

# CONFERENCE HANDOUT



## CLEA International Conference on Law and Technology: Sustainable Transport, Tourism and Technological Innovations

16<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> August, 2024  
Kumarakom, Kerala

Organised by :

**COMMONWEALTH LEGAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION**

[www.clea.ac](http://www.clea.ac)



## **CLEA International Conference on Law and Technology: Sustainable Transport, Tourism and Technological Innovations**

In an era marked by globalization, technological advancements, and a growing tourism industry, understanding the legal frameworks that support these sectors is crucial. The topic Law and Technology: Sustainable Transport, Tourism and Technological Innovations and eco-tourism, focusing on evolving regulations for transportation, including water metro and surface transport.

As the tourism industry adapts to technological changes, consumer behavior shifts, and sustainability demands, stakeholders must address the legal complexities shaping the industry. Transportation is essential for tourism, facilitating access to destinations and the movement of goods and services. Regulatory frameworks for transportation vary across jurisdictions, covering issues such as safety standards, licensing, environmental regulations, and liability.

Recently, there has been a push for sustainable transportation due to climate change concerns, environmental degradation, and urban congestion. Governments are promoting cleaner, more efficient transport modes, including water metro systems and other sustainable options. Water metro systems, which include ferries and water taxis, are vital in coastal cities and tourist destinations, offering environmentally friendly transport that reduces congestion and emissions.

However, regulating water metro systems presents challenges such as safety, navigation, infrastructure, and environmental protection. Regulatory frameworks must balance passenger and operator safety with innovation and investment in water transport infrastructure.

The conference aims to unite stakeholders from academia, industry, government, and civil society to discuss, exchange ideas, and collaborate on creating a more efficient, sustainable, and legally compliant transportation and tourism ecosystem globally. It features the CLEA International Conference for discussions on global legal and technological advancements and an International Stakeholders Meet on innovations in law, technology, and eco-tourism. The goal is to develop a curriculum and legal framework for water metro, surface transport, and eco-tourism.

*Surya Kant*  
*Judge, Supreme Court of India*



*10, Krishna Menon Marg,  
New Delhi-110011.*

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**FROM THE DESK OF THE CHIEF PATRON**

It is with great pride and anticipation that I welcome you to the Commonwealth Legal Education Association International Conference 2024, being held in the enchanting locale of Kumarakom, Kerala. This conference, under the theme “Law and Technology: Sustainable Transport, Tourism and Technological Innovations” represents a significant step forward in our collective quest to harmonize legal frameworks with the rapid advancements in technology and the pressing needs of sustainable development.

As Chief Patron of CLEA, I am heartened by the Commonwealth Legal Education Association’s unwavering commitment to fostering legal education and promoting scholarly discourse on contemporary legal issues. CLEA has consistently demonstrated an exemplary dedication to addressing the dynamic challenges faced by legal systems across the Commonwealth. This conference is a testament to CLEA’s vision and its proactive approach in exploring the evolving intersections of law, technology, and eco-tourism.

In our interconnected world, the rapid growth of multilayered transport and tourism, driven by technological advancements, presents both opportunities and challenges. The legal landscape must evolve to keep pace with these developments, ensuring that innovation is seamlessly integrated within the bounds of law. This conference aims to address these critical issues by bringing together experts from legal and technological background from across the Commonwealth.

The discussions and deliberations over the next few days promise to be both stimulating and impactful. We will explore regulatory frameworks for metro, water, and surface transport, the role of technology in shaping sustainable transport solutions, and the integration of eco-tourism principles into transportation planning.

This conference is a beacon of hope and a testament to what can be achieved through collaborative efforts and visionary leadership. As we embark on this intellectual journey, I urge all participants to actively engage in discussions, share their insights, and collaborate on innovative solutions. Our collective efforts will pave the way for a new era of regulatory frameworks, ensuring that technological advancements are integrated within the bounds of law, promoting sustainable development.

Together, let us strive to build a future where law and technology coexist harmoniously, fostering sustainable development and advancing the cause of justice.

  
[Surya Kant]  
Chief Patron, CLEA





*R. Venkataramani*  
Attorney General for India

SE-127, Law Officers' Chambers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Supreme Court of India, New Delhi - 110001  
Tel. : 23383254

### FROM THE DESK OF THE PATRON

Dearest Participants,

It is my pleasure to extend my warm greetings to each one of you who have gathered here for the Commonwealth Legal Education Association International Conference of 2024. This event among other pursuits of CLEA and its unwavering commitment to the noble pursuit of advancing legal education and addressing the ever-pressing challenges of our times need support and solidarity. Here, in the serene embrace of Kumarakom, Kerala, our assembly stands as a testament to our united dedication, a collective promise to unravel and weave together the complex tapestry of law, technology, and eco-tourism.

This unique conference, is a product of innovation and collaboration, and it has drawn together and it has a constellation of esteemed minds—legal scholars, transportation specialists, policymakers, judiciaries, academia, and the promising students who are the harbingers of our future. Our shared purpose is clear: to foster dialogues that will give rise to a legal framework, relevant and forward looking, capable of navigating the shifting terrains of transport and eco-tourism. One of guiding thoughts in CLEA work is to explore and promote role of India in global legal frontiers.

The theme we embrace this year, “Law and Technology: Sustainable Transport, Tourism, and Technological Innovations,” captures the essence of our grand mission. Professor S. Sivakumar’s work with Kochi Metro Rail Limited has given us some insights and it is a pointer to the significant gap in the regulation of high-tech infrastructure. These insights have profitably become the focus of our gathering, urging us to address these critical matters with the importance and immediacy they deserve. Our quest is to craft a legal framework that not only supports but also thoughtfully propels the convergence of technological progress and sustainable development. The confluence of technology and eco-tourism is a matrix of opportunities and challenges, and through our collective endeavour we hope to fashion solutions both innovative and practical.

Building upon the success of the CLEA Attorneys and Solicitors General Conference, I am optimistic that this event will be equally impactful and successful. I respectfully invite all the participants to immerse themselves in the richness of discourse, to share the depths of their knowledge, and to collaborate on significant solutions. The wealth of expertise each of you bring, I consider, a treasure worthy of collaboration. Together, we can nurture a legal environment that champions sustainable growth, technological evolution, and environmental stewardship.

As we embark on this journey over the coming days, I am certain that the bonds we forge and the wisdom we gather will continue to inspire CLEA in its future endeavours in connecting legal education and emerging domains of justice needs. I humbly invite all the dignitaries to lend their thoughts in guiding us towards a society where sustainability and technological advancement walk hand in hand.

*Contd. In page-2.*

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*R. Venkataramani*

Attorney General for India

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May your conference experience be as productive as it is enriching, and may the innovative ideas and collaborations that spring from our discussions inspire us to be part of India's noble visions of a world of peace, knowledge sharing and equal regard.

With regards,

Yours sincerely



R. Venkataramani  
Attorney General for India  
Patron, CLEA

New Delhi,  
Dt. 09.08.2024



**FROM THE DESK OF ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**

Dear Participants,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the Commonwealth Legal Education Association (CLEA) International Conference 2024 in Kumarakom, Kerala. Kumarakom, with its serene backwaters and rich cultural heritage, provides a fitting backdrop for our deliberations. This conference offers a unique opportunity to delve into the intersection of law and technology within the framework of sustainable development, with the theme, "Law and Technology: Sustainable Transport, Tourism, and Technological Innovations." This conference stands as yet another testament to CLEA's commitment to bridging the gap between legal theory and practice, especially amidst the rapidly evolving technological landscape.

The theme of this year's conference is not merely timely but is essential to the future of legal practice and governance in our increasingly interconnected world. As legal scholars and practitioners, we are tasked with the responsibility of guiding society through the complex challenges posed by rapid technological advancements. This theme persuades us to examine the ways in which the laws and legal systems need to adapt to ensure that technological progress serves the common good while safeguarding fundamental rights and promoting sustainable development. The conference represents a crucial juncture in our ongoing dialogue about the evolving relationship between law and technology. In this seminal exercise, the High Court of Kerala has joined hands with the Commonwealth Legal Education Association under the presidency of Prof. (Dr.) S Sivakumar, Senior Professor at ILI and Kochi Metro Rail Limited (KMRL) to achieve demonstrable outcomes aligned with the themes of this International Conference.

The CLEA International Conference 2024, is an initiative aimed at bringing together a diverse cross-section of resourceful persons from various fields across the Commonwealth to engage in thought-provoking discussions and explore the intersections of law, technology, and sustainable development. Besides this, the Conference serves as a vital platform for uniting various stakeholders under one roof to engage in meaningful discussions on these critical themes. It offers us the opportunity to collaborate, share knowledge, and develop strategies that will shape the legal responses to technological and sustainable advancements in the years to come.

I eagerly anticipate the takeaways from the Judicial Colloquium, which will undoubtedly strengthen our justice delivery systems in this era where there is a spiraling effect of the engagements of law and technology. I am confident that the insights and ideas shared during this conference will contribute significantly to the global legal discourse and help shape the future of legal practice in these crucial areas. This platform is designed to bring together diverse perspectives, and I encourage all the delegates to actively participate, share their knowledge, and engage with peers for accomplishing meaningful and enduring outcomes.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to all the esteemed Judges of the Supreme Court of India, who have graciously consented to serve as Chairs and Co-chairs of various sessions, to the respected Judges from India and other jurisdictions delivering keynote addresses, to our distinguished speakers, and to everyone who has volunteered in one way or another to contribute to the success of this conference. On behalf of the Organizing Committee, I express my profound appreciation for your presence and your contributions. I am sure that this conference will be a crucible of ideas, where the future of legal thought and practice in the context of technology will be shaped. As we delve into topics that are increasingly shaping our global landscape, I am confident that your contributions will significantly enrich our collective understanding and inspire innovative approaches to the challenges we face in present times.

**A. Muhamed Mustaque**  
[Chairperson, Organizing Committee, CLEA]







**Commonwealth Legal Education Association**  
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Email Address: [info@clea.ac](mailto:info@clea.ac) | Website: [www.clea.ac](http://www.clea.ac) ]

Professor (Dr.) S. Sivakumar  
*President & Trustee, CLEA*  
*Senior Professor, Indian Law Institute/  
Member, 21st Law Commission of India*

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## WELCOME NOTE FROM PRESIDENT, CLEA

### Greetings from CLEA!

On behalf of the organizing committee of the Commonwealth Legal Education Association (CLEA) International Conference 2024, I extend a warm welcome to all participants gathered in Kumarakom, Kerala, from Friday, 16th to Sunday, 18th August 2024. As we convene to explore the cutting-edge intersections of law, technology, and eco-tourism, we stand on the brink of transformative advancements in the regulation of metro, water, and surface transportation.

The conference theme, “Law and Technology: Sustainable Transport, Tourism and Technological Innovations” encapsulates our collective aspiration to foster sustainable solutions through innovative legal frameworks and educational paradigms. This gathering is more than an exchange of ideas; it is a commitment to action, a pledge to harness our shared expertise for the betterment of transportation law and eco-tourism. The theme of this conference, reflects the core of our mission. We aim to tackle the pressing challenges at the nexus of these fields, with discussions that promise to be both stimulating and impactful. From regulatory advancements to technological integrations, our sessions will provide a comprehensive look at how we can navigate the complexities of modern transportation systems.

Participants at this conference include judiciary members, legal scholars, technocrats, transportation experts, policymakers, academics, and students from across the Commonwealth. This diverse assembly signifies the importance of collaborative efforts in shaping a resilient and adaptive legal framework for transportation. Your presence here underscores our shared commitment to excellence and innovation in legal education and practice.

As hosts, India is honored to facilitate this significant dialogue in the scenic locale of Kumarakom, Kerala. This is a destination conference. Known for its serene backwaters and vibrant culture, Kerala offers an ideal setting for profound and reflective discussions. We trust that the tranquil environment will inspire meaningful exchanges and creative solutions. The conference will address critical topics such as regulatory frameworks for metro, water, and surface transport, the role

of technology in shaping sustainable transport solutions, and the integration of eco-tourism principles into transportation planning. The goal of this conference is to develop a robust and comprehensive legal framework that addresses the unique challenges and opportunities in these areas.

The idea for this conference was sparked by my assignment as a consultant for Kochi Metro Rail Limited (KMRL). This Special Purpose Vehicle is entrusted with the operation and maintenance of India's pioneering Water Metro System. Leveraging my extensive experience, and under the leadership of Mr. Loknath Behera IPS (R), Managing Director of KMRL, a significant legal void in regulating this high-tech venture was identified. I was tasked with drafting a comprehensive regulatory framework to facilitate Water Metro operations within the bounds of law. Through numerous discussions with him, it became evident that the rapid growth of multilayered transport and tourism, driven by technological advancements, is either hindered by outdated regulations or lacks a cohesive regulatory system entirely. This realization, coupled with my earlier academic pursuits in Commonwealth on sustainability issues in these cross-cutting areas, fortified my conviction that a higher-level deliberation with a demonstrable outcome needed to be attempted by CLEA.

When I placed this proposal to **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant**, Judge of the Supreme Court of India and Chief Patron of CLEA, he wholeheartedly guided and encouraged the initiative by providing invaluable insights. The long-standing support for CLEA initiatives, along with Lordship's emphasis on integrating regulatory frameworks with capacity-building components of the justice delivery system and educating the academic community on the nuances, was instrumental in steering this initiative to a purposeful direction.

The initiative also received warm support from **Dr. R. Venkataramani**, Learned Attorney General for India and Patron of CLEA, who has consistently supported CLEA's endeavors. His insights strengthened the foundation of our efforts, ensuring a comprehensive and forward-thinking approach to regulatory reforms and technological advancements.

The Commonwealth Legal Education Association, CLEA, at this conference hopes that the gathering of luminaries like Judges, Lawyers, Technocrats, Academicians, and other Stakeholders will bring the much-needed synergy that transcends boundaries. Our goal is to develop a regulatory model that not only incorporates law and technology but also addresses various legal and ethical considerations and analyzes cross-cutting areas pertinent to these domains.

I take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the **Hon'ble Chief Justice of India**, **Hon'ble Dr. Justice D. Y. Chandrachud**, and the **Hon'ble Mr. Justice B. R. Gavai**, Judge Supreme Court of India along with the other esteemed judges of the Supreme Court. Our heartfelt thanks also extend to the Chief Justices and Judges from various High Courts, and Judges from

abroad whose support has been invaluable. We deeply appreciate the tremendous cooperation from the judges of the High Court, the experts and stakeholders who have contributed their insights and expertise.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Hon'ble Mr. Justice Muhammad Mustaque A., Acting Chief Justice of Kerala High Court and Chairperson of the Conference Organizing Committee, whose visionary leadership has been essential in bringing this event to life. My heartfelt thanks also go out to Hon'ble Mr. Justice C. S. Dias, Judge of the High Court of Kerala, for his unwavering support and insightful contributions to the success of this conference. I also wish to express profound appreciation to Mr. Loknath Behera, Managing Director of Kochi Metro Rail Limited (KMRL) and Co-chairperson of the Organizing Committee, for his pivotal role in shaping the conference's focus and direction. I would also like to thank organizing secretary, Dr. Giri Sankar S. S., under whose exceptional leadership a vibrant team is working and has been instrumental in making this conference a reality.

My sincere thanks go to my dedicated team of coordinators, whose meticulous planning and hard work have been vital in ensuring the smooth execution of this conference. I also extend my heartfelt appreciation to the entire CLEA team, whose unwavering commitment and tireless efforts have made this event a reality.

I would also like to express my deep appreciation to all the session chairs, co-chairs, and keynote speakers; you are truly the backbone of this conference. We look forward to your engaging discussions and innovative ideas that will pave the way for a new era of regulatory framework, ensuring that technological advancements are seamlessly integrated within the bounds of law, promoting sustainable development. Your insightful deliberations are invaluable, and I assure you that they will be meticulously documented, leaving a lasting impact on our shared mission.

Once again, welcome all to the CLEA International Conference 2024. We wish you a productive, thought-provoking, and enriching conference experience!

Sincerely,



**Prof. (Dr.) S. Sivakumar**

**Conference Chair**

**CLEA International Conference**  
on  
**Law and Technology: Sustainable Transport, Tourism and  
Technological Innovations**

**16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> August, 2024 | Kumarakom, Kerala**

**Friday, 16th August, 2024**

7:00 P.M. - **Conference Dinner** in honour of the  
Hon'ble Dr. Justice D. Y. Chandrachud, Chief Justice of India  
**Venue : Gokulam Grand Resort, Kumarakom, Kerala**

**Saturday, 17th August, 2024**

9:30- 11:30 - **Inaugural Ceremony**  
**Venue : KTDC Waterscapes, Kumarakom, Kerala**

Chief Guest: **Hon'ble Dr. Justice D. Y. Chandrachud**  
Chief Justice of India

Guest of Honour: **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rony Govinden**  
Chief Justice of the Republic of Seychelles

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**SESSION I**

**Venue : KTDC Waterscapes Kumarakom**

**11:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.**

**Legal and Ethical Frameworks in Transportation and Eco-Tourism**

<b>Chair</b>	<b>Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dipankar Datta</b> Judge, Supreme Court of India
<b>Co-Chair</b>	<b>Hon'ble Mr. Justice Aravind Kumar</b> Judge, Supreme Court of India
<b>Keynote Address</b>	<b>Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rony Govinden</b> Chief Justice of The Republic of Seychelles

**1:30 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.**

Traditional Lunch/Kerala Sadhya in honour of the  
Hon'ble Chief Justice of India

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**SESSION II**

**Venue : KTDC Waterscapes Kumarakom**

**3:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.**

**Regulatory Challenges and Innovations in Transportation Technologies and Eco-Tourism**

<b>Chair</b>	<b>Hon'ble Mr. Justice P.S Narasimha</b> Judge, Supreme Court of India
<b>Co-Chair</b>	<b>Hon'ble Smt. Justice Sunita Agarwal</b> Chief Justice, High Court of Gujarat, Ahmedabad
<b>Keynote Address</b>	<b>Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anil Kumar Sinha</b> Former Judge, Supreme Court of Nepal

**5:00 P.M. - 5:30 P.M. - Tea**

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## PLENARY SESSION

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Venue : KTDC Waterscapes Kumarakom

05:30 P.M. - 07:30 P.M.

**Dynamic Synergies: Stakeholders Meet and Judicial Colloquium**

**Chair**            **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajesh Bindal**  
Judge, Supreme Court of India

**Co-Chair**        **Hon'ble Mr. Justice N. Kotiswar Singh**  
Judge, Supreme Court of India

**Keynote Address**    **Hon'ble Justice Tan Sri Datuk Nallini Pathmanathan**  
Judge, Federal Court of Malaysia

7:30 P.M. - Conference Dinner

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## SESSION III

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Venue : Gokulam Grand Resorts, Kumarakom, Kerala

9:30 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.

**Collaborative Approaches and Best Practices in Eco-Tourism, Transportation Law**

**Chair**            **Hon'ble Mr. Justice C.T. Ravikumar**  
Judge, Supreme Court of India

**Co-Chair**        **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manoj Misra**  
Judge, Supreme Court of India

**Keynote Address**    **Hon'ble Mr. Justice. S. Thurairaja**  
Judge, Supreme Court of Sri Lanka

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## SESSION IV

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Venue : Gokulam Grand Resorts, Kumarakom, Kerala

11:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.

**Enhancing Capacity and Decision-making: Policy, Law and Justice**

**Chair**            **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra**  
Judge, Supreme Court of India

**Co-Chair**        **Hon'ble Mr. Justice K. Vinod Chandran**  
Chief Justice of High Court of Patna

**Keynote Address**    **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anil Kumar Sinha**  
Former Judge, Supreme Court of Nepal

1:30 P.M. - 2:30 P.M. - Lunch

**Sunday, 18th August, 2024**

2:30 P.M. - 4:00 P.M. - Valedictory Ceremony

Venue : Gokulam Grand Resorts, Kumarakom, Kerala

Chief Guest: **Hon'ble Hon'ble Mr. Justice B.R. Gavai**  
Judge, Supreme Court of India

Guest of Honour: **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rony Govinden**  
Chief Justice of The Republic of Seychelles

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant**  
Judge, Supreme Court of India & Chief Patron

**Dr. R. Venekataramani**  
Attorney General for India & Patron



## COMMONWEALTH LEGAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

The Chief Patron, CLEA  
**Justice Surya Kant**  
Judge, Supreme Court of India

Patrons & President, CLEA  
The Organizing Committee

cordially invite you to the  
Inaugural Ceremony of

### **CLEA International Conference on Law and Technology: Sustainable Transport, Tourism and Technological Innovations**

**Hon'ble Dr. Justice D. Y. Chandrachud**  
Chief Justice of India

has kindly consented to be the Chief Guest and to deliver the Inaugural Address

in the august presence of

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rony Goviden**  
Chief Justice of the Republic of Seychelles

on Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> August, 2024 at 09:30 A.M.  
KTDC Waterscapes, Kumarakom, Kerala

**Prof. (Dr.) S. Sivakumar**  
President,  
CLEA & Senior Professor,  
Indian Law Institute

**Justice Muhamed Mustaque A.**  
Acting Chief Justice,  
High Court of Kerala & Chairman,  
Organizing Committee

**DR. R. Venkatramani**  
Attorney General for India  
&  
Patron, CLEA

## PROGRAMME

10:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M. | Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> August, 2024

- 09:58 A.M. **Arrival of Dignitaries**
- 10:00 A.M. Lighting of the Lamp by the Chief Guest
- 10:02 A.M. Welcome Address and Introduction by Conference Chair  
**Prof. (Dr.) S. Sivakumar**, President Commonwealth Legal Education Association, CLEA & Senior Professor, Indian Law Institute, New Delhi
- 10:07 A.M. Opening Remarks by Hon'ble **Mr. Justice Muhamed Mustaque A.**  
Acting Chief Justice, High Court of Kerala & Chairperson, Conference Organizing Committee
- 10:12 A.M. Address by **Mr. Tushar Mehta**, Ld. Solicitor General of India
- 10:17 A.M. Address by Patron **Dr. R. Venkataramani**, Ld. Attorney General for India & Patron, CLEA
- 10:22 A.M. Presidential Address by Chief Patron **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant**, Judge, Supreme Court of India & Chief Patron, CLEA
- 10:32 A.M. Keynote Address by the Guest of Honour **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rony Goviden**  
Chief Justice of The Republic of Seychelles
- 10:40 A.M. Inaugural Address by the Chief Guest  
**Hon'ble Dr. Justice D.Y. Chandrachud**, Chief Justice of India
- 10:55 A.M. Felicitations/Presentation of Mementos to the Guests by Co-chairperson, Conference Organizing Committee, **Hon'ble Mr. Justice C.S. Dias**, Judge, High Court of Kerala & **Dr. Giri Sankar S.S.**, Secretary, Conference Organizing Committee
- 10:58 A.M. Vote of Thanks by **Mr. Loknath Behera**, Managing Director, Kochi Metro Rail Limited (KMRL) & Co-Chairperson, Organizing Committee



## COMMONWEALTH LEGAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

The Chief Patron, CLEA  
**Justice Surya Kant**  
Judge, Supreme Court of India

Patrons & President, CLEA  
The Organizing Committee

cordially invite you to the  
Valedictory Ceremony of

### **CLEA International Conference on Law and Technology: Sustainable Transport, Tourism and Technological Innovations**

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice B.R. Gavai**

Judge, Supreme Court of India

has kindly consented to be the Chief Guest and to deliver the Valedictory Address

in the august presence of

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rony Goviden**

Chief Justice of the Republic of Seychelles

on Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> August, 2024 at 02:30 P.M.  
Gokulam Grand Resort, Kumarakom, Kerala

**Prof. (Dr.) S. Sivakumar**  
President,  
CLEA & Senior Professor,  
Indian Law Institute

**Justice Muhamed Mustaque A.**  
Acting Chief Justice,  
High Court of Kerala & Chairman,  
Organizing Committee

**DR. R. Venakatramani**  
Attorney General for India  
&  
Patron, CLEA

## PROGRAMME

2:30 P.M. – 4:00 P.M. | Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> August, 2024

- 02:30 P.M. **Arrival of Dignitaries**
- 02:30 P.M. Conference Report and Kumarakom Declaration by the Conference Chair, **Prof. (Dr.) S. Sivakumar**, President, Commonwealth Legal Education Association & Senior Professor, Indian Law Institute, New Delhi
- 02:37 P.M. Conference Overview & Way Forward by **Hon'ble Mr. Justice C.S. Dias**, Judge, High Court of Kerala & Co-chairperson, Conference Organizing Committee
- 02:42 P.M. Address by Patron **Dr. R Venkataramani**, Ld. Attorney General for India & Patron, CLEA
- 02:50 P.M. Presidential Address by Chief Patron **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant**, Chief Justice of the Republic of Seychelles
- 03:00 P.M. Congratulatory Address by **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rony Goviden**  
Chief Justice of The Republic of Seychelles
- 03:10 P.M. Valedictory Address by the Chief Guest **Hon'ble Mr. Justice B.R. Gavai**, Judge Supreme Court of India
- 03:30 P.M. Felicitations/ Presentation of Mementos to the Guests by Chair Conference Organizing Committee **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Muhamed Mustaque A**, Acting Chief Justice, High Court of Kerala & **Mr. Loknath Behera**, Managing Director, Kochi Metro Rail Limited (KMRL) & Co-Chairperson, Organizing Committee
- 03:45 P.M. Vote of Thanks by **Dr. Giri Sankar S.S.**, Principal, St. Dominic's College of Law, Kanjirappally & Secretary, Conference Organizing Committee

# TECHNICAL SESSION I

17<sup>th</sup> August, 2024 (at KTDC Waterscapes Kumarakom)

11:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.

## Session 1: Legal and Ethical Frameworks in Transportation and Eco-Tourism

- ♦ Strategies for Energy Conservation and Environmental Sustainability in Transportation and Eco-Tourism
- ♦ Legal Perspectives on Infrastructure Development and Public-Private Partnerships
- ♦ Legal Considerations in Promoting Water-Based Tourism: Rights, Responsibilities and Regulations

**Welcome Address** (3 minutes)

**Prof. Meera Furtado**, General Secretary, CLEA & Head Business and Humanities, International Study Centre, University of Sussex

**Chair** (8 minutes)

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dipankar Datta**, Judge, Supreme Court of India

**Co-chair** (8 minutes)

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice Aravind Kumar**, Judge, Supreme Court of India

**Keynote Speaker** (8 minutes)

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rony Goviden**, Chief Justice of the Republic of Seychelles

<b>Speakers (8 Minutes)</b>	<b>Discussants (3 Minutes)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>♦ <b>Hon'ble Dr. Justice A. K. Jayasankaran Nambiar</b>, Judge, High Court of Kerala</li><li>♦ <b>Mr. Gopalakrishna Kurup</b>, Advocate General, Kerala</li><li>♦ <b>Dr. Manoj Kumar</b>, Additional Secretary, Legislative Department, Ministry of Law &amp; Justice, Govt. of India</li><li>♦ <b>Mr. Sagar Singamsetty</b>, Founder and Managing Partner, Grayspace Consultancy, Belgium</li><li>♦ <b>Dr. D Dhanuraj</b>, Founder and Chairman, Centre for Public Policy Research (CPPR), Cochin</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>♦ <b>Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anoop Kumar Dhand</b>, Judge, High Court of Rajasthan</li><li>♦ <b>Prof. (Dr.) N.K. Chakrabarti</b>, Vice-Chancellor, The West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences, West Bengal</li><li>♦ <b>Prof. (Dr.) Ashok R. Patil</b>, Vice-Chancellor, National University of Study and Research in Law, Ranchi</li><li>♦ <b>Dr. Vignesh Devraj MD (Ay)</b>, Founder &amp; Chief Physician, Sitaram Retreats &amp; Director, Sitaram Ayurveda Pvt Ltd</li></ul>

**Moderator**

**Prof. (Dr.) Kokila Lankathilake Konasinghe**, Professor, Department of Public & International Law, Faculty of Law, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka, Executive Member (CLEA-Asia)

**Vote of Thanks** (3 minutes)

**Mr. Salman Qasmi**, Doctoral Scholar, Indian Law Institute & Convener, CLEA- Asia

**Rapporteurs**

**Dr. P. George Giri**, Advocate, Supreme Court of India

**Dr. Preetha S.**, Director, SLS, CUSAT

**Dr. Malavika J.**, Asst. Professor, Kerala Law Academy Law College, Thiruvananthapuram

1:30 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Traditional Lunch/Kerala Sadhya in honour of the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India



## TECHNICAL SESSION II

17<sup>th</sup> August, 2024 (at KTDC Waterscapes Kumarakom)

3:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.

### Session II: Regulatory Challenges and Innovations in Transportation Technologies and Eco-Tourism

- ♦ Legal and Ethical Implications of AI and Smart Transportation Technologies
- ♦ Regulatory Challenges and Legal Implications of Autonomous Vehicles in Tourism and Transportation
- ♦ Cross-Border Water Transport: Harmonization of Regulation and Community Engagement in Eco-tourism

**Welcome Address** (3 minutes)

**Prof. (Dr.) Gigimon V.S.**, Professor and Director, Amity Law School, Amity University, Mumbai

**Chair** (8 minutes)

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice P.S Narasimha**, Judge, Supreme Court of India

**Co-chair** (8 minutes)

**Hon'ble Smt. Justice Sunita Agarwal**, Chief Justice, High Court of Gujarat, Ahmedabad

**Keynote Speaker** (8 minutes)

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anil Kumar Sinha**, Former Judge, Supreme Court of Nepal

<b>Speakers (8 Minutes)</b>	<b>Discussants (3 Minutes)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>♦ <b>Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mahabir Singh Sindhu</b>, Judge, High Court of Punjab &amp; Haryana</li><li>♦ <b>Mr. S. Guru Krishnakumar</b>, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India</li><li>♦ <b>Prof. (Dr.) Usha Tandon</b>, Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh</li><li>♦ <b>Mr. Amit Bhatt</b>, Managing Director, International Council on Clean Transportation</li><li>♦ <b>Dr. Mathew A Varghese</b>, Director, Centre for Urban Studies, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>♦ <b>Hon'ble Smt. Justice Moushumi Bhattacharya</b>, Judge, High Court of Telangana</li><li>♦ <b>Hon'ble Mr. Justice G Ramakrishna Prasad</b>, Judge, High Court of Andhra Pradesh</li><li>♦ <b>Prof. (Dr.) Dilip Ukey</b>, Vice-Chancellor, Maharashtra National Law University, Mumbai, India</li><li>♦ <b>Prof. (Dr.) Harpreet Kaur</b>, Vice-Chancellor, National Law University, Jodhpur</li><li>♦ <b>Dr. Sagee Geetha Sethu</b>, Head of Law, Amity University, Dubai</li></ul>

**Moderator**

**Mr. Barrister Prashanta Barua**, Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh, Dhaka & Member, CLEA - Bangladesh

**Vote of Thanks** (3 minutes)

**Ms. Nabila Zehra**, Doctoral Scholar, Indian Law Institute & Convener, CLEA

**Rapporteurs**

**Prof. (Dr.) Jaya Sankar K.I.**, Dean, Professor & Head, Dept. of Law, Central University of Kerala

**Dr. Arun Babu K.P.**, Asst. Professor, School of Environmental Studies, CUSAT

**Dr. Madhubrata Mohanty**, Associate Professor, Faculty of Legal Studies, Siksha-O-Anusandhan University, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

5:00 P.M. - 5:30 P.M. - Tea

# PLENARY SESSION

17<sup>th</sup> August, 2024 (at KTDC Waterscapes Kumarakom)

5:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.

## Dynamic Synergies: Stakeholders Meet and Judicial Colloquium

- ♦ Stream A: Uniting Borders: Enhancing Eco-Tourism and Cross-Border Water Transport through Technology
- ♦ Stream B: Capacity Building and Empowering Justice Delivery: Interplay between Law, Justice and Technology

**Welcome Address** (3 minutes)

**Ms. Ruchi Sharma D.** Joint General Secretary, CLEA & Doctoral Scholar, Indian Law Institute & Chief Conference Coordinator

**Chair** (8 minutes)

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajesh Bindal,** Judge, Supreme Court of India

**Co-Chair** (8 minutes)

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice N. Kotiswar Singh,** Judge, Supreme Court of India

**Keynote Address** (8 minutes)

**Hon'ble Justice Tan Sri Datuk Nallini Pathmanathan,** Judge, Federal Court of Malaysia

## Address by Industry Experts and Technocrats/Technical Institute's Heads (5 minutes)

Stream A	Stream B
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>♦ <b>Mr. Loknath Behera,</b> Former DGP &amp; Managing Director, Kochi Metro Rail Limited (KMRL)</li><li>♦ <b>Mr. Madhu S Nair,</b> Chairman &amp; Managing Director, Cochin Shipyard Limited</li><li>♦ <b>Prof. Ashok Jhunjunwala,</b> Institute Professor, IIT Madras, Chennai</li><li>♦ <b>Mr. Sonal Verma,</b> Dhir and Dhir Advocates and Solicitors</li><li>♦ <b>Mr. Jaideep,</b> OSD &amp; Ex-officio Joint Secretary Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, MOHUA</li><li>♦ <b>Mr. P S David,</b> President, House Boat Owners Welfare Society, Kumarakom</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>♦ <b>Dr. Rajiv Mani,</b> Secretary, Legislative Department and Secretary, Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law and Justice</li><li>♦ <b>Hon'ble Dr. Justice Pushendra Singh Bhati,</b> Judge, High Court of Rajasthan</li><li>♦ <b>Mr. Rajkumar Goyal,</b> Secretary, Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India</li><li>♦ <b>Ms. Ashwariya Bhati,</b> Ld. Additional Solicitor General, Supreme Court of India</li><li>♦ <b>Mr. Jishnu Nair,</b> Counsel for IBM</li><li>♦ <b>Mr. Utkarsh Saxena,</b> Founder, Adalat AI</li></ul>

## Discussion by:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>♦ Hon'ble Judges of Supreme Court, High Courts, and Abroad</li><li>♦ Legal Professionals and Academics</li><li>♦ Stakeholders</li></ul>
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**Moderator**

**Dr. Giri Sankar S.S.,** Principal, St. Dominic's College of Law, Kanjirappally & Secretary, Conference Organizing Committee

**Vote of Thanks** (3 minutes)

**Ms. Nadia Rahman,** Senior Lecturer at East-West University, Bangladesh

**Rapporteurs**

**Md. Ziaul Karim,** Chairman, Department of Law, Port City International University, Bangladesh

**Dr. Sonia K. Das,** Associate Professor, Govt. Law College, Thrissur

**Dr. Arathi P.M.,** Asst. Professor, School of Indian Thought, Kottayam

7:30 P.M. - Conference Dinner

## TECHNICAL SESSION III

18<sup>th</sup> August, 2024 (at Gokulam Grand Resorts, Kumarakom, Kerala)

9:30 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.

### Session III: Collaborative Approaches and Best Practices in Eco-Tourism, Transportation Law

- ♦ Ethical Considerations and Use of Advance Technology
- ♦ Commonalities of Law and Practice in Commonwealth Countries
- ♦ Standardizing Technology Adoption and Collaborative Approaches: Commonwealth Best Practices across Sectors

**Welcome Address** (3 minutes)

**Dr. Vikram Singh Arya**, Advocate, Supreme Court of India, New Delhi & Secretary, CLEA-Asia

**Chair** (8 minutes)

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice C.T. Ravikumar**, Judge, Supreme Court of India

**Co-chair** (8 minutes)

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manoj Misra**, Judge, Supreme Court of India

**Keynote Speaker** (8 minutes)

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice. S. Thurairaja**, Judge, Supreme Court of Sri Lanka

Speakers (8 Minutes)	Discussants (3 Minutes)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>♦ <b>Hon'ble Mr. Justice Somasekhar Sundaresan</b>, High Court of Bombay</li><li>♦ <b>Prof. (Dr.) H.J.F Silva</b>, Vice-President, CLEA, London, U.K.</li><li>♦ <b>Prof. (Dr.) Mizanur Rahman</b>, Former Chairman, Bangladesh Human Right Commission</li><li>♦ <b>Prof. (Dr.) V.C. Vivekanandan</b>, Vice-Chancellor, Hidayatullah National Law University, Raipur &amp; Executive Member, CLEA-Asia</li><li>♦ <b>Mr. Rohan K George</b>, Partner, Samvad Partners</li><li>♦ <b>Mrs. Sarika Panda Bhatt</b>, Founder Trustee, Raahgiri Foundation</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>♦ <b>Hon'ble Mr. Justice P. Sam Koshy</b> - Judge, High Court of Telangana</li><li>♦ <b>Hon'ble Smt. Justice Jyotsna Rewal Dua</b>, Judge, Himachal Pradesh High Court</li><li>♦ <b>Mr. Jatinder (Jay) Cheema</b>, Advocate, Supreme Court of India</li><li>♦ <b>Prof. (Dr.) Indrajit Dube</b>, Vice-Chancellor, National Law University, Meghalaya, Shillong</li><li>♦ <b>Prof. (Dr.) A. Kumaralingam</b>, Professor of Law, National Law University of Singapore &amp; Member, CLEA -South Asia</li></ul>

**Moderator**

**Prof. (Dr.) Lisa P Lukose**, Professor, University School of Law and Legal Studies and Director, Legal Aid, GGS Indraprastha University, Delhi / Secretary, CLEA- Asia

**Vote of Thanks** (3 minutes)

**Dr. Anita Patil**, Asso. Professor of Law, Ramaiah College of Law, Bengaluru & Joint Secretary, CLEA-Asia

**Rapporteurs**

**Dr. Dayana M.K.**, Asst. Professor, Govt. Law College, Ernakulam

**Dr. Binumole K.**, Asst. Professor, School of Legal Studies, CUSAT

**Ms. Vasudha Bali**, Doctoral Scholar, Indian Law Institute/ Doctoral Fellow, Indian Council for Social Science Research

## TECHNICAL SESSION IV

18<sup>th</sup> August, 2024 (at Gokulam Grand Resorts, Kumarakom, Kerala)

11:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.

### Session IV: Enhancing Capacity and Decision-making: Policy, Law and Justice

- ♦ Case Management and Judicial Decision-Making: Enhancing Efficiency through Technology and Global Practices
- ♦ Advancing Judicial Systems: Comparative insights on Technology and Judicial Best Practices

**Welcome Address** (3 minutes)

**Mr. K.R.R Aiyappamani**, Vice-President, CLEA – India & Member, Bar Council of Tamil Nadu

**Chair** (8 minutes)

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra**  
Judge, Supreme Court of India

**Co-chair** (8 minutes)

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice K. Vinod Chandran**  
Chief Justice of High Court of Patna

**Keynote Speaker** (8 minutes)

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anil Kumar Sinha**  
Former Judge, Supreme Court of Nepal

<b>Speakers (8 Minutes)</b>	<b>Discussants (3 Minutes)</b>
♦ <b>Hon'ble Mr. Justice Muhamed Mustaque A.</b> , Actg. Chief Justice, High Court of Kerala	♦ <b>Hon'ble Mr. Justice Saurabh Banerjee</b> , Judge, High Court of Delhi
♦ <b>Hon'ble Mr. Justice M. Sundar</b> , Judge, High Court of Madras	♦ <b>Mr. Graham Everett Leung</b> , Hon'ble Attorney General of FIJI
♦ <b>Hon'ble Dr. Justice Anita Sumanth</b> , Judge, High Court of Madras	♦ <b>Mr. Pradeep K. Bakshi</b> , Advocate, Supreme Court of India
♦ <b>Hon'ble Mr. Justice Suraj Govindraj</b> , Judge, High Court of Karnataka	♦ <b>Mr. Rajeev S. S.</b> , Advocate & Executive Member, CLEA-India
♦ <b>Mr. Abhivardhan</b> , Managing Partner, Indic Pacific Legal Research LLP/Chairperson & Managing Trustee, Indian Society of Artificial Intelligence and Law	♦ <b>Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya</b> , Advocate, Supreme Court of Sri Lanka, Colombo/CLEA – Sri Lanka
	♦ <b>Mr. Akhil Suresh P B</b> , Senior Partner, Bhartis Legal

**Moderator**

**Ms. Ashwariya Bhati**, Ld. Additional Solicitor General, Supreme Court of India

**Vote of Thanks** (3 minutes)

**Ms. Payal Ajmera**, Doctoral Scholar, Kirit P Mehta School of Law, Mumbai

**Rapporteurs**

**Mr. Devadath G.**, Advocate, High Court of Kerala

**Dr. Kavitha Chalakkal**, Asst. Professor, Inter-University Centre For IPR Studies, CUSAT

**Dr. Ambily P.**, Asst. Professor, NUALS, Kochi

1:30 P.M. - 2:30 P.M. - Lunch

2:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M. - Valedictory Ceremony

# BACKGROUND PAPER<sup>1</sup>

## Introduction

Sustainability is an expression that is capacious to broker peace and well-being in the society as it balances developmental needs with the well being of the generations assuring enduring quality existence. This is a *plurisignative* expression in the sense that it means different things at different time and appeal differentially to different people and also in different scenarios. This can include sustenance, safety, symbiotic existence, equitable, ethical way of conducting activities and much more. The core idea of sustainability can be achieved only when laws and legal systems take stock of the situation and accommodate different views, often conflicting and incompatible in nature to bring home co-existence or symbiotic existence for a desired outcome. The exponentially growing areas of transportation and tourism often has to take a call on multilayered facets of sustainability and has to assimilate the finer values of the same and manifest itself as sustainable transport and sustainable tourism. This exponential growth is largely accomplished through infusing technology at every conceivable angle of the activities transcending the domains in which the operations in these areas were carried out in the yester years. The larger employment of application of technology indeed throws questions on the efficacy of the existing regulatory landscape to comprehend the implications of the same. The cost benefit analysis in terms of feasibility-viability concerns in this matter, the ability to transcend developmental benefits to the demands of the pluralistic society and addressing of other related concerns are significant. To put it in a nutshell it all finally boils down to how the legal system can address the interface between need for technology induced sectoral developments and multipronged idea of sustainability in changing times, legally, ethically and in other parameters.

The cross sectoral dynamics of transport and tourism are indices of progress of fast developing nations. The transport sector having 'momentum' as its middle name shoulders the growing aspirations of a nation in its forward journey and catalyzes in harnessing the resources to feed the existence of many other sectors including that of tourism. Since the invention of the wheel, the innovations in the field of transportation knew no bounds and its seamless resourcefulness touched dizzy heights when technology made deep inroads in all facets of transportation. The technologically intensive water metro, the ideas for autonomous vehicles, self-charging roads, drones in various capacities, robotic cars and maintenance, *etc.*, are either already on the move or at least in the thought process pipe line. The colossal development accomplished and those that are being contemplated in the areas of transportation with the aid of technological innovations have rendered the legal frameworks developed at various points of time redundant and obsolete. The multilayered legal implications of engaging autonomous vehicles, cleaner energies, technologically high-sounding transportation modes, data driven transportation systems, unexplored areas of water transport and the enquiry for sustainable transport solutions, *etc.*, need evolving of new laws and mechanisms as well as the convergence of regulatory models across jurisdictions. Indeed the post globalized world puts forward different conceptual paradigms synergizing the strengths of various sectors and the urban mobility as well as rural mobility need to be fortified, as transport forms the wheels for seamless development. Along with that the legal systems across the world cannot afford to have isolated existence and instead have to assimilate the commonalities and develop resourceful legal architecture and best practices in its domestic regulatory landscape as well as transcending borders. To accomplish the same the legal systems, have to make purposive interventions and engage in capacity building relentlessly in the dynamics of the transportation

1. Prepared by Prof (Dr.) S. Sivakumar, Conference Chair & President, Commonwealth Legal Education (CLEA) with the support of Dr. Giri Sankar S.S., Conference Organizing Committee Secretary; Ms. Ruchi Sharma D., Chief Conference Co-ordinator & Joint General Secretary, CLEA; Ms. Nabila Zehra ,Conference Co-ordinator& Student Convenor, CLEA; Mr. Salman Qssmi, Conference Co-ordinator& Convenor, CLEA- Asia; Ms. Vasudha Bali, Doctoral Scholar, Indian Law Institute & Mr. Akshat Chopra, Doctoral Scholar, Indian Law Institute.

sector and infuse sustainability as a non-derogable standard for symbiotic existence between different sectors as well as accomplish finer notions of balanced development. When the existing laws conditioned by the circumstances under which the same were made, in all probabilities have not comprehended the issues of sustainability, the potentials for framing a comprehensive law and regulatory mechanisms for sustainable transport are also worth examining.

The ecotourism sector is a fast-developing global industry conceives a symbiotic co-existence of tourism with environment capitalizing its infinite resources and sustainable transportation is a key to for its enduring growth. The paradigms of sustainability are deeply entrenched in this synergized relationship as ecotourism emerges as a promising pathway for generating livelihoods and community engagements, capacity to contribute to the national GDP through developing global tourism avenues, promotion of regional co-operation, *etc.*, while conserving fragile ecosystems. The fact goes without saying that the rampant employment of technology in the transportation sector and its colossal development has significant fallout in the development of tourism industry, especially in ecotourism sector. Further the technological innovations and its customized applications in various sectors of ecotourism and allied areas of hospitality industry, tourism infrastructure development and others have led to collective exponential growth. Along with sustainability facets the concept of 'responsible tourism', though an elusive expression, is driven deep to balance the gains as well as the strain on environment caused by developmental needs but the same needs a definition to be comprehended by laws and policies. The legal system has to capacitate itself to meet the growing regulatory challenges and to accomplish a balancing act to maintain the fine balance between the competing interests involved. But it is trite that there is no well-defined, effective and comprehensive legal framework to regulate the ever-diversifying tourism industry, especially the ecotourism sector and the existing legal and normative framework is scattered between different legislations and Rules which addresses certain designated domains. In the sector of ecotourism for factoring in deeper sustainability issues and for comprehending the integration of the application of ever evolving technological handles like the block chain, AI-driven environmental monitoring, digital platforms for catering sustainable tourism, large scale data mining and for its protection, the prevailing conspicuous regulatory vacuum need to be addressed on priority basis.

It is trite that the regulators as well as adjudicators need to comprehend multi-faceted sustainability issues in developmental sectors driven by technology, beyond the existing templates when it comes to integrating sectors mutually complementing and are growth prone like transportation and tourism. Even a larger canvass of the implications of the engagement of law with technology and the deciphering and delineation of more complex issues in emerging scenarios are also to be undertaken by the regulatory mechanisms. The regulatory vacuum and shortcomings need to be addressed by the law makers with the active aid of the policy makers comprehending ground realities. The judiciary need to be strengthened engaging the customized technological handles in the matter of case management systems and other associated aspects besides equipping to handle interfaces with law and technology in relevant sectoral dynamics from the justice dispensation point of view. Hence the regulators, governance structures and the justice dispensation mechanisms have to scale up and fine tune their abilities to deliver justice in even hands engaging technology and deciphering technology driven activities. The ethical considerations which significantly accompany the employment of technologically advanced solutions cannot be lost sight of as sustainability concerns do have a spectrum of ethical dimensions in a country like India having demographic concerns and deep divides at the societal level on various fronts.

This background paper is to aid the deliberations of various themes of this conference to generate critical understandings on the areas of technologically driven sustainable transport and eco-tourism; to take stock of the existing regulatory paraphernalia and its adequacies an effectiveness; to flag areas needing comprehension in the interfaces of law and technology, and to examine the need for enhancing justice delivering capacity and modalities to be adopted for the same. It examines the potential for innovative solutions in the sectors to drive positive change while emphasizing the need for a holistic approach that addresses manifold sustainability issues and social equity assuring the harmonious balance of technological innovations, sustainability, and legal responsibilities.

Given these considerations, the conference will explore the following themes:

- ♦ Legal and ethical frameworks in transportation and eco-tourism
- ♦ Regulatory challenges and innovations in transportation technologies and eco-tourism
- ♦ Collaborative approaches and best practices in eco-tourism, transportation law
- ♦ Enhancing capacity and decision-making: policy, law and justice

## **I. LEGAL AND ETHICAL FRAMEWORKS IN TRANSPORTATION AND ECO-TOURISM**

- ♦ Strategies for Energy Conservation and Environmental Sustainability in Transportation and Eco-Tourism
- ♦ Legal Perspectives on Infrastructure Development and Public-Private Partnerships
- ♦ Legal Considerations in Promoting Water-Based Tourism: Rights, Responsibilities and Regulations

In an era where sustainability is essential, environmental friendly practices in transportation and eco-tourism are crucial. The 'Future of Sustainability in Transportation and Tourism' provides a critical platform to explore innovative strategies and robust legal frameworks for enhancing ecosystem features such as sustainability and environmental stewardship. This includes adopting phase-wise approaches to improve services and products aligned with these features. From a medium-term to long-term perspective, promoting energy-efficient fuels, maintaining green supply chains, and developing green transportation infrastructure are key goals. Understanding the current state of affairs is an important step in the short term. The legal implications in these matters are seldom comprehended purposively by the existing legal architecture and hence the way forward has to be identified.

Reducing private vehicle use and promoting efficient, affordable public transport are fundamental to ensuring sustainability in transportation. This involves disincentivizing private vehicle use and establishing an efficient public transport network, regardless of the initial fuel sources. Once a robust framework is in place, the gradual phase-out of conventional vehicles in favor of electric vehicles (EVs) and hybrids can begin, as this transition requires significant financial support. In the first phase, the focus is on reducing carbon emissions from private vehicles; in the second phase, the goal is to reduce the carbon footprint of public transport.

Effective public transit involves more than just increasing the number of vehicles; it requires adherence to principles of accessibility, affordability, connectivity, holistic planning, and environmental consideration. Before implementing this transition, it is crucial to establish the basics: proper infrastructure, reliable services, improved last-mile connectivity, an increased number of buses, and optimised routes. The resourcefulness of intermodal transport, enhancing the takeaways of metro modes of transport which are fine examples of sustainable transports through improving first mile and last mile connectivity are priority areas. A comprehensive understanding of these complex areas supported by case studies, need to be explored by sector experts to devise appropriate legal frameworks.

Beyond sustainability, this also seeks to address the intricate legal aspects that underpin infrastructure development and the promotion of water-based tourism focusing on public-private partnerships and regulatory frameworks. It addresses the legal challenges and solutions for sustainable infrastructure projects and evaluates existing regulations for water-based tourism across different states. It emphasises the importance of multi-stakeholder participation, transparency, and regional standards for promoting tourism. Legal experts can provide better insights into the rights and responsibilities of stakeholders, particularly local communities, offering a comprehensive understanding of navigating the legal landscape effectively.

The diverse perspectives offered by policymakers, legal experts, environmental advocates, and industry professionals will facilitate a holistic approach to crafting laws and regulations. This collaborative dialogue will enable the judiciary to develop more comprehensive and effective legal instruments that promote sustainable development while ensuring environmental protection and promoting economic growth.

1. How can the concept of sustainable transportation and responsible tourism be given a content/ definition to effectively comprehend at the policy and legal level for attempting comprehensive laws and its effective enforcement.?
2. What are the current challenges faced by the existing public transportation sector, and what additional challenges are expected when transitioning to electric and hybrid public transit? How can these challenges be overcome to ensure a smooth transition and enhance the sustainability of public transportation and increase the same in a phased manner to reduce private transport and whether the existing legal framework is adequate and if not what is the way forward for a comprehensive transport law?
3. What is the current distribution of energy among various sectors, what are the primary sources of energy used today, and what challenges need to be addressed before transitioning to electric and hybrid vehicles? Whether there are any hazards comprehended and if so how safety concerns are to be addressed through tailor made legal mechanisms?
4. How can the transition from private vehicles to hybrid and electric public transit be managed effectively to achieve environmental sustainability, and what are the necessary prerequisites including laws in place to augment an orderly transition?
5. What are the priorities to be addressed when regulatory vacuums are to be filled for example water metro service which is a fine reflection of sustainable transport where a regulatory vacuum persists?
6. How can public-private partnerships (PPPs), along with private entities and NGOs, contribute to the development, financing, and management of sustainable tourism infrastructure, and what strategies can maximise their contributions?
7. What are the regulatory perspectives on PPPs in infrastructure development for intersecting areas of tourism and transportation?
8. How can infrastructure development and safety measures for water-based tourism be enhanced while involving local communities, preserving cultural heritage, and effectively managing stakeholder roles and conflicts between tourist water use and local needs?

## **II. REGULATORY CHALLENGES AND INNOVATIONS IN TRANSPORTATION TECHNOLOGIES AND ECO-TOURISM**

- ♦ Legal and Ethical Implications of AI and Smart Transportation Technologies
- ♦ Regulatory Challenges and Legal Implications of Autonomous Vehicles in Tourism and Transportation
- ♦ Cross-Border Water Transport: Harmonization of Regulation and Community Engagement in Eco-tourism

The evolution of AI in transportation has transitioned from theoretical ideas to impactful real-world applications, with Autonomous Vehicles (AVs) representing a key milestone. AVs use AI to process sensor data and navigate independently, and this technology has extended to public transportation, enhancing efficiency and sustainability. AI can optimise fuel consumption and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, especially when paired with electric and alternative fuel vehicles. Moreover, AI's data analytics improve accessibility by targeting high-demand areas, making public transit more inclusive and efficient.

As AI and smart transportation technologies increasingly shape the transportation sector, understanding the legal and ethical implications becomes crucial. The conversation will address the complexities surrounding the regulation of these technologies, highlighting both the opportunities they present, including easy accessibility for the elderly, reduction in traffic fatalities among others and the potential ethical risks they pose. By exploring case studies and current legal frameworks, the session aims to foster a deeper understanding of how to navigate the ethical landscape and ensure responsible implementation of AI in transportation.



Additionally, there are regulatory hurdles and legal implications of integrating autonomous vehicles into tourism and transportation. The unique challenges of cross-border water transport, emphasizing the need for harmonised regulations and robust community engagement to promote sustainable eco-tourism needs to be addressed. The experts can propose actionable solutions that balance technological advancement with ethical considerations and sustainability, paving the way for a harmonious integration of new transportation technologies in eco-tourism. Ultimately, the session will equip the legislators with the necessary knowledge and tools to devise comprehensive regulatory frameworks for these sectors.

1. How can data collection and privacy concerns be balanced in the management of transportation and tourism systems and how data protection legal framework need to comprehend the same?
2. Whether there is any legal framework capable enough to address legal and ethical concerns including safety pertaining to autonomous vehicles? If not what should be the forward looking legal frame work in this regard? Whether there are comparative legal frameworks prevailing in other jurisdictions? How can policy interventions effectively address these ethical dilemmas?
3. What are the potential challenges and solutions for integrating AI in traffic management, logistics, and public transit systems while maintaining privacy and cyber security? Whether there are adequate and efficient legal framework to comprehend the employing of AI and other advanced technologies across sectors? If not what is the way forward?
4. How can community-based tourism practices enhance local engagement and promote sustainable and inclusive tourism. What should be the legal and ethical framework in such engagements?
5. What should be the priorities while giving shape to a comprehensive law on tourism which includes regulation as well as development comprehending engaging of technology at all conceivable levels?
6. What role does inland waterway transport play in regional cooperation and integration, and how can a transnational transport route be developed. What should be the legal preparedness for that?

#### **DYNAMIC SYNERGIES: STAKEHOLDERS MEET AND JUDICIAL COLLOQUIUM**

- ♦ Uniting Borders: Enhancing Eco-Tourism and Cross-Border Water Transport through Technology
- ♦ Capacity Building and Empowering Justice Delivery: Interplay between Law, Justice and Technology in Transport & Eco-tourism

#### **UNITING BORDERS: ENHANCING ECO-TOURISM AND CROSS-BORDER WATER TRANSPORT THROUGH TECHNOLOGY**

The concept of a border can be reimagined as a bridge, particularly when the focus is on shared natural resources and sustainable development. This session on “Uniting Borders: Enhancing Eco-Tourism and Cross-Border Water Transport through Technology” will explore the potential of ecotourism and cross-border water transportation, facilitated by technology, to foster cooperation and integration between nations sharing a common water body. By emphasizing environmental conservation, economic development, and cultural exchange, this approach can contribute to regional stability and prosperity.

Ecotourism, a form of tourism focused on environmental conservation and education, offers a unique opportunity to unite nations sharing a common ecosystem. Countries can collaborate on resource management, biodiversity protection, and community development by developing joint ecotourism initiatives. For instance, a shared river basin can be transformed into an ecotourism corridor, featuring diverse attractions such as wetlands, forests, and historical sites.

Technology plays a crucial role in enhancing the ecotourism experience. Mobile applications can provide real-time information on ecological features, wildlife sightings, and visitor management. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) can support sustainable tourism planning by identifying sensitive areas and optimizing infrastructure development. Additionally, social media platforms can be leveraged for destination marketing and community engagement.

Besides, eco-tourism this session will also focus on cross-border water transport. Cross-border water transportation, when implemented sustainably, can significantly contribute to regional economic integration. By improving connectivity between countries, it facilitates trade, tourism, and people-to-people contact. Modern technologies such as autonomous vessels, advanced navigation systems, and real-time water quality monitoring can enhance the efficiency and safety of water transportation while minimizing environmental impact. For example, a river connecting two countries can be developed into a multimodal transport corridor, accommodating both passenger and cargo vessels. This would require investments in port infrastructure, customs procedures, and digital platforms for logistics management. Moreover, the integration of renewable energy sources into the transportation system can reduce carbon emissions and promote sustainable development.

However, implementing ecotourism and cross-border water transportation initiatives requires addressing several challenges. The existence of bilateral agreements between its neighbouring countries like Bangladesh might not be lost sight of and can provide the platform for an enquiry. This session will address challenges like environmental impact assessment, water quality management, border security, and institutional cooperation. To overcome these hurdles, different viewpoints from diverse stakeholders involving government agencies, private sector, and civil society organizations are essential. The session will address capacity-building programs to enhance the skills of local communities in tourism, transportation, and environmental management. Building strong partnerships between neighbouring countries is crucial for the success of these initiatives. Hence, the session will address the need to establish joint management committees to oversee the implementation of shared projects.

Technology, eco-tourism, and cross-border water transportation can be transformed into powerful tools for regional cooperation and development. The session will address the approach towards promoting environmental sustainability, economic growth, and social cohesion. It will address necessary initiatives required for economic gains, cultural exchange, conflict prevention, and improved quality of life for water and borderland communities. The outcome of this session will enable policymakers, environmentalists, the private sector, and the judiciary to have a broad outlook on the topic and take effective steps toward implementing suggestions given in the discussion.

1. How can effective governance structures and policies be established to facilitate cross-border cooperation in ecotourism and water transportation, addressing issues of sovereignty, resource sharing, and environmental protection?
2. What technological advancements are most promising for enhancing the environmental and socio-economic benefits of ecotourism and cross-border water transportation, and what are the potential challenges and risks associated with their implementation?
3. How do ecotourism and cross-border water transportation initiatives contribute to poverty reduction, job creation, and sustainable livelihoods in borderland communities, and what are the equity implications of these developments?
4. What are the ecological impacts of ecotourism and cross-border water transportation, and how can these activities be managed to minimize negative effects and maximize conservation benefits?
5. In what ways eco-tourism and cross-border water transportation promote intercultural dialogue, understanding, and cooperation, and how can these initiatives contribute to conflict prevention and resolution in border regions? Whether the existing bilateral agreements in this area has the potential to deliver the goods in this regard?
6. What are the most effective financing mechanisms and investment strategies for supporting ecotourism and cross-border water transportation projects, and how can public-private partnerships be leveraged to maximize returns on investment?

#### **CAPACITY BUILDING AND EMPOWERING JUSTICE DELIVERY: INTERPLAY BETWEEN LAW, JUSTICE AND TECHNOLOGY**

The concept of "Capacity Building and Empowering Justice Delivery: Interplay between Law, Justice, and Technology" underscores the transformative potential of integrating technology within

legal frameworks to enhance justice delivery systems. In an era where technological advancements rapidly reshape various sectors, the legal field is no exception. This concept explores how emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, blockchain, and digital platforms can be harnessed to improve the efficiency, transparency, and accessibility of justice systems globally.

The digital revolution has significantly impacted the legal domain in recent years, presenting both opportunities and challenges. One of the primary areas of exploration within this concept is the implementation of digital courtrooms, e-filing systems, and AI-driven legal research tools. Digital courtrooms facilitate virtual hearings, reducing the need for physical presence and thus making the judicial process more flexible and accessible. E-filing systems streamline the submission and management of legal documents, cutting down administrative burdens and expediting case processing times. AI-driven tools can assist in legal research by quickly analysing vast amounts of data to identify relevant case laws, statutes, and legal precedents, thereby enhancing the accuracy and efficiency of legal practice.

However, the integration of these technologies requires a concurrent evolution of legal frameworks. Laws and regulations must be adapted to accommodate technological advancements, ensuring that they remain relevant and effective in the digital age. This adaptation involves addressing new legal challenges such as data privacy, cyber security, and the ethical use of AI. Ensuring robust legal frameworks that can handle these challenges is essential for maintaining the integrity and trustworthiness of justice delivery systems.

Another critical aspect of this concept is capacity building for legal professionals. The rapid pace of technological change necessitates continuous professional development and training for judges, lawyers, and court staff. Comprehensive training programs are needed to equip these professionals with the necessary skills to leverage technology effectively. This includes not only technical skills but also an understanding of the ethical and legal implications of using advanced technologies in legal practice. By doing so, the legal profession can remain agile and responsive to the changing landscape, ultimately enhancing the quality of justice delivered.

Capacity building also extends to legal education. Law schools and institutions must integrate technology into their curricula, preparing future legal professionals to operate in a tech-driven environment. This involves interdisciplinary learning, where law students are exposed to fields such as computer science, data analytics, and cyber security. Such an approach ensures that upcoming legal professionals are well-versed in the technological tools and concepts that will shape the future of justice delivery.

Furthermore, the concept emphasizes the role of technology in promoting access to justice, particularly for marginalized and underserved populations. Digital platforms and mobile technologies if properly conceived and oriented can bridge the gap between these communities and legal resources, making justice more inclusive and equitable. For example, online legal services and virtual consultations can provide legal assistance to individuals in remote or rural areas who may not have easy access to physical legal facilities. Mobile applications can offer legal information and resources in multiple languages, catering to diverse populations and improving legal literacy.

Innovations in legal aid and pro bono services through technology are also crucial. Online platforms can connect individuals in need of legal assistance with volunteer lawyers and legal aid organizations, facilitating timely and effective legal support. These platforms can also provide resources such as self-help guides, legal document templates, and instructional videos, empowering individuals to navigate the legal system more effectively.

The ethical and social implications of technology in the legal field also form a core part of this discussion. As technology becomes more embedded in justice delivery, addressing concerns such as data privacy, cyber security, and the potential for bias in AI algorithms is paramount. AI systems, for example, must be designed and implemented with fairness and transparency in mind to prevent reinforcing existing biases and inequalities in legal processes. Ensuring that technological advancements do not exacerbate existing inequalities but instead contribute to a fairer justice system is a fundamental goal of this concept.

Moreover, the concept explores the potential of emerging technologies to revolutionize areas such as forensic science, evidence gathering, and case management. Blockchain

technology, for instance, offers secure and transparent methods for recording and verifying legal transactions, which can significantly reduce instances of fraud and tampering. Advanced data analytics can aid in identifying patterns and trends in criminal activity, assisting law enforcement agencies in proactive crime prevention.

The interplay between law, justice, and technology also necessitates a collaborative approach. Stakeholders including legal professionals, technologists, policymakers, and academia must work together to develop and implement solutions that enhance justice delivery. This collaborative effort can lead to the creation of innovative tools and platforms that address specific challenges within the justice system. It also ensures that diverse perspectives are considered in the development and deployment of these technologies, promoting inclusivity and fairness. Ultimately, this concept envisions a future where law, justice, and technology are harmoniously integrated, creating a more efficient, transparent, and accessible justice delivery system that benefits society as a whole. By fostering collaboration among legal professionals, technologists, and policymakers, this approach aims to build robust justice systems capable of meeting the demands of the digital era. The insights and outcomes from this exploration will contribute significantly to the ongoing discourse on the future of law and justice in the digital age, paving the way for a justice system that is not only technologically advanced but also equitable and just for all members of society.

The concept of “Capacity Building and Empowering Justice Delivery: Interplay between Law, Justice, and Technology” addresses the critical need for technological integration within the legal field. By focusing on technological innovations, adapting legal frameworks, building capacity among legal professionals, promoting access to justice, and addressing ethical and social implications, this concept aims to create a justice system that is prepared for the future. The collaborative efforts of stakeholders will be essential in realizing this vision, ensuring that technology serves as a tool for empowerment and equity in justice delivery

1. How can digital courtrooms and e-filing systems be optimised to ensure they enhance efficiency and accessibility without compromising the integrity and confidentiality of legal proceedings?
2. In what ways can artificial intelligence be leveraged to assist in legal research and decision-making, and what safeguards should be put in place to prevent bias and ensure fairness in its applications?
3. What strategies can be employed to build the capacity of legal professionals to effectively utilize advanced technologies in their practice, and how can legal education be reformed to support this goal?
4. How can technology be used to bridge the justice gap for marginalized and underserved populations, ensuring equitable access to legal resources and services?
5. What are the key legal and regulatory challenges associated with integrating emerging technologies such as blockchain and AI into justice delivery systems, and how can these challenges be addressed?
6. How far the law enforcement agencies can effectively indulge engaging technology in preventing and combating unlawful activities particularly in the area of transport and tourism which transcends jurisdictions and assist the justice dispensation process in its delivery of justice?
7. How can stakeholders, including legal professionals, technologists, policymakers, and academia, collaborate effectively to develop and implement technology-driven solutions that enhance justice delivery while maintaining ethical standards?

### **III. COLLABORATIVE APPROACHES AND BEST PRACTICES IN ECO-TOURISM, TRANSPORTATION LAW**

- ♦ Ethical Considerations and Use of Advance Technology
- ♦ Commonalities of Law and Practice in Commonwealth Countries
- ♦ Standardizing Technology Adoption and Collaborative Approaches: Commonwealth Best Practices across Sectors

The concept of “Collaborative Approaches and Best Practices in Eco-Tourism and Transportation Law” underscores the necessity of integrating sustainable travel practices within the legal frameworks that govern transportation. Eco-tourism, defined as responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and improves the well-being of local communities, must be supported by transportation systems that do not compromise ecological integrity. This concept explores the vital collaboration between policymakers, the tourism industry, and local communities to create and implement transportation solutions that align with the principles of sustainability and environmental stewardship.

Eco-tourism relies heavily on transportation networks to facilitate access to natural destinations. However, traditional transportation methods can significantly impact the environment, contributing to carbon emissions, habitat disruption, and pollution. Therefore, aligning transportation law with eco-tourism practices is essential to mitigate these negative effects. By promoting the use of low-emission vehicles, enhancing public transportation options, and developing infrastructure that supports non-motorized travel, such as bike paths and pedestrian walkways, we can foster a travel culture that prioritizes environmental health. These sustainable transportation options not only reduce the carbon footprint of tourists but also enhance the overall experience by providing more serene and less polluted travel environments.

Legal frameworks play a crucial role in this integration. Current transportation laws must be examined and adapted to incorporate eco-tourism needs, ensuring regulations promote sustainable practices. This involves setting emission standards, incentivizing the use of green technologies, and enforcing regulations that protect natural habitats from the adverse effects of transportation. Furthermore, harmonizing international, national, and local regulations can create a cohesive legal environment that supports sustainable travel across borders. Legal reforms should also address the challenges posed by over-tourism, where excessive tourist numbers overwhelm local infrastructure and ecosystems, leading to degradation and loss of biodiversity. By instituting caps on visitor numbers, zoning laws that protect vulnerable areas, and stringent waste management regulations, transportation laws can significantly contribute to preserving natural sites.

Capacity building is another critical component of this concept. Legal professionals, policymakers, and tourism operators must be educated and trained on the importance of sustainable transportation and its impact on eco-tourism. Developing comprehensive training programs and fostering continuous professional development can equip stakeholders with the knowledge and skills needed to implement and advocate for eco-friendly transportation solutions. This capacity building should extend to local communities, empowering them to participate actively in tourism planning and management. Education and awareness programs can help communities understand the benefits of sustainable tourism and transportation, fostering a sense of stewardship and collaboration.

Community involvement is also paramount. Local communities often bear the brunt of unsustainable tourism practices. Therefore, their participation in decision-making processes ensures that their needs and insights are considered, leading to more effective and accepted solutions. Collaborating with communities can also lead to the development of community-led tourism initiatives that align with sustainability goals, empowering locals and ensuring that tourism benefits are equitably distributed. Community-based tourism models can serve as exemplary cases where local knowledge and traditional practices are integrated with modern sustainable practices, offering unique and authentic experiences to tourists while preserving cultural heritage and biodiversity.

Technological advancements offer promising solutions to support sustainable eco-tourism. Innovations such as electric vehicles, smart transportation systems, and data analytics can optimize travel routes, reduce emissions, and improve the overall efficiency of transportation networks. Implementing these technologies requires a collaborative approach, where stakeholders work together to integrate innovative solutions into existing infrastructures while adhering to legal standards. The use of technology can also enhance visitor management through online booking systems that regulate the flow of tourists, ensuring that natural sites are not overwhelmed. Additionally, mobile applications can provide tourists with real-time information about eco-friendly transport options, environmental regulations, and responsible behaviour guidelines.

Identifying and disseminating best practices is crucial for the widespread adoption of sustainable travel methods. Case studies of successful eco-tourism and sustainable transportation initiatives can serve as valuable references, providing practical insights and strategies that can be replicated or adapted to different contexts. These best practices can highlight effective collaboration models, innovative technologies, and policy frameworks that have successfully harmonized eco-tourism and transportation law. For instance, regions that have successfully implemented low-emission zones, eco-friendly public transport systems, and community-based tourism projects can serve as benchmarks for others. Workshops, conferences, and online platforms can facilitate the exchange of these best practices among stakeholders globally.

Monitoring and evaluation are essential to ensure that the implemented strategies and policies are effective and achieve their intended goals. Regular assessment of transportation systems, environmental impact, and community satisfaction can provide valuable feedback for continuous improvement. Governments and organizations should establish mechanisms for data collection and analysis to track progress and identify areas needing adjustment. Transparency in reporting and involving stakeholders in the evaluation process can enhance accountability and drive better outcomes.

Ultimately, the concept of collaborative approaches and best practices in eco-tourism and transportation law envisions a future where travel does not come at the expense of the environment. By fostering cooperation among various stakeholders, developing robust legal frameworks, promoting technological innovations, and involving local communities, we can create a sustainable travel ecosystem that benefits both people and the planet. This integrated approach will ensure that eco-tourism remains a viable and sustainable option, contributing to environmental conservation and socio-economic development for generations to come. The collaboration between eco-tourism and transportation law not only supports the preservation of natural landscapes but also encourages the responsible enjoyment of these areas, ensuring that they remain pristine and accessible for future generations. Through collective efforts and shared knowledge, we can build a model of tourism that exemplifies harmony between human activity and the natural world.

1. How can transportation laws be adapted to support the goals of eco-tourism while ensuring the protection and preservation of natural habitats and biodiversity?
2. What are the most effective collaborative models for integrating sustainable transportation practices into eco-tourism, and how can different stakeholders, including government agencies, tourism operators, and local communities, be engaged in these models?
3. In what ways can technological advancements, such as electric vehicles and smart transportation systems, be leveraged to enhance the sustainability of eco-tourism, and what legal frameworks are needed to support their implementation?
4. What are the key challenges and barriers to harmonizing international, national, and local transportation regulations to promote sustainable eco-tourism, and how can these challenges be addressed through collaborative efforts?
5. How can best practices in eco-tourism and sustainable transportation be effectively disseminated and adopted across different regions, and what role can education and training play in this process?
6. What metrics and evaluation methods can be used to assess the impact of sustainable transportation initiatives on eco-tourism, and how can continuous monitoring and feedback mechanisms be implemented to ensure ongoing improvement?

#### **ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS AND USE OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES**

As Artificial Intelligence builds on earlier ICT and computing revolutions, it encounters ethical and legal issues of similar nature as technology has the potential to be abused even while it can be used for good. AI impacts in a big way the hospitality and tourism industries by increasing customer service and operational efficiency, which will eventually increase profitability. AI-powered chatbots, for instance, can be used to deliver interactive, round-the-clock customer care by responding to

frequently asked questions from visitors, offering tailored advice, recommendations, and help, and even managing straightforward reservation requests. Use of AI application can increase guest engagement, loyalty, and happiness by improving customer service and cutting down on response times. Even show how creating artificial intelligence is essential to the growth of space tourism. Implementing AI systems still faces significant obstacles, though. These include the necessity for high-quality data, which may be costly and time-consuming to produce, and the challenge of ensuring that AI systems and human workers are a good fit.

The use of AI has shown to be a useful technique for increasing operational effectiveness. Intelligent robotics can help the traditional hospitality sector with issues related to language difficulties, human resource management, and personnel quality. Corporations can reduce costs, increase productivity, and improve overall operational efficiency by using AI technologies to automate repetitive jobs, streamline resource allocation, and streamline processes. These technologies can carry out jobs effectively and consistently, increasing production.

When building service, care, and companion robots, it is important to take into account the privacy and dignity of AI users, since these robots will be exposed to highly intimate moments (such as dressing and bathing) while working in people's homes. IPA customers were surveyed, and the results revealed that the most common privacy concerns were about their device being hacked (68.63%), personal information being collected on them (16%), private conversations being recorded (12%), conversations being listened to 24/7 (10%), not respecting their privacy (6%), storing their data (6%) and the 'creepy' nature of the device (4%). People were, nevertheless, overwhelmingly pleased and at ease with the devices in spite of these reservations. Big Data is an additional aspect of AI that has an impact on privacy. Thanks to advancements in technology, it is now possible to maintain long-term records on anyone who generates storable data, including those who have digital devices, contracts, bills, credit histories, and activity on social media and in public writing.

The use of transportation networks in daily life is essential. The development and status of AI in transportation now demonstrate an amazing path from abstract ideas to useful, real-world implementations. At first, AI's application in transportation was limited to theoretical studies and futuristic notions. In order to create the foundation for more sophisticated applications, early efforts concentrated on automating fundamental tasks like route planning algorithms and traffic light controls. As machine learning, computer vision, and sensor technology advanced, so did the sophistication of AI in transportation. One of the most significant developments has been in autonomous vehicles (AVs). These vehicles employ artificial intelligence to interpret sensor data, allowing them to learn and navigate their surroundings without human interaction. Companies such as Tesla, Waymo, and others have made great progress in this area, undergoing intensive testing and launching limited AV deployments. AI applications in public transportation range from predictive maintenance for trains and buses to AI-driven route optimization and smart ticketing systems. These improvements aim to improve operational efficiency and the passenger experience. According to UITP, approximately 90% of public transportation operators are actively developing and integrating AI into daily operations.

The application of artificial intelligence in transportation has several ethical considerations like data privacy which need to be properly conceived by legal systems. As robots advance in sophistication, massive volume of data of individuals and organizations will be aggregated which include the sensitive ones like preferences, behaviors, and even emotions. The data might be used for a variety of purposes, including targeted advertising and forecasting people's future behavior and any unauthorised collection and use of such data raises severe ethical concerns and has a telling effect on personal data autonomy.

To improve the operational effectiveness of transportation networks, information technology aided smart transportation solutions which enhance traffic flow and safety and reduces travel time and fuel consumption have to be employed. To establish a sustainable, intelligent transportation system, IoT (Internet of things) infrastructures must be used more extensively and seamlessly integrated with information and communication technologies (ICT). The implementation and application of cutting-edge communications, electronic, and computational capabilities facilitates information transfer, traffic flow control, and transportation network administration. Adopting

and integrating emerging technology in transportation systems prioritizes four main concepts: sustainability, integration, safety, and responsiveness. These concepts will be critical in achieving the primary aims of smart transportation: “access and mobility, environmental sustainability, and economic development”. The major concern is the prevalence of a legal system which is engaging as well as the one which enables these activities within the bounds of law.

Autonomous driving in smart transportation systems makes use of advanced technologies such as sensors, cameras, artificial intelligence, and data analytics, allowing vehicles to run with little to no human interaction. This means that vehicles are only considered autonomous when the automated system can perform all alternating tasks, such as navigating through traffic in various driving circumstances. Self-driving systems often integrate hardware and software components. These self-driving vehicles are outfitted with hardware/sensors such as radar, lidar, and cameras to assist them comprehend their surroundings. They also use powerful processing tools to examine data and make judgments. Autonomous driving systems are key components of smart transportation systems, improving safety, lowering traffic congestion, and making transportation more sustainable. However, it is critical to recognize that these systems require substantial development and continual innovation to solve the technical, legal, and ethical challenges that arise with their deployment.

The introduction of these self-driving technology provides numerous advantages for smart mobility. Some of the advantages include improved safety, efficiency, accessibility, productivity, mobility, reduction in the number of vehicles on the road, traffic management, accident reduction technologies, improving sustainability quotient etc. However, it is critical to recognize that these systems require substantial development and continual innovation to solve the technical, legal, and ethical challenges that arise with their deployment which will be a point of enquiry instantly. The key issue in the tailor-made regulatory perspective that need to be maintained while enabling these systems to ply in the Indian context as well as the tailor-made regulatory perceptions to be employed and mechanisms to be put in place. The following aspects are relevant in this context;

**Regulation:** The complex nature of autonomous cars creates significant technological obstacles for validation and testing. For traditional automobiles, existing standards exist, such as those established by the International Standardization Organization (ISO), which define the functional requirements to which its vendors must conform during manufacturing. These rules, however, are inapplicable to an autonomous vehicle because it can make judgments on its own, as opposed to ordinary cars, which require humans to make these decisions. As a result, given to the significant uncertainty of the predictions that these vehicles may make in various driving circumstances, it is hard and impracticable to meet all of the standards for validating and testing autonomous vehicles.

**Safety and Reliability:** One key difficulty for self-driving vehicles is assuring the safety of both passengers and other road users. Implementing autonomous vehicles can help to prevent accidents caused by human error. However, they must be able to recognize and respond to unforeseen scenarios, like unexpected changes in roadway conditions or pedestrian movements.

**Security and Privacy:** Despite promising research findings, security and privacy remain significant impediments to the mainstream use of connected car technologies. During all connections, user and location information must be kept secure, which may be difficult for self-driving vehicles because all of the inherent security concerns associated with sensors, communication networks, and short-range communications are readily available to them. As a result, security will be critical in the future development of self-driving cars. Selfish individuals, hackers, enraged employees, and terrorist organizations would all be keen on a fully automated system, such as an autonomous car. In the most dire case, such vehicles may be used for terrorist activities without any requirement for a driver.

**Cost:** Despite significant progress in lowering the cost of producing autonomous vehicles, an engaging question will be how far average Indian middle class families will be able to afford them as a financially viable option for the typical Indian households. Transportation is a crucial component of destination image that serves as the foundation for a successful tourism sector as it functions arterially as a determining factor in the development of a tourism attraction. Cross-border



tourism and trade across trans-boundary rivers between nations has the potential to significantly contribute to local community socioeconomic development as well as environmental and cultural preservation. Nowadays, public policies, programs, and initiatives play a critical role in ensuring the sustainability of tourism destinations. Water tourism, particularly water tourism, is a vital component of the modern tourism industry. The predicted growth of water tourism, which includes sea and river cruise and sailing, underscores the importance of constructing port infrastructure that allows for the processing of vessels via freight transit.

Furthermore, tourism infrastructure improves locals' quality of life. Certain research have stated that if a site is inaccessible, tourism cannot occur. Accessibility is a key consideration in tourist development as it drives innovation and new recommendations. It is an important component that provides tourists with enjoyable driving experiences. It refers to the ease of accessing goods, services, activities, and places. If it is uncomfortable, tourists will look for another destination.

Infrastructure improvements, clear laws, and public knowledge will all contribute to more sustainable river tourism. Cross-border tourism and trade will play a vital role in socioeconomic development, environmental and cultural preservation. Smooth customs clearance and immigration, combined with security and health measures, will boost India-Bangladesh cross-border river tourism. River tourism would necessitate the deployment of cruise crew, jetty operators, tourist guides, cultural artists, small boat operators, and food suppliers, creating jobs for local communities in neighbouring countries. The main problems of harmonising the regulatory framework of cross-border transportation are that Different national laws and standards: Countries frequently have different restrictions for water transportation, environmental protection, and tourism. Enforcement Consistency: Ensuring that regulations are enforced consistently across borders can be problematic.

1. How can regulators balance innovation with safety and consumer protection in transportation and tourism? What are the main challenges in creating a unified regulatory framework for emerging transportation technologies across different jurisdictions?
2. How can regulations encourage technological innovation while mitigating potential risks?
3. What are the key liability issues arising from the use of AI in transportation? How should liability be determined in accidents involving autonomous vehicles used for tourism?
4. What licensing and certification requirements should be established for autonomous vehicles in the tourism sector?
5. How should regulations address the potential impact of autonomous vehicles on local transportation economies in tourist destinations?
6. What are the main challenges in harmonizing water transport regulations across different countries?
7. How can community engagement be effectively integrated into the development of eco-tourism regulations?
8. What should be the mechanisms in place to ensure fair distribution of economic benefits from cross-border eco-tourism to local communities?

#### **IV. ENHANCING CAPACITY IN DECISION MAKING : POLICY, LAW AND JUSTICE**

- ♦ Case Management and Judicial Decision-Making: Enhancing Efficiency through Technology and Global Practices
- ♦ Advancing Judicial Systems: Comparative Insights on Technology and Judicial Best Practices

*"Eco-tourism is more than a catchphrase for nature-loving travel and recreation. Eco-tourism is the wave of the future, offering both ecologically and economically sustainable tourism."*

*-Martha Honey*

Commonwealth nations share a common legal heritage, primarily based on English common law. This shared foundation facilitates the harmonization of laws and regulations across member countries, making it easier to implement and enforce eco-tourism and sustainable transport policies. The consistency in legal traditions also promotes mutual understanding and cooperation in addressing environmental and economic challenges. The Commonwealth provides various platforms for collaboration, such as the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting and the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group. These forums enable member countries to share best practices, develop joint initiatives, and coordinate policies on sustainable development. By leveraging these collaborative frameworks, Commonwealth nations can work together more effectively to enhance capacity and decision-making in eco-tourism and sustainable transport.

Incorporating technology into eco-tourism and transport can greatly enhance efficiency and effectiveness. Digital case management systems, e-filing, AI, and blockchain can streamline processes, improve data accuracy, and increase transparency. Technology can also facilitate better monitoring and enforcement of environmental regulations, ensuring compliance and reducing illegal activities. Strengthening judicial systems through the adoption of best practices and technological tools can improve decision-making and case management in eco-tourism and transport. Efficient judicial processes ensure that disputes are resolved swiftly and fairly, fostering a conducive environment for sustainable development.

By enhancing capacity and decision-making, Commonwealth nations can develop and implement more robust policies and laws for eco-tourism and sustainable transport. Improved judicial efficiency ensures that these laws are enforced effectively, promoting justice and accountability. This comprehensive approach not only supports environmental sustainability and economic development but also aligns with the broader goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Climate Change Agreement.

#### **CASE MANAGEMENT AND JUDICIAL DECISION MAKING: ENHANCING EFFICIENCY THROUGH TECHNOLOGY AND GLOBAL PRACTICES**

Digital Case Management Systems can offer a transformative approach to handling eco-tourism and transport-related cases. By centralizing case information, automating routine tasks, and providing real-time updates, CMS can significantly streamline the judicial process. For instance, a CMS can efficiently track case progress, manage document flow, and facilitate communication between parties involved. This not only accelerates case resolution but also ensures equitable distribution of judicial resources. Additionally, CMS can generate valuable data and analytics, aiding in identifying trends, bottlenecks, and areas for process improvement within the eco-tourism and transport sector.

The adoption of e-filing systems revolutionizes case initiation and management by eliminating physical paperwork and associated delays. Digital documentation ensures easy accessibility, searchability, and preservation of case records. This transparency fosters trust between the judiciary and the public, as it reduces the scope for manipulation or loss of crucial evidence. Moreover, e-filing simplifies the process for litigants, allowing them to submit documents conveniently from remote locations. By minimizing bureaucratic hurdles, e-filing contributes to expedited case proceedings and improved overall efficiency.

AI-powered legal research tools are rapidly transforming the landscape of legal practice, including eco-tourism and transport law. These tools can swiftly analyze vast legal databases, identify relevant statutes, regulations, and case precedents, and generate comprehensive summaries. This significantly reduces the time lawyers spend on research, enabling them to focus on strategic case development. AI can also assist in predicting case outcomes based on historical data, aiding in decision-making and negotiation. However, it is crucial to use AI as a supplementary tool and not as a replacement for human judgment.

Blockchain technology offers a secure and immutable platform for maintaining judicial records. By creating a decentralized and distributed ledger, it eliminates the risk of data tampering or loss. This transparency enhances trust in the judicial system and reduces the potential for fraud or corruption. In the context of eco-tourism and transport cases, blockchain can be used to track

the ownership of permits, licenses, and property rights, ensuring clarity and preventing disputes. Furthermore, it can provide a verifiable record of environmental impact assessments, compliance reports, and legal proceedings, strengthening accountability and enforcement.

### **Global Practices and Lessons Learnt**

#### *Australia*

Australia has been at the forefront of technological integration in its judicial system, particularly in the area of environmental and transport law. The country has implemented robust digital case management systems to streamline processes and enhance efficiency. For instance, the New South Wales Supreme Court has adopted a comprehensive case management system that facilitates electronic filing, document management, and case tracking. Additionally, the use of online dispute resolution platforms has gained traction for resolving environmental disputes, reducing the burden on the courts. Australia's emphasis on data analytics and predictive modeling has also aided in identifying trends and potential issues within the eco-tourism and transport sectors, enabling proactive policymaking.

#### *Canada*

Canada has made significant strides in leveraging technology to modernize its judicial system. The province of British Columbia, renowned for its natural beauty and reliance on eco-tourism, has implemented advanced case management systems to handle the influx of environmental cases. These systems have improved case flow, reduced delays, and enhanced access to justice. Furthermore, Canada has been exploring the use of artificial intelligence for legal research in environmental law, aiding lawyers in identifying relevant precedents and regulations more efficiently. While still in its nascent stages, this technology holds immense potential for improving the efficiency of the legal process.

#### *India*

The E-Courts project in India has been a monumental undertaking aimed at digitizing the entire judicial system. The project has had a profound impact on case management, particularly in high-volume areas like environmental and transport law. Through the implementation of e-filing, electronic case tracking, and video conferencing, the E-Courts project has significantly reduced physical paperwork, expedited case proceedings, and improved access to justice for citizens. While challenges such as digital literacy and infrastructure persist, India's commitment to digital transformation is commendable and offers valuable lessons for other countries.

### **Key takeaways from these nations:**

Australia and Canada demonstrate the importance of early adoption of technology and sustained investment in digital infrastructure. The success of these initiatives hinges on creating user-friendly systems that cater to the needs of both legal professionals and the public. Utilizing data analytics to inform policy and improve case management is crucial for optimizing judicial resources. India's experience underscores the need for comprehensive digital literacy programs to ensure equitable access to justice. By learning from fellow commonwealth nations, countries can tailor their technological implementations to their specific needs and challenges, ultimately enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of their judicial systems in addressing eco-tourism and transport-related issues.

The integration of technology into the judicial system, while promising, presents several challenges. Safeguarding privacy and data security is paramount as sensitive personal and case-related information is handled digitally. Robust encryption, access controls, and regular security audits are essential to prevent data breaches. Additionally, the digital divide must be addressed to ensure equitable access to justice. Providing digital literacy training and public access terminals can help bridge this gap. Furthermore, successful implementation hinges on the ability of judicial staff to adapt to new technologies. Comprehensive training programs are crucial to equip judges, lawyers, and support staff with the necessary skills to effectively utilize digital tools.

## **ADVANCING JUDICIAL SYSTEMS: COMPARATIVE INSIGHTS ON TECHNOLOGY AND JUDICIAL BEST PRACTICES**

The integration of technology within judicial systems is transforming the administration of justice in the following commonwealth nations:

### **United Kingdom**

The HM Courts & Tribunals Service reform program has been instrumental in digitizing the English and Welsh courts. Initiatives such as online dispute resolution, digital case management, and remote hearings have significantly impacted eco-tourism and transport cases by accelerating proceedings and reducing costs.

### **South Africa**

While facing challenges, South Africa has made rapid strides in utilizing technology for judicial purposes. The focus on environmental justice has driven the adoption of digital tools for case management and public participation.

### **New Zealand**

Known for its innovative approach, New Zealand has implemented electronic filing and case management systems, particularly in specialized environmental courts. This has improved efficiency and accessibility for parties involved in eco-tourism and transport disputes.

### **Singapore**

Singapore's eLitigation system exemplifies efficiency and transparency. Its adoption of electronic filing, case management, and document exchange has significantly reduced case processing time.

### **Kenya**

Despite challenges, Kenya has made notable progress in utilizing technology for court management and public access to justice. Initiatives in environmental and transport law showcase the potential for positive impact.

### **Malaysia**

Malaysia's emphasis on e-filing and electronic case management has streamlined judicial processes. Efforts to integrate technology in specialized courts related to eco-tourism and transport have yielded positive results.

By sharing this knowledge and their experiences, Commonwealth nations can collectively advance their judicial systems, ensuring efficient, accessible, and transparent administration of justice in the realm of eco-tourism and transport law. To maximize the benefits of technology, several best practices could be adopted:

- i. Consistent digital systems across Commonwealth nations will facilitate data sharing, reduce costs, and enhance efficiency.
- ii. Transparent judicial processes build public trust. Online access to court records, case information, and hearings is essential.
- iii. Continuous training programs are vital to equip judicial officers and staff with the skills to effectively utilize technology.

- iv. Judicial systems should be designed with the user in mind, considering the needs of litigants, lawyers, and the public.

Hence, by addressing the following issues, Commonwealth nations can prioritize the integration of technology and best practices in their judicial systems, ultimately supporting sustainable development in eco-tourism and transport. The following enquiries seem very pertinent:

1. How can emerging technologies like AI, blockchain, and IoT be leveraged to enhance the efficiency and transparency of eco-tourism and sustainable transport systems in Commonwealth nations?
2. What are the best practices for implementing digital case management systems in the judicial handling of eco-tourism and transport-related cases, and how can these be adapted to the specific contexts of different Commonwealth nations?
3. How can collaborative frameworks within the Commonwealth be strengthened to foster greater cooperation and knowledge sharing in the development and implementation of sustainable transport policies?
4. What are the key legal and regulatory barriers to the adoption of sustainable transport technologies in Commonwealth nations, and how can these be addressed through judicial reforms and policy changes?
5. How can public-private partnerships be optimized to finance and implement sustainable transport and eco-tourism projects in Commonwealth nations, ensuring both economic viability and environmental sustainability?
6. What role can community engagement and participatory decision-making play in the development and success of eco-tourism and sustainable transport initiatives in Commonwealth countries?
7. How can resilience to climate change be built into the transport infrastructure of Commonwealth nations, particularly in countries most vulnerable to extreme weather events?
8. What are the potential socio-economic impacts of transitioning to sustainable transport modes in rural and underserved areas of Commonwealth nations, and how can these be mitigated?
9. How can the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic be applied to enhance the sustainability and resilience of transport systems in Commonwealth nations?
10. What innovative legal frameworks can be developed to support the rapid transition to low-carbon transport modes and fuels in Commonwealth nations, ensuring compliance with international agreements like the Paris Climate Change Agreement?

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