

THE NLS DISPATCH

November '24 - February '25
Edition 5

HIGHLIGHTS

The New NLS BA (Hons) Programme for AY 2025-26



In December 2024, we announced our **new NLS BA (Hons) Programme** — a three-year offering with an additional fourth year for research. As NLSIU develops into a multidisciplinary university, this programme is an organic development from over 35 years of experience in offering the integrated 5-year BA LLB (Hons) programme. It builds on existing faculty expertise, and we look forward to further diversify our faculty over the next few years. We take this new step with the hope that faculty and cohorts of students in diverse degree programmes will give and take from each other's learnings and values, and add meaningfully to holistic learning at NLS.

The first cohort of 60 students will be admitted in July 2025 through the NLSAT-BA, a national level entrance examination on April 27, 2025.

[Read More](#)

Justice E.S. Venkataramiah
Centennial Memorial Lecture

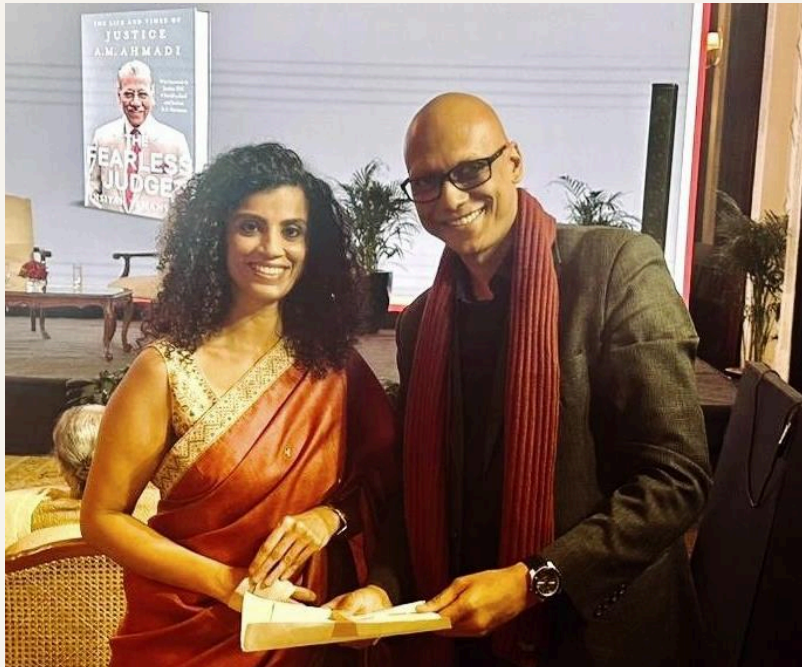


In December 2024, we organised the [Justice E.S. Venkataramiah Centennial Memorial Lecture 2024](#). The lecture on the topic '*Reimagining Constitutional Institutions: Integrity, Efficiency, and Accountability*' was delivered by Hon'ble Mr. Justice P.S. Narasimha, Judge, Supreme Court of India.

Justice E.S. Venkataramiah served as the 19th Chief Justice of India. His daughter, Hon'ble Mrs. Justice B.V. Nagarathna, Judge, Supreme Court of India along with her family; Justice Mukul Mudgal, Former Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court; and other distinguished attendees were present on the occasion.

[Watch the Lecture](#)

Establishment of the Justice Ahmadi Initiative on Rule of Law, Democracy and Social Justice



NLSIU and the Ahmadi Foundation announced the establishment of the **Justice Ahmadi Initiative on Rule of Law, Democracy and Social Justice** (The Justice Ahmadi Initiative) in honour of, and to preserve and promote the legacy of former Chief Justice Aziz Mushabber Ahmadi. The initiative will work to advance the ideas that Justice Ahmadi championed throughout his distinguished career, including but not restricted to, human rights, education, inclusion and protection of vulnerable communities, judicial independence, alternate dispute resolution mechanisms,

and the strengthening of democratic institutions. We will begin with an annual distinguished lecture series that will be jointly organised by the university and the foundation.

[Read More](#)

WHAT'S NEW ON CAMPUS?



NLSIU has a FIFA Standard Turf Football Field!

As part of upgrading our core infrastructure, the sports facilities on campus are undergoing a two-phase renovation. Ahead of the new year 2025, we completed Phase I of this project – construction of a turf football field as per FIFA standards. We began Phase II of this project this month, with the construction of a six-lane, 400-meter running track.

Campus Expansion

We are embarking on the largest expansion of the NLSIU campus since our inception in 1986!

After four years of negotiations with the Government of Karnataka, we are pleased to announce a 30-year land lease agreement with the Bangalore University, securing an additional land parcel of seven acres in Nagarabhavi which will help expand our campus. We will also be undertaking the renovation of both the Old Academic Block and the New Academic Block this year, and are investing in significantly strengthening the sewage and water treatment infrastructure of the campus.

WHO'S NEW ON CAMPUS?



During the trimester, we welcomed the following new members to the NLS community:

Faculty: [Dr. Angarika Rakshit](#), [Ms. Diya Deviah](#), [Ms. Garima Gupta](#), [Ms. Geetanjali Sharma](#), [Ms. Isha Ahlawat](#), [Mr. Karthik Suresh](#), [Dr. Siddharth Narrain](#), [Mr. Siddharth Saxena](#), [Dr. Vanya Vaidehi Bhargav](#) & [Ms. Varsha Aithala](#).

Research: [Dr. Abhilasha Chattopadhyay](#), [Ms. Aditi Thakur](#), [Ms. Akshaya P.](#), [Ms. Anusha George](#), [Ms. Gauri Mahajan](#), [Ms. Janani Ganesan](#), [Ms. Nandinie Gupta](#), [Ms. Shashikala R](#) & [Dr. Umakanth Varottil](#).

Administration: [Ms. Deepti Soni](#), [Mr. Dominicraj. S.](#), [Mr. Mohammad Tahir](#), [Mr. Shailendra Pratap Singh](#), [Ms. Snigdha Shankar](#), [Ms. Swati Sao](#) & [Ms. Tanvi Shenoy](#).

STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

Over the course of the trimester, our students arranged a range of activities, including guest lectures, quiz competitions, movie-screenings, and musical & dance performances.

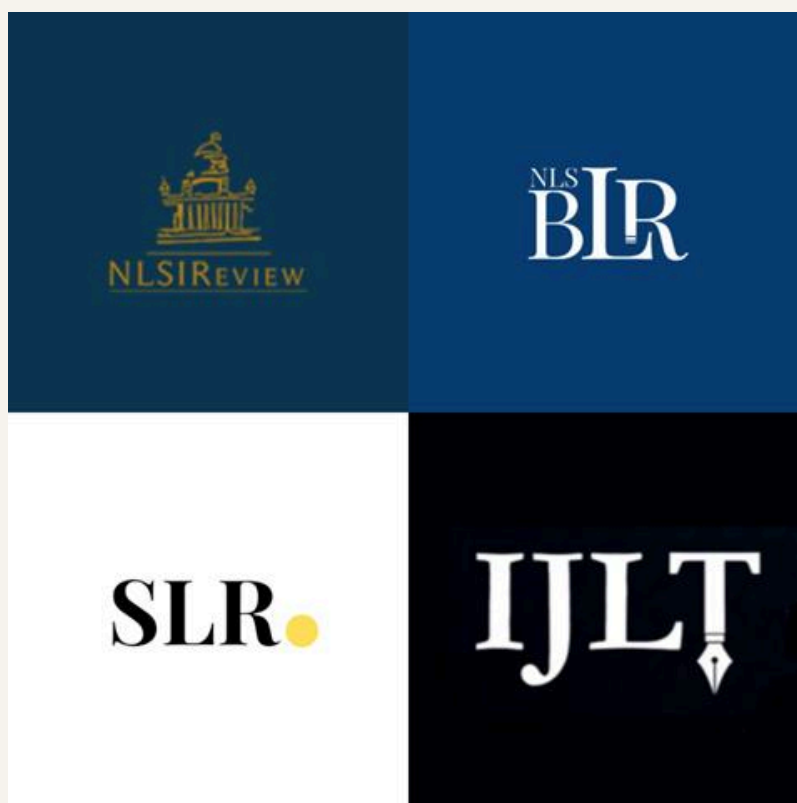


Achievements

- Vibha Swaminathan, a 3-year LLB student, was named [Rhodes Scholar for 2025](#).
- Shiny Verma and Jigyasa, BA LLB students, were named [25th Aditya Birla Scholars](#).
- The NLS Frisbee team won the **silver medal** for spirit and fair play at the South National Open Champion Series organised by India Ultimate.

Events

- The [1st NLSIU-NHRC Moot Court Competition](#) was conducted on the theme 'Censorship, and Freedom of Speech and Expression under Article 19 of the Constitution of India.'
- The Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) Board conducted its [Oral Rounds for its University Negotiation Selections](#).
- The Legal Services Clinic (LSC) at NLSIU, launched [Pro Bono Month 2024-25](#) in November 2024.



Our journal teams have been keeping busy over the trimester with their latest editorial work.

The [Socio-Legal Review \(SLR\)](#) is currently celebrating its 20th anniversary through a series of revisiting their archives, interviews with past editors, and a commemorative agenda setting review issue. The other issues that were released during the trimester included: [National Law School of India Review \(NLSIR\) Special Issue: 'TWAIL Approaches to Jurisdiction'](#); [National Law School Business Law Review \(NLSBLR\) Vol. 9 \(Issue 1 & 2\)](#); and [Indian Journal of Law and Technology \(IJLT\) Volume 19, Issue 1.](#)

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

In December 2024, we had two key alumni moments on campus. Celebrating 20 years of their graduation, the [BA LLB Class of 2004, came together for an alumni reunion](#) and spent the day re-connecting with their batchmates and other members of the community. Our alum [Dr. Mark Dsouza \(NLS BA LLB 2005\)](#), Associate Professor, Faculty of Laws at University College London, delivered a lecture on '*Theorising Criminal Law Defences*' to first-year BA LLB students.





ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

- [Niranjan Venkatesan](#) (NLS BA LLB 2010) was appointed **King's Counsel in England**.
- [Monica Kohli](#) (NLS BA LLB 1999) was awarded the **Order of the British Empire (OBE)** for her services to promoting diversity in the maritime industry.
- [Tur-Od Lkhagyajav](#) (NLS BA LLB 1997) was appointed Chairman & CEO of the Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MNCCI).
- Five NLS alums were named Senior Advocates by the **Delhi High Court**: [Gyanendra Kumar](#) (NLS BA LLB 1994), [Abhishek Malhotra](#) (NLS BA LLB 1999), [Shyel Trehan](#) (NLS BA LLB 2000), [Diya Kapur](#) (NLS BA LLB 2000), [Arundhati Katju](#) (NLS BA LLB 2005)
- Two NLS alums were named Senior Advocates by the **Calcutta High Court**: Vipul Kundalia (NLS BA LLB 1994), Phiroze Edulji (NLS BA LLB 1997)

You can reach out to us at communications@nls.ac.in.

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