



Making the Most of University Life as a Student with a Disability : A three-day international conversation

13-14-15 January 2022

ILS Law College, Pune, was established in 1924 by the Indian Law Society which was in turn constituted by the legal luminaries in 1923 (<https://ilslaw.edu/>). ILS Law College has a motto to promote socially relevant and professionally desired legal education. We also ensure that values underlying the Constitution of India are also promoted and nurtured in the pedagogy.

Equal Opportunity cum Enabling Cell of ILS Law College, since its inception in A.Y. 2013-14, actively engages in pursuit of awareness raising about potential of students with disabilities, and their mainstreaming in the campus life of both university and college.

Like every year, this year too we are organizing a three-day international interaction amongst the youth with disabilities on “**Making the Most of University Life as a Student with a Disability : A three day conversation**” (in online mode), to celebrate diversity and inclusion by highlighting the potential and prospects of PWDs. The event is scheduled on 13-14-15th January 2022 (Thursday-Friday-Saturday). It is a matter of great privilege and pride for us to collaborate with the University of Leeds and Finite4 Engineering Consultancy Services Pvt. Ltd. in organizing this event. Through this event, we want to bring together Rhodes scholars with disability, Indian disabled students pursuing education abroad and in India, paralympians, disabled artists, entrepreneurs with disability and disabled academicians.

The main objective of this event is to throw light on how students with disabilities can extract maximum value from university life. The event will focus on how as a student with disability, one can excel in academics at the university level, and would feature interaction of Rhodes Scholars with disabilities on strategies for accomplishing one’s goals efficiently in academics at the undergraduate level as a disabled person. Besides, the event would also focus on the themes like pursuing education abroad as a student with a disability; excelling as a female student with a disability at the university level; looking beyond academics; having a well-rounded university life as a student with a disability; pursuing extra-curricular activities as a person with a disability; and having meaningful socialization and romance as a person with a disability.

For systematic discussion, the event is divided into following sessions :

Day 1 –January 13, 2022 (Thursday)		
6.45 to 7.50 pm	<u>Inaugural Session</u>	<u>Chief Guest</u> : Ms. Vandana Chavan, Hon’ble Member of Parliament <u>Guest of Honour</u> : 1. Prof. Lennard Davis, Professor of Disability and Human Movement, Liberal Arts and Science, University of Illinois, Chicago 2. Mr. Abhijeet Majage, CEO, Finite4 Engineering Consultancy Pvt.Ltd.
8.00 to 9.30 pm	<u>Session 1</u> <u>Panel discussion</u> - Excelling in academics at the university level as a student with a disability.	<u>Speakers</u> : 1. Rahul Bajaj (Rhodes scholar and former clerk to Hon’ble Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, Supreme Court of India). <u>Will lead the panel discussion.</u> 2. Khansa Maria (Rhodes scholar from Pakistan) 3. Jean Balchin (Rhodes scholar from New Zealand with visible disability)
Day 2 - January 14, 2022 (Friday)		
6 to 7.45 pm	<u>Session 2</u> <u>Panel Discussion</u> - Pursuing education abroad	<u>Speakers</u> : 1. Dr. Sanjay Jain (Professor; Officiating Principal, ILS Law College). <u>Will lead the panel discussion.</u>

	as a student with a disability:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Pratishta Deveshwar (Oxford scholar and has pursued Masters in Public Policy; a person with chronic physical disability and a well-known disability rights activist 3. Nandita Venkatesan (Oxford scholar and has pursued Masters in Public Policy; a hearing impaired person and a well-known disability rights activist
8.00 to 9.30 pm	Session 3 <u>Panel Discussion</u> - Comparative disability law vis-à-vis higher education	Speakers : <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prof. Amita Dhanda, Emeritus Professor of Law at NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad. <u>Will lead the discussion.</u> 2. Prof. Anna Lawson (University of Leeds) 3. Dr. Sanjay Jain (Professor; Officiating Principal, ILS Law College)
Day 3 - January 15, 2022 (Saturday)		
6.30 to 7.55 pm	Session 4 <u>Panel discussion</u> - Pursuing extracurricular activities as a person with a disability.	Speakers : <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sakina Bedi (Social Worker and Entrepreneur) <u>Will lead the panel discussion.</u> 2. Manjot Singh (visually challenged and famous linguist; presently pursuing his education from Canada; 3. Aine Kelly-Costello, Successful Paralympian 4. Jigar Thakker, Para-swimmer from India 5. Dr. Vinod Asudani (Associate Professor and Head, Department of Humanities and Psychologist)
8 to 9.30 pm	Session 5 <u>Panel discussion</u> - Meaningful socializing and romance as a person with a disability.	Speakers : <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nidhi Goyal (visually challenged; famous disability activist; Executive Director of Rising Flame. <u>Will lead the panel discussion.</u> 2. Michelle Hackman (visually challenged American journalist) 3. Sakina Bedi (Social Worker and Entrepreneur) 4. Dr. Vinod Asudani (Associate Professor and Head, Department of Humanities and Psychologist) 5. Mr. Rakshit Malik (visually challenged student)

Google meet link for all three days :

meet.google.com/owg-mnzp-rcp

YouTube links :

Day - 1: 13 January 2022 - YouTube Live Stream Link - <https://youtu.be/YNxKzMA5-uE>

Day - 2: 14 January 2022 - YouTube Live Stream Link - <https://youtu.be/aThqxF2Hgtg>

Day - 3: 15 January 2022 - YouTube Live Stream Link - <https://youtu.be/7KNdrwvj3oI>

