

FIRST STEPS TOWARD LAST-MILE
ACCESS TO JUSTICE

NYAAYA PRAYAANA FELLOWSHIP

*A 12-month fellowship
that takes lawyers and
law graduates across the
length and breadth of
Karnataka to drive
meaningful access to
justice!*




AN INITIATIVE BY KARNATAKA STATE LEGAL
SERVICES AUTHORITY AND OUTLAWED INDIA



ABOUT THE PARTNERSHIP!

The **Nyaaya Prayaana Fellowship 2025-26** is a first-of-its-kind collaboration between the **Karnataka State Legal Services Authority (KSLSA)** and **OutLawed India Legal-Ed Foundation**, to train and deploy Paralegal Volunteers as frontline justice workers across districts of Karnataka. This Fellowship is a call to young legal minds to become **Prayāṇikaru** – voyagers who will charter new territories in the pursuit of accessible justice.





IMAGINE spending a year not confined to offices or boardrooms, but traveling across the length and breadth of Karnataka – from the coffee plantations of Chikkamagaluru to the waterfalls of Shivamogga, from the ancient structures of Hampi to the coastal wonders of Mangaluru.

As a **Nyaaya Prayaana Fellow**, you'll embark on a transformative 12-month journey working with lawyers, judges, courts, and communities to build a grassroots paralegal movement in Karnataka.

In a country where there is just one legal aid lawyer for every 16,000 citizens, the gap in access to justice is stark.

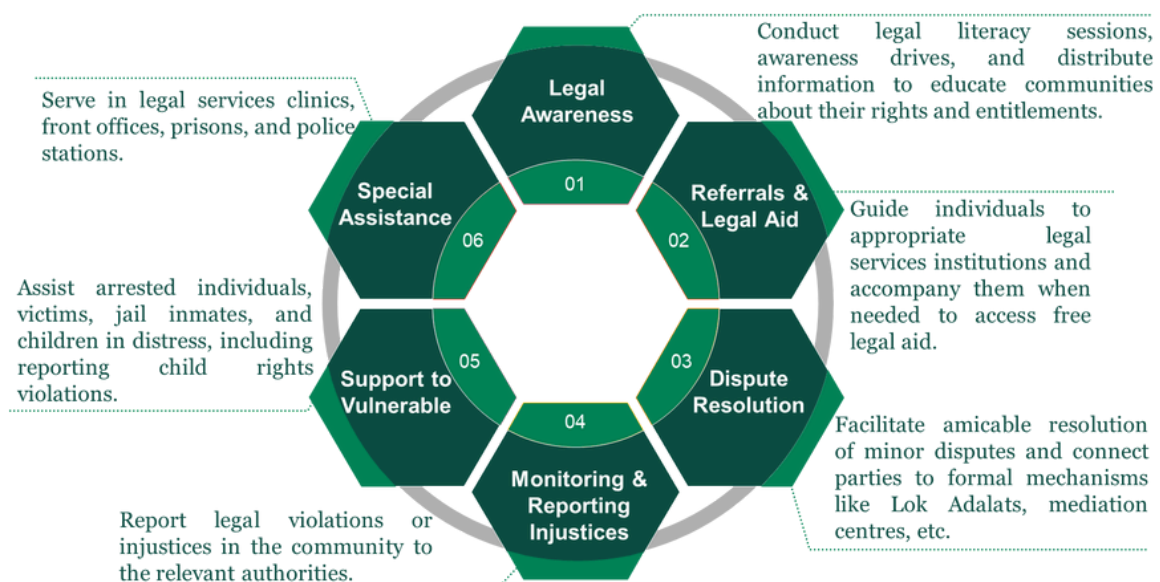
Now more than ever, we need committed individuals who are passionate about bridging this divide – through upskilling and becoming catalysts for legal empowerment at the grassroots.

YOUR JOURNEY BEGINS HERE!

HOLD ON: WHO ON EARTH IS A PARA-LEGAL VOLUNTEER?

The Paralegal Volunteer Scheme (PLV Scheme), introduced by the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) in 2009 is an initiative that positions Paralegal Volunteers (PLVs) as the first line of response within India's legal aid framework.

Drawn from diverse backgrounds—including teachers, community leaders, and social workers—PLVs are intended to serve as vital links between underrepresented communities and the formal justice system, ensuring access to legal support and advancing the mandate of the Legal Services Authorities. They take on several responsibilities:



Despite their potential, a staggering reality persists: PLVs across India remain largely underutilized, with less than 25% nationwide paralegal deployment.

THE TEAM YOU'LL BE JOINING: OUTLAWED INDIA!

OutLawed India (OL India) is a Section 8 not-for-profit working towards enabling last-mile justice delivery. Founded in 2019, the organisation focuses on building a new cadre of leaders—Nyaaya Mitras—to provide first-point-of-contact legal-aid.

Nyaaya Mitras are paralegals trained to provide key legal services and liaise with important stakeholders like lawyers, police, sub-registrar, and more.

Since 2023, OL India has trained and successfully deployed multiple cohorts of paralegals with **85% women participation** and significant representation from marginalized communities. Nyaaya Mitras have reached out to more than **3500 individuals** through this initiative.

MEET (SOME OF) OUR NYAAYA MITRAS



MAMATHA

Mamatha guided her client through a complex POCSO matter, and even went with the victim to the Deputy Police Commissioners office



MERCY

Mercy filed an RTI regarding water supply, and got the authorities to install a tap that is helping 200+ migrant families

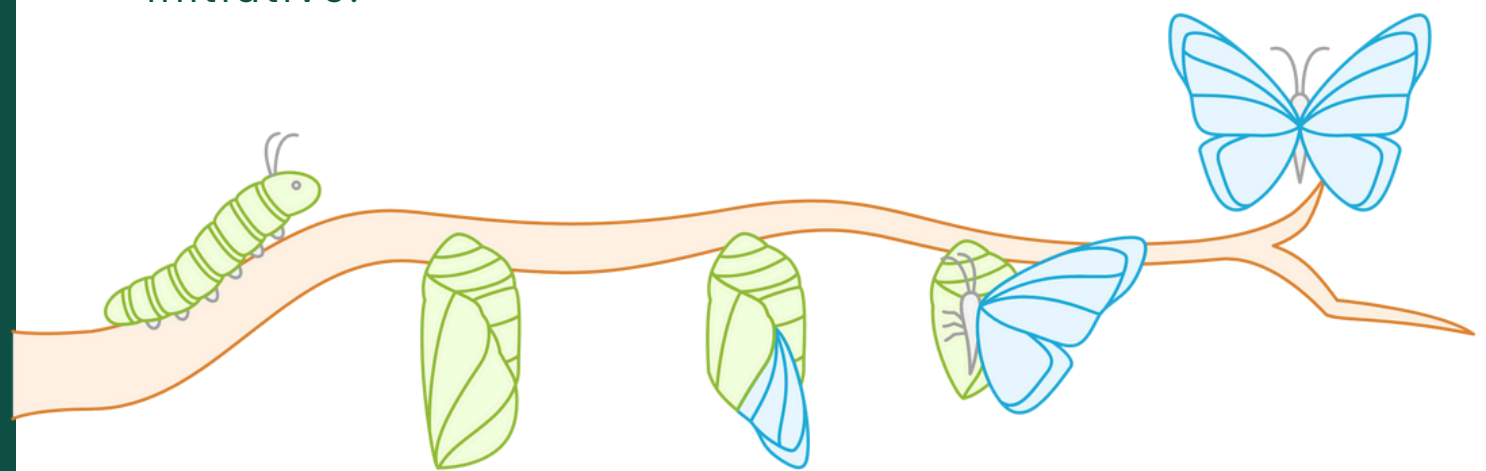


PRIYA

Priya helped a domestic violence victim get an FIR lodged, staying with her at the station for many hours

THE FELLOWSHIP: *YOUR 12-MONTH ODYSSEY*

You'll be part of an exceptional cohort of legal professionals working with select District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) across Karnataka. As a Fellow, you will be leading Karnataka's first state-wide KSLSA-sanctioned PLV training and deployment initiative.



I. Building the Foundation

You will assess each district—uncovering local legal challenges and teaming up with DLSAs, police, lawyers, courts, and NGOs.

II. PLV Training

You will train PLVs over multiple sessions & refresher courses targeted at building critical legal skills, while also building relationships with DLSA & government officials.

III. Deployment Support

You will support the DLSA with placing PLVs in police stations and prisons. You will help organise legal aid camps, monitor cases, and more!

IV. Sustainability

Finally, Fellows will equip each DLSA to independently and sustainably continue the programme through knowledge-transfer sessions and handover reports!

WHY YOU SHOULD EMBARK ON THIS PRAYAANA!



As a Fellow, you'll gain unmatched field experience managing legal aid programs across multiple districts—working directly with DLSAs, lawyers, and the police. Guided by dual mentors from OutLawed India and KSLSA, you'll learn from leading legal and social sector experts.

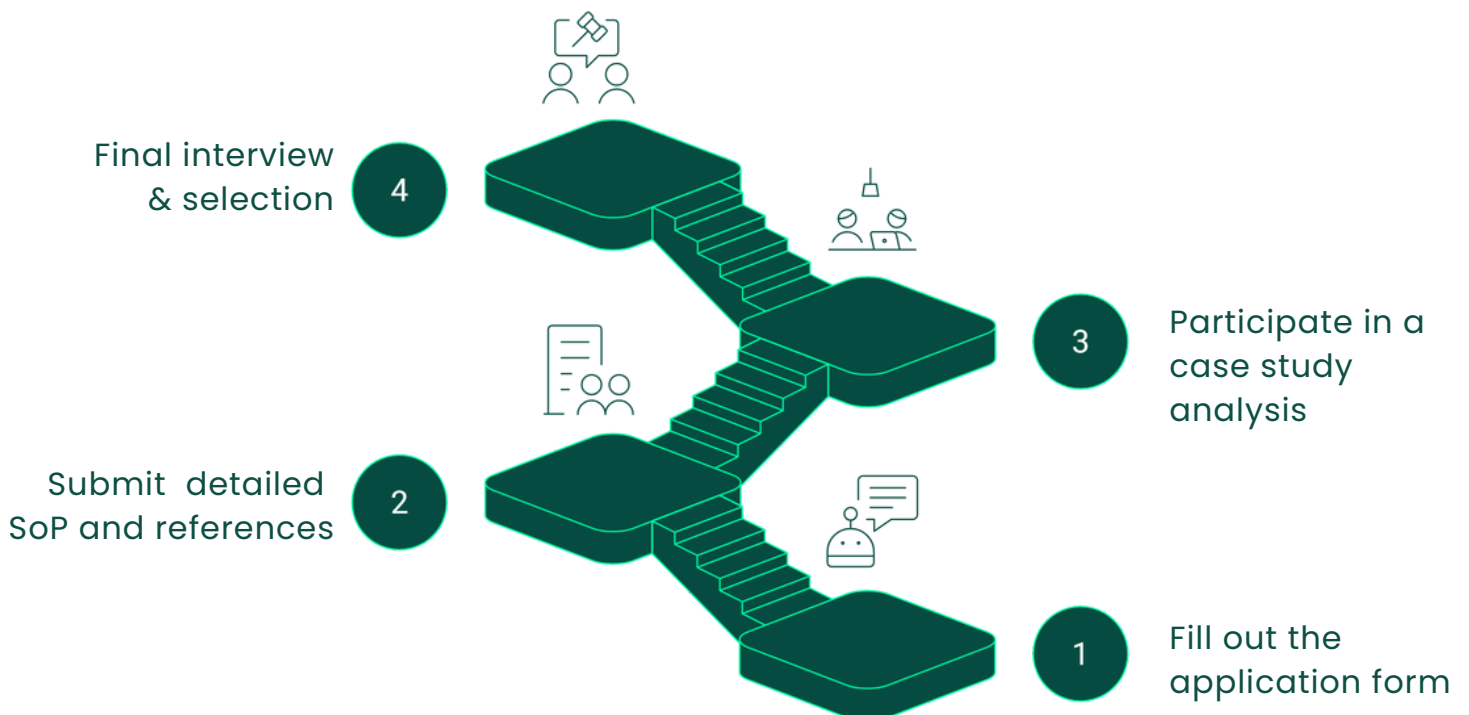
You'll put your legal acumen to the test by training PLVs and experiment with cutting-edge tools like legal AI chatbots and digital tracking systems. Your research and field insights will shape legal aid policy briefs, and upon completion, you'll graduate with certificates and recommendation letters that open doors to impactful careers in law, policy, and beyond. All while having contributed to delivering quality legal aid to underserved individuals and communities.

A ₹50,000 monthly stipend invested in your potential.
Fully covered travel and accommodation across your assigned districts for the purpose of this program.

THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO SEE KARNATAKA LIKE NEVER BEFORE; NOT AS A TOURIST, BUT AS A CATALYST FOR CHANGE.

BEFORE YOU PACK YOUR BAGS, CHECK FOR THE TRAVEL ESSENTIALS!

- 3 or 5 year law degree from a recognised university
- Bilingual fluency in speaking, reading, and writing English and Kannada
- Strong legal acumen with excellent research, writing, and documentation skills
- Purpose-driven leader fuelled by the mission of access to justice for every Indian
- People-centric with the ability to engage individuals across diverse socio-economic groups
- Digitally fluent with good grasp over Excel and AI tools
- Proactive, disciplined, and loves to work with teams



HEAR FROM THE MEMBER SECRETARY OF KSLSA



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The work of Para Legal Volunteers embodies the spirit of service and commitment to legal empowerment. They are the crucial connectors in ensuring legal awareness in rural or underserved areas.

SRI SHASHIDHARA SHETTY

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APPLY NOW!

Application deadline: 10th October, 2025

WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU.



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