



*Sardar Manmohan Singh  
Charitable Trust*

*Prathiba M. Singh  
Cambridge LL. M. Scholarship*

*2021*





The Sardar Manmohan Singh Charitable Trust was established in September 2012, with the objective of awarding scholarships to the deserving, providing financial aid and other incentives to students to enable them to pursue their academics and research work across the globe.

The Prathiba M. Singh Cambridge LL.M. Scholarship was set up in 2013 as one of the initiatives of the Trust.

Sardar Manmohan Singh, born in Lahore, Pakistan, in the 1930s, migrated to India during the Partition and settled in New Delhi with his family. Although, his education was formally till the Punjab Metric, his command over languages was admirable. He could speak, read and write Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi and English and had an immaculate handwriting. Having spent his early days in Lahore, it had been his lifelong wish to visit his ancestral home in- a dream that was never fulfilled.

He was a civil contractor, who undertook a large number of projects in and around Delhi. He used to conduct arbitration proceedings pertaining to his projects all by himself.

He married Sardarni Balbir Kaur and they were blessed with three children - Manbir Kaur, Maninder Singh and Mahinder Pal Singh. Imbibing the qualities of their father, one son became a lawyer and the other a civil contractor.

Sardar Manmohan Singh was known as someone who was always ready to help his family and friends in their time of need. It is with a view to continue his legacy that the Trust has been formed in his name by his family. Upon setting up of the Trust, it was felt that the first activity of the Trust ought to be the institution of a Scholarship for Indian students who had been accepted at Cambridge University.

The purpose of this Scholarship is not only to encourage meritorious students to study at Cambridge, but more so to enable them to study when a scholarship is the only means of completing their masters in law. As Mrs. Singh says, "If I had not received the ODAAAS Scholarship in 1991-92, I would not have made it to Cambridge. The scholarship is what changed the course of my life. I just hope scholars who get the scholarship come back to India and support such activities in future."

The Trust also thanks the Cambridge Commonwealth Trust for its support in this initiative.



**Arun Jaitley**

1952 - 2019

*Late Mr. Arun Jaitley has been a pillar of support for the Trust. He had penned the message below for this scholarship in 2018.*

**MESSAGE**

It gives me immense pleasure to write a message for the LL.M. Scholarship instituted by the Sardar Manmohan Singh Charitable Trust which started giving scholarships to meritorious Indian students for their LL.M. studies at the University of Cambridge since 2014.

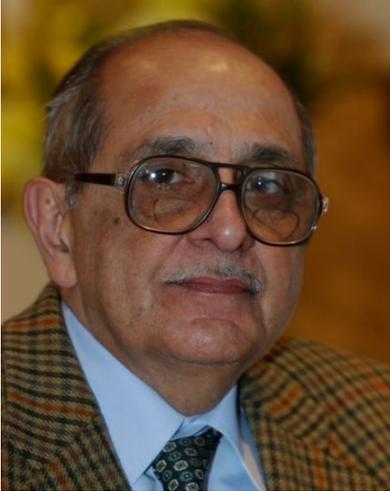
The scholarship acquires significance because it is intended to assist students with modest financial backgrounds who have acquired excellence in academics.

The institution of this scholarship is a prime example of how successful lawyers should give back to the society. Being a part of a fraternity also entails an obligation to nurture and hone the future talent. I believe that both Maninder and Prathiba have set a precedent for the rest of the legal fraternity. Such scholarships should encourage other successful professionals to initiate similar programmes.

This scholarship should serve as a message for those who obtain scholarships to also give back when the time comes.

I laud the Sardar Manmohan Singh Charitable Trust as well as its trustees for their es. I wish the best for all the past, present and future scholars.

**[Arun Jaitley]**



**Mr. Fali Sam Nariman**  
Eminent Jurist and Senior Advocate,  
Supreme Court of India

*(We thank Mr. Fali Nariman for graciously accepting to be the Chief Guest at our scholarship event for 2021. It is our honour and privilege to have a legend like him grace this occasion.*

*-Maninder Singh and Prathiba M. Singh)*

**M E S S A G E**

**Diwali Greetings and best wishes to all students. They need to know that whilst the ignorant of the 20<sup>th</sup> century were those who could not read and write and who would not learn, the ignorant of the 21<sup>st</sup> century are reckoned to be those who cannot unlearn and re-learn!**

*Fali S. Nariman*

**(FALI S. NARIMAN)**

**Date: 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2021  
Place: New Delhi**



## **Professor Stephen J Toope**

LL.B., BCL, Ph.D

Vice Chancellor  
University of Cambridge, UK

### **MESSAGE**

It gives me great pleasure to share this message on the occasion of the award ceremony of the Prathiba M Singh Cambridge Scholarship. I am extremely grateful to Prathiba and Maninder Singh for their generous support for the Prathiba M Singh Cambridge LLM scholarship. Their foresight and vision to partner with the University to enable the brightest students to study at Cambridge, regardless of their means, is truly inspiring. Thirteen exceptional students have benefited so far from their generosity. This year two more will join us in Cambridge.

Those students who benefit from this important scholarship programme are outstanding, and it gives us immense pleasure to welcome them to Cambridge each year. It is my hope that this collaboration between our University and India only grows stronger over time. I wish you all every success for the event today.

**[Professor Stephen J Toope]**



## **Padma Shri Prof. P.N. Tandon**

Professor Emeritus  
Neurosurgery, AIIMS

### **MESSAGE**

I am happy to learn that Sardar Manmohan Singh Charitable Trust is organising its Cambridge Fellowship Award Ceremony.

I have fond memories of attending these functions in person previously. It was a rewarding experience to watch the sense of joy and pride on the young faces of the awardees. I am sure that this year's function will also be organised with the same enthusiasm and efficiency as always, and will provide a lasting memory to recipients and attendees alike. At the same time it would enhance the awareness of this singular contribution of the trust in strengthening the bonds of friendship between the academic and legal communities of the two countries.

I take this opportunity to convey my best wishes to the awardees and congratulations to the Trust for its commendable activities.

**[Prof. P N Tandon]**



**Justice U. U. Lalit**

Judge

Supreme Court of India

### **MESSAGE**

I wish to express my congratulations to the Sardar Manmohan Singh Trust for its commendable work over the years. They have guided and assisted several students in pursuing higher education at the University of Cambridge and in achieving excellence in their careers as lawyers.

It is very heartening to see that Justice Prathiba Singh and Shri Maninder Singh are finding ways to give back to society while also promoting higher standards of excellence in Intellectual Property Law. The scholarship provided by the Trust gives tremendous encouragement to young lawyers.

I hope the legal community would follow their example in galvanizing young minds and creating more such opportunities. I wish the Trust all the very best for its future endeavours.

**[Justice U U Lalit]**



**Justice Jagdish Singh Khehar**  
Former Chief Justice of India

### **MESSAGE**

Any contribution towards education of others, is truly a commendable gesture. And any participation in their higher education, ever so more.

I was present at the ceremony organised by the Sardar Manmohan Singh Charitable Trust, for the award of scholarships, to students who were successful in gaining admission to the LLM course - on their own merit, at the Cambridge University, for the academic session 2017-2018. And therefore, had an opportunity to see the recipients from close quarters. All I can say is, that for an Indian student passionate in the learning of law, pursuit of higher education in the United Kingdom, is a dream come true. And if that learning can be at the Cambridge University, ever so more.

I compliment Mrs. Prathiba M. Singh, Judge - Delhi High Court, and Mr. Maninder Singh, Senior Advocate, for continuing with the noble cause, of assisting meritorious Indian students, in their endeavours towards higher learning, in the field of law.

**[Justice Jagdish Singh Khehar]**



## **Justice A. K. Sikri**

Former Judge  
Supreme Court of India

### **MESSAGE**

Seldom we hear of stories where a person actually makes a significant contribution towards their alma mater, Prathiba Singh's story is one of a kind, which should be told to young budding lawyers and generations to come. Hailing from a background, which had no affinity to law, Prathiba Singh made a mark first as a student by securing a scholarship herself to Cambridge University, then as a pioneer in Intellectual Property matters and now as a Judge of the High Court. It warms my heart to see those in the field of law giving back to the institution that have shaped them, nurtured them and have provided guidance to them so as to enable them to reach where they are today. We know of CSR- Corporate Social Responsibility, but I call this LSR - Lawyers Social Responsibility. To contribute as a lawyer with a handsome income of one is a separate thing, but what is truly commendable is that she is continuing in her endeavour even as a Judge of the High Court with a modest salary, compared to what she was earning as a lawyer. Here, I shall appreciate the supporting role being played by her husband, Maninder Singh.

I hope there were more of her kind, more who felt the urge to give, for she is not only providing financial aid to young scholars but young budding lawyers realise their dream of studying the Masters Programme in one of the world's most prestigious Universities -University of Cambridge. I applaud her for her continued efforts and congratulate the Trust for reaching another year of providing scholarships to young law students.

**[A.K. Sikri]**



## **Dr. Nikhil Tandon**

It gives me immense pleasure to pen a few sentences on the occasion of the award ceremony of the Prathiba M Singh Cambridge Scholarship for the academic year 2021. As someone who has been privileged to be a part of the journey of this scholarship, it gives me immense pleasure to see the continuing and incremental contribution that this scholarship is providing to support meritorious students aspiring to become well rounded legal

professionals. Over this period, this scholarship has become well recognized by the student community of India's leading law schools, thereby making the selection process incredibly competitive. This evolution I believe reflects the quality of previous awardees and also the demonstrable enhancement in their skills and competencies and the evolution and maturation in their persona which the scholarship facilitated by enabling the exposure and education they received at Cambridge.

This year, like the previous, has been fraught with the challenges brought on by the COVID pandemic. But, just like there is light emerging at the end of the COVID tunnel, we sincerely hope that for our young awardees this scholarship brings with it a beacon of hope for an energizing and stimulating year ahead in the salubrious environs of Cambridge. Exposure to a "different" style of education and interacting with global peers adds significant value to the process of knowledge acquisition. As I reflect back on the time I spent as a graduate student at Cambridge, the contribution of my peers, the mentorship of the supervising faculty, and the encouragement I received to think through problems while arriving at potential solutions, stand out as notable memories. I am sure that this year's awardees will also experience and cherish significant value addition to their educational journey.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my congratulations to the exceptional young people who have made us proud by accepting our offer of the scholarship. I would also like to congratulate their families, teachers, friends and peers - all of whom, indubitably have contributed to their success. I hope that this will be an enriching experience for them - as it has been for their predecessors - and that the legal talent pool of India will be enriched on their return

## LIST OF SCHOLARS

YEAR	NAME	COLLEGE NAME
2014-2015	Deepika Sriram	B.A. LL.B., National Law University, Delhi
2015-2016	Swati Bala	B.A. LL.B., Chanakya National Law School, Patna
2015-2016	Deepshikha Malhotra	B.Sc. (Hons.), LL.B., University of Delhi
2016-2017	Ashwini Vaidialingam	B.A. LL.B., National Law School of India University, Bangalore
2017-2018	Ishmeet Kaur	B.A. (Hons.), LL.B., University of Delhi
2017-2018	Raveena Kumari Sethia	B.A. LL.B. (Hons.), Jindal Global Law School
2017-2018	Ansh Singh Luthra	B.A. LL.B. (Hons.), National Law Institute University, Bhopal
2018-2019	Aadya Chawla	B.A. LL.B. (Hons.), National Law University, Delhi
2018-2019	Nupur Mohan Raut	B.A. LL.B. (Hons.), National Law School of India University, Bangalore
2019-2020	Surabhi Lal	B.A. LL.B. (Hons.), National Law University, Delhi
2019-2020	Avantik Tamta	B.A. LL.B. (Hons.), West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences
2020-2021	Pranit Prasad Kulkarni	LL.B. (Hons. in Intellectual Property Law), Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur
2020-2021	Sarath Ninan Mathew	B.A. LL.B. (Hons.), West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences
2021-2022	Ashirbad Nayak	B.A. LL.B. (Hons.), National Law University, Odisha
2021-2022	Nikhil Purohit	B.A. LL.B. (Hons.), National Law School of India University, Bangalore

## **Deepika Sriram**

**(Scholar, 2014-2015)**



I was fortunate to be the first recipient of the prestigious Prathiba M. Singh Cambridge Scholarship in 2014 that made my dream of studying at Cambridge a reality. The award was extremely crucial in securing my finances for pursuing a Master of Laws degree and I thank the Cambridge Commonwealth, European and International Trust and Justice Prathiba M. Singh for the opportunity.

After having spent a year at Cambridge, I can say with utmost confidence that it has been one of the most enriching experiences that provided me with unprecedented exposure to intellectual, cultural and social activities. I got the opportunity to choose an eclectic mix of subjects ranging from commercial, international and human rights law. I found the courses to be intellectually stimulating. They were challenging in terms of the workload, but have shaped the manner in which I think and helped me to critically analyse laws and policies. I also worked on a dissertation on 'Compulsory Licensing of Green Technology', supervised by Professor Lionel Bentley and with invaluable inputs from Mrs. Singh. The dissertation gave me the opportunity to explore the nuanced interaction between climate change policies and intellectual property law and the emerging legal dialogue in this area.

Studying at Cambridge also made me realise the importance of balancing work and social activities so that I could make the most of my time there. I was also fortunate to be surrounded by a lovely group of people at Wolfson College, and the social gatherings helped me make many new friends from different countries, thereby exposing me to various cultures and broadening my perspective. My year at Cambridge has indeed been a life changing experience that has armed me with critical skills that would hold me in good stead for my career and life ahead, and for that I am extremely grateful to Mrs. Prathiba M. Singh for the opportunity.

## Swati Bala (Scholar, 2015-2016)

**Profile:** Swati Bala is a principal associate in the antitrust/competition law practice group at Khaitan & Co. Before joining Khaitan & Co, she worked with the competition team of AZB & Partners and served as a Judicial Law Clerk at the Supreme Court of India. In her free time, she is trying to churn out a fiction book, runs like an apocalypse is imminent, and admits any distant cousin of health and introspection.



**Message:** Hope in my eyes and eager to begin a new life of academia and possibilities, I decided to pursue a Master of Law at the University of Cambridge. Had it not been for the Prathiba M. Singh Cambridge Scholarship and Cambridge Commonwealth Trust, it would have been a pipedream – I would forever be grateful to Hon’ble Justice Singh.

I begin to understand with more clarity now that my experience at Cambridge taught me a fundamental thing – never be daunted and always believe in the process – which I still swear by. My initial weeks at Cam tested my strength, introduced me to friends and mentors for a lifetime, acclimatised me to the eccentric weather, made me in charge of my meals and life – all very thrilling and terrifying at once. Soon my life was buzzing with lectures, assignments, and long nights and hot coffee in the Newnham college library.

My college was all-girls, and I was for the first time in that sort of setup. But I must say these women were incredible in every bit – they exuded strength, compassion, beauty, the new future. There was always much to learn from them and others. You truly appreciate the diversity and dissents.

The entire university town in fact had a mixed vibe – sleepy and tranquil at night and days filled with polite debates, the sighs of punters on River Cam, swooshing of scarf-wearing students on bicycles, and excited murmurs of new students. Studying amidst lofty towers and ornamented archways, green meadows and weeping willows, it conjures up nostalgia. A longing for the picturesque. It was a dreamy town. Cam is a dreamy town.

Speaking of my courses, I did not expect to become an expert on any of them – including IPR and antitrust. On the contrary, my biggest takeaway was ‘be a lifelong learner’. I used to exhaust my curiosity on rather very patient professors. Timely and thought-out assignments, not missing classes, and studying actively helped me get across to the finale. My searching spirit also let me work as the sponsorship officer of the Cambridge Graduate Law Society, be on the editorial board of the UK Supreme Court Yearbook, and try my hands at badminton and rowing.

I was fortunate to experience the colourful and unique culture of Cambridge – abound with formal halls, social and political events, light festivals, and even the far-flung land of Nessie and Highlanders, Scotland. I physically bade adieu to the university post-graduation, but it stays in my heart like a lingering smile.

All that said, each of us sketch innumerable life paths. Whether one attends such universities or not, life does not stop there. What matters is not what we inherit but where we begin. I would say, just ‘keep off the grass’ and create the cumulative wisdom of humanity.

## Deepshikha Malhotra

(Scholar, 2015-2016)



**Profile:** Deepshikha is a patent agent and an attorney-at-law, practicing in the field of commercial and civil litigation at New Delhi. In 2018, she co-founded Malhotra & Chitkara Advocates and heads the Intellectual Property and commercial litigation team. She is also empanelled with EESL (Ministry of Power), Ministry of Railways and the Delhi State Legal Services Authority.

**Message:** For me, studying at the University of Cambridge was always a dream. However, getting accepted and being offered a scholarship was more than I could have ever hoped for. My time at Cambridge has undoubtedly been the most exciting and inspiring year of my life.

Academically, I had the honour of being taught by the brightest minds in the field of law - some of the best professors and practitioners, each being experts in their own right. Not only did I get to learn during classes and seminars throughout the year, I also got the opportunity to represent the University at the various international events. There, I got the privilege of interacting with several distinguished judges, advocates, legal scholars and students like me from across the globe.

During the course of my degree, I came to realize that learning at Cambridge never stops and it is in no manner limited to the lecture halls. I have learnt from the highly intellectual peer group, from the numerous formal halls, with an eclectic mix of food and people from all around the world, and even from the enriching atmosphere that Cambridge affords.

All in all, my experience has truly been a holistic one. Not only has it helped me broaden my perspective and knowledge but has significantly increased the importance of sound education in my life. I graduated from Cambridge equipped not just with the right tools to achieve my career goals, but also with a defined personality.

And this has all been possible only because of the Prathiba M. Singh LLM Scholarship, the Cambridge Commonwealth Trust, Maninder Sir's unrelenting desire to help others and, most importantly, because of Prathiba Ma'am's vision of giving students like me the same opportunities that she received.

## Ashwini Vaidialingam (Scholar, 2016-2017)



**Profile:** Ashwini is a practicing advocate in Chennai, and regularly appears before the Madras High Court and all district courts and tribunals in Chennai. Her areas of practice include civil/commercial law, arbitration, IPR, insolvency and bankruptcy, taxation and public law.

**Message:** My pursuit of the Master of Law (LLM) degree at the University of Cambridge has been a truly invaluable experience. I had the honour and privilege of doing so on the Prathiba M Singh Cambridge Scholarship, for which I am deeply grateful to Justice Prathiba M Singh, the Sardar Manmohan Singh Charitable Trust and the Cambridge Commonwealth, European & International Trust. The LL.M. programme granted me the promised opportunity to deepen my knowledge and understanding of the law.

The Faculty of Law's unique pedagogy, with its combination of lectures and interactive small teaching groups, helped me engage with world-renowned faculty and an internationally diverse peer group, both within and outside of the classroom. I especially enjoyed pursuing my interest in Intellectual Property law and International Commercial Tax, both of which are taught phenomenally well at Cambridge.

This academic experience was particularly meaningful and enriching, as I had the privilege of pursuing it as a member of Wolfson College. I enjoyed being an active member of college life and participating in various student-run societies. I particularly value my time rowing with the Wolfson College Boat Club and competing against other Cambridge colleges on the river Cam. I deeply treasure the close friendships and memories I have made, which have helped me grow both as a lawyer and as a person.

**Ishmeet Kaur**  
**(Scholar, 2017-2018)**



**Profile:** After working for almost two years as a litigator in India as part of Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas, Ishmeet is now working as a litigator at a firm in London.

**Message:** I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to the Sardar Manmohan Singh Trust & Justice Singh for giving a dreamer like me the reality of studying at one of the top universities in the world. My experience at Cambridge was nothing short of absolute perfection. From the classes I got to attend, the lecturers I got to learn from, the friends I made and the multiple homes I now have all over the world, the experience was definitely an all rounded one! Whilst the year flew by, the memories, the training, teachings and the friendships linger on. Whenever I think of my time at Cambridge, the journey that got me there, the hurdles, the challenges, the growth, I am enveloped with utmost gratitude and appreciation for the Trust and Justice Singh. The opportunities that opened up for me were countless, both in India and abroad. I am happy and extremely proud to be a Justice Singh scholar and only wish to be able to continue to make the Trust and Justice Singh proud of me.

## Ansh Singh Luthra (Scholar, 2017-2018)

**Profile:** Ansh Singh Luthra, Founding Partner, A&N Law Offices, is an Advocate practicing at the High Court of Delhi. At A&N Law Offices, Ansh & his partner and associates have a practice spanning White Collar Crime, Property Litigation, Regulatory & Policy matters & Arbitration among other areas. Ansh has a keen interest in writing. He writes about practical litigation strategy in his monthly column titled “Inside the Courtroom” – Lawyer’s Update Magazine. He also raises legal issues of larger public and national interest at different public fora and on national television.



**Message:** My year at Cambridge was nothing short of a dream. I chose to study niche subjects such as Privacy Law and Legal & Political Philosophy alongside traditional subjects that I loved such as Intellectual Property Law. I was fortunate to be taught by greats like Prof. Kramer who introduced new facets of subjects such as the morality of capital punishment, Prof. Bently who reignited my interest in Patent Law and Prof. Erdos who familiarized me with spheres of privacy law that were previously less known to me. The LLM program at Cambridge was rigorous and enlightening. It was a competitive environment designed to foster learning and intellectual growth.

Apart from academics, Cambridge offered something for everyone, be it rowing, tennis or even odd things like a poker society. My college, Wolfson, was well-known for its Howler events (stand-up comedy), which I personally loved. It was a great way to unwind with friends after a demanding day at the law faculty. Wolfson college was diverse. At Wolfson we had members from all walks of life, from almost every country in the world, yet everyone was part of the same small family.

While at Cambridge, I secured a second scholarship called the Pegasus Scholarship, jointly run by the Pegasus Trust and the Honorable Society of the Inner Temple. The Pegasus Scholarship enabled me to work at Barrister Sets in London and get an insight into litigation practice in the UK. Indian laws are a British legacy, but their application and court functioning are different. Most barristers in London say there is still room for improvement in their system, but I must say that case management & court management is something we should learn from them. Having returned to India, I hope to build on my experience and learning.

## Raveena Kumari Sethia

(Scholar, 2017-2018)



**Profile:** Raveena graduated as a silver medalist from Jindal Global Law School in 2017. Thereafter, she worked with the Competition Law practice at Trilegal, Mumbai before pursuing her LLM at Cambridge. During the LLM, she secured a training contract with Herbert Smith Freehills LLP, London, but decided to return to India in 2018 and join the Competition Law practice at Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas, New Delhi, where she presently works. Over the last few years, she has represented various clients across multiple sectors including the natural resources, cement, paints, automobiles, IT, paper, petrochemicals and food delivery sectors. Besides her work at the firm, she is part of 'Her Forum' (a platform

that connects women in the legal profession), and continues her engagement with the student community through mentorship initiatives, authoring opinion pieces, coaching moot teams, and sharing her experience through various fora.

**Message:** I am extremely grateful to Mrs. Prathiba Singh, Mr. Maninder Singh, the Sardar Manmohan Singh Trust, Wolfson College, and the Cambridge Trust, for giving me the wonderful opportunity to pursue my L.L.M. at Cambridge.

Studying subjects like Intellectual Property and Competition Law at Cambridge broadened my perspective and deepened my understanding of each subject area. Academic life was a class apart, and the scholarly toolkit we have been equipped with through the experience will always stay with me, even when it comes to practical application of the law.

I was fortunate to be associated with the Cambridge Law Review, Cambridge Union, Varsity newspaper, and Arbitration Day Committee during my experience as well. These opportunities gave me the chance to interact with people across subject areas, jurisdictions and age groups, which made my experience all the more worthwhile.

Having returned to India, I hope to carry the knowledge imbibed through the L.L.M. bonds formed at Cambridge, and the multi-cultural and multi-disciplined approach gained in perspective, through all my endeavours.

## Aadya Chawla (Scholar, 2018-2019)

**Profile:** Aadya Chawla is presently an Associate at Singh & Singh Law Firm LLP, Delhi where she handles drug regulatory and intellectual property litigation including copyright, trademark, design and patent disputes. She was a gold medalist at National Law University, Delhi and secured a First Division at the University of Cambridge, for which she was elected to a Graduate Scholarship by the Governing Body of Christ's College. Upon the completion of her LL.M, she was awarded the Pegasus Scholarship by the Pegasus Trust and the Honourable Society of the Inner Temple, which gave her the opportunity to work with six leading Barrister Sets in the UK. Aadya returned to India in 2019 and started practicing at various Courts and Tribunals in India on civil and commercial matters. She has also gained experience as a Law Researcher at the Delhi High Court.



**Message:** I had the privilege and honour to pursue my Master of Law (LLM) at the University of Cambridge on the Prathiba M. Singh Cambridge Trust Scholarship 2018-19. My year at Cambridge was nothing short of remarkable for both my academic and personal growth.

The freedom to form your own unique combination of courses at the Faculty of Law enabled me to learn from leading academics in all my areas of interest and engage critically with such a diverse peer group. I also had the opportunity to meet expert practitioners and students from all over the world as the Assistant Convenor for the Annual Cambridge International Law Conference.

My learning was not limited to the classroom and the aspect of University life that I enjoyed the most was the collegiate system. At Christ's College, I made friends pursuing a wide variety of disciplines ranging from philosophy, psychology, archaeology to theoretical physics, computer science and mathematics. Our conversations would be so stimulating because of the number of perspectives we could bring to the table on any subject matter. The formal dinners, grad halls, garden parties and a number of other events at college made my year truly memorable. It is this incredible mix of fun and knowledge accumulation occurring simultaneously, which makes the Cambridge experience unique.

The city of Cambridge, with its centuries of history of knowledge and discovery, is a dream-town and my experiences there will stay with me forever. I cannot thank Justice Prathiba Singh, Mr. Maninder Singh and the Sardar Manmohan Singh Charitable Trust enough for believing in me and giving me this opportunity of a lifetime. Their vision is a constant source of inspiration for so many of us.

## Nupur Mohan Raut (Scholar, 2018-2019)



**Profile:** Nupur Raut is an advocate practising in New Delhi and Mumbai. Her areas of practice include constitutional law, intellectual property law, civil litigation, human rights law, and family law. Prior to her LL.M. at the University of Cambridge, she worked at the Supreme Court of India as a Law Clerk-cum-Research Assistant.

**Message:** I knew that the University of Cambridge would be a wonderful experience, but I could never imagine just how enriching and fulfilling my time there would be. During the course of my LL.M. degree, I studied international intellectual property law, law and information, international human right and comparative family law. The classes, workshops and exams strengthened my knowledge of core legal principles and gave me the international and comparative understanding I was looking for. It was not just the academic environment : excursions to surrounding towns, debates and moot court competitions and dinners with new friends, supervisors and teachers played a big role in making my experience memorable. I will always be grateful to the University and to everyone who made it possible for me to attend.

**Surabhi Lal**  
**(Scholar, 2019-2020)**



**Profile:** After graduating from Cambridge in 2020, Surabhi moved back to New Delhi and re-joined the Dispute Resolution practice at Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co., New Delhi. She is presently working there as a Senior Associate, and deals with domestic and international arbitrations and related litigations. She represents clients before the Supreme Court of India, Delhi High Court and arbitral tribunals. She has also been conducting short courses and workshops for undergraduate students of law at National Law University, Delhi on arbitration, copyright, mediation and negotiation.

**Message:** My experience at Cambridge was no less than a dream come true. The Prathiba M. Singh Cambridge Trust Scholarship made this dream possible and I will always be grateful for the opportunity. An experience at Cambridge was much more than an academic endeavour. It entailed a holistic experience which has not only refined my analytical abilities but also impacted my personality. The brilliant guidance and enriching discussions with the world renowned faculty members was much more enlightening than expected. The opportunity to discuss and deliberate with the finest bunch of students from all around the world provided deeper insights into legal issues and unique comparative law perspectives. Lastly, a significant part of my memorable experience has been amazing friendships which have not only improved my networking abilities but also offered me the comfort of discussing complex legal issues with people having innovative perspectives.

**Avantik Tamta**  
**(Scholar, 2019-2020)**



**Profile:** Having returned from Cambridge, Avantik is now engaged as a Lecturer in Jindal Global Law School. He is also engaged in the capacity of a Guest Faculty in his alma mater, WBNUJS. He has taught courses on International Human Rights Law, Music and Copyrights, Trade Secrets and Free Speech and AI, Law and Ethics upon his return to India. He has carried on scholarship and research in the field of IP further as part of the NUJS Centre on IP and Technology Law.

**Message:** I cannot begin to describe how wholesome the Cambridge experience has been for me. Blinded by constricted views on law and the superficial understanding of things, my LLM fostered within me a sense of humility which I carry with me in life. The humility to accept that I will never know all that is to know, but can only aspire to know a semblance of what the world does understand, is my biggest takeaway from this intellectual paradise. The high quality of discussion transgressed the boundaries of the classroom and permeated the local coffee shops and restaurants. People here are determined to push you to reach your academic potential even when you are reluctant to wish so for yourself. I am indebted to the generosity of the Trust for allowing me membership of that community, and for permitting me the opportunity to inherit such a rich legacy in my individual quest for academic greatness.

## Pranit Prasad Kulkarni (Scholar, 2020-2021)

**Profile:** Pranit is an engineer-turned-lawyer with a strong inclination to practice at the intersection of law and technology. He completed his bachelor's in mechanical engineering from the University of Mumbai, where he was awarded the Tata Education Trust scholarship for academic and co-curricular excellence. There he was one of the founding members of a collegiate team which builds all-terrain vehicles to participate in national off-roading championships. Pranit later did his LL.B. with honors in Intellectual Property law at IIT Kharagpur, graduating at the top of his cohort. At law school, he assisted his professors on a project dealing with 'Open-source licensing' for a transnational electronic corporation. Pranit had a pre-placement offer from Khaitan & Co. in their IP team, which he eventually had to forego to pursue his LL.M. at Cambridge University. Having completed his LL.M. at Cambridge, he has joined the chambers of Dr. Abhinav Chandrachud at the Bombay High court and aims to pursue his interests in IP, Commercial and Constitutional laws.



**Message:** My experience at Cambridge would have been significantly different if not for the Prathiba Singh scholarship. As someone passionate about pursuing litigation, the scholarship in fact bought me those years which I would have otherwise spent pursuing opportunities solely for repaying off my debts. Indeed, this scholarship transgresses well beyond Cambridge. I thank Justice Prathiba Singh and Dr. Nikhil Tandon for putting their faith in me amongst other equally competent candidates. I also thank Mr. Maninder Singh, the Sardar Manmohan Singh Trust, Cambridge Trust, Faculty of Law at Cambridge, and my alma mater Wolfson College for their direct and indirect support. Although flying across continents during the COVID-19 pandemic was a prospect marred by serious introspections, I am glad to have taken that leap. Cambridge, despite the prevailing circumstances, felt a welcoming place thanks to the tremendous efforts of the University, the Law Faculty and the colleges. It was a privilege to share my classes with some of the brightest legal minds from across the globe and learn under the tutelage of the very people whose books guided me during my undergrad days. I was delighted when my research on treatment of unpublished Orphan works under Indian Copyright law was integrated by Dr. Henning Grosse-Ruse Khan in his paper's curriculum and was overwhelmed while presenting it before a Cambridge classroom. Moreover, I also got to assist Professor Bently on the upcoming edition of his Intellectual Property law textbook. Working closely with him not only lent me a window to the process of writing a legal commentary, but also helped me refine my understanding of IP law in a global context. But of course, Cambridge was way beyond the confines of the classroom. As an aficionado of history, I enjoyed walking through the historic streets of Cambridge and exploring its colleges and their links with India. Besides, the Cambridge University Library was a treasure trove for fetching original copies of centuries-old books and particularly those which were banned in colonial India. I also wanted to try a new sport at Cambridge and eventually got to be a part of the Wolfson College rowing team in the annual Regatta. In hindsight, although the pandemic year at Cambridge looked conspicuously different, I am glad to have soaked in whatever the University had to offer and forge lifelong bonds with some truly amazing people across the world. I hope to use these takeaways in my professional journey.

## Sarath Ninan Mathew

(Scholar, 2020-2021)



**Profile:** Sarath graduated B.A. LL.B. (Hons.) from the West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences in 2020. During his time at NUJS, Sarath participated in numerous moot court competitions including the Vis moot and the Oxford IP moot; and was the Chief Editor of the Journal of Indian Law and Society. He was awarded his LLM from the University of Cambridge in 2021, where he scored an overall First Class and won the CMS Corporate Law prize for distinction in Corporate Finance Law examination. While at Cambridge, he also served as an Associate Editor with the Cambridge Law Review.

Sarath aspires to enter academia. His preferred area of law is commercial law. In Cambridge, he wrote a dissertation on 'E-Sport streams under UK Copyright Law' for which he was awarded 75% marks. Currently, he is taking a gap year from theoretical law in favour of public administration. He is working as a Chief Minister's Good Governance Associate in Ambala district in Haryana, under a fellowship run jointly by Ashoka University and Government of Haryana. He works on the ground level implementation of various government schemes surrounding education, farmer welfare, and technology in governance.

Sarath plans to return to legal academia from the next year onwards, and hopes that the experience he has gathered as part of the fellowship will better inform his theoretical understanding of the law.

**Message:** I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Cambridge. I made some amazing friends, had the opportunity to be taught by stellar Professors, and got to be a part of the Cambridge Law Review's Editorial Board. Studying or working while at Cambridge never felt like a chore; it always felt like a privilege. It was this absence of pressure that helped me make the most out of my time at Cambridge. This translated into academic achievements as well as I managed to secure an overall First class along with the CMS corporate law prize for distinction in Corporate Finance Law examination.

Many of my friends had to spend a majority of time searching for jobs since they had huge loans to repay post the course. My opportunity to enjoy and benefit from this course to the fullest extent was possible solely due to the generosity of this scholarship. I shall forever remain grateful for the same. I look forward to contributing meaningfully to the Indian legal education space in the future, and thereby doing justice to this great prestige that has been bestowed upon me by the Sardar Manmohan Singh Trust and Justice Singh.

## Ashirbad Nayak (Scholar, 2021-2022)

**Message:** I completed my undergraduate law program from National Law University Odisha in 2020, and graduated with a degree of BA LLB (Hons.). I was one of the top rank holders of my batch, ranking fourth in my cohort of one hundred and eleven students. I also received the gold medals for the Best All Round Student (Male) and in the subject of Public International Law. Before coming to the University of Cambridge, I briefly worked at J Sagar Associates, a prodigious Indian commercial law firm in their General Corporate team.



My key areas of interest involve a trifecta of data protection, its commercial implications, and their impact on free speech. In furtherance of my interest in the aforementioned areas, I focussed on working upon them extensively during the latter half of my undergraduate program through publications, competitions, and internships. The University of Cambridge is the perfect destination for me, owing to the presence of Dr David Erdos, the Co-Director of the Centre for Intellectual Property and Information Law, whose area of research perfectly coincides with mine. It is a dream come true to learn from him, as well as the other Professors at the University. At Cambridge, I wish to learn as much as possible, not just about law, but also about different cultures and customs. Meeting people from all walks of life and from various countries over here, has truly been eye opening. It is an incredible opportunity and I wish to immerse myself in this experience to the fullest.

I have had the good fortune of being blessed with this scholarship as well as the kindness and generosity of so many people who have helped me get to where I am. I eagerly look forward to passing it on to whoever will need it down the road. And to quote the title of the autobiography of an alumnus of the University of Cambridge, Dr. Amartya Sen, I look forward to the year ahead to help me find my home in the world.

## **Nikhil Purohit**

**(Scholar, 2021-2022)**



**Message:** I graduated from National Law School of India University, Bangalore, in 2021, with a degree in law and the arts (B.A. LL.B. (Hons.)). During my time at law school, I have developed a keen interest in the interface of technology law and free speech and its interactions with Intellectual Property Rights. I have explored these themes through my research work and internships, and through a fellowship offered by SpicyIP, a leading intellectual property blog. I have also attempted to generate increased discourse about these issues as the Chief Editor of the Indian Journal of Law and Technology and a member of the Law and Technology society at NLSIU.

I am excited about the opportunity to assess these themes at a deeper level through the platform that the Master of Law (LLM) at the University of Cambridge provides. The learning in the LLM is not only through excellent courses such as those on Law and Information and International Intellectual Property, but also through its emphasis on interactive discussions in a diverse international cohort providing a holistic understanding of the issues being discussed. It also opens up the possibility of discussing one's ideas with world-renowned academics and practitioners. At the same time, the Cambridge experience with numerous college events, sport clubs, and most importantly multi-cultural interactions with people from vastly different academic and social backgrounds is what I look forward to.

I seek to apply the insights, both academic and non-academic, to enhance the technology regulatory framework and its effect on free speech in India after completing the LLM. None of this could have been possible without the support of the Prathiba M. Singh Scholarship in absence of which I would have never been able to take up the LLM offer in the first place. Hence, I am eternally grateful to Justice Prathiba M. Singh, the Sardar Manmohan Singh Trust, and the Cambridge Trust for helping me realise something that I could not even dream of when I started my time at law school.







*Sardar Manmohan Singh Charitable Trust*

*Prathiba M. Singh Cambridge LL. M. Scholarship*

*Trustees:*

**Mr. Mahinder Pal Singh**

**Mr. Maninder Singh**

**Ms. Prathiba M. Singh**

F-11, Jangpura Extension, New Delhi - 110014, India

Tel: +91-11-24314741 / 24314742 / 24314744 Fax: +91-11-24312895

Email: [ms@singhmaninder.com](mailto:ms@singhmaninder.com) | [prathiba@pmsingh.in](mailto:prathiba@pmsingh.in)