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## EDITORIAL NOTE

- *Editors*

The second issue of Volume VIII of the GNLU Journal of Law & Economics comprises seven carefully curated articles that delve into critical intersections of law and economics. This issue brings forth fresh perspectives and empirical insights on contemporary challenges, demonstrating the Journal's continued commitment to fostering informed discourse that bridges doctrinal frameworks with real-world socio-economic concerns.

The paper titled **“The Currency of Delay: A Political Economy Analysis of Judicial Incentives in Indian High Courts”** authored by Tathagat Sharma challenges the conventional assumption that judicial pendency is caused mainly by lack of resources or institutional capacity. The author instead argues that delay can arise as a rational outcome of existing incentive structures within the judicial system, where the state is both the largest litigant and an influential actor in judicial appointments and career progression. In such a set-up, the author argues that the judges may be encouraged to adopt risk-averse approaches and rely on procedural action rather than prioritizing swift final decisions. The paper, therefore, develops a “Strategic Judge” model that conceptualizes judges as actors balancing considerations such as reputation, workload, prospects of elevation and the potential costs of dissent. Further, the author also proposes an empirical framework to examine whether disposal patterns are shaped by factors such as political cycles, the identity of litigants and proximity to retirement.

The paper titled **“Economic Analysis of Providing Subsidized Public Transport for Women with Reference to Ramesh Kamal v. State of H.P. & Anr.”** authored by Suha K, Ashita Sai Manohar & Nehal Verma, examines the economic rationale of Himachal Pradesh's “Nari ko Naman” scheme, which provides subsidised transport for women. The authors situate the scheme within the broader debate on fiscal prudence and welfare “freebies”, arguing that mobility subsidies can function as enabling investments rather than consumption-driven expenditures. The authors use primary and secondary sources to evaluate the scheme's impact on women's access to education and employment, along with its efficiency, sustainability and opportunity costs. The paper highlights the importance of careful policy design in translating welfare objectives into durable socio-economic gains.

The paper titled **“Internal Migration as a Driver of Regional Economic Growth: Spatial Spillovers & Policy Implications from Turkey”** authored by Dr. Sinan Çinar offers an empirically grounded reassessment of the relationship between migration and regional development. The author employs spatial econometric techniques and moves beyond region-specific analysis to demonstrate how migration-induced growth effects spill over into neighbouring regions through geographic and economic interdependence. The findings of the author challenge the narrowly framed policy responses that assess migration outcomes in isolation and argue the need for coordinated, regionally integrated

development strategies. This paper therefore adds nuance to migration discourse in emergency economies marked by internal mobility.

The paper titled **“Regulating Market Power: An Empirical and Legal Analysis of Anti-Competitive Practices in India’s Pharmaceutical Sector”** authored by Dr. Seema Shrivastava & Arya Shrivastava interrogates the operation of competition law within a market where access and affordability carry immediate welfare implications. The paper focuses on retail-level practices in the city of Bengaluru combined with consumer and pharmacy surveys with a doctrinal analysis of the Competition Act, 2002 and the Drug Price Control Order, 1995. The authors identify patterns such as brand dominance, entry barriers and constrained consumer choice, linking them to structural weakness in enforcement mechanisms and argue that competition regulation in pharmaceuticals must be assessed not only through market metrics but also through its downstream effects on public health and consumer welfare.

The paper titled **“More Ecology or More Economy in International Conventions on Biodiversity?”** authored by Donatella Porrini & Antonio De Lorenzo traces the evolution of biodiversity regulation from conservation-centric approaches to frameworks that increasingly rely on economic instruments. The authors analyze international conventions and policy initiatives since the 1970s and demonstrate how tools such as taxes, subsidies, tradable permits and payments for ecosystem services have become central to implementation strategies. This paper shows a shift from purely normative commitments to economically grounded mechanisms aimed at operationalizing conservation goals, thereby suggesting that future biodiversity governance will depend on an even closer integration of legal obligations and economic incentives.

The paper titled **“Regulating the Indian Thrift Market: An Economic Analysis of the Trade Marks Act, 1999”** authored by Siya Mathur & Isha Katiyar addresses an emerging regulatory challenge at the intersection of sustainability, consumer protection and intellectual property. The paper focuses on India’s rapidly expanding second-hand and resale markets and examines whether thrift reselling meaningfully competes with brand manufacturers and how trademark law responds to concerns of reputation, quality assurance and consumer confusion. The authors use an empirical analysis of consumer behaviour and argue for a recalibration of regulatory focus by proposing product-liability obligations for resellers as a mechanism to balance consumer protection with the legitimate interests of trademark holders in a growing circular economy.

The final contribution, **“Economic Analysis of Algorithmic Collusion and Self-Preferencing in Digital Markets: Competition Challenges and Regulatory Responses”** authored by Dr. Shweta Mohan confronts the evolving challenges posed by algorithm-driven coordination and platform conduct in digital markets. The author draws on economic theory and contemporary enforcement concerns and explains how algorithmic pricing and platform self-preferencing can facilitate anti-competitive outcomes even in the absence of explicit human collusion. The paper observes the limitations of

traditional competition-law tools in addressing such conduct and calls for regulatory responses that are technologically informed, forward-looking and capable of preserving consumer welfare without unduly shifting innovation.

This issue reflects the Journal's vision of encouraging interdisciplinary scholarship that meaningfully informs contemporary policy debates. Each paper offers grounded insights and robust analyses that underscore the vital connection between sound economic reasoning and legal frameworks.

The Editorial Board extends its heartfelt gratitude to the Review Process Committee consisting of Ms. Anuradha S Pai, Dr Aman Deep Singh, Dr. Chitra Saruparia, Dr. Manoranjan Kumar, Dr. Himanshu Thakkar, Mr. Ketan Kothadia, Ms. Krishna Agarwal and Dr. Shriram C R, for their diligent and constructive reviews.

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