

## **A Journey of Validation: Samruddhi Foundation at NLIU** **Bhopal**

On the night of 27th February 2026, around 8:30 pm, we entered the campus of National Law Institute University (NLIU), Bhopal. After checking in at the guest house, we settled down for the night, knowing that the next day would be the most important day of our journey.

The next morning, 28th February, the main day of the competition began. Even before the official registration started at 11 am, we were already preparing. Along with my elder sister Samruddhi, I revised the flow of our presentation and speech. We conducted two to three mock rounds, refining every point and every transition. Her support played a huge role in shaping the presentation, making my speech clearer and more confident.

Once the preparations were done, we relaxed for a while, had lunch, and interacted with other teams and students present at NLIU. Those conversations created new connections and perspectives, as students from different National Law Universities had gathered with their own ideas and experiences.

By around 3 pm, we were seated in the auditorium of the Rajiv Gandhi National Cyber Law Centre, waiting for our team's name to be called. Sitting there, I could feel the weight of responsibility. The work we had brought with us from Jalna was not just ours it represented the efforts of many people who had contributed to the movement we were building.

At around 4 pm, our team was finally called for the presentation.

Walking towards the stage with our work felt like carrying the voice of everyone who had been part of this movement. In reality, we were only the faces representing a larger effort. The people who worked on the ground, those who believed in the idea, and those who supported the mission they were the real strength behind it. Our only aim was to present those efforts honestly and effectively before the distinguished legal dignitaries present there.

Unlike many teams who directly started with their presentations, we chose to begin with a video presentation. The idea was simple before speaking about our work, we wanted the judges to see the reality on the ground. The video gave

them a glimpse of the work being done through Samruddhi Foundation, helping them connect with the efforts before we moved to the formal presentation.

After the video, we began our PPT presentation, explaining the Constitutional Awareness Campaign, the Jalna booklets, and our Jan Varta weekly editorial initiative. These initiatives reflect our broader vision of spreading constitutional literacy and building an informed society.

Soon after the presentation, the judges began asking questions and giving feedback. They asked many cross-questions, challenging us to explain our ideas and methods in detail. Those questions were not just part of the evaluation they also helped us realize where we could improve and where our model could become stronger.

What truly encouraged us was the curiosity shown by the judges. They were particularly interested in the model we are building through Samruddhi Foundation and asked how it could be replicated across the country. Those conversations were meaningful because they showed that our work had the potential to grow beyond a single district.

When the presentations ended, we walked out feeling satisfied. Our responsibility was to present our work honestly and we had done that. It is important to say that we had not come there for a reward, prize, or internship opportunity. Our only intention was to present our work and receive honest feedback from legal experts about the direction we were moving in.

With the presentation done, we had some time to relax. We went out to explore Bhopal, had dinner, visited the beautiful lake, and even did a little boating. After a long and intense day, we returned and rested. The next morning, 1st March, I woke up early and went for a walk around the campus. The NLIU campus is beautifully designed, calm, quiet, and ideal for students pursuing law and research. That peaceful environment gave time to reflect on the journey so far.

Later, at 12:30 pm, we returned to the auditorium for the Valedictory Ceremony and Result Declaration. The ceremony was attended by distinguished dignitaries, including the Vice Chancellors of NLIU Bhopal and NLU Assam, along with Advocate Saurabh Kochhar, law firm partner Mr. Shantanu Saxena, and fellows from the MAP organization.

Each speaker shared valuable insights. One moment that stood out was when the Vice Chancellor of NLIU Bhopal narrated a real story highlighting the importance of legal aid and how it reaches people who need it the most.

Advocate Saurabh Kochhar also delivered a powerful message to law students. He encouraged them to pursue litigation, emphasizing that the courtroom is where lawyers truly understand the law and its impact, rather than limiting themselves to comfortable office environments.

Then came the moment everyone had been waiting for the award distribution. As the names were being announced, the anticipation in the room kept building. Finally, the announcement came:

“The Runner-Up is TC-03 Samruddhi Foundation.”

Hearing those words brought an overwhelming sense of satisfaction. It felt like a moment of validation for the work we have been doing on the ground.

Walking towards the stage felt almost unreal like walking on a path that reaffirmed our purpose. Holding the trophy in my hands was a proud moment, but deep down I knew something very important: The hands holding the trophy were mine, but the efforts behind it belonged to the entire team, mentors, and everyone who believed in our vision. We were simply the ones representing them on that stage.

After the ceremony, we gathered for group photographs, where we had the honour of standing in the front row. We also interacted with guests and participants, exchanging ideas and building connections for the future. With that, our two-day journey at NLIU Bhopal came to an end. but we did not just walk out of that campus with a trophy. We walked out with national recognition, validation of our efforts, meaningful collaborations, new connections, and a stronger belief in the path we have chosen.

And most importantly, this recognition belongs to everyone who has been part of this movement. Because in the end, Samruddhi Foundation is not just an

organization it is a collective effort to build a model that can one day serve the nation

By – Pawan Mundhe

