



GOA UNIVERSITY
**MANOHAR PARRIKAR SCHOOL OF LAW,
GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC POLICY**

IN COLLABORATION WITH
GOA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

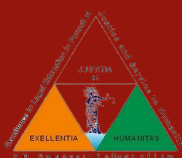
PRESENTS

PARRIKAR NATIONAL MOOT COURT & POLICY HACKATHON, 2024



11 - 12 JANUARY 2024
Block G, Goa University, Taleigao Plateau
Goa-India

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



D.D. KOSAMBI SCHOOL
of Social Sciences and
Behavioural Studies



Law Teachers India
Raising the Bar & Bench



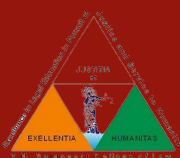


ABOUT GOA UNIVERSITY

Goa University, established by the Goa University Act of 1984 (Act No. 7 of 1984), commenced its operations on June 1, 1985. Its origins trace back to the Centre of Post-Graduate Instruction and Research (CPIR), established by the University of Bombay (now Mumbai) in June 1962 after the liberation of Goa by India in December 1961.

Since its inception, Goa University has been at the forefront of providing graduate and post-graduate studies and research programs. In the QS University rankings for the year 2022, Goa University secured a notable position, ranking between 61-65 among Indian Universities. Additionally, in the QS World University Rankings for 'QS Asia University Rankings 2022,' Goa University stands among the group of 501-550 universities globally.

The university boasts a diverse range of faculties, actively engages in ongoing innovation initiatives with an evolving innovations park and spearheads various developmental projects aimed at contributing to and promoting societal progress. It is a knowledge hub for national as well as international students with excellent hostel and mess facility.



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ABOUT THE SCHOOL

The Manohar Parrikar School of Law, Governance and Public Policy encompasses the disciplines of Law, Public Administration, Women's Studies, Social Work, Tribal Studies and Disability Studies. The programmes aim to develop the research capacities in students to engage academically and practically with social realities. The pedagogy includes extension activities, hands-on training, research, documentation, advocacy and legal aid while networking with organisations committed to social empowerment in the state, national and international arenas. The LL.M. Programme provides two specialisations - Human Rights and ADR and aims to create a scholarship at the national and international levels. The MA in Public Administration programme seeks to empower the youth in policy-making and leadership with a focus on public policy.

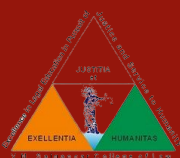
MANOHAR PARRIKAR

Manohar Parrikar was not just Chief Minister of Goa and Defence Minister of India, but a symbol of hope, integrity, and dedication.

Manohar Parrikar's down-to-earth nature and accessibility endeared him to the people of Goa. His legacy in Goa is marked by progress. He worked relentlessly to improve our state's infrastructure, healthcare, and education. His emphasis on good governance and transparency set a high bar for all future leaders.



The school of Law, Governance and Public Policy is named after Manohar Parrikar as a tribute to his legacy and the values he cherished. This event is a reminder of his commitment to education, an amalgamation of human rights, social justice, policy intervention and technology.



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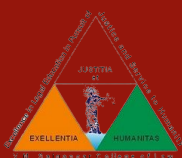


ABOUT GOA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

The Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, provides for the constitution of National Human Rights Commission, at the National level and State Human Rights Commissions at the State level for better protection of human rights and matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The Goa Human Rights Commission was constituted on 04/03/2011 to exercise the powers conferred upon and to perform functions assigned to the State Commissions under Chapter V of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993. It is a statutory autonomous body intended to help and ensure that the public functionaries do not violate human rights. The establishment of State Human Rights Commission has fulfilled the aspirations of the people of Goa, who now, have an easy access to justice to ventilate their grievances against the public servants in the matter of violation of human rights.

The Government of Goa, has appointed Shri Desmond D'Costa, Retired Principal District and Sessions Court Judge of the State of Goa as Member and has authorized him to act as Chairperson and Shri Pramod V. Kamat, former District and Additional Sessions Judge and former Law Secretary of the State of Goa, as Member of the Commission, with the objective to fulfill the mandate assigned in the Act, and Goa Human Rights Commission (Procedure) Regulations, 2011.





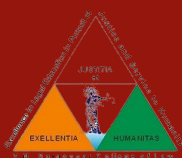
ABOUT THE EVENT

The "Parrikar National Moot Court & Policy Hackathon, 2024" is a tribute to the illustrious statesman and former Chief Minister of Goa, Manohar Parrikar. This event embodies the spirit of innovation, legal and policy insight, and the enduring commitment to justice that Parrikar exemplified throughout his life.

The PNMCPH 2024 is an intersection of two events-

- The **Moot Court Competition** honors Manohar Parrikar's solid academic foundation and commitment to the legal field. It emphasises the power of legal reform in addressing contemporary legal challenges and promoting access to justice.
- The **Policy Hackathon** is a dynamic platform encouraging policy enthusiasts and solution-oriented minds to brainstorm and create innovative legal solutions. The event aims to promote policy innovation while upholding the principles of inclusivity, transparency, and good governance that Parrikar championed.

This competition is more than an academic endeavour; it celebrates Parrikar's enduring impact and is a testament to the connection between education, innovation, and justice. By bringing together some of the brightest legal minds, this event promises to contribute to the evolution of the legal field in India.



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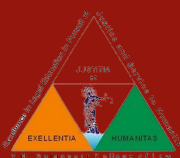


DEFINITIONS

Short Title: This event shall be called the "Parrikar National Moot Court & Policy Hackathon, 2024".

Unless otherwise stated, the following shall be construed herein;

- **Competition:** It shall refer to the Moot Court.
- **Hackathon:** It shall refer to the Policy Hackathon.
- **Organising Committee:** It shall mean the core committee of Goa University and Goa Human Rights Commission.
- **Participating Team:** It means the team registered as per the registration rules.
- **Support partners:** It shall refer to institutions and organisations aiding in the conduct of the event.
- **Court Marshall:** The officer of the Court entrusted with the duties of smooth functioning of the Courtrooms.
- **Memorial Examination Committee (MEC):** shall evaluate the memorials.
- **Policy Hackathon Review Committee (PHRC):** shall evaluate the submitted policy roundtable and briefs.
- **Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC):** Certain issues can be referred to DRC. The decision of the DRC shall be final.





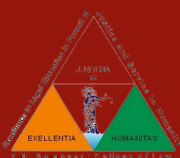
RULES OF THE MOOT COURT

GENERAL RULES

- **Date:** The Competition shall be organized from 11 - 12 January 2024 at Block G, Goa University.
- **Dress Code:** Participants must follow the prescribed courtroom attire, with ladies wearing white salwar/kurta or white shirt with black pants/skirt, a black coat, and black shoes, and gentlemen wearing a white shirt, black trousers, black tie, a black coat, and black shoes when in the courtroom during the competition. Kindly adhere to the dress code while attending the inaugural and the valedictory ceremonies.
- **Language:** The language of the Competition shall be English.
- **Code of Conduct:** Upon registration, each team will receive a unique team code. **Teams must not reveal their identity, institution, or location;** any such disclosure may result in penalties, including disqualification. Teams to maintain a professional demeanour throughout the competition.

ELIGIBILITY AND TEAM COMPOSITION

- **Eligibility:** The event is open to students enrolled in either a 5-year or 3-year LL.B. program in India, with each institution limited to one team.
- **Team Composition:** The moot court team must consist of three members, including two speakers and one researcher.





REGISTRATION

- The registration fee is ₹6,000/- per team (inclusive of Accommodation during the competition, Food and Transport at contact hours of the competition), and ₹3,000/- without accommodation.
- To register in the competition team have to fill the registration form available at the provided link:

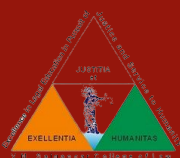
<https://forms.gle/AphqixA3VJTKCQ8d7>



- While filling the registration form, teams have to attach the receipt of payment of registration fees.
- The registration fees have to be paid at **SBI Collect** portal. Visit <https://www.onlinesbi.sbi/sbicollect/> and navigate to the 'Educational Institution' category. Locate and select Goa University, then choose the payment category '**MPNLH (Registration Fees)**'. Fill in your details, proceed with the payment, and don't forget to save the receipt or take a screenshot for submission along with your registration form.
- The teams have to choose a primary contact person. All communications concerning the Competition will be sent by e-mail to the nominated contact person.
- Only 24 teams based on first come first basis shall be allowed to register.

ACCOMMODATION AND TRANSPORT:

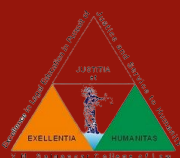
- The team will be provided one room in the premises of Goa University from 10 - 12 January 2024. Extra days of accommodation have to requested in advanced and will be charged extra.
- Transportation from the accommodation to the competition venue for the duration of the competition will be provided by organizers.
- Food and refreshments shall be provided during contact hours.





STRUCTURE OF THE COMPETITION

- **Memorials:** All registered teams must send 6 memorials (i.e., 3 petitioners and 3 respondents). The soft copy has to be submitted to hackathon.mps@unigoa.ac.in by 06 January 2024, and hard copies must reach the organizers by 09 January 2024 at the postal address: To, **The Dean, Block G, Goa University, Taleigao Plateau, Tiswadi taluka, North Goa, Goa 403206**
- The Competition shall be divided into Preliminary rounds and Advanced rounds.
- The organizers will draw up fixtures for the preliminary. The advanced rounds shall be decided based on a drawing of lots.
- **Preliminary Round:** In the preliminary round, each team will present arguments for both sides, and their scores will be the sum of these performances; the top eight teams with the highest combined scores will advance to the quarter-finals.
- **Advanced Rounds:** Quarter-finals, Semi-Finals, and Finals shall be knock-out rounds.
- **Tie-breaker:** The memorial score shall be the tie-breaker in a tie.
- **Scoring criteria** for 20 points each shall be Articulation of Issues, Presentation Abilities and Citation of Authorities, Court Mannerism, Application of Legal Principles and Response to the queries of Court.



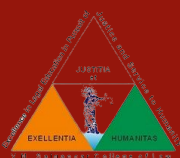


PRELIMINARY ROUNDS

- The matchup of teams shall be determined by a randomiser and communicated a day prior.
- Each team will get 20 minutes to present their case. A total of 5 minutes can be reserved for Rebuttal, subject to the discretion of Judges. These 5 Minutes are exclusive of the 20 minutes given to each team. The timing can be divided between both the speakers according to the wish of the team subject to a maximum of 12 minutes and a minimum of 8 minutes per speaker. Each team shall argue from both sides in the Preliminary Rounds. Only 1 speaker from each team shall be permitted to rebut/sur-rebut.
- Each team will argue once as petitioner and respondent in the Preliminary rounds.
- The 8 teams with the highest combined scores will advance to the quarter-finals.

QUARTERFINAL ROUNDS

- The team shall argue only once in the Quarter-finals. The side on behalf of which the team shall argue for the quarter-finals shall be decided by a draw of lots before the Quarter Final Round.
- The quarter-finals shall be a knock-out round.
- Each team is allotted 20 minutes to present their oral arguments. The timing can be divided between both the speakers according to the wish of the team, subject to a maximum of 12 minutes and a minimum of 08 minutes per speaker. A maximum of 5 minutes may be reserved per team for rebuttal and sur-rebuttal, which shall be at the judges' discretion and exclusive of the above time limits. The allotment of extra time shall be at the discretion of the judges.



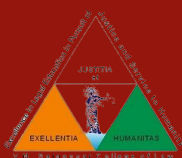


SEMI-FINALS ROUND

- Four qualifying teams shall compete in the Semifinals, which shall also be knock-out rounds.
- Each Team shall argue only one side in the semi-finals, the side shall be decided by a draw of lots.
- Each team shall be allotted 30 minutes to present their oral arguments. The time division can be divided between both the speakers as per the teams' discretion subject to a maximum of 17 minutes and a minimum of 13 minutes per speaker. A maximum of 5 minutes may be reserved per team for rebuttal and sur-rebuttal which shall be at the judges' discretion. The said 5 minutes shall be exclusive of the above time limits.
- The allotment of extra time shall be at the judges' discretion. Any time extension without due permission of the judges shall invite negative marking.

FINAL ROUND

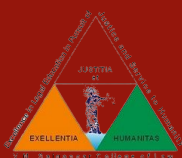
- In the final round, the win-loss shall be decided on the basis of the aggregate score.
- Each team shall be allotted a total of 45 minutes to present their oral arguments. The time division can be divided between both the speakers as per the discretion of the teams subject to a maximum of 25 minutes and minimum of 20 minutes per speaker. A maximum of 5 minutes may be reserved per team for rebuttal and sur-rebuttal which shall be at the discretion of the judges. The said 5 minutes shall be exclusive of the above time limits.





MEMORIAL

- Teams shall prepare and submit memorials from both the sides. Late submissions beyond the stipulated time shall be penalized according to the format mentioned herein in this section.
- Format of memorial Body of the memorial shall include: The cover page with the cause title, Table of contents, List of Abbreviations, Index of Authorities, Statement of Jurisdiction, Statement of facts, Statement of issues, Summary of Arguments, Arguments Advanced and Prayer.
- The font of the body of the memorial should be in the following format: Font of the body of the memorial : Times New Roman, size 12, Line spacing: 1.5 Heading: Font size 14 The font to the foot notes: Times New Roman, size 10. Alignment: Justified Teams shall cite all authorities in the Written Submission using footnotes following the Bluebook Method of Citation (21st edition).
- The team code on the upper right-hand corner of the cover page
- The memorial shall be of a maximum of 35 pages including the cover page and pleadings. No annexure, photographs, exhibits, etc. should be added to the memorial.
- Teams have to send hard copies of the memorial from each side in adherence to the dates provided in the rulebook. Any difference in the hardcopy and the softcopy submitted will attract disciplinary action.
- The memorials shall not contain any form of identification apart from the team code
- The memorial shall be evaluated on Knowledge and Presentation of Facts, Knowledge of Law, Extent and Use of Research, Authorities Cited, Format, Overall Draft.
- The Evaluation done by the MEC will be final and binding.



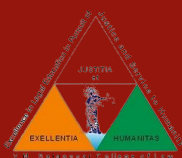


PRIZES

- WINNERS - ₹ 20,000
- RUNNERS UP - ₹ 10,000
- BEST RESEARCHER- ₹ 5,000
- BEST MEMORIAL - ₹ 5,000
- BEST SPEAKER (MALE) - ₹ 5,000
- BEST SPEAKER (FEMALE) - ₹5,000
- Trophies to the awardees and certificates to all.

TIMELINE

14 NOVEMBER 2023	REGISTRATION COMMENCES PROPOSITION AND PROBLEM RELEASE
16 DECEMBER 2023	LAST DAY FOR REGISTRATION
18 DECEMBER 2023	LAST DAY TO SEND CLARIFICATIONS
06 JANUARY 2024	LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF MEMORIALS (SOFT COPY) AT HACKATHON.MPS@UNIGOAC.AC.IN
09 JANUARY 2024	LAST DATE TO RECEIVE HARD COPIES OF THE MEMORIALS (TOTAL 6)
11 JANUARY 2024	INAUGURAL PRELIMINARY ROUNDS I & II QUARTER-FINALS CULTURAL EVENING
12 JANUARY 2024	SEMI-FINALS FINALS VALEDICTORY



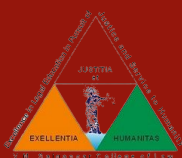


MOOT PROPOSITION

Amid the relentless grip of a global pandemic, in the country of Indus, a small state of Aparant boasts lush landscapes, pristine beaches, and a rich biodiversity within the Western Ghats. The population is known for its vibrant cultural diversity, home to both indigenous communities and cosmopolitan residents. Aparant's economy thrives on tourism, agriculture, and emerging industries, offering a unique blend of tradition and modernity. While the pandemic swept across the nation of Indus, Aparant and its neighbouring states were gravely affected.

Nestled in the heart of Aparant, a quiet village of Gopakapuri found itself facing an unforeseen adversity. The picturesque hamlet, known for its lush cashew orchards and serene landscapes, had always thrived on the simple, time-tested rhythms of life. The pandemic had brought an eerie stillness to the land, as the villagers, like the rest of the world, grappled with uncertainty and isolation. Gopakapuri's fertile lands had long been a source of sustenance for its people, and it was their cherished cashew trees that provided them with solace and a means of survival during those trying times.

Ravi, a son of Gopakapuri who had pursued education beyond the village borders, returned home during the pandemic. His youthful energy and newfound knowledge was immensely augmented by his inextricable and deep connection to the land. He believed that the ancient practice of cashew cultivation, passed down through generations, held the key to a sustainable future for Gopakapuri.

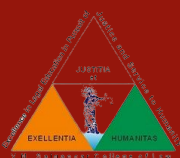




The pandemic, however, revealed the village's vulnerability. Joblessness and diminishing savings pushed some villagers to the brink of despair, and they yearned for new economic opportunities that would transform their fortunes. This divide between tradition and modernity immersed beneath the surface, much like the ever-present monsoon clouds that hung over the Gopakapuri skies.

As the villagers navigated the arduous trials of the pandemic, on a Sunday newspaper *The Gerlad* headlines read, "Government invests 10 crores for irrigation project in Gopakapuri". The Government of Aparant revealed an ambitious plan under the Command Area Development Act, 1997 to spend 10 crores for an irrigation project in an agricultural area. The announcement was met with a mix of enthusiasm and concern among the villagers.

Ravi, and few other children of the soil with their conviction that cashew cultivation could provide a lifeline to the village, found themselves at odds with those who saw the irrigation project as a beacon of development. Aparant Foundation, a dedicated environmental action group, who had been working with local communities in Aparant and having persisted with its environmental agenda for nearly two decades, was drawn to the villagers' cause. The founder Mr. Vichundrekar reported that orchard barren land is available in the neighbouring Privol village, and that there was no need to use the agricultural land Of Gopakapuri for this irrigation project, as tampering with the natural ecology and diverting the fertile land would have far-reaching implications not only for the land but also for Aparant's environment.

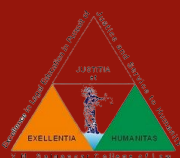




The government's decision to allocate fertile land for irrigation sparked discussions about responsible land use, sustainable development, and the need to protect Aparant's environment. Thus, two types of infrastructures were fighting for space. The fertile lands in and around Gopakapuri a natural endowment of the state, long been used by the villagers to cultivate and earn a living from cashews, and a modern, large scale irrigation project—a technological advancement for the State.

The government was adamant that the project held promise of several positive outcomes that they believed would elevate the state's standing and enrich its future. It signified a leap in agriculture, offering farmers world-class technical facilities so that they do not let go of traditional farming in their beloved state. The economic implications were substantial, attracting investments, generating jobs, and nurturing an ecosystem for innovation and entrepreneurship. With the State of Aparant struggling with water scarcity and the Mandhyi river dispute with neighbouring States, the new irrigation infrastructure improvements would ease lives of villagers and enhance the overall quality of living.

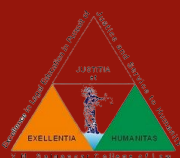
On an overcast Sunday morning of 11 February 2023, locals opposing the irrigation project had gathered at site of the project. However upon learning that the survey team had started its work, the agitated villagers, driven by their commitment to protecting their ancestral lands, rushed to confront the surveyors. They faced off against a substantial police force that had been deployed to maintain order. The air was thick with tension as the villagers chanted slogans against the government and local legislators. The situation took a dark turn when the police force walked over the local women lying on the ground as part of their peaceful protest.





Outraged by this perceived disrespect and angered by the police presence, the protestors confronted the police. In response, the police charged at the protestors, attempting to disperse the crowds. Lathi charges and tear gas shells were employed in an effort to control the situation. The angry protestors retaliated by hurling stones at the police, resulting in injuries, including about 6-7 lady police constables who were hurt in the stone-pelting incident and had to be rushed to the Community Health Centre for treatment, along with the 20 locals injured in the police lathi charge. The outnumbered police force eventually withdrew from the site as the clashes intensified, leaving the villagers in control. The agitators, now united in their anger, squarely blamed the police for causing the violence and starting the clashes. They insisted that their protest had been peaceful until the police charged at them, and accused some police officers of walking over the women lying on the ground.

Taking cognizance of this, Mrs. Kenkre the leader of a non-governmental, not-for-profit organisation 'AVAZ' working for the past two decades in Aparant for the marginalized and women's rights decided to approach the Aparant Human Rights Commission. Simultaneously, parant Foundation approached the High Court to contest the allocation of Gopakapuri's fertile land for irrigation, and also brought up the issues of land already acquired in Privol by the State Government under Special Economic Zone (SEZ).





The issues in consideration are following; teams may add more issues per discretion:

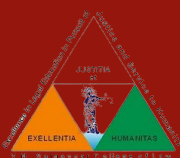
1. Whether the actions of the State, including the use of force by the police in Gopakapuri, amount to a violation of human rights under national and international law?
2. Whether the State's decision to allocate fertile land in Gopakapuri for the irrigation project constitutes a violation of the fundamental rights of the citizens of Gopakapuri?
3. Whether there is a duty on the part of the government to prioritise sustainable development and environmental protection in its infrastructure projects?

Note:

- The laws in the Indus region, both at a national and international level, resemble those of India and its overseas territories.
- Extra issue can be formulated.

Credits:

This Proposition is drafted with guidance and advise of respected Advocate. Cleofato Almeida Coutinho.





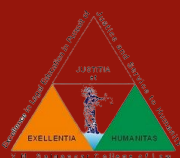
ABOUT THE POLICY HACKATHON

Policy Hackathons started in the STEM fields, where participants would spend a few days ideating, prototyping, and pitching innovative solutions to problems. They were frequently hubs for invention, and concepts generated by hackathons were eventually turned into genuine products or businesses. This concept was modified for the social science setting to push the confines of policymaking.

MPS Policy Hackathon is a novel, innovative hackathon convened by Manohar Parrikar School of Law, Governance and Public Policy that aims to increase youth participation in deliberating on relevant societal challenges via policy formulation and analysis. The Hackathon permits the teams to work with an expert in policymaking, law or an academician in the related field of the challenge statement as a guide/mentor of the team.


WHO CAN REGISTER?

- Students currently pursuing any undergraduate or postgraduate degree.
- Each participating team shall comprise a minimum of two and a maximum of three participants.
- The participants can form interdisciplinary teams with a mix of students enrolled in UG and PG courses across sciences, commerce, humanities, law and social sciences backgrounds.
- Participating Teams can have one mentor/guide, an expert in law, policymaking or an academician in the related field of the challenge statement.





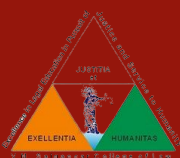
REGISTRATION FEE AND REGISTRATION LINK

- **The Registration is free** till the initial stages of the competition.
- The registered participants will be mailed the rules and structure, resource pack for reference and Policy brief format of the policy hackathon on the given email ids
- Registration link https://bit.ly/MPS_POLICY_HACKATHON
- Registration **QR code** 
- The selected participants will get to present at the PNMCPH 2024 at Manohar Parrikar School of Law, Governance and Public Policy Goa.
- The selected participants will have to pay the registration fees after the intimation of results following the second stage.

The registration fees must be paid at the SBI Collect portal at <https://www.onlinesbi.sbi/sbicollect/>. Navigate to the 'Educational Institution' category. Locate and select Goa University, then choose the payment category '**MPNLH (Registration Fees)**'. Fill in your details, proceed with the payment.

TRANSPORT AND ACCOMODATION

- The team will be provided one room on the premises of Goa University from 10 - 12 January 2024. Extra days of accommodation must be requested in advance, and you will be charged extra, subject to the availability of rooms.
- Transportation from the accommodation to the competition venue for the duration of the competition will be provided by the organisers.
- Food and refreshments shall be provided during contact hours.



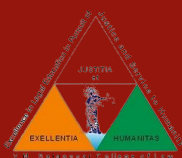


PRIZES

- **WINNERS** - ₹ 20,000
- **RUNNERS UP** - ₹ 10,000
- Trophies to the awardees and certificates to all.

TIMELINE

14 NOVEMBER 2023	REGISTRATION COMMENCES AND RELEASE OF PROBLEM STATEMENT
3 DECEMBER 2023	LAST DAY FOR REGISTRATION
4 DECEMBER 2023	RELEASE OF POLICY BRIEF FORMAT TO ALL PARTICIPANTS+ RESOURCE PACK
BETWEEN 5-8 DECEMBER 2023	ONLINE ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION WITH EXPERTS AND HACKATHON PARTICIPANTS
15 DECEMBER 2023	LAST DATE TO RECEIVE THE FINAL POLICY DRAFT SUBMISSION
20 DECEMBER 2023	INTIMATION TO THE SELECTED 7 TEAMS FOR FINAL REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT OF FEES+ REGISTRATION PAYMENT LINK TO THE FINAL 7 TEAMS
22 DECEMBER 2023	LAST DATE FOR FEE PAYMENT
12 JANUARY 2024	SEMI-FINALS AND FINALS AND VALEDICTORY



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POLICY HACKATHON CHALLENGE STATEMENT

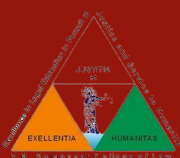


Water, Wildlife, and Well-being: Crafting Equitable Solutions in Mhadei

Background

Global policymaking has prioritised environmental conservation. However, the point of disagreement has always been the ongoing dissonance between humans and the environment interaction. Collaborative management of ecological resources and wildlife protection are increasingly recognised as a significant global force in the sustainable management of ecosystems, flora, and fauna. The Sustainable Development Goals is the primary vision for humanity to follow and illustrate the scope and aspiration of this agenda of balance. To move the globe toward a resilient, sustainable course, stakeholders must work together to achieve balance as a goal on a shared journey.

After Kerala and Uttarakhand, Goa has the third highest per hectare growing stock in forest in the country, as per the India State of the Forest Report (ISFR) 2021 of the Forest Survey of India. The Mhadei Dispute in India has emerged as a complex nexus, intertwining environmental conservation, protection of wildlife, and the conflicting interests of local communities with forest rights. The Mhadei River, originating in the Western Ghats, traverses through Karnataka, Maharashtra and Goa states. This dispute primarily revolves around water diversion from the Mhadei basin for various purposes, including hydroelectric projects, agriculture, and urban consumption.





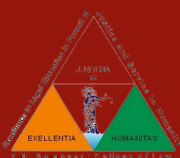
HACKATHON PROBLEM

Central to this issue is the conflict between the imperative for environmental conservation and the rights of local communities: the Western Ghats, a biodiversity hotspot, harbour many flora and fauna, including several endangered species. Notably, the region is crucial for conserving the elusive and endangered Bengal tiger. Recognising the ecological significance of the Mhadei region, there have been calls for its designation as a tiger reserve in wildlife sanctuary.

However, this proposition is met with resistance from local communities asserting their rights to forest resources under community-based forest management. The clash arises from the tension between the imperative to protect wildlife habitats and the legitimate claims of indigenous communities to their traditional right to land. Striking a balance between these competing interests is essential for sustainable development.

The conflict gains additional complexity by incorporating Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into the discourse. The Mhadei Water Dispute intersects with several SDGs, including Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), Goal 13 (Climate Action), and Goal 15 (Life on Land). The conservation of the Mhadei region aligns with Goal 15, emphasising the importance of protecting terrestrial ecosystems and biodiversity.

River Dispute- The Mhadei River sustains human and animal life and provides drinking water to millions of people over its 117 km course. The Mhadei/Mandovi is essential to the area's water supply, agriculture, fishing, irrigation, navigation, and tourism in six of the state's twelve subdistricts. The river is surrounded by customs that are religious, cultural, and daily activities.

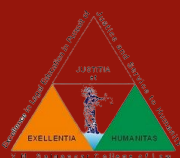




HACKATHON PROBLEM

Two states that depend on water for their prosperity and survival, Karnataka and Goa, are at odds over its divide. In August 2018, the Mahadayi Water Disputes Tribunal gave a verdict on the water diversion. In December 2022, Karnataka's Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the controversial Kalasa-Bandura water diversion project was approved by the Central Water Commission (CWC). In Goa, the Mhadei/Mandovi is regarded as the state's lifeline, even though it may appear to be another complicated interstate water dispute to the rest of India. The Mhadei runs through and sustains three wildlife sanctuaries and one national park - the Bhagwan Mahavir Wildlife Sanctuary, Bondla Wildlife Sanctuary, Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary and Mollem National Park, and Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary. For this reason, Goa has highlighted the outcome of the Mhadei River diversion as a matter of concern not just for Goa but for the world.

Tiger Reserve Dispute- In contrast, the Bombay High Court-Goa has given the Goa government a shot in the arm for tiger conservation in the ecologically sensitive Western Ghats, directing the Goa government to notify the Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary and other areas as a tiger reserve within the three months that have passed. This recent ruling designating Goa's Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary as a tiger reserve has sparked a discussion about striking a balance between the rights of indigenous communities, environmental preservation, and wildlife protection. The division bench instructed the Goa government to draft a tiger conservation plan and submit it to the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) within three months of designating the Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary and other areas as tiger reserves in a 94-page order dated July 24, 2023.





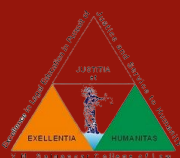
HACKATHON PROBLEM

Challenge Statement-

The Mhadei Water Dispute encapsulates a multifaceted challenge at the intersection of environmental conservation, wildlife protection, and community-based forest rights. The problem statement for this policy hackathon competition is to develop innovative, inclusive, and sustainable solutions that strike a harmonious balance between conservation goals and community rights in the Mhadei Water Dispute. Participants are challenged to design policies that:

- Ensure the effective conservation of the Western Ghats, addressing the ecological significance of the Mhadei region and supporting the designation of the area as a tiger reserve.
- Safeguard the rights and livelihoods of local communities by incorporating their perspectives and traditional knowledge into the conservation framework.
- Establish transparent and participatory governance mechanisms, fostering collaboration among government agencies, environmental organisations, local communities, and other stakeholders.
- Promote sustainable development by aligning proposed policies with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 15 (Life on Land), Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), Goal 1 (No Poverty), and Goal 10 (Reduced Inequalities).

Teams are encouraged to think holistically, considering the issue's socio-political, economic, and environmental dimensions. The goal is to generate actionable and implementable policy, contributing to a sustainable and equitable future for the region.





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