

PRESS RELEASE

Maharashtra National Law University Mumbai

(Established under Maharashtra National Law University Act, 2014)

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Mumbai, 5th November 2025:

Maharashtra National Law University Mumbai (MNLU Mumbai) today hosted its 'Project Initiation Ceremony and Special Felicitation of the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India', marking a historic milestone in the establishment of the University's permanent campus at Goregaon (W), Mumbai. The ceremony was graced by eminent dignitaries from the judiciary, government, bar and academia.

Hon'ble Shri Devendra Fadnavis, Chief Minister of Maharashtra felicitated the Chief Guest, Hon'ble Shri Justice Bhushan R. Gavai, Chief Justice of India and Chancellor of MNLU Mumbai and presented a *maanpatra* (citation of honour) to him. The event was held in the august presence of Hon'ble Mr. Justice Shree Chandrashekhar, Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court and Pro Chancellor, MNLU Mumbai; Hon'ble Smt. Justice Bharati Dangre, Judge, Bombay High Court; Hon'ble Shri Justice Sandeep V. Marne, Judge, Bombay High Court; Hon'ble Shri Shivendraraje Bhosale, Minister of Public Works Department, Maharashtra; Hon'ble Dr. Birendra Saraf, Advocate General of Maharashtra; Hon'ble Smt. Suvarna Kishor Keole, Principal Secretary and RLA, Law and Judiciary Department, Government of Maharashtra, along with senior government officials, members of the Bar and academia.

MNLU Mumbai, established under the Maharashtra National Law University Act 2014, commenced its academic programmes from 1st August 2015 from the rented premises of Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Deonar, Mumbai, and later in 2017 from the Centre for Excellence in Telecom Technology and Management (CETTM), MTNL, Powai. The Government of Maharashtra has allotted 35 acres of land for the construction of the campus at Pahari Goregaon. The project initiation of the campus marked the commencement of the university's journey towards establishing a world-class campus dedicated to advanced legal education and research.

Prof. (Dr.) Dilip Ukey, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, MNLU Mumbai felicitated the dignitaries and welcomed the guests. In his welcome address, he appreciated the support of the judiciary and government for granting land to the university in the heart of Mumbai city. He also stated that it is a proud moment for the university to finally initiate its campus project and laid down the vision of the university to be a hub of the world class legal education in India. He noted that the ceremony symbolized the confluence of years of efforts, inspiration, and achievements in the field of legal education. He commended the contributions of students and alumni who have excelled in national and international competitions and reaffirmed the university's commitment to building a future of academic and social excellence. He also read the citation of honour (*maanpatra*) for the Chief Justice of India highlighting his achievements in education and the legal landscape.

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Speaking at the ceremony, the Hon'ble Chief Minister emphasised on this project as a landmark moment for MNLU Mumbai and the legal education in Maharashtra. He noted that Maharashtra is the only state in the country to have three National Law Universities and emphasized that MNLU Mumbai, which is the first NLU of the state, will now witness the development of its most advanced and prestigious campus. He recounted the long journey of identifying suitable land and obtaining the necessary clearances for the Goregaon campus, assuring that all permissions and environmental compliances are in place. He assured that MNLU Mumbai's campus would be completed at the earliest with world-class infrastructure which is aligned with the National Education Policy, and strengthens the vision of the upcoming EduCity in Mumbai.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Shree Chandrashekhar, Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court and Pro Chancellor, MNLU Mumbai, thanked the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India and the State Government for their vision behind the project. He also stressed that the true purpose of education is to create good human beings who can serve society better.

Delivering the Presidential Address, the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India extended greetings on Guru Purab and invoked Guru Nanak's teachings of equality and social justice as guiding principles for legal education. Recalling Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's view that lawyers are social engineers, he stated that students graduating from this university will become torchbearers of social transformation. He expressed deep appreciation to the Government of Maharashtra for allocating a prime land for the university and commended the Chief Minister for ensuring rapid progress of the legal projects in the state. He acknowledged Maharashtra's leadership in providing top-tier infrastructure for courts and law universities, stating that the MNLU Mumbai campus would be comparable to the best international law schools such as Harvard and Cambridge. He emphasized that legal education has evolved from theory to practical training, preparing students as future social engineers committed to constitutional morality and justice. At last, he also gave his best wishes to the students and faculty of the MNLU Mumbai for their future journey.

Prof. (Dr.) Prakash Chaudhary, Registrar of MNLU Mumbai delivered a vote of thanks emphasising the contribution of all the stakeholders in this journey. He also thanked M/s Hiten Sethi and Associates, the architectural company for designing the model of the University.

Prakash Chaudhary
05-11-2025

Prof. (Dr.) Prakash Chaudhary
Registrar
Maharashtra National Law University Mumbai.

