ABOUT US

IDIA is a nation-wide movement founded in 2010 by the late Prof. (Dr.) Shamnad Basheer. Our mission is to empower underprivileged and marginalized communities by cultivating top-quality lawyers from within.

IDIA's approach involves a four-step process. First, through sensitizations, our volunteers traverse the length and breadth of India—from the Sunderbans in West Bengal to Baramulla in Jammu & Kashmir. Their mission is to identify and introduce underprivileged students to the transformative power of the law, showcasing the diverse career options available. Those who express interest undergo a rigorous two-year training program, including classroom coaching from India's leading law entrance (CLAT) coaching centers and trainers.

Once admitted to a law school, IDIA continues its support by arranging scholarships to alleviate financial barriers. However, our commitment extends beyond facilitating admissions; we aim to create leading lawyers and community advocates. IDIA Scholars undergo a comprehensive training and mentorship program, fostering qualities such as creativity, holistic thinking, altruism, and maverick problem-solving—qualities we believe define true champions.
MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGING TRUSTEE

In reflection of the past year, it brings me great satisfaction to share the unwavering commitment of IDIA to its mission, where we remained true to our pledge of promoting inclusivity and diversity in legal education.

In furtherance of our aim to spread awareness about law, both as a tool for empowerment and as a viable career option for someone trying to provide a better life for their loved ones, we were able to sensitize over 7,300 students across the country, from Sikkim and Nagaland in the east to Gujarat in the west, and from Tamil Nadu and Kerala in the south to Uttarakhhand in the north. In one of our particularly successful sensitization drives, our Rajasthan chapter, in a single day, conducted sensitizations for over 1000 students about the transformative power of the law. This tremendous effort underscores IDIA’s commitment to breaking down barriers and ensuring that legal education is accessible to all, regardless of socio-economic backgrounds.

In the coming year we will seek to build upon the good work from last year and aim to increase outreach and legal awareness initiatives for women in low female literacy States.

Our training vertical continued their impressive work from the previous year, with another 22 of our Trainees gaining admission into India’s premier law schools, evidencing the dedicated efforts of our training team in providing the Trainees with comprehensive and effective training geared towards clearing the law entrance examinations. Another consequent achievement of the above is our contribution towards injection of the much needed diversity in India’s elite law schools, with 10 out of the 22 students coming from SC and ST communities. Eight students were female and another four were persons with disabilities. With this, the total number of IDIA scholars who have gained admission to India’s top law schools crossed 200, a remarkable milestone.

Our Scholars continue to make us proud, overcoming barriers and achieving new milestones with every passing year. One particularly remarkable achievement was that of Abhinav Shukla who topped his batch in NUSRL Ranchi.

The highly anticipated IDIA Football League marked its return this year in Mumbai, with over 20 teams from the legal fraternity vying for the trophy, and raising funds to help us better in our mission towards promoting diversity and inclusivity.

The IDIA family grew in numbers this year and I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Suhaib, Ankitha, and Sindhu once again. I am certain that they will take this organization to new heights.

Lastly, I would like to thank our donors and well-wishers for their continued support which keeps on enabling us to work towards our goal of creating a truly inclusive and diverse legal fraternity. Looking forward to another year of doing our bit towards that goal.

With warm regards,

Shishira Rudrappa
As we reflect on the past year’s journey, I am thrilled to share the impactful strides IDIA has made in advancing our mission within the legal education landscape. As the CEO, I present key highlights from our Annual Report—a testament to our unyielding commitment and bold initiatives.

A standout initiative was the successful implementation of a comprehensive boot camp for new scholars, strategically equipping them with essential skills for their demanding journey through law school. This underscores our firm commitment to holistic development, setting the stage for success.

The triumphant return of the IDIA Football League featured 22 teams, fostering connections within the legal community. The funds raised significantly contribute to our cause, promoting inclusivity and diversity in legal education. It’s a powerful demonstration of the impact we can make when we come together.

In our ongoing commitment to inclusivity, we organized a special event for visually impaired (VI) students, aligning with our core values of equal opportunities. This is a clear statement that actions, not just words, define our dedication to a level playing field for all.

Our relentless efforts to raise awareness among children from marginalized communities about law, providing training and support for CLAT, remain unwavering. This resolute commitment underscores our dedication to accessible legal education—an integral pillar of our mission. Notably, we sensitized over 1000 children in a single day in Rajasthan, demonstrating our ability to continuously reach out and amplify the message of legal empowerment.

We welcomed Suhaib, Ankitha, and Sindhu to our team and look forward to driving meaningful change with them.

Celebrating academic achievements, 22 students cracked CLAT 2023—a testament to the rigorous support provided by IDIA. The 2024 CLAT results hold significant promise, with 10 trainees securing a spot in the initial list and an additional 15 receiving invitations for counseling.

Heartfelt gratitude to our donors and supporters for your unwavering support. Your generosity propels our mission forward, creating lasting impacts and paving the way for a more inclusive legal profession.

In conclusion, the past year marks achievements, growth, and a steadfast commitment to our mission. Our gratitude extends to our team, partners, and the entire IDIA community for promoting inclusivity and diversity in the legal profession.

With warm regards,
Sabah Mistry
IMPACT IN NUMBERS (2010-2023)

- **100,060+** students sensitized to law as a viable career option, fostering awareness and opening doors to a diverse range of opportunities.

- **728+** students trained for the challenges of leading law entrance examinations, thereby empowering them to pursue legal education.

- **206** IDIA Scholars gained admission to top-tier Indian law schools, a testament to the effectiveness of our programs and the dedication of both scholars and mentors.

- **35** IDIA Scholars with disabilities have not only overcome barriers but are contributing actively to the legal community, showcasing the power of diversity in the field.
SENSITISATIONS IN 2023

In 2023, IDIA continued its impactful sensitization efforts, reaching various demographics:

7,359+ students were sensitized throughout the year. These efforts not only disseminated knowledge about law as a career option but also reinforced IDIA’s commitment to inclusivity by spanning both urban and rural landscapes.

60 sensitization sessions conducted in urban areas, engaging students in bustling city environments and enlightening them about the possibilities in the legal field.

41 sensitization sessions took place in rural settings, extending the outreach to communities where such opportunities might be less accessible.
SCHOLARS IN 2023

Out of a total of 22 scholars, 10 belong to the SC/ST category, with 5 scholars each from the Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST). Additionally, there are 8 female scholars, highlighting a diverse representation. Among the scholars, 4 fall under the Persons with Disabilities (PWD) category, emphasizing inclusivity.

The training program has demonstrated its impact, with over 100 trainees initially enrolled and an impressive 73 participants actively engaging in entrance tests.
HERE ARE BRIEF GLIMPSES INTO A FEW OF OUR SCHOLARS FOR THE YEAR 2023

Malika Aziz
GNLU, Gujarat

In the mountains of Ladakh, Malika Aziz defied financial constraints to pursue her legal aspirations. Discovering IDIA in 11th grade, she became a resilient force, scoring a perfect 100 in political science in her 12th grade, breaking records in Ladakh. With IDIA’s support, Malika now walks the corridors of GNLU, embodying determination and resilience in her pursuit of a legal career.

Sabavath Satish
NLU, Odisha

Satish, a diligent student, secured a scholarship for education at a residential school, achieving a remarkable 10.0 GPA. Supported by the Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Telangana Backward Classes Welfare Residential Educational Institutions Society, Satish deviated from the engineering path preferred by his peers. Recognizing a lack of awareness about law careers in his village, he not only aspires to study law himself but also to inspire fellow villagers, introducing them to opportunities presented by exams like CLAT.

Hridya
NUALS, Kochi

In serene Kannur, Kerala, Hridya, a gifted public speaker, faced financial setbacks after excelling academically. Supported by her mother and IDIA, she achieved her dream of studying law at a National Law University, showcasing her eloquence on India’s Super Speaker Season 3. Now, Hridya aspires to make a positive impact, combining resilience and ambition on her journey toward justice.

Budha Lama
WBNUJS, Kolkata

Meet Budha, a beacon of resilience in the picturesque Bhatpara village of West Bengal. Hailing from the Tamang community, his family, descendants of Nepali migrants, embraced Indian citizenship while overcoming financial challenges with a monthly income of Rs. 3000. Budha’s educational journey, from local schooling to a scholarship at Legal Edge in Bhopal, showcases his determination to break barriers. Despite a 40% visual impairment, he conquered CLAT 2023, but financial hurdles persist. Embraced by IDIA, Budha aspires to be a Supreme Court judge, using his talents in music and sports to empower his community.
ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2023
BY IDIA SCHOLARS

Mayank Kumar
NALSAR, Hyderabad

Mayank and his team from Nalsar University reached the Semi-finals in the Sports Arbitration Moot organised by FIFA in Madrid, Spain, competing against over 40 global teams, highlighting their prowess in Insolvency and Sports Law.

Abhinav Shukla
NUSRL, Ranchi

Topping his batch of 120 students at NUSRL Ranchi with a remarkable CGPA of 7.6, Abhinav has not only excelled academically but has also contributed to esteemed International and National journals, enriching legal discourse with valuable insights.

Ashok Kumar
Nirma University, Gujarat

Ashok's inspiring journey from a village to securing a spot in Seattle University School of Law’s Master of Laws (LLM) program, as the first recipient of the Remala Family Scholarship, reflects the triumph of perseverance.

Deepak Yadav
Nirma University, Gujarat

Deepak Yadav, a remarkable 5-year IDIA scholar, emerged victorious as the captain of the Institute of Law’s volleyball team at the Inter-Institute Volleyball Tournament, showcasing exceptional leadership skills and unwavering determination. In a fiercely competitive event organized by the Institute of Commerce, Deepak’s team secured a glorious win in the final match against the Institute of Technology, reflecting his dedication and passion for sports. Deepak cleared CLAT PG 2023 and secured a seat for LL.M. at NLIU, Bhopal.
ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2023
BY IDIA SCHOLARS

Harsh Amipara
GNLU, Gujarat

Harsh Amipara, a first-year IDIA Scholar, claimed the title of 1st Runner Up in the grand finale of The Times of India Torrent Power Public Speaking Contest. Amipara’s impressive oratory skills and ability to navigate diverse topics under pressure showcased why he is recognized as a rising talent in Gujarat’s college-level competitions.

Rishiraj Chandan
NLU, Delhi

Rishiraj Chandan, a second-year IDIA Scholar at NLUD, secured the second prize in the ‘Mic On’ Hindi writing competition. His notable achievement in the competition reflects his prowess in creative expression and linguistic finesse. Beyond competitions, Rishiraj showcases his passion for writing through his blog, where he shares his thoughts and insights. His blog, “Rendezvous with Rishi,” serves as a platform for his unique voice and perspectives, offering readers a glimpse into his literary endeavors.
IDIA SETS MILESTONE - 1000 CHILDREN SENSITISED IN 1 DAY

The IDIA Rajasthan Team recently made a significant impact in Pipar City, Jodhpur, by conducting enlightening sensitization sessions across several schools. The aim was to empower students with crucial information about pursuing a career in law. The team, comprising students from NLU Jodhpur, successfully reached out to approximately 1000 students from various schools, fostering awareness and enthusiasm about legal education.
IDIA SETS MILESTONE - 1000 CHILDREN SENSITISED IN 1 DAY

The team visited four prominent schools, including Champalal Harakachand Kothari Mahatma Gandhi Govt. School, Seth Ramrakh Malani Govt. Senior Secondary School, Seth Bhikamchand Mutha Girls Senior Secondary School, and Smt. Sugni Devi Pukhraj. Divided into two phases, the sensitization sessions, led by dedicated team members, covered crucial topics such as the significance of CLAT, the pathway to a legal career, and IDIA's mission. The interactive discussions, held in an open forum format, allowed students to address their queries and gain valuable insights. This initiative successfully empowered approximately 1000 young minds, offering them the knowledge and inspiration needed for a promising future.
BOOTCAMP FOR THE INCOMING 2023 SCHOLARS

The Bootcamp for Incoming 2023 Scholars, held on June 21 and 22, was a comprehensive initiation into the world of legal education and IDIA's ethos. The first day of Bootcamp included impactful sessions, such as 'Navigating Law School & What a good law student should do?' and 'Being an IDIA Scholar', emphasizing academics, co-curricular activities, and IDIA's structure. Scholars engaged in enriching activities like crafting their ideal lawyer and gained insights into IDIA's expectations.
On the second day, activities focused on effective communication, presentation skills, and learning more about each other. The participants delved into a charity grant proposal exercise, enhancing their persuasive writing, followed by a presentation skills session to sharpen their ability to convey ideas effectively. The camp concluded with a fun and informative session where participants introduced themselves as trees, animals, or landscapes.

Throughout, the Bootcamp fostered self-reflection, teamwork, and creativity, laying a robust foundation for the scholars' exciting journey ahead. Special thanks to all facilitators, organizers, and contributors for making this event a valuable and memorable experience.
IDIA FOOTBALL LEAGUE (IFL) 2023

The 6th edition of the IDIA Football League (IFL) 2023, organized by IDIA Charitable Trust in Mumbai on October 7th & 8th, showcased thrilling matches and celebrated diversity through sport.

Sponsored by Vahura, with support from various partners like Sports Lex and Royal Challenge, the tournament featured 22 teams competing for the IFL Championship Cup. Khaitan & Co. emerged as the winners, lifting the IFL Championship Cup 2023. Other notable victories included Wadia Ghandy & Co. securing the IFL Super Cup and DSK Legal triumphing in the IFL Premier Cup.
Eight new teams participated, broadening the league’s reach. Individual awardees included Spice Route Legal for the Most Diverse Squad, Lex Aeterna Practices for Fair Play, and Roshni Balasubramanian from Vahura as the Best Female Player. The event successfully brought legal professionals together to champion diversity in legal education.

Feedback

Indus team was happy with the organisation and management of IFL and they thoroughly enjoyed everything including the food. They are pumped up to participate in the next one already and hoping to do practices now."
- Nishi Bharatiya - Associate, Indus Law
IDIA DISABILITY ACCESS PROGRAM (IDAP)

This November, IDIA Disability Access Program (IDAP), organised a training and skill development program for 10 IDIA Scholars with Disabilities. They travelled from all over India to Gurgaon and were given training in using various important basic computer software by XRCVC that they would need during their tenure as law students.

In just 3 days, we noticed a major improvement in their ability to navigate tricky situations in common software programs while using screen readers.

The last 2 days of the event involved candid discussions and sessions with legal professionals during which we discussed important topics like internships, soft skills, mental health, breaking barriers in the legal profession, etc.

We also had group discussions in which IDIA Scholars devised ingenious solutions to improve accessibility in law colleges.

We hope to conduct more such sessions and continue working towards breaking barriers and promoting accessibility in the legal profession and education institutions.
INTERNERSHIPS BY SOME OF OUR IDIA SCHOLARS

Abhinav Shukla

- Research Assistant - Prof. Dr. Amita Dhanda, NALSAR (Ongoing).
- Research Assistant - Teacher’s College Columbia University.
- Internship at Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas (Upcoming - January 2024).

Pragati Purohit

- Internship at AZB & Partners (Dispute Resolution Team) - January.
- Research Assistant - Associate Professor Umakanth Varottil, National University of Singapore.
INTERNSHIPS BY SOME OF OUR IDIA SCHOLARS

Aman Upadhyay
- Research Assistant to Prof. Christoph Schreuer, University of Vienna (Former) (September 2023 – Now).
- Internships at reputed organizations.

Intisar Aslam
- Internship at Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas (January).
- Research Assistantships, including one with Associate Professor Umakanth Varotttil, National University of Singapore.

Anmol Raj
- Successfully completed a one-month internship at Hindustan Unilever Limited, Head Office, Mumbai in June 2023.
- Received a call back for a two-month internship, reflecting recognition.
CHAPTER CHECK-UPS: CEO'S IMPACTFUL VISITS

Through the year, our CEO, Sabah Mistry, embarked on a series of visits to various IDIA chapters. The primary objective was to boost the morale of our dedicated volunteers, appreciating their relentless efforts to make a significant impact.

Sabah's presence during these visits not only uplifted the spirits of the chapters but also provided an opportunity to connect with IDIA scholars. During these interactions, Sabah offered valuable guidance and support to scholars on various levels, reinforcing our commitment to nurturing talent and creating a positive environment within the IDIA community. These check-ups were instrumental in fostering a sense of unity and shared purpose among our chapters.
FUNDRAISING BY IDIA VOLUNTEERS

Lexathon 2.0: IDIA Tamil Nadu Marathon

In a remarkable display of unity and commitment to inclusivity, the Chennai Chapter conducted the second edition of its marathon, Lexathon 2.0, at Beasant Nagar, Chennai. This extraordinary initiative aimed to raise funds for providing educational opportunities to underprivileged students in Tamil Nadu, reinforcing the ideals of diversity and a brighter future in legal education.

The overall event report revealed a tremendous response with over 671 registrations, and on the event day, more than 500 runners enthusiastically participated. With the generous support of 13 sponsors and participants from all walks of life, the event became a symbol of inclusivity, bringing together individuals of different ages and backgrounds. Crossing the finish line at Olcott Memorial Higher Secondary School, the participants celebrated not only the power of education but also the transformation of lives.

The event generated a substantial profit of Rs. 4,16,456.96, further fueling the mission of empowering talented students from marginalized backgrounds and fostering awareness about the significance of legal education. Together, the Tamil Nadu Chapter of IDIA and its supporters strive for a more inclusive and equitable world.
FUNDRAISING
BY IDIA VOLUNTEERS

IDIA Telangana Chapter's Successful Fundraiser

The fundraising team of the IDIA Telangana Chapter orchestrated a nostalgic journey during the NALSAR Alumni meet through the sale of specially crafted posters and postcards.

Using the iconic NALSAR campus as the backdrop for the designs, the team aimed to evoke a sense of nostalgia among alumni and participants. The strategy proved to be immensely successful, with the chapter raising an impressive amount of around Rs. 1.56 lakhs.

This creative initiative not only tapped into the emotional connection with the alma mater but also contributed significantly to the fundraising efforts, showcasing the team's ingenuity and the community's support for IDIA's mission.
Catholicate Higher Secondary School, Pathanamthitta - Kerala Chapter

The IDIA Kerala Team sensitized around 120-150 students at Catholicate Higher Secondary School, Pathanamthitta. The session, led by Chapter Director Shinto and dedicated volunteers, covered aspects of law as a career, CLAT, and the IDIA selection process, inspiring students and nurturing their aspirations.

Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Patiala - Punjab Chapter

In November, the Punjab Chapter sensitized 150 students at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Patiala, spreading awareness about legal careers, the significance of studying law, and diverse opportunities within the legal field.
Narendrapur Ramkrishna Mission School - West Bengal Chapter

The West Bengal Chapter conducted a sensitization program for 160 boys from Class X and XI at Narendrapur Ramkrishna Mission School. The interactive session covered various aspects of law, dispelled myths, and provided insights into legal education and career paths. The students showed enthusiasm and interest, with many considering law as a viable and exciting career option.

Inspiring Futures at Greenwood School, Dimapur

The IDIA Nagaland Chapter, comprising four executive members, conducted a sensitization session at Greenwood School, Dimapur. With 230 students in Class 12, the session covered IDIA’s mission, legal career opportunities, and the path to CLAT. Sixty-one students expressed keen interest in the INAT test, showcasing the impactful engagement and the aspirations ignited by this session.
MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENT: RENEWAL OF FCRA REGISTRATION

We are excited to announce the successful renewal of our FCRA (Foreign Contribution Regulation Act) registration! This enables us to receive donations from abroad, expanding our opportunities for support and collaboration. Your generosity knows no borders, and with this renewal, we are further empowered to make a lasting impact on the lives of underprivileged students.
WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS TO THE IDIA TEAM

Ankitha Antony
Director

Ankitha Antony, a director at IDIA, holds a master's degree in social work from Rajagiri College of Social Sciences, Kerala. With a rich background in organizing impactful sensitizations and diverse events, she is also adept at counseling. At IDIA, Ankitha efficiently manages the sensitization vertical and plays a pivotal role in assisting the IDAP project.

Sindhu M
Accounts Assistant

She works as an Accounts Assistant at IDIA. She has completed her Bachelor of Commerce from Teresian College, University Of Mysuru in 2022.

Suhaib Salman
Director

Suhaib Salman is a lawyer with an LL.M in IPR from Nalsar University. Formerly the Creative Head of 'Lawctopus', he lent his legal expertise as a Creative Consultant for Greenpeace India's 'Vaccines for All' campaign. Suhaib's versatility extends to the realm of photography, where his award-winning work 'Baker-Khani' graced the UNESCO International Gallery. An ALLY (European Union) fellow and Idescoync-Unesco Information Fellow, he's a dedicated advocate for digital media rights. At IDIA, Suhaib is the Director-in-Charge of the J&K Chapter. He is also responsible for handling social media and content production.
Want to help our mission?

DONATE

MORE ABOUT US

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