

DHANANJAY 2021

FINAL REPORT

**PROJECT
DHANANJAY**





CAN FOUNDATION

CONFEDERATION OF ALUMNI FOR NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITIES

“Achievements always Lie Outside One’s Comfort Zone”

ABOUT

An exemplifier of hard work, grit and dedication, we know "*Dhananjay*" as the third son of *Queen Kunti*, and a dear friend of *Lord Krishna*. His archery skills were known to be legendary, but they did not come to him overnight. His eye was always at the eye of the proverbial fish in the pond, which in this case was the coveted title of "*The Best Archer in the World*" or "*Sarva Shreshtha Dhanurdhar*". His commitment to being the best had led him to take the hardships head on and surpass them to come out on the other side even stronger. *Dhananjay*, which was also the first name of *Arjun* in the order of all his 10 names, (viz. *Vijay, Shwetvahan, Phalguni, Kirti, Vibhatsu, Sabyasachi, Gunakesh, Parth, Jishnu, Kaunteya*), had earned a distinctive name for himself in mythology not because he was of royal blood, but because, he was able to achieve victory over all those encounters of life, which pull a person down.

The reason why "*Dhananjay*" has been chosen as the name for CAN's financial support scheme for graduates is exactly that - being the embodiment of hard work, grit and dedication. This Project is a one of its kind initiatives wherein, the Foundation wishes to encourage fresh graduates to join litigation right at the threshold of their professional lives. In acknowledgement of the hardships faced by new entrants, particularly but not limited to first generation lawyers, both in case of finances and connections, the Project essentially provides an "incubatory period" to young and ignited minds of the Nation and aims at dispelling the anxieties and apprehensions they might bear as they venture into Litigation owing to their financial conditions or lack of initial support from their families. Some of such candidates may even be placed with lawyers with highly successful practices and Senior Advocates.



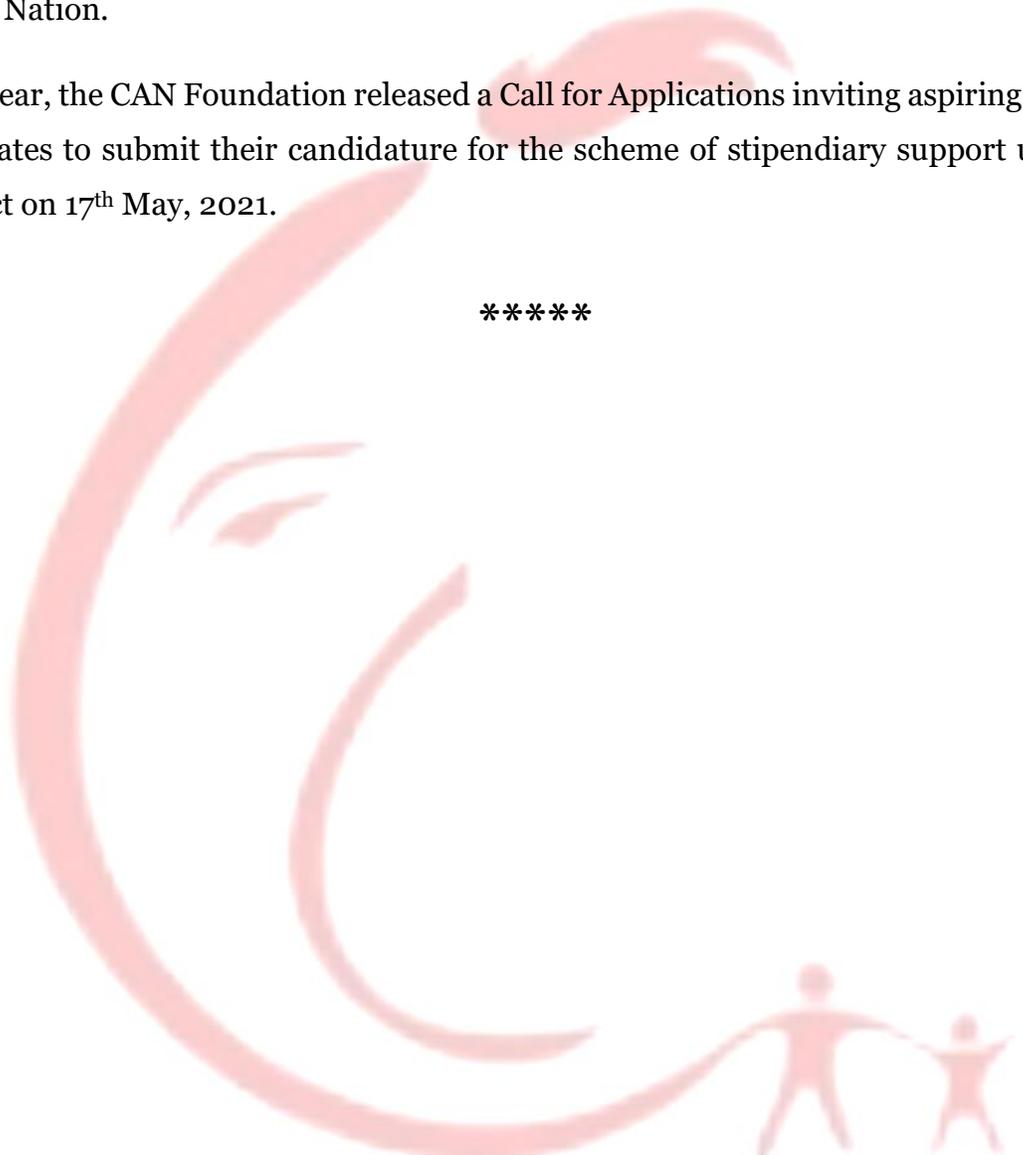
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With the opportunity and means provided, CAN hopes that the newly minted law graduates will endeavour to best emulate the values of "*Dhananjay*", with unwavering and precise concentration at achieving excellence at the Bar and contributing positively to the Nation.

This year, the CAN Foundation released a Call for Applications inviting aspiring fresh law graduates to submit their candidature for the scheme of stipendiary support under the project on 17th May, 2021.





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ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The eligibility requirements under the Project are as follows:

- Applicant must have graduated with a **B.A. LL.B. degree** (or any other similar 5-year integrated law undergraduate program) from any **National Law University** in the academic year 2019-20 or any year thereafter. The Candidates graduating in June or July 2021, were also eligible to apply under the Project.
- If the candidate has been placed, then he/she should not be getting more than **Rs. 30K per month** as remuneration from their place of employment.
- Applicant must have secured not less than **65% marks** in the last 2 years of their 5-year Law Course in aggregate/average, without more than 4 repeats/improvements in any subject of the curriculum in the last 2 years. The trimester/semester impact due to the COVID-19 pandemic was not taken into account.
- Applicant must have had not less than **75% attendance** in the last 2 years of their 5-year law course in aggregate/average of the 2 years.
- The **annual cumulative family income** (of Father, Mother, Unmarried Brother/Sister in the **last 3 financial years**) on the date of application has been equal to or **less than Rs. 15 lakhs per annum**, including the latest/last financial year as per the Income Tax Return filed with the IT Department.

In addition to this, there were several documents required to be attached while submitting the Application. The documents are enlisted hereinafter.

- Copies of Income Tax Returns of Father, Mother and Brother/Sister (if unmarried) of last 3 financial years.
- PAN & Aadhar Card of Father, Mother and Brother/Sister (if unmarried).



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- Details of landholdings, house, flat, etc. in the name of Father, Mother, the candidate or his real brother/sister (if unmarried).
- Details about financial support he is getting in the form of scholarship from State/Central Government or any NGO.
- Certified copies of Marksheet and attendance record of semester/trimester of last two years of B.A.LL.B. Course.
- Copy of CV.
- A 1000-1500 words write-up (either in English or Hindi) explaining the necessity, importance, and relevance of Project Dhananjay to the Candidate. Extending on why he/she wants to join litigation, the level of commitment he/she can put in, the vision of his/her life and how that vision plays a role in choosing litigation as a career. If he/she is in practice, how he/she has survived till now, any achievements or recognition he/she has achieved. The write-up must include about the basic values and principles of life he/she believes in, values and ethics he/she holds and the values which are most relevant for joining litigation as a career and way of life.

Deadline

The Final date of submitting application was extended from 31st May 2021 to **04th June 2021 till 5 PM IST** via notice dated 31st May 2021.



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SCRUTINY OF THE APPLICATIONS

The Foundation adopted a one-stage process to scrutinize applications received. For the same, an independent committee was constituted, i.e., Scrutiny/Selection Committee. The preliminary examination of the applications was done by the Selection committee, it examined the documents of the candidates as to whether it complied with the eligibility requirements. Further, the Committee took the final call as to whether the candidate is worthy or not.

The **Selection Committee** comprised of:

- ***Mr. Amalpushp Shroti (AOR, Supreme Court)*** - Mr. Shroti graduated from Faculty of Law, RDVV, Jabalpur, in the year 2000. With around 20 years of practice, he has had a multi-faceted experience in the areas of Constitutional Law, Civil Law, Service Law, Electricity Law and Education Law. He is a distinguished Legal Aid Counsel and trained Mediator since 2009. He has been involved in crucial PIL matters dealt by MP High court in recent years and represents important Government Department & PSUs before the High Court.
- ***Ms. Archana Pathak Dave (AOR Supreme Court)*** – Ms. Dave is a graduate of Faculty of Law, Rajasthan University and did her LLM from Jai Narayan Vyas University, Rajasthan. With nearly 18 years of practice in the field of law, she represents the Union of India and the State of Gujarat before the Supreme Court. She serves on the panels of Engineers India Limited, Employee Provident Fund Organisation, Central Council of Indian Medicine. She has also represented corporate clients including Oriental Insurance Company, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company and Bharti Axa General Insurance Company. She has been involved in landmark cases such as Permanent Commission for Women in Indian Army, KS Puttaswamy, and Prakash Singh v Union of India.



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- ***Mr. T Singhdev (Advocate, Delhi High Court)*** - Mr. Singhdev is a graduate of CLC, University of Delhi. Practicing since 2005 and having worked with the likes of Late Mr. PP Rao (Senior Advocate) and Mr. Maninder Singh (Former ASG & Senior Advocate), he has experience of handling litigation before various courts, tribunals and forums. He has represented clients like Zee, Pepsi, Essel, BSNL, Dish TV, Medical Council of India, Press Council of India, etc.
- ***Mr. Mrigank Prabhakar (AOR, Supreme Court)*** - Mr. Prabhakar is a graduate of NALSAR Hyderabad and has worked under Senior Advocate Mr. Raju Ramachandran. He has been Advocate on Record since 2017. He has been counsel in various high-profile cases such as the Babri Masjid - Ram Janmabhoomi dispute, the Haren Pandya murder case, the Ahmedabad tiffin bomb blast case and the Triple Talaq Matter. He has also represented several famous corporate houses such as Purvanchal Construction Works and Anik Industries Ltd. and activists such as Tehseen Poonawalla and Vimlendu Jha.
- ***Mr. Tariq Khan (Principal Associate, Advani & Co.)*** – Mr. Khan is a graduate of Faculty of Law, Jamia Millia Islamia. Enlisted in the Forbes Legal Powerlist (2020-2021) as one of the top individual lawyers, youngest BW (Business World) Legal 40 under 40, 2020 and featured in Fortune 500 (India) for his book ‘On the Rise’, Mr. Khan is recognized as an arbitration Expert by SCC Online. Skilled in international and domestic arbitrations, MSME disputes, writs, commercial, employment, insolvency and bankruptcy laws, he has represented global players in disputes including construction, supply, joint venture, oil & gas, infrastructure and renewable energy space. He has handled arbitrations under SIAC, ICC, DIAC, ICA Rules among others.



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APPLICATIONS RECEIVED UNDER DHANANJAY 2021

The Foundation received 7 (**Seven**) Applications. The Selection Committee after deliberations shortlisted and selected 5 applications.

All these 5 candidates were, after strict scrutiny, found worthy to be given benefit under the Project.

- Mr. Divyanshu Jain - 5th Year Candidate from NLUO, Cuttack.
- Mr. Rishab Joshi - 5th Year Candidate from HPNLU, Shimla.
- Mr. Sarath KP - 5th Year Candidate from NUALS, Kochi.
- Mr. Vinudeep R - 5th Year Candidate from TNNLU, Tiruchirappalli.
- Mr. Trilok Chand - 5th Year Candidate from NLUO, Cuttack.

The candidates shall be **paid a scholarly stipend ranging between Rs. 15,000-18,000 per month** from the date of starting their professional practice before any Court in the country.



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DIVYANSHU JAIN



**Batch of 2015-20, National Law University, Odisha
(PD/21/016)**

Native Place: Bhind, Madhya Pradesh

Academic Record:

Percentage – 76.15 %

CGPA – 7.00/8

The applicant was a student at the **National Law University, Odisha**, and graduated in the year 2020. The candidate has been **consistently meritorious** in his academic and co-curricular endeavours, having obtained commendable grades in most of the subjects. He has a good academic as well as attendance record. Apart from that, he has **various publications in reputed journals and books**. He has been an avid mooter and has participated in various national competitions. Additionally, the applicant has represented his University at various other events as well.

He is a very bright student and capable of handling responsibilities as he has been a part of various organizations and committees right from the beginning of his law school. The applicant has undertaken **internships under various advocates** throughout his five-year journey in law school which shows his interest and dedication towards litigation, and his exposure to the practice of law.

He holds a **letter of recommendation** from Mr. Varun Shankar and Gajendra Kushwah, two of the **lawyers he has worked under**, and they attributed him as being passionate and skilled for pursuing litigation. Other than that, he also has a letter of recommendation from Dr. Ananya Chakraborty, who is an Assistant Professor at NLUO, and she has defined him as a meritorious student and a good orator.



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He has a very humble family background. His **father runs a small sweet shop outside the Bhind District Court Complex** and his **mother runs a small saree shop from home** to support their family. His family was not very well equipped to pay his fees for all five years of law school, so he **was awarded merit-cum-means scholarship** in the Academic Years 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2020-21 by the University. As a merit-cum-means scholar, the candidate was awarded a total of Rs. 2,25,000/- as scholarship, which was adjusted by the University towards the University fee. Apart from all other hardships, Mr. Jain also has a **huge education loan of Rs. 7,00,000/-** which he had availed to pursue his legal education.

Mr. Jain’s father has a total annual income of Rs. 1,20,000/- and his mother has a total income of Rs. 4,38,500/-. Currently, he is working in the chambers of Advocate Varun Shankar where he gets a minimum stipend of Rs. 25,000/-. Through his application, he has expressed that Covid-19 has had a severe impact on the legal profession, and hence, it has been difficult for him to procure extra work to support his family financially. Owing to such circumstances, the Foundation has recommended his candidature for stipendiary support under the scheme of Dhananjay 2021.

Selection Committee's Decision

The members of the Selection Committee noted that he had a good academic record, and he is also financially weak. Although he works at the chamber of a lawyer and also gets a stipend of Rs. 25,000 per month, the Committee agreed that a little more financial support would help him as he has a huge education loan.

The Committee, therefore, concluded that the applicant was eligible and deserving, and his application was accordingly shortlisted and selected under Dhananjay 2021.



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RISHAB JOSHI



**Batch of 2016-21, Himachal Pradesh National Law University, Shimla
(PD/21/056)**

Native Place: Beawar, Ajmer, Rajasthan

Academic Record:

Percentage – 67.5 %

CGPA – 6.78/10

At the time of application, the applicant was in the 10th semester of the five-year undergraduate B.A. LL.B. (Hons.) programme at the **Himachal Pradesh National Law University, Shimla**. He has ranked among the **top 10 students in his batch in the 8th and 9th semesters**. Apart from that, he also has various **publications and has presented research papers** at multiple national conferences. He has thus positively contributed to legal scholarship by being an active participant in conferences and symposiums, highlighting his research acumen, which is indispensable for a successful career in litigation. Additionally, the applicant has represented his University at various other events and holds **multiple achievements in several moot court** competitions.

Mr. Joshi has also **undertaken coveted internships** at various offices which displays his deep understanding of research methodologies and his exposure to the practice of law, both of which are crucial for an aspiring litigator.

During his time at the University, he has interned in the chambers of various advocates, who have defined him as a persevering and keen learner who is inquisitive to understand various facets of law and the procedure related therewith. He holds a Letter of Recommendation from the District and Sessions Judge-cum-Secretary at the Himachal Pradesh High Court Legal



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Services Committee, Mr. Mukesh Bansal, who has defined him as an exceptionally gifted student who is profoundly blessed with outstanding litigating skills.

Taking into account his family background, it is to be noted that at a young age, he had **unfortunately lost his father**, who was an accountant in a small local firm and also ran an NGO. After his father’s demise, his **mother had to complete her senior secondary school education for obtaining a job** in order to support him and his younger brother and enable them to undergo their school education.

However, Mr. Joshi **had to discontinue his education after graduating** from school in order **to support his family**. After managing to accumulate some funds, he decided to undergo higher education. In 2016, he secured admission to the Himachal Pradesh National Law University, Shimla. In order **to afford the annual fee** for the same, they **had to sell a share in their ancestral property**.

Mr. Joshi’s mother had a total annual income of Rs. 4,10,780/- as per her income tax return acknowledgment for the assessment year 2020-21. Through his application, Mr. Joshi has expressed that given the detrimental impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on their financial condition, **without receiving any assistance** after graduation, his family **may not be** financially able to support him in pursuing **a career in litigation**. Owing to such circumstances, the Foundation has recommended his candidature for stipendiary support under the scheme of Dhananjay 2021.

Selection Committee's Decision

All the members of the Selection Committee remarked that the applicant presented a genuine case of hardship as he had lost his father and his family continues to remain financially weak. It was further noted that the applicant satisfies the Minimum Eligibility Criteria for Dhananjay 2021. The Committee therefore concluded that the applicant was eligible and deserving, and he was accordingly shortlisted and selected for receiving financial assistance under Dhananjay 2021.



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SARATH KP



**Batch of 2016-21, National University of Advanced Legal Studies, Kochi
(IDIA Scholar)**

Native Place: Ernakulam, Kerala

Academic Record:

Percentage – 69.2 %

CGPA – 8.69 /10

At the time of application, the applicant was in the 10th semester of the five-year undergraduate B.A. LL.B. (Hons.) programme at the **National University of Advanced Legal Studies, Kochi**. The applicant has represented his university at various events and holds **multiple achievements in several moot court** competitions. He has thus positively worked on honing his legal skills and personality development being an active participant in curricular and co-curricular activities.

Mr. Sarath has also undertaken coveted **internships at the chambers of esteemed lawyers** practicing at the **Kerala High Court and the Supreme Court**, which displays his exposure to the practice of law, which is essential for an aspiring litigator.

The lawyers with whom he has interned have defined him as a **persevering and keen learner** who is inquisitive to understand various facets of law. He holds a **Letter of Recommendation from Ninan & Mathew Advocates**, which describes him as highly intelligent and meticulous in his work. They further say that Sarath has displayed immense motivation and has taken great efforts to obtain practical exposure to the practice of law even while in college.



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With regards his family background, he belongs to a nuclear family, in which his father is the sole earner. His **father is a daily wage earner** in a toddy shop and earns around Rs. 500 daily. But **due to his health condition, he has not been able to continue his job.**

Mr. Sarath is an **IDIA Scholar** and has received financial assistance from the IDIA to pursue his higher education at the National University of Advanced Legal Studies, Kochi.

No member in his family is paying income tax as only his father is employed and his income does not come under the taxable income slab. He has a brother who is not married yet. His parents **do not own any immovable property.** Through his application, Mr. Sarath has expressed that given the adverse impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on their financial situation, his family **won't be able to financially support him in pursuing a career in litigation.** Owing to these facts, the Foundation has recommended his candidature for stipendiary support under the scheme of Dhananjay 2021.

Selection Committee's Decision

The Committee was informed that his application has been admitted in view of the MoU entered between the Foundation and the IDIA for providing assistance to recommended IDIA scholars under Dhananjay 2021. It was further noted that the applicant satisfies the Minimum Eligibility Criteria for Dhananjay 2021.

In light of his academic credentials and weak financial situation, the Committee concluded that the applicant was eligible and deserving, and his application was accordingly shortlisted and selected under the scheme of Dhananjay 2021.



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VINUDEEP R



**Batch of 2016-21, Tamil Nadu National Law University, Tiruchirappalli
(PD/21/07)**

Native Place: Yercaud, Salem, Tamil Nadu

Academic Record:

Percentage – 74.1 %
CGPA – 8.53/10

At the time of application, the applicant was in the 10th semester of the five-year undergraduate B.Com. LL.B. (Hons.) programme at the **Tamil Nadu National Law University, Tiruchirappalli**. He has been a bright student and has **remarkable achievements** in various **national and international moot court** competitions. He has also written various **articles and papers for journals of repute**. His legal acumen is reflected by his holistic CV, which evidences an enthralling list of varied achievements. He has also undertaken revered **internships at various law firms and chambers of advocates**, which has contributed to his development as a lawyer from a practical perspective.

He holds a **Letter of Recommendation** from **Mr. P Wilson, Senior Advocate, Madras High Court** who has vouched for his excellence in litigating skills.

Taking into account his family background, it is to be noted that his **father is currently unemployed and has not been paid his salary since 2011**. Further, his father was **deprived of the superannuation benefits post retirement**.



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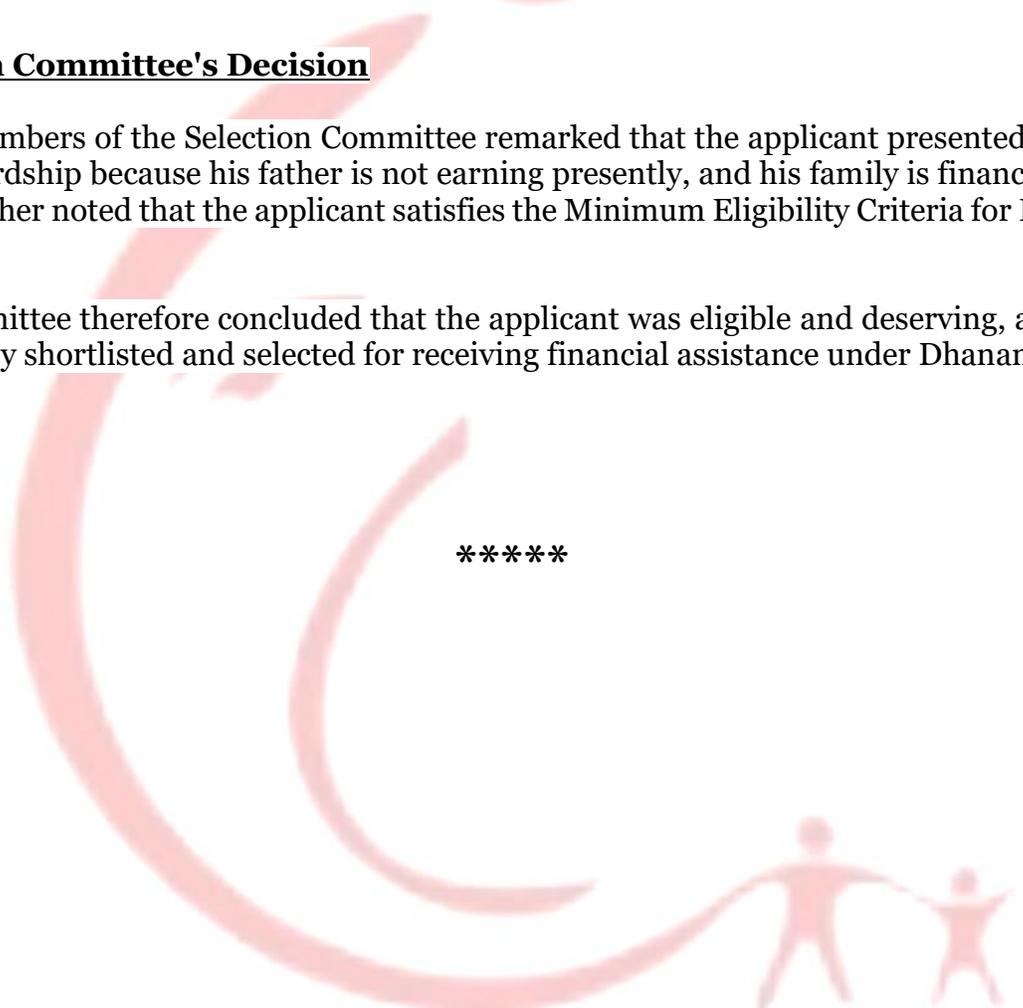
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His **mother has a total annual income of less than Rs. 5,00,000/-** per annum, which she earns through her **humble job of document writing**, in which she is assisted by her husband. Through his application, Mr. Vinudeep has expressed that given the detrimental impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on their financial condition, his **mother’s business has suffered considerably**, and that given the financial expenditure needed for him to stay in Bangalore, he **won’t be able to manage** a salubrious living **without financial assistance** under Project Dhananjay. The Foundation has recommended his candidature for stipendiary support under the scheme of Dhananjay 2021 which is crucially needed and well deserved by him.

Selection Committee's Decision

All the members of the Selection Committee remarked that the applicant presented a genuine case of hardship because his father is not earning presently, and his family is financially weak. It was further noted that the applicant satisfies the Minimum Eligibility Criteria for Dhananjay 2021.

The Committee therefore concluded that the applicant was eligible and deserving, and he was accordingly shortlisted and selected for receiving financial assistance under Dhananjay 2021.





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TRILOK CHAND



**Batch of 2016-21, National Law University, Odisha
(IDIA Scholar)**

Native Place: Barmer, Rajasthan

Academic Record:

Percentage – 65.5 %

CGPA – 5.875/8

At the time of application, the applicant was pursuing his 10th semester of the five-year undergraduate B.A. LL.B. (Hons.) programme at the **National Law University, Odisha**.

He has positively worked on his personality development and has been an active participant in curricular and co-curricular activities. He was the **quarter-finalist at the Amity National Hindi Moot Court Competition** (2016). He has also participated in various dramas and youth parliament conferences. He secured the **first position at the National Matribhasha Diwas**, organised by NLUO in 2017.

Mr. Chand has undertaken **coveted internships at various offices** too. This displays his deep understanding of research methodologies and his exposure to the practice of law, both of which are crucial for an aspiring litigator.

He comes from a **humble background**. His **father is a cobbler** and hence he has been a **witness to economic pressures from an early age**. He has been closely associated with the underprivileged children. He understands and sympathises with their vulnerabilities. He has also come across children who have been victims of sexual assault cases at a very young age. His **experiences perhaps motivated him to become a socially committed advocate** for the underprivileged people in his impoverished region. During the pandemic too, he **gained knowledge about the working of the lower courts through a series of**



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internships. This indicates his perseverance and tireless striving for fulfilling his goal of uplifting the poor.

In 2016, the IDIA Delhi Chapter volunteers guided him and enabled him to write CLAT. He has been an **IDIA Scholar** for five years now. His determination and diligence throughout this time stands undoubted and is demonstrated through his various endeavours.

Selection Committee Decision

The Committee was informed that his application has been admitted in view of the MoU entered between the Foundation and the IDIA for providing assistance to recommended IDIA scholars under Dhananjay 2021. It was further noted that the applicant satisfies the Minimum Eligibility Criteria for Dhananjay 2021.

In light of his academic credentials and weak financial situation, the Committee concluded that the applicant was eligible and deserving, and his application was accordingly shortlisted and selected under the scheme of Dhananjay 2021.

Issued on Behalf of the
CAN Foundation
