

Call for Papers Fixing Case Delays: Reforming India's Court Systems

Background We invite submissions for a day-long conference on case delays in India. The convening will bring together researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to examine the systems and processes that contribute to delays in courts.

Submissions should focus on process-level analysis, rather than on the legal and doctrinal aspects.

Themes (Not Exhaustive)

- **Court administration:** How courts manage cases and judicial time, including case allocation, adjournments, hearing efficiency, roster design, and the handling of long-pending cases across their life cycle.
- **Capacity and resources:** Analyses of how judicial training, staffing support, and physical infrastructure affect court functioning and timelines, and how investments in these areas can improve performance.
- **Macroeconomic consequences of case delays:** Research examining how case delays affect investment, entrepreneurship, and broader macroeconomic outcomes such as GDP and FDI.
- **Data systems:** Work examining the quality of existing data sets on delays, digitisation, record-keeping, and court information systems and how these shape efficiency.

Eligibility Open to researchers, academics, legal practitioners, policy analysts, and students from disciplines such as law, public policy, economics, data science, and management. Co-authorship is permitted.

Submission Guidelines

- **What to Submit:** An abstract (500 - 800 words) including:
 - Research question and objectives.
 - Methodology (e.g., data sources, analytical approach, comparative frameworks).
 - Key findings or anticipated contributions to addressing case delays.
 - Relevance to policy and potential impact.
 - Brief CV(s) of author(s) (up to 2 pages total).
- **Format:** PDF document, single-spaced, 12-point font (Times New Roman), with references in a standard style (APA or Chicago).
- **Deadline:** April 30, 2026 (11:59 PM IST). Late submissions will not be considered.
- **How to Submit:** Email to submissions.pendencylab@csep.org with the subject line "Case Delays CFP Submission - [Author(s) Last Name(s)]".

Selection Process Submissions will be reviewed by a review committee comprising of CSEP and TrustBridge experts as well as external advisors based on originality, methodological rigor, and policy relevance. Up to 10 papers will be selected.

Selected papers presented at the conference will be invited for submission to a special issue on case delays with the Indian Public Policy Review (IPPR). Following a peer-review process, a subset of approximately 5 papers will be selected for publication in the special issue.

Review Committee Members

- Laveesh Bhandari (President, Centre for Social and Economic Progress)
- Prashant Reddy (Co-author, Tareekh Pe Justice)
- Renuka Sane (Managing Director, Trust Bridge)
- Karthik Suresh (Assistant Professor of Law, National Law School of India University)
- Bhargavi Zaveri Shah (Co-Founder, The Professeer)

Contact For inquiries, write to Shagun Suryam at pendencylab@csep.org.