



7TH GNLU ANNUAL LEGAL SERVICES FORUM 2026



THEME:
*Artificial
Intelligence For
Access To
Justice*

**21st – 22nd
March, 2026**

About Us

Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar is a premier institution of legal education in India established under the Gujarat National Law University Act, 2003. With its exemplary faculty, staff, and committed students, the University endeavors to impart quality legal education, contextualising it within the latest policy and practical developments in the fields of humanities, commerce, business administration, social work, science, and technology.

GNLU is the largest National Law University in India with regard to student, faculty, and academic discourse, and the only Indian National Law University to offer integrated law degrees in five streams including B.S.W. LL.B, and LL.M., Ph.D. and diploma programs in a wide multitude of legal and interdisciplinary fields.



GNLU Legal Services Committee

The GNLU Legal Services Committee has been established as the epicentre of legal aid and all allied activities. The Legal Services Committee (LSC) is set up under Section 4(k) of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. The committee rides on the principles of empowering society with legal awareness and legal aid.

Over the years, the GNLU LSC strived to recognize law as an instrument of social change. The Committee leads a wide range of activities from pro-bono and legal aid clinics to piloting research projects to piloting multiple drives, including one-of-its-kind Prison Legal Aid Clinic.



GNLU Annual Legal Services Forum (GALSF)

The GNLU Annual Legal Services Forum (GALSF) is the flagship initiative of the GNLU Legal Services Committee, designed to unite Legal Aid and Services Committees across India, promote collaboration, and address key socio-legal challenges. It provides a national platform for universities, NGOs, Legal Services Authorities, and experts to share experiences and advance accessible, affordable legal services for underserved communities.

Across six editions, GALSF has grown into a leading forum for legal aid institutions, scholars, practitioners, and students to strengthen India's legal aid framework. The 7th edition builds on this legacy by examining how AI-driven tools can democratise legal knowledge, reduce delays, enhance legal aid mechanisms, and mitigate structural barriers to justice. For the first time, it will be held as a week-long Legal Services Week, offering a range of academic, experiential, and community-focused activities.



Theme

"Artificial Intelligence for Access to Justice"

This reflects the rapidly evolving intersection of law, technology, and public welfare. As digital systems reshape governance and service delivery, artificial intelligence has emerged as a powerful tool capable of transforming how individuals interact with the justice system.

From predictive legal analytics and multilingual chat-based guidance to AI-assisted dispute resolution and automated document drafting, technology today holds the potential to reduce barriers that disproportionately burden vulnerable communities.



This edition of GALSF seeks to examine how emerging technologies can enhance legal accessibility, improve institutional efficiency, and promote inclusion within the justice-delivery ecosystem. By exploring both opportunities and ethical challenges, the Forum aims to foster informed dialogue, encourage innovative interventions, and envision a future where AI meaningfully supports legal aid mechanisms, strengthens public institutions, and moves India closer to equitable and technology-enabled justice for all.

Components

Mediation Competition

Paper Presentation Competition

Debating

Abhivyakti - Nukkad Nataks

Legislative Drafting Workshop

Legal Quiz

Round Table Discussion

Lok Manch and Podcast



Mediation Competition

The Mediation Competition is a central feature of the 7th GNLU Annual Legal Services Forum, aimed at equipping participants with practical dispute-resolution skills essential for strengthening access to justice in an evolving legal environment. In line with this year's theme, it weaves in contemporary discussions on how technology can support and enhance mediation across varied legal contexts.

It provides law students with a platform to engage with realistic, socially grounded disputes in family law, consumer issues, labour relations, technology conflicts, and everyday rights-based grievances. Through structured sessions, students act as client-counsel teams and mediators, gaining hands-on experience in negotiation, communication, problem-solving, and interest-based settlement.

Participants are encouraged to explore the role of AI-enabled tools, such as online mediation platforms, digital evidence systems, and automated scheduling in streamlining mediation and expanding access for underserved communities. Overall, the Competition offers a dynamic learning environment that nurtures empathetic, innovative, and solution-oriented professionals committed to a more efficient and inclusive justice delivery system.

Team Composition

Each university shall have one team with three members — One Mediator and a pair of Client Counsel.

All three members of the participating team must be from the same institution.

Eligibility and Representation

- Any College/University/Institution in India can participate in the Mediation Competition.
- Each Participant must be a current Undergraduate Student (5-year or 3-year Law Course) of their respective institution.
- Each participating College/University/Institution must send one team comprising of three members.



Registration Details

The Registration Details are as follows:

1. Registration Fees - **Rs. 3000/Team**
2. Accommodation - To be managed by the team on its own
3. Last Date for Registration & Payment - **20th February, 2026**
4. [Registration Link](#)

Note: There shall be no refund of registration fees once the registration process is completed.



Important Dates

1. Last Date for Registration and Payment: **13th February, 2026**
2. Preliminary Rounds: **28th February and 1st March, 2026** (virtual)
3. Semi-Final Rounds : **21st March, 2026**
4. Final Rounds: **22nd March, 2026**

Paper Presentation Competition



The Paper Presentation Competition is a pioneering cornerstone of the 7th GNLU Annual Legal Services Forum, reflecting the Forum's commitment to fostering research-driven advocacy and informed socio-legal engagement. Anchored in this year's theme; the competition encourages the Legal Aid Cells and Legal Services Committees of law universities and college to participate and critically analyse how technological advancements are reshaping the justice delivery system.

This edition places particular emphasis on **empirical research**, prompting the participating LACs and LSCs to assess the real-world impact of AI-enabled tools on legal accessibility, procedural efficiency, digital literacy, and the functioning of legal aid mechanisms. Through field surveys, stakeholder interactions, and data-backed evaluation, researchers are expected to examine opportunities and challenges associated with AI in legal support systems, alternative dispute

Participants will present their findings before an expert panel, articulating evidence-based insights and proposing innovative, practical recommendations for strengthening India's technology-driven justice framework. The competition thus serves as a platform for young scholars to contribute meaningfully to contemporary legal discourse while cultivating analytical, presentation, and policy-oriented skills.

Team Composition

Two presenters and assistance of the faculty convenor.

Registration Details

The Registration Details are as follows:

1. Registration Fees for single or co-authors - **Rs. 2000/- per team**
2. Optional Accommodation – Rs. 1000/- per team
3. Last Date for Registration: **31st January, 2026**



Eligibility and Submission

1. Any College/ University/ Institution in India can participate. Any student pursuing an undergraduate degree can participate as presenting member.
2. The participants are requested to submit their final presentation before **11:59 PM on 15th March 2026** via the google form provided below.

Important Links

1. [Registration link](#)
2. [Abstract & Questionnaire Submission Link](#)
3. [Manuscript Submission Link](#)
4. [Presentation submission Link](#)



Roundtable Discussion

The Round Table Discussion is one of the most distinguished and intellectually collaborative components of the 7th GNLU Annual Legal Services Forum, bringing together policymakers, jurists, academicians, technology experts, and leaders of Legal Aid Committees from across the country. Designed as a forum for nuanced dialogue, the Round Table provides an opportunity to assess the transformative role of **Artificial Intelligence in strengthening access to justice**.



This year's discussion will focus on how AI-driven tools such as machine learning-based legal research platforms, automated documentation systems, virtual legal assistants, online dispute resolution mechanisms, can be integrated into India's justice delivery framework without compromising fairness, privacy, or ethical standards.

Participants will engage with questions relating to digital inclusion, institutional readiness, regulatory frameworks, and the scope for responsible innovation within legal aid ecosystems.

Through a multi-stakeholder deliberation, the Round Table discussion aims to generate informed insights and collaborative strategies that can guide future legal aid initiatives and policy directions.

It serves as a platform where the academic community and practitioners work collectively toward building a more accessible, efficient, and technologically empowered justice system.



Date of Discussion

22nd March, 2026

Legislative Drafting Workshop

The Legislative Drafting Workshop is a distinguished addition to the 7th GNLU Annual Legal Services Forum, designed to provide participants with rare and invaluable exposure to the craft of law-making. Conducted by two eminent Parliamentarians, this paid certificate course offers an unparalleled opportunity to understand the art, technique, and constitutional foundations of drafting legislation in India.



In alignment with this year's theme; the workshop will explore how emerging technologies influence legislative design, regulatory frameworks, and the future of digital governance. Participants will gain practical insights into drafting clear, precise, and enforceable statutory provisions, with special focus on technology regulation, digital rights, justice-sector reforms, and AI ethics.



Through interactive exercises, hands-on drafting sessions, and mentor-led discussions, the workshop aims to cultivate legislative sensitivity, policy-oriented thinking, and a deeper appreciation of the law-making process. It stands as a unique platform for students to engage directly with national lawmakers and develop the drafting competencies necessary for contributing meaningfully to contemporary legal and technological reforms.

Registration Details

The Registration Details are as follows:

1. Registration Fees: **Rs. 500 -/person**
2. Last Date for Registration & Payment: **13th February, 2026**
3. [Registration Link](#)

Note: There shall be no refund of registration fees once the registration process is completed.

Dates of the Workshop To be announced

**Our guests will be revealed soon on our websites and social media handles at LinkedIn and Instagram.
Stay Tuned!**

Lok Manch and Podcast

As part of the 7th GNLU Annual Legal Services Forum, the Lok Manch and Podcast Series serve as vibrant platforms for public engagement, knowledge dissemination, and community-focused dialogue. Lok Manch brings together students, academicians, practitioners, and community representatives to deliberate on ground-level legal concerns through a dynamic and accessible conversational format. In keeping with this year's theme, the sessions will explore how AI-powered tools can simplify legal processes, enhance awareness, and support individuals who traditionally struggle to access formal legal systems.



Complementing these discussions, the GALSF Podcast Series expands the reach of the Forum beyond the physical event. Featuring insightful conversations with experts in law, technology, legal aid, and public policy, the podcast aims to decode complex themes for a wider audience. Episodes will highlight transformative technological interventions, ethical considerations, and practical experiences related to AI-driven justice mechanisms.



Together, Lok Manch and the Podcast extend the impact of GALSF by fostering inclusive dialogue, promoting digital legal literacy, and creating a space where diverse voices can engage with the future of technology-enabled justice.



Our guests will be revealed soon on our websites and social media handles at LinkedIn and Instagram. Stay Tuned!

Abhivyakti : Nukkad Nataks

'Abhivyakti', the Nukkad Natak initiative of the LSC, embodies the Committee's commitment to community engagement through art, storytelling, and street theatre. Rooted in India's rich tradition of public performance as a tool for social awareness, *Abhivyakti* transforms complex legal themes into relatable narratives that resonate deeply with diverse audiences.



This year's performances will centre on the theme of GALSF; illustrating how technology can both empower and challenge individuals seeking legal help. Through powerful dramatisations, the Nukkad Nataks will depict everyday encounters with digital platforms, highlight the barriers faced by technologically underserved groups, and showcase the promise of AI-driven support systems in bridging gaps in knowledge and accessibility.



By taking law to the streets, Abhivyakti aspires to cultivate public understanding, spark conversations, and promote awareness about the evolving landscape of technology-enabled justice. The initiative remains a testament to LSC's belief that legal education must extend beyond classrooms and into communities, public spaces, and the lived experiences of people.



Legal Quizzes

The Legal Quizzes of the 7th GNLU Annual Legal Services Forum are designed to challenge participants' knowledge, analytical ability, and awareness of contemporary legal developments by featuring questions that explore the evolving interface between law, technology, and digital governance.



Participants will encounter themes ranging from constitutional principles, legal aid mechanisms, and justice-sector reforms to AI regulation, ethics, digital rights, cybersecurity, and emerging jurisprudence on technology-driven legal processes. The quizzes aim to cultivate quick thinking, precision, and a comprehensive understanding of both foundational legal concepts and cutting-edge technological shifts.



Serving as an engaging academic activity within the week-long LSC celebrations, the Legal Quizzes provide students with a stimulating platform to test their aptitude, compete intellectually, and broaden their horizons in an evolving landscape where law increasingly intersects with technological innovation.



Note: Prize money for the winners will be announced soon via our social media handles.

Advisory and Organizing Committee



Prof. (Dr.) S. Shanthakumar

Director, Gujarat National Law University



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GNLU LSC WEBSITE



GNLU LSC INSTAGRAM



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