

SAMATVA

LEGAL AID & AWARENESS CELL SVKM'S NMIMS INDORE

PRESENTS

3rd Edition

NYAYA SETU THE AI & JUSTICE POLICY CONVENTION

“Drafting the Future of Indian Justice”

22nd & 23rd APRIL

IN COLLABORATION WITH
CENTRE FOR RESEARCH EXCELLENCE IN GENERATIVE
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

RULE BOOK



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PROBLEM STATEMENT

Governing the Deployment of AI Systems in India's Justice Delivery Ecosystem

Background & Context

Over the past decade, India has undertaken a significant digital transformation of its justice delivery architecture, driven by initiatives such as the e-Courts Mission Mode Project, digitisation of judicial records, virtual hearings, and the expansion of online legal service platforms. Much important progress has been seen in India's justice delivery system, yet we continue to see a complex set of structural challenges, including delays in dispute resolution, uneven access to legal representation, and significant disparities in legal awareness across socio-economic and geographic groups.

As of 2024, courts across the country collectively face over 5 crore pending cases, spanning the Supreme Court, High Courts, and subordinate courts. Alongside systemic delays, access to legal services remains uneven. Nearly 80% of India's population is legally entitled to free legal aid, yet the actual reach has historically been modest, with only a fraction of eligible individuals receiving assistance. Structural constraints further complicate access. Rural areas experience severe disparities in legal service availability, with significantly fewer lawyers per capita compared to urban regions, alongside limited digital infrastructure and awareness of legal rights.

Simultaneously, the justice system faces persistent capacity pressures. India continues to operate with a judge-to-population ratio far below recommended levels, contributing to procedural delays and case backlogs across judicial forums. In response, the Government of India has undertaken major initiatives to digitise justice delivery, including the e-Courts Mission Mode Project and the expansion of digital legal services infrastructure. Building on these efforts, policymakers and justice institutions are now exploring the deployment of artificial intelligence (AI) tools across multiple stages of the justice lifecycle, particularly to strengthen access to justice for citizens and improve the operational capacity of publicly funded legal aid systems.

Emerging proposals envisage an integrated ecosystem of AI-enabled solutions, including:

- systems that assist citizens in identifying and understanding potential legal claims;
- automated drafting tools for routine legal documents;
- AI-driven legal information platforms and chatbots;
- real-time translation technologies to address linguistic barriers; and
- advanced legal research tools to support under-resourced lawyers and legal aid providers.

While such technologies hold the potential to reduce information asymmetries, improve efficiency, and expand the reach of justice institutions, their integration into core justice processes raises complex questions relating to constitutional safeguards, professional ethics, technological accountability, and institutional feasibility.

Problem Statement

India is considering the phased deployment of AI-enabled tools across its justice delivery and legal aid architecture to improve accessibility, efficiency, and quality of legal services. However, the absence of a comprehensive governance framework for the design, deployment, and oversight of such systems presents significant risks. These include concerns regarding the reliability of AI-generated legal outputs, the potential erosion of procedural fairness, unequal technological access across regions, and the lack of clarity on institutional accountability in cases of technological failure or harm.

Participants are required to examine the regulatory and institutional challenges associated with integrating AI systems across multiple stages of the justice delivery process and propose an appropriate policy framework governing their use within India's legal and constitutional context

Key Risks and Regulatory Gaps

- **System-level governance challenges**
 - Absence of a unified national framework governing the use of AI in justice delivery institutions.
 - Fragmented adoption across courts, legal services authorities, and state-level institutions.
 - Limited institutional capacity for auditing, monitoring, and evaluating AI systems in legal contexts.

- **Access-to-justice and equity concerns**

- Risk of exacerbating existing inequalities due to digital divides and uneven technological infrastructure.
- Potential exclusion of linguistically and socially marginalised communities from AI enabled services.
- Over-reliance on automated outputs by individuals with limited legal literacy.

- **Legal and constitutional implications**

- Uncertainty regarding the compatibility of AI-assisted processes with principles of due process and natural justice.
- Risks to the protection of fundamental rights, including privacy, equality, and fair trial guarantees.
- Ambiguity in determining liability for errors arising from AI-generated legal advice or documentation.

- **Professional and institutional accountability**

- Lack of clarity on the role of lawyers in supervising or validating AI-generated outputs.
- Potential conflicts with existing professional regulation governing the practice of law.
- Questions regarding institutional responsibility for procurement, certification, and oversight of AI tools.

- **Technological integrity and reliability**

- Risks of algorithmic bias, hallucinated legal content, or inaccurate translations affecting legal outcomes.
- Absence of standards for transparency, explainability, and auditability of AI systems used in legal contexts.
- Challenges in ensuring secure handling of sensitive personal and case-related data.

Policy Design Challenge

Participants are invited to develop a comprehensive policy or model regulatory framework governing the deployment of AI systems across India's justice delivery ecosystem.

The proposed framework should address the full lifecycle of AI adoption, including design standards, institutional oversight mechanisms, accountability structures, user safeguards, and implementation pathways. It should balance the potential of AI-enabled innovation in expanding access to justice with the need to uphold constitutional principles, professional integrity, and the diverse socio-legal realities of India.

Definition Clause

- **“Competition”** refers to the Nyaya Setu: The AI & Justice Policy Convention, 2026.
- **“Organizing Committee”** refers to the organizers of this competition i.e. *SAMATVA*: The Legal Aid & Awareness Cell.
- **“Preliminary Stage”** refers to the written submission phase, which determines the teams advancing to the Advanced Stage (Quarterfinal Round).
- **“Rules”** refer to the official rules of the competition and any supplementary rules published by the Organizing Committee.
- **“Team Code”** refers to the unique code allotted to a team post-registration.
- **“Policy Concept Note Submission”** refers to the policy drafts submitted in the Preliminary stage.

Theme & Concept Note

Nyaya Setu focuses on creating policy guidelines to regulate the use of Generative AI in India’s justice and legal aid systems. It highlights key concerns such as algorithmic bias, inaccurate legal outputs, and data privacy risks.

The competition centres on legislative drafting within a proposed National AI Governance Framework, covering areas like AI-assisted legal tools, case assessment, multilingual access, and research support.

Overall, the theme emphasizes using AI to improve access to justice while ensuring accountability, inclusivity, and ethical compliance.

Eligibility

- This competition is open to undergraduate students enrolled in any **programs** from any recognized university or college.
- Only Colleges/Universities recognized by the UGC are eligible to participate.
- Each University may nominate up to 02 teams to participate in the competition.
- No Cross University teams shall be eligible to participate in this competition

Language of the Competition

- The official language of the competition is **English**.
- All rounds, including written submissions and presentations, will be conducted in English.

Mode of the Competition

- The Preliminary Stage will be online, where participants would be required to submit soft copies of their policy concept notes.
- Quarterfinals, Semifinals, and Finals will be conducted offline at SVKM's NMIMS Indore Campus.

Composition of Teams

- Each team shall consist of 2 (two) members, who will deliberate upon the policy draft and put forth the team's arguments.

Format of the Competition

- **Policy Concept Note Submission/ Preliminary Stage:** This round would involve written submission of policy concept note of **upto 2000 words** by participants. These policy concept note would be thoroughly evaluated by an external panel by our knowledge partner CIVIS, and their policy analysis tool. Top 8 policy concept notes as per evaluation would qualify for Advanced Stage.
- **Advanced Stage:** The 8 shortlisted teams would participate in the quarter-final, semi-final and final rounds of the competition, to be held at the NMIMS Indore campus, where they would be judged on the basis of their research, discussion, positive criticism of other's policy etc.
- **Quarter-finals:** The top 8 teams should submit a final policy of **upto 7500 words** and would deliberate upon and discuss their policies in detail in front of the panel of judges. Each team shall be given 45 minutes in total, where 40 minutes would be for policy deliberation and 5 minutes for addressing the concerns raised by the other team.
- **Semi-finals:** Top 4 teams from the Quarterfinals will proceed to the semi-finals. Each team shall be given 60 minutes in total, where 50 minutes would be for policy deliberation and 10 minutes for addressing the concerns raised by the other team.
- **Finals:** The top 2 teams from semi-finals will compete in the final round. Each team shall be given 60 minutes in total, where 50 minutes would be for policy deliberation and 10 minutes for addressing the concerns raised by the other team.
- **Press Conference Round (for best speaker):** The finalists after completing their round will be required to participate in a public hearing of their policy, where they will be pitching their policies to a panel of persons dealing in policy making and analysis individuals, media, and distinguished guests, making the policy simulation exercise truly inclusive. Each team shall be given a total of 30 minutes to deliberate upon their policies and answer the questions posed by the panel.

Anonymity of Teams

- Teams will be assigned a Team Code upon registration. All communications shall be made through this code.
- Written submissions must include the Team Code only, without institution logos, names, or images. Violation of this rule shall result in disqualification of the team.

Terms of Use

- The Organizing Committee retains the intellectual property rights to all submitted policies.
- Participants grant a non-exclusive, irrevocable, royalty-free license to use, reproduce, modify, publish, and distribute the policy proposals for any purpose related to the competition, policy development, or public education.
- Co-authorship will be acknowledged for any public use of the policies.

Dress Code

- **Males:** White shirt, black trousers, black coat, black tie.
- **Females:** White shirt, black trousers, black coat, black tie OR White kurta, black salwar, black coat.

Amendment to Rules

- The organizing committee reserves the rights to alter any rules or add any rules for the competition at any time before the commencement of the competition. In exercising such right, the Organising Committee shall provide reasonable notice to the participants.

Guidelines

- **Submission Guidelines:** The name of the document must be 'Team Code: Concept Note Submission'. Furthermore, the subject of the submission mail should be 'Team Code- Written Submission | Policy Concept Note' The submissions shall be made in both .doc and .pdf format.
- The file should not be password protected. All the submissions shall be made through mail at samatva.solindore@nmims.edu before 30.03.2026 (11:59 p.m). No submissions shall be accepted post the submission deadline.
- **Formatting Guidelines:**
 - **Language:** English. Submissions must avoid defamatory content or sentiments targeting religion, politics, or individuals.
 - **Main Body:**
Font: Times New Roman, Size: 12 pt, Line Spacing: 1.5, Alignment: Justified.
 - **Footnotes:**
Font: Times New Roman, Size: 10 pt, Line Spacing: 1.0, Alignment: Left
Follow **Bluebook 21st Edition** citation standards.
 - **Submission Limit:** Maximum of 2000 words for Policy Note Submission and 7500 words for Final Policy Submission, which should include:
 - **Cover Page** (Title and Team Code)
 - **Sections:**
 - Introduction
 - Analysis of Existing Legislation
 - Implementation Loopholes
 - Judicial Approach
 - Need for New Policy
 - Policy Recommendations
 - Realistic Implementation
 - Conclusion
- **General Guidelines:**
 - Use of AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini) is strictly prohibited.
 - Permitted plagiarism level: **10%**
 - Non-adherence to guidelines may result in disqualification.

Marking Criteria

S.No.	PARAMETERS	MAX. MARKS
1.	Drafting	20
2.	Originality and Innovation	20
3.	Depth of Research	20
4.	Quality of recommendations proposed	20
5.	Practical Applicability of the solutions	20

TOTAL MARKS: 100

FOR WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS



Marking Criteria

S.No.	PARAMETERS	MAX. MARKS
1.	Understanding of the Issue	20
2.	Policy Framework	20
3.	Implementation Strategy	20
4.	Quality of arguments	20
5.	Presentation & Communication Skills	20

TOTAL MARKS: 100

FOR POLICY PRESENTATION



TIMELINE

S.No.	PARAMETERS	DATE
1.	REGISTRATION OPENS	13.03.2026
2.	REGISTRATION CLOSES	05.04.2026
3.	RELEASE OF STATEMENT OF PROBLEM & RULE BOOK	18.03.2026
4.	POLICY CONCEPT NOTE SUBMISSION DEADLINE	05.04.2026
5.	DECLARATION OF RESULTS FOR TOP 8 SHORTLISTED TEAMS	08.04.2026
6.	DRAW OF LOTS	22.04.2026
7.	FINAL POLICY SUBMISSION	22.04.2026
8.	ADVANCED ROUNDS	22.04.2026
9.	FINAL ROUND	23.04.2026
10.	RESULT DECLARATION	23.04.2026

*These are the revised dates

REGISTRATION

Registration Guidelines

- All the teams shall require to register themselves on or before **30.03.2026** to be eligible to be part of the competition.
- The registration fee is **Rs. 900**. The same amount shall be non-refundable.
- The payment for registration fee must be according to payment guidelines provided in brochure.
- The participants must ensure that the details filled by them must be correct as the same will be used on certificates.
- The registration will deemed to be successful only on receiving confirmation mail from organizing committee.
- Any changes in details must be communicated to Organizing Committee at earliest.
- The **8 shortlisted teams** for advanced stage would be further required to pay **Rs. 2900/-** for accommodation and food at **NMIMS Indore Campus**. The method of payment would be similar to that of payment of registration fee. Additional information or guidelines (if any) shall be communicated on mail beforehand to the shortlisted teams.

The link for registration form: [LINK](#)

PAYMENT GUIDELINES

To complete your registration payment, kindly visit the provided link or scan the QR code below.



Payment Link

<https://nmims.edu/payments/final/dataFrom.php>

To complete the payment process kindly refer to the following guidelines:

1. Fill out the Payment Form:

- Amount: [Registration Amount - 900]
- Student Number: Ten Digit Personal Mobile Number starting with Zero [0XXXXXXXXXX]
- Name of Participant: [Your Full Name]
- Program Name: NYAYA SETU
- Purpose of Payment: EVENT REGISTRATION (Select from dropdown)
- Campus: INDORE
- Personal Contact Number: [Your Contact Number]
- Email Address: [samatva.solindore@nmims.edu]
- Other Required Details

2. Proceed to Payment:

After filling in all the required details, click on "Pay Now." You will be redirected to a new window for payment processing.

Order Id :	1773218367377
Enter Amount to Pay(INR) :	900
Student information(All informations are Mandatory)	
Student Number: <i>(For 1st year students, fees to be paid only after document submitted and verified. After this is done Admission department will send you the student number which has to be mentioned here.)</i>	0xxxxxxxx
Student Name :	YASHVARDHAN
Program Name / Event Name :	NYAYA SETU
Purpose of Payment :	Event registration
Campus :	Indore
Tel :	0xxxxxx227
Email :	samatva.solindore@nmim
State :	Madhya Pradesh
Zipcode :	452005
Country :	India
Pay Now	

3. Complete Payment Information:

- In the new window, please re-check the details.
- Ensure to fill the following Email address [samatva.solindore@nmims.edu] in all boxes where email id is required.
- Do not fill your personal e-mail id. Include a note: "REGISTRATION FEE FOR 3rd LEGAL AID POLICY CONVENTION" Choose your preferred payment mode: UPI, Card, or Other.

13:30 mins EN

N NA

Order ID
1773305018909

81012300737

Order Amount ₹ 100.00
 Transaction Fee ₹ 0.00
 Tax (18.00%) ₹ 0.00

Total Payable ₹ 100.00

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CHOOSE A PAYMENT OPTION

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Card visa, master, amex, etc

Netbanking icici, sbi, etc

Wallet paytm, etc

UPI gpay, etc

Cancel

STUDENT ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

CO-CONVENER

Mohd Hasnain Sheikh
 PHONE - 9981354252

CONVENER

Priyal Saxena
 PHONE - 8319135780

TREASURER

Yashvardhan Srivastava
 PHONE - 8795848215

DEPARTMENT HEADS

<u>DEPARTMENT NAME</u>	<u>HEADS</u>	
Social Media, Design and Photography	Radhika Patel	Krishna Nema
Research	Vedika Rathore	Katyayni Sharma
PR & Sponsorship	Aastha Patodi	Anushka Parihar
In house Legal Aid Clinic	Tanvi Gupta	Yash Gupta
Pro bono club	Labhanshi Bhargava	Lalit Parmar
Events and Logistics	Samarth Nema	
Database and Reporting	Khushi Pawar	

SENIOR MEMBERS

Archi Vyas	Arpit Parihar
Tarushi Jain	Sarvagya Sharma
Shreeya Agrawal	

COLLABORATIONS

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samatva.solindore@nmims.edu



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