IN-FOCUS
THE NLS RESEARCH NEWSLETTER
July '25 – October '25 | Edition 3

HIGHLIGHTS

Introducing the NLS Forum

We are excited to share that NLSIU recently launched the 'NLS Forum' – a new online platform that brings together the University's existing blog and five student journal blogs: The NLS Blog, IJIEL Exchange, IJLT Blog, NLSBLR Blog, NLSIR Online, and SLR Forum.

The NLS Forum serves as a space for pioneering research and informed commentary on contemporary issues across law, public policy, social sciences, and the humanities. The platform is jointly curated by the Student Journal Teams and the University Editorial Team. We invite contributions from the NLS community as well as external authors. Please refer to the guidelines provided for each blog on the website on how to submit.

Visit the NLS Forum

'The Rise of FOSS in India' - A Report

A recent NLSIU project report titled "**The Rise of FOSS in India: Empirical Evidence and Insights from Cross-Sectoral Case Studies**" examines the adoption and impact of Free and Open-Source Software (FOSS) across the country. Drawing on case studies from four sectors – healthcare, education, finance, and software & IT services – the report analyses how different organisations are leveraging FOSS.

The study finds that while organisations benefit from greater innovation, cost and time efficiency, flexibility, and enhanced security, they also encounter challenges such as a shortage of skilled professionals and limited community support.

The project was funded by the Samagata Foundation, and the report was officially launched at the "Round Table on FOSS in India" held in July 2025 in New Delhi.

To know more about the report, listen to **this podcast.**

Read the Report

The Karnataka Devadasi Bill, 2025: A Landmark Framework by Centre

for the Study of Social Inclusion, NLSIU

In August 2025, the Karnataka State Cabinet approved the transformative and comprehensive model legislation for the Karnataka Devadasi (Prevention, Prohibition, Redress and Rehabilitation) Act, 2025 submitted by the Centre for the Study of Social Inclusion (CSSI) at NLSIU, Bengaluru. The proposed law represents a holistic and rights-based strategy to dismantle the Devadasi system — an oppressive and illegal social practice still prevalent in parts of Karnataka despite historical bans.

The draft law reflects seven months of field research, consultations, discussions and dialogues initiated by the Talasamudaayagala Adhyayana Kendra at NLSIU in collaboration with Devadasi Community members, Government of Karnataka, NGOs, State universities and activists working for the empowerment and emancipation of the Devadasi community for erasing the Devadasi practice in its intent and practice. Students from the Master's Programme in Public Policy (MPP) at NLSIU provided research support in this initiative.

Read the Draft

Assessment Report of Women in the Karnataka State Police: Experiences, Challenges and Opportunities

Karnataka has only 8.91% women in its police force, well below the national average of 12.73%, and behind States like Bihar, which has the highest share at 23.66%. As part of the 'Strengthening the Role of Women in Karnataka State Police' project, funded by the Hanns Seidel Stiftung, NLSIU conducted an independent assessment of the status, role and challenges facing policewomen at different levels within the Karnataka State Police. Key

findings include under-representation in leadership, exclusion from investigations, and safety concerns during night duty. The report recommends reforms such as increasing the reservation for women to 33% and implementing gender-responsive policies.

The study involved a) district and police station-wise assessment of women's representation at different ranks across the state; and b) ground assessment of challenges faced by policewomen in Karnataka.

Read the Report

'Unmaking Citizens': A Comprehensive Study of Assam's Foreigners Tribunals

The Access to Justice in Citizenship Determination **project** at NLSIU partnered with Queen Mary University of London to undertake a legal analysis of the foreigner's tribunal in Assam. The analysis culminated with a comprehensive report titled "Unmaking Citizens: The Architecture of Rights Violations and Exclusion in India's Citizenship Trials" based on a review of over 1,000 High Court cases, landmark Supreme Court rulings, and in-depth field interviews. It reveals a legal system in deep crisis: over 1,65,000 people have already been declared "foreigners," with more than 85,000 cases pending and more than 1 million NRC appeals potentially headed to these opaque tribunals.

Read the Report

New Partnerships

Project on "Reforms in the Military Justice System"

We are proud to announce our successful bid with the Indian Army for a study on "Reforms in the Military Justice System". Following a long open process that started in July 2023, the University signed the MoU on October 17, 2025 with the Institute of Military Law that is anchoring the project on behalf of the Indian Army. The first-of-its-kind study will review the legal framework governing the military justice system in India, evaluate the effectiveness of internal disciplinary procedures, assess the integration of technology and explore the use of alternate dispute resolution mechanisms for military justice. NLS will submit a comprehensive report with targeted legal and policy recommendations. Dr. Mrinal Satish, Professor of Law & Dean - Research, will lead the project with Manish and Rahul Raman (Assistant Professors of Law) as the lead researchers.

Project on "Legal challenges facing the advertising regulatory ecosystem in India"

The Chair on Consumer Law and Practice (CLAP) at NLSIU is partnering with the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) to analyse legal challenges surrounding advertising regulation in India. The project will organise multi-stakeholder roundtables, an annual summit and develop legal resources for training and capacity building. Dr. Sudhanshu Kumar, Associate Professor of Law, and Meenakshi Ramkumar, Assistant Professor of Law, are steering this research.

Book Talks@NLS Library and MUSE Series

NLSIU's **Queer Archive for Memory Reflection and Activism** (QAMRA) in collaboration with the **Queer Judgements Project** (QJP), hosted a book discussion on '**Queer Judgements**,' an edited collection.

The NLS Library Committee's series titled '**Muse@NLS Library**' hosted two book talks on campus this trimester: (i) Poet and political scientist, Prof. Bishnu Mohapatra, brought both his worlds together at NLSIU while discussing his recently published poetry collection '**Rain Incarnations**' (Speaking Tiger, 2025); (ii) Debut novelist Sonali Prasad discussed her book 'Glass Bottom,' through a seminar titled '**Fiction, Justice and the Law**.'

FACULTY SEMINARS

This trimester, we organised seven Faculty Seminars covering a range of topics to bring our cutting-edge academic research into the spotlight. We also hosted three guest speakers presenting their work in these seminars: **Dr. Niamh Connolly,** Associate Professor in the Faculty of Laws at University College London (UCL)**, Siddharth Peter de Souza**, Founder, Justice Adda and public policy professional **Saumya Varma**.

For the full list of our faculty seminars, click here.

PUBLICATIONS

October 26, 2025

["Crime, clemency and the grey space of convicts' rights"](#)

Deccan Herald

By Dr. Nigam Nuggehalli

October 25, 2025

["Skill or chance: Will the Supreme Court strike down the Real Money Gaming ban?"](#)

Supreme Court Observer

By Dr. Sudhanshu Kumar, Aditi Pangotra & Harsha N

October 15, 2025

["Caste, gender and intersectionality in labour market aspirations: evidence from a skill-training programme in India"](#)

Oxford Development Studies

By Dr. Sudipa Sarkar

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

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