COMPREHENSIVE ARTICLE PROCESSING CHARGE (APC) POLICY

JOINT JURIST

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Governance Framework:

Managed under the

executive supervision

of the Editorial Board and Publisher .

CLAUSE 1. Institutional Philosophy & Open-Access Mandate

The **Joint Jurist** is committed to the advancement of legal scholarship, research, and contemporary advocacy frameworks. We operate strictly on a **Gold Open-Access Model**. This means that all legal articles, empirical research papers, case commentaries, and statutory analyses published under our banner are made permanently, immediately, and universally free to read, download, copy, distribute, and cite without any financial barriers or subscription paywalls for the global legal fraternity.

To sustain this democratic access to knowledge, we do not charge institutions or readers for access. Instead, the operational costs of publication are met through a one-time **Article Processing Charge (APC)** levied upon the authors of accepted manuscripts.

Strict Ethical Firewalls ***(Anti-Predatory Publishing Guidelines)***

- **Zero Submission Fees:** We do not charge any fee at the time of initial manuscript submission, registration, or preliminary review.
- **Separation of Finances and Editorial Judgments:** Our peer-reviewers, editors, and advisory board members evaluate manuscripts strictly on academic rigor, legal depth, and compliance with the **Indian Law Institute (ILI) citation model**. Financial transactions are entirely handled by our administrative desk *only after* a paper successfully secures a formal, unconditioned **Letter of Acceptance (LoA)**. Paying an APC does not guarantee or fast-track publication unless the manuscript meets our baseline scholarly thresholds.

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CLAUSE 2. Tiered APC Fee Structure

To maintain a balanced ecosystem that encourages young research scholars while matching standard operational overheads for legal experts, we enforce a strict tiered fee structure.

A. Student Category (Undergraduate & Postgraduate Scholars / Ph.D. Candidates)

This category applies strictly to individuals currently enrolled in a recognized law university or institution at the time of submission.

- **Single Author: ₹700** *(All inclusive of digital archiving).*
- **Co-Author Layer (Up to 2 Authors): ₹1000 Total** *(Flat fee covering both researchers).*
- **Three Authors (Maximum Allowable Cap): ₹1500 Total** *(Flat fee covering all three researchers).*

B. Professional Category (Academicians, Practicing Advocates, Judges & Corporate Counsel)

This category applies if even one of the contributing authors is a working professional or faculty member.

- **Single Author: ₹1000**
- **Co-Author Layer (Up to 2 Authors): ₹1,600 Total** *(Flat fee covering both professionals).*

Tiered APC Fee Structure (Quick Glance)

Category	Single Author	Co-Author Layer (Up to 2 Authors)	Three Authors (Maximum Cap)
A. STUDENT CATEGORY *(UG / PG Scholars & Ph.D. Candidates enrolled in a recognized Law University)*	**₹700**	**₹1000 Total** *(Flat fee covering both researchers)*	**₹1,500Total** *(Flat fee covering all three researchers)*
B. PROFESSIONAL CATEGORY *(Academicians, Practicing Advocates, Judges & Corporate Counsel)*	**₹1000**	**₹1600 Total** *(Flat fee covering both professionals)*	**Not Applicable** *(Max 2 authors allowed for professionals)*

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CLAUSE 3. Granular Breakdown of Fee Allocation (Where Does Your APC Go?)

We maintain 100% transparency regarding financial handling. The processing charges collected from accepted authors are directly directed into the following essential operational and infrastructural channels:

1) Funding high-speed cloud hosting servers, maintaining a secure SSL-encrypted web domain, preventing data breaches, and managing content distribution networks (CDNs) for zero-downtime access to published PDFs.
2) Financing high-end automated software to verify textual originality, cross-reference data points, run similarity checks, and index citations properly.
3) Payment toward technical designers who meticulously convert raw MS Word manuscripts into formatted, visually standard, professional academic journal templates using standard *Times New Roman* typography.
4) Unlike conventional journals that simply upload a PDF and abandon it, a significant portion of our resources goes toward active academic marketing:
    a) Designing customized, professional **Digital Posters and Visual Cards** for every published paper.
    b) Generating specialized digital interaction links to boost your citation indexing metrics on academic networks.
5) Costs related to the creation, encryption, and secure deployment of verifiable **Digital Certificates of Publication** and comprehensive peer-review feedback reports.

CLAUSE 4. Strict Payment Timelines & Procedural Instructions

Once a manuscript is approved by the Editorial Board, the following strict timeline must be adhered to by the corresponding author:

1. The author will receive a formal notification email containing the **Letter of Acceptance** LoA alongside a unique payment link/banking directive issued by the administrative desk.
2. The APC must be cleared within **5 to 7 business days** from the exact time stamp of the notification email. Failure to do so will result in the automatic suspension of the slot, and the space will be reallocated to waitlisted manuscripts to avoid delayed publication schedules.
3. Upon making the transaction, authors are strictly required to reply to the official acceptance email attaching a high-resolution, uncropped screenshot of the transaction receipt showing the Transaction ID, Date, and Amount clearly.

CLAUSE 5. POST-PAYMENT FORFEITURE & WITHDRAWAL SYNC

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To prevent severe organizational, logistical, and financial loss caused by sudden author changes-of-mind, our journal enforces an ironclad refund policy synced perfectly with our **Official Withdrawal & Ethical Compliance Policy**.

- **The Absolute Non-Refundability Mandate:** Once the Article Processing Charge (APC) is paid and credited to our administrative account, "***NO REFUND WILL BE GRANTED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES",*** even if the author subsequently requests a formal withdrawal of the paper or refuses to coordinate with layout changes.
- **Logistical Justification for Forfeiture:** The moment an APC transaction is verified, our editorial desk immediately locks the slot, initiates design spending, runs final technical alignment checks, and allocates digital space. Because human and capital resources are deployed instantaneously, the transaction is irreversible.

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(CLAUSE 6) The Withdrawal Interlock Matrix

Stage of Manuscript Lifecycle	Financial Liability / Outcome	Actionable Resolution Status
Stage 1: Within the first 5 days of submission (If JJJ has not responded)	**No Charge / Free Release**	Author can withdraw via a simple notification email.
Stage 2: During active peer-review (After the 3-5-day window has closed)	**Mandatory ₹350 Administrative Penalty**	Manuscript will not be unlogged or released until the penalty is settled.
Stage 3: Post-Selection Window (Within 5 days of receiving the LoA, but before APC payment)	**Mandatory ₹350 Administrative Penalty**	Manuscript will remain tied to JJJ control unless the penalty is cleared.
Stage 4: Post-Payment Phase (After APC is paid, before final issue launch)	**100% Forfeiture of APC (STRICTLY NO REFUND)**	The paper will be permanently pulled from publication, but **no funds will be returned**.

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(CLAUSE 7) PERMANENT MANDATE FOR ALL CONTRIBUTING AUTHORS

*By submitting any manuscript (including but not limited to Research Papers, Long/Short Articles, Case Commentaries, and Book Reviews) to the **Joint Jurist Journal (JJJ)** and processing any subsequent transactions, all authors—present and future—explicitly declare that they have **fully read, comprehensively understood, and unconditionally accepted** all the clauses, terms, and protocols outlined across our Official Withdrawal Policy and Article Processing Charge (APC) Policy. All operational, financial, ethical, and administrative policies of the Journal are kept entirely public, transparent, and accessible on our official platform. It is the sole statutory responsibility of the authors to review these guidelines prior to initiating any submission or engagement with the Journal. Ignorance of any published policy shall not be entertained as a valid defense or ground for dispute.*

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- *The Joint Jurist Journal (JJJ), its Editorial Board, the Management Team, and the Publisher stand **completely indemnified, protected, and zero-liable** against any third-party claims, academic losses, career damages, or legal actions. The Journal shall not be made a party to, nor held responsible for, any external or internal conflicts between authors, co-authors, or their respective affiliated institutions.*
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