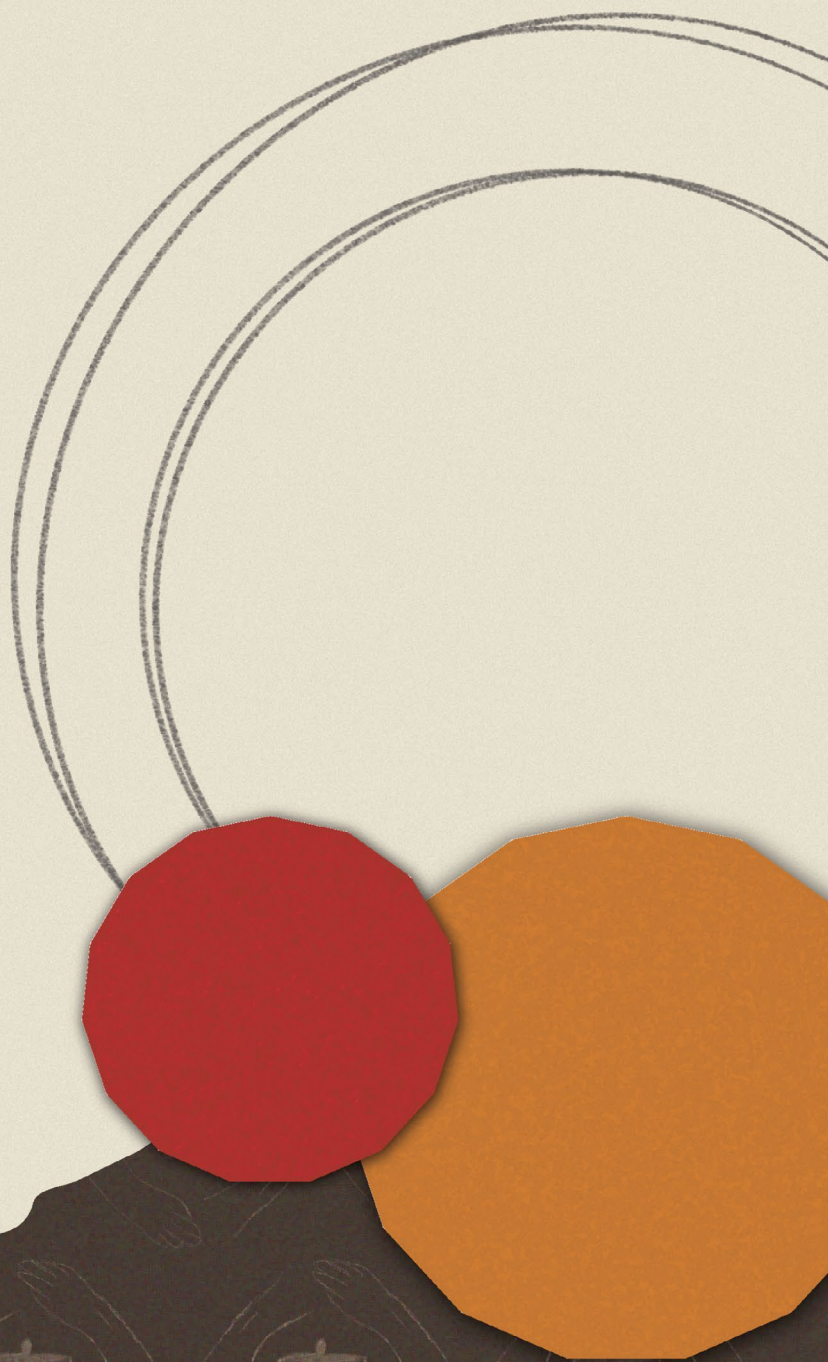


Annual *Report* 2025



WELCOME

We are pleased to present the Justice Adda Annual Report for 2025—a year marked by stronger partnerships, meaningful engagement, and a continued commitment to advancing accessible legal awareness within the community.

In the past year, our mission of bridging the gap between law and society, developed over the course of 11 years, has grown stronger through initiatives focused on simplifying complex legal concepts, highlighting rights and responsibilities, and encouraging informed engagement within and outside the legal system.

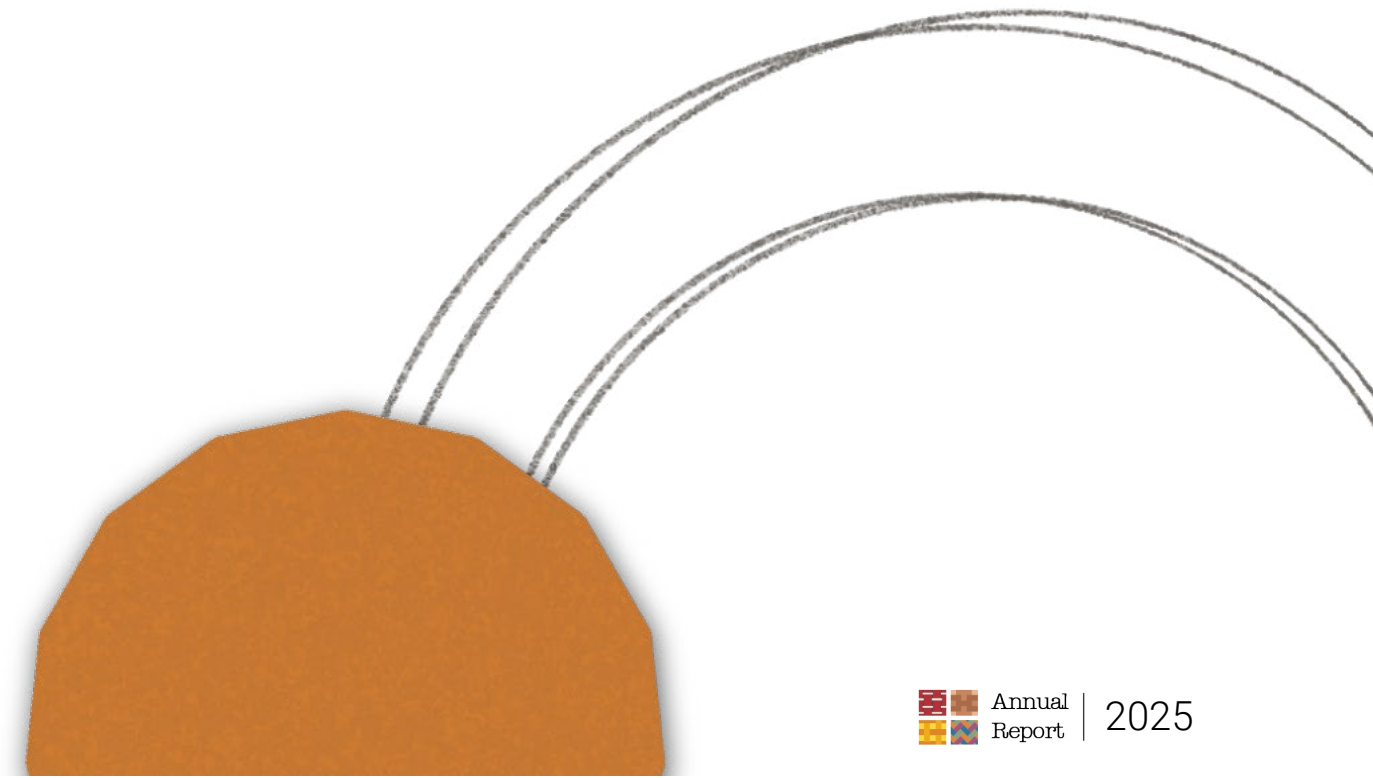
In 2025, we placed particular emphasis on expanding our outreach and deepening community engagement with important issues such as just futures with AI, spatial justice, misinformation, and developing community collaborations. Through curated content available in various formats and languages, legal awareness initiatives, and immersive collaborative learning efforts, we have sought to make the law approachable and usable in everyday contexts. Our approach has been guided by the belief that access to legal knowledge is a key component of access to justice.

A significant highlight of the year has been the growing engagement with a diverse community of learners, contributors, and stakeholders across social groups with a wide range of experience: school students, young professionals, women leaders, legal practitioners, AI and tech experts and academics. The feedback, participation, and shared commitment of our network partners, composed of socially spirited individuals, civil society groups, philanthropies and academic organisations, have played a crucial role in shaping our initiatives and strengthening our impact. Justice Adda continues to evolve as a platform that fosters dialogue and supports collective engagement.

We have also remained responsive to emerging legal and social challenges, striving to ensure that our work remains timely, relevant, and grounded in real-world needs. This adaptability continues to guide our efforts as we move forward.

As we look ahead, we aim to further expand our reach, strengthen our community partnerships, and deepen our contribution to legal awareness and empowerment. Through our verticals - the Adda School, Adda Play, Illustrated and Plain Language Law, Anthems for Justice, Action Research, we remain committed to building a space that supports informed citizenship and meaningful access to justice.

We sincerely thank our contributors, partners, and well-wishers for their continued trust and support.



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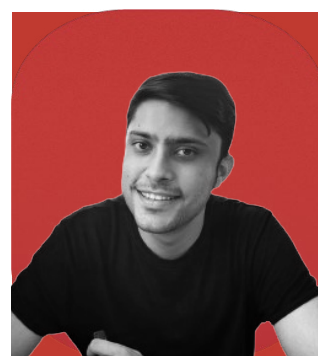
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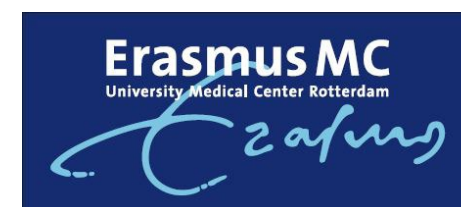


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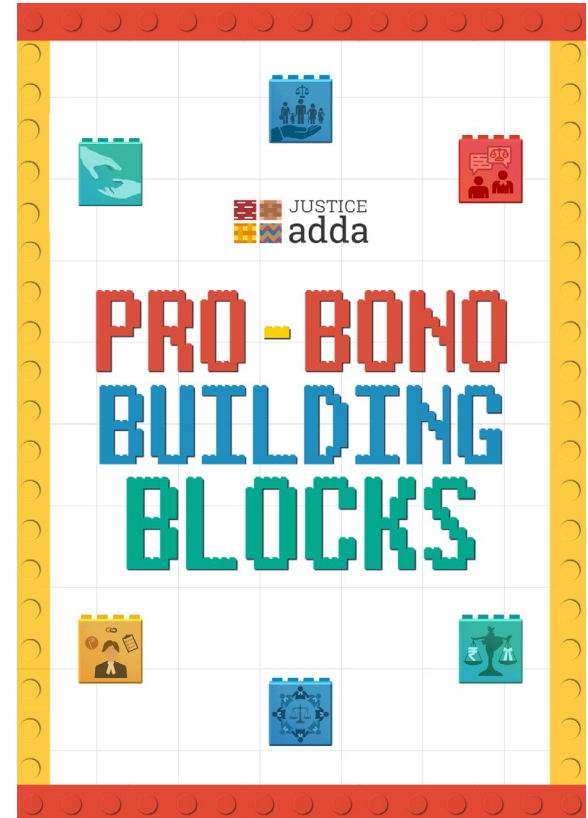
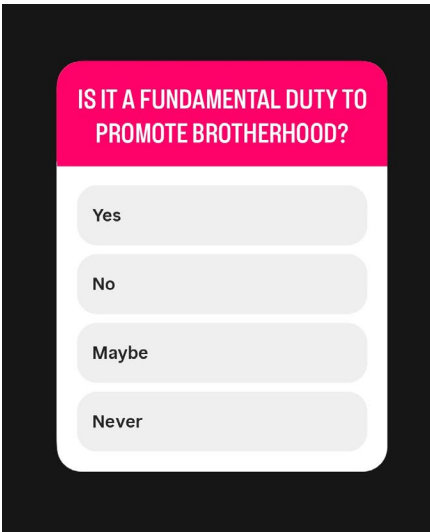
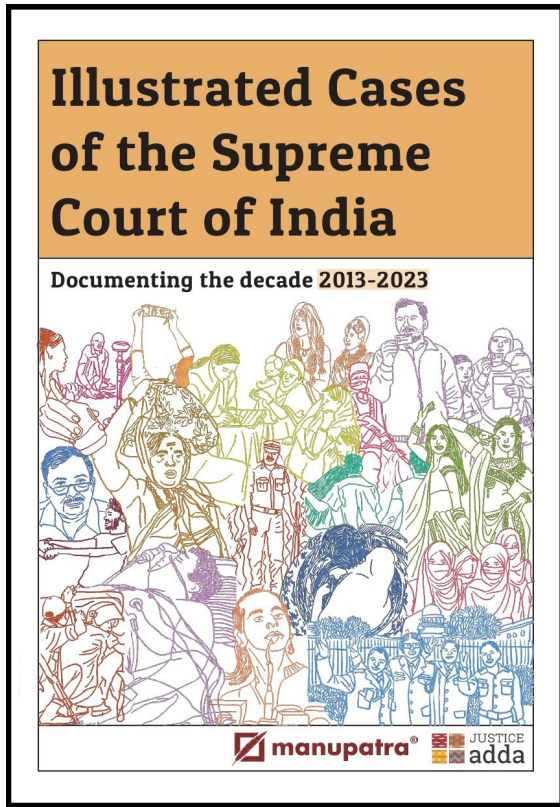
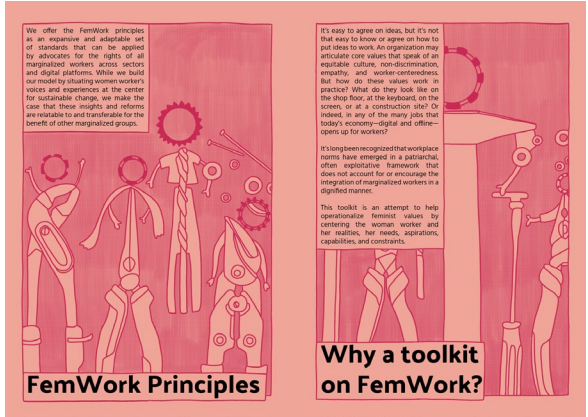
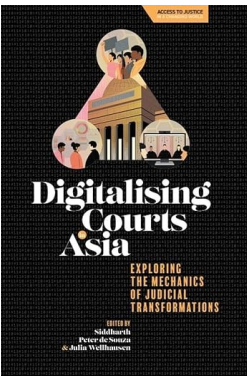
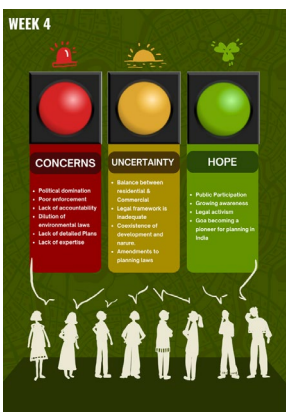
Our Collaborators



Snapshot



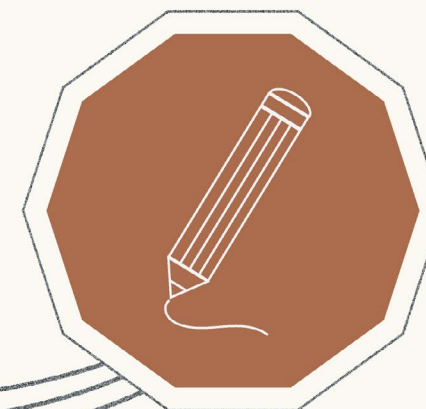
Value in Failure Canvas (Prototype)					
Understanding Customer Needs Have you tried to understand your customer's needs? Have you tried to understand your customer's needs? Have you tried to understand your customer's needs?	Challenges in Communicating Value Have you tried to understand your customer's needs? Have you tried to understand your customer's needs? Have you tried to understand your customer's needs?	Solutions That Didn't Solve the Problem Have you tried to understand your customer's needs? Have you tried to understand your customer's needs? Have you tried to understand your customer's needs?	Identifying unsuccessful partnerships Have you tried to understand your customer's needs? Have you tried to understand your customer's needs? Have you tried to understand your customer's needs?	Impossible funding and funders Have you tried to understand your customer's needs? Have you tried to understand your customer's needs? Have you tried to understand your customer's needs?	
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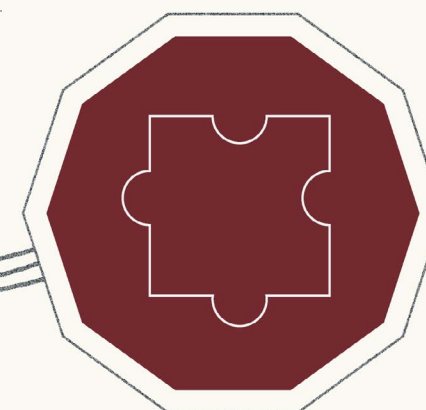


We have focused on diverse strategies to drive meaningful impact. From developing engaging content and interactive tools to strengthening community collaborations and fostering ecosystem-wide change, our projects this year reflect a commitment to innovation, inclusivity, and practical action.

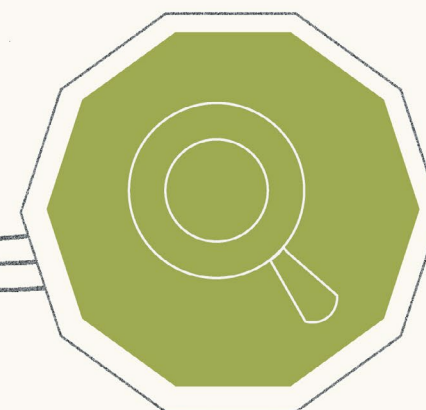
Illustrated and Plain Language Law



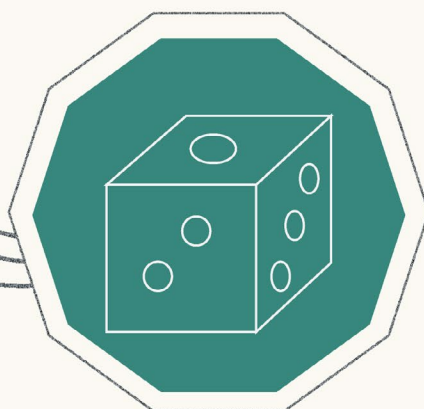
Workshops & Training (Adda School)



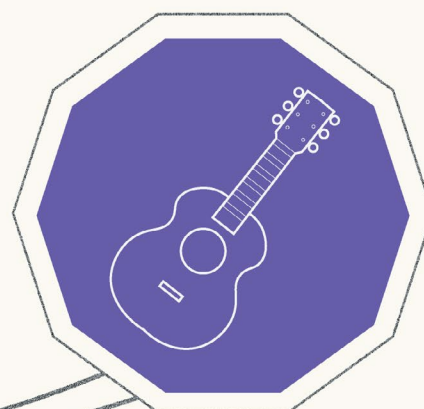
Action Research



Games (Adda Play)



Music and Theatre (Anthems for Justice)



Workshops & Training - Adda School

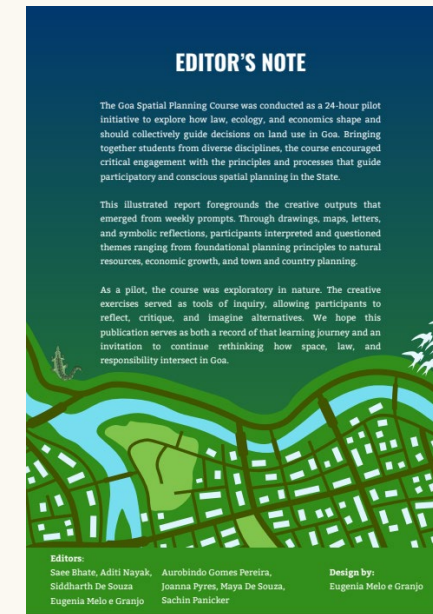
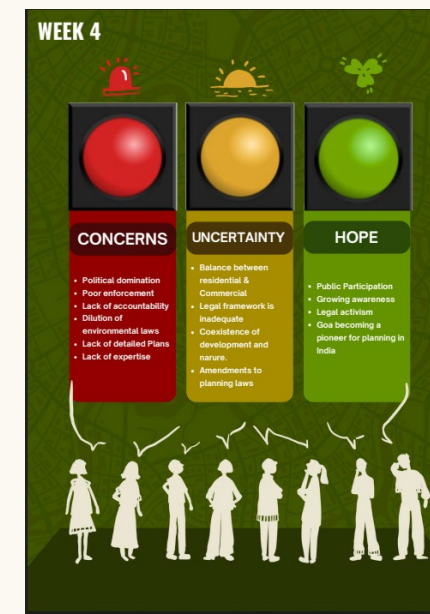
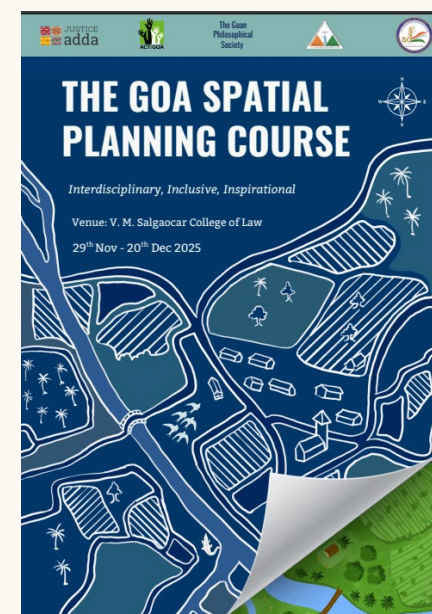
The Adda School conducts all our workshops and training programs, which are co-created with the participants and partner organisations. They are designed to break down complex concepts using hands-on activities, role-playing exercises and real-world scenarios. Creating dynamic & participatory learning spaces, the programs allow participants to practice and reflect on their learning, which sparks their curiosity to explore further.

Through these programs, we seek to enable participants/communities to see themselves in the law. We also co-design community-specific interventions (including content, research, visuals and tools) and support capacity building of our partners to strengthen last-mile access to justice.

Goa Spatial Planning Course

This programme was conducted in November and December 2025 at V. M. Salgaocar College of Law, in collaboration with the Goan Philosophical Society and Act for Goa. The course brought together students, researchers, and practitioners to explore spatial issues from an interdisciplinary lens. Justice Adda co-developed the programme, which included discussions, lectures, and creative exercises to encourage participants to reflect on how planning processes shape everyday spaces and lived experiences. To document the proceedings, sessions and key takeaways, along with the participants' questions and reflections, an [illustrated report](#) was developed by Justice Adda.

The initiative builds on our earlier efforts, especially our design thinking workshops, [Climate Justice Lexicon](#) and [Law and Everyday Life](#) toolkit. In particular, we aimed to break down complex concepts in the context of spatial planning that connect law, policy, and lived realities, including access to land, environmental protection and equitable development. The collaboration brought diverse perspectives into the room, given Act for Goa's work in environmental governance and civic engagement, the Goan Philosophical Society's focus on fostering critical public dialogue and Justice Adda's rights-based approach. Participant feedback highlighted that the workshop gave them an opportunity to think both critically and creatively. The programme also sparked ongoing discussions on making planning processes more inclusive and grounded.

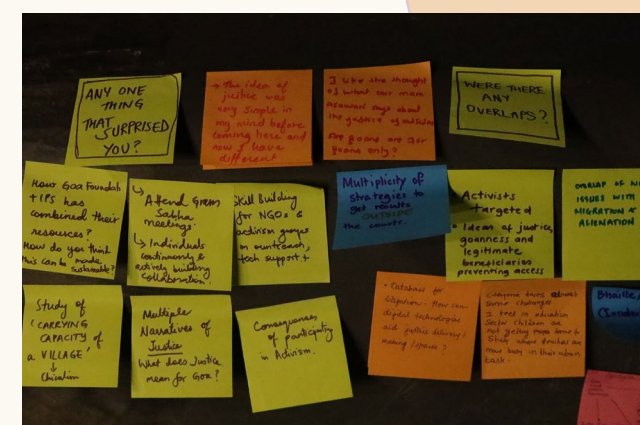
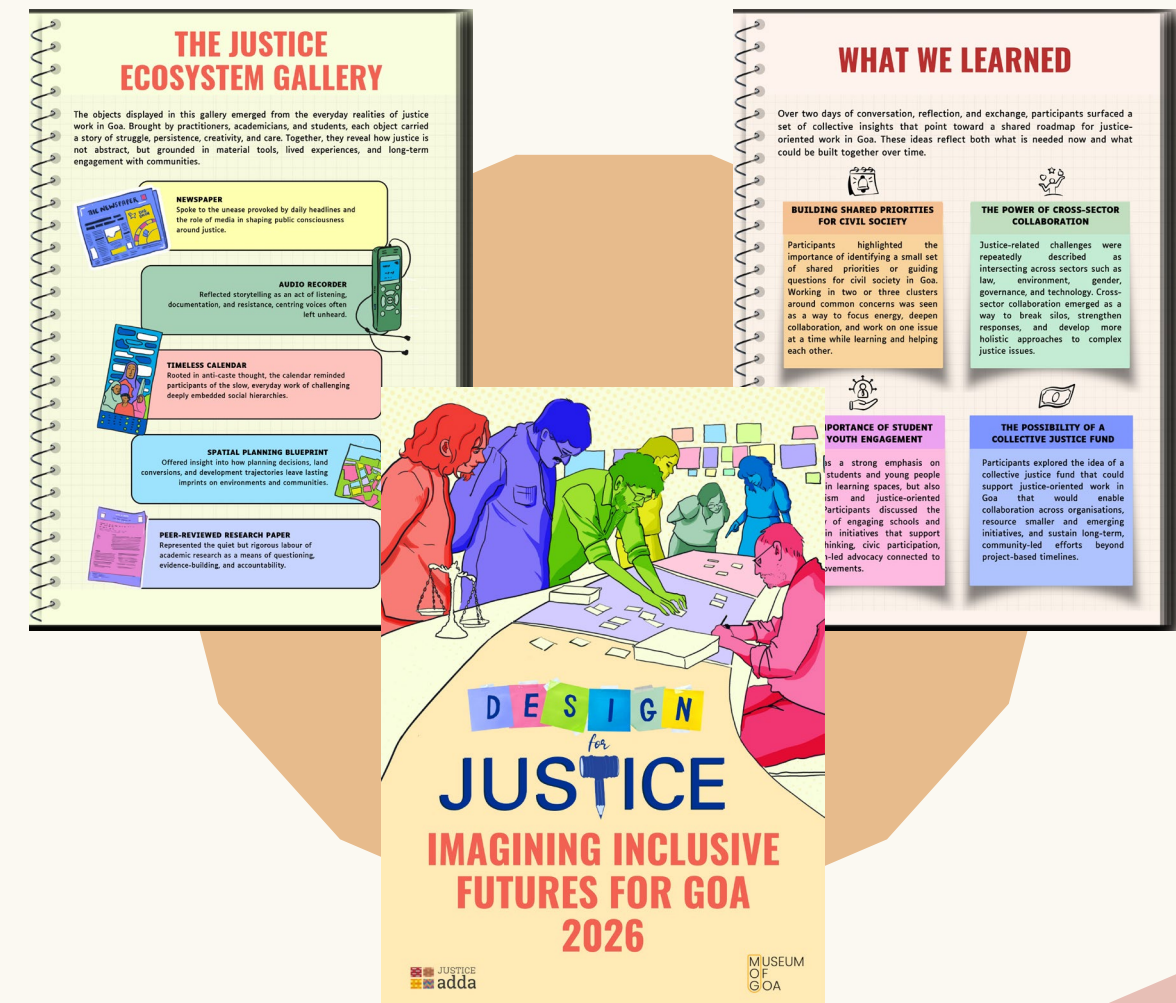


Design for Justice conference: Imagining Inclusive Futures for Goa

Justice Adda, in collaboration with the Museum of Goa (MOG), organised a Design for Justice conference focusing on Imagining Inclusive Futures for Goa. This was a full-day in-person event held on January 3, 2026, where CSOs, activists, practitioners, and students collectively mapped justice concerns and articulated what a just, inclusive, and accountable Goa could look like in 2035. It was followed by a half-day session on the next day, open to the public as part of MOG Sundays, creating space for people to observe and engage with the work and discussions that emerged from Day 1.

To document the conference, including the collaborative possibilities the participants put together, an [illustrated report](#) was developed by Justice Adda.

Design for Justice aims to bring people together to think through people-centred approaches to justice in Goa, through conversation, reflection, collaborative prototyping, and imagining. This conference builds on our first Design for Justice Conference, 2023, a shared space to explore how justice is encountered in everyday life and how justice spaces, justice makers, and justice users might be reimaged through a design-led inquiry



Mapping Court Data Governance Standards

Justice Adda and Daksh, as part of the Judicial Data Collaborative, moderated a participatory working session in January 2026 on Mapping Court Data Governance Standards, at the Daksh office in Bengaluru. The session brought together organisations from across the judicial data ecosystem, including TrustBridge, India Justice Report, Vidhi Centre for Legal Research, Indian Kanoon, Enfold India, Staram, and others. Discussions explored the evolving meaning of “judicial data” in relation to legal data, the growing role of private actors in court data systems, and the urgent need for shared standards around reliability, accessibility, security, and public accountability.

This session builds on our earlier rights-based research on [use of AI by the judiciary](#), [the legal tech market](#) and [court data governance](#). The session was conducted as part of our focus on building ecosystems relating to access to justice, particularly, given the possible risks of AI use vis-à-vis the rights of the vulnerable and marginalised. Using our participatory approaches, this session aimed to brainstorm on various questions and parameters critical for judicial data governance, using the collective working knowledge and experience of organisations working across the judicial data ecosystem. The session paved the way for participating organisations to collaboratively work on detailed action points on an ongoing basis.



Co-imagining Just Futures with AI

In December 2025, we conducted the workshop “Co-imagining Just Futures with AI” at Kanoria School of Law for Women, Jaipur. Designed around our [CIVIC AI module](#), the session invited law students to critically reflect on the role of AI in shaping more inclusive and equitable AI futures. Through discussions and creative exercises (including drawings, stories and zines), participants explored how AI intersects with issues of justice, rights, and access across everyday spaces such as governance, public services, and education. The conversations encouraged participants to view AI as a system that could be shaped by values of accountability and inclusion.

This workshop was organised to both build awareness about the potential implications and risks of AI and also to build a sense of agency among students, where they view themselves as active participants in civic life who play a role in designing how AI is governed (in contrast with being mere consumers of AI).



Value in Failure workshop

In August 2025, Justice Adda, in collaboration with the Indian LegalTech Network (ILTN), facilitated a session on the Value in Failure Canvas as part of the “Public Tech for Public Good” programme by the Socrates Foundation for Collective Wisdom. The session brought together an interdisciplinary group of students and young professionals. The workshop opened up conversations around failure, a topic often left unspoken in public-facing work. Participants reflected on their own experiences and explored how setbacks can shape better decisions and stronger ideas.

This workshop builds on a similar workshop conducted earlier for entrepreneurs in the legal-tech space. In particular, it was organised to explore the potential of the very setbacks which we have been trained to bury, in becoming the foundation for deeper learning, stronger connections, and better, resilient and impactful solutions. Using the [Value in Failure Canvas](#), participants unpacked real challenges such as misreading user needs, reaching the wrong audience, and navigating partnerships and funding. The exercise encouraged collective learning by creating a supportive space for honest sharing

Value in Failure Canvas (Prototype)

Misunderstanding Customer Needs Think back to a time when you realized you didn't fully understand what your customer truly needed. What assumptions did you make? How did you discover the misunderstanding, and what impact did it have on your project or business?	Challenges in Communicating Value Share a situation where you struggled to convey the unique value of your offering, leading to customer confusion or lack of interest. What feedback did you receive, and how did you adjust your communication strategy afterward?	Solutions That Didn't Solve the Problem Think of a time when the solution you provided didn't effectively solve the customer's problem. What signs indicated the misalignment, and how did you respond to fix the situation? What insights did you gain from this experience?	Identifying unsuccessful partnerships Reflect on a partnership that did not work. Why did it break down? What helped you identify the issue? What did you do to address it?	Impossible funding and funders Can you think of a significant funding opportunity that did not work out? What made it unsuccessful? Why was it significant? What did you think you could have done differently, if anything? Did this change your plans on scaling? How did you build sustainable operations?
Targeting the Wrong Audience Can you recall an instance where you aimed your product or service at the wrong audience? How did you come to recognize this mismatch, and what steps did you take to address it? What lessons did you learn from the experience?				
Difficulties in teams Think of an instance where you were growing/ building your team and you encountered a difficulty. What was the difficulty? What made it difficult? How did you identify it, and what did you do to resolve it? How did you bring together different disciplinary expertise?		Clashes in values Was there a moment when you had a values mismatch with your core team? What was it about? What made it critical? Did you get past it? If yes, how did you do it? If not, what stopped you?		

Authors: Shreya Vajpei, Nimrat Kaur Dhillon, & Siddharth de Souza
Designer: Rachit Sharma

JUSTICE adda

Indian LegalTech Network

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Illustrated and Plain Language Law

Owing to technical terms and complex sentence structures, the law often fails to communicate what it truly means in practice, even if translated into regional languages. Despite being available in simplified language, the real-world implications and relevance of laws to lived experiences often remain unclear. At Justice Adda, we recognise the transformative power of storytelling in bridging this gap. We make laws more comprehensible using plain language and also translate laws, procedures, and judgments into accessible, engaging, and contextually grounded visuals that resonate with diverse audiences including those without any formal education. Visuals provide a powerful entry point to restore agency and to introduce complex legal frameworks gradually.

Union Budget Series

This series comprises infographics created in collaboration with Maadhyam. It is an effort to unpack one of the most significant yet often inaccessible policy processes- the Union Budget, by presenting it in a way that is connected to everyday realities. The series breaks down how the budget is conceptualised, debated, and finally authorised, while also tracing what these allocations mean on the ground for access to justice - making laws accessible, strengthening legal aid, and ensuring meaningful consultation in law-making.

The budget often remains difficult to engage with for most people, those outside policy or finance spaces. This series aims to bridge that gap by helping people better understand how public resources are distributed and how these decisions have far-reaching implications for access to rights, services, and opportunities. It also seeks to explore how deeply the budget reflects India's commitment to building better access to justice for everyone.



What is the Economic Survey?

The **Economic Survey**, compiled by the **Economic Division of the Department of Economic Affairs** and (since 1964) released before the Union Budget, provides an overview of the nation's economic condition.

It highlights past trends and key challenges such as inflation, unemployment, and fiscal deficits, helping the government make data-driven decisions. It also serves as a crucial policy document guiding economic planning and reforms.



Justice Adda Maadhyam

The Report noted that the Legislative Department received **55% less money** allocations than requested.

Then, it noted that a major portion of the funds allocated to the Legislative Department were actually for the purpose of procuring EVMs for the 2024 Lok Sabha election. On this item, ₹2371 crore was spent in FY 2023-24. With the elections over, allocation for this item has come down to just ₹18.72 crore in this year's budget.

Meanwhile, key divisions like the Legislative Department, Official Languages Wing, and Vidhi Sahitya Prakashan received **1.6%** of the total budget for the Ministry (approx. ₹66.4 crore) in 2023-24. Additionally, the Institute for Legislative Drafting & Research (ILDR) also had a token allocation for land and construction.



Justice Adda Maadhyam

Possible impact of Low Budget Allocations:

- 80% of India's population (approx 110 crore in 2019) is eligible for free legal aid, but only a total of **1.5 crore persons (about 1.08%)** have benefitted during the period 1995-2019, through NALSA's framework (India Justice Report 2019).
- About **70% of prisoners in India are under trials**, with many from marginalized communities often spending more time in jail than the actual punishment prescribed (Report).



Justice Adda Maadhyam

Budgetary constraints of NALSA:

● Budget (in crores)



Year	Budget (in crores)
2018-19	140
2019-20	100
2020-21	145
2021-22	180
2022-23	200
2023-24	400

The **143rd report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Law and Justice ("Report")** published in 2024, highlights budgetary constraints as a major challenge for NALSA, despite its essential role in providing legal aid. It noted that there is a dire need to significantly enhance allocations to NALSA.

Justice Adda Maadhyam

Other suggestions to make public consultation more robust:

- A single dashboard under Law Ministry to collect feedback from citizens on all laws, instead of requiring citizens to check multiple ministry websites. MyGov platform can be adapted for this.
- When a Bill is introduced in Parliament, submit records of all consultations conducted.
- Ensuring transparency in consultation by publishing stakeholder mapping, inputs received, ministry's justification for accepting or rejecting inputs etc.
- Translation of consultation documents into all official languages under the VIII Schedule of the Constitution for greater inclusivity.



Civix Justice Adda Maadhyam

How is the union Budget prepared?

- Ministries prepare budgets**
Each ministry prepares a **Demand for Grants (DoG)** based on past expenditures and Economic Affairs guidelines to request funds from the Finance Ministry for its schemes and plans.
- Proposal review**
Proposals are reviewed, and approved budgets are sent to the **Finance Minister**.

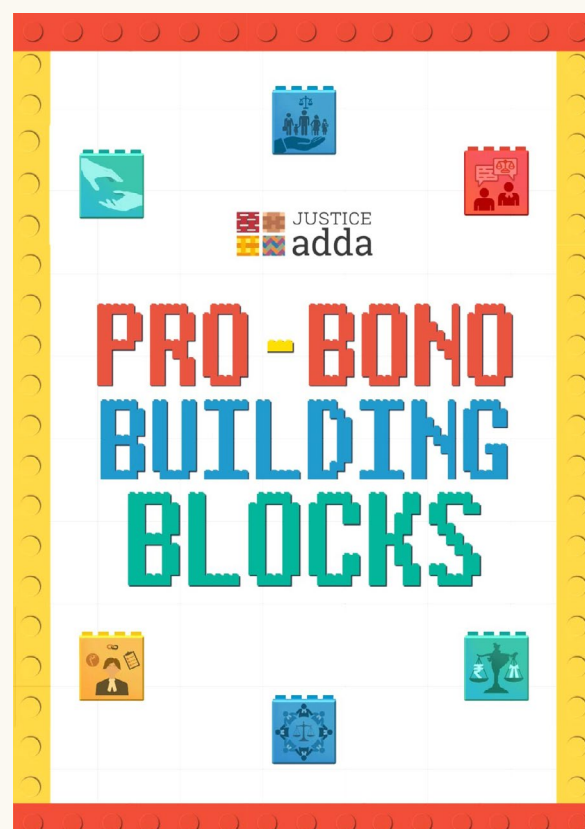


Justice Adda Maadhyam

Pro Bono Building Blocks

This is a comprehensive library of resources that maps the existing landscape, highlights challenges and opportunities, and provides concrete steps for individuals and organisations who wish to engage in or strengthen pro bono work. This resource is organised to take readers on a journey through the ‘why’ (motivations and incentives), the ‘where’ (areas of growth and gaps), and the ‘how’ of pro bono work in India (strategies to leverage technology for funding and building a pro bono culture). It also deals with policy and system design themes, like the need for a structured framework.

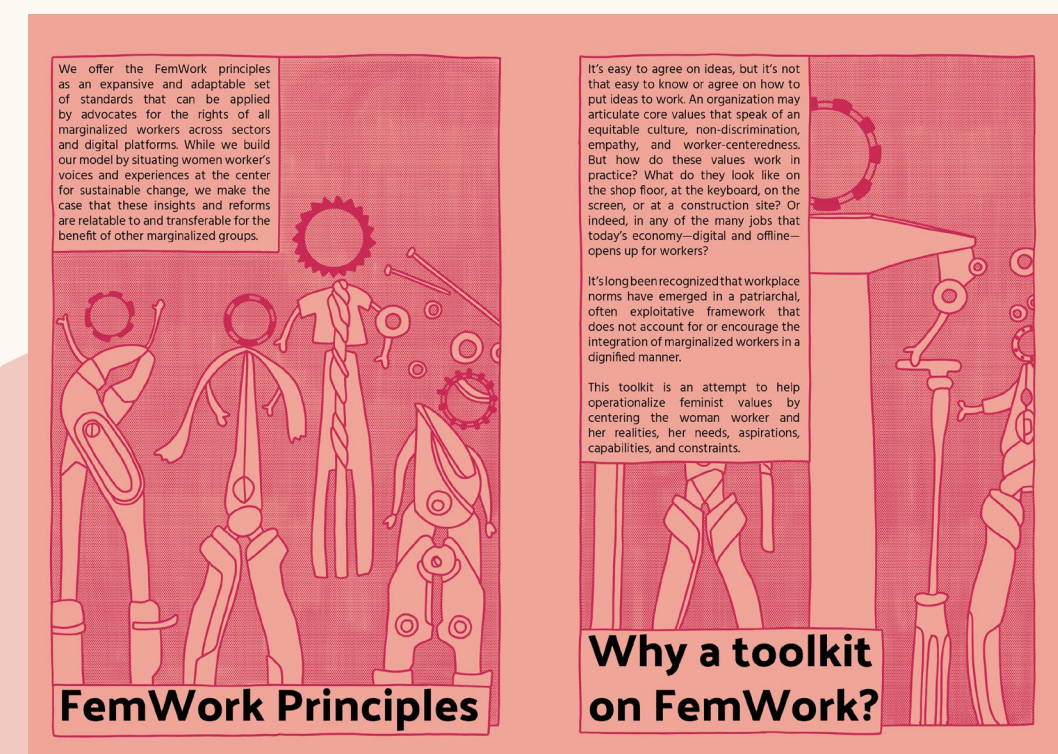
In India, efforts across the pro bono ecosystem remain fragmented, often lacking visibility, structure, and sustained support. There is a growing need for tools and frameworks that help lawyers, law firms, civil society organisations, and institutions strengthen their pro bono practices and make them more impactful, sustainable and inclusive. Developed in response to this need, this resource aims to spark meaningful discussions and inspire collaborations and innovative solutions that help reduce the access to justice gap in India.



Femwork toolkit

The FemWork Toolkit, developed by Justice Adda in collaboration with the FemLab Co researcher-activist cooperative, is a comprehensive resource that brings together feminist insights, frameworks, and practical tools to reimagine the future of work across informal sectors, digital platforms, and institutional settings. It centers the lived experiences of women and other marginalised workers to support workers, organisations, and policymakers in building more just, inclusive, and sustainable work ecosystems, while also fostering dialogue, collaboration, and systemic change toward a more equitable “world-work order.”

This project is part of our work with the [Feminist Approaches to Labour Collectives](#) (which focused on the voices of women gig workers), using storytelling and design approaches for building actionable toolkits. Existing frameworks on fair work have opened important conversations on structural inequalities, but they often fail to fully account for gendered realities. This toolkit seeks to bridge that gap by foregrounding dignity, equity, and worker agency as central to all forms of work and by building a case for rethinking work beyond economic value.



Illustrated Cases of the Supreme Court of India

This is an illustrated e-book, created in collaboration with Manupatra, bringing together 50 landmark judgments of the Supreme Court of India from 2013 to 2023. From questions dealing with free speech to privacy, equality to dignity, the book makes complex judgments engaging and accessible for students, citizens, and researchers alike and helps readers discover how the Court's decisions have impacted everyday public life and the way we experience our democracy.

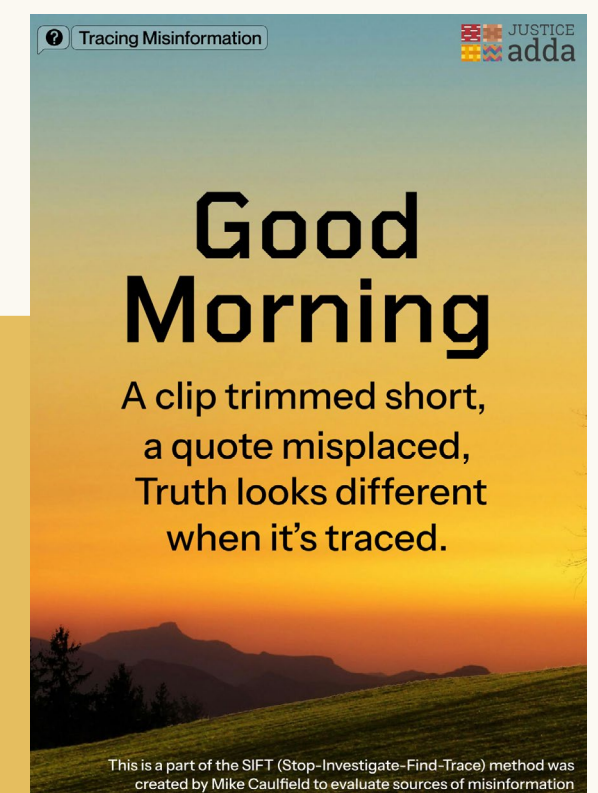
The project builds on our earlier [illustrated compilation published in 2018 with Manupatra](#), and adopts a new look and design to account for feedback on the earlier project.



Good Morning Campaign

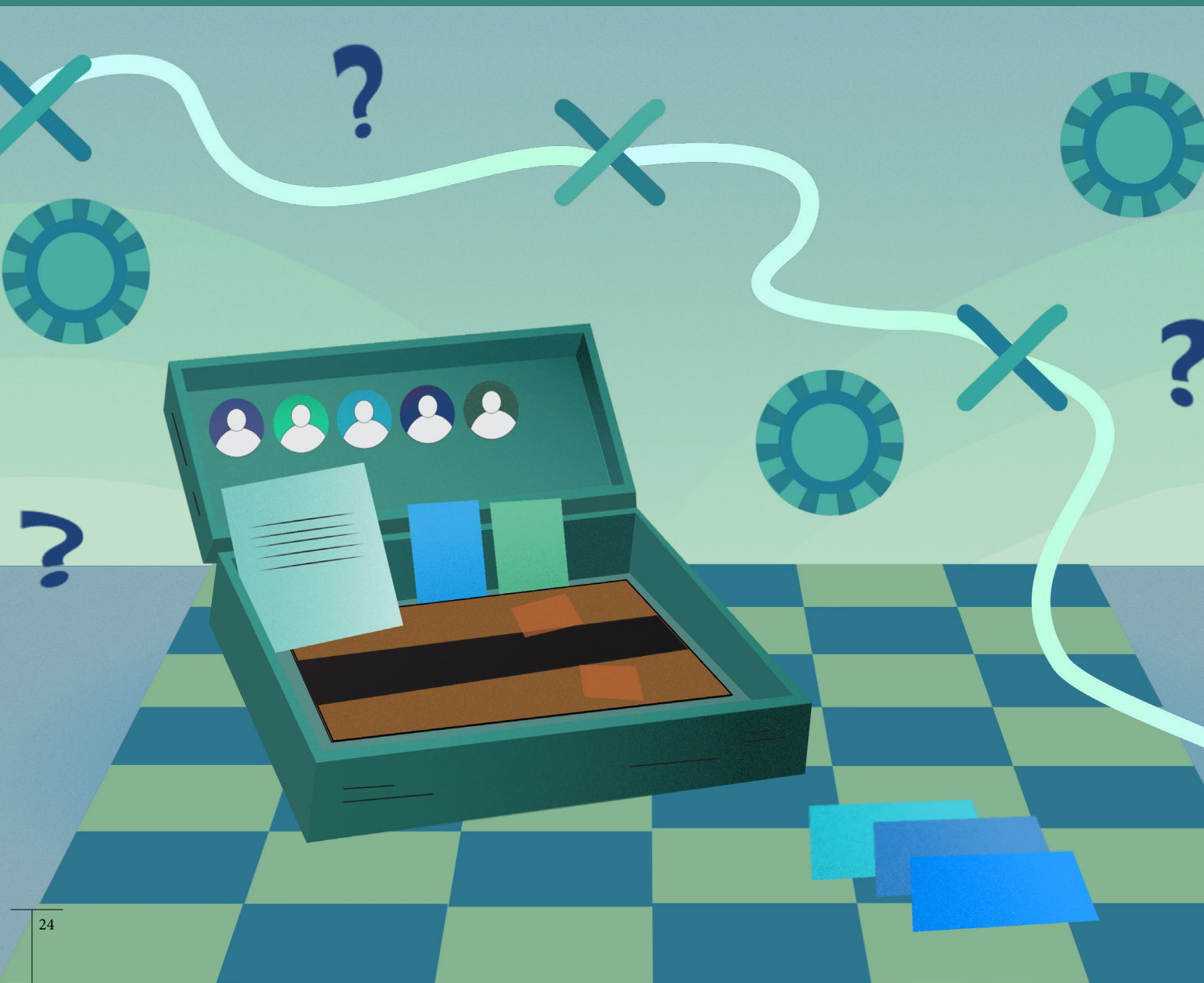
This is a resource to support elderly persons (60+) in tackling misinformation - by building awareness, confidence, and easy habits to stop the spread of fake news in families and communities. This resource includes a series of weekly posters (WhatsApp messages) that encourage reflection and conversation within existing WhatsApp groups. This resource is intended to slowly and gradually build the practice of being vigilant and identifying misinformation, which will become more critical with upcoming laws which propose punishments for spreading misinformation digitally.

Recognising that building awareness on misinformation is an important precursor to introducing the concept of digital rights, this initiative is part of our efforts to strengthen access to justice, which includes digital rights. Studies indicate that senior citizens have low digital literacy and are more vulnerable to both believing and sharing misinformation. The campaign has been designed to be non-judgmental and uses a familiar medium - the “good morning” message - based on specific insights into how WhatsApp messages circulate among senior citizens, who often rely on WhatsApp as their primary digital space.



Games - Adda Play

At Justice Adda, we believe that for justice to be lived and felt, it must transcend the boundaries of courtrooms and textbooks. Adda Play is our dedicated space where law meets imagination. By remixing legal design with institutional knowledge, we tackle big questions about democracy and rights through the universal language of play. We lean into games because they build empathy, spark curiosity, and transform complex systems into accessible, collaborative experiences.



Understanding and engaging with Child Rights

Justice Adda conducted an interactive Scavenger Hunt centred on children's rights at the *JusticeMakers' Mela* in Jaipur, in December 2025. This was open to all participants at the event. It touched upon key themes such as identity, education, and protection, highlighting how the law shapes these fundamental aspects of a child's life. Through a series of riddles and clues rooted in legal concepts, participants progressed through the game by interpreting and engaging with ideas of child rights in real time.

We are working on developing an activity-based Children's Rights Manual and this game was conducted reflecting the same spirit. By gamifying legal literacy, the game encouraged participants to think from a child's perspective and prompted meaningful conversations around the extent of awareness they (i.e., the participants) had as children, what could have been different if they had such exposure at a younger age, whether they consider such awareness important, the levels of awareness they see among children they know of, how awareness can be introduced in ways that are accessible, engaging, and age-appropriate, etc.



Sabha: Game sessions conducted across India

[Sabha](#) is a multiplayer board game simulating the Indian Parliament, developed by Justice Adda in collaboration with the Hanns Seidel Foundation. Over the past year, Sabha travelled across India - from law students at the National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Bengaluru to design students at Srishti Institute of Art, Design and Technology, Bengaluru and even younger learners at Pebble Creek Life School, Hyderabad. We also had Sabha sessions in New Delhi at the Samvidhan Mohotsav organised by COHAS and at the Rising Leaders Programme by the India office of Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung.

Designed as a free, open-access board game and available in English, Hindi, and Kannada, Sabha allows students, educators, or curious citizens to download, set up, and play in their own spaces. During the game sessions conducted, participants drafted Bills they intended to introduce and practised strategic thinking and negotiation to deal with parliamentary challenges. This year, for the first time, Justice Adda experimented with hosting the game for school students, and we were delighted to see their enthusiastic participation and their curiosity to understand the various parliamentary procedures involved.



Music and Theatre - Anthems for Justice

Our 'Anthems for Justice' (AfJ) initiative uses theatre, music and art as tools for raising awareness, inspiring action and to make justice and the law more accessible to citizens.

Through this initiative, we also explore various perspectives on the relationship between theatre/music and justice (through blogs series) and initiatives which aim to build awareness on legal issues faced by artists (relating to intellectual property rights, contracts, etc).

Building legal literacy for rural and tribal women in Madhya Pradesh - Coming Soon

Justice Adda is currently co-creating multiple projects revolving around gender justice with Transform Rural India Foundation, a grassroots organisation which works with women in various rural and tribal belts of Madhya Pradesh and other states.

Most of the community women have very low literacy and have been subjected to patriarchal discrimination and gender-based violence and have internalised guilt, since these have become socially and culturally accepted norms over the years. Given the need for a very gradual and comprehensible introduction to the legal framework for securing gender justice, this collaboration includes designing workshops, simplified theme-based legal explainers, posters, games and facilitating the community women to compose songs, organise theatre performances and create an audio storytelling library. The project is ongoing and is expected to be completed in 2026.



Action Research

Our action research focuses on emerging and urgent legal issues digitisation such as digitisation of courts, the ad hoc and fragmented state of the pro bono ecosystem in India, lack of awareness about AI-related concerns, etc. We aim to inform policy, strengthen grassroots advocacy, and foster legal innovations that are contextually grounded and systemically informed, by drawing from data, field insights (including community voices and lived realities), and case studies, and by adopting an interdisciplinary approach.

Our action research initiatives also focus on conceptualising research-based interventions for communities. We co-create such interventions with the community members and / or relevant stakeholders.



Blog Symposium - Building the Pro Bono Ecosystem in India

Justice Adda is hosting a Blog Symposium to explore how the pro bono ecosystem in India can be made more structured. About 80% of India's population (approx 110 crore in 2019) is eligible for free legal aid, but only a total of 1.5 crore persons (about 1%) have benefited during the period 1995-2019 through LSAs (India Justice Report 2019). In the contributions received so far, authors have reflected on the [need for demarcating the scope of legal aid in India](#), [the problems associated with pro bono litigation in demolition matters](#) and [enabling law and legal aid beyond law schools](#).

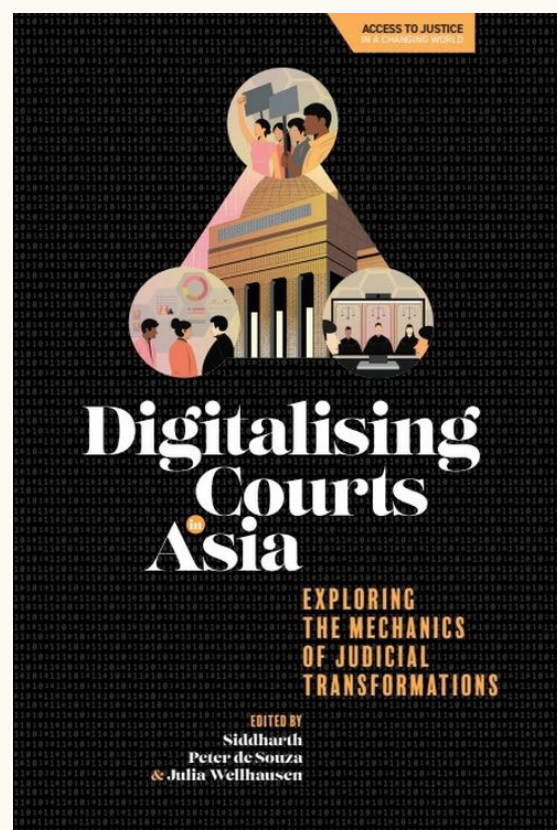
Building on our work on understanding the legal aid ecosystem in India, the blog symposium seeks to address the access to justice gap by exploring structures, tools and processes that are collaborative and empowering for those in need of legal aid, those providing such services and those who support or facilitate the ecosystem, like law school clinics. This symposium, which is open to legal aid clinics, law faculty and students, legal professionals, pro bono lawyers, and development sector organisations working on justice issues, aims to bring out success stories, challenges and suggestions for building a more inclusive and responsive pro bono ecosystem.



Digitalising Courts in Asia: Exploring the Mechanics of Judicial Transformations

This is a [book](#) published by Edinburgh University Press. The book, based on in-depth case studies, was the result of a project organised with support from the KAS Rule of Law Programme Asia

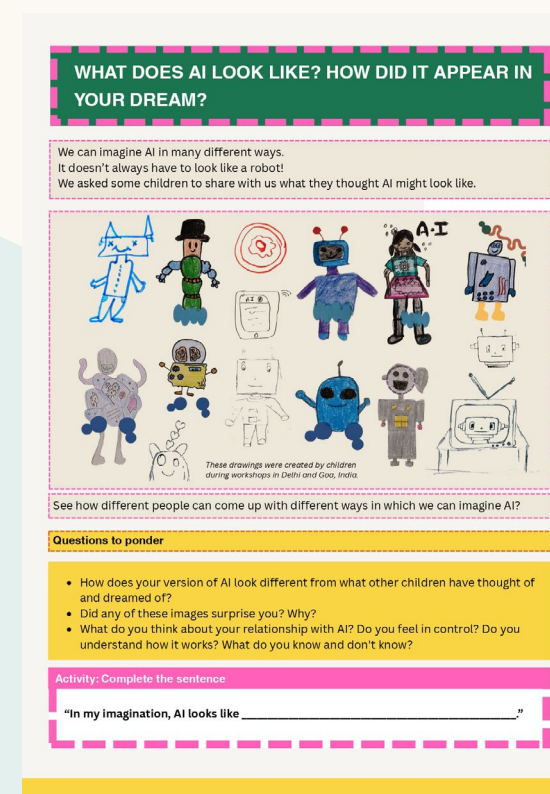
This book highlights the opportunities and challenges courts face as they adopt new technologies, along with critical reflections and practical pathways. It examines how judiciaries across Asia are navigating the shift toward digital transformation through case studies. The book is published by Edinburgh University Press and is the result of a project organised with support from the KAS Rule of Law Programme Asia. Members of our team co-edited the book, contributed to co-authored chapters, and the cover design.



Building AI Literacy among school students

Justice Adda, in collaboration with the India Office of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS), is currently working on a project which focuses on building literacy around AI for students in the age group of 10-18 years in India. Toolkits and gamified pedagogical strategies, co-created as part of this project, aims to support teachers and educators who may not be experts on AI, but are engaging with AI in their classrooms. It also aims to support families and communities who are negotiating with AI. A webinar conversation was also convened in February 2026, with a focus on participatory and co-design approaches in making AI literacy more meaningful and empowering.

This project was developed recognising the need to demystify the ‘magic’ and ‘allure’ of AI, by exploring the financial, economic, social, as well as political drivers behind AI, the impact of AI on people and the planet (especially when deployed in public services, education, judicial systems), and the kind of futures AI is building. Adopting co-design approaches, this project was developed by learners, for learners. These resources will be developed and published on a publicly accessible website.



JA Team



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