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EDITORIAL NOTE

- *Editors*

The first issue for Volume VI presents a set of 6 articles which seek to challenge the notions that appear prima facie to be viable, by using law and economic tool. They present a new perspective on issues of child labour and service charges. The present compilation also looks into the welfare economics and assesses socio-economic efficacies of various measures taken by the government such as attempting to formulate Uniform Civil Code and anti-rent measurement. It also moves into the statutory laws and legal system of India to look into pendency of cases in Excise cases and how rule of law is imperative to peace promotion.

The first paper titled "**A Uniform Civil Code for the Eradication of Disconsolate Practices in the name of Religion and to Ensure Socio-Economic Justice**" authored by Prof. (Dr.) Mamata Biswal discusses prevalent harmful practices like Sati, child marriage, Triple Talaq, and Nikah Halala which are not fundamental to religion and are not constitutionally valid in India. These practices stem from economic factors and lead to the deprivation of rights, particularly for women. Therefore UCC should be implemented in a phase wise manner wherein, in the first phase, the harmful, discriminative religious practices in different religious laws and provisions will be eradicated leading to improved economic conditions for women. Subsequently the UCC can evolve a code covering all religion in order to create a value maximising balance between religious rights and social equilibrium, thereby promoting equality and harmony, while respecting religious freedom.

The paper titled "**Law and Economic Analysis of Service Charge in Restaurants**" authored by Niharika Agarwal and Diya Parikh investigates the controversial issue of service charges in India and analyzes three scenarios from an economic and consumer rights perspective. The study concludes that all three scenarios, including tipping, mandatory service charges, and incorporating the charge within the food price, are economically inefficient. Tipping is deemed ineffective due to the lack of a strong tipping culture, while mandatory service charges remove consumer discretion and can lead to deception. Incorporating the charge within the food price results in lost producer surplus and limits consumer discretion. Overall, the paper recommends against implementing any of these scenarios and highlights their drawbacks.

The next paper "**Socio-economic Cost of Pending Excise Case in Bihar: a Search for Way Out**" by Adil Ameen discusses the slow disposal and pendency of cases in the Indian judicial system have negative consequences for society, particularly in Bihar where liquor prohibition

has led to illegal trade networks and increased crime. The low conviction rate and easy availability of liquor have eroded trust in authorities. Prohibition-related cases burden the judiciary, resulting in delayed trials and overcrowded courts. These issues have social and economic impacts, especially on marginalized communities. The administration should target major liquor suppliers and producers instead of small consumers and distributors, and view drunk individuals as patients for rehabilitation rather than punishment. This approach would have a greater societal impact and alleviate the burden on the judiciary

The fourth paper "**Does Rule of Law Impact Crime: a Cross Country Analysis**" is authored by Anuradha S. Pai, Shantanu R. Shinkre and Dr. Nairita Bhattacharjee. This paper highlights the importance of the rule of law in promoting peace and security in society. It emphasizes the deterrent effect of strict laws and the need for equality before the law. The paper also discusses the correlation between unemployment and crime rates, suggesting that high unemployment can lead to an increase in criminal activities. Additionally, the potential impact of migration on crime rates is mentioned. Overall, the paper underscores the role of the rule of law in maintaining order, examines the relationship between unemployment and crime, and touches on the influence of migration on criminal activity.

The paper authored by Prakhar Aditya and Priyansh Pratap Tiwari titled "**The Seasonal Nature of Child Labour and its Forbidden Upsides**" challenges the negative perception of child labor, particularly seasonal child labor in India. It argues that existing laws fail to address the issue of children's seasonal absence from education and proposes a fresh policy approach to tackle the downsides of child labor. The paper highlights the complexities surrounding child labor and suggests that seasonal child labor can provide a solution to long standing problems. Overall, it aims to provide a new perspective on child labor and offer a comprehensive policy prescription

The last paper titled "**Anti-Rent Control Legislation a Boon or Bane: an Economic Analysis of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2013**" is authored by Ishita Kohli. It seeks to understand an anti-rent approach enshrined in the amendment in Waqf Act in 2013 in congruence with sections of the Waqf Properties Lease Rules of 2014, the amendment which regulates waqf properties with regards to evictions and bidding based on circle rates so as to fall outside the scope of the State Rent Control Laws and promote free market transactions. The amendment is tested in a pro-tenant background, taking Delhi Rent Control Act and various court decisions as the base to apply economic tool and support the present Amendment.

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