



JUSTICE  
**adda**

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Annual  
Report **2021**

# Hello

**T**he past year at Justice Adda has been full of many lessons. We have had an opportunity to collaborate with different organisations engaged in securing human rights, explored new ways to communicate and reimagine the law and legal institutions, and looked internally on how we could build a group that is committed to building actionable and useful projects that contribute to addressing barriers to access to justice in India.

With our first annual report, we hope to build a dialogue with our different supporters, share milestones that we have achieved, reflect on our challenges, and encourage feedback, and conversations with our work so far. We see this as an opportunity to reflect and document the interactions between our mission and objective, and how we hope to accomplish them through different projects and outputs.

The pandemic has influenced much of our research and outputs, but it has also strengthened our impetus to continue to work towards demystifying legal information in order to enhance the agency and capability of a justice user to participate effectively and fully in the legal system. This report will provide some highlights from the past year, as well as directions on how we wish to grow as an organisation going forward.

We hope that the report provides an invitation to collaborate, connect, and co-design visions for how the law and legal institutions can work for people, represent their lived experiences, and respond to challenges in an open and reflexive way.

In the next year, we hope to continue to build projects that focus on the justice user, and in doing so, build models justice delivery from the bottom up.

# The Team



**S**iddharth Peter de Souza  
Founder

**N**aomi T. Jose  
Operations and Editorial Lead



**V**arsha Aithala  
Business & Legal Regulation Lead

**A**parna Mehrotra  
Law & Communication Lead



**C**onor Mcglynn  
Public Policy & International Affairs Lead



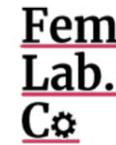
**S**iddhi Gupta  
Design & Communications Lead

**T**eresa Sebastian  
Senior Consultant, Design



**A**nu Chowdhry,  
Senior Consultant Fundraising  
and Partnerships

# Collaborators



**J**ustice Adda runs a dedicated internship programme for students of law and design. Students from a wide variety of backgrounds and interest areas have interned with us, supporting us on diverse projects. These include international and national universities such as the University of New South Wales, Sydney; BML Munjal University Law School, National Law University and Judicial Academy, Assam, Azim Premji University, Christ University.

In addition to our core team, we have a wonderful network of experts, consultants and interns. These have included Rajith Nair, Payal Chandra, Saumya, Nithya Kochuparampil, Eklavya Vasudev, Vaibhav Bhawsar, Sharada Kerkar, Rachit Sharma, Ravi Mathew, Sakunkan Neesung, Srishti John Aryan Jain, Mohit Yadav, Mihika Mukherjee, Franziska Duda, Devika Radha and Kalindi Kokal.

Addressing barriers to justice implies focusing on what the justice user requires. At Justice Adda this is what we strive to do. We are a community of legal and development practitioners, technologists, designers, academics and activists committed to ensuring inclusive and responsive participation in the legal sphere. By experimenting and seeking out new ways of doing things, by curating a range of solutions that inspire a culture of openness, efficiency and effectiveness we tackle the roots of the obstacles to access to justice.

Ensuring access to justice for all leads to the promotion and protection of human rights resulting in communities committed to sustainable development for all. In the 2030 Agenda which set out a plan of action for the Sustainable Development Goals, the United Nations renewed their commitment to creating peaceful and inclusive societies. Access to Justice is the common thread that links all 17 UN SDGs, as equitable access to justice is imperative for sustainable development.

Despite international commitments, India faces an estimated 18.7% gap in implementing SDG 16 and ranks an unenviable 69/128 on the global Rule of Law Index. Crippling poverty, a lack of knowledge about rights and duties among citizens, complicated and beguiling court procedures, the cost of accessing the law and justice delivery systems, all prevent the creation of a just and equitable society in India. If India is to move ahead in the achievement of the SDGs, we will need to address existing barriers to justice.

# People Centred Context Focused Actionable Usable

At Justice Adda, we seek to address barriers to accessing justice through design, legal content and technology interventions that are context specific and collaborative by nature. A design thinking approach to enabling access to justice posits that for legal and judicial machinery (procedures/documents/systems) to be truly effective, they need to be more empathetic, engaging, accessible and responsive to the evolving needs of the 'end user'. Individuals and communities are partners-in-success as their feedback is critical to creating successful outcomes. As design thinking solutions advocate placing the diverse individual experiences and points of view of users of a justice system front and centre, these solutions are inherently dynamic, collaborative and multidisciplinary. Through the process of constant ideation, iteration and co-creation with end-users, our interventions seek to identify and mitigate barriers to justice. Thus we foster greater engagement with and trust in the legal system, creating better individual and social outcomes. We do this by transforming their relationship with the legal and justice machinery from being one that is out-of-reach, intimidating or alienating to one that feels familiar, understandable and within-reach.

# Our Goals

## Initiating social justice education

When Justice Adda started off, our primary focus was on demystifying the law, creating content that helped individuals to understand the systems and processes as well as the language of law. As we have grown, we have developed three main targets to be able to fulfil our larger mission of ensuring access to justice for all.

Improving access to justice

Developing tools to empower individuals

Creating content and building conversation

Inspiring a design centred approach to law

Training stakeholders

# Improving Public Access to Justice



## Procedures Affidavit

An Affidavit is a declaration of facts, made in writing and sworn before a person having authority to administer oath.

### Object & Use

The objective of filing an affidavit is to state certain facts on oath. It is assumed by an affidavit that whatever assertion is made by a party are believed to be true and necessary action can be taken.

Affidavits are filed in:

Court proceedings either as part of the procedure or on special order passed by the Court.

They are also used in government offices and in applications for various documents certified by the government like passport, marriage registration, change of name/address, social security schemes etc.

### Essentials and Key Elements:

**AFFIDAVIT**

It must be a declaration made by a person ("the deponent").

It must be in first person.

It must relate to relevant facts according to the personal knowledge of the party\*.

It must have been sworn or affirmed before a magistrate or any notary/officer authorised under Section 139 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.

\* must include

I, \_\_\_\_\_ d/o \_\_\_\_\_ /s/ \_\_\_\_\_ do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under:

That the deponent \_\_\_\_\_ that after \_\_\_\_\_ that the deponent \_\_\_\_\_ that at the time \_\_\_\_\_

Verification  
Verification that the contents of the above affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and nothing has been concealed therein.

Verified at \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_

Deponent

Deponent

Signature of the party\*

Declaration made by the party that facts stated are true\*

It must be in writing

Name of the party and his father\*

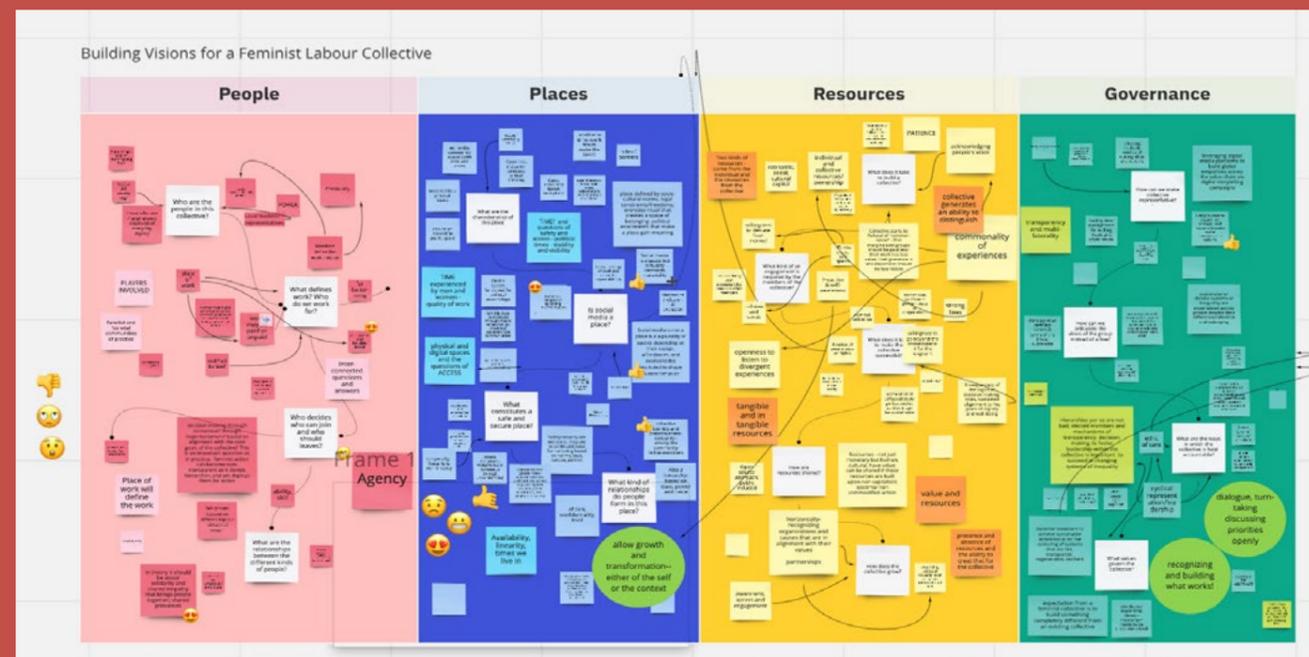
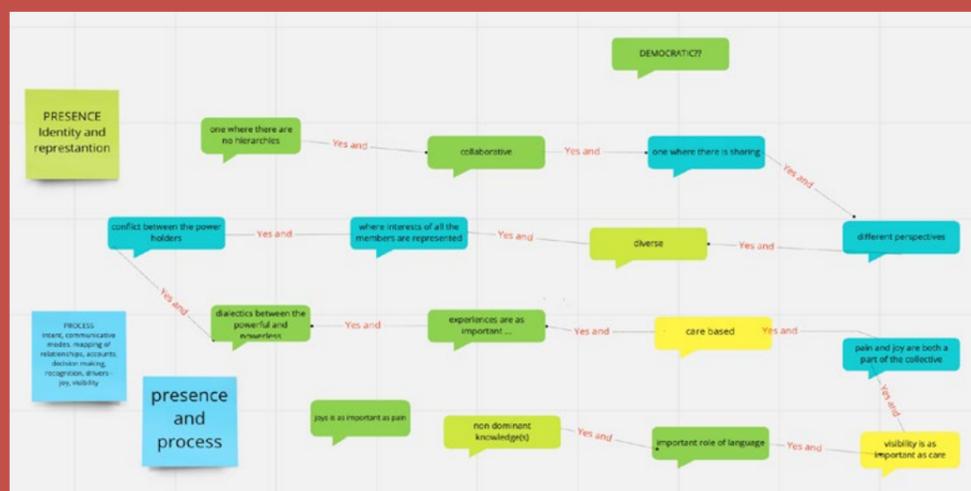
Address of the party\*

At Justice Adda, one of our main concerns has been improving access to justice by providing citizens with tools that equip them to understand complicated legal information and deal with complex legal processes.

One of the projects that we created specifically with that end in mind was the "Graphic Law Library". It serves the dual purpose of both educating the individual about their rights as well as informing them about the procedures to be followed in order to ensure those rights. The idea was to provide the information needed in a systematic and engaging fashion, providing the history behind the laws where necessary and providing a comprehensible template for the individual to use in the case of procedures. Not only would this help citizens become aware of their rights but also give them the tools to claim those rights for themselves. The library was delivered through multiple channels hoping this initiative had maximum reach. While curating the content for output we kept in mind audience engagement. This guided our design process and delivery modes as well. The library is designed to be primarily visual and suitable for circulation on online platforms such as instagram, Facebook, twitter and our website. While this helped us directly reach consumers, we were also approached by organisations who used this for communication with their audiences. The launch event of the Library was conceptualised as an interactive workshop, with the team reflecting on challenges and processes of legal design and working with the audience on different ways in which the library could be used.

However, we realised that there are limitations. These infographics and templates need to be accompanied by people so that they can be transformed to fit the needs of the individual user, particularly those belonging to the vulnerable sections of society. To that end, we have been working on building up a pro bono culture in India through workshops, conferences and networking on social media. We also created a handbook on designing socially responsible legal firms in India to encourage a more in-depth and nuanced conversation - one that would address the challenges particular to the Indian situation.

Collaborations have increased the scope of our work in this area. We are excited to be a part of the Feminist Approaches to Labour Collectives (FemLab). FemLab aims to explore how digital platforms can be leveraged by women working in sites of informal labour so that their voices contribute to the governance of the future of work. Our role is to create content and tools that help to amplify the voices of these women workers. To this end, we recently conducted an online interactive workshop with the FemLab team to demystify and understand what building a feminist collective meant to each one of us. Findings from this workshop were translated into visual outputs that allow for other interested parties to host a similar workshop. A detailed blog about the workshop and other written pieces about how legal design intersects with the project can be read [here](#).

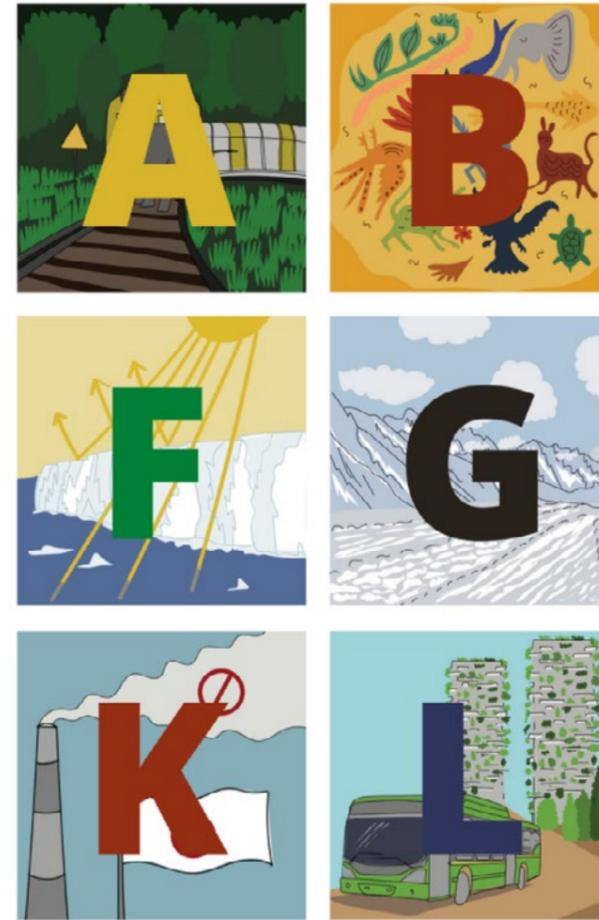


**Building a working document around principles for feminist labour collectives**

In this document, we provide the starting points and provocations for a discussion on some principles that we value as a team. We ask you to approach this document in a spirit of collaboration and build upon our conversation starters by adding to it. Think of this exercise as a yes and exercise where you can add 1, 2 or more words that further unpack these terms. Once you've finalised your Manifesto DM us at @femlabCo, @justiceadda and we will aim to collect and consolidate different versions of these manifestoes.



# Imparting Social Justice Education

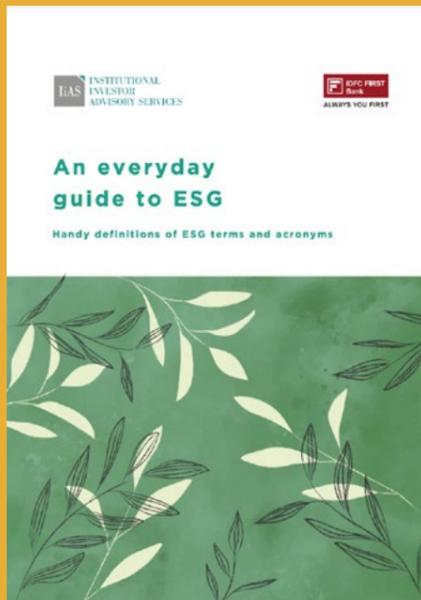


## ADAPTATION

Adaptation refers to human interventions that minimize the impact of climate change on human beings and the planet. An example of climate adaptation is designing disaster-resilient infrastructure which reduces the likelihood of damage to human beings from extreme weather events like floods, storms, heat waves, and others.

Social justice education has been a key focus area of Justice Adda since its inception and continues to be our mainstay. Our commitment to design centred thinking has ensured that the content we have created has not been limited to simply being a source of information. The content we design is intended to transform the reader from being a passive recipient to being an active disseminator, creating open circuits of knowledge. Our approach encourages the user to see themselves as participants and contributors to the justice system.

Our Climate Justice Lexicon, created in collaboration with the India Climate Collaboration-EdelGive Foundation Alliance was structured to facilitate debate and discussion around the issue of climate justice, using plain language and graphics to ensure participation from a wide variety of stakeholders. We also made it available in Hindi so that it was accessible to a wider audience. This lexicon is not meant to be exhaustive, but instead was designed as a tool to convey the idea that climate change affects human lives and choices made by human beings. The keywords have been chosen accordingly and defined with this context in mind. This is part of a larger initiative on climate justice by Justice Adda, which aims to create a rights-based understanding of climate change within entrenched socio-economic contexts.



In addition to the lexicon, we created an ESG glossary for Institutional Investor Advisory Services. The purpose of the glossary was to encourage investors to consider environmental, social and governmental factors when making their investments. "The 'E' in ESG measures resource use, pollution, climate change, energy use, waste management and other dimensions that impact the environment. The 'S' captures those that have a social impact, including employee related themes like gender diversity, their health and safety, anti-bribery policies. And 'G' refers to the roles and responsibilities of the board, rights of shareholders, transparency, and disclosures by companies."



### CONFERENCE OF PARTIES (COP)

The COP is the decision-making body of the United Nations Climate Change Framework Convention. It brings together the 197 nations and territories - called parties- that have signed on to the Framework Convention. Its goal is to limit global warming to well below 2, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels. A key task for the COP is to review the national communications and emission inventories submitted by Parties. The COP meets annually.

### CORPORATE GOVERNANCE CODES

Corporate governance codes outline the standards for the expectation of corporate boards in protecting shareholder investments. These standards are established by local regulators on a country-by-country basis.

### CORPORATE GOVERNANCE CODES IN INDIA

The primary legislation governing companies in India is the Companies Act, 2013. For listed entities, SEBI has notified the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 (LODR). The SEBI LODR has both principles and rules with respect to corporate governance and principles and rules which govern periodic and event-based disclosures by companies. Also refer to Companies Act, 2013 and SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 (LODR).

## HOW DATA WOKE ARE YOU?

Take a quick self assessment to find out how aware you are of the usages and implications of your data. There is an answer key at the end which will help you.

- What do you think personal data is?
  - A. Your name, Instagram handle and home address - nothing else
  - B. Passport details, Aadhaar card, insurance and bank details
  - C. All of the above- personal data is information that can be directly or indirectly used to identify individuals
- How much do you think big tech companies know about you and your personal data?
  - A. Not much apart from my name, passwords and phone number
  - B. How I'm feeling, my best friends, family, music taste and a lot of other creepy stuff
  - C. They only know whatever I give them access to
- Do you think it's fine that these companies have so much information on you?
  - A. Not at all. It violates my right to privacy
  - B. I don't really care
  - C. I'm completely fine with them knowing everything about me. I have nothing to hide

## TRACKING MY DATA FOOTPRINT

Remember the last question of the data wokeness quiz? (Please go do the quiz in Module 1 if you haven't already!)

In this section we are going to break down your data footprint for you.

### ACTIVITY 1

Sketch your Instagram explore feed and compare with your friends. What shows up for you?

## IMPLICATIONS OF MY DATA

Objective: Why is it a problem that someone else has access to my data?

Time to break it down by looking at:

- Case studies
- An activity on data worth
- Privacy Gyan
- Data Puzzle
- Conclusion(ish)

### 3A. CASE STUDIES

So why is it a big deal that someone else has access to my personal data? Through these cases we will give you an overview of how data can be used against people to influence their actions and monitor them. The case studies are:

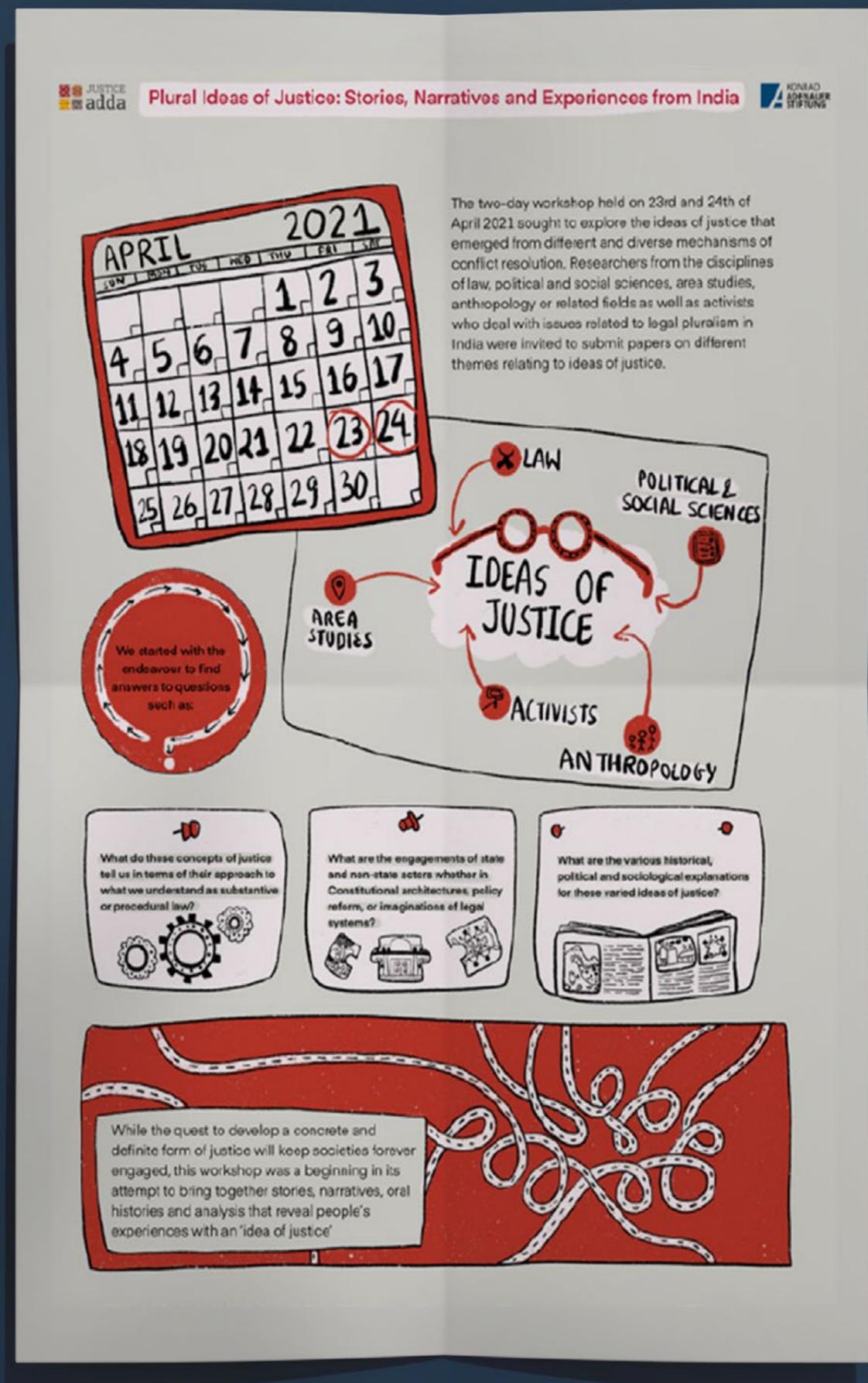
- Cambridge Analytica scandal
- Algorithmic bias in courts
- China's Social Credit system
- The Aadhaar Project

# Inspiring a Design Centred Approach to Law

**W**e do not walk alone. In recognition of that, Justice Adda has striven to build up a culture of a design centred approach to law amongst stakeholders. We believe that this is a crucial step towards ensuring access to justice for all. A2J requires that all stakeholders are actively involved in promoting and protecting their rights. A key component of a design centred approach is the involvement of the stakeholders in the creation of solutions. By promoting a design centred approach to law, Justice Adda has empowered other stakeholders such as legal firms, students and other organisations to take charge of the solution creation process.

Over the past year Justice Adda has conducted a number of workshops on legal design. In these workshops we have broken down the basic aspects of what a legal design approach entails, and have conducted these workshops for law students, practitioners and international organisations.

We held a conference on plural justices in India to understand the various forms conflict resolutions takes in India. The intention was to encourage an interdisciplinary approach when looking at the lived experience of justice. This interdisciplinary approach helped participants adopt a fresh perspective on the law, one that was more multifaceted and thus open to alternative solutions. As part of the conference



we also held a fully virtual exhibition. This opened up the discussion on A2J, breaking it out of academic and professional spaces. At the end of the conference we launched 'Map-a-Forum', a digital encyclopedia on non state actors in conflict resolution. Our hope is that this encyclopedia will carry forward the conversations that began during the conference.

# Responses to COVID-19

**C**COVID-19 further complicated access to justice. To be able to address those problems, targeted interventions were required. Our aim was to create content and tools that were informative and could be easily disseminated. Our experience in creating tech based solutions held us in good stead during this period. We were able to create quality content in short periods of time. This was necessary as the needs we were trying to address were urgent and time bound. We focussed primarily on making people aware of the ongoing situation, the rights impacted by the pandemic and possible ways to seek redressal. As always, the content served to enable action and not simply to inform.

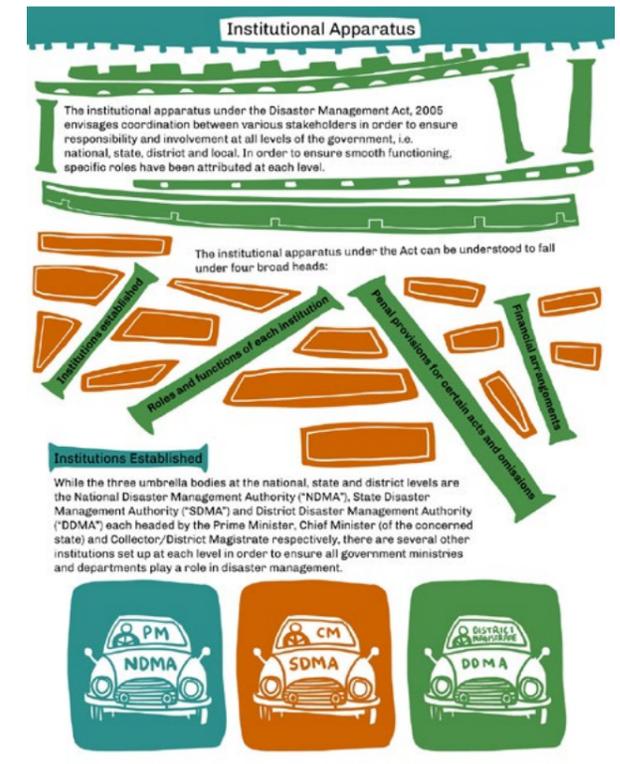
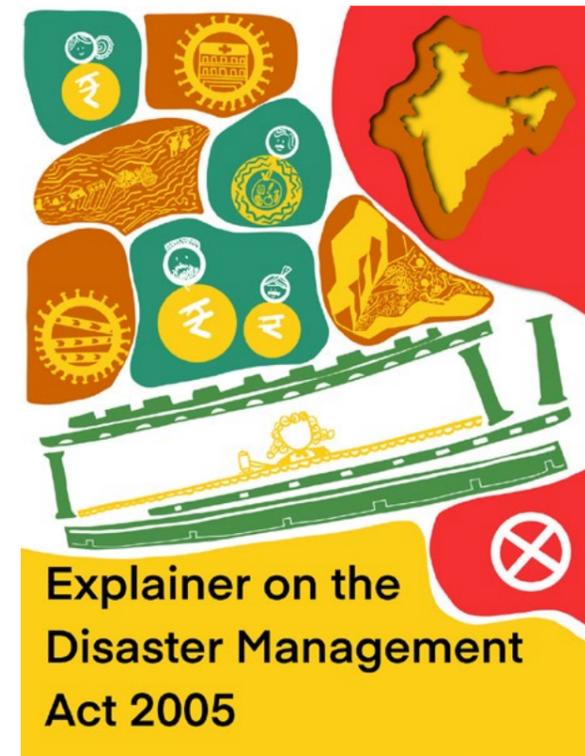
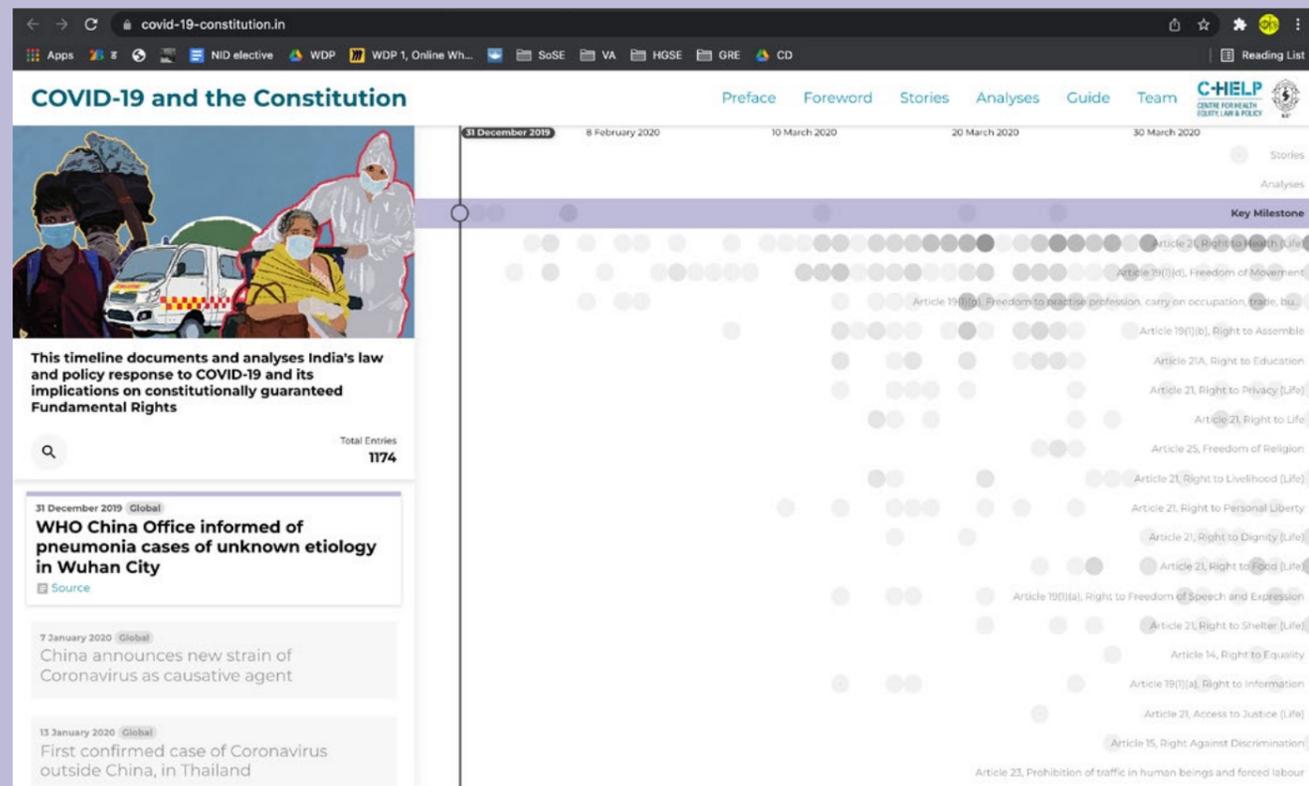
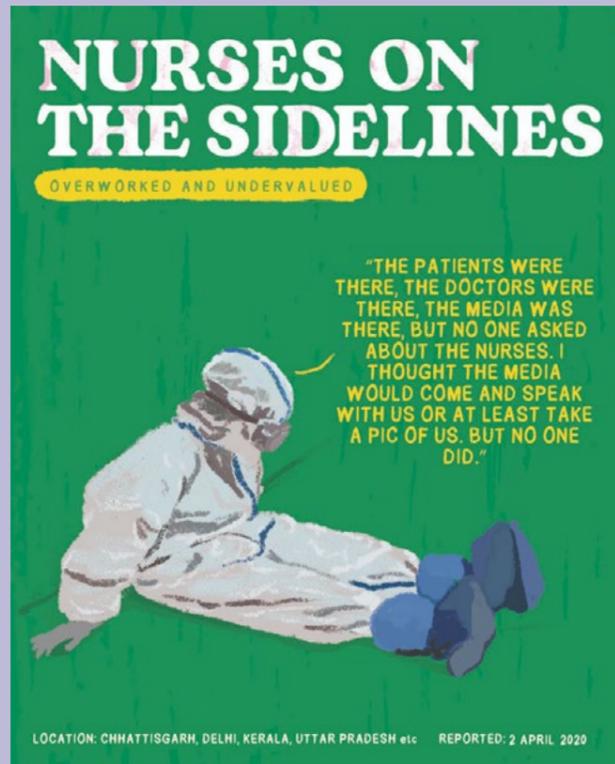
**M**SME Primer  
One of the first projects we created in response to the crisis was a primer for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) as part of a global legal hackathon organised by the Financial Times. Our aim was to provide workable and tangible solutions to these problems based on surveys and in consultation with stakeholders. By providing an accessible overview of the legal issues involved and the solutions available, these primers aimed to empower employees and small business owners during this trying time. As part of a global hackathon, Justice Adda collaborated with designers and practitioners across the world, deeply enriching the content we created.



**#VirtualCourtTales**  
We are currently building a database on the experience of virtual courts during the pandemic. As the Covid-19 pandemic promises to make lasting changes to the legal profession, understanding the experiences of those in the virtual courts systems is profoundly important in order to ensure equitable and transparent functioning of justice institutions in the future. Some of the insights gleaned from the project were published as part of a Policy Watch in The Hindu Centre for Politics and Public Policy. The project is an ongoing one. Finally we will visualise the data we collect, creating compelling ways of telling the stories through infographics, animations and data visualizations. We aim to create a resource that is free, easy to use and accessible.



**C** COVID-19 and the Constitution  
 The landscape of law and policy reform was transformed by the pandemic and there was an urgent need to address the consequence of this for our fundamental rights. As part of a collaboration with Centre for Health Equity, Law & Policy (C-HELP) and Vaibhav Bhawsar, Justice Adda helped create an interactive timeline- COVID-19 and the Constitution. The project had three core components: a chronological repository of law and policy responses to the pandemic issued at the central and state level; analytical pieces from experts that comment on the impact of those responses on Fundamental Rights; and people's voices and lived experiences that portray the true human cost of COVID-19. While the other content we had created during this period was specific to particular issues with this project, we were able to contextualise those issues as well as introduce other aspects of the impact of COVID-19 on human rights and government policy.



**E**xplainer on the Disaster Management Act  
 As part of our collaboration with C-HELP, we also created an explainer on the Disaster Management Act, 2005. Given how relevant this particular act was to the general population, it made sense to create an explainer separate from the timeline that could be available offline. Like the MSME primer, the intent was to help the average person negotiate the impact of this law. By providing the information in the form of an infographic freely available on our website, we were able to reach a wide and varied audience.

# Notes from Baithak

# JA Speaks

The Justice Adda blog, Baithak, has been conceptualised as an extension of Adda where the themes, ideas and concerns we encounter through our work are explored in greater depth. It has served as a space to expand the conversation around our projects. It is another means through which we push for awareness of the many barriers to justice and the possible ways we can address them. We have seen it as another tool that accompanies the work we do, expanding their reach and scope.

In the last year we curated a series on legal design, inviting other organisations and individuals in the field to contribute their perspective on the future of legal design. The series was a particularly exciting project for us as we could see how this field has grown since our conception. This series was essentially a stepping stone in building conversation and a community around legal design. We look forward to seeing the kind of collaborations that can happen in this space.

Through Baithak in the last year the Justice Adda team and our collaborators explored a number of issues and themes related to COVID- 19. Our MSME primer was hosted entirely on Baithak, as we wanted to make it quickly and easily available on the website. Our interns also contributed to the blog writing under the #newvoices label, writing on issues like medical negligence and human trafficking during the pandemic.



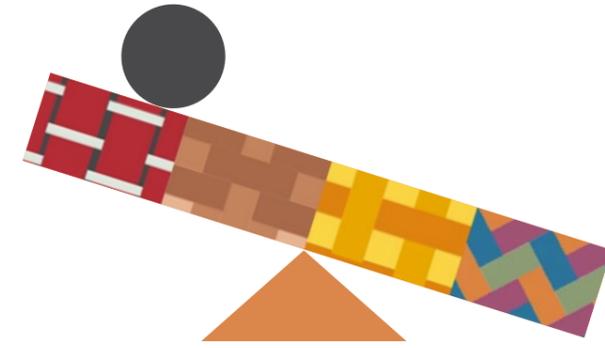
Over the last year individual team members as well as the team have made use of various platforms to talk about the work Justice Adda has been doing. We have seen this as opportunities to not only pitch the need for legal design thinking to address problems of access to justice but also to build communities committed to legal design thinking.

Justice Adda, in collaboration with external researchers, participated in the Financial Times Global Legal Hackathon project, 2020 by hosting two projects on improving access to justice initiatives in India titled “#VirtualCourtTales” and a primer series called “Empowering Indian MSMEs and Startups navigate the post Covid-19 legal landscape”

Siddhi, our lead designer, was invited to present our approach to design, how we have employed design thinking in our own work at an online event organised by the India Design Academy (IDA). The talk was attended by designers, design enthusiasts and recent graduates.

Siddharth and Varsha jointly authored a paper titled “The Supreme Court of India's Vision for e-Courts: The Need to Retain Justice as a Public Service” for the Hindu Centre for Politics and Public Policy in July 2021.

# Where do we plan on going from here?



## **B**alancing custom solutions with replicable interventions

Justice Adda's projects have seen meaningful engagement and an increased uptake of its proposals amongst various groups. However, we are acutely aware that meaningful, sustained impact is closely tied with scale of impact. Replicable frameworks have their benefits. For A2J interventions though to have lasting impact such that they kickstart a virtuous cycle, we find a customized approach to be equally necessary. In other words, standardization and customization of legal design tools need not be viewed as an either/or debate. Therefore, we will also be designing custom interventions that are tailored to the end-user persona, taking into account the nuances of diverse regional/cultural contexts (for instance, ethnicity, language, age, gender, educational attainment, income levels).

## **B**uilding sustained impact based on detailed data analysis

We aim to get increasingly better at understanding the lived experience of our consumers; at identifying what successfully drives behavioural change; at discerning trends over time and across social structures; at weeding out weak assumptions; at identifying obstacles in justice delivery mechanisms hitherto overlooked. Blending qualitative and quantitative methodologies, we plan to balance 'rapid' assessments that can inform changes to design interventions in real-time, with more longitudinal, cross-cultural studies that examine the efficacy of these interventions over the long haul.

## **C**reating knowledge transfer centres

All of our work is freely accessible and available for distribution on our website. This has been a deliberate choice as we want to aid others seeking solutions in their respective fields, by helping them easily search and identify legal design tools that best fit or can be adapted to their unique use-case. Wide dissemination can contribute to closing the gap from 'idea' to 'implementation' of access to justice programs globally with speed and efficacy. Going forward, we want to be an organisation that creates an organically growing community of legal design enthusiasts who would not only collaborate with Justice Adda on new A2J initiatives, but also go on to adopt design thinking in driving impactful social impact projects of their own.

[www.justiceadda.com](http://www.justiceadda.com)

