

NATIONAL LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY NEWSLETTER

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LEGAL SERVICES DAY CELEBRATIONS

On 09.11.2023, the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) and the National Commission for Women (NCW), joined forces to commemorate the Legal Services Day, by unveiling initiatives that marked a significant leap forward in ensuring access to justice, promoting legal awareness, and empowering the people, specifically women across India. The program at Vigyan Bhawan, Delhi was graced by Dr. Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, Hon'ble Chief Justice of India and Patron-in-Chief, NALSA, who lauded NALSA and NCW for bringing about a paradigm shift in the accessibility of law and justice within communities, while launching the upgraded National Helpline Number of NALSA-15100. The Helpline shall provide immediate legal assistance to citizens in multiple languages on a real-time basis. The event also witnessed the inauguration of "Vidhaan se Samadhaan", a legal awareness program targeting women at the Block-level, which plans to cover all States and Union Territories, aligning with NALSA's and NCW's commitment to justice and empowerment of every woman. On this significant day, the "Her Legal Guide" app was also unveiled, showcasing a commitment to digital empowerment aligned with the principles of Digital India and women-led development initiatives.



Vignettes from the celebration of Legal Services Day at Vigyan Bhawan.



FIRST REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON ACCESS TO LEGAL AID

The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) together with the International Legal Foundation (ILF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), hosted the First Regional Conference on Access to Legal Aid at New Delhi, India on 27.11.2023 - 28.11.2023, with the goal to address the challenges in ensuring access to quality legal aid services in the countries of the Global South. This was the first regional conference of its kind which brought together Chief Justices, Ministers Of Justice, Legal-Aid Officers, Policymakers and Civil Society Experts from 70 African-Asian-Pacific countries to discuss the challenges and opportunities in ensuring access to quality legal aid services for the poor and vulnerable. It also provided a platform for sharing the best practices and identifying innovative solutions to improve access to justice in the participating countries. This Conference highlighted the regional efforts to implement the United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems and to further the Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals- 2030. Hon'ble Vice President Shri Jagdeep Dhankar; Hon'ble Chief Justice of India and Patron-in-Chief, NALSA, Dr. Dhananjaya Y. Chandrachud; HMJ Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Executive Chairman, NALSA; HMJ Sanjeev Khanna, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Chairman, SCLSC; Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Minister of State and Ministry of Law and Justice; Shri R. Venkataramani, Attorney General of India; and Shri Amitabh Kant, the G- 20 Sherpa and former CEO, NITI Aayog, graced the Inaugural Ceremony of the Conference. Judicial officers, bureaucrats and senior government officials also attended the Inaugural Program.



Vignettes from 1st Regional Conference on Access to Legal Aid organised at Supreme Court of India

The Inaugural session was followed by Technical Sessions on topics such as: 'Meeting the Need for Legal Aid: Status of the Realization of the Right to Legal Aid in the Global South'; 'Effective Models for, and the Benefit of Providing more Holistic, People-Centred Legal Aid Services'; and 'Strategies for Reducing Pretrial Detention, including through the Provision of Early and Effective Access to Legal Aid Services' etc. The Conference culminated into release of three outcome documents including the 'New Delhi Principles on the Role of Judiciary in Ensuring Equal Access to Justice for All in the Global South', which was signed by the Chief Justices and Judges of 16 Countries. The Hon'ble President Smt. Droupadi Murmu, graced the Valedictory Ceremony of the Regional Conference and addressed the august gathering.

FIRST REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON ACCESS TO LEGAL AID

Equal justice and free legal aid have been incorporated in the Constitution of India among the Directive Principles of State Policy. In light of the international commitment as well as the constitutional obligation, the right to free legal service is recognized as a statutory, guaranteed right.

- Smt. Droupadi Murmu, Hon'ble President of India



Today we stand at a critical juncture in the pursuit of Justice and Justice for All. Undoubtedly, access to Legal Aid and justice system is quintessential to nurturing and blossoming of fundamental human values and fostering equitable societies. Evolution of such an ecosystem will nurture global order and welfare of humanity.

- Shri Jagdeep Dhankar, Hon'ble Vice President of India

The concept of justice has historically been construed as applicable solely within the confines of a sovereign state. Given the intricate web of transnational relationships in the present age our conceptions of Justice have also changed. In these transnational relationships not, all nations are treated equally however some Nations share a sense of solidarity and belonging it is here that constructed categories such as the global South become important points of collaboration dialogue and deliberation.

- Dr. D.Y. Chandrachud, Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India

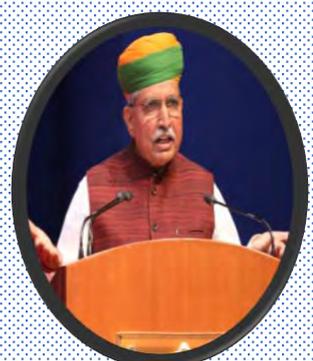


Our gathering here today reflects a shared commitment to advancing the cause of justice and ensuring that it is accessible to all regardless of socioeconomic backgrounds, geographical locations or any other barriers that may impede their realization of this fundamental right.

- Hon'ble Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Judge, Supreme Court of India

Legal Aid needs to be understood much beyond the aid to the needy legal aid has a functional role in strengthening the justice system it empowers individuals to participate and engage with public institutions and become active and equal stakeholders

- Hon'ble Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Judge, Supreme Court of India



World Bank affirms that countries with a strong legal institutions and rule of law experience higher level of Economic Development. Transparent legal system encourage investment as shown by the word justice projects rule of law index. Higher rule of law scores the increase Economic Development.

- Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Hon'ble Minister of State for Law and Justice, GoI

LEGAL SERVICES PROVIDED IN CRIMINAL CASES

At Pre-Arrest, Arrest and Remand Stage*

Suspects provided legal assistance at the pre-arrest stage at Police Stations	Suspects not arrested by the Police	Arrestees provided legal assistance at the Police Stations before producing them before the Courts	Persons provided legal assistance at remand stage	Bail applications filed at remand stage	Cases in which bail granted
27,521	9,948	20,688	1,70,912	66,294	37,155

*The aforesaid data is from January to December, 2023

To Undertrial Prisoners*

UTPs represented before the Courts	Convicts whose appeals filed in the Sessions Courts	Convicts whose papers/ applications sent to respective High Courts by DLSAs for filing appeals
3,26,811	3,078	4,950

*The aforesaid data is from January to December, 2023

Under the Legal Aid Defense Counsel System*

Districts with functional LADC office (as Dec.,2023)	Witnesses examined/ cross examined by LADCS	Legal Assistance at Pre-arrest and Remand Stage	Legal Advice given	Legal aid cases taken care of by Chief LADC	Legal aid cases assigned to Deputy Chief LADC	Legal aid cases assigned to Assistant LADC
564	74,377	60,251	3,06,971	27,280	32,363	58,306

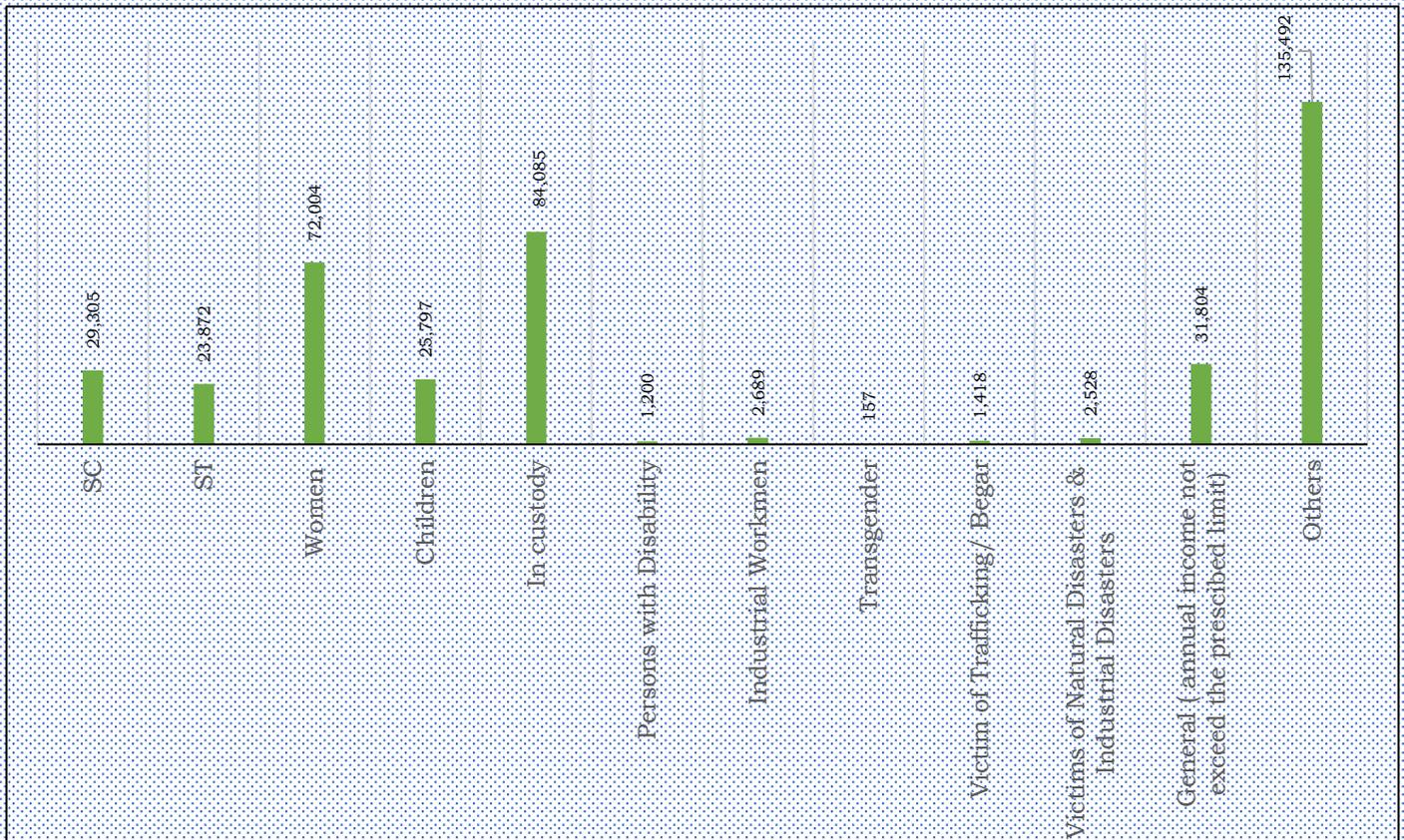
*The aforesaid data is from January to December, 2023

UTRC Meetings, Recommendations and Outcome*

No. of Meetings held	UTPs / Convicts recommended for bail/ release	Inmates released pursuant to UTRCs' recommendations
2,741	30,145	15,758

*The aforesaid data is from October-December, 2023

PERSONS BENEFITED THROUGH LEGAL SERVICES



**The aforesaid data is from October-December, 2023*

LEGAL AWARENESS PROGRAMMES

	Community Level	At Schools & Colleges/Universities
Programmes	43,504	74,926
Participants	24,87,338	74,20,896

OUTREACH INITIATIVES THROUGH

	Community Level	At School & Colleges/Universities
Legal Service Clinics	750	1,039
Persons Visited	41,232	13,739
Persons provided Legal Assistance	17,170	7,939

LEGAL AWARENESS & OUTREACH PROGRAMMES

At Community Level: Empowering Communities through Knowledge

- On 07.10.2023, under the aegis of Karnataka SLSA, District Legal Services Authority, Dharwad in association with Advocates' Association, Dharwad; District Administration; Zilla Panchayat & Police Department, Dharwad, jointly organized a Training Workshop on "Laws dealing with Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances" for Investigation Officers, at Conference Hall, Zilla Panchayat, Dharwad. The Workshop was inaugurated by HMJ G. Narendar, Judge, High Court of Karnataka & Executive Chairman, Karnataka SLSA. The Ld. Principal District & Sessions Judge, Dharwad & Chairman, District Legal Services Authority, Dharwad also graced the occasion. While expressing concern over the menace of drug abuse, the guest speakers exhorted the Investigation Officers to step up their efforts to counter the drug menace, which was ruining lives of countless citizens, specially the youngsters. Around 200 persons (including officers from Judicial department, Advocates' Association, Police Department, District Administration and Zilla Panchayat participated in the programme.



Vignettes from the programme organised by DLSA Dharwad under the aegis of Karnataka SLSA at Conference Hall, Zilla Panchayat, Dharwad

- Sexual Harassment at Workplace is an issue that often lurks in the shadows, its consequences silently affecting the lives of countless individuals. To spread awareness about the mandatory guidelines that each workplace must comply with in terms of the judgement in "*Aureliano Fernandes v. State of Goa*", on 30.09.2023, the Goa SLSA organized an Awareness Programme on "The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013", at Conference Hall, High Court of Bombay at Goa. The programme was graced by HMJ Prakash D Nayak and HMJ Bharat P. Deshpande, Judges of the Hon'ble High Court of Bombay. The programme was attended by around 100 persons. The aim of the program was to foster an environment at workplace which is filled with open dialogues, where support and empathy transcend hierarchical boundaries and where victims can come forward with their painful experiences, knowing they will be heard and supported and not viewed with a lens of scepticism and ostracised.



Vignettes from the programme organised by Goa SLSA at Conference Hall, High Court of Bombay

LEGAL AWARENESS & OUTREACH PROGRAMMES

At Community Level: Empowering Communities through Knowledge

- In our communities, schools, and workplaces, the impact of drug abuse is being felt deeply, and the need for awareness and education has never been greater. For spreading awareness about drug abuse and its devastating effects, Punjab SLSA, ran a campaign namely “Punjab against Drug Addiction”, throughout the State of Punjab, from 01.10.2023 till 31.10.2023. In the said campaign, all the DLSAs were directed to: organise rallies, walkathons, awareness campaigns, workshops and seminars, in coordination with the Health Department and other stakeholders, to spread awareness and to empower individuals with the knowledge and resources they need to make informed decisions and support those affected by drug abuse. The Closing Ceremony of the said Campaign was held at Khalsa College, Amritsar on 02.11.2023 and it was attended by HMJ Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Judge, Supreme Court of India & Executive Chairman, NALSA; HMJ Ritu Bahri, Chief Justice, Punjab and Haryana High Court and Patron-in-Chief, Punjab SLSA; HMJ Gurmeet Singh Sandhawalia, Judge, High Court of Punjab & Haryana, Chandigarh & Executive Chairman, Punjab SLSA; and other Hon’ ble Judges of Punjab & Haryana High Court. Ld. Member Secretary, NALSA also attended the program with Ld. Member Secretary, Punjab SLSA.



Vignettes from the programme organised by Punjab SLSA at Khalsa College, Amritsar



Vignettes from the programme organised by DLSAs in Rajasthan

- To counter the regressive social practise of solemnizing child marriages on the occasion of *Dev Uthani Ekadashi*, Rajasthan SLSA directed all DLSAs to organize Legal Literacy and Awareness Camps, focusing on ill effects of Child Marriage and its legal implications on daily basis from 01.11.2023 to 23.11.2023. After identifying the child- marriage prone areas, frequent programmes were organized in such areas, wherein services of Panel Lawyers, PLVs, Social Workers etc. were taken to spread awareness amongst the masses about the serious consequences of child marriage; the deterrent provisions of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 etc.

LEGAL AWARENESS & OUTREACH PROGRAMMES

At Colleges, Schools etc: Empowering the Future Leaders through Knowledge

- On 06.12.2023, an Awareness Session was organised by South-East DLSA, Delhi for the students of Veer Savarkar Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya, Kalkaji, New Delhi, on the topic “Fundamental Rights and Duties” & “Right to Free and Compulsory Education” and “Legal Provisions related to posting of inappropriate videos or photographs of relationship on social media in compliance of directions of Hon’ble High Court of Delhi in the matter of Bail Application No. 1562/2023 titled as ‘Sakib Ahmed v. The State of NCT of Delhi’”. Around 60 students participated in the session, wherein a Legal Aid Counsel interacted with them and addressed their queries. The students were also told about cyber safety, cyber hygiene and cyber etiquette.



Vignettes from the programme organised by South-East DLSA, Delhi

- On 17.10.2023, Karnataka SLISA organized an Awareness Programme on the topic “Mental Health is a Universal Human Right”, at R.V. College of Nursing, Bengaluru. Around 500 persons attended the programme, which was inaugurated by Sri Raghavendra Shettigar, Deputy Secretary, Karnataka SLISA. The participants were briefed about the NALSA (Legal Services to the Mentally Ill and Mentally Disabled Persons) Scheme-2015 and other initiatives taken by NALSA to promote and protect the rights of such persons. The program intended to initiate conversations about mental health issues and the legal problems that may be confronted by persons affected with mental illness.



Vignettes from the programme organised by Karnataka SLISA

- On 06.10.2023, DLSA, Chandigarh organized an Awareness Session on “Basic information on Drug Abuse” at Mount Carmel School, Sector 47-B, Chandigarh, where the students were told about the ill-effects of drug consumption and laws pertaining to drug abuse. The Secretary, DLSA concerned addressed the students.



Vignettes from the programme organised by DLSA Chandigarh

LEGAL AWARENESS & OUTREACH PROGRAMMES

At Colleges, Schools etc: Empowering the Future Leaders through Knowledge

- On the occasion of World AIDS Day on 01.12.2023, the District Legal Services Authority, Leh, in collaboration with the J&K State AIDS Control Society (SACS), organised a program at Government High School Housing Colony, Leh, to spread awareness about the pivotal role communities play in combating HIV/AIDS and highlighting the legal framework outlined in the AIDS (Prevention & Control) Act 2017, particularly advocating for the rights of HIV-affected persons. An Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsel was the Speaker for the day, who highlighted the role of DLSAs in reaching out to the common masses. He emphasized upon the importance of Para Legal Volunteers as frontline workers for amplifying the message. His words echoed the importance of community-led initiatives in eradicating stigma and discrimination. The program was attended by Teachers, Students and PLVs.



Vignettes from the programme organised by DLSA, Leh

- On 27.12.2023, DLSA, Papum Pare, Arunachal Pradesh in collaboration with Money- Wise Centre for Financial Literacy, Balijan, organised a day- long Free Legal Awareness Programme, at Govt. Sec. School, Kokila Balijan, Papum Pare, where the students and teachers were informed about the different schemes of NALSA specially catering to children. The Speaker for the day also addressed the students on how to make financially prudent decisions and stay safe in a world prone to cyber crimes and economic frauds. Around 150 participants attended the session.



Vignettes from the programme organised by DLSA Papum Pare, Arunachal Pradesh

- On 26.10.2023, DLSA, East Singhbhum, Jharkhand, organised an Awareness Campaign at the Government High School, Narsingarh, Dhalbhumgarh, East Singhbhum, Jharkhand, on the topics: 'POCSO Act', 'Right to Education', 'Child Marriage' etc. A Legal Aid Counsel and Para Legal Volunteers addressed the students and teachers and responded to their queries. Around 147 persons participated in the programme.

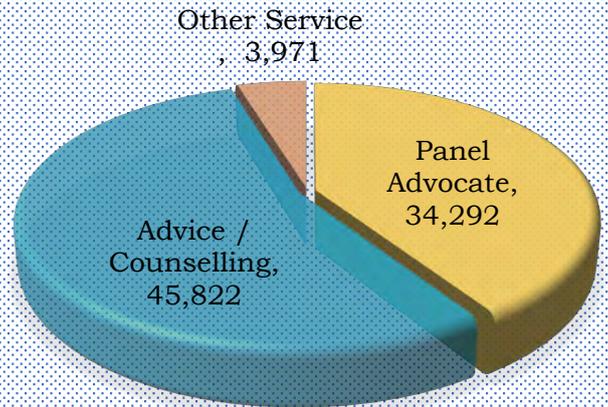


Vignette from the programme organised by DLSA, East Singhbhum, Jharkhand.

LEGAL AWARENESS & OUTREACH PROGRAMMES

At Jails: Rekindling Hope behind Bars

- **Around 1,12,592** persons visited the **1,171** Legal Services Clinics set up in different Jails across the country.
- Out of these persons, **77,681** received free legal advise and assistance.
- Around **84,085** prisoners availed the benefit of legal aid services (**45,822** individuals received advice and counseling; **34,292** were provided with Legal Aid Counsels to represent them in legal proceedings and **3,971** received other forms of legal aid and assistance).



Glimpses from Programmes in Jails: Rekindling Hope behind Bars

- On 10.10.2023, DLSA Chandigarh, with a view to celebrate World Mental Health Day, organised a program at Model Jail, Chandigarh, with an aim to raise awareness and drive actions that promote and protect the mental health of the inmates. The session was taken by an Assistant Professor (Clinical Psychiatrist), working at GMCH, Sec-32, Chandigarh and a Counsellor working at Counselling Centre, Districts Courts, Sec-43, Chandigarh. CJM-cum-Secretary, DLSA, Chandigarh along with counsellors, also participated in the said session. During the session, the Resource Persons explained the inmates about the signs and symptoms of mental illness and ways how to battle such mental issues.



Vignettes from the programme organised by DLSA Chandigarh

- On 21.10.2023, DLSA, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala organised a program at Central Prison and Correction Home, Thiruvananthapuram for the Jail Inmates under the UTRC campaign- 2023. The inmates were extensively counselled and told about the legal provisions for grant of bail, compounding, plea bargaining and remission. The program was inaugurated by the Ld. Member Secretary, Kerala SLA. The Secretary, DLSA, Thiruvananthapuram alongwith senior Jail Officials were also present.



Vignettes from the programme organised by DLSA, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

LEGAL AWARENESS & OUTREACH PROGRAMMES

Glimpses from Programmes in Jails: Rekindling Hope behind Bars

- On 07.10.2023, under the aegis of Karnataka SLSA, District Legal Services Authority, Dharwad, in association with Central Prison, Dharwad, organized a “Legal Awareness- Support And Mindset Change Workshop for Prison inmates” at Central Prison, Dharwad. The workshop was inaugurated by HMJ G Narendar, Judge, High Court of Karnataka and Executive Chairman, KLSLA. The Ld. Principal District and Sessions Judge & Chairperson, District Legal Services Authority, Dharwad also presided over the programme. Members from the Bar were also present. The prisoners were informed about their rights under the Prison Manual and the services being provided by the Legal Services Authorities.



Vignettes from the programme organised by Karnataka SLSA (above)



Vignette from the programme organised by DLSA, Kannur, Kerala (right)

- On 05.10.2023, DLSA, Kannur, Kerala in association with Department of Social Justice; Office of Chief Probation Officer and Sub- Jail, Kannur, organized a Legal Awareness Programme on the topic “Probation System in the Right Way” at the Kannur Sub- Jail. The inmates were also informed about the various rights available to them and the Legal Services that are provided by the Legal Services Authorities.



- On 06.12.2023, New Delhi DLSA organized a session for Under Trial Prisoners on the topic “Rights of Prisoners under Prison Manual”, at Tihar Jail No. 4, New Delhi. A Legal Aid Counsel was the Resource Person of the said session. He informed the Under-trial Prisoners about their legal and the services being provided by the Legal Services Authorities. He also told the inmates about the Delhi Government’s ‘Scheme for Financial Sustenance, Education & Welfare of Children of Incarcerated Parents, 2014’. He also informed them about the NALSA Helpline Number 15100. About 350 Under Trial Prisoners attended the said session.



Vignette from the programme organised by New Delhi DLSA

LEGAL SERVICES THROUGH ALTERNATE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

NATIONAL LOK ADALATS

- On 9th December, 2023, SLSAs of 34 States and Union Territories, organized the 4th National Lok Adalat (as per the schedule provided by NALSA).
- On 10th December, 2023, Delhi SLSA organized the 4th National Lok Adalat.
- On 16th December, 2023, Chhattisgarh SLSA organized the 4th National Lok Adalat.
- On 30th December, 2023, Telangana SLSA organized the 4th National Lok Adalat.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

Cases pending in Courts, which were taken up	Cases pending in Courts which were disposed off	Settlement Amount in successfully disposed off Court cases (in Rupees)	Pre-Litigation Cases taken up	Pre-Litigation Cases disposed off	Settlement Amount in Pre-Litigation cases successfully disposed off
59,99,583	36,26,012	11,62,36,251,067	3,67,65,532	2,15,44,428	44,64,54,23,492
Total number of cases (pre-litigative as well as pending Court cases) taken up		Total Number of cases (pre-litigative as well as pending Court cases) disposed off		Settlement amount in cases which were successfully disposed off	
4,27,65,115		2,51,70,440		1,60,88,16,74,559	

GLIMPSES FROM THE 4th NATIONAL LOK ADALAT



Vignette from Manipur



Vignette from Arunachal Pradesh



Vignette from Mizoram



Vignette from Ladakh

LEGAL SERVICES THROUGH ALTERNATE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

STATE LEVEL LOK ADALATS

Pre-Litigation Cases		Pending Cases in Courts	
Taken up	Disposed of	Taken up	Disposed of
1,37,126	82,135	4,36,562	2,62,283

- In the Lok Adalats organized at the State-level, around 5,73,688 cases (Pending Court cases as well as Pre-litigation Cases) were taken up for disposal by 2383 Benches constituted across the country. Out of these cases, around 2,62,283 Pending Court cases and 82,135 pre-litigation matters were settled.
- Settlement amount of such disposed off cases was Rs. 4,27,89,56,798/- .

PERMANENT LOK ADALATS

PLAs Functioning	Sittings during the months	Cases pending on 01.09.2023	Cases received during the months of Oct-Dec., 2023	Cases settled during the months of Oct-Dec., 2023
347	8,191	1,06,435	31,805	59,935

- The Permanent Lok Adalats functioning across States and Union Territories, disposed off 59,935 cases from the pendency of cases.
- Settlement Amount of such disposed off cases was Rs. 1,00,74,77,052/-.
- Around 31,805 fresh cases were instituted before the different Permanent Lok Adalats.

MEDIATION

ADR Centres functional	Existing Mediation Centres (other than ADR Centres)	Judicial Officers trained as Mediators	Lawyers trained as Mediators	Other persons trained as Mediators	Judicial Officers deployed as Mediators	Lawyers deployed as Mediators	Any other person deployed as Mediators	Cases settled through Mediation
415	597	5,739	9,108	2,470	3,001	5,886	490	23,529

“An ounce of Mediation is worth a pound of Arbitration and a tonne of Litigation”

- Joseph Grynbaum

ORIENTATION, CAPACITY BUILDING & TRAINING PROGRAMMES

	Programmes	Participants
Panel Lawyers	416	8,012
Para-Legal Volunteers	451	11,715
Others	380	9,990

Glimpses from the Orientation, Capacity Building and Training Programmes

We now accept the fact that learning is a lifelong process of keeping abreast of change. And the most pressing task is to teach people how to learn.

- Peter Drucker

- On 18.10.2023 and 27.10.2023, NALSA in collaboration with Manipur SLSA, organised Virtual Capacity Building Programmes for Chairman & Secretaries of DLSAs in Manipur, in compliance of directives issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in SLP (C) No. 19206 of 2023 titled "Dinganglung Gangmei v. Mutum Churamani Meetei & Ors." The Resource Persons for the sessions addressed the participants on the topic "Understanding the Manipur Compensation Scheme, 2023 and Legal Framework". The participants were specifically trained regarding the handling of Compensation Applications; documents verification; factors to be kept in mind while computing the compensation payable; decision-making process; and how to communicate with persons applying for compensation.
- On 31.10.2023, Karnataka SLSA in collaboration with School of Legal Studies, REVA Legal Services Clinic, organized an Induction Programme for "THE NEW PLVs" at B9 Seminar Hall, Vivekananda Block, REVA University, Bengaluru. The programme was inaugurated by the Assistant Secretary, Karnataka SLSA, who addressed the PLVs on Rights of Undertrial Prisoners; the Role of Para-legal volunteers and Legal Services Clinics at different Law Colleges vis-à-vis NALSA SOP; the functioning of Prison Legal Aid Clinics etc. Around 200 Students, Faculty Members etc. were present in the programme



Vignette from the online training programme organised by NALSA along with Manipur SLSA



Poster of the programme organised by Karnataka SLSA

ORIENTATION, CAPACITY BUILDING & TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Glimpses from the Orientation, Capacity Building and Training Programmes

- On 19.11.2023, Andhra Pradesh SLSA, organized an orientation programme for the counsels appointed to the Legal-Aid Defence Counsel system. The programme was organized at Hotel Manorama, Vijayavada and was graced by HMJ B.V.L.N. Chakravarthi, Judge, High Court of Andhra Pradesh; Ld. Member Secretary, APSLSA; Senior Advocates; Senior Officials from the State Judicial Academy. Around 38 lawyers from the Legal-Aid Defence Counsel System attended the programme where they were told about the Art of Cross-examination, Strategic Defences In Criminal Cases, Professional Ethics etc.



Vignettes from the programme organised by Andhra Pradesh SLSA



- Mediation, in a country like India, which is increasingly becoming litigious, holds immense promise. The promise of mediation lies in its ability to bring social changes by endeavouring to secure justice for individuals and groups. On 15.10.2023, District Legal Services Authority, Leh, under the aegis of Mediation & Conciliation Project Committee, Supreme Court of India, Mediation & Conciliation Committee, High Court Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and Ladakh Legal Services Authority, organized 40 hours Mandatory Mediation Training Programme spread over 5 days. The programme was inaugurated by Brigadier (Dr.) BD Mishra, Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh in the august presence of HMJ Tashi Rabstan, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh & Chairman, LAHDC, Leh, at the Conference Hall of National Institute of Sowa Rigpa (NISR), Leh.



Vignettes from the Mediation Training programme organised by DLSA, Leh (left)

COMPENSATION TO VICTIMS OF CRIME: ACKNOWLEDGING PAIN, PROVIDING SUCCOUR

Applications received directly by Legal Service Institutions (A)	Applications / orders marked / directed by any Court (B)	Applications received including Court Orders (A+B)	Applications Decided	Applications Pending	Compensation Awarded (in Rs.)
3,116	3,820	6,936	5,939	17,418	94,21,78,566

STORIES OF IMPACT



Being a lawyer is not merely a vocation. It is a public trust, and each of us has an obligation to give back to our communities.

– Janet Reno

SUCCESS STORY NO. 1: GIVING VOICE TO THE VOICELESS

- On 07.10.2023, Secretary, DLSA, Dumka, Jharkhand, alongwith Assistant Defence Counsel from LADCS visited Children's Home for Girls. During the visit, the DLSA, Secretary came across a girl who had a speech impairment and appeared to be having some mental health issues as well. The Secretary, DLSA, Dumka, directed the Principal of the School for Specially-abled at Dumka to depute a teacher skilled in sign language at Children's Home for Girls to assist the girl. He also directed the Civil Surgeon, Dumka, to direct the Medical Officer to visit the girl at the Children's Home and give her necessary medical assistance.

SUCCESS STORY NO. 2: REBUILDING FAMILIAL BONDS

- In September, 2023 a PLV empanelled with DLSA, Dehradun, Uttarakhand, came across an old lady, who was in a dishevelled state and loitering in the streets in Tehsil Rishikesh. She interacted with the lady and came to know that the latter had been physically and verbally abused by her son and daughter-in-law, before being turned out of her house. The PLV took the lady to the office of the Additional District Magistrate and on his instructions to the Kotwali Police Station. The son and daughter-in-law of the lady were called at the P.S. for interaction. The PLV also interacted with them and informed them about the legal consequences of harassing a senior citizen. Soon thereafter, there was a rapprochement between the lady and her son and daughter-in-law. The lady returned to her house with her son and daughter-in-law. Thereafter, on 04.10.2023, the PLV again visited the house of the lady to inquire about her well-being and saw that the lady was happily living with her son and daughter-in-law. The lady expressed gratitude to the PLV for her efforts.

SUCCESS STORY NO. 3: HELPING ONE FIND ONE'S FEET

- On 06.11.2023, during a visit to Shri Gowthami Jeeva Karunya Sangham, Secretary, DLSA Raja Mahendrawaram, Andhra Pradesh met an ex-serviceman whose left leg had been amputated after an accident and who had been using a prosthetic leg. The latter told the Secretary, DLSA that his prosthetic leg had become non-functional and as a result he was unable to do anything on his own. The DLSA, Secretary, immediately interceded in the matter and deputed a PLV to contact Shri Gurudeva Charitable Trust for providing a new prosthetic leg, free of cost to the ex-serviceman. Based on this timely intervention, a new prosthetic leg was provided to the ex-serviceman, thereby giving him a chance to stand-up on his own and attend to his normal chores.

STORIES OF IMPACT

SUCCESS STORY NO. 4: GIVING CARE, HEALING SCARS

- On 21.11.2023, an acid attack incident was reported at Barpeta, Assam. With the intervention of Secretary, DLSA concerned, an amount of Rs. 1,75,000 was disbursed to the victim as interim compensation by 23.11.2023. The Secretary, DLSA, also enquired with the family of the victim and facilitated the medical treatment being given to her.

SUCCESS STORY NO. 5: SECURING DIGNITY AND NOT JUST LIBERTY

- On 12.12.2023, the Secretary, DLSA, Phulbani visited the District Jail, Phulbani, Odisha. During the visit, the Secretary, DLSA was informed by the Superintendent, District Jail, Phulbani that one convict had completed his jail term and released but there was no one back home to provide for him. It was informed that the convict didn't have the wherewithal to fend for himself. The Secretary, DLSA concerned contacted the Banabasi Old Age Home, Balliguda and requested them to provide shelter and assistance to the convict. On 14.12.2023, the convict was shifted from his house to Banabasi Old Age Home, Balliguda, where he is being given proper care and support.

SUCCESS STORY NO. 6: HELPING IN SWEET REUNIONS

- On 12.12.2023, an elderly woman, who seemed very disturbed, was found sitting and crying in the freezing cold by the owner of a nearby shop in Khairagarh, Chattisgarh. The owner of the shop immediately contacted a PLV associated with the DLSA of the area. Upon receiving the information about the woman, the PLV went to the place and spoke to the woman, who shared her plight with him. The PLV ferreted out information regarding the woman's family and contacted her granddaughter. The woman's granddaughter was called to the bus-stand close-by and the old woman was reunited with her family.

SUCCESS STORY NO. 7: REUNITING LIVES TORN ASUNDER

- On 07.12.2023, District Legal Services Authority, Jorhat, Assam, successfully reunited one destitute lady from Begusarai, Bihar, with her family members. The lady had accidentally arrived at Mariani Railway Junction via rail and was then found loitering in the nearby tea estate. With the help of Police, the lady was handed over to the officials of Sakti Sadan (erstwhile Swadhar Greh), Jorhat. During a regular visit to the Sakti Sadan, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Jorhat was informed about the lady. On account of linguistic barriers, the lady was unable to communicate her problem. The DLSA, Secretary, tried hard to ferret out information from her regarding her family and on coming to know that she was a native of Begusarai, Bihar, he contacted the Secretary, DLSA, Begusarai, Bihar and communicated her details. Due to collaborative efforts of DLSA, Secretary, Jorhat, Assam and DLSA, Secretary, Begusarai, Bihar, the woman was reunited with her family soon thereafter in the presence of media personnel, police officials, officials of District Legal Services Authority, Jorhat.

Justice is justly represented blind, because she sees no difference in the parties concerned. She has but one scale and weight, for rich and poor, great and small.

- William Penn

एहसास न्याय का सबके लिए, आकाश न्याय का सबके लिए,
उल्लास न्याय का सबके लिए, विश्वास न्याय का सबके लिए,

अपने इस हिन्दुस्तान पर, हक हमारा भी तो हैं,

इंसाफ के इस आशियाँ पर, हक हमारा भी तो है,

एक मुट्ठी आसमाँ पर, हक हमारा भी तो है,

ये न सोचो दर्द हमारा कहीं सुना न जाएगा,

अब न्यायालय खुद चलकर चौपालों तक आएगा,

लाचारों को न्याय मिलेगा, दुखियारों को न्याय मिलेगा,

कमजोरों को न्याय मिलेगा, मज़लूमों को न्याय मिलेगा,

अपने इस हिंदुस्तान पर, हक हमारा भी तो है,

उम्मीदों के इस गुलिस्तां पर, हक हमारा भी तो है,

एक मुट्ठी आसमान पर, हक हमारा भी तो है।

गरीब और कमजोरों को मुफ्त एवं सक्षम कानूनी सहायता के लिए प्रतिबद्ध,

विधिक सेवा प्राधिकरण- NALSA- न्याय सबके लिए ।



Vision

The vision of NALSA is to promote an inclusive legal system in order to ensure fair and meaningful justice to the marginalized and disadvantaged sector.

Mission

To legally empower the marginalized and excluded groups of the society by providing effective legal representation, legal literacy and awareness and bridging the gap between the legally available benefits and the entitled beneficiaries.

To strengthen the system of Lok Adalats and other Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanisms in order to provide for informal, quick, inexpensive and effective resolution of dispute and minimize the load of adjudication on the overburdened judiciary.



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