

Welcome to our 2024 Annual Report!

At Justice Adda, we've always believed that justice should feel approachable, not intimidating. The legal system can often seem like a maze—complex, distant, and overwhelming. Our mission is to change that by making justice more accessible, understandable, and, most importantly, within reach for everyone.

This report provides an overview of our initiatives, reflecting our journey in translating our mission and goals into action through various projects and their impact. Our approach combines design, legal content, and technology-driven interventions, with an aim to ensuring solutions that are collaborative, context-specific, and user-centred.

By applying design justice principles, we recognize the need for legal and judicial systems—procedures, documents, and processes—to be more empathetic, engaging, and responsive to the evolving needs of those they serve.

Over the last year, we have continued to expand our work, finding new ways to connect with justice users. Whether through interactive content, turning research into real-world tools, or spreading legal awareness, we've been constantly working to make justice feel more personal and accessible. This report traces our journey, highlighting key milestones and the continuous evolution of our work.

Over the past year, we have explored new collaborations, projects, and formats to make justice more accessible. A key focus has been on codesigning solutions with our partners and users, ensuring that our work is shaped by the people it seeks to serve. We have undertaken community-driven projects, gathering local knowledge and experiences to create meaningful interventions that help remove barriers to justice.

Through continuous ideation, iteration, and co-creation with users, we refined our approach and embraced new mediums, events, and skill development opportunities. We've also taken steps to allow our resources to speak to as many people as possible by translating our content into Hindi, Urdu, Marathi, Malayalam, Bengali, and Kannada, ensuring wider accessibility. A big part of what keeps us going is the feedback loop we've been able to build with our users, researchers, and experts.

Whether it's sharing our work, giving feedback, or simply engaging with us, you've helped us grow. We really can't thank you enough! Your insights help us keep our resources fresh, relevant, and in tune with the latest legal trends.

Our efforts have led to sustained social impact, producing freely accessible resources that empower individuals and communities. As we look ahead, we're excited to build on what we've started. We are committed to deepening our impact by amplifying existing projects and exploring new initiatives focused on justice users. Our goal is to develop models that empower individuals and communities at the grassroots, reinforcing our vision of justice that emerges from society itself.

We hope this report serves as an invitation to collaborate, connect, and co-design a justice system that truly represents people's lived experiences and responds to real-world challenges in a dynamic and inclusive way.

The Team

Collaborators



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Founder



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Editorial Lead



Siddhi Gupta

Design Lead



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Rachit Sharma

Associate (Legal Research & Design)



Rajith Nair

Financial Controller



Aditi Nayak

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COMMITT/ ICAI Innovation Center for Artificial Intelligence





























CREATING SAFE SPACES

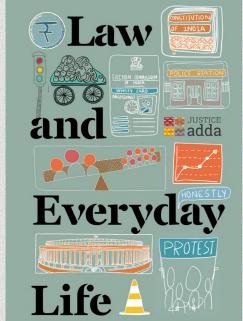


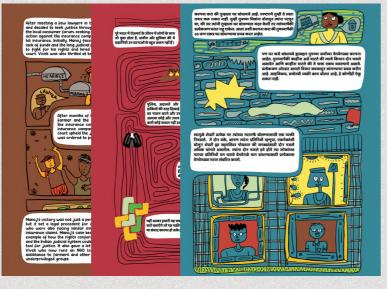


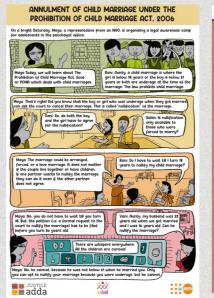


In addition to our core team, We extend our deepest gratitude to all our contributors for their invaluable support and contributions to our projects this year.

Snapshot







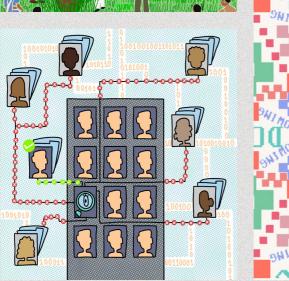
















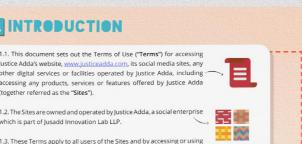






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Evolving Our Approach to Access To Justice

Access to justice has been at the heart of Justice Adda's vision and mission since its inception. Over time, our approach has evolved, shaped by a commitment to understanding the realities of those facing barriers to justice. We have expanded our approach (which focused on raising awareness) towards a more holistic, ecosystem-driven approach, recognising that sustainable change requires partnerships, collaboration, and systemic engagement. In the past year, we have have aimed to work closely with communities to develop meaningful, people-driven solutions that address their specific challenges.

Listening



The first step in our process has been to step back and listen—to individuals, communities, and organisations on the ground. We seek to understand their realities, challenges, and how they navigate obstacles to justice, ensuring that our interventions are rooted in real needs. This includes focus group discussions to engage directly with those impacted, gathering insights that inform the design and direction of our projects. We strongly believe in continuous feedback on our interventions, recognising that the people we aim to serve know more about their realities than experts do. Understanding and accepting this is crucial for designing effective, sustainable solutions. Listening also means being open to adapting and refining our work based on the insights and experiences of communities. Their perspectives shape how we think about justice and access, ensuring that our efforts respond to real needs rather than theoretical assumptions.

Partnering



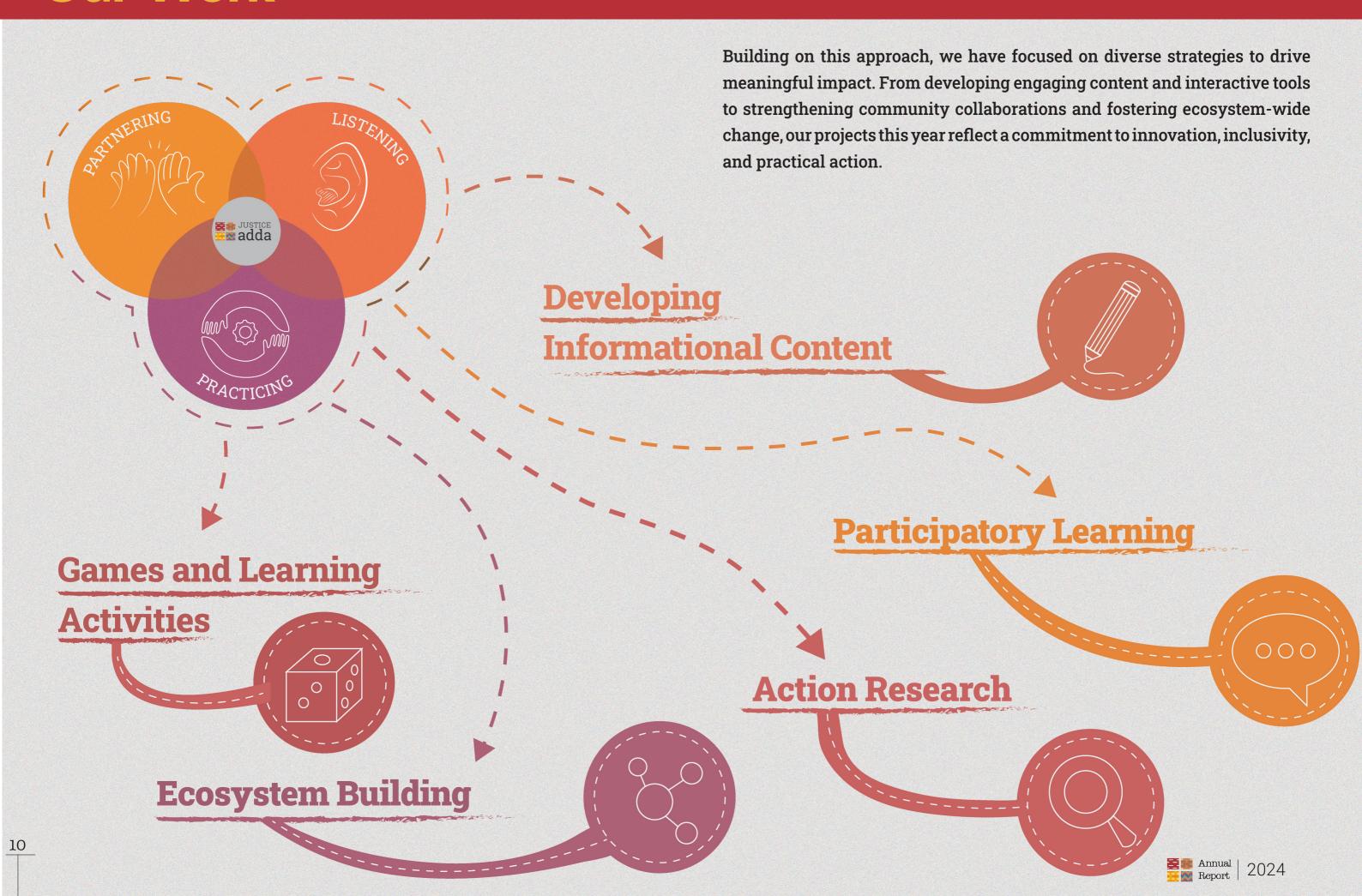
Collaboration is central to our work. We have actively partnered with legal experts, community organisations, and technology and design innovators to develop tools, resources, and frameworks that expand access to justice. By working with others, we leverage collective expertise to create more effective and scalable solutions. Our focus is also on ecosystem building-creating strong networks of individuals and organisations who share the goal of a more just society. This approach is not just about strengthening our own organisation, but about fostering collective action and collaboration that can bring about wider systemic change.

Practicing



Bridging the gap between knowledge and action is critical to our work. At Justice Adda, we design every intervention with a strong focus on practicality. By collaborating closely with communities, grassroots organisations, and justice-seekers, we make sure that our content and tools are not only accessible but also directly applicable in real-life scenarios. For example, our workshops often include hands-on activities, role-playing, and real-world scenarios to help participants practice and internalise what they learn. We also believe that true change takes time. While we value immediate outcomes, we are equally committed to the long-term. Our interventions are designed not just for quick wins but to contribute to systemic transformation. By prioritising sustainability and developing resources that remain adaptable over time, we seek to create frameworks for justice that are inclusive, participatory, and long-lasting.

Our Work



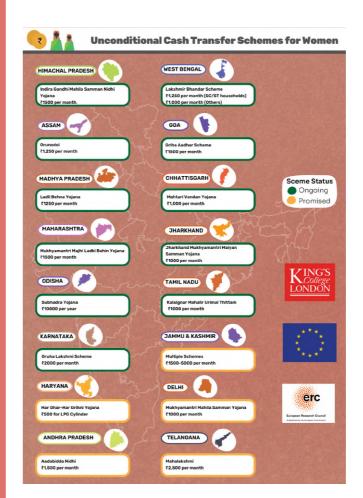
Developing Informational Content

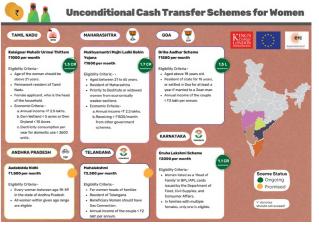
Justice Adda aims to create content that break down complex legal concepts into simple, engaging, and widely consumable formats by making use of design elements such as infographics, comics, animations. Through visual storytelling, and illustrated legal information, we seek to ensure that legal knowledge is not confined to legal professionals but is comprehensible for everyone- especially those who need it most. Our approach is also focussed on making the law relatable, and with practical guidance for actioning the law. To ensure greater accessibility, we have made our content easily accessible through our website in user-friendly formats that prioritise clarity and engagement.

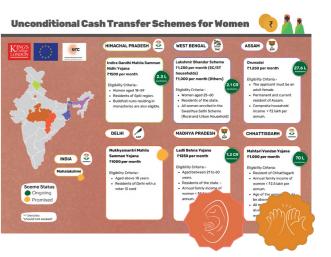


Operational Unconditional Cash Transfer Schemes for Women

We worked on a poster to capture the findings of the study - Operational Unconditional Cash Transfer Schemes for Women. The study showcases findings from research on the functioning and impact of such schemes across India. Developed in collaboration with King's College London and the European Research Council under the Laws of Social Reproduction Project at the Dickson Poon School of Law, the project highlights key insights on financial inclusion, benefits offered and access barriers in such schemes that are being offered across India. The project was based on data collected by academic and grassroot partners, evaluating important aspects of these schemes like benefits provided, eligibility and beneficiaries covered. The poster, designed for clarity and engagement, arranges the key insights cohesively and in an accessible manner, ensuring that complex data and themes are communicated effectively to a broad audience.





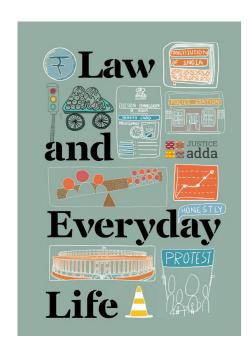


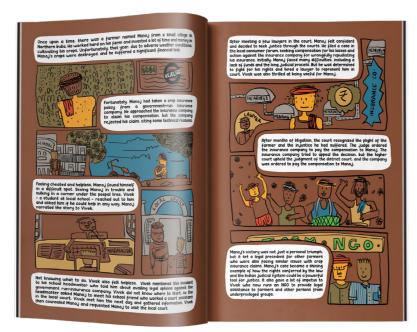
Law and Everyday Life

Justice Adda introduced Law and Everyday Life, a learning toolkit designed to help individuals understand how the law intersects with daily experiences, such as traffic regulations, elections, consumer rights, and constitutional provisions. The toolkit offers practical guidance for real-life situations, including drafting an RTI application, understanding legal rights during police interactions, and preparing for a courtroom visit. It comprises of an interactive workbook, workshop templates, and infographics available in English, Hindi, and Marathi.

Each chapter of Law and Everyday Life begins by emphasising the relevance of the topic to the reader, helping to foster intrinsic motivation. It then provides clear explanations of key legal principles, situates them within the broader legal ecosystem, and outlines common challenges along with possible solutions. To ensure that readers can act on the information, the toolkit also equips them with the tools to access relevant legal resources, explore them in more detail, and take informed action.

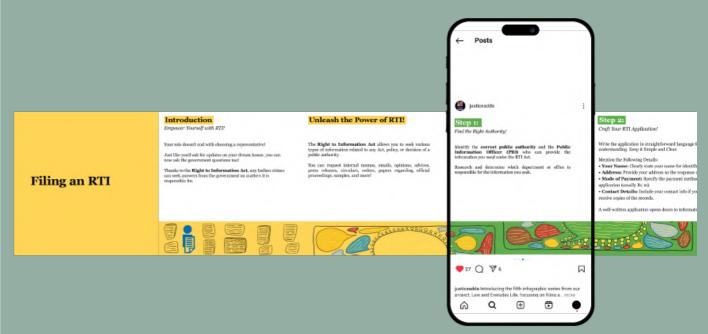
Developed in collaboration with legal aid societies, CSOs, and NGOs, the toolkit integrates storytelling, visual elements, and real-life examples, making complex legal concepts more accessible and engaging. Additionally, the workshop templates offer practical activities that CSOs can use to engage their beneficiaries, ensuring the toolkit's usability in real-world settings.







The Long Arm of the Law

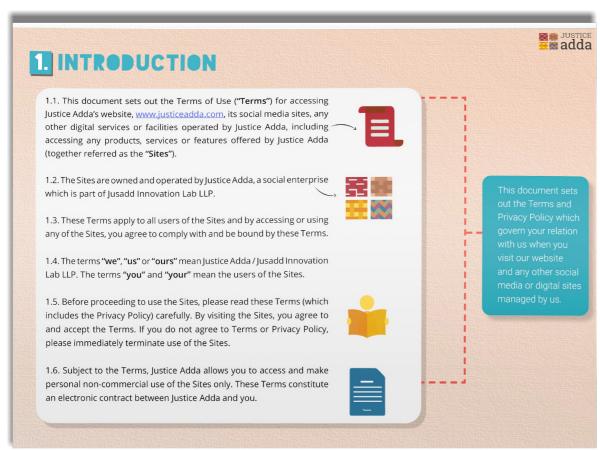


Becoming an Engaged Citizen



Illustrated Terms & Conditions

This project focused on creating a terms and conditions policy for our website in a user-friendly and transparent manner - outlining the type of information we collect, how we use it, and the steps users can take to protect their personal data. Most users - including lawyers - often avoid reading such terms due to the use of complex and technical legal jargon. Recognising that, we created a visually illustrated policy that guides users through key clauses in a simple and practical manner. This initiative also aims to prevent misunderstandings that could lead to uninformed consent— a mistake that could potentially have serious unanticipated ramifications, as this becomes a binding agreement between the user and the entity. The design process involved reviewing privacy policy and disclaimers across various platforms and gathering feedback from users - in order to understand the challenges people face in understanding legal information and for practicing innovative ways to demystify the law.





Prohibition of Child Marriage

We developed a multilingual comic titled 'Annulment of Child Marriage under Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006' for the Enfold Proactive Health Trust. This comic discusses what amounts to child marriage, implications of annulment, when and by whom a child marriage can be annulled, etc., and simplifies complex and technical legal language relating to such aspects in a relatable and practical manner. The comic is available in English, Hindi, Bengali, and Assamese. While there is relatively wide-spread awareness about the minimum age for marriage, the practice still continues and there is relatively lesser awareness of what can be done by the affected parties after such a marriage has been conducted. In that context, this comic utilises storytelling and other design tools to present complex legal content in an easy-to-understand and engaging manner - particularly, keeping in mind the target beneficiaries, who include children and young adults outside the formal education system.



Anthems for Justice

This project has been conceptualised to make justice and the law in India more accessible to citizens, using music/art for raising awareness and inspiring action. Music, and art in general, combines emotional resonance with a unifying message, inspiring solidarity and collective action. This project also includes an 'Anthems for Justice blog-series' to bring to notice the importance of these artforms, the need for their revival and preservation, as well as their potential as strong and impactful tools towards advocacy and creating awareness about various social justice issues. Through this project, we also wish to explore creating interesting and engaging content to simplify complicated legal issues on intellectual property rights (including copyright, trademark) and contracts relating to music/art, for consumption by artists and a larger audience.

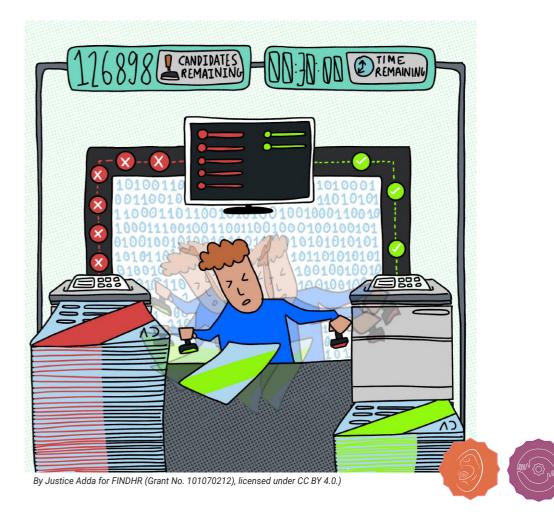






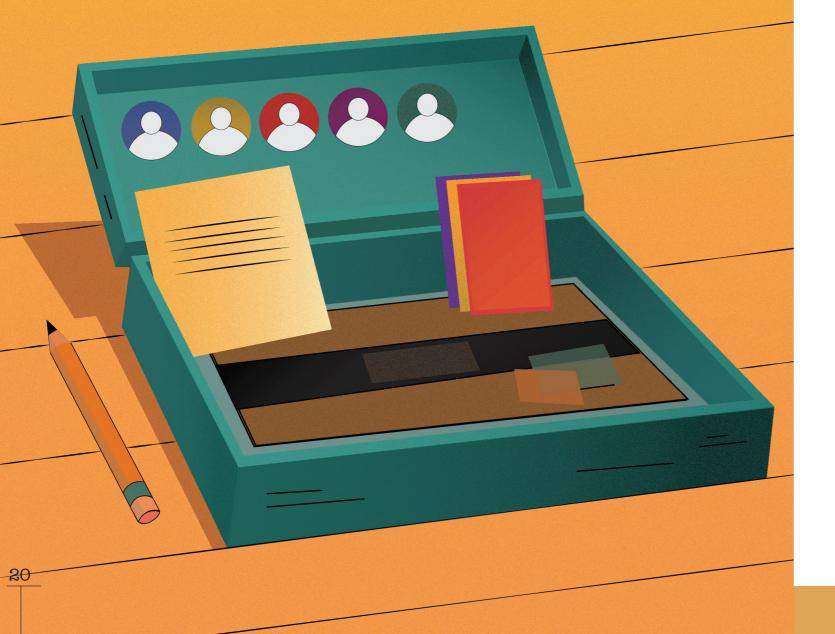
Fairness in Al-facilitated Recruitments

We worked on the design and layout of inspirational visualisations and promotional visuals for a project titled 'FINDHR (Fairness and Intersectional Non-Discrimination in Human Recommendation)'. This is an EU-funded project seeking to promote the responsible use of artificial intelligence (AI) algorithms in search and recruitment decisions by companies, given its vulnerable nature to perpetuate discrimination. The project aims to create new ways to ascertain discrimination risk and produce less biased outcomes. Underrepresented groups are engaged through participatory action research, consultation with experts, etc. On completion, the project's outcomes will be made freely available to the public. The research is being conducted by an interdisciplinary consortium of universities and companies coordinated by the Web Science and Social Computing research group (WSSC) of the Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF) Department of Information and Communication Technologies, Barcelona.



Games and learning activities

Recognising that laws can be intimidating for regular justice users; we have made use of activity and game-based learning as a powerful tool to engage individuals in understanding the law. Our interactive games simulate real-life scenarios, allowing users to navigate legal dilemmas, make decisions, and experience the consequences within a safe and educational environment. This approach not only enhances learning but also demonstrates how law operates in everyday life, making legal knowledge more engaging.



Playing the Sabha Board Game

Sabha is a free and open-access board game, which we developed with the Hanns Seidel Foundation India in 2023. It is a dynamic simulation of India's Parliament and the detailed law-making process in the form of a board game. In 2024, to make it accessible for a larger audience, the gameboard has been translated into Hindi and Kannada, and an explainer video has been developed in English, Hindi and Kannada to assist new players in understanding the game.

In 2024, we also facilitated Sabha Game Challenges at GRAAM (V-Lead Mysuru), CHRIST (Deemed to be) University (Bengaluru and Ghaziabad), and the Justicemakers Mela (organised by Agami). By playing the game, participants could practically experience the process of parliamentary debates, committee discussions, decision-making protocols, and other details and complexities of the law-making process. Facilitators explained the game's rules and guided participants through drafting Bills and addressing real-life parliamentary scenarios, enabling them to practice strategic thinking, negotiation, and consensus-building.



Scavenger Hunt - Identifying Law in our Everyday Lives

We conceptualised a scavenger hunt game as an activity-based learning experience of our "Law and Everyday Life" toolkit, designed to demystify legal language and highlight the intersections of law with our everyday life. The game was designed to engage participants with clues illustrating how laws operate in everyday spaces. This experiential approach to legal literacy is aimed to promote informed citizenship, especially among those without formal legal education.

In November 2024, we facilitated the scavenger hunt game at the JusticeMakers' Mela in Bhopal, with clues linked to the venue's historical and regulatory context. Participants followed clues connected to themes such as accessibility, surveillance, heritage preservation, sanitation, fire safety, and right to life and personal liberty, making law relatable through real-life scenarios. The final clue led to the 'Law and Everyday Life' workbook, encouraging participants to explore legal concepts further. Clues were crafted in both English and Hindi for inclusivity.

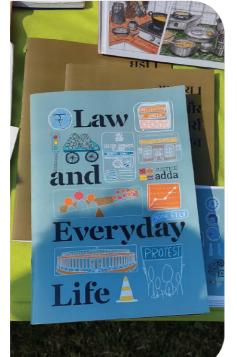
Crafting a Mission Statement Workshop

We designed a workshop on co-creating missions for organisations involved with law and justice work, where participants explore the various aspects to consider while building a mission for their organisation / initiative, experiment writing a mission statement and self-assess it from different perspectives.

In November 2024, we facilitated a two-day workshop at the JusticeMakers' Mela in Bhopal, along with Manupatra. The participants were guided to think deeply about the underlying problem their organisation / initiative is seeking to address, their target audience, etc., through interactive activities and they were guided to represent their mission visually by capturing the various critical priorities of their organisation. They were also encouraged to critically self-assess their mission by thinking of problems, concerns, inconsistencies, overlap with existing initiatives working for the same cause, etc.





















Value in Failure Canvas & Fail Camp

Together with the Indian Legal Tech Network, we have created the 'Value from Failure Canvas', which provides interactive exercises for how to engage with failure when working in the law and justice space. The resource, designed as an Open Access tool, encourages participants to reflect, think and share, to build community and solidarity on negotiating challenges in the justice sector.

We hosted a fail camp at the Justice Makers Mela in November 2024 to provide a space for participants to come together to think about failure, not as something that one needs to hide from, but rather as something that can be learned from through a community of practice.







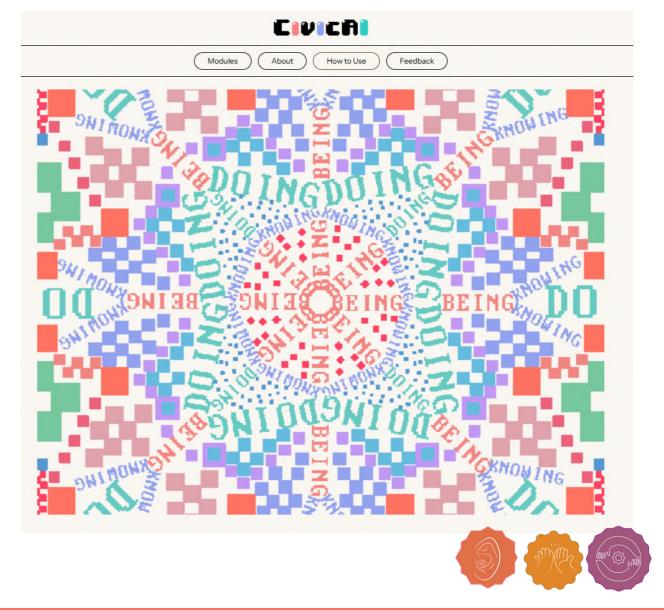
Participatory Learning

A key part of our work involves projects with a community-based approach and collating community knowledge, practices and experiences. Whether it is women, informal workers, children or other groups, our projects are designed to understand their experience of justice and the law and to allow their voices to inform policies, advocacy efforts, and new legal innovations that can bring about meaningful change. This approach aims to ensure that our interventions are not just informative but also practical, participatory, following a bottom-up approach which is directly beneficial to the communities we work with.



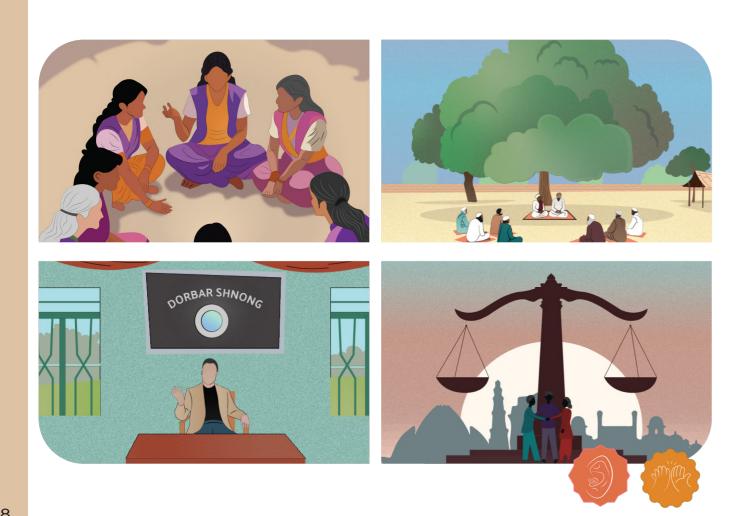
Civic Al Lab

The project seeks to both inform and empower individuals and communities about engaging with AI. We developed the project website for the Civic AI Lab, deploying creative design elements to present a learning experience that is easy-to-use, fun and interactive. AI has permeated our lives, and modern society is nearly unthinkable without it. This website explores various aspects like how AI emerges in our daily lives, possible need for caution, how we may be indirectly paying for AI, etc. It also includes guidance as to how a user could make more conscious choices, participate in shaping AI's future, etc. The website aims to be a living document that is updated every 6 months based on your feedback, and ultimately shape the future of AI. This is an experiment in web design, human collaboration, and social advocacy.



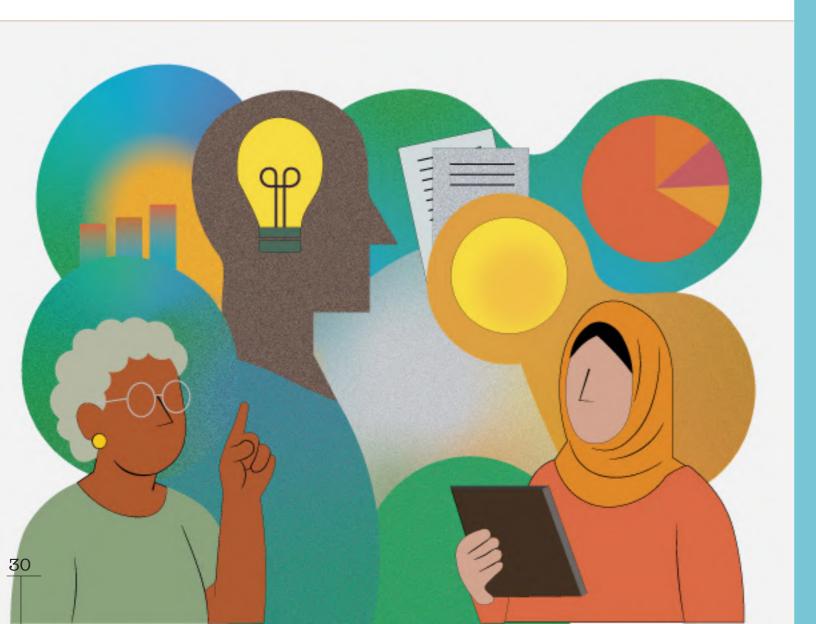
Map-a-Forum

Map-a-Forum is our digital encyclopaedia of non-state dispute resolution forums in India that operate outside of formal legal systems and play an important role in resolving community conflicts. This resource allows researchers and experts to share new insights on an ongoing basis, keeping the information current and reflecting emerging trends in plural justice. Creative design elements have been used to make the content more engaging, interactive, and easy to navigate. This resource draws from the Plural Ideas of Justice conference, hosted by Justice Adda in collaboration with the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (India) in April 2021. The conference sought to explore non-state dispute resolution forums, focusing on their composition, community context, types of disputes, and functions—such as preserving harmony and cultural values. A call for submissions invited diverse perspectives from researchers and practitioners, forming the foundation of this encyclopaedia, along with additional contributions gathered separately.



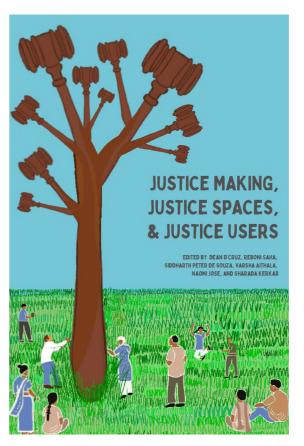
Action Research

Our research focuses on emerging and pressing legal issues, using real-world data, case studies and field insights to highlight patterns, gaps, challenges, and opportunities in the legal landscape. We analyse how legal frameworks impact people's lives, particularly those on the margins, and explore solutions that promote justice, equity, and empowerment. By combining qualitative and quantitative evidence, our research seeks to inform policies, advocacy efforts, and new legal innovations that can bring about meaningful change. Conducted with a strong commitment to ethical standards, we strive to ensure that our research methods are responsible, inclusive, and do no harm to the communities we engage with. We prioritise informed consent, privacy, and sensitivity to local contexts, ensuring that our work uplifts voices rather than exploits them.



Justice Making, Justice Spaces and Justice Users

This is our book compiling insights and case studies that explore justice spaces, justice-making processes, and justice users, aiming to advance equity and inclusion in Goa. Through contributions from academics, designers, lawyers, and activists, it reimagines how justice institutions function and how they can become more accessible and inclusive. Each chapter is summarised through infographics, making key ideas more accessible and visually engaging for readers. The book is a compilation of research and presentations from the 'Design for Justice' Conference in 2023, a collaborative initiative led by Justice Adda and Kokum Design Trust with Konrad Adenauer Stiftung. The conference focussed on challenges within Goa's justice institutions, bringing together interdisciplinary perspectives to foster dialogue and innovation in justice design. The Book also captures real-world case studies conducted by students from diverse fields by engaging directly with local justice institutions, as part of the 'Design for Justice' Fellowship (2022–2023).





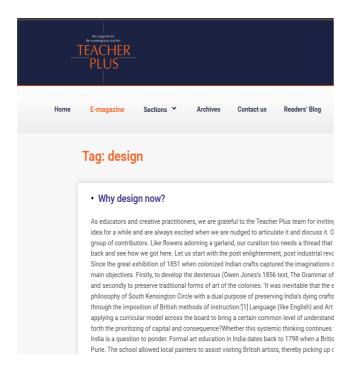
Looking beyond Judge Strength in assessing District Courts Performance



Varsha Aithala, co-authored a research article titled 'Decision time: Illuminating performance in India's district courts' published in 'Data and Policy' journal. By analysing data from 1,700 district courts (2010–2018), the study reveals that factors such as court type and case nature have a greater impact on case disposal rates than number of judges alone. It also highlights significant gaps in judicial data management. This research aligns with our approach of listening to ground realities and using data-driven insights to inform reforms.

Why design now?

Siddhi Gupta co-authored an article on the evolving role of design in education. The article calls for integrating design as a foundational element in education, shaping learning experiences that are context-driven and future-ready. The article explores how colonial influences shaped India's design education and highlights the importance of building agents of change through culturally integrated, ground-up design systems to foster creativity, critical thinking, and systemic transformation.



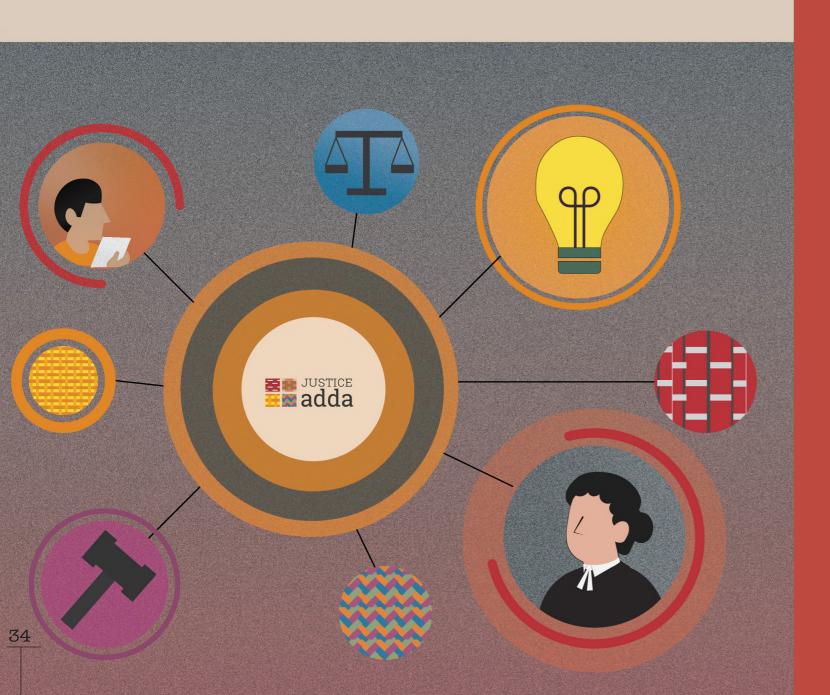
Al and the Indian Judiciary: The Need for a Rights Based Approach

Siddharth Peter de Souza, authored a policy brief published by The Hindu Centre for Politics and Public Policy titled 'AI and the Indian Judiciary: The Need for a Rights-Based Approach'. Without a clear policy framework, AI tools are being introduced to improve judicial efficiency. It highlights how AI can reinforce structural discrimination and calls for a shift from risk-mitigation to an approach rooted in empowerment, equity, and justice, and accounting for different vocabularies and the diverse ways in which people experience technology and engage with it.



Ecosystem Building

We believe that law, justice, and society are interconnected, requiring cross-sectoral collaboration. Justice Adda actively works to connect and convene stakeholders- including lawyers, civil society organisations, researchers, artists, policymakers, and technologists- to build stronger legal ecosystems. By fostering collaborations, knowledge-sharing, and collective action, we contribute to strengthening legal systems and ensuring that justice-related innovations have a wider, more sustained impact.



Blog Symposium - Building the Pro Bono Ecosystem in India

We introduced this blog symposium to explore roles that legal aid clinics (in law colleges and universities) can play in strengthening the pro bono ecosystem - by bringing together a diverse set of reflections from law school clinics, development sector professionals / organisations and academicians on how they are working to build more useful and usable ways of engaging with the Indian pro bono ecosystem. This initiative was designed to listen to voices on the ground in relation to an upcoming project, which aims to facilitate law school clinics (requiring support like simplified legal content, research, report writing, drafting, legal representation, advocacy, etc.,) to connect with law firms and lawyers pan-India offering pro bono services - thereby, making the pro bono ecosystem more structured. This symposium also aims to build a community of practice, and learn and share ideas and approaches on how to make the pro bono ecosystem work for everyone who cannot afford legal services.



Looking Forward

Manupatra Case Drawing Project 2.0

Justice Adda collaborates once again with Manupatra on Case Drawing 2.0, an initiative that will cover landmark Supreme Court judgments from 2013 to 2023 through visual representation, including key constitutional cases related to women's and rights, disability rights, queer liberties. environmental civil justice, criminal law, digital rights, electoral processes, social justice and federalism.

Online Portal for Pro Bono Services

With the goal of cultivating a robust pro bono ecosystem in India, Justice Adda and Justice Connect are partnering to launch 'Adda Connect', an online portal which will connect law school legal aid clinics seeking support in relation to simplified legal content, research, legal advice, legal representation, advocacy, etc., with law firms, lawyers, law practices, researchers, groups, institutions, etc., offering pro bono services.

Reading Between the Lines

Justice Adda in collaboration with NWO project hosted at Erasmus MC Rotterdam is currently working on a project titled 'Reading between the lines', to explores patterns of vulnerability and resilience among youth. Justice Adda is involved in designing activities for workshops to help youth identify existing vulnerabilities, explore pathways to address offline and online challenges, and contribute ideas for the manifesto development process.

Digital LibraryPro Bono Building Blocks

This initiative is a digital library of resources designed to strengthen the pro bono ecosystem in India and make it more structured by supporting those who seek to provide pro bono legal services (lawyers, law firms, institutions, etc) and those who seek to benefit from pro bono legal services (law students, law school clinics, CSOs, etc) by offering practical insights, innovative approaches, and actionable tools and by encouraging meaningful discussions.



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