

*Take a look at what we have been upto in 2025!*

# LEXTECH UNWRAPPED



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**01**

**ABOUT NLUO**

**05**

**LEXTECH IN 2025**

**02**

**ABOUT LEXTECH**

**06**

**MAJOR INDUSTRY  
UPDATES**

**03**

**ABOUT NLUO  
INCUBATOR FORUM**

**07**

**WHAT'S NEXT?**

**04**

**MEET OUR TEAM**

**08**

**CONTACT US**

# ABOUT NLUO

Within a short span of time, NLUO has made its mark as a university engaged in imparting socially relevant education. NLUO is ideally placed to learn from other law schools both in terms of their strengths and drawbacks. Drawing from these experiences, it has embarked upon a well-structured course of action to achieve levels of excellence. Students at NLUO are trained by a group of experienced, dynamic, young and most significantly committed teachers.



The curriculum development and framing process offers academic flexibility and promotes an environment which allows exchange of intellectual thought process. The amicable environment hones not just the students' intelligence, but also their emotional quotient. The level of academic rigour has ensured that most of our alumni excel in their profession. Beyond academics, NLUO promotes leadership skills and the wholesome life experience of our students by encouraging them to take part in various co-curricular and extra-curricular activities like literary, debating, cultural, entrepreneurial and recreational activities.

# ABOUT LEXTECH

**LexTech – Centre for Law, Entrepreneurship, and Innovation** focuses on the emerging areas of FinTech, AI, TMT, Online Gaming and Betting Laws, and Data Privacy. The Centre publishes a monthly newsletter that provides in-depth analysis of updates in these subject areas.

Additionally, the Centre hosts a premier talk show titled “Tech Tales: From Code to Courtroom,” which brings together leading legal-tech industry experts who share insights drawn from real-life experiences, offering audiences a deeper understanding of the legal world. The Centre is committed to promoting interdisciplinary research, collaboration, and capacity building in the emerging domains of legal-tech. It seeks to foster critical thinking and encourage responsible technology adoption to enhance access to justice, improve legal processes, and address evolving challenges.

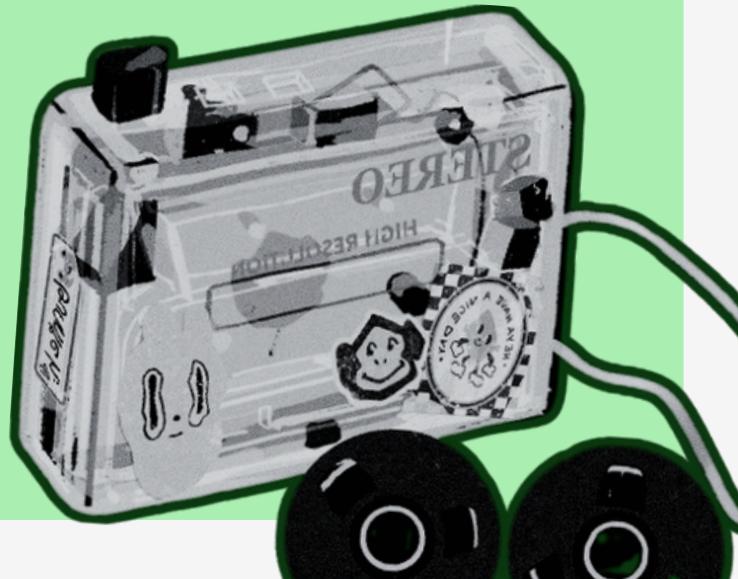
Over the years, LexTech has worked towards bridging the gap between law and technology through a range of initiatives, including its monthly newsletters, talk shows with eminent professionals in legal-tech, Lexathon: Eastern India’s leading tech-law conclave, national-level article writing competition, specialised credit course, and more. With a strong commitment to interdisciplinary research, collaboration, and responsible technology adoption, LexTech continues to serve as a catalyst for a more inclusive and adept legal future, and remains one of the few research centres to have ventured deeply into these niche areas of law.

# ABOUT NLUO INCUBATOR FORUM

The NLUO Incubator Forum (NIF) is a Section 8 company established under the Companies Act, 2013, by National Law University Odisha (NLUO) to promote entrepreneurship and innovation. It focuses on supporting early-stage startups, particularly in the legal tech sector, by providing essential resources, mentorship, and a space for experimentation.

NIF's core objective is to bridge the intersection of law and technology, empowering entrepreneurs and students to tackle emerging legal and corporate challenges. The forum operates through two primary wings: the Incubation Cell and the Research and Development Wing. These components work collaboratively to foster a dynamic ecosystem that encourages legal innovation.

The Incubation Cell provides startups with the necessary infrastructure, networking opportunities, and expert guidance to navigate the complexities of the industry. Meanwhile, the Research and Development Wing engages in pioneering studies, policy recommendations, and collaborations to drive impactful advancements in legal tech. By nurturing innovation and providing structured support, NIF plays a crucial role in enhancing Odisha's startup ecosystem. It not only strengthens NLUO's position as a leader in legal tech but also contributes to the broader entrepreneurial landscape. Through its initiatives, NIF aims to shape the future of legal entrepreneurship, ensuring that emerging startups receive the tools and expertise necessary to succeed in an evolving digital and regulatory environment.



# MEET OUR TEAM



Dr. Sudatta Barik: **Faculty Director**

Dr. Madhubrata Raysingh: **Faculty Co-Director**

Mr. Sikandar Mohd.: **Faculty Co-Director**

Harsh Mittal: **Mentor**

Samridhi Bajoria: **Mentor**

Anjali Pande: **Co-Ordinator**

Trishna Agrawalla: **Co-Ordinator**

Pratyush Singh: **Editor-In-Chief**

Anjali Dhakad: **PR & Outreach Head**

Maithili Dubey: **Design Head**

Subhasis Sahoo: **Finance Head**

Aranya Sen: **Member**

Arnav Raj: **Member**

Diya Jain: **Member**

Ishani Garg: **Member**

Ishita Sand: **Member**

Shruti Sriram: **Member**

Sushree Tejoswi: **Member**

Sanskriti Narayan: **Member**

Sanidhya Gurudev: **Member**

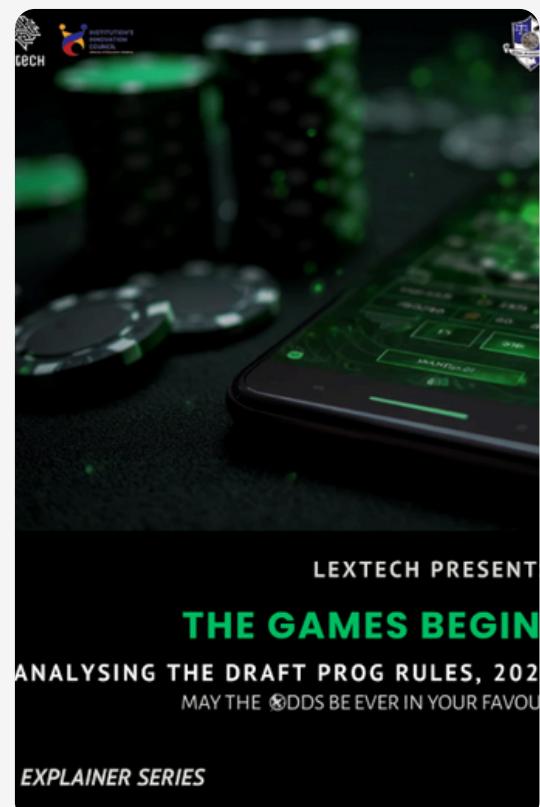
# LEXTECH IN 2025

## Monthly Newsletters

Since its redesign, our monthly newsletter has become an essential resource for the legal community, offering curated global updates on tech law. Providing both professionals and students with timely insights, the newsletter has been widely praised for its role in enhancing accessibility to the latest developments and emerging trends in technology law. We're excited to share that the newsletter continues to receive positive feedback, solidifying its place as a trusted source of knowledge. These milestones highlight our dedication to advancing the intersection of law and technology, empowering the next generation of legal professionals to lead in an ever-evolving digital landscape.

## Explainer Series

LexTech introduced its Explainer Series in 2025, with the aim of increasing awareness of important legislations in technology law amongst the general public. As an industry that is still at a relatively nascent stage, there are new legal developments happening in this field at a very quick pace, and our Explainer Series simplifies and explains these laws and their impact in real life to our audience. Since its inception, we have covered the Draft Digital Personal Data Protection Rules 2025, Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act 2025, and the Draft Rules notified under the same. This one-of-a-kind series has been instrumental in increasing legal awareness in this sector.



# LEXTECH IN 2025



## TechTales: From Code to Courtroom

Since its inception, TechTales: From Code to Courtroom has become a cornerstone of our tech law initiatives, offering cutting-edge discussions on AI, FinTech, TMT, and online gaming laws. This series has ignited a wave of enthusiasm among students, solidifying NLUO's position as a leader in tech law education. We were especially thrilled to host Mr. Abhishek K. Singh [Partner, Luthra & Luthra Law Offices], and Mr. Sarthak Doshi [Principal Associate, SAM] this year as guests. We covered themes such as the future of AI regulation in India, the evolving intermediary liability framework, misinformation and fake news, etc. These sessions are structured in a manner to bring forth the practical perspective of these laws and make them interactive, allowing our audience to directly interact with the guests.



## Lexathon: The Tech Law Conclave

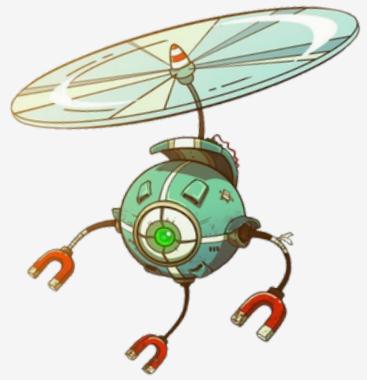
Lexathon 2025 was a two-day national conclave exploring the intersection of law, technology, and innovation. The event featured an Ideathon, Startup Pitch Competition, Paper Presentation Competition, and a high-impact panel discussion on the DPDP Rules. It was conducted in collaboration with Saraf & Partners, The Dialogue, LiveLaw, and Manupatra. Lexathon witnessed wide student participation and meaningful engagement with industry experts, academicians, and practitioners, reinforcing LexTech's commitment to advancing discourse in technology law and policy.

# MAJOR INDUSTRY UPDATES

This year, the tech law  
community moved fast  
on an average of  
**12 updates per month.**

Check out the biggest  
developments in the year 2025!

# TECHNOLOGY, MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

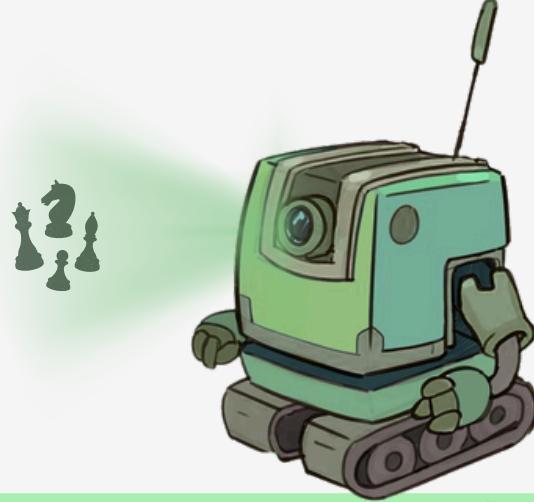


In 2025, the TMT sector witnessed various developments across telecom authorisation, e-commerce platforms, and social media governance, to name a few. The Sahyog Portal began a saga of its own in the X Corp case, in which the Karnataka High Court upheld the constitutionality of the Portal on grounds that a foreign intermediary cannot challenge Indian social media laws and interpretation of Article 19. Currently X Corp has filed an appeal against this order and continues to claim that the government's use of Section 79(3)(b) of the Information Technology Act through the Sahyog portal creates a parallel content takedown mechanism which bypasses the procedural safeguards of Section 69A and amounts to unlawful censorship.

During the year, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology released its 22nd Report titled "Review of Mechanism to Curb Fake News". The report reviewed the framework governing misinformation across print, television, and digital media. It recommended statutory backing for the Press Information Bureau's Fact Check Unit which raised concerns around misuse. Karnataka also introduced a draft Misinformation Regulation Bill, 2025, proposing criminal penalties for false information which drew attention due to its broad definitions.

The year also saw movement towards formal regulation of drone technology. The draft Drone Bill, 2025 was introduced as India's first standalone law for civilian drone operations, proposing a consolidated framework for registration, licensing, manufacturing, and airspace management, replacing the existing rules-based system.

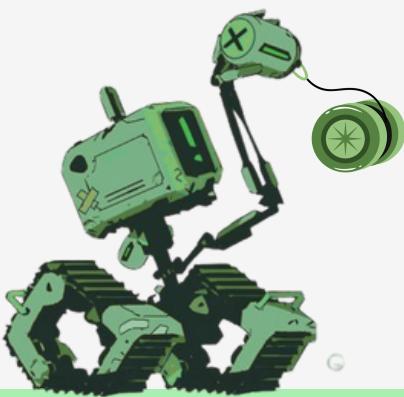
# ONLINE GAMING



The year 2025 marked a turning point for online gaming in India, with the issues of consumer harm, financial crimes, and national security supposedly driving many regulatory changes. The enactment of the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025 established a national uniform framework for online gaming as opposed to the erstwhile state-based, disjointed regulatory regime. The Act puts a blanket ban on any form of online money games, regardless of whether they rely on skill or chance, and specifically encourages e-sports and social games. It also establishes a central regulatory body which shall categorise games, give licences, and impose penalties to ensure compliance.

Internationally, the Financial Action Task Force issued a new report in which online gaming sites were noted as a new frontier in the financing of terrorism and radicalisation. The report identified the abuse of micro-transactions, in-game currencies, and communication capabilities as a way of laundering money, spreading propaganda and recruiting vulnerable users, especially adolescents. The findings of FATF strengthened the national security argument in favour of tightening regulations.

2025 has been an eventful year for all involved stakeholders in the online gaming sector. Current regulatory trends might have sounded the death knell for online gaming in India. The complete regulatory overhaul ensured that online gaming remained at the centre of regulatory, fiscal, and security debates throughout the year. With the recent release of the draft Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Rules, it will be interesting to see how the framework evolves in 2026.



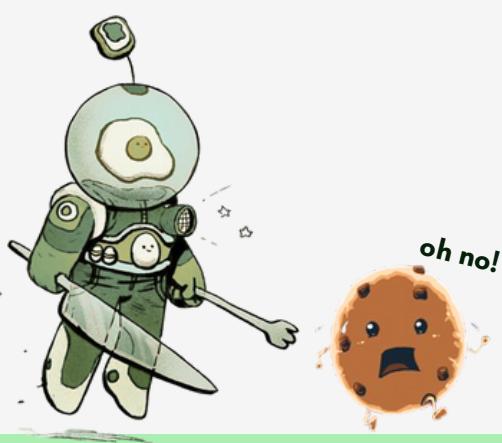
# ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

The Indian AI landscape has undergone a fundamental shift in 2025 with regulators moving towards sector-specific approaches. A Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology subcommittee released the India AI Governance Guidelines in January 2025. This report created a new "whole of government" approach, based on 3 foundations: a lifecycle approach to mitigate risks arising all the way from development to deployment; an ecosystem approach for collective stakeholder accountability; and a techno-legal approach to utilise innovative technologies to further compliance.

In the field of finance, the Reserve Bank of India introduced the FREE-AI Committee Report in August. The primary objective of this report was to establish a framework that balances the rapid innovation of technology with consumer protection. It introduced seven core principles, including fairness, accountability, and transparency, and also provided 26 actionable recommendations, such as mandatory audits and the development of indigenous AI.

Apart from the AI governance guidelines, MeitY also released draft amendments to the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021. These amendments, released in October, introduced the category of "Synthetically Generated Information" and proposed strict labelling standards for all such content. Additionally, the amendment seeks to regulate Significant Social Media Intermediaries and mandates detection systems to prevent unlabelled synthetic content from being posted and also provision for users to declare such generated content.

The past year has seen AI regulation try to keep up with the dynamic technology. Regulators are moving to hold digital intermediaries and financial bodies accountable for AI-driven outcomes, while trying to ensure transparency and safety for consumers. However, a lot of the current regulatory discourse remains academic and it remains to be seen in 2026 how AI regulation further takes shape in India!



# DATA PRIVACY

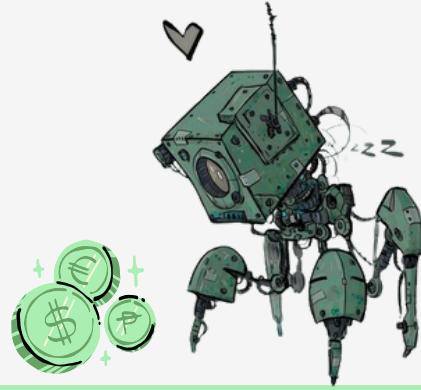
This has been a landmark year for data privacy, with some developments furthering it and others increasing the risks to users' data. Most significantly, India's own data protection regime has finally come into force with the notification of the **Digital Personal Data Protection Rules, 2025**. These rules, along with the DPDP Act, will be implemented in 3 phases over 18 months. They mandate data fiduciaries to give consent notices in plain language, while also providing convenient means to users for withdrawing their consent. They also lay down a new set of reasonable security safeguards, and certain additional obligations for significant data fiduciaries.

This year also saw the introduction of the **Income Tax Act, 2025**, which has been criticised for increasing surveillance. The Act empowers Income Tax officers to search "virtual digital spaces" such as cloud storage, personal messaging apps etc. Questions have been raised as to whether it passes the proportionality test regarding privacy, especially since less intrusive means could also be used to ensure tax compliance.

We also witnessed the DoT mandate to pre-install the government-developed **Sanchar Sathi App** on smartphones, which was later recalled following public criticism and privacy concerns. Critics viewed it as an attempt to normalise state presence on personal devices, thereby affecting privacy and autonomy. Consequently, the recall of this mandate has avoided the creation of a dangerous precedent while also highlighting the need for greater restraint in the digital space.

Overall, this year provides prospects for stronger data governance in the future. Although there were certain controversial developments, the increasing public discourse on privacy might just keep things in check and create a more secure privacy regime going forward.

# FINTECH



In 2025, the FinTech sector moved towards enhancing accountability, consumer protection and oversight across India's evolving financial sector. The RBI established the Payments Regulatory Board aiming to regulate all entities in payment and settlement systems, including Prepaid Payment Instrument issuers, Payment Aggregators, and Payment Banks. The Board enhances consolidated supervision enabling better decision-making and timely resolutions.

Parallelly, the RBI notified the Digital Lending Directions, 2025 which consolidate the framework governing digital lending. The directions aim to improve transparency, borrower protection, and accountability among Regulated Entities and Lending Service Providers. Service providers must display comparable financing options clearly aiding borrower decision making. The Directions further require that all data collection be in compliance with the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023.

The law, in line with international practices on data protection, makes it compulsory for companies to secure against unauthorized manipulation of the data, thereby making the entire process accountable. This brings a new aspect to the regulation in view of making the users accountable, too, for decisions taken using AI and not operating as a 'black box' in financial decision-making.

SEBI clarified the overlap of AI and the securities market by notifying the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Intermediaries) (Amendment) Regulations, 2025. The Regulations seek to ensure the responsible deployment of AI and Machine Learning technologies by market intermediaries, stock exchanges, and related entities to ensure transparency and accountability. Numerous provisions for governance and oversight ensure that the goals of transparency and reliability can be sufficiently met. These developments, alongside many others over the past year, further the goals of achieving greater regulatory clarity, better investor and borrower protection, and responsible innovation in the FinTech sector.

# WHAT'S NEXT?

## Lexathon: The Tech Law Conclave

We are pleased to present Lexathon, a three-day conclave organised by LexTech - Centre for Law, Entrepreneurship, and Innovation, National Law University Odisha, scheduled to be held in March 2026. Lexathon is envisioned as a landmark platform fostering innovation, collaboration, and dialogue at the intersection of law, technology, and entrepreneurship. The event seeks to convene a diverse cohort of students, entrepreneurs, technologists, and legal professionals to collectively engage with and shape the future of the technology-driven legal ecosystem. Central to Lexathon is a suite of carefully curated competitions and discussions designed to inspire thought leadership and practical innovation.

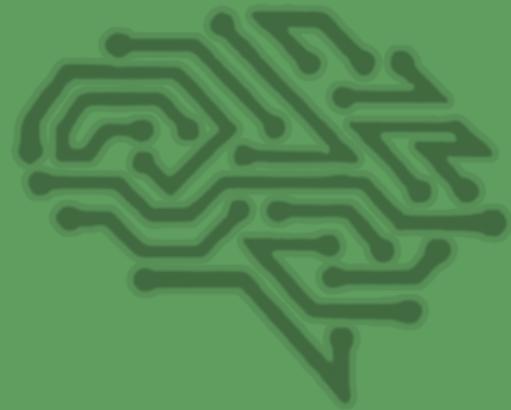
The Startup Pitch Competition provides emerging entrepreneurs with a valuable opportunity to showcase disruptive ideas, receive expert mentorship, and explore potential funding avenues. Complementing this, the Ideathon stimulates creative problem-solving through expert-led sessions that guide participants from conceptualisation to the scaling of viable ventures. The Paper Presentation Competition encourages in-depth academic engagement with contemporary issues such as artificial intelligence, fintech, and data protection, thereby promoting rigorous research and innovative policy solutions. These discussions are further enriched through Panel Discussions featuring industry leaders and practitioners who will deliberate on critical challenges relating to startup compliance, intellectual property, and evolving regulatory frameworks. The Policy Drafting Competition invites participants to develop actionable legal and regulatory frameworks tailored to emerging technologies.

We invite your organisation to support and be part of this initiative, which aims to nurture future leaders and innovators.

## Double Credit Course on FinTech & Law: Technology, Innovation, and Regulation in India

The proposed double credit course offers a structured and practice-oriented introduction to India's rapidly evolving FinTech regulatory landscape. Curated by LexTech, NLU Odisha, it combines doctrinal foundations with real-world regulatory and compliance perspectives delivered by leading practitioners and academics. The course is designed to equip law students with sector-specific expertise in payments, digital lending, data governance, and emerging financial technologies. With a proven track record of successful prior credit courses, this initiative aims to bridge the gap between classroom learning and industry practice in technology and financial regulation.

Should your organisation's vision align with ours, or should you wish to explore collaboration opportunities, we encourage you to reach out to us at [lextechnluo.ac.in](http://lextechnluo.ac.in) to discuss potential partnerships for the upcoming Lexathon



# LEXTECH



## **REACH OUT TO US AT:**

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