

**Report on the Guest Lecture on Access to Justice: Impact and Challenges,
and Prize distribution for Intra Legal Competition held at IFHE
Auditorium on 7th February 2026**



**Legal Aid Society,
ICFAI Law School, IFHE, Hyderabad
Guest Lecture on
Access to Justice: Impact and Challenges
07th February, 2026 11:00 AM
Speaker**

Hon'ble Sri Justice P. SAM KOSHY

Judge, High Court for the State of Telangana-
Cum-Executive Chairman, Telangana State Legal Services Authority

The Legal Aid Society of ICFAI Law School, IFHE, Hyderabad, organized a guest lecture on the theme "Access to Justice: Impact and Challenges" on February 7, 2026. The lecture was delivered by the Hon'ble Sri Justice P. Sam Koshy, Judge of the High Court for the State of Telangana and Executive Chairman of the Telangana State Legal Services Authority.

The welcome address was given by Prof. Pratap Reddy, Dean of ICFAI Law School, Hyderabad, who emphasised on access to justice as a fundamental right and the purpose of the lecture. Prof. Ravisekhararaju, Director of ICFAI Law School, Hyderabad, delivered introductory remarks, highlighting the activities, achievements and contributions of the free legal aid clinic at the institution.

During his lecture, Hon'ble Sri Justice P Sam Koshy stressed that access to justice is the most essential feature of our Constitution. While we celebrate the rule of law as the cornerstone of a civilized society, we must examine whether justice is truly accessible to all or simply a luxury for a select few. Access to justice is not just about being able to approach a court or having legal representation; it is a fundamental human right and must reach the person in the most remote areas of the nation. Access to justice has become an integral component of right to life and personal liberty and the right to equality. It is also a key element of sustainable development, as recognized by the UN Sustainable Development Goal 16. Furthermore, it serves as the ultimate measure of a nation's commitment to its citizens. It casts a constitutional responsibility on the law makers and the judicial system to ensure for each citizen equal opportunity of law.

When access to justice is facilitated, it can be transformative. It serves as a bridge between the rights on paper and the rights being realised in practice. It empowers the disadvantaged to become right-holders, enabling them to advocate for their fundamental rights. It fosters trust in the state; without this trust, individuals may resort to self-help, potentially leading to chaos. Mechanisms such as Public Interest Litigation (PIL) allow the judiciary to address systemic injustices affecting millions, including issues like bonded labor, environmental degradation, and the plight of undertrial prisoners. An equitable and accessible legal system creates an environment conducive to business while protecting the assets of the poor, which is essential for economic stability.

Despite the potential for justice, many still find it to be an elusive dream due to deep-rooted challenges. Many people remain unaware of their constitutional rights, which makes them vulnerable to exploitation. Nevertheless, access to justice is not limited to having legal awareness. The justice system must be accessible enough for everyone. Physical accessibility of courts is one such aspect. We are convinced that we are progressing as we witness persons representing themselves and lawyers appearing virtually for their clients.

To bridge these gaps, we must adopt a people-centered approach rather than merely emphasizing courthouse access. Possible actions include promoting alternate dispute resolution mechanisms including Lok Adalats, mediation, and conciliation as speedy and affordable alternatives to traditional litigation; actively educating communities about their rights; and utilizing e-courts, virtual hearings, and digital filing to eliminate geographical barriers and expedite legal processes. The legal community should view legal aid as a professional duty rather than a charitable effort. The law fraternity must act as the custodians of the constitutional promise. The institutions imparting legal education must play a proactive role in this. For law students, it should mean futuristic expansion of legal aid and access to justice. It is the collective responsibility of judges, lawyers, policymakers, and civil society to dismantle the obstacles posed by poverty, ignorance, and complexity.

Additionally, the Hon'ble Justice presented prizes to the winners of the intra-legal aid competition held for the students of ICFAI Law School IFHE. This event is funded by the IFHE management to enhance legal skills among the BBA.LLB (Hons.), BA.LLB (Hons.), and BAJ.LLB (Hons.) students of ICFAI Law School, Hyderabad. The programme concluded with the vote of thanks by the faculty coordinator of Legal Aid Society Dr. S. Kannan, followed by the National Anthem.



Guest Lecture Highlights Challenges and Impact of Access to Justice

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RANGAREDDY

The Legal Aid Society of ICJAF Law School, IFHE, Hyderabad, organised a guest lecture on the theme "Access to Justice: Impact and Challenges" on February 7, 2026. The lecture was delivered by the Hon'ble Sri Justice P. Sam Koshy, Judge of the High Court for the State of Telangana and Executive Chairman of the Telangana State Legal Services Authority.

The programme began with a welcome address by Prof. Pratap Reddy, Dean of ICAI Law School, Hyderabad, who underlined that access to justice is a fundamental right and explained the relevance of the lecture in the present legal and social context. Prof. Ravisekhararaju, Director of ICAI Law School, Hyderabad, gave the introductory remarks, highlighting the activities, achievements and contributions of the institution's free legal aid clinic in serving society.

Delivering the keynote lec-

ture, Hon'ble Sri Justice P. S. Kishor emphasised that access to justice is the most essential feature of the Indian Constitution. He observed that while the rule of law is celebrated as the foundation of a civilised society, it is crucial to question whether justice is genuinely accessible to all sections of society or remains a privilege for a few. He stated that access to justice goes beyond the ability to approach courts or engage legal representation and must be recognised as a fundamental human right reaching even the most remote parts of the country.

The Hon'ble Judge noted that access to justice has become an integral part of the right to life, personal liberty and equality. He also linked it to sustainable development, referring to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 16, and described it as a key indicator of a nation's commitment to its citizens. He stressed that ensuring equal opportunity before the law places a constitutional responsibility on lawmakers and the



judiciary alike.

Justice P. Sam Kosh explained that effective access to justice has a transformative impact, as it bridges the gap between rights guaranteed on paper and their realisation in practice. It empowers disadvantaged communities, builds trust in the State and prevents individuals from resorting to self-help measures that could lead to disorder. He highlighted the role of Public Interest Litigation in addressing large-scale injustices such as bonded labour, environmental issues and the conditions of undertrial prisoners, and pointed out that an equitable



legal system also supports economic stability by protecting both business interests and the assets of the poor.

Despite these benefits, he acknowledged that access to justice remains elusive for many due to lack of awareness of constitutional rights and systemic barriers. He noted that accessibility must include physical and technological access to courts and appreciated the progress made through virtual appearances and online hearings, which have expanded participation in the justice delivery system.

To overcome existing challenges, the Hon'ble Judge

called for a people-centred approach to justice. He advocated the promotion of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms such as Lok Adalats, mediation and conciliation as affordable and speedy alternatives to litigation. He also stressed the importance of legal awareness, digital courts, virtual hearings and e-filing in reducing geographical and procedural barriers. Justice P. Sam Koshy urged the legal fraternity to treat legal aid as a professional responsibility rather than a charitable activity and emphasised the proactive role of legal education institutions in strengthening access

to justice, particularly through student involvement.

As part of the programme, the Hon'ble Justice presented prizes to the winners of the intra-legal aid competition conducted for students of ICFAI Law School, IFHE. The competition, funded by the IFHE management, aims to enhance legal skills among students of BBA LL.B. (Hons.), BA LL.B. (Hons.) and BAJ LL.B. (Hons.) programmes. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. S. Kannan, Faculty Co-ordinator of the Legal Aid Society, followed by the National Anthem.

**సాంకేతికతతోనే న్యాయవ్యవస్థలో భౌగోళిక అడ్డంకుల తొలగింపు:
ఐసీఎఫ్ఎఐ (ICFAI) లా స్కూల్ సదస్సులో నిపుణుల విశ్లేషణ**



న్యాయం సామాన్యుడి ముంగిటకు
చేరినప్పుడే రాజ్యాంగ లక్ష్యం
నెరవేరుతుంది: జస్టిస్ పి. సామ్ కోషీ

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