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Session Proposals

(A).

Techno-economic and legal learnings of the healthcare provider and beneficiary interactions: An empirical investigation

Healthcare *state- of- the- art* services will prevent and cure diseases that enhances longevity of Life. The citizens' health security will be determined by the factors *viz.*, healthcare quality; demand and supply; primary, secondary and tertiary services, given the economic, environmental, roadways, food, bioethical principles and law and order safety and security. The promotion of comprehensive quality of life will achieve Viksit Bharat. Hence, we will focus on generation of basic and applied knowledge and its dissemination regarding medical education, clinical research, technology, institutions, healthcare service providers and beneficiaries experiences and challenges to design incentives to reduce transaction costs of the parties that promote *state- of- the- art* services.

Law and Economics literature reveals that the generation of *information* regarding experiences and challenges of healthcare services consumes significant resources, often proving prohibitively expensive and untimely. The concept of *bounded rationality* further implies that beneficiaries of the services possess limited cognitive resources, thereby hindering their capacity to comprehensively assess the quality before and after the treatment. Our study indicates that 57.61 per cent of the consumer court cases were related to surgeries. The preliminary data analysis indicates that wrong-site surgery carries significant risks for patients, including the potential for total and permanent disability, loss of personal care due to premature death, and considerable healthcare costs that can lead to severe financial hardship. Our analysis further posits that the causational link problem, the law's delay and the costs of vexatious claims raise concerns about the efficiency of the courts (Prasad and Dalvi, 2020). Thus, *consumerism* will make the services costly to service providers, beneficiaries and the State.

Therefore, we invite original work that analyses *healthcare provider-beneficiary interactions*. A few suggested topics are as follows:

- Cyber critical technologies including Data and AI related technologies and promotion of the performance of the healthcare service providers;
- In-home redressal mechanism of healthcare service providers to promote research and development on medical technology, clinical research, data and AI research, error correction, code of conduct services;
- The efficacy of healthcare insurance that enhances accessibility, availability and affordability of quality healthcare services;
- Resources mobilization, allocation and management to promote *state-of-the-art* healthcare services that enhances longevity of Life; and,
- The role of regulation (National Medical Commission) and liability systems (Consumer Courts and Civil Courts).

(B).

The Economic and legal aspects of disasters and climate actions: An empirical investigation

The increasing frequency and intensity of natural disasters, exacerbated by climate change, have raised urgent questions about how laws and economic policies can mitigate risks, reduce vulnerabilities, and enhance resilience. The interplay between legal frameworks and economic principles is critical to understanding and addressing the multifaceted challenges posed by climate-induced disasters. This concept note explores the role of law and economics in designing effective strategies for disaster management and climate action.

Climate change has intensified the occurrence of disasters such as hurricanes, floods, droughts, and wildfires, leading to significant economic losses and human suffering. According to global reports, disasters caused by climate change have cost trillions of dollars and disrupted the livelihoods of millions. The legal and economic systems in place often struggle to address the complexity of these issues effectively, leaving communities vulnerable and unprepared. We invite original papers on the following interdisciplinary and comparative studies:

- Regulatory Design: Developing policies that incentivize sustainable practices and penalize non-compliance.
- Public-Private Partnerships: Leveraging collaboration to fund and implement climate and disaster initiatives.
- Litigation and Liability: Addressing legal responsibilities for climate damages and disaster impacts.
- Cost-Benefit Analysis: Evaluating the economic trade-offs of implementing climate-resilient infrastructure.
- Market-Based Instruments: Exploring carbon pricing, insurance mechanisms, and disaster bonds as tools for risk management.
- Resource Allocation: Identifying efficient ways to allocate resources for disaster mitigation, preparedness and recovery.
- International Law: Examining treaties and agreements like the Paris Agreement and their enforcement mechanisms.
- National Legislation: Assessing how national disaster management laws align with climate action goals.
- Human Rights and Ethics: Understanding the role of law in protecting vulnerable populations during disasters.

The secondary and survey data analysis and case studies inferences will generate basic and applied knowledge that will empower us to design incentives to the economic agents to change their behaviour to mitigate disaster and climate change risks and enhance economic performance. Over all, the convergence of law and economics provides a robust framework for addressing the challenges of disasters and climate change. By understanding their interplay, stakeholders can craft holistic and effective strategies that protect lives, reduce economic losses, and promote sustainable development. This thematic session calls for opinions and studies relative to case studies and efforts to advance research, policy, and practice at the intersection of these critical disciplines.

(C).

Social Reproduction in Economic Growth: Addressing the Debates on Legal Valorization

“Every human existence involves transcendence (‘progression’ or development) and immanence (‘maintenance’) at the same time” ... “in his occupation and his political life” a man “encounters change and progress” ... “his wife looks after his children and guards the things ... But she has no other job than to maintain and provide for everyday life in an orderly way; she perpetuates the species without change, she ensures the even rhythm of the days and continuity of the home ... But she is allowed no direct influence upon the future nor upon the world ... (Simone de Beauvoir, 1949, p. 419)”

Such priceless elucidation by Simone de Beauvoir about women of the 20th lays bare the invisibility and ignorance of their contribution to the necessities of life and with that, to the reproduction of others’ labour that enables transcendence or progression. Women of the 21st century may be in a worst position — while they continue to do the invisible work of “immanence”, many also try to claim their due share of progression in life through paid work. Thus, they bear the “triple burden” of work but continue to be powerless when it comes to claiming value.

Social reproduction includes all activities carried out to maintain the material and psychological well-being and development of humans. Even today, most such activities are carried out by women for their family members in the form of unpaid care and domestic work as well as emotional care. In a world where the value of labour is conditioned upon the production of tangible goods and services, social reproduction is not considered productive work at all. It is simply something innate for women. Nevertheless, it is responsible for the daily reproduction of people’s labour power, which is inevitable for the economy. Based on recent time-use survey literature, the value of women’s unpaid care and domestic work in India has been found to be 15% -17% of the GDP (Mitali Nikore, 2024, p.10). Yet, social reproduction remains largely undervalued in economic terms and invisibilised in the legal discourse of work (Aishwarya Bhuta and Mridula Muralidharan, 2021).

Feminist scholars have been at the forefront of highlighting this discrepancy. They characterise social reproduction as critical to sustain capitalist relations of production and profit-making. By reproducing labour power on a daily basis, social reproduction creates an entity ready to be used to produce value. Hence, goes the argument, that social reproduction should also be accounted for in the accumulation process and, by extension, be imparted its due value. Feminists have also long argued that the invisibilization of social-reproduction activities distort economic measurements and exacerbate gender, caste and class-based inequalities. Over time, researchers have highlighted how gender, young age, low educational attainment, marriage, single parenthood, and such other status significantly increase the likelihood of disproportionate care-work responsibilities (Astha, 2019), thus multiplying the axes of marginalisation.

The continuing failure to recognise such interconnections between social reproduction and the economy leaves much to be desired from policymakers. The issue of social reproduction threatens many conventional labour-law principles and throws open fundamental questions like what exactly is work and the paid-unpaid work binary. Given this unsettled discourse, most social-reproduction activities are yet to gain the status of dignified occupation and recognised by Indian labour laws. Nevertheless, experts are already calling for legal mandates such as universal basic income, domestic-worker protection laws, and systematic and consistent collection of time-use data to quantify and valorize care work.

In this light, we invite original papers on the undervaluation social reproduction in diverse avenues both in old and new occupations, formal and informal economies and explore the possibilities of transforming the legal and policy narrative around them into one of dignified labour.

(D).

Balancing Development and Ecological Restoration in Coastal Areas: The Role of Nature-Based Solutions

Coastal areas are dynamic ecosystems that provide crucial ecological, economic, and social benefits. They serve as hubs for agricultural, industrial, and services activities including habitat for species. However, intensification and extensification of the activities will promote economic growth and development that often lead to environmental degradation, disrupting natural ecosystems and reducing coastal resilience against climate change and disasters.

We focus on nature-based solutions (NbS) in coastal areas that will integrate ecological restoration with economic growth and development. For example, the NbS will restore mangroves, artificial reefs, wetland conservation, and living shorelines. It aims at integrated approaches that enhances economic sustainability. We will invite original papers on the following:

Integrated Nature-Based Development Models

- Identification of sustainable development frameworks that successfully integrate ecosystem restoration into coastal management.
- Case studies demonstrating the effectiveness of NbS in balancing development with ecological health.

Enhanced Climate Resilience & Livelihood Support

- Greater understanding of how coastal ecosystems contribute to climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction.
- Strategies for leveraging restored ecosystems to support sustainable livelihoods through ecotourism, fisheries, and blue economy initiatives.

Sustainable Human-Nature Interaction Strategies

- Practical recommendations for reducing the environmental impact of urban expansion, tourism, and aquaculture.
- Adoption of innovative eco-friendly infrastructure such as bioengineered solutions and resilient coastal defenses.

Strengthened Policy and Governance Mechanisms

- Identification of key policy interventions that promote a balance between development and ecological restoration.
- Recommendations for improving governance, community-based conservation initiatives, and cross-sector collaboration.
- Increased stakeholder engagement among policymakers, industry leaders, researchers, and local communities in sustainable coastal management.

Economic growth and development and ecological restoration is not just a necessity—it is an opportunity to create thriving, sustainable coastal communities. Through inclusive governance, scientific innovation, and financial investments in NbS, we can shape a future where economic progress and environmental sustainability go hand in hand. Our work on the proposed theme will help to establish a roadmap for sustainable coastal development that fosters economic growth while ensuring the long-term health and resilience of coastal ecosystems. The scholarly network further will provide a platform for experts, policymakers, industries, and local stakeholders to share insights, discuss innovative solutions, and collaborate on frameworks that ensure coastal resilience for future generations.

(E).

Coastal Marine Resources

We propose thematic session on “Coastal Marine Resources” and invites original papers for oral presentation on the following:

1. Coastal Industries in India: India, with its vast coastline of approximately 7,500 km, supports a diverse range of coastal industries that play a crucial role in the country's economy. These industries include fishing, shipbuilding, salt production, tourism, aquaculture, and port-based manufacturing.

- A. Shipbuilding and Ports: Shipbuilding is a key coastal industry, with major shipyards in Mumbai, Kochi, and Visakhapatnam. India's strategic location along international shipping routes makes port infrastructure essential. Major ports such as Mumbai, Chennai, and Kandla facilitate trade and contribute to the growth of industries like petroleum refining and container shipping.
- B. Tourism and Hospitality: Coastal tourism, especially in states like Goa, Kerala, and Andaman & Nicobar Islands, attracts millions of domestic and international visitors. Beach tourism, water sports, and eco-tourism generate employment and revenue.
- C. Oil, Gas, and Energy; Offshore oil and gas extraction in the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal significantly contribute to India's energy sector. Coastal wind and tidal energy projects are also gaining importance.

Overall, India's coastal industries support economic growth, trade, and employment, making them vital to the nation's development. However, they also face challenges such as environmental concerns, climate change, and overfishing, requiring sustainable management for long-term benefits.

2. Coastal Environment Protection and Conservation in India: India's vast coastline is rich in biodiversity and supports millions of livelihoods. However, rapid industrialization, pollution, climate change, and unregulated development threaten coastal ecosystems. To address these challenges, the government and various organizations have undertaken significant conservation efforts.

A. Legal and Policy Measures

- Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Rules: Introduced in 1991 and revised in 2019, these rules regulate construction and industrial activities along the coast to prevent environmental degradation.
- Environment Protection Act, 1986: Provides a legal framework for coastal conservation.
- National Coastal Mission: Part of the larger National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), focusing on climate resilience, mangrove restoration, and sustainable fisheries.

B. Key Conservation Initiatives

- Mangrove Conservation: Mangroves act as natural barriers against coastal erosion and cyclones. Projects in Sundarbans, Pichavaram, and Mahanadi Delta have helped in their restoration.
- Marine Protected Areas (MPAs): India has several MPAs, including Gulf of Mannar, Sundarbans, and Gulf of Kutch, to protect marine biodiversity.
- Pollution Control: Measures include bans on plastic in coastal areas, sewage treatment plants, and restrictions on industrial discharge into the sea.
- Coral Reef Protection: Efforts in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep aim to conserve coral ecosystems through reef monitoring and restoration projects.

C. Community Participation: Local fishing communities, NGOs, and researchers play a crucial role in sustainable coastal management through awareness programs and conservation efforts. While significant progress has been made, challenges such as rising sea levels, illegal encroachments, and habitat destruction require continued efforts for long-term coastal protection. Despite these conservation efforts, challenges such as rising sea levels, habitat destruction, illegal construction, and overfishing persist. Climate change-induced disasters, such as cyclones and ocean acidification, further threaten India's coastal biodiversity.

To ensure long-term coastal protection, India must continue to strengthen climate adaptation strategies, enforce stricter pollution controls, enhance community participation, and invest in sustainable coastal development. Technological innovations, such as smart and ecofriendly materials for infrastructure, remote sensing for coastal monitoring and sustainable eco-friendly framework solutions, will also play a crucial role in safeguarding India's coastal environment for future generations.

(F).

Legal and Economic Pathways for Sustainable Waste Management: Building Policy, Practice and Innovation

Solid waste management in India continues to grapple with systemic inefficiencies, fragmented institutional arrangements, and weak enforcement of environmental norms, despite the growing urgency of urban sustainability. The thematic session on “*Legal and Economic Pathways for Sustainable Waste Management: Building Policy, Practice and Innovation*” is intended to critically examine the intersections of regulation, economic instruments, and operational realities in achieving long-term sustainability in solid waste systems across Indian cities and towns.

Anchored in the evolving landscape of waste governance, the session will explore how legal frameworks and economic mechanisms can serve not only as enablers of compliance but also as strategic drivers for innovation, resource recovery, and service delivery improvement. There is a pressing need to shift from reactive, end-of-pipe solutions toward systemic, circular, and decentralized approaches, underpinned by sound legal mandates and viable financing models.

Discussions will cover the role of municipal by-laws, state-level solid waste rules, and central policies like the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 & 2024, in creating enforceable obligations for segregation, processing, and disposal. Simultaneously, the session will investigate the effectiveness of economic levers, such as tipping fees, capital grants, viability gap funding, and service-level benchmarking, as tools to encourage local innovation, private participation, and resource efficiency.

The thematic focus gains particular relevance as Indian cities confront challenges of unsegregated waste, underperforming infrastructure, informal sector marginalization, and limited fiscal space. The session will offer insights on how regulatory clarity, data-backed decision-making, and financial structuring can jointly shape resilient and inclusive waste systems, drawing from field-based experiences and national/international policy practices.

Sub-themes to be covered under this track include:

1. Enabling Sustainable Waste Governance: Strengthening SWM Rules Implementation, Municipal By-Laws, and Legal Inclusion of Informal Workers
2. Financing Sustainability in Waste Management: Leveraging User Charges, PPP Models, and Economic Evaluation of Decentralized Systems
3. Driving Resource Recovery: Legal and Economic Dimensions of EPR and Policy Tools for Segregation, Reuse, and Recycling
4. Harnessing Digital Tools and Performance Metrics for Compliance, Accountability, and Policy-Linked Waste Management Reform
5. Empowering Local Governance: Co-Regulation, Community-Led Waste Models, and Incentivized Behaviour Change

The session aims to foster a multi-dimensional understanding of how legal and economic approaches can be pragmatically aligned to advance sustainable solid waste management. It will bring to the fore applied knowledge from academic research, municipal practice, and on-ground innovations to shape actionable pathways for the future of waste governance in India.

(G).

Road crash fatalities: The role of road users, institutions and industries

Road crash fatalities will lead to loss of life and total permanent disability of the injuree that impose trauma, irreversible personal care, financial insecurity and dignity of life. In addition, public property damage, traffic jams, mob-violence, opportunity cost of emergency and public agencies' services will also occur. The behavior of road users' will determine the fatalities. A few of road users will take optimal care and activity levels that reduces the road crash fatalities. Thus, the institutions viz., road transport authorities, traffic police, highways authorities and motor accident claims tribunals shall provide incentives to the road users to take optimal level of care and activities that reduces that fatalities. The safety standards of vehicles and insurance claims will also determine rate of the fatalities.

According to the Transport Research Wing, the secondary data analysis reveals that 18 fatal and 16 grievous injury accidents occur per hour, on an average caused 19 deaths. The data further indicates that 79.05 percent of the total fatalities occurred because of driving at excessive speed, driving on the wrong side of the road and drunken driving. Traffic rules violations on straight and curved roads accounts for 74 percent deaths. Moreover, valid driving license holders were involved in the total accidents' accounts for 69.40 percent in India (TRW, MRT& H, 2022).

The fatalities prevention will save lives, irreversible damages, mitigate opportunity costs and reduce incremental transaction costs (Abel, 1986). Therefore, we need to work on *change of road users' behaviour* within the purview of: "Waiting Hearts for You (WHY); We Aware Risks and We Avoid Risks (WAR); and, Emergency Averse Responsibility (EAR)" that will reduce road fatalities and total permanent disabilities. In addition, institutions and industry co-ordinated effort levels will further reduce the fatalities. Thus, our session focuses on economic and non-economic value of damages regarding road fatalities and the need for preventive measures that promote *Sustainability of Human Energy for Sustainability of Utility of Life (SHE for SOUL) to achieve Viksit Bharat@2047*.

We invite original papers for oral presentations on: (i). re-life and relief services, (ii). total costs of the fatalities, (iii). use pattern of roadways, (iv). efficiency of institutions, (v). Rest of the World transferable learnings.

(H).

The Intersections of Law and Economics in Agriculture, Water, and Climate Change: Charting a Path Towards Sustainability

Climate change presents a multifaceted threat to food systems, the sustainability of natural resources, and human development. Agricultural systems are currently facing unprecedented pressures due to failing monsoons, as well as the increasing frequency of floods and droughts. These immediate impacts of climate change significantly affect agricultural productivity and groundwater management. Misaligned institutional mechanisms, inefficient irrigation technologies, and misguided policies, such as electricity subsidies, can negatively impact agricultural and food systems.

Despite these challenges, the agricultural sector has seen notable innovations, including e-NAM, PM-KISAN, and Agri-Stack, as well as the rise of private agri-tech start-ups. These innovations enhance efficiency, provide real-time risk guidance based on climate data, and improve market access, highlighting the urgent need for legal adaptation.

At the same time, new technologies—such as AI forecasting, smart irrigation systems powered by the Internet of Things (IoT), and drone technology—hold significant promise. Furthermore, programs for Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES), which compensate farmers for practices that promote environmental stewardship (such as groundwater preservation and emission reduction), illustrate the potential for synergy between law and economics. However, these tools and initiatives require a solid legal foundation to ensure transparency, enforceability, and equitable access, all of which are essential to achieving sustainability.

The objective of this session is to explore the legal frameworks that can adapt to the challenges posed by climate risk. Specifically, we will examine the governance mechanisms necessary for managing agricultural and water systems in the context of climate change. We will also consider what pricing reforms or economic incentives should be implemented and evaluate the political feasibility of these measures.

The revocation of the Indian farm laws in 2020 underscored the limitations of market-oriented reforms, particularly the issues of legal trust, institutional protections, and social legitimacy. Farmers' resistance stemmed not only from a demand for price guarantees but also from concerns about legal vulnerability, contract uncertainty, and the erosion of public institutions without adequate alternatives. Therefore, the challenge now is not merely about "fixing" economic failures with legal solutions; it's about how to co-evolve laws and economic tools to address issues of equity, legitimacy, and resilience in an era of ecological uncertainty.

This session will investigate the new economic incentives and legal frameworks necessary to effectively regulate agriculture and water in the face of escalating climate change. We will address the following research questions:

1. What is the link between climate risk, uncertainty, and agricultural water use?
2. How do we design economic and legal instruments to tackle groundwater exploitation and energy subsidies?
3. What economic policy instruments are available for sustainable water management?
4. How can we implement payments for ecosystem services in agricultural water management?
5. What role do local institutions (such as Panchayats and Water User Associations) play in groundwater governance?
6. What regulatory frameworks are needed to ensure fair access to digital agriculture platforms?

(I).

Economic and legal aspects of blue economy: In the perspectives of maritime governance

Oceans influence national geopolitics, security, and sustainability. Hence, the maritime law and its domain has emerged as an area of key interest involving contested issues pertaining to economic resilience, sustainable development, climate change, unlawful trafficking, piracy and national security. Moreover, the growing economic considerations of the nations are considerably affecting decisions related to international cooperation, port infrastructure investment, fishing subsidies, and shipping rules, all of which have profound impact on marine law. For example, more than 90 percent of global trade is transported by sea route hence, there is a need for research, awareness and advocacy regarding illicit maritime activities (illegal fishing, gun and drug smuggling, and people trafficking); climate crisis and maritime zones (risks to coastal areas); safeguarding communities economic rights of coastal areas; and, global trade and economic diplomacy (tariffs and taxes) that determines value of maritime routes.

The objective of this theme is to provide a multidisciplinary forum for the examination of maritime law from the perspectives of global collaboration, policy formation, economic effect, and climatic urgency. Accordingly, the session will focus on understanding of legal frameworks pertaining to the maritime domain through the lens of law and economics to examine its economic efficiency, fairness and justness. We invite original papers on the following sub-themes:

1. Maritime Security and Regulatory Framework

- Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing
- Legal Accountability for Maritime Waste and Marine Pollution
- Regulatory and Governance Gap in Illegal Maritime Migration
- Piracy, Maritime Terrorism & Transnational Threats
- Illegal Maritime Trafficking and Smuggling of Arms, Drugs, and Humans: Legal and Economic Fallout
- Maritime Cybersecurity and Port Safety

2. Sustainable Seas: Integrating Coastal Economies, Climate Resilience and Ocean Resource Management

- Economic contribution of the coastal states, port infrastructure, sea linked communication
- Maritime trade networks
- Seafarer's Right and Global Maritime Industry
- Coastal Vulnerability, Environmental Degradation, Legal Accountability and Enforcement
- Sustainable Maritime Economy, Technology, Governance and Climate Integration

3. Maritime Law and Dispute Resolution Mechanism: Legal Frameworks and Regional Cooperation

- Resolution of Maritime Contractual Disputes and Freight Settlements
- Effectiveness of Arbitration and Mediation as Dispute Resolution Mechanisms in Maritime Law
- Role of IMO: past, present and future
- Regional Cooperation in Bay of Bengal and Indo-Pacific

(J).

Efficiency of liability system in designing incentives to the tortfeasor: The role of Forensic Medicine

Forensic Medicine focuses on application of technical know-how of medicine regarding standard of proof that enhances efficacy of liability system. The law and economics' basic and applied knowledge emphasizes on the efficacy of liability system, especially the economic consequences of full, over and under compensation. The Forensic Medicine and Economics will generate resources for prevention, investigation and reduction of positive transaction costs under the *Technology, Economics and Legal Lab (TELL)*. Over all, the work will reduce the *transaction costs* of the parties, enhance *trust* between the parties and promote competitive economic activities of the parties that *makes wealth*.

The Forensic Medicine and Economics methods, will help to examine the re-life and relief measures regarding efficacy of healthcare services before and after the treatment. For example, the aggrieved consumers of erroneous surgeries will face challenges in the consumer courts for remedial measures because of: causal link, perfect compensation, law's delay. Frivolous claims, further will impose economic (opportunity cost) and non-economic costs (mob violence, dignity) on healthcare service providers. Moreover, for the cases of credence services, the law and economics literature reveals that there is a need for more than consumerism. The interdisciplinary work on forensic data analytics, economic value of life and limb, efficacy of institutions, will generate *valuable information* on technical know-how and calculation of damages. This will also empower us to design incentives to the parties to change their behaviour and work towards in-home redressal mechanism, correction of erroneous surgeries, perfect compensation that enhances quality of healthcare services.

A few other areas like, crime against women (property rule and inalienability rule because of non-monitazability); depletion of natural resources and pollution (liability rule). Thus, there is a need for research, awareness and advocacy regarding integrated understanding of Forensic Medicine and Economics is critical for:

- Developing fair and efficient compensation systems;
- Enhancing cost-effective medico-legal service delivery;
- Public health policy interventions based on medico-legal evidence;
- Framing insurance policies and regulations based on forensic risk assessments; and,
- Strengthening the legal adjudication process regarding generation of valuable information and economic value of damages and punishment.

The intersection between Forensic Medicine and Economics offers a technical know-how oriented efficient liability system that reduces positive transaction costs and promotes economic growth and development. For example, unbiased, speedy and inexpensive remedial measures will deter wrongdoers to impose risk of harm on others. We invite original papers for oral presentations. A few of the suggested topics are as follows:

- Economic analysis of Forensic Medicine to enhance knowledge on the costs of criminal justice system;
- Cyber critical technologies and the forensic data analytics to generate valuable information to reduce costs of mortality and total permanent disability;
- The role of forensic medicine in insurance fraud detection to promote the speedy, inexpensive and simple victims claims; and,
- Relative efficiency of *ex-ante* and *ex-post* approaches to design incentives to the tortfeasors: The role of Forensic Medicine

(K).

Economics of crime and punishment in India: Understanding the theory and empirics of the criminal justice system

In the last about six decades, economists have made significant contributions to the theoretical and empirical understanding of crime and punishment in countries, developing and developed alike. The Becker-Ehrlich tradition of microeconomic expositions of crime in the 1960s and 1970s have been extensively carried forward by successive generations of law-and-economics scholars. In the process, criminal justice policy and legal institutions in several countries have witnessed evidence-based policy reforms and prescriptions for targeted crime-reduction interventions. Economics of crime, a sub-theme of law and economics, seeks to postulate all the theoretical and empirical aspects of crime, such as its types, demand and supply-side issues, contexts, causes and consequences. While the current literature on the developed world is replete with high-quality careful studies that have emphasised causality and legal economic theory and has been at the forefront of the ‘credibility revolution’, the extant literature in the context of developing countries has not quite caught up in terms of empirical/theoretical rigour or analytical clarity, mainly due to a number of econometric issues in estimation, lack of suitable data, varied contexts, and inadequacy of methods. The empirical literature in economics and public policy in the Indian context has been growing. Although there has been a considerable amount of studies that have enlightened us on a multitude of issues on economics of criminal justice policy in India, the current literature needs a lot of empirical and theoretical improvement on many issues.

In this backdrop, this proposed panel seeks to deliberate on the invited papers on the various causes and effects of crime in India, studied in an economic and policy lens. Specifically, the panel invites papers on the following themes (the list is indicative, any paper on a proximate topic would still be considered subject to quality):

- a) economics of crime and punishment: theory and empirics
- b) policing and deterrence mechanisms
- c) judiciary: corruption and efficiency
- d) regulation and crime
- e) determinants and consequences of crime,
- f) international crime
- g) financial crime
- h) political economy of crime
- i) behavioural economics of crime policy
- j) corruption and governance
- k) other law-and-economics issues of crime

(L).

Ecological Services and Positive Externalities: Legal, Economic, and Technological Imperatives for Sustainable Resource Management

Sustainable management of natural ecosystems will be crucial for Viksit Bharat. The significant efforts regarding conservation of the ecosystems (e.g., the Ganga Action Plan) in India reveals that there is a gap between manmade capital and the ecological health and wealth. Hence, there is a need for research, awareness and advocacy regarding missing markets to price the service of the ecosystems, institutions, technological & innovative financing tools to design efficient sustainable management of the ecosystems.

The session will explore the dynamics of ecological services, especially positive externalities within the domain of interdisciplinary subject law and economics. Case studies—including those involving river basins, wetlands, groundwater systems, and coastal regions—will be analyzed to assess how robust resource governance models can be designed to ensure ecological integrity alongside economic viability.

We invite scholarly work that generates both basic and applied knowledge from academicians, industrialists, professionals, policymakers, and NGOs to deliberate on a holistic framework that combines techno-economic and legal learnings. The discussions will particularly focus on emerging innovations such as Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES), legal instruments for natural capital protection, and data-centric planning models enabled by remote sensing and AI. This motivates us to invite original papers on the following themes:

1. Legal and Policy Instruments

- How can lawmakers design legal frameworks that effectively internalize ecological externalities?
- What legal lessons can be drawn from the successes/failures of large-scale conservation projects?

2. Economic and Institutional Frameworks

- What role can PES and other market instruments play in incentivizing conservation?
- How can government and multilateral agencies finance long-term ecosystem service preservation?

3. Technology, Data, and Innovation

- How can remote sensing, AI, and digital tools enhance policy and legal enforcement?
- What models exist for transparent monitoring and ecological accounting?

The session(s) will help us to enhance effort on joint collaborative activities to generate and disseminate the knowledge to design capacity building on conservation of natural resources to achieve Viksit Bharat.

(M).

International anti-money laundering and counter terrorist and proliferation financing standards: Legal and economic aspects of the financial integrity standards of the Financial Action Task Force

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) acts as the global standard-setter for anti-money laundering and counter terrorist and proliferation financing (AML/CFT/CPF). Globally, more than 200 nations are committed to implementing its financial integrity standards. Non-compliant nations are publicly listed on grey- and blacklists. Such listing holds negative economic consequences, especially for the many developing economies that dominate FATF's grey list. (Louis de Koker, *et al.*, 2023).

Globally institutions are estimated to spend more than USD 200 billion per year to comply with FATF-related obligations. Despite all this effort the crime combating outcomes are debatable. Pol describes it as "the world's least effective policy experiment" because so little is known regarding the actual value of proceeds of crime and how best to assess the costs and benefits of integrity measures (Ronald F. Pol, 2020). The standards have however spurred developments of financial and regulatory technologies to increase financial inclusion and improve the integrity surveillance of a larger number of transactions, both domestic and cross-border. This has also involved the development of digital IDs and the adoption of measures such as electronic KYC (e-KYC) that has been implemented by regulated financial institutions to meet their AML/CFT/CPF customer due diligence obligations.

We therefore invite original work that analyses the costs and benefits of FATF's financial integrity standards. A few suggested topics are as follows:

- Estimates of the compliance costs the standards faced by different countries, and positive and negative impacts;
- Estimating the size of the parallel economy, and the efficacy of the financial integrity measures;
- Calculating the costs of (specific) crimes to victims and society and/or the benefits to criminals;
- Determining the positive and negative economic impact of crime on family members of criminals;
- Identifying the motives and drivers of economic criminals;
- Money laundering and the Indian economy;
- Crypto currencies, fintech, regtech, money laundering and terrorist financing;
- Assessing the success of financial inclusion policies;
- Assessing the costs of AML/CFT/CPF measures in a particular regulated industry or institution;
- A regulatory impact assessment of beneficial ownership measures and/or eKYC;
- Integrity compliance impact on non-profit organisations;
- The efficacy of financial intelligence application for organised crime prosecution;
- Assessing the quality of risk identification, assessment and management processes, and outcomes;
- The economic impact of FATF grey-listing on selected economies;
- The costs and benefits of a national financial intelligence units;
- Public-private partnerships to advance financial integrity – costs, benefits and models;
- The impact of FATF standards on sustainable development goals; and,
- Assessing the economic impact of criminal asset forfeiture and confiscation.

(N).

Interface between IPR regime, Trade Regulation and Knowledge Economy

Increasingly, the nexus between trade and investment is shaped by geopolitical considerations, with rising tensions between major powers influencing trade policies, investment flows, and regulatory approaches. The primary problems that Indian exporters encounter when selling goods and services in global markets necessitate a deeper understanding of the challenges involved. This theme aims to bring together academics, practitioners, policymakers, and students to examine the evolving nature of law and regulations in the new IPR and trade agreements regime. The latest economic environment, technological transition, the rise of digital platforms, and the growing influence of global corporations have brought new challenges related to ownership, access, data privacy, labour conditions, and environmental protection. These changes require a closer examination of who holds rights, how these rights are established, and how they are maintained or contested in practice. Although the CCI has been proactive in regulating dominant online platforms, the Competition Act 2002 was not designed with digital platforms in mind. The rapid expansion of digitalisation has redefined how people interact, businesses operate, and data is generated, recorded, and exchanged. Although India has implemented the Digital Personal Data Protection Regulation 2023, its effectiveness remains under scrutiny due to weak enforcement mechanisms. An integrated legal framework would not only generate consumer trust in digital activities but also help the digital economy to grow rapidly. India also needs a robust, forward-looking competition framework in an evolving market structure, led by technological advancements in AI, machine learning, and IoT, to harness the benefits of the digital economy and mitigate the risks of monopolisation and unfair trade practices. How does the regulator distinguish between competitive pricing and anti-competitive intent? What could be the role of the government to make the digital platforms remain neutral as far as search rankings, recommendations, and access to platforms are concerned? Challenges under FTAs and Bilateral agreements, including embodying level playing field provisions, which balance trade liberalisation with protecting domestic industries from unfair competition, are another area for discussion. The economic-legal nexus under trade agreements extends to Foreign Direct Investment, where countries enact frameworks to attract investment while striking a balance between domestic protections and foreign investment. Similarly, India faces challenges with NTCs due to its fragmented regulatory frameworks, particularly when modern FTAs increasingly incorporate environmental and labour standards. Additionally, there is the challenge of a surge in NTMs, which affect more than 90,000 under the SPS and TBT notifications to the WTO, and are again an integral part of market access. Most of the recent ones are being driven primarily by climate change and environmental concerns. SMEs, often considered the backbone of India's export sector, face unique challenges in navigating complex IPR regimes and non-tariff barriers, which impact their ability to compete in global markets and leverage innovation for growth. Streamlining regulations, enabling mutual recognition of partner country standards, and strengthening institutional capacity are crucial to improving trade facilitation and reducing compliance costs. Achieving India's ambitious \$2 trillion export target by 2030 requires comprehensive legislative reforms. A robust, harmonised legal framework will position India as a reliable FTA partner, ensure broad-based trade gains, and protect domestic interests in a rapidly evolving global trade landscape. Therefore, papers are invited to explore legal mechanisms that address developmental issues through instruments that respect the complex reality of trade policy on:

1. New IPR, Trade Agreements and Knowledge Economy;
2. IPR Regime, SMEs and Market Access in Global Trade;
3. IPR and antitrust issues in the Digital economy; and,
4. Trade Agreements, non-tariff measures and Investment Treaties.

This technical session will be sponsored by [financial support (full/ partial) will be available for the paper contributors]



(O).

Economic and legal aspects of the State-citizens litigations: An empirical investigation

The citizens empower the State to promote public trust within the purview of the constitutional provisions. Accordingly, the State mobilizes, allocates and manages resources to extend its serves to the citizens regarding public utilities, public goods, quasi-public goods and merit goods. The democratic provision of the State services are within the ambit of efficiency, distributive justice and other justice consideration criteria. The State also concerns regarding production, distribution and consumption of non-merit goods that increases costs of mortality, morbidity, and violence, and reduces productivity and income. The State decisions may deviate from principles of public interest that imposes risks on the citizens. In theory, the State's services to its citizens that are based on efficiency and other justice considerations, should not lead to litigations, given the mandatory disclosure of information regarding the rationality of the services.

The State's policies may deviates from the rights and responsibilities of the citizens. The efficacy of institutions regarding reasonable and rationale decisions on: education, food, livelihood, health, shelter, privacy, property, natural resources conservation and pollution, law and order, and dignity of life, will determines *incidence of the trust breach burden* on the citizens. This will provide incentives to the aggrieved citizens to take the State to the liability system.

The Government of India was party to 6.3 lakh cases and it incurs expenditure of Rs 272 crores as expenditure during 2018-2023 (17th Lok Sabha, question no. 252). Thus, there is a need for research, awareness and advocacy on techno-economic and legal learnings (TELL) regarding the trust breach and its wrong consequences. The data analytics that generates valuable information will empowers us to design incentives to promote the State-citizens interactions for the Sustainability of Human Energy for Sustainability of Utility of Life (*SHE for SOUL*). We invite full papers for oral presentation and develop network for further academic endeavour on the following tentative topics:

- (a). economic and non-economic costs of the litigations to the State and aggrieved citizens;
- (b). efficient breach of public trust by the State;
- (c). reasons for inefficacy of institutions and risks that cause litigations;
- (d). resources constraints to judiciary to safeguard public trust; and,
- (e). model for data analytics to generate valuable information that helps to reduce litigations.

(P).

Disability Rights and Financial Inclusion: Law and Economics Perspectives

The concept of 'Disability' is shaped by Disablism which refers to the display of discrimination and baseless prejudice against people with disabilities. Often viewed as a personal limitation, it is more society-centric, in that society chooses to limit sections of its people through its designs, attitudes, and indifference. Society's perception of disability is shaped by the model it adopts such as moral, charity, medical, social, economic, political, etc and so the model becomes crucial in shaping the policy dealing with PwDs.

According to the 2011 census, the number of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) in India was recorded as 2.68 crore, or 2.21% of the total population; although recent estimates show the prevalence of PwDs to be 4.52% of the population. Yet, such a vast number of people face significant barriers in accessing financial services as well as in gaining meaningful employment. The 76th round of the National Sample Survey revealed that the Labour Force Participation Rate among PwDs aged 15 years or above was 23.8%. This points towards the exclusionary nature of the labour market, where systemic barriers continue to prevent PwDs from participating equally in economic life.

Addressing these persistent structural challenges, legal frameworks at both national and international levels adapted to affirm the rights of PwDs. The adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCPRD) in 2006 was a significant step towards protecting the rights of PwDs. India's ratification of the UNCPRD in 2007 and the enactment of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2016 further strengthened the legal framework for promoting equality, accessibility and non-discrimination. Beyond legislation, the Constitution also provides a foundational basis for protecting the rights of PwDs in the context of financial services, through Part III, which guarantees the Fundamental Rights. The RPwD Act also mandates the government to provide social security schemes for PwDs who do not have any means of livelihood.

Financial inclusion for PwDs means having access to affordable financial products and services, which include banking, credit, insurance, investment, and financial literacy programs. It constitutes an important parameter for measuring development. Due to inaccessible information and lack of disability-specific frameworks, PwDs have not been able to completely realise a basic human right such as financial inclusion. Legal and policy perspectives would provide a foundation for creating action plans and strategies that would aid in bringing structural reform and enhancing accessibility, inclusivity and financial autonomy.

We invite full papers that explore the intersection of law and disability studies, and aim to foster academic collaboration around the following tentative themes:

- a. Digital accessibility standards and universal design principles in Banking services
- b. Accessibility norms and inclusive design principles in Insurance services
- c. Disability-Inclusive Healthcare Services: Policy and Practice Perspectives
- d. Universal Design in Education: Operationalising inclusion for PwDs
- e. Insurance Market Discrimination and Actuarial Justice
- f. Employment rights and workplace accommodation as means of financial inclusion

(Q).

Law and Economic Analysis of CIRP under IBC 2016: An empirical investigation

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016, that introduced the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) in India, was enacted with the twin objectives of promoting speedy resolution of stressed entities and maximizing the return to the creditors. CIRP refers to the process of resolving the financial distress of a defaulting company by restructuring it, i.e., reorganizing a company's ownership structure to make it more viable and sustainable. In cases where such restructuring does not seem viable, the act provides for a mechanism to liquidate the entity. The IBC endeavoured to strike a balance among the interests of different stakeholders, by ensuring the entity remains a going concern while the creditors are able to recover their dues in a timely and structured mechanism. It was envisioned as a means to reduce the number of non-performing assets (NPAs) in the country and improve the recovery mechanism.

However, in practice, the implementation of CIRP is hampered by several reasons, leading to delays in the resolution and higher haircuts to the creditors. More often than not, these causes result in the liquidation of entities, defeating the primary intent of the statute to keep the entity as a going concern. Some of the key issues relating to the CIRP are delay in the admission of cases by the adjudicating authority, lack of transparency among the stakeholders, lack of adequate infrastructure to handle the rising number of cases and lack of co-operation from the existing managements.

According to the latest estimates, only 14% of the total admitted cases in the corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP), since its initiation in December 2016 closed with a successful resolution plan, while around one-third of the total cases resulted in liquidation (IBBI Quarterly Report, January-March 2025). Empirical analysis will help create actionable insights for implementing reforms, improving timelines, and boosting trust in resolution mechanism. We invite full papers for presentation and seek to build academic networks on the following tentative themes:

- (a) efficiency of the CIRP in reducing bad loans and improving the recovery mechanism in India;
- (b) voting rights and joint strategy of financial creditors versus operational creditors in the resolution process
- (c) behavioural economics of debtors and creditors in the CIRP process;
- (d) institutional resource constraints in ensuring time-bound resolution (NCLT, IBBI, IPs); and,
- (e) model for data analytics to assess efficacy, detect delays, and improve resolution strategy.