



National Law School
of India University
Bengaluru

IN-FOCUS

THE NLS RESEARCH NEWSLETTER

March '25 - June '25 | Edition 2

HIGHLIGHTS



'Caste in Prisons: A Judicial Unravelling' by Dr. Justice S. Muralidhar

In an enlightening lecture organised by the [Ford Foundation Chair on Public Interest Law](#), Justice Muralidhar delivered an analysis of the judicial review, the realities of India's prison system, and the state of legal aid. His address, informed by historical cases, contemporary challenges, and philosophical reflections, shed light on how legal structures often reinforce pre-existing societal systemic injustices rather than dismantle them.

[Watch Here](#)



Maps of Memory

The National Law School of India University's (NLSIU) [Law and Society Archives](#) launched '[Maps of Memory: The Uma Chakravarti Collection](#)', a landmark exhibition that brought together feminist and democratic histories from across South Asia. Hosted at the Bangalore International Centre from March 29 to April 6, the exhibition featured archival fragments—posters, photographs, films, and documents—that traced

networks of activism, solidarity, and political imagination from the mid-20th century onwards.

Curated by NLSIU faculty members [Diya Deviah](#) and [Ammel Sharon](#), the exhibition drew from the personal collection of renowned historian, filmmaker and activist Dr. Uma Chakravarti. It offered a rare, multi-sited glimpse into people's movements across India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka, exploring how feminists imagined alternative futures through acts of resistance, community, and care.

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The NLSIU AI & Law Forum 2025

The NLSIU AI and Law Forum brought together innovative startups and impactful civil society organisations that leverage artificial intelligence (AI) to address legal challenges, streamline processes, enhance access to justice, and contribute to systemic legal reform. Discussions focussed on practical applications of AI, such as legal research, contract analysis, predictive analytics for case outcomes, and the automation of routine legal tasks. The Forum included interactive workshops, presentations, AI labs, and a prompt challenge.

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Inclusive Development Conference: Housing and Urban Land Management in an Unequal World

The Centre for the Study of Social Inclusion (CSSI) at the National Law School of India University (NLSIU) and Institute for New Economic Thinking-Young Scholars Initiative (INET-YSI) organised the 2nd Edition of 'Inclusive Development Conference: Housing and Urban Land Management in an Unequal World' from March 5 to 7, 2025.

The conference kicked-off with an inaugural address by Mr. Alain Bertaud, Distinguished Visiting Scholar, George Mason University and ended with a valedictory address on 'Urban Inclusion and Housing as a Form of Agency' by Dr. Shailaja Fennell, University of Cambridge.

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BOOK TALKS @NLS LIBRARY



The NLS Library Committee's series titled '**Book Talks @NLS Library**' hosted 3 talks this trimester. The books discussed in these talks were *India and Investor-State Dispute Settlement* by Dr. Prabhash Ranjan, *Feminist Politics, Intersectionality and Knowledge Cultivation* by Dr. Radhika Govinda, and *Sovereignty, International Law, and the Princely States of Colonial South Asia* by Dr. Priyasha Saksena. The book talks brought together many of our students, faculty and researchers to engage with the authors and their ideas.

FACULTY SEMINARS & PUBLIC LECTURES



This trimester, we hosted 10 Faculty Seminars covering a range of topics to bring our cutting-edge academic research into the spotlight. We also had three guest speakers presenting their work in these seminars: Dr. Renuka Sane, Managing Director, TrustBridge and Bhavin Patel, Programme Director, TrustBridge Rule of Law Foundation, and Dr. Surabhi Shukla, Lecturer, School of Law, University of Sheffield.

For the full list of our faculty seminars, click [here](#).

In our public lecture, Prof. Mitra Sharafi, Evjue-Bascom Professor of Law, University of Wisconsin-Madison, delivered a lecture titled 'Fear of the False: Forensic Science and the Law of Crime in Colonial South Asia.' The lecture was organised in

collaboration with the [Max Planck Institute For Legal History and Legal Theory \[MPI \(LHLT\)\]](#) as part of the '[Contours of Legal History in India Conference](#)'.

For the full list of our public lectures, click [here](#).

FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

June 13, 2025

[“The Improvement Regime: Public Trusts, Real Estates, and India’s Urban Futurities”](#)

Comparative Studies in Society and History

By Dr. Anwesha Ghosh

June 13, 2025

[“Why no one is talking about counting caste in Kerala”](#)

The Indian Express

By Dr. Sudheesh R C & Dr. Dayal Paleri

June 11, 2025

[“God and Demon: Antagonist to the Buddha”](#)

The Book Review

By Dr. Chandrabhan P. Yadav

Read more of our faculty publications [here](#).

LATEST ON THE NLS BLOG



May 21 | [Tariffs, Trade Wars, and Talks: Shift from Multilateralism to Bilateralism](#) | [Ronjini Ray](#), Assistant Professor of Law, NLSIU

For more, visit The NLS Blog [here](#).

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