

(To be substituted in place of the section titled “LFH Status Report”)

The 7th GNLU Annual Legal Services Forum (GALSF 7.0), organized by the GNLU Legal Services Committee, marked another significant milestone in promoting legal aid, social justice, and access to justice. Over the years, GALSF has evolved from a university-level initiative into a national platform that brings together Legal Aid Cells, Legal Services Committees, academics, practitioners, researchers, policymakers, and social justice advocates. The 2026 edition was centred on the theme “**Artificial Intelligence for Access to Justice**,” reflecting the growing role of technology in improving legal service delivery and expanding access to legal assistance. The Forum explored how artificial intelligence can support legal aid, multilingual legal information, automated legal documentation, online dispute resolution, and other technology-driven innovations while addressing concerns relating to fairness, accountability, and inclusivity.

A major innovation introduced this year was the **Legal Services Week**, held from 16–20 March 2026, which expanded participation beyond the traditional conference format. The week commenced with a **Nukkad Natak** in collaboration with the GNLU Theatre Club to promote legal awareness through community engagement. This was followed by the launch of a **Podcast Series on Socio-Legal Issues and Legal Awareness**, demonstrating the use of digital media for legal education and outreach. An **Intra-University Debate Competition** was organized with the GNLU Debating Society to encourage discussion on contemporary legal and technological challenges. The Committee also conducted a **Blood Donation Drive**, emphasizing social responsibility alongside legal aid activities. The week concluded with a **Legislative Drafting Workshop**, which introduced participants to legislative drafting principles and the role of artificial intelligence in policy-making, along with a **Legal Quiz Competition** aimed at enhancing legal awareness.

The main Forum events were held on **21–22 March 2026**. The **Paper Presentation Competition** invited participants from institutions across the country to undertake research on the Forum’s theme. Presentations examined the impact of AI on legal aid delivery, procedural efficiency, digital literacy, dispute resolution, and public legal guidance systems. The competition emphasized empirical, interdisciplinary, and policy-oriented research, encouraging evidence-based discussions on technology-driven justice reform. GALSF 7.0 also featured a **Mediation Competition**, organized in collaboration with the GNLU Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution. The competition provided practical training in negotiation and conflict resolution while highlighting mediation as an accessible and efficient mechanism for advancing access to justice. In addition, the Forum hosted **Round Table Discussions and Collaborative Engagement Sessions**, bringing together students, academics, legal aid practitioners, and stakeholders to discuss the future of technology-enabled legal services and strengthen networks within the legal aid ecosystem.

GALSF 7.0 distinguished itself through its forward-looking theme, week-long structure, emphasis on empirical research, and interdisciplinary approach that integrated law, technology, governance, and public policy. The Forum successfully fostered meaningful discussions on the relationship between artificial intelligence and access to justice, strengthened collaboration among Legal Aid Cells and Legal Services Committees, and promoted innovative methods of legal awareness and community engagement. Most importantly, it demonstrated that effective access to justice in the digital age requires both technological innovation and a continued commitment to inclusivity, accountability, and human-centred legal service delivery. Through its diverse activities and collaborative platform, GALSF 7.0 reinforced the role of academic institutions and legal aid organizations in shaping the future of justice delivery and advancing the broader goal of accessible, affordable, and effective legal services for all.