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Editorial

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JCLS

From the Desk of the Editors

Greetings!!!

We are pleased to present the **fourth issue of 2025** of the **Journal of Contemporary Law and Society (JCLS)**. Continuing its commitment to rigorous, interdisciplinary legal scholarship, this issue brings together diverse perspectives that interrogate pressing concerns of governance, justice delivery, technology, constitutionalism, and socio-economic transformation. The contributions in this volume reflect the evolving role of law in responding to complex societal realities while remaining anchored in constitutional values and democratic accountability.

The issue opens with **Inconsistency and Inadequacy of Data on Drug Problem in India,** which critically examines the fragmented and unreliable nature of data surrounding substance abuse in India. The article underscores how evidentiary gaps hinder effective policy formulation, enforcement, and public health interventions, calling for a more coordinated and transparent data-driven approach.

In **Digital Colonialism and Data Sovereignty: International and National Legal Perspectives in the Digital Era,** the discourse shifts to global power asymmetries embedded in digital infrastructures. The article interrogates how data extraction, platform dominance, and regulatory disparities challenge national sovereignty and demand renewed legal responses at both domestic and international levels.

The third contribution, **Wheels of Nostalgia, Burden of Labour—A Constitutional and Policy Analysis of Kolkata's Handpulled Rickshaw Dilemma in Light of the Recent Matheran Judgment of the Supreme Court,** presents a nuanced examination of dignity, livelihood, and urban governance. It situates the debate within constitutional morality, labour rights, and evolving judicial sensitivity toward historically marginalised workers.

Following this, **Courtroom Catalysts: The Supreme Court's Role in Advancing Legal Aid Rights** analyses the judiciary's transformative role in expanding access to justice. Through landmark rulings and constitutional interpretation, the article highlights how the Supreme Court has strengthened the legal aid framework as an essential component of substantive equality.

Law and Society: A Theoretical and Practical Approach revisits foundational socio-legal theories while grounding them in contemporary legal practice. The article bridges abstract legal thought with lived social realities, reaffirming the relevance of law as a social institution shaped by power, culture, and human experience.

The constitutional framework is further explored in **Constitutional Morality and the Office of Governor: An Analysis through Recent Disputes between States and Governor.** This article critically assesses federal tensions and the role of constitutional conventions, highlighting the need for restraint, neutrality, and fidelity to democratic principles.

In **Accelerating Corporate Recovery: A Critical Study of the Fast-track Insolvency Mechanism in India,** the focus turns to commercial law and economic governance. The article evaluates the efficiency and limitations of expedited insolvency processes, offering insights into balancing creditor interests with procedural fairness.

The issue concludes with **Bringing Bytes to the Bench: The Constitutional and Ethical Implications of AI in the Criminal Justice System,** a forward-looking analysis of algorithmic decision-making in policing, adjudication, and sentencing. The article raises urgent questions about transparency, bias, accountability, and the preservation of due process in an increasingly automated justice system.

Collectively, these eight contributions reflect the Journal's dedication to fostering critical legal inquiry that is socially responsive, constitutionally grounded, and forward-looking. We extend our sincere gratitude to the authors, reviewers, and readers whose engagement sustains this scholarly dialogue. We invite continued participation from academics, practitioners, and students in shaping JCLS as a vibrant forum for contemporary legal thought.

Best wishes,
The Editorial Team