness of rights, the life of a common man in a village is subject to abuse by many powerful people. Entry to temples in his village is restricted for the people of his caste. He, himself, has faced many difficulties in his village because of the discrimination and rampant abuse. Therefore, he wishes to spread awareness among his community about the power of law. He aims to tackle these problems, one at a time.

Ratan has taken up law so that he is in a position to lead sensitization and make people aware of their rights and duties. He has been associated with IDIA for the last two years.

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Anmol Raj hails from Sonbhadra in Uttar Pradesh. His father works as a sweeper at the Gram Panchayat and supports the family of four with a monthly salary of about Rs. 32,000. Life didn’t come easy for Anmol. He was born with a defect in his left eye, due to which he had blurred vision since birth. In 2012, when he was 15 years old, Anmol suddenly lost vision in his right eye which was by then his only functioning eye. Consequently, he had dropped out of his school when he was in the 10th standard and underwent a long-haul treatment. Through the course of the next 5 years, Anmol was completely away from anything remotely related to academics and slowly started to lose his skill sets that he had acquired diligently by studying in his school.

However, Anmol wasn’t the type to give in to the tough circumstances easily. In 2017, after a 5-year long frustrating gap in his studies, he resumed his schooling and joined the MKSD Inter-college in Lucknow in the 9th standard. Anmol put in tremendous efforts to make up for all the lost time and scored a whooping 83% in his 10th standard examinations. Such stellar results pushed Anmol to work even harder. Due to the dynamism offered by the legal field, it became his dream to pursue law and become a lawyer. There was no lawyer in his family or even in the area around him and that fueled his passion even more to pursue a career that would make him different from others. Moreover, he wanted to help others and give back to society. Soon enough, he resolved to attempt CLAT.

Anmol got introduced to IDIA through one of our sensitization sessions where we talked about legal education and law as a career. He got in touch with us right away. Within a matter of weeks, he was inducted into our traineeship program and gave his all into the preparation from the start. Managing his 12th standard examinations alongside his preparation for law entrance exams has been a tough task but his resilience and desire to make it big has helped him strike the right balance between the two. His meticulous planning and hard work bore fruits when he passed his 12th standard board exams by scoring 68.8% and also secured a seat in NLU Jodhpur, a cause for double celebration when the results of both exams were announced within a few days of each other. Anmol’s determination and courage has stood the test of times and we are sure that he will continue exhibiting the same in his new journey at a premier law school.

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Loveneesh Dhakad
National Law Institute University (NLIU), Bhopal

Loveneesh hails from Dupariya, a small village in Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh. He lost his father in 2010 and he currently lives with his mother and two sisters. His mother is a homemaker. The family relies on only Rs. 40,000 that they get as rental income annually. Therefore, they have to endure many financial hardships.

Loveneesh completed his 10th standard education from Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya and secured 8.6 CGPA. He continued his senior secondary education from Vidisha Academy Higher Secondary School and scored 78% marks.

Loveneesh came to know about law as a career option through an awareness session conducted by IDIA in his school in which the students were acquainted with legal education and law as a career. He qualified among many students who gave the IDIA National Aptitude Test and was selected as an IDIA Trainee. Loveneesh secured AIR 5121 in CLAT 2020 but could not land a seat at a NLU. He was determined to clear CLAT and continued to be a hardworking and a devoted student. He consistently worked towards improving his scores by relying majorly on self study and the materials provided by IDIA. His hard work bore fruits this year by landing him a seat at NLIU, Bhopal. Loveneesh aspires to become a judge in the future.
Mridula Manoj
National University of Advanced Legal Studies (NUALS), Kochi

Mridula, a native of Wayanad district in Kerala, belongs to the Kattunayakan tribe (a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group) and falls under the Below Poverty Line category. She is the eldest among the children in her family and has two younger siblings - a sister in the 8th grade and a brother in the 5th grade. Her mother who is a daily wage worker is the sole breadwinner of her family.

Mridula completed her 10th standard in 2019 and graduated from the 12th standard in 2021 with an A+ in Malayalam. She was trained by IDIA Kerala Chapter in association with DLSA, Wayanad. The mentors from the chapter provided her with study materials, mock papers, and organised doubt clearance sessions. The efforts bore fruit when she secured rank 1 in the ST- Kerala state category under CLAT and was offered a seat at NUALS, Kochi.

When Mridula was in school, a few senior students attended a session in Kalpetta, Wayanad, on career opportunities. They returned and told Mridula and her friends that law is a good profession to take up since she can use her skills to do good for society and for the upliftment of tribes in Wayanad. It inspired her to prepare for CLAT and she hopes to practice as a lawyer in her community someday. Mridula also attributes her success to the inspiration she got from Radhika, an IDIA Scholar at NUALS, Kochi, who was the first to make it into a National Law University from the Kattunayakan tribe.

Mridula is passionate about promoting justice and fairness for all and cites this as one of her major reasons for taking up law. She aims to empower her community and ensure representation for tribal communities in the legal profession as well as in broader public discourse. She takes a keen interest in giving back to her society. Mridula likes to play sports, especially athletics, in her free time.
Banavath Brahman hails from Nalgonda district in Telangana, where he lives with his parents. He completed his 10th standard from Alpha High School in his district scoring a CGPA of 9.7 out of 10. He pursued his senior secondary in the humanities stream from Narayana IAS Academy and secured a remarkable 97.4% in his 12th standard. He enjoys reading books, playing cricket and watching documentaries in his free time.

Brahmam's father is a farmer and his mother is a homemaker. His father is the sole breadwinner in the family. With a monthly income of INR 10,000, even thinking of getting enrolled in a university was a dream for him. He appeared for CLAT in 2020 as well. However, he couldn't perform well in it. Brahmam did not give up and stayed dedicated and motivated. He appeared for CLAT again in 2021 and finally secured a seat in an NLU.

Brahmam came to know about IDIA through his cousin who is presently studying at NALSAR. He qualified through IDIA selection process which includes an aptitude test (INAT), interviews, and background check. He was onboarded as an IDIA Trainee. He is extremely grateful to IDIA for the mentorship, support, and guidance provided to him.

Brahmam believes that law is the most fundamental aspect of life. He understands the plight of the marginalized communities and feels that law is a great tool to ensure access to justice to such communities. He wishes to become a lawyer and help people who are facing social exclusion and discrimination. Brahman wishes to ensure that the rights of such people are protected.
Gyanesh Mishra

Gyanesh Mishra belongs to Madhupur, a city in Deoghar district of Jharkhand. He completed his 10th standard education from Carmel School, Madhupur, scoring an aggregate of 88% and his 12th standard from Mount Litera Zee School, Deoghar. He topped his school in the 12th standard with an aggregate score of 92% in the commerce stream.

Gyanesh’s mother passed away in 2004 and his father passed away in 2019. He is currently living with his sister in Kolkata. His father ran a medical store which provided sufficient income to help him in his school education. However, after the demise of Gyanesh’s father, the financial condition of the family has taken a huge hit and Gyanesh is being taken care of by his sister, who works as an accountant at a company.

Gyanesh is extremely talented with a deep interest in debates and discussions since his school days. He excelled as an organiser and was selected as the School Captain. He has also represented his school in the inter-school cricket tournament. With an initial inclination towards pursuing a career as Chartered Accountant, he realised his potential for law after being inspired by his cousin who is a lawyer. He came to know about IDIA through him and contacted us. With the support of IDIA, he has a new ray of hope for his career in law after he couldn’t pursue it in 2020 due to exorbitant fees of law colleges.

Gyanesh believes that a career in law is not just about securing his future but it shall also help him to deliver justice to those who are vulnerable.

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Sumyya hails from the city of Amroha, in the Western Uttar Pradesh. She scored 85.4% in her 10th standard examinations with the highest score in her school in the subject of Social Science. She worked hard to manage her 12th standard studies and scored an astonishing 93% in the AMU board examinations while preparing for the law entrance examinations. She is a single child of her mother who fulfilled the roles of both the parents while working as an Aganwadi Worker. Her mother acts as her support system.

Sumyya likes working on difficult issues and wants to go into litigation. With a deep understanding of the rule of law and importance of it in society, she wants to advocate for those who suffer injustices. She firmly believes in the value of hard work in progressing in life. Additionally, she has always found the stream of law as very fascinating and intriguing.

Sumyya has been a part of the Students of Aligarh Muslim University (SAMU), a student-organized group, for four years. As part of SAMU, she has contributed to the society in many ways like teaching children from slums and providing winter packs to street-sleepers within the local area. She was also a member of the hostel anti-ragging committee, which helped her to work on her propensity to listen and understand people's issues.

She loves language and vocabulary. She has always been fascinated by the dynamics of the legal profession and while reading some inspirational articles, she came across an article of an IDIA Scholar and came to know about the organisation. To know more about the organisation, she texted IDIA on social media and thereafter never looked back and got an AIR of 1215 in CLAT 2021.

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Intisar, a resident of Lucknow, is one of our brightest kids. His father passed away due to brain haemorrhage in 2010. Just a year later, his mother too passed away after battling blood cancer. He lives with his elder sister who herself is pursuing masters, and his masi (mother's sister), both unmarried. The only source of income for the family is the pension received by his maternal aunt on his behalf, which amounts to Rs. 14,000 a month.

Intisar is a determined kid, one who takes his failures as challenges. His hard work is evident from his stellar performances in class 10th & 12th where despite all odds he scored a whopping 89.8% (ICSE board) and 95.5% (ISC Board, PCB) respectively. Intisar used to head the students council in school and takes great interest in sports. He aspires to join the judiciary and do the best to his fullest capacity.

Intisar came to know about IDIA through his neighbour who himself was a student of GNLU. He got in touch with IDIA UP Chapter, got selected as a trainee and started his journey towards his goal of making it to a top NLU.

Intisar has been a consistent performer throughout the year and improved in leaps and bounds. He meticulously took care of the smallest of mistakes and has been highly critical of his own efforts. But the intensity he brought to his studies has helped him break through his constraints and materialize his dreams.
Lavanay Raj hails from a small town in Bihar known as Hajipur. His father was a medical salesman who used to earn Rs. 15,000 per month. His mother is the sole breadwinner of the family now and earns her living as a beautician. Lavanay has an elder sister, who is married. His parents have worked hard to make both the ends meet and make enough money so that they can secure their childrens’ futures.

The pandemic exacerbated his family’s struggles. His father fell seriously ill, suffering 50% lung damage, and was subsequently fired from the company. Since then, his father has been unemployed. Lavanay has nine members in his family, including his cousins. His family was heavily dependent on his grandfather’s pension. However, he recently lost his grandfather and his aunt due to COVID-19. Lavanay is still facing financial crunches due to the losses he faced during the pandemic. He describes those days as nightmares where he had to manage everything on his own and ensure that his family survives the mental toil. This caused many hurdles in his studies and he struggled to get back. Needless to say, this win means a lot to him and his family. Lavanay completed his 10th standard with a CGPA of 8.6 in his CBSE board examination. In spite of all the hurdles, he completed his 12th standard from DAV Hehal (Ranchi) with a score of 78% in the Humanities stream. Lavanay came to know about law as a career option when he was in 11th standard through a friend of his sister. One day, he read an article about the IDIA Scholars and their result in CLAT 2020. He asked for help from his school seniors and contacted IDIA. After that, he cleared the IDIA National Aptitude Test, interviews, and his training started in an online mode. He faced difficulties in English and the reasoning sections as he was unable to understand the passages. To overcome these difficulties, he worked hard and started reading newspapers for 4-5 hours daily. His IDIA mentor guided him on a daily basis, which he found to be very helpful in improving score in mocks.

Lavanay knows that for people like him it is tough and expensive to resort to legal remedies. Few years ago, one of his family members faced a medical negligence case in a hospital in his district. They were denied proper legal support due to their social and economic conditions. This incident has been an inspiration for him to learn the law and help people in need. Lavanay has worked hard to overcome the barriers that life kept bringing in. He wants to support his people by contributing towards the reforms of the legal system. He is determined to make quality legal services available to underprivileged people in this country. Therefore, he wishes to practise as a litigation lawyer after graduation.

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Hailing from Chembur, Shagufta is one of five siblings in her family. Her father who was a salesman lost his job due to the pandemic and her mother is a homemaker, so her family solely depends on rental income for their survival. She secured 73.34% in her HSC boards despite all the adversities. She actively participates in debating.

Her dedication towards becoming a supporting pillar for her family is unparalleled. She became a part of IDIA as a Trainee when she was in her first year of Junior College (FYJC), and since then she has been preparing for the law entrance exams under the guidance of the IDIA Mumbai Chapter. As her CLAT 2020 score did not satisfy her, she jumped into preparation once again and has been studying diligently to get into one of the top NLUs.

Shagufta aspires to contribute to building society by going into civil services, and becoming a role model for her people and an inspiration to her siblings. She believes that a law degree coupled with her interests and willingness to pay back to society will help her attain her goal.
Aman Upadhyay
National University of Study and Research in Law (NUSRL), Ranchi

Aman hails from a small village in the Basti district of Uttar Pradesh. His family consists of 7 members. His father, the sole bread earner of the family, works as a peon in a school, and earns Rs. 2.75 lakhs annually. His mother supports the family as the homemaker. While things haven’t been easy for Aman and his family, it never wavered their spirit.

Aman did his schooling at RKVS Inter College, which is a Hindi medium school in Harraiya Basti. He has always been a bright student, showcasing his academic acumen by obtaining good grades in the 10th and 12th standards.

Aman’s path was paved with difficulties during his preparation for CLAT. He did not have proper internet connectivity as he lived in a rural area and had to go to cyber cafes for attempting mocks. As he studied in a vernacular medium school, Aman needed to work hard on his English. He read around 8-10 novels along with his daily reading of editorials in the leading newspapers. This not only improved his vocabulary extensively but has also made reading one of his favourite hobbies.

For Aman, law is a stepping-stone to a career in the civil services, which has been his dream since the 10th standard. His future goal is to become a civil servant for he passionately feels for the society and wants to do everything in his power for the masses.

Aman came across IDIA through YouTube while watching interviews of the toppers. He got constant support from the IDIA team, and his mentors were constantly there to guide, support, and motivate him every step of the way.
Adarsh Dubey hails from Paraspatti village of Sultanpur, Uttar Pradesh, and has endured to forge his own path from a young age. After he lost both his grandparents within a year of each other, his family shifted to his father’s ancestral home in their village permanently. When people in his village deemed education as unnecessary, he didn’t conform to their views and continued his education unfazed. He joined a convent school and did his schooling from there till 10th grade and passed with flying colours with a CGPA of 9. He then moved to Kendriya Vidyalaya Faizabad for his 11th and 12th standards’ studies and scored 79.9% in the humanities stream. His origins are humble, as is evident from his father’s occupation i.e., a farmer with an annual income of Rs. 50,000. It was his mother who kept him motivated and clear-minded through all the troubles, and encouraged him to take CLAT. He is also an inspiration to his younger brother.

He frequently dabbles in topics including those of psychology, astronomy, technology and English literature to broaden his views and gain a better perspective of this world. Leaving behind the insular views of his community, he understands the rising problem of pollution and further the pressing need for a better health care system for all. He got to know about IDIA from one of his online friends in SLS Noida whom he met online.

He dreams of being a judge who can stand for justice and ensure that the encumbrances he had to suffer are not faced by others in future. Remoteness of his residence has served as a constant impediment for his education especially during these times of COVID-19. Adarsh wishes to provide a free flow of information, skills and knowledge through the internet to each individual so that everyone gets an opportunity to learn through the internet free of cost even if they don’t have the means to pay for it.

Adarsh has demonstrated tremendous strength of will, motivation and translated his words into action. Adarsh has made the best of the resources and aid provided to him at IDIA and proved true to our expectations.
Dhananjay Dubey
Institute of Law, Nirma University

Dhananjay Dubey is a resident of Kolkata, West Bengal. He is the youngest member of the family and lives with his father, mother and an elder sister. His father runs a general store, and his mother is a homemaker. The income of his father was severely impacted by the pandemic.

Dhananjay secured 82% in 10th standard and went ahead to complete his schooling at National High School, Kolkata securing 78% in the commerce stream in his 12th standard. He has also been actively involved in numerous activities throughout his school life and has received many accolades and recognition for the same. He participated in events like State Level Spelling Competitions and Quiz Competition. Furthermore, he has a keen interest in debating and has won the top prize in an intra-school debate competition and has been a runner-up in a debate organised at the Jadavpur University. He has won many medals by participating in Maths, Science and General Knowledge Olympiads. As a testament to his qualities, he has also been entrusted with the responsibilities of being the School Captain. He has also been adjudged as the Best Student of the Year for his all-round performance in the 10th standard.

Dhananjay is also an active participant in many sports activities. He has been a part of his school’s cricket team and has played in many local, regional, and state level tournaments. He also had an opportunity to play at the much-coveted Eden Gardens stadium in Kolkata. He has been a regular participant at athletic events, winning a staggering 5 trophies in a single year. For his sporting excellence, he also received the Champion of Champions trophy on the sports day in his school as he was the winner in all the events in which he participated. He is also a yellow belt holder in Karate. Dance is another area where Dhananjay finds interest and has regularly participated in competitions and won accolades for the same.

He faced many issues due to everything shifting online during the pandemic. Dhananjay did not have a computer or laptop and carried on his preparation on a phone. Due to financial constraints, he was unable to get the mocks printed even though he needed to practice for the offline mode of the exam. He lives in an extremely small house, and he had to take refuge in a small corner of the roof for most of his studies. Yet, he persisted.

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Mohammed Sadiq
Institute of Law, Nirma University

Sadiq lives in a small city of Rajasthan from where he completed his higher secondary education and took a drop year to work hard for the next step in achieving his dreams. Sadiq comes from a very humble background and had to face various challenges due to financial instability, but that kept him motivated towards his goal of changing his life for the better. He had to face many hardships during his preparation time as he managed studies and he helped his father sell fruits, but he didn’t lose hope. He was consistent with his learning and pushed himself harder under the guidance of various mentors of IDIA Rajasthan Chapter who recognized his passion for law.

Sadiq likes reading books and since the 8th standard he found himself to be passionate about arguing for the truth and opposing the unjust. He has been greatly inspired by his neighbor who is also a lawyer and he wishes to be confident and knowledgeable like him someday.

There have been times when Sadiq felt anxious about his preparations, but he used to share his problems and doubts with the team of mentors, and this constant support helped him sail through the tough times. He is very grateful for all the assistance provided by IDIA and believes that his association with the Rajasthan Chapter has helped him come a step closer to his goal of being a successful lawyer and contributing to the society.
Sejal Chhablani
Institute of Law, Nirma University

Sejal is a 19-year-old law aspirant from Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh. Her family consists of five members. She completed her schooling from Gyan Sagar Girls Academy, Ujjain.

In 2020, she couldn't join a law college for an undergraduate degree due to financial issues. It was then that she was introduced to IDIA through a school senior. She joined IDIA as a trainee for the year 2020-2021 after passing the aptitude test, interview and background check.

Sejal worked consistently for cracking the law entrance examinations. She used to wake up everyday at 3 am to study. Alongside, she maintained a healthy routine of exercises so that she was mentally and physically prepared to face the entrance examinations. She made it a point to take one day at a time and revise the daily class notes and mock sessions. The IDIA Madhya Pradesh Chapter trained and mentored Sejal rigorously throughout the year. Additionally, she was enrolled at a coaching centre through IDIA.

Sejal is an avid speaker. She has participated in debates, elocution and MUNs. She likes to analyze issues from different perspectives and understand the logic and reasoning behind a standpoint. She believes that she possesses good oratory skills and that she can build an argument taking into account the various perspectives of an issue. She wishes to pursue law to tap into her skills for the betterment of people around her. She is always open to opportunities as and when they come and while it is too early to know for sure, currently, she aspires to test her skills in corporate law.

Sejal is also a keen and eclectic reader, with a particular interest in psychology. She adores listening to and learning instrumental music. Given the chance, she looks forward to spending time in the lap of nature and in the woods
Dilip Nagaura belongs to the Scheduled Caste category and lives in Baori, a remote village in the Jodhpur district of Rajasthan. His father, who is a farmer is the sole breadwinner of the family and earns around Rs. 80,000 annually. Dilip lost his mother when he was an infant. His family consists of his father, stepmother, and five sisters.

Dilip's interest in law began after he witnessed numerous incidents of caste-based discrimination, child marriages and child labour prevalent in villages. He likes reading about various social issues, and this motivated him to understand the rights of children to access adequate education and health facilities. He strongly believes that people shouldn't be discriminated against but must be treated equally as guaranteed under our Constitution.

Dilip cleared the 10th standard with 82.17 % and the 12th standard with 73 % from Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Residential School, Mandore, Jodhpur. The writings of Dr. Ambedkar have greatly inspired him to contribute towards ensuring equality for all. Therefore, law was a natural choice for him as he understood that law can be used to help underprivileged people fight for their rights. He is constantly encouraged by his grandmother who sees Dilip as a leader of the community. He wishes to free children from bondage and sensitise his community and others about their rights. In his free time, Dilip plays cricket.

Dilip has secured admission at VIPS, New Delhi. He is excited for the next phase and is ready to face new challenges in his life. He hopes to understand the nuances of law and work further to simplify it for the common man.
Nilabh hails from Muzaffarpur, Bihar. He is a dedicated and hardworking student. He scored a CGPA of 10 in the tenth standard and 72.4% in the twelfth standard. His mother was a schoolteacher but lost her job during the pandemic. His father is a farmer.

Nilabh became interested in pursuing law after he went to a civil court on a matter pertaining to a property dispute. He realised the importance of legal education and awareness about the laws. He decided to pursue a career in law, but his family income was not enough to afford his legal education. He searched for scholarships and incidentally got to know about IDIA through an IDIA Trainee who told him about IDIA, legal education and law entrance examinations. Ever since he contacted the IDIA Bihar Chapter, we have been supporting his CLAT preparation through mocks, training materials, classes and sponsoring his other associated expenses.

His journey of CLAT preparation was full of difficulties. On one hand, his family was facing financial issues in the lockdown. On the other hand, he was working hard to improve his mock test scores. His mother’s support and struggle helped him persevere during the preparation.

Nilabh has a deep understanding about social prejudices and that has inspired him to empower himself through law while serving the society. He aspires to become a litigator. Nilabh is also interested in playing badminton and cooking. He credits his success to his mother and the IDIA Bihar Chapter.
Ajay is a resident of Ghatkopar, Mumbai. He comes from a family with limited financial means. His father is a mechanic and is the sole earner in the household of 5 members. Ajay is the eldest among 3 siblings in his family. One of his siblings is currently studying in 11th standard while the other has just started pursuing a bachelor’s degree in Management Studies.

Ajay did his schooling from Modern English High School, Ghatkopar. He was a very diligent and hard-working student. During his school, he was not only the captain of the cricket team but also played for his school’s football and kho-kho teams. Apart from sports, he also has a keen interest in Model United Nations, debating, reading, and watching anime.

Ajay came across IDIA in his 11th standard through one of his teachers, who connected him to the IDIA Mumbai Chapter due to his interest in law. Through IDIA, Ajay learnt the possible avenues that law as a career could provide him and that encouraged him to prepare for law entrance examinations. Ajay says that he has explored many fields before realising that his true passion lies in studying law. As he continues to engage in the field of law, he realises its potential and opportunities. In 2021 Ajay has successfully gotten a seat in ILS Pune to pursue the 5 year B.A. LL.B course and we are delighted to be a constant part of his journey.

The average expense of putting a scholar through law school comes to Rs 5,00,000/- annually. Help us achieve our target through your generous support. Please donate now!
Binayak Dutta

Calcutta University

Binayak Dutta belongs to Bankura, West Bengal. Binayak’s father works as a self-employed electrician and his mother is an assistant teacher in a primary school. He completed his schooling from Bankura Banga Vidyalaya, a government school and has recently been admitted to the Department of Law, Calcutta University, Hazrah Campus. He scored a commendable 88.4% in his 12th standard West Bengal State Board examination in the Humanities stream.

Binayak is an avid writer and is often found writing short Bengali prose and poems. He wanted to pursue law since the 8th standard. His inspiration primarily came from a local teacher in his town who happened to be a law graduate as well. Although, his teacher was not a practicing advocate, he was actively involved in social work and had a positive impact on society. This inspired Binayak to follow in his footsteps.

Binayak came across IDIA through one of his relatives when he was in the 10th standard, who put him in touch with one of IDIA’s Directors, Mr. Arnab Roy. Arnab got Binayak acquainted with IDIA. Binayak cleared the IDIA National Aptitude Test (INAT) and interviews and was taken on board as an IDIA Trainee. IDIA trained him and provided him with an opportunity to study law. Binayak is thankful for IDIA’s support. Prior to his association with IDIA, his parents were averse to his desire of pursuing a career in law and wanted him to follow the traditional route of pursuing medicine or engineering. However, upon being sensitised by IDIA, Binayak’s parents’ outlook changed and now they extend their full support to him in fulfilling his wishes.

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Sakshi is from a remote village called Sikandrabad in Ratibad, Madhya Pradesh. She completed her schooling from Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Ratibad. She lives with three members of her family including her father, her sister and a brother. Her father, who owns an atta chakki (a machine for grinding flour), is the sole breadwinner of the family. Sakshi’s mother passed away in 2013.

Sakshi wishes to pursue law as it gives her an opportunity to work for people. According to her - “Sensitising about rights will go a long way in ensuring justice. Justice is not to be met out based on money but must be available to all irrespective of being rich or poor”.

Sakshi came to know of IDIA from a sensitisation carried out by IDIA Madhya Pradesh Chapter in her school. She cleared the IDIA National Aptitude Test, attended the interview and got selected as an IDIA trainee. She was tutored at her school, and online, by the IDIA volunteers. Later, she was also enrolled at LegalEdge through IDIA. Sakshi was a hardworking law aspirant. Her routine started with exercise and meditation in the morning. She attempted mock papers daily. When she had doubts in a subject, she would get in touch with her subject mentors. At the end of a week, she revised her studies. During lockdown, though there were some hiccups, she continued to prepare with full steam.

Sakshi gives credit to all her mentors for helping her prepare for the law entrance examinations. According to her - “[IDIA] Mentors stood beside me in all situations, constantly urging me to make the best use of my time.”

Sakshi has always had a keen interest in theatre and drama. She has performed at the national level theatre fest in Odisha and various events in school. Dance is a part of Sakshi’s life. Sakshi also learns Judo and has taken part in some regional level competitions. She was also active in coordinating cultural and sports events in her school. She is a talented leader and hopes that her leadership qualities will help in her career.

Sakshi is an avid reader and debater. She has taken part in various debates and elocution competitions. She looks forward to participating in moot competitions, debates, etc. She wishes to complete her legal education and contribute to the society.

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