



National Law School
of India University
Bengaluru

ANNUAL REPORT • 2025–26

JSW Centre for the Future of Law

National Law School of India University, Bengaluru

1 JULY 2025 – 30 JUNE 2026

The JSW Centre for the Future of Law was conceptualised and announced in 2024 with an ambitious mandate: to examine how law responds to and is in turn changed by the rapidly changing technological landscape. The Centre started its activities in May 2025. This has been a foundational year, one in which we sought to develop a distinctive identity and approach for the Centre.

Our work spans six broad thematic areas: artificial intelligence, data regulation, corporate risk regulation, environmental and climate law, health and biotechnology regulation, and the future of legal institutions. We plan four types of interventions in these subject areas: conducting research, organising events, offering courses, and engaging with stakeholders. I am pleased that, in our first year of activity, we have made a promising start across each of these fronts.

On the research front, we have sought to create a hub for independent, original and interdisciplinary research on the future of law. Our fellowship programmes allow researchers to pursue their own intellectual agendas while benefiting from the Centre's institutional support. Collectively, the Centre's faculty, fellows and researchers produced more than 22 research outputs, ranging from peer-reviewed journal articles and conference papers to policy submissions, case comments and public-facing scholarship. In the coming year, we will initiate our first major Centre-led research programme on artificial intelligence and law, and actively pursue external grants and partnerships.

Our second area of engagement has been the creation of spaces for sustained scholarly and public discussion. We began with the NLSIU AI & Law Forum and the JSW Future of Law Workshop series — a monthly online workshop inviting leading scholars to share works-in-progress with academics, practitioners, and policymakers. The series featured scholars including Prof. Lovleen Bhullar, Prof. Dev Gangjee, Prof. Elizabeth Fisher and Prof. Rebecca Williams, among several others. In the coming year, we

plan to institute a flagship annual lecture addressing a defining question concerning the future of law.

Teaching and pedagogy form the third major component of the Centre's work. Two elective courses were offered: *Large Language Models, Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Law* and *Artificial Intelligence: Law, Policy and Ethics*. These combined legal and policy analysis with practical engagement. The Centre also contributed to NLSIU's institutional approach to AI in teaching and assessment, and its personnel participated in faculty development workshops at NALSAR University of Law and Dr B.R. Ambedkar University.

Our fourth area of work concerns engagement with public institutions. The Centre's principal institutional partnership was with the High Court of Karnataka on e-filing adoption, using empirical research to identify obstacles and develop evidence-based recommendations. The Centre also responded to two governmental consultations: the proposed amendments to the IT intermediary rules and the Supreme Court's draft regulations on AI in courts. In the coming year, we will continue to make carefully researched public submissions and pursue sustained institutional partnerships.

The academic year 2025–2026 has thus been a year of building: recruiting a research community, establishing programmes, testing formats and developing institutional relationships. The foundations are now in place. Our task in the coming years is to convert this foundation into enduring intellectual and public impact: to produce research that reframes important debates, to create spaces in which new ideas can develop, to prepare students for a changing profession, and to help public institutions respond thoughtfully to emerging challenges. I am grateful to the JSW Foundation for its support and confidence in the Centre's vision, to the University and its leadership for providing an enabling intellectual environment, and to all Centre personnel for their contributions during this formative year. We look forward to building on it in the year ahead.



Dr Rahul Hemrajani

Faculty Director

JSW Centre for the Future of Law · National Law School of India University

ABOUT THE CENTRE

The JSW Centre for the Future of Law at the National Law School of India University is a research centre established in 2024 with the support of the JSW Foundation. Conceived as a hub for interdisciplinary engagement, the Centre focuses on examining the evolving relationship between law, technology, and governance in a rapidly changing world. It seeks to expand the boundaries of legal scholarship by integrating doctrinal, empirical, and policy-oriented research, while fostering collaboration across academia, government, industry, and civil society.

The Centre’s research spans artificial intelligence and digital regulation, corporate governance, environmental and climate law, health and biotechnology regulation, and the future of legal institutions. Through workshops, lectures, collaborative projects, and publications, the Centre actively contributes to academic and policy discourse. It also places a strong emphasis on capacity-building by engaging students and early-career researchers in its ongoing projects.

YEAR AT A GLANCE · 2025–26

10+

Public events
& talks

10+

Future of Law
Workshops

20+

Publications &
policy outputs

7

Research staff
& fellows

OUR TEAM · 2025–26

NAME	ROLE	SINCE
Dr. Umakanth Varottil	Centre Director (Visiting) · Professor of Law, NUS Singapore	Dec 2024
Dr. Rahul Hemrajani	Faculty Director · Assistant Professor of Law, NLSIU	May 2025
Isha Ahlawat	Affiliate Faculty · Assistant Professor of Law, NLSIU	Jul 2025
Rashi Singhal	Graduate Research Fellow	Apr 2026
Rahul P	Graduate Research Fellow	Jan 2026
Dr. Rishabh Kachroo	Visiting Research Fellow · Incoming Max Weber Fellow, EUI Florence (Sep 2026)	Mar 2026
Siddharth Manohar	Project Manager	Apr 2025 – Jan 2026

Courses & Academic Engagement

ELECTIVE COURSES OFFERED

2024–25 · 2025–26

Large Language Models, Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Law

Dr Rahul Hemrajani, Faculty Director

Examines the transformative impact of LLMs and AI on the legal landscape, from automated adjudication and AI in courtroom proceedings to algorithmic bias, intellectual property, and regulatory frameworks.

2024–25

Artificial Intelligence: Law, Policy, and Ethics

Siddharth M, Project Manager

Provides a comprehensive overview of legal, policy, and ethical frameworks governing AI and generative AI.

AI TOOLS WORKSHOPS · HANDS-ON TRAINING FOR STUDENTS



23 JULY 2025

Lucio AI & Law Talk

Workshop explored the challenges, opportunities and contours of change that present themselves in the meeting of AI and legal practice. Led by Vasu Aggarwal, Co-Founder and NLSIU alumnus (BA LLB 2023).



10 APRIL 2026

Jhana AI Workshop

Interactive workshop by the Jhana team on AI-powered legal research and document analysis tools, equipping students with skills to integrate intelligent search and summarisation into legal practice.



6 APRIL 2026

IndiaKanoon PRISM Workshop

Practical training by the IndiaKanoon PRISM team on AI-enhanced legal research tools: AI-assisted research search, drafting and argument analysis for student researchers.

Events & Activities

May 2025 – June 2026

10 MAY 2025

NLSIU AI & Law Forum 2025

The inaugural AI & Law Forum brought together legal-tech start-ups, research scholars, and civil society organisations — including Jurisphere, Axara AI, India Kanoon, Lucio, TrustBridge, WeVaad, XKDR Forum, and Jhana.ai — for panel discussions, AI Labs, and a Prompt Challenge.



12 DECEMBER 2025

Regulation of Digital Currencies

Sharwari Pandit, McKinsey & Company

A guest lecture on CBDCs, crypto, and the regulatory implications of digital financial systems in emerging markets, drawing on comparative country case studies.



10 JANUARY 2026

AI in the Everyday in India

Socio-Legal Workshop · NLSIU, Amsterdam, Warwick, Tilburg

A multi-panel international workshop examining AI's embeddedness in democracy, governance, and justice in the Global South, organised across three thematic panels.



17 JANUARY 2026 · AI IMPACT SUMMIT 2026

AI and Digital Public Infrastructure: A Keynote Address

Dr Akash Kapur, Author & Policy Scholar

Examining the intersections of AI and DPI: governance frameworks, the risk of monopolistic trajectories, and the need for equitable, publicly beneficial AI governance in the Global South.



24 JANUARY 2026 · INDIAAI IMPACT PRE-SUMMIT

AI Governance in the Global South

Panel Discussion

Experts from policy, law, industry, and academia examined AI governance challenges unique to the Global South and India's need for agile, context-sensitive regulatory frameworks.



10 MARCH 2026

Capital Markets and the Regulatory State in India

Prof. Umakanth Varottil, NUS Singapore

A specialised lecture on SEBI's authority, investor protection, and the evolving regulatory landscape, including the draft Securities Market Code, 2025. Delivered as part of the Financial Markets Regulation course.



27 APRIL 2026

Content Moderation: From Social Media to AI Chatbots

Prof. Julia Hörnle, Queen Mary University of London

Comparative analysis of the US (Section 230), EU Digital Services Act, and UK Online Safety Act frameworks, with attention to automated content moderation tools and freedom of expression.



15 MAY 2026

Two Facets of AI and Law: Creativity and Privacy

Srinath Sridevan, Senior Advocate

A lecture examining copyright in AI-assisted works (with reference to *Thaler v Perlmutter*), India's DPDP Act 2023, and the ambient erosion of creativity and privacy in digital life.

ONLINE SEMINAR & WORKSHOP SERIES

Future of Law Workshops

20 Aug 2025 **Double Trouble: Regulation of AMR through New Technologies**
Prof. Lovleen Bhullar · University of Cambridge

22 Sep 2025 **Lightning in a Bottle: Wine GIs and Disruptive Innovation**
Prof. Dev Gangjee · University of Oxford

27 Oct 2025 **Imagining the World: Environmental Problems and Legal Expertise**
Prof. Liz Fisher · University of Oxford

24 Nov 2025 **Competition Issues around Google's AI Answers in Search**
Madhavi Singh · Deputy Director, Thurman Arnold Project

29 Dec 2025 **The AI Polylemma in Legal Education**
Dr Rahul Hemrajani · Faculty Director, JSW Centre for the Future of Law

30 Jan 2026 **The HP Sauce Problem: Social Scoring and the Law's Response**
Prof. Rebecca Williams · University of Oxford

27 Feb 2026 **Can Technology Augment Order Writing Capacity at Regulators?**
Bhavin Patel · Programme Director, TrustBridge Rule of Law Foundation

20 Mar 2026 **The Promise and Peril of Generative AI in Litigation**
Dr Armin Alimardani · Senior Lecturer, Western Sydney University

22 Apr 2026 **Why Did a Rule on Mandatory Prescription of Generic Drugs Fail in India?**
Prashant Reddy

26 May 2026 **Balancing Public Health and Personal Autonomy**
Dr Rishabh Kachroo · Visiting Research Fellow, JSW Centre for the Future of Law

9 Jun 2026 **Indebted to the Past: Sovereign Debt and Climate Finance Misalignment**
Dr Arjuna Charles Dibley · Assistant Professor, National University of Singapore

Advocate Survey: Quick E-Filing at the High Court of Karnataka

In collaboration with DAKSH, the Centre is undertaking a pilot study to improve adoption of the Quick E-Filing system at the High Court of Karnataka (eCourts Phase III). Despite offering faster processing and next-day case listing, uptake among advocates remains limited.

NLSIU students from the LLM, 3-year LLB, and 5-year LLB programmes are deployed as research interns at the Court's filing section to conduct structured surveys and provide on-ground guidance.

PUBLICATIONS · 2025–26

Dr Rahul Hemrajani

Faculty Director

Trust in the (Measures of Legitimacy of) Courts
Political Research Quarterly · 16 March 2026

A reporting checklist for large language models in behavioural science
Nature Human Behaviour · 9 June 2026

Judging at a Distance: The Effects of Remote Hearings During the COVID-19 Pandemic
Law and Social Inquiry · 4 February 2026

Grahak-Nyay: Consumer Grievance Redressal through Large Language Models
JUST-NLP 2025 · December 2025

ChatGPT goes to (National) Law School
Indian Journal of Law and Technology · 2025

HalluDetect: Detecting, Mitigating, and Benchmarking Hallucinations in Conversational Systems
EMNLP 2025 Industry Track · September 2025

Nyay-Darpan: Enhancing Decision Making Through Summarization and Case Retrieval for Consumer Law in India
JUST-NLP 2025 · 24 December 2025

On Non-Conventional Marks and ChatGPT Evidence: A Case Comment on Christian Louboutin SAS v. The Shoe Boutique
Indian Journal of Law and Technology · 4 November 2025

A New Ranking System for Indian Legal Journals
NLS Blog · 14 July 2025

Rashi Singhal

Graduate Research Fellow

Can the Indian Copyright Act Accommodate Fully Autonomous AI-Generated Output?
SpicyIP · May 2026

Prof. Umakanth Varottil

Centre Director (Visiting)

Holding Disloyal Directors to Account: Functional Divergence in Common Law Asia
Journal of Corporate Law Studies (25:2) · 2025

'India' in The Oxford Handbook of Climate Change and Private Law
Oxford Academic · April 2026

Blog posts on corporate law: judicial veil piercing, enforcing foreign judgments, shareholder ratification
IndiaCorpLaw · 2025–26

Dr Rishabh Kachroo

Visiting Research Fellow

The Hepatitis B Birth Dose Trial That Triggered the WHO Review
British Medical Journal · 12 March 2026

Beyond the Jab: Vaccines, Publics, and the State
Dialogue · 5 May 2026

Whither A Republic's Scientific Temper
Public Understanding of Science Blog · 17 April 2026

Rahul Pallipurath

Graduate Research Fellow

Blocked Without Explanation: How India's Blocking Regime Dilutes Safeguards and Expands Executive Power
Verfassungsblog · 26 March 2026

From pigs to patients: Is India's law ready for animal organs?
IndiaBioscience · 26 June 2026

Dr Rahul Hemrajani

JSW Law 4th Undergraduate Summer School 2026 —
Two-week course on "Law in the Age of AI"
JSW Law School, Bhutan

"Legal Periodicals in India: Changing Context of
Impactful Academic Writing" · Faculty Refresher
Programme
NALSAR University, Hyderabad · 9 May 2026

"The Myth of Judicial Primacy: An Empirical Analysis of
Appointments in India's Constitutional Courts" · Faculty
Seminar
NLSIU · 11 March 2026

"Responsible Use of AI in Legal Research and Practice"
Manipal Law School, Bangalore · 11 November 2025

FDP on AI, Digital Governance and Techno-Politics
Ambedkar University, New Delhi · 7 November 2025

"Courts of Tomorrow – Justice in the Age of AI"
Digital Futures Lab · 16 October 2025

Prof. Umakanth Varottil

Guest lecture on "Research and Publishing in Corporate
Law"
Jindal Global Law School · 12 March 2026

"Flipping Companies Across Borders: An Asian
Perspective"
Asian Corporate Law Forum, Monash University · 14–15 April
2026

"Corporate Climate Litigation in India: Traversing the
Private–Public Law Divide"
23rd ASLI Conference, Universitas Indonesia · 3–4 June 2026

Isha Ahlawat

"Fiscal Federalism and Innovation in India"
Workshop on Financial Relations and Innovations · Eurac
Research & University of Innsbruck · 13 February 2026

"Navigating Legal Research and Scholarship: Quality,
Ethics, and Meaningful Impact"
NLU Delhi · 18 April 2026

Dr Rishabh Kachroo

"Of Lancets and Children: The Social and Political Life of
a Vaccine" — Select Bookshop Talks, Bengaluru
30 May 2026

GRANT APPLICATION
Under Consideration

Equality in the Light of AI: A Swiss–Indian Comparative Study

Indo–Swiss Joint Research Programme (ISJP)
Funders: SERI (Switzerland) · ICSSR (India) · Duration: 3 years

Public Comments
Two Consultations

Proposed Amendments to the IT (Intermediary Guidelines) Rules

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

Draft Regulations on the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Courts

Supreme Court of India, e-Committee

Student Internship Programme
Launched March 2026

A full-time, in-person programme at NLSIU engaging law students in the
Centre's research on law, technology, and legal system reform. Participants
work on research, data collection, drafting, and event support, receiving a
certificate and stipend on completion.

Research interns (May–June 2026): Doyel Masanta (NUJS, Kolkata · 3rd Year) · Sakshi
Singh (Soundarya Law College · 4th Year)

Strategic Thematic Priorities

01

Law and Artificial Intelligence

Accountability and liability across the AI lifecycle; transparency and rights protection; alignment of AI systems with societal and constitutional values.

02

Data Governance and Regulation

Balancing privacy, innovation, and competition in data-driven economies; trustworthy data sharing for the public interest; cross-border data flows.

03

Health, Biotechnology and Ethics

Regulation of emerging biomedical technologies; innovation incentives, patient safety, and equitable access; roles of administrative, consumer, and IP law.

04

Risk Regulation and Regulatory Design

Prescriptive, adaptive, and standards-driven approaches; corporate governance, competition policy, and the integration of broader risk oversight mechanisms.

05

Climate, Biodiversity and Ecological Justice

Aligning climate mitigation, adaptation, and biodiversity protection; advancing ecological justice alongside sustainable development goals.

06

Technology and Legal System Reform

Digital technologies for court administration and access to justice; governance frameworks for professional legal practice and legal education.

ACTIVITIES

Research and Innovation

Original and interdisciplinary legal research; fellowship and residency programmes for early-career scholars; partnerships with governments, regulators, academia, and civil society.

Conferences, Lectures, and Workshops

Monthly works-in-progress workshop series; public guest lectures; multi-paper seminars; and an annual flagship lecture by a distinguished scholar or practitioner.

Institutional Engagement with Community and Stakeholders

Long-term partnerships with courts, regulators, and civil society; public consultations; policy submissions; stakeholder roundtables; and community advisory boards.

Teaching and Pedagogical Innovation

Specialised elective courses; curriculum and policy design at NLSIU; faculty development support for other universities on integrating technology into legal education.



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