

Like IITs, law univs to have joint entry test

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Lucknow: Starting next year, students heading for law school won't have to apply separately to the National Law Universities (NLUs). They'll have to sit for a joint entrance exam, just like IIT aspirants do.

An MoU for conducting a joint test was signed by heads of the NLUs in the presence of representatives from University Grants Commission (UGC) and Bar Council of India (BCI) in Delhi on Friday.

According to the MoU, the entrance test will most likely be held on the first Sunday of May 2008. A common admission form will be released for candidates. The NLSIU, Bangalore, will hold the first exam. Idea for joint exam for law schools was mooted by SC

Lucknow: Starting next year, students heading for law school will have to sit for a joint entrance exam just like IIT aspirants do. Law schools which have signed the MoU with the University Grants Commission (UGC) and Bar Council of India (BCI) are: National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Bangalore; National Academy of Legal and Sociological Research (NALSAR), Hyderabad; National University of Juridical Studies (NUJS), Kolkata; National Law Institute University (NLIU), Bhopal; Gandhinagar National Law University (GNLU), Gandhinagar; National Law University (NLU), Jodhpur; Hidayatullah National Law University (HNLU), Raipur. UGC vice-chairman Prof Moolchand Sharma and BCI chairman GK Nair were present in the meeting.

Other law universities can also join the exercise being undertaken on the direction of the Supreme Court.

A core committee having directors and vice-chancellor of all the seven NLUs will frame a policy for the entrance test. The policy will be implemented by a committee headed by director, NLSIU, Bangalore, Jai Govind, and comprising registrars/controllers of examinations of other six NLUs.

Balraj Chauhan, director, NLIU, Bhopal, who was also present in the meeting, told TOI that all the students who had cleared the 10 plus 2 boards were qualified to take the entrance test. Admissions will be done on the basis of a merit list drawn after the objective type test. All the reservations and state quota applicable in respective NLUs will continue as before. NLUs of Lucknow, UP, Patiala, Punjab and Kerela, would be given an option to take admission through the joint entrance test, he said.

The MoU has been signed at the initiative of the ministry of human resource development, which on directions of the SC asked the UGC to convince NLUs for a joint entrance test. The idea of a combined admission test was floated few years back but was rejected by the NLUs as it would have entail revenue loss from sale of admission forms. The core committee would now meet on December 18 to finalise a policy for the entrance test.