

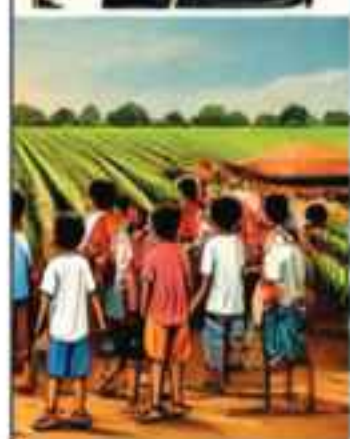


ACTION PLAN 2025-2026

Protecting the Rights
of Vulnerable Groups:
Legal Frameworks and
Social Safeguards



RAJASTHAN STATE LEGAL
SERVICES AUTHORITY



Manindra Mohan Shrivastava
Chief Justice



Rajasthan High Court
Jodhpur : 0291-2222001
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MESSAGE

It is with profound appreciation and optimism that Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority has meticulously reviewed its "Action Plan for the year 2025-26". This comprehensive blueprint not only underscores RLSA's unwavering commitment to justice but also delineates innovative strategies to enhance legal services across the state.

RLSA has consistently demonstrated an exceptional dedication to ensuring that legal aid reaches the most marginalized sections of our society. The establishment of Model Legal Services Centres by Taluka Legal Service Committees in remote areas is a visionary step. These centers will not only provide legal aid to those in need, irrespective of their social and economic status, but also empower them to navigate the legal landscape effectively.

In our rapidly digitizing world, the importance of cyber awareness cannot be underestimated. The digital realm offers immense opportunities but also presents significant challenges, particularly concerning cybercrimes and digital frauds. It is imperative that we equip our citizens with the knowledge and tools to navigate this space safely.

RLSA's initiative to incorporate cyber awareness programs into its action plan is both timely and commendable. By organizing workshops and seminars, especially in rural and semi-urban areas, RLSA aims to educate the public about safe online practices, the importance of data privacy, and the legal recourses available in case of cyber offenses. This proactive approach will undoubtedly contribute to building a more informed and secure digital community in Rajasthan.

The state of our prisons reflects the broader health of our justice system. Recognizing this, RLSA's focus on prison reforms is a significant stride towards ensuring humane and rehabilitative conditions for inmates.

As RLSA embarks on the implementation of the Action Plan 2025-26, I extend my heartfelt congratulations for its new initiatives. The emphasis on inclusivity, digital literacy, and humane reforms underscores a holistic approach to access to justice that is both progressive and compassionate.

Let us move forward with determination and unity, upholding the principles of justice and equity that form the bedrock of our society.

Manindra Mohan Shrivastava,
Patron in Chief

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A-1, Gandhi Nagar, Jodhpur - 342015 (C) : 2706336, Fax : 2710453

Shree Chandrashekhar

*Judge
Rajasthan High Court
& Executive Chairman
Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority
Jaipur*

MESSAGE

It is with great pleasure that I address you to introduce the "Action Plan 2025-26 of the Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority (RSLSA)". This strategic blueprint not only strengthens our commitment to access to justice but also prioritizes pressing concerns such as "cyber awareness, prison reforms, and drug abuse prevention", which are the need of the hour.

RSLSA has always been at the forefront of ensuring that justice is "not just a privilege but a right for all, especially the underprivileged and marginalized sections" of society. Our mission is clear—"no individual should be denied legal assistance due to economic or social barriers".

With "digitalization touching every aspect of our lives", cyber awareness is no longer an option but a necessity. From financial fraud to cyberbullying and data breaches, cybercrimes have increased manifold, affecting individuals across all age groups.

One of the most "pressing social challenges today is drug abuse", which is destroying families, ruining careers, and endangering the youth. Rajasthan is not immune to this crisis, and we must act decisively to prevent the spread of substance abuse. RSLSA, in partnership with law enforcement agencies, educational institutions, and NGOs, is committed to "raising awareness about the dangers of drug addiction and providing legal aid to victims and their families".

Drug abuse is not just a legal issue but a "public health emergency" that requires a collaborative effort from the government, society, and individuals. By working together, we can "prevent substance abuse, rehabilitate victims, and safeguard our youth from falling into the trap of addiction".

As we embark on the journey of implementing the "Action Plan 2025-26", I call upon "every stakeholder—judicial officers, legal practitioners, social workers, law enforcement agencies, and the general public"—to join hands in making Rajasthan a state where "justice, safety, and rehabilitation go hand in hand".

Together, we can build a "just, inclusive, and progressive society" that upholds the dignity and rights of every individual. Let us continue working towards a Rajasthan that leads by example in legal awareness, social justice, and public welfare.

Shree Chandrashekhar
Executive Chairman

*Hani Ben Attia,
Member Secretary, RLSA*



MESSAGE

Our society today faces numerous challenges that threaten the very fabric of justice, equality, and human dignity. As we move forward with RLSA's Action Plan 2025-26, our commitment remains steadfast in addressing critical social issues and ensuring that legal aid serves as a tool for transformation. It is not enough to merely identify problems—we must actively work to resolve them and create a more just and equitable society for all.

Our society stands at a critical juncture where multiple social evils continue to hinder our collective progress. Among the most pressing concerns is the "environmental crisis", which threatens not only our natural resources but also the very right to life and health. It is our duty to enforce environmental laws, promote sustainable practices, and hold violators accountable to safeguard the future for generations to come.

Equally alarming is the "mental health crisis", which remains deeply stigmatized and often ignored. Countless individuals suffer in silence, denied access to essential care and legal support. It is imperative that we break this silence, strengthen mental health services, and ensure that no one is left without the care they deserve.

The same urgency is required in addressing the "challenges faced by persons with disabilities", who continue to face discrimination, lack of accessibility, and exclusion from public spaces and opportunities. Our commitment must be unwavering in advocating for disability rights, implementing inclusive policies, and ensuring equal participation for all.

Furthermore, "caste-based violence and discrimination" persist despite legal safeguards, depriving individuals of dignity and equal opportunities. Such deep-rooted prejudices must be eradicated through strict enforcement of laws, education, and social reform.

Another crisis that is destroying lives, especially among the youth, is "drug abuse". Substance addiction is not just a legal issue; it is a public health emergency. Instead of punishment, those suffering from addiction need "rehabilitation and legal support" to reintegrate into society. We are working closely with educational

institutions, law enforcement agencies, and community leaders to spread awareness, prevent drug trafficking, and provide legal aid for those seeking recovery. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that victims of addiction are not abandoned but supported on their path to a healthier life.

Equally important is our "duty towards senior citizens", who often face neglect, abuse, and financial insecurity. Many elderly individuals struggle to access their pensions, medical care, and legal rights. RSLSA is actively working to strengthen laws protecting senior citizens, ensuring they receive the care and respect they deserve. They have spent their lives building society; it is now our turn to safeguard their dignity and well-being.

With rapid digitalization, "cybercrime" has emerged as a growing threat. From financial fraud to cyberbullying, the digital world presents new risks that require urgent legal intervention. RSLSA is launching cyber awareness programs to educate citizens on online safety and provide legal assistance to victims of cybercrimes. As technology evolves, so must our legal systems to ensure digital spaces remain safe and secure for all.

"Prison reforms" must be prioritized to ensure that justice is not just punitive but rehabilitative. Many inmates, especially undertrials, suffer due to a lack of legal representation and poor prison conditions. Expanding legal aid clinics in prisons, introducing skill development programs, and improving mental health support can help inmates reintegrate into society with dignity. A justice system that only punishes without offering rehabilitation fails in its duty to create a safer society.

In addressing these challenges, our mission is clear—"to correct every wrong and work towards a society that upholds justice, dignity, and equality for all". Whether it is environmental protection, fighting discrimination, supporting mental health, or ensuring cyber safety, we must take collective action. RSLSA is committed to being at the forefront of these efforts, ensuring that legal aid is not just about laws but about real change. Together, we can build a Rajasthan where justice is not just a concept but a reality for everyone.



Hari Om Attri,
Member Secretary, RSLSA



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manindra Mohan Shrivastava
The Chief Justice, Rajasthan High Court &
Patron-in-Chief, RLSA



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Shree Chandrashekhar
Judge, Rajasthan High Court & Executive Chairman, RLSA



Mr. Hari Om Attri
District & Sessions Judge & Member Secretary RLSA



Mr. Rajendra Sharma
Director, RLSA



Mr. Hemant Singh Baghela
Joint Secretary, RLSA



Mr. Ajeej Khan
Joint Secretary,
RLSA Jodhpur



Mr. Ajay Kumar
Secretary, RHCLSC Jaipur



Dr. Priyanka Pareek
Special Secretary, RLSA



Mrs. Savitri Singh
Deputy Secretary
- AP& ADR



Mr. Pradeep Kumawat,
Deputy Secretary-IInd



Mrs. Rashmi Nawal,
Deputy Secretary-Ist

ORGANOGRAM OF LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITIES/COMMITTEES

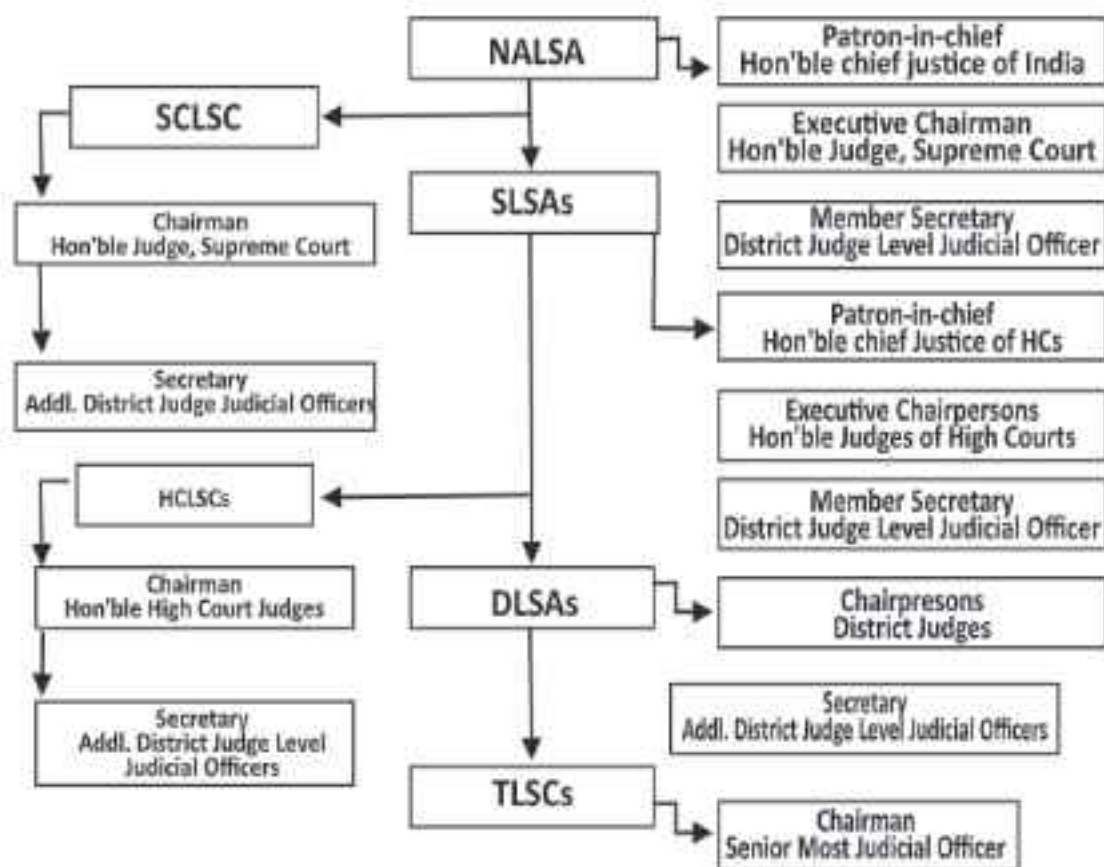


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HELPLINE NUMBERS

S. N.	Helpline	Number
1.	Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority	9928900900
2.	National Legal Aid Helpline Number	15100
3.	All-In-One Emergency Helpline Number	112
4.	Women Garima Helpline	7891091111/ 0141-22090000
5.	Senior Citizen Helpline Number	14567
6.	National Health Helpline Toll free Number (For Pregnant woman)	1800-180-1104
7.	Police	100
8.	Traffic Police Helpline	1095
9.	Dy. Commissioner of Police (Missing Children and Women)	1094
10.	Anti Ragging Helpline	155222
13.	Train Enquiry	0141-2204536
14.	Mahila Chikitsalaya	0141-2601333
15.	Ambulance	108 - 102
16.	Fire Station	101
17.	Accident Relief (Road Accident)	0141-2565630
19.	Control Room of Central Relief Commissioner (In the event of Natural Disaster)	1070
20.	Child Helpline	1098

Directory of Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority, Jaipur

Sno.	Name	Post	Office
1	Sh.Hari Om Sharma Attri	Member Secretary	0141-2227481
2	Sh. Rajendra Sharma	Director	0141-2227322
3	Sh.Hemant Singh Baghela	Joint Secretary	0141-2227322
4	Sh. Ajeer Khan	Joint Secretary (Additional Charge, Jodhpur)	0291-2548287
5	Smt. Priyanka Pareek	Special Secretary, Mediation & Arbitration	0141-2385831
6	Smt. Rashmi Nawal	Dy. Secretary-I	0141-2385877
7	Sh. Pradeep Kumawat	Dy. Secretary-II	0141-2385855
8	Smt. Savitri Singh	Dy. Secretary (AP&ADR)	

Directory of District Legal Services Authority, All Rajasthan

S. No.	Name of DLSA	Name of Secretary	Office Landline	Legal Aid Helpline	Mail ID
1	Ajmer	Sh. Mahendra Kumar Dhabhi	0145-2943811	8306002101	dlsa1ajmer@gmail.com
2	Alwar	Sh. Mohan Lal Soni	0144-2940098	8306002102	dlsa2alwar@gmail.com
3	Balotra-Barmer	Sh. Siddharth Deep	02988-294119	8306002103	dlsa3balotra@gmail.com
4	Banswara	Sh. Kaushal Singh	02962-294488	8306002104	dlsa4banswara@rajasthan.gov.in
5	Baran	Smt. Hina Parihar	07453-294186	8306002105	dlsa5baran@gmail.com
6	Bharatpur	Sh. Anutosh Gupta	05644-228870	8306002106	dlsa6bhartpur@gmail.com
7	Bhilwara	Sh.Vishal Bhargav	01482-294713	8306002107	dlsa7bhilwara@gmail.com
8	Bikaner	Smt. Mandvi Rajvi	0151-2970623	8306002108	dlsa8bikaner@gmail.com

9	Bundi	Smt. Sarita Meena	0747-2940061	8306002109	dlsa9bundi@rajasthan.gov.in
10	Chittorgarh	Sh. Sunil Kumar Goyal	01472-294210	8306002112	dlsa10chittorgarh@rajasthan.gov.in
11	Churu	Dr. Sharad Kumar Vyas	01562-294594	8306002110	dlsa11churu@gmail.com
12	Dausa	Sh. Brijesh Kumar	01427-294224	8306002114	dlsa12dausa@rajasthan.gov.in
13	Dholpur	Smt. Rekha Yadav	05642-294300	8306002115	dlsa13dholpur@rajasthan.gov.in
14	Dungarpur	Sh. Kuldeep Sutrar	02964-294822	8306002116	dlsa14dungarpur@gmail.com
15	Ganganagar	Gajendra Singh Tenguria	0154-2944888	8306002117	dlsa15ganganagar@gmail.com
16	Hanumangarh	Sh. Shiv Charan Meena	01552-294199	8306002118	dlsa16hanumangarh@rajasthan.gov.in
17	Jaipur District	Shri Pawan Kumar	0141-2203090	8306002120	dlsa18jaipurdistrict@gmail.com
18	Jaipur-Metro I	Sh. Rajendra Bansiwala	0141-2947150	8306002119	dlsa17jaipurmetro@gmail.com
19	Jaipur-Metro II	Smt. Pallavi Sharma	0141-2947155	8306006150	dlsa17jaipurmetro2@gmail.com
20	Jaisalmer	Sh. Kishore Kumar Talepa	02992-294676	8306002123	dlsa19jaiselmer@gmail.com dlsa19jaiselmer@rajasthan.gov.in
21	Jalore	Sh. Ahsan Ahmed	02973-294337	8306002126	dlsa20jalore@gmail.com dlsa20jalore@rajasthan.gov.in
22	Jhalawar	Smt. Shashi Gajana	07432-294065	8306002127	dlsa21jhalawar@gmail.com
23	Jhunjhunu	Smt. Priyanka Pilonia	01592-294040	8306002128	dlsa22jhunjhunu@gmail.com
24	Jodhpur-district	Dr. Manisha Choudhary	0291-2943451	8306002129	dlsa24jodhpurdistrict@gmail.com
25	Jodhpur-Metro	Sh. Pukhraj Gahlot	0291-2943480	8306002021	dlsa23jodhpurmetro@gmail.com
26	Karauli	Mamta Chaudhary	07464-294026	8306002130	dlsa25karauli@gmail.com dlsa25karauli@rajasthan.gov.in

27	Kota	Smt. Geeta Chaudhary	0744-2940015	8306002131	dlsa26kota@rajasthan.gov.in dlsa26kota@gmail.com
28	Nagaur-Metra City	Swati Sharma	01590-294039	8306002132	dlsa27merta@rajasthan.gov.in dlsa27merta@gmail.com
29	Pali	Sh. Vikram Singh Bhati	02932-294035	8306002166	dlsa28pali@gmail.com dlsa28pali@rajasthan.gov.in
30	Pratapgarh	Sh. Kaidarnath	01478-294161	8306002134	dlsa29pratapgarh@gmail.com
31	Rajsamand	Mr. Santosh Agarwal	02952-294498	8306002135	dlsa30rajsmand@gmail.com
32	Sawaimadhopur	Mrs. Sameeksha Gautam	07462-294301	8306002136	dlsa31sawaimadhopur@gmail.com
33	Sikar	Smt. Shalini Goyal	01572-294048	8306002137	dlsa32sikar@gmail.com
34	Sirohi	Sh. Ramdeo Sandoo	02972-294034	8306002138	dlsa33sirohi@gmail.com
35	Tonk	Sh. Dinesh Kumar Jaluthariya	01432-294603	8306002139	dlsa34tonk@gmail.com
36	Udaipur	Sh. Kuldeep Sharma	0294-24940382	8306002022	dlsa35udaipur@gmail.com

SPECIAL DAYS TO BE OBSERVED

Date	Day	Special Days
07-04-2025	Monday	World Health Day
22-04-2025	Tuesday	World Earth Day
01-05-2025	Thursday	International Labour Day
22-05-2025	Thursday	International Biodiversity Day
31-05-2025	Saturday	World Anti-Tobacco Day
05-06-2025	Thursday	World Environment Day
12-06-2025	Thursday	World Day Against Child Labour
21-06-2025	Saturday	International Day of Yoga
26-06-2025	Thursday	International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking
11-07-2025	Friday	World Population Day
17-07-2025	Thursday	World Day of International Justice
09-08-2025	Saturday	World Tribal Day
15-08-2025	Friday	National Independence Day
01-10-2025	Wednesday	International Day of Older Persons
02-10-2025	Thursday	Gandhi Jayanti
10-10-2025	Friday	World Mental Health Day
09-11-2025	Sunday	Legal Service Day
11-11-2025	Tuesday	National Education Day
14-11-2025	Friday	National Children's Day
26-11-2025	Wednesday	Constitution Day/ National Law Day
01-12-2025	Monday	World AIDS Day
03-12-2025	Wednesday	International Day of Persons with Disabilities
10-12-2025	Wednesday	Human Rights Day
24-12-2025	Wednesday	National Consumer Rights Day
12-01-2026	Monday	National Youth Day
24-01-2026	Saturday	National Girl Child Day (Balika Divas)
25-01-2026	Sunday	National Voters Day
26-01-2026	Monday	National Republic Day
20-02-2026	Friday	World Day of Social Justice
08-03-2026	Sunday	International Women's Day
22-03-2026	Sunday	World Water Day

SCHEMES OF NALSA AND RLSA

NALSA (Legal Services to Disaster Victims through Legal Services Authority) Scheme, 2010
NALSA (Legal Services to the Workers in the Unorganized Sector) Scheme, 2015
NALSA (Child-Friendly Legal Services for Children) Scheme, 2024
NALSA (Legal Services to Persons with Mental Illness and Persons with Intellectual Disabilities) Scheme, 2024
NALSA (Effective Implementation of Poverty Alleviation) Scheme, 2015
NALSA (Protection and Enforcement of Tribal Rights) Scheme, 2015
NALSA (Legal Services to the Victims of Drug Abuse and Eradication of Drug Menace) Scheme, 2015
NALSA (Victims of Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation) Scheme, 2015
NALSA (Legal Services to Victims of Acid Attacks) Scheme, 2016
NALSA (Legal Services to Senior Citizens) Scheme, 2016
Victim Compensation Scheme, 2011/ NALSA's Compensation Scheme for Women Victims/Survivors of Sexual Assault/other Crimes - 2018
RLSA (Legal Services and Assistance to Inmates and Children in Conflict with Law) Scheme, 2015

NATIONAL LOK ADALAT

National Lok Adalat will be held quarterly in the year 2025 as per the directions of National Legal Services Authority, New Delhi. The schedule for 2025 is as under: -

Subject
<p>Typically, the following categories of cases (both pre-litigation and pending) are considered for resolution during National Lok Adalats:</p> <p>(A) Pre-litigation: All types of Civil and Compoundable Criminal cases, as may be permissible under the Act/Regulations may be taken up.</p> <p>(B) Pending in the Courts: All type of civil and compoundable criminal cases including following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Criminal Compoundable Offences; 2. NI Act cases under Section 138; 3. Money Recovery cases; 4. Motor Accident Claim cases; 5. Labour dispute cases; 6. Disputes related to Public Utility services such as Electricity & Water Bills cases etc. (excluding non- compoundable); 7. Matrimonial disputes (except divorce) 8. Land Acquisition cases; 9. Services matters including pension cases; 10. Revenue cases, pending before High Court and district Courts; 11. Other civil cases (rent, injunction suits, specific performance suits etc.).
<p>National Lok Adalat Dates 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8th March 2025 • 10th May 2025 • 13th September 2025 • 13th December 2025

LEGAL SERVICES WEEK, 2025

In 1987, Legal Services Authorities Act was enacted to give a statutory base to legal aid programmes throughout the country on a uniform pattern. This Act was enforced on 9th November 1995. From that day onwards 9th November assumed as Legal Services Day and is celebrated every year by all Authorities. The aim of celebrating the Legal Services Day is to make sure the availability of free legal services to the weaker section of the society and making them aware of their legal rights and duties. RSLSA is committed to organise Legal Services Week from 9th November to 15th November 2025.

During the Legal Services Week, following legal awareness programmes are proposed to be organized:

1. Door to Door Campaign
2. Legal Awareness Programmes
3. Street Plays
4. Cultural Programme
5. Rallies
6. Exhibition etc.

Banners, Posters, various other information dissemination mode will be adopted to build legal awareness amongst the masses. The Judicial Officers, Panel Advocates, registered NGOs, Social workers, Para Legal Volunteers, Teachers, School or College students, law students as well as Aanganwadi workers may be engaged to organized legal services programme at grass root level.

Legal Awareness Day for Children (14th November 2025)

Every Year on 14th November Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority organises “Legal Awareness Day for children” for raising awareness about the rights and welfare of children. Therefore, all the Chairman and Secretary, DLSA's, PLVs, Panel Advocates and Legal Awareness Teams are directed to organize “Legal Awareness Day for Children” on 14th November 2025 in all Districts & Tehsils of State of Rajasthan with the assistance of Bharat Scouts & Guides, school students, NGOs etc. In this “Legal Awareness Day for Children”, following programmes are proposed to be organized:-

- A. Organization of rallies with the assistance of Bharat Scout & Guides & School students. The school's Students may take Posters, Banners, display boards etc. regarding “Stop Child Marriage”, “Educate the Girls Child”, “Stop Ragging”, “Stop Child Labour” and other issues relating to children so that the general public may be sensitized about the child rights.
- B. The Secretaries, legal awareness teams, Panel Advocates and PLVs may organize legal awareness camps in schools, collages etc. to spread awareness regarding rights and duties of the children.

Games and Competitions among School Students

Competitions are the best way to build legal awareness amongst the children as these are the most effective way to motivate children to perform and excel their abilities & creativities and offers a lot more rewards than just the winning prize. Competitions offer a chance for participants to gain substantial experience, showcase skills, analyse, and evaluate outcomes and uncover personal aptitude. Competition makes children think more innovatively which is necessary for their growth and all-round development. Like previous years, this year also, various competitions such as Debate, Essay Writing, Story/Poem Writing, Table Tennis, Badminton, Races- 100 Meters, 200 Meters and 400 Meters, Long Jump, High Jump, Carrom and Chess will be organized amongst school students at four levels: Inter School, District, Division and State Level. Similarly, these programmes may also be organized for the children of observation homes, children's homes, shelter homes/open shelters, special homes etc.

Proposed Months for Competitions		
S. No.	Stage	Proposed Months
1.	Inter School	In the Month of August
2.	District Level	In the Month of September
3.	Division Level	In the Month of October
4.	State Level	In the Month of November

Effective organization of these competitions in given time frame will be the responsibility of every Chairman of DLSA, District Collector and District Education Officer, Superintendent of various homes and officers of Directorate for Child Rights. Detailed guidelines will be sent to all DLSAs.

It is proposed that DLSAs shall send detailed report to RSLSA along with the photographs and newspaper cuttings.

Note: The DLSAs may alter the dates subject to suitable modification and prior approval by RSLSA.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Action Plan 2025-26 of the Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority (RSLSA) is a structured and inclusive initiative aimed at ensuring equal access to justice, strengthening legal aid mechanisms, and promoting social justice and welfare. The plan is designed to protect the rights of vulnerable and marginalized groups, including women, children, senior citizens, prisoners, caste minorities, persons with disabilities, and individuals affected by drug abuse, mental health issues, and environmental crisis. Through a multi-faceted strategy, RSLSA seeks to bridge the gap between legal services and disadvantaged communities by expanding legal aid clinics, launching awareness programs, and strengthening institutional mechanisms to uphold justice and social equity.

A cornerstone of the plan is conducting awareness camps in remote areas, ensuring that those living in geographically and economically disadvantaged areas have access to legal representation and advisory services. Legal aid clinics will serve as legal resource hubs, offering guidance on legal rights, assistance in filing cases, and support in accessing government welfare schemes. Additionally, Lok Adalats (People's Courts) will resolve pending civil and criminal cases swiftly, thereby reducing the backlog in the judicial system. The district-level legal aid framework will be strengthened, with District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) conducting legal awareness camps, inspections of jails, juvenile homes, and shelter houses, and organizing regular committee meetings to monitor progress and address emerging legal issues.

Prison reforms form a critical part of the action plan, recognizing that a just society must ensure humane treatment and fair legal representation for prisoners. Many undertrial prisoners spend years behind bars due to a lack of legal assistance and delays in the judicial process. To address this, RSLSA expands free legal aid services within prisons, ensuring that every inmate has access to legal representation, fair trials, and speedy justice. The open-air camp model, where select prisoners live with their families while participating in vocational programs, are promoted to facilitate social reintegration. Additionally, rehabilitation and skill development programs

will be implemented to help inmates reintegrate into society as productive citizens. Regular prison inspections will be conducted to monitor conditions, prevent human rights violations, and improve inmates' quality of life.

With rapid digitalization, the rise of cybercrimes, online frauds, and digital exploitation has become a major concern. The Action Plan 2025-26 incorporates cyber awareness initiatives, targeting both urban and rural populations, particularly students, professionals, senior citizens, and women who may be vulnerable to cyber threats. Workshops, awareness drives, and training sessions will be conducted to educate individuals about online safety, digital frauds, data privacy, and legal recourse in cases of cyber offenses. These programs will also address emerging cyber threats such as cyberbullying, identity theft, financial scams, and misinformation campaigns.

The action plan also gives special attention to social concerns, particularly drug abuse and mental health awareness. RSLSA recognizes substance addiction as not just a legal issue but also a public health emergency. Legal aid services will be extended to victims of drug abuse, while rehabilitation programs will be conducted in collaboration with law enforcement agencies, educational institutions, and NGOs. Public awareness campaigns will highlight the legal consequences of drug-related offenses and provide resources for prevention and recovery. Similarly, mental health awareness is an essential component of the action plan. Many individuals suffering from mental illnesses lack legal protections, access to healthcare, or proper representation. RSLSA will work towards reducing stigma, ensuring stronger legal provisions for mental health rights, and facilitating access to mental health support services and legal assistance.

Women, children, and the elderly remain key focus areas in the action plan, with special initiatives aimed at their protection and empowerment. Victims of domestic violence, sexual harassment, child abuse, and human trafficking will receive legal aid, counselling services, and rehabilitation support. Legal literacy programs will be launched in schools, colleges, and women's organizations to educate individuals about gender rights, child protection laws, and legal remedies available to victims. Senior citizens,

who often face financial insecurity, neglect, and abuse, will receive legal assistance in matters related to pension disputes, property rights, and financial exploitation.

Environmental protection and sustainability also form a crucial part of RLSA's vision for social justice. The plan includes initiatives for afforestation, water conservation, pollution control, and legal action against environmental violations. Legal literacy campaigns will raise awareness about the importance of environmental laws, climate change mitigation, and sustainable practices. Additionally, legal assistance will be provided to communities affected by environmental degradation, including those facing issues like land encroachment, water pollution, and displacement due to urbanization.

The implementation roadmap of the action plan ensures consistent monitoring and evaluation of progress. National Lok Adalats will be organized on a quarterly basis to resolve civil and criminal cases efficiently. A Legal Services Week will be observed from 9th to 15th November 2025, during which door-to-door campaigns, street plays, cultural programs, and exhibitions will be conducted to spread legal awareness at the grassroots level. The plan also aligns with key national and international observances, such as World Mental Health Day, International Day of Older Persons, World Environment Day, and International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, to leverage global awareness efforts and engage stakeholders at multiple levels.

Through this holistic and multi-dimensional approach, RLSA aims to empower communities, bridge gaps in legal access, and uphold the principles of justice, equity, and dignity for all individuals in Rajasthan. The Action Plan 2025-26 is not just a policy document but a vision for a progressive and inclusive society, where legal aid is not a privilege but a fundamental right accessible to everyone, regardless of their socio-economic background. By integrating legal services with proactive awareness programs, stakeholder collaborations, and systemic reforms, RLSA is committed to building a future where justice is truly accessible to all.

ACTION PLAN

APRIL, 2025

PRISONERS' RIGHTS AND PRISON REFORMS: BUILDING A JUST AND HUMANE SYSTEM



Prisoners' Rights and Prison Reforms

Building a Just and Humane System

Prison administration is an important component of the criminal justice system. Prison institutions are known by different names in different countries like 'Correctional Facilities', 'Detention Centre', 'Jails', 'Remand Centre' etc. There is a paradigm shift in social viewpoint towards prisoners in last century. Earlier system of prison with punitive attitude wherein inmates were forcibly confined and deprived of a variety of freedom as a form of punishment changed with a change in social perception towards prison and prisoners. Prisons exist at three levels such as Taluk level, District level and Zonal/Range level and Jails at these levels are Sub Jail, District Jail and Central Jail respectively.

Right to free legal aid and assistance is an essential ingredient of reasonable, fair, and just procedure for a person accused of any offence. It is implicit in the guarantee of Article 21. It is, therefore, essential that Access to Justice is available at all stages of the criminal process. The criminal justice system comprising of the police, the judges, lawyers, legal services authorities, and the prison administration is duty bound to ensure that legal aid is provided at every stage of interface with the detainee. At the police station, suspects have the right to legal assistance and be provided with a leaflet outlining their rights to free legal aid. Upon receiving a request for legal assistance during interrogation, the concerned legal services authority based on duty rosters for various police stations, notifies appointed lawyers.

Legal aid clinics act as a bridge between persons who are unable to access justice and the courts. Regulation 3 of the National Legal Services Authority (Legal Services Clinic) Regulation, 2011 for the first time provided for the establishment of legal services clinics in jails. Thereafter, in 2015, NALSA directed all the SLSAs to set up a Prison Legal Aid Clinic (PLAC) in each prison which shall serve as the first point of contact for the prisoners to seek free and competent legal aid.

"Crime is the outcome of a diseased mind and jail must have an environment of hospital for treatment and care."
– Mahatma Gandhi

PRIOSNERS IN THE STATE OF RAJASTHAN AS ON 30.12.2024

STATISTICS BRANCH								
JAIL AND CATEGORY WISE NUMBER OF PRISONERS AS ON 31.12.2024								
S.No.	JAIL NAME	CAPACITY	POPULATION	PRISONERS				OCCUPAN
				CONVICTS	UNDERTRIAL	CIVIL	DETENUE	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9.00
I CENTRAL JAILS-6								
1	JAIPUR	960	1025	713	324	7	1	106.79
2	ALWAR	1172	998	327	671	0	0	85.11
3	BHARATHPUR	825	734	379	357	0	0	85.21
4	BIKANER	1200	872	562	318	20	2	73.67
5	BANGALUR	560	584	176	392	16	0	104.29
6	JALPUR	1175	1288	471	2118	0	0	152.50
7	JODHPUR	1475	1561	430	1130	0	1	108.83
8	KOTA	1000	1550	754	803	0	0	124.50
9	UDAIPUR	910	1334	188	646	0	0	146.18
	TOTAL	8284	10458	4532	5679	63	4	112.80
II SPL-1+HSL-3+JRS-2+3								
1	SPECIAL CENTRAL JAIL SHALYAKS IV	700	445	315	130	0	0	68.17
2	JUVENILE REF JATARA	20	2	2	0	0	0	10.00
3	HIGH SECURITY JAIL GHUMNA	264	170	56	111	0	1	64.35
	TOTAL	984	617	373	241	0	1	82.70
III REFORMATORIES-7								
1	JAIPUR	50	33	7	26	0	0	66.00
2	BHARATHPUR	100	88	14	25	0	0	38.00
3	BIKANER	123	54	12	22	0	0	21.17
4	JALPUR	230	132	40	112	0	0	60.80
5	JODHPUR	200	88	11	77	0	0	41.50
6	KOTA	100	32	15	17	0	0	33.00
7	UDAIPUR	76	69	14	55	0	0	60.76
	TOTAL	958	442	113	329	0	0	44.25
IV DISTRICT JAILS-28								
5A/Cat-2								
1	JHOKPUR	313	348	19	329	0	0	98.88
2	TONK	420	492	60	431	0	1	114.76
5B/Cat-24								
3	BANSWARA	219	314	3	321	0	0	126.13
4	BARAN	294	335	0	335	0	0	213.00
5	BARMER	139	208	0	208	0	0	120.82
6	BREWARA	225	349	1	348	0	0	156.11
7	BIKANER	400	580	0	580	0	0	145.00
8	BUNDI	104	119	0	119	0	0	66.12
9	CHITTORGARH	338	440	1	439	0	0	139.18
10	COCHURU	183	171	1	167	1	0	108.91
11	DAUSA	250	192	0	192	0	0	76.80
12	DUNGARPUR	70	238	0	238	0	0	380.00
13	HANUMANGARH	350	402	1	401	0	0	114.86
14	JALMER	150	174	0	174	0	0	117.14
15	JALPUR	500	584	0	584	0	0	217.20
16	JALORE	36	66	0	66	0	0	183.16
17	JHILANAR	500	448	17	431	0	0	89.60
18	JHUNHUNU	321	277	6	271	0	0	86.29
19	JHARAULI	180	151	0	151	0	0	76.67
20	NAGORE	65	200	0	200	0	0	289.60
21	PALI	65	99	2	97	0	0	152.71
22	PRATAPGARH	325	266	0	266	0	0	81.60
23	RAISAMAND	55	127	0	127	0	0	230.00
24	SAWAI MADHOPUR	61	88	0	88	0	0	125.38
25	UDAR	224	231	0	231	0	0	108.13
26	UDHOKH	213	302	0	302	0	0	140.87
	TOTAL	6128	7977	113	7162	1	1	126.54

Over the past decade, Indian prisons have increasingly had more undertrial prisoners, with their share increasing from 66% of prisoners in 2012 to 76% in 2022. While this figure rose each year, the greatest rise was seen in the pandemic year of 2020, when undertrial prisoner share rose from 69% to 76%.

A primary contributing factor to this trend is the indiscriminate arrests carried out by the police, often without proper consideration. Individuals belonging to marginalized communities are disproportionately impacted from these unwarranted detentions. Other factors such as limited access to legal assistance and difficulties in meeting bail conditions contribute to the heightened likelihood of underprivileged individuals spending time in prison without being convicted. It is at this point, the role of RLSA is crucial for protecting the right of prisoners



*Prison occupancy rate is the percentage of a prison's capacity that is occupied by prisoners. It's calculated by dividing the number of prisoners by the prison's capacity and multiplying by 100

¹<https://www.ncrb.gov.in/uploads/nationalcrimerecordsbureau/custom/psiyarwise2022/1701613297PSI2022ason01122023.pdf>

Issues Faced by Prisoners in India:

The DLSA Secretaries regularly inspect the prisons all over Rajasthan and after these regular inspections it is evident that Indian prisons face significant challenges that hinder their ability to uphold the rights and dignity of inmates. A lack of basic amenities is a pressing issue, particularly for prisoners from weaker socio-economic backgrounds who often struggle to access essential items such as medication for illnesses, pens, paper, books, and even entertainment sources like television. Overcrowding compounds these problems, with Indian prisons operating at an average occupancy rate of 131.4%, as per the *Prison Statistics India 2022* by the National Crime Records Bureau. In some extreme cases, the occupancy rate is disastrously high, leading to severe resource strain, limited access to facilities, and compromised living conditions. Notably, 75.8% of inmates in Indian prisons are undertrials, which further exacerbates overcrowding and its associated challenges.

The overcrowded environment contributes to unhygienic conditions, forcing inmates to live in unsanitary settings that can result in serious health problems. Such practices highlight the urgent need for systemic reform to ensure humane treatment within the penal system. Moreover, unequal access to legal rights is another critical issue. Prisoners from marginalized backgrounds, often unable to afford competent legal representation, face significant hurdles in securing court permissions for even basic necessities. This disparity reflects the socio-economic inequities that pervade the justice system, leaving vulnerable inmates at a distinct disadvantage.

The lack of adequate rehabilitation and reformation services within prisons. Many institutions fail to provide programs that equip inmates with the skills and support needed for successful reintegration into society as law-abiding citizens. This absence of rehabilitation undermines the purpose of incarceration, which should aim to reform rather than merely punish.

¹<https://www.ncrb.gov.in/uploads/nationalcrimerecordsbureau/custom/psiyarwise2022/1701613297PSI2022ason01122023.pdf>

Legal Framework

As per the data, as of 31st December 2023, 1,220 prisoners have been in prison for more than 10 years and the hearing of the appeal has not started yet. Further, in the year 2023, 3,956 convicts are in prisons who have served more than 14 years in prison and are not repeat offenders. Such cases must be timely identified to check eligibility for their release as per the directions passed by the SC.

In Rajasthan, the statute governing prisons is the Prisons Act, 1894 and various rules framed by the State Government in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 59 of the Prisons Act, 1894, like the Rajasthan Prison Rules, 2022, Rajasthan Prisoners Release on Parole Rules, 2021, the Rajasthan Prisoners (Shortening of Sentences) Rules 2006 and the Rajasthan Prisoners Open Air Camp Rules, 1972.

Legal Aid for Undertrials: Rajasthan State Legal Services Authorities have established Legal Service Clinics in jails, which provide free legal assistance to persons in need. These clinics have been established to ensure that no prisoner remains unrepresented and legal aid and advice is provided to them. The National Legal Services Authority had prepared a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Under-Trial Review Committees, which has been circulated by MHA to all States/Union Territories for making best use of the same and providing relief to prisoners. National Legal Services Authority also holds awareness generation camps in jails to generate awareness about availability of free legal aid, plea bargaining, Lok Adalats and legal rights of inmates, including their right to bail, etc.

The following sections of the **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS)** deal with the rights surrounding prisoners:

- **Section 341 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS)**
 - This provision under Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS) provides for Legal aid to accused at the State expense in certain cases.
 - Section 341 (1) provides that the Court assign an advocate for the defence of accused at the expense of State in following cases:

- Where, in a trial or appeal before a Court, the accused is not represented by an advocate, and
- Where it appears to the Court that the accused has not sufficient means to engage an advocate
- **Section 479 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS)**
 - This section states that where a person has, during the period of investigation, inquiry or trial, for offences not punishable with death or life imprisonment, has undergone detention for a period extending up to one-half of the maximum period of imprisonment shall be released on bail.
 - It also allows for the release of first-time offenders after serving one-third of the maximum sentence
 - It prevents the detention of undertrials for longer than the maximum sentence for their offense

Recent Supreme Court Judgments Regarding Prisoners' Rights:

Suhas Chakma v. Union of India & Ors⁵

A Writ Petition, filed under Article 32 of the Indian Constitution, seeking a Writ, Order, or direction for the Union of India, States, and Union Territories to prevent prisoners from experiencing torture or inhumane treatment due to overcrowded and unhygienic prison conditions.

The Court acknowledged and commended the efforts of NALSA, SLSAs, and DLSAs in advancing the constitutional and statutory objectives of providing legal aid, urging them to persist in their mission. To ensure the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on Access to Legal Aid Services and PLACs functions efficiently, NALSA, in collaboration with SLSAs and DLSAs, must regularly update measures to address field-level challenges.

⁵<https://cdnbbsr.s3waas.gov.in/s3ec0490f1f4972d133619a60c30f3559e/uploads/2024/11/2024110677.pdf>

Additionally, the court directed that enhanced monitoring and review mechanisms should be implemented to assess the effectiveness of PLACs. The Legal Aid Defence Counsel System must undergo regular inspection and refinement to improve service conditions and overall efficacy.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court emphasised that a robust public awareness mechanism is essential to ensuring widespread access to legal aid services. This requires displaying information in public spaces, promoting legal aid through local-language campaigns, and using innovative methods such as street plays in rural areas to engage communities without disrupting their daily lives. The SOP-2022 for Undertrial Review Committees (UTRCs) must be periodically reviewed and updated, with particular attention given to addressing disparities between identified undertrial prisoners and those successfully recommended or released. NALSA should diligently pursue its "Early Access to Justice" framework, ensuring timely pre-litigation support at pre-arrest and remand stages. Additionally, regular interactions with convicts who have not appealed should be conducted, informing them of their right to free legal aid.

To maintain system efficiency, Jail Visiting Lawyers (JVLs) and Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) must receive ongoing engagement and training, while lawyers involved in pre-litigation and legal defense should be provided with continuing education and access to legal resources, including online libraries. The introduction of a digital reporting system across DLSAs, SLSAs, and NALSA will facilitate real-time data updates and better oversight. Furthermore, cooperation from both the Union and State Governments is essential to the effective execution of these directives. AS per the directions of Hon'ble SC of India, RLSA is working in creating public awareness through campaigns and identifying the prisoners who are in need of legal aid.

¹2024 INSC 813

In Re: Inhuman Conditions in 1382 Prisons⁶

This is a significant public interest litigation initiated by the Supreme Court of India to address systemic issues in the country's prisons. The case was initiated in 2013 following a letter from former Chief Justice R.C. Lahoti, which highlighted severe concerns such as overcrowding, unnatural deaths of prisoners, inadequate staffing, and lack of proper training among prison personnel. Court issued directives to uphold the constitutional mandate of dignity and fair treatment for all, including incarcerated individuals.

Over the years, the Supreme Court has issued several directives to improve prison conditions. In a notable judgment dated September 15, 2017, the Court emphasized the need for regular monitoring of prison conditions and the implementation of reforms to safeguard the fundamental rights of prisoners. More recently, on August 23, 2024, the Supreme Court revisited this issue, underscoring the persistent challenges within the prison system. The Court reiterated the necessity for state authorities to implement previous directives effectively and to ensure that prisoners' rights are upheld in accordance with constitutional mandates.

The Supreme Court ruled that as per Section 479 of the BNSS, a first-time offender (who has never been convicted for any offence in the past) is required to be released on bond by the Court, if he has undergone detention for the period extending up to one-third of the maximum period of imprisonment specified for such an offence under a particular law. Section 479 of the BNSS reduces the maximum detention period for first-time offenders to one-third of the maximum sentence, compared to half under Section 436A of the CrPC, 1973. The court confirmed that Section 479 applies to all undertrials, even if their cases were registered before 1st July 2024, when the BNSS came into effect and shall have retrospective effect. The court also ordered Jail Superintendents across the country to process bail applications for eligible undertrials and submit them to the concerned courts at the earliest.

Sukanya Shantha v. Union of India & Ors.,

The Supreme Court of India addressed systemic caste-based discrimination within Indian prisons. Journalist Sukanya Shantha had highlighted these issues in her 2020 article, revealing that prison manuals in various states perpetuated caste hierarchies by assigning menial tasks to inmates from marginalized communities and segregating prisoners based on caste. The Court found such practices to be in violation of Articles 14, 15, 17, 21, and 23 of the Indian Constitution, which guarantee equality, prohibit discrimination and untouchability, and protect personal liberty and dignity.

Consequently, the Court directed all states and union territories to amend their prison manuals within three months to eliminate discriminatory provisions and practices. Additionally, it ordered the removal of any references to caste in prison records and mandated regular inspections by District Legal Services Authorities and Boards of Visitors to ensure compliance and uphold prisoners' fundamental rights.

"Laws require a change, and this becomes important when one looks at the number of undertrials"- CJI Sanjeev Khanna



⁶Writ Petition (Civil) No. 406/2013

⁷2024 INSC 753Case No. Writ Petition No. 1404 of 2023

Flagship Campaigns for Prisoners

NALSA has regularly held campaigns for protecting rights of prisoners and for their welfare. Few such initiatives are:

A campaign for enhancing Legal Services to Women inmates and their accompanying children in prisons.

This campaign aims to address the unique challenges faced by women prisoners and the children who live with them. It focuses on safeguarding their rights, ensuring access to justice, and improving their overall well-being. This initiative emphasizes providing free legal aid to women inmates to expedite their cases and reduce prolonged trials. It also seeks to enhance the living conditions of children accompanying their mothers in prison by ensuring access to education, healthcare, and a nurturing environment. The campaign includes awareness programs to educate women prisoners about their legal rights and entitlements while promoting skill development to facilitate their rehabilitation and reintegration into society post-release. Catering to the medical and nutritional needs of pregnant women prisoners is vital.



Legal Assistance to Family Members of Prisoners

This campaign focused on extending support to the families of incarcerated individuals, who often face social, economic, and legal challenges due to the imprisonment of their loved ones. The initiative sought to provide free legal aid to assist family members in navigating issues such as accessing financial entitlements, claiming property rights, and resolving matters of custody, guardianship, or inheritance.

Through legal aid clinics, para-legal volunteers, and awareness programs, the campaign ensured that family members are informed about their legal rights and options for redressal. It also aimed to bridge the gap between families and the justice system by facilitating access to legal representation, counselling, and assistance in filing applications or claims.

A Campaign for Accessing Justice to Convicts in Prisons Through Legal Services

This campaign aimed at ensuring that incarcerated individuals receive the legal assistance they are entitled to under the law. This initiative focused on safeguarding the rights of convicts by providing access to legal aid for appeals, bail applications, sentence remissions, and other legal remedies. It addressed the challenges prisoners face in navigating complex legal procedures and ensures their voices are heard within the judicial system.

The campaign employed a multi-faceted approach, including the establishment of legal aid clinics within prisons, regular visits by panel lawyers, and the deployment of para-legal volunteers to assist convicts. Additionally, it aims to create awareness among prisoners about their legal rights and the availability of free legal aid services. By bridging the gap between convicts and the justice system, the campaign strives to uphold the principles of fairness and equality, reinforcing the idea that justice should be accessible to all, regardless of their circumstances.

Special Campaign for Old Prisoners & Terminally Ill Prisoners

The National Legal Services Authority launched a special campaign focused on providing assistance to old prisoners and terminally ill prisoners. The campaign ran from 10 December 2024 to 10 March 2025. This initiative ensured that these vulnerable populations receive the necessary legal support and guidance during their time in prison. By addressing the unique needs of old and terminally ill prisoners, the campaign upheld their rights and dignity while incarcerated.

Way forward

The Model Prisons and Correctional Services Act, 2023

Identifying several lacuna in the old Prisons Act of 1894, the Ministry of Home Affairs prepared the Model Prisons and Correctional Services Act, 2023 and sent it to all states and union territories for adoption, although, Rajasthan is yet to adopt Act. The Model Prisons and Correctional Services Act, 2023 is a comprehensive document that aims to improve prison management and the welfare of prisoners in India. As per the act, prison is a State subject so the Union Government has come up with this model to act as a framework for prison management. The salient features of this act:

- Provision for security assessment and segregation of prisoners, individual sentence planning,
- Grievance redressal, prison development board, attitudinal change towards prisoners.
- Provision of separate accommodation for women prisoners, transgender, etc.
- Provision for use of technology in prison administration with a view to bring transparency in prison administration.
- Provision for video conferencing with courts, scientific and technological interventions in prisons, etc.
- Provision of punishment for prisoners and jail staff for use of prohibited items like mobile phones etc. in jails.
- Provision regarding establishment and management of high security jail, open jail (open and semi open), etc.
- Provision for protecting the society from the criminal activities of hardened criminals and habitual offenders, etc.
- Provision for legal aid to prisoners, provision of parole, furlough and premature release etc. to incentivise good conduct.
- Focus on vocational training and skill development of prisoners and their reintegration into the society.

Open Air Camps in Rajasthan

Rajasthan is a pioneer in the concept of open-air camps. Open Air Camps for prisoners is a step taken by the state government in the process of social readjustment of the prisoners. The eligible convicted prisoners are sent to open air camps with the objective of making them learn self-dependence by lawful means of livelihood and social interaction. There are fifty-one open air camps in the state with a sanctioned capacity of 1427 prisoners. Prisoners are transferred to the camps as per provisions of the Rajasthan Prisoners Open Air Camp Rules, 1972.

Women prisoner are also allowed to live with their family in the open-air camps. These halfway houses have changed the scenario of prison discipline as prisoner become more rule abiding, relaxed as living with family is the greatest temptation for a prisoner. These open camps can be considered as useful 'missing links' of correctional process, and in fact, serve the purpose of 'halfway homes' or 'transit homes' between the closed institutionalized treatment and the free society. Family's presence avoids unwanted distractions that a person may otherwise indulge in. The prisoners must attend a roll call each morning and evening at a fixed time. Convict who has served one third of their sentence including remission subject to good conduct and few expectations become eligible to be shifted to wall less prisons.

Job Opportunities in Open Camps

In the open camps of Rajasthan, prisoners, who come from rural backgrounds, are provided with various job opportunities to help them shoulder family responsibilities and reintegrate into society. These jobs include agriculture-related work, manufacturing or industrial activities, and construction work, along with any other lawful trade of the prisoner's choice. Unlike traditional prisons, these 'wall-less prisons' allow prisoners to earn a livelihood and retain their earnings, which they can use to support their families. The state does not provide or subsidize their living expenses, making these prisoners self-reliant and reducing their financial burden on the government. This system not only saves the state money that would otherwise be spent on maintaining prisoners in walled prisons but also empowers inmates by offering them a chance to rebuild their lives.

Benefits of Open-Air Camps

Open air prison camps, also known as open prisons, offer numerous benefits that contribute to the overall improvement of the criminal justice system. These facilities focus on rehabilitation by helping prisoners develop self-reliance and job skills, which are essential for their reintegration into society. They also support better mental health outcomes for inmates by alleviating the stresses associated with traditional incarceration. Open prisons play a significant role in addressing overcrowding in closed jails, creating a more manageable environment for both inmates and prison staff. Additionally, they result in cost savings by reducing expenses related to staffing and other operational requirements. By allowing prisoners to meet with their families, open prisons foster stronger family relationships and provide an opportunity to resolve domestic issues. Furthermore, they uphold the rights of individuals in the justice system by offering a more humane and dignified approach to incarceration.



“Every murder or other injury, no matter for what cause, committed or inflicted on another is a crime against humanity” -Mahatma Gandhi

Role of Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority

RSLSA plays a vital role in safeguarding the rights and welfare of prisoners by ensuring access to justice, rehabilitation, and reintegration into society.

Some of its key initiatives include:

1. **Free Legal Aid and Representation** – RSLSA provides free legal assistance to undertrial prisoners, ensuring they receive legal representation. Legal Aid Defense Counsels (LADCs) are appointed in jails to assist prisoners who cannot afford legal services.
2. **Legal Awareness and Rights Protection** – RSLSA conducts awareness programs within prisons to educate inmates about their legal rights, court procedures, and avenues for seeking justice. This helps prisoners, particularly those from marginalized backgrounds, understand and assert their rights.
3. **Lok Adalats and Speedy Disposal of Cases** – RSLSA organizes Lok Adalats and special legal aid camps to facilitate the speedy disposal of cases, particularly for undertrial prisoners who have been languishing in jail due to procedural delays.
4. **Rehabilitation and Open Prisons** – RSLSA supports the rehabilitation of prisoners by promoting the concept of open-air prisons, where eligible inmates can work in agriculture, manufacturing, construction, or any lawful trade of their choice. These 'wall-less prisons' allow prisoners to earn a livelihood, support their families, and reintegrate into society with dignity.
5. **Undertrial Review Committees (UTRC)** – RSLSA works with Undertrial Review Committees to review cases of prisoners eligible for release under legal provisions, thereby addressing the issue of prison overcrowding and unnecessary prolonged detention.
6. **Periodic Jail Inspections** – RSLSA conducts regular jail inspections to assess living conditions, identify human rights violations, and ensure compliance with legal standards. These inspections help in addressing issues such as overcrowding, inadequate medical facilities, custodial torture, and other grievances faced by prisoners.

CALENDAR FOR MONTH OF APRIL 2025

Date	Day	
01-04-2025	Tuesday	Meeting of the DLSA Secretaries with the Member Secretary, RSLSA regarding programs to be conducted in the coming month in compliance with the Action Plan
02-04-2025	Wednesday	Special Awareness program on Prisoners' Rights
03-04-2025	Thursday	Legal Awareness Camps on Public Utility Services Meeting of the Monitoring Committee with regard to Compensation of Victims of Hit and Run Motor Accidents Scheme, 2022
04-04-2025	Friday	Visit of Observation Homes/Special Homes/Place of Safety by Legal Awareness Teams in compliance of directions issued by RSLSA from time to time for welfare of Inmates and Children in conflict with law.
05-04-2025	Saturday	Organize legal literacy camps on ill effects of Child Marriage like Interrupted Education of Child, Early Pregnancy and Maternal Health Issues, Mental Health Issues, Domestic Violence and Exploitation and Forced Labor.
07-04-2025	Monday	Observation of World Health Day. Following programme may be organized on this day: - Collaborate with local healthcare organizations and NGOs to organize

		<p>health camps specially in focus on rural areas where healthcare access might be limited.</p> <p>Conduct workshops and seminars on important health issues such as hygiene, nutrition, maternal health, and disease prevention.</p> <p>With the participation of schools, colleges, persons living in old age homes and other local communities arrange fitness events like marathons, yoga sessions, or cycling events to promote physical activity and a healthy lifestyle.</p> <p>Organize plays, street performances, or art exhibitions addressing health issues. Leverage social media platforms to spread awareness about health issues. Share informative content, videos, and infographics related to healthy lifestyle.</p> <p>Medical and educational Camps and related events may be organized at Institutions for persons with mental disabilities.</p> <p>Medical camps be organized at DLSAs and TLSAs level and awareness may be spread through distribution of pamphlets and by organizing a talk show by doctor</p> <p>Awareness programs for differently abled persons.</p>
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08-04-2025	Tuesday	<p>Legal awareness programmes related to -</p> <p>NALSA (Effective Implementation of Poverty Alleviation Schemes Scheme, 2015</p> <p>NALSA (Protection and Enforcement of Tribal Rights) Scheme, 2015.</p> <p>NALSA (Legal Services to Victims of Acid Attacks) Scheme, 2016.</p> <p>NALSA (Child friendly legal services for Children) Scheme, 2024</p> <p>Rajasthan Victim Compensation Scheme, 2011.</p>
09-04-2025	Wednesday	<p>Meeting of District Child Victims Compensation Assistance Committee and Meeting of Monitoring and Mentoring Committee</p>
11-04-2025	Friday	<p>RSLSA to conduct pre review of UNDER TRIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE (UTRC) meeting with <u>DLSA</u></p>
14-04-2025	Monday	<p>Ambedkar Jayanti</p> <p>Legal Awareness programmes shall be organized by DLSAs on NALSA (Protection and Enforcement of Tribal Rights) Scheme, 2015, SC & ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 and The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.</p>
15-04-2025	Tuesday	<p>Meeting of Empowered Committee with regard to Support to Poor Prisoners Scheme</p> <p>Meeting of the UNDER-TRIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE (UTRC)</p>

16-04-2025	Wednesday	Awareness program regarding Environment Protection and Pollution Control/Tree plantation drive
17-04-2025	Thursday	Monthly Inspection of Nari Niketan by Secretary, DLSA
19-04-2025	Saturday	Monthly Inspection of One Stop Crisis Centre by Secretary, DLSA
21-04-2025	Monday	Legal Awareness Program on Drug Abuse Review Meeting of LADCs with their respective DLSA secretaries
22-04-2025	Tuesday	Celebrating World Earth Day This day shall be celebrated by the DLSAs TLSAs with assistance of forest department by planting trees at different places like Schools, Colleges, offices, Courts
23-04-2025	Wednesday	Meeting of DLSA Meetings of DLSA to be convened to take up its regular work; like applications for Legal Aid, Victim Compensation and other issues. In this meeting, different Legal Services Functionaries viz. Judge-in-charge Mediation, Judicial Officers, Members of Monitoring & Mentoring Committee, Nodal Officer Lok Adalat, President, Bar Association, and one Senior Member of each Legal Awareness Team responsible for the implementation of NALSA and RLSA Schemes be also invited for monitoring of all legal services activities, to identify the difficulties, to find out solutions thereof and way forward. This meeting is to be organized as per the directions already in vogue. Minutes of the meeting to be forwarded to RLSA.

24-04-2025	Thursday	RSLSA to conduct post review of UNDER TRIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE (UTRC) meeting with DLSA Legal Awareness Program on Cyber Crimes
25-04-2025	Friday	Meeting of PLVs and other functionaries associated with legal services to be organized by DLSAs & TLSCs for the effective implementation of Legal Services Programme.
28-04-2025	Monday	Organize legal literacy camps on ill effects of Early Pregnancy and Maternal Health Issues, Mental Health Issues, Domestic Violence and Exploitation and Forced Labor
29-04-2025	Tuesday	Special Awareness program on Mental Health
30-04-2025	Wednesday	Special Awareness program on Rights of Tribal People

Important Note: Jail Inspections shall be conducted weekly and monthly by Secretary DLSA along with a team of visitors (LADC, Panel Advocate, PLV, etc)

ACTION PLAN

MAY, 2025

EMPOWERING THE INFORMAL WORKFORCE: CHALLENGES, RIGHTS AND THE PATH TO PROGRESS



Empowering the Informal Workforce

Challenges, Rights and the Path to Progress

Under section 2(m) of the Unorganized Workers Social Security Act, 2008, the term 'unorganized worker' means a home-based worker or a self-employed worker or a wage worker in the unorganized sector. It includes a worker in the organized sector who is not covered by any of the acts pertaining to welfare schemes as mentioned in Schedule – II of Unorganized Workers Social Security Act, 2008. Unorganized sector in India is one of the largest in the post-industrial world.

In India, around 44 crore people work as unorganized workers in the unorganized sector. The unorganized sector faces many difficulties like employment opportunities, employer-employee relationships, low wages etc. Many unorganized workers live in slum areas and their living conditions are very poor in terms of hygiene, etc. As per the Economic Survey, 2025-25, as of 31 December 2024, over 30.51 crore unorganised workers have already registered on the eShram portal.. These workers form the backbone of various economic activities, even though their work often goes unrecognised and lacks formal protections.

"All labour that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence."

- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

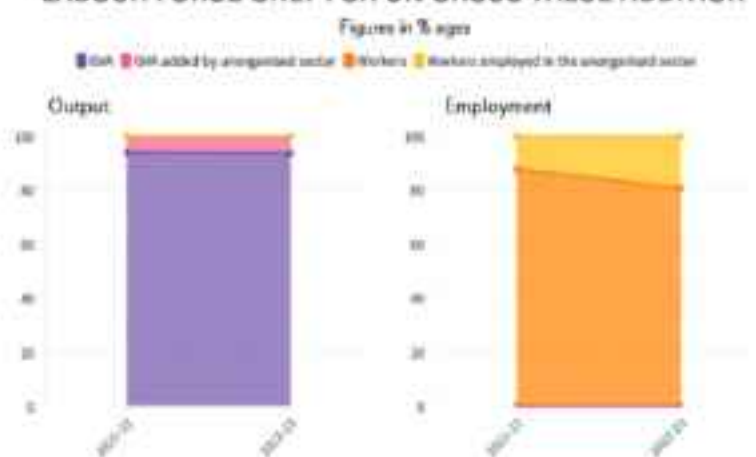
⁸<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/economicsurvey/doc/echapter.pdf>

Challenges of Workers in Unorganised Sector

Workers in the unorganised sector face numerous challenges that hinder their economic and social well-being. One of the most significant issues is the lack of formalization and regulatory oversight, which leads to job insecurity and exploitation. With no stable employment contracts or legal protections, these workers often experience low productivity and income levels, making it difficult to achieve financial stability. Additionally, the absence of formal social security mechanisms leaves them vulnerable to economic shocks and uncertainties, further exacerbating their precarious situation.

Limited access to credit and financial resources poses another major hurdle, preventing them from investing in better opportunities or expanding their skills. Gender disparities also persist in the unorganised sector, with women often facing wage gaps, discrimination, and fewer opportunities for advancement. Health and safety hazards are rampant due to poor working conditions, lack of protective measures, and inadequate healthcare access. Moreover, the lack of proper training and skill development programs results in a persistent skill gap, reducing their chances of securing better employment opportunities. Lastly, long working hours without adequate compensation or benefits add to the hardships faced by unorganised sector workers, making it imperative to address these challenges through policy interventions and targeted support programs.

UNORGANISED SECTOR EMPLOYS A FIFTH OF INDIA'S LABOUR FORCE ONLY FOR 6% GROSS VALUE ADDITION



NOTE: Figures for 2022-23 include the period from April 2022 to March 2023. Figures for 2019-21 include October 2019 to September 2021.

The employment rate has been calculated by dividing the workers numbers listed in the ASISE report by the number of people in labour force as measured in the PLFS survey of 2019-21. The figure for 2022-23 was kept constant.

ThePrint

Legal Provisions Related to Workers in Unorganized Sectors

In 2008, the “Unorganized Workers Social Security Act” was enacted by the government so that social security could be provided to unorganized labourers. Subsequently, in 2009, the Government of India established the “National Social Security Board for Unorganized Workers”. Following independence, the Indian Constitution included various social security clauses as the “Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP)”.

The following are the Legal Provisions relating to workers in unorganised sector, as mentioned in the Indian Constitution:

- Article 19 (1)(g): The fundamental right to practise any profession, occupation, trade or business.
- Article 19(1)(c): Freedom to form an association or union.
- Article 23: Freedom from forced labour.
- Article 24: Ban child labour in any hazardous occupation for anyone under the age of 14.
- Article 38 (2): The State must minimise inequalities in income, status, facilities and opportunities among individuals.
- Article 39(d): The State must provide equal pay for equal work for all.
- Article 39(e): The health and strength of workers must not be exploited or abused for work.
- Article 42: Workers must be given just and human conditions of work. This includes the provision of sick leaves and maternity benefits.
- Article 43: The State must also ensure that workers are given a living wage, and their working conditions must ascertain a decent standard of living.

Government Schemes for Workers in Unorganised Sector

1. **eShram** -The portal for the registration of Unorganized Workers across the Country was launched on 26th August 2021. This portal will help build a comprehensive National Database of Unorganized Workers (NDUW) in the country.

2. **Aam Admi Beema Yojana**- The workers in the unorganized sector constitute about 93% of the total work force in the country. The Government has been implementing some social security measures for certain occupational groups, but the coverage is miniscule.

3. **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)**: It is a flagship program that guarantees a certain number of days of wage employment to rural households. MGNREGA contributes significantly to the well-being of unorganised labourers.

4. **PMSYM (Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan)**: It focuses on providing social security benefits to unorganised workers. It specifically aims to offer them a pension.

5. **The Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY)** was launched with effect from 1st October, 2020 to incentivize employers for creation of new employment and restoration of loss of employment during Covid 19 pandemic. The terminal date for registration of beneficiary was 31.03.2022. Since inception of the scheme, till 11.03.2023, benefits have been provided to 60.3 lakhs beneficiaries under the scheme.

6. **Expansion of Employees' State Insurance (ESI) Scheme**: It provides health and social security benefits, has been extended to 52 additional districts in India. It brings more workers and their families under the umbrella of social security.

The central government has formulated four Labour Codes, namely, the Code on Wages, 2019; the Code on Social Security, 2020; the Industrial Relations Code, 2020; and the Occupational Safety, Health, and Working Conditions Code, 2020 after simplifying, rationalising, and amalgamating the 29 existing central laws. The Code on Wages, 2019, was notified on 8

August 2019, and the remaining three Codes were notified on 29 September 2020. The new Labour Codes constitute a significant step for workers' rights in India by strengthening the protection available to workers, including unorganised workers, regarding statutory minimum wage and its timely payment, social security, occupational safety, healthcare of workers, etc.

Rajasthan has increased the threshold of the number of workers from 100 to 300 for prior approval of appropriate government before retrenchment/ layoff/ closure of establishments in factory/plantation/ mining sector. The state government has also increased the threshold from 20 to 50 for applicability of the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970. Rajasthan has also increased the threshold for applicability of the Factories Act from 20 to 40 (without power). This increase in the threshold is significant as it extends the protection of the Factories Act to a larger number of workers, thereby enhancing workplace safety and labour rights.

“Dignity of labour has to be our national duty, it has to be a part of our nature” – PM Narendra Modi



NALSA Scheme for Workers in Unorganised Sector

NALSA (Legal Services to the Workers in the Unorganized Sector) Scheme, 2015

NALSA's Scheme for Legal Services to Workers in the Unorganized Sector, 2015 makes it obligatory on the part of the State Legal Services Authorities, District Legal Services Authorities and Taluk Legal Services Committees to create awareness amongst the workers in the unorganized sector about their rights under the law and to give assistance to them for securing the benefits under the various schemes under the Act and also those put in place by the State Governments.

The main objective of the Scheme is to enable workers in the unorganised sector to avail their entitlements under legislations and schemes framed for their benefit. This Scheme improves access to justice for the marginalised and vulnerable workers employed in the unorganised sector.

The primary aim is to institutionalize essential legal services for all unorganized workers, ensuring their access to justice and protection under the law. Efforts will be made to address gaps in legislation and implementation by coordinating with government authorities and, where necessary, initiating public interest litigation to safeguard their rights. A key focus is to mobilize the State Government and District Administration to identify and register unorganized workers across various categories and extend the benefits of all applicable government schemes. Additionally, raising awareness among employers about statutory provisions and the importance of providing decent working conditions, fair wages, and social security to workers is crucial. Equally important is disseminating information to workers about their entitlements under existing laws and welfare schemes to empower them with the knowledge needed to claim their rights. To facilitate their inclusion, counselling and assistance will be provided to all categories of unorganized workers to help them register with the relevant authorities under schemes tailored to their specific needs. Furthermore, efforts will be made to assist workers in availing themselves of the benefits of these schemes, ensuring they receive the support and resources to which they are entitled.

Role of Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority

RSLSA runs a variety of programs to support workers in the unorganised sector, ensuring they are aware of their rights, have access to legal aid, and can benefit from government schemes. Some key programs include:

1. **Legal Awareness Camps:** RSLSA conducts regular awareness camps in rural and urban areas to educate workers about their legal rights, entitlements under labour laws, and available welfare schemes. These camps focus on issues such as minimum wages, working hours, social security benefits, and dispute resolution mechanisms.
2. **Free Legal Aid:** The Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority (RSLSA) provides free legal aid and assistance to workers in the unorganized sector, ensuring they have access to justice and social security benefits. It also facilitates legal representation for workers facing exploitation, non-payment of wages, or unfair treatment.
3. **Mobile Legal Aid Clinics:** To reach remote and underserved areas, RSLSA deploys mobile legal aid clinics that provide on-the-spot legal advice, assistance with documentation, and grievance redressal for unorganised sector workers.
4. **Registration Assistance Drives:** Special programs can be organized to assist workers in registering with government authorities for welfare schemes such as health insurance, pension plans, and social security benefits. These drives can simplify the registration process and ensure workers receive the support they are entitled to.
5. **Public Interest Litigation (PIL) Initiatives:** RSLSA may identify systemic issues faced by unorganised workers and initiate PILs to push for stronger enforcement of labour laws and better policy implementation at the state level.

6. **Skill Development and Legal Literacy Programs:** Collaboration with vocational training institutes and NGOs to provide skill enhancement programs, coupled with legal literacy sessions, can empower workers to improve their livelihood opportunities while staying informed about their rights.
7. **Mediation and Dispute Resolution Programs:** RSLSA can facilitate alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms to help workers resolve conflicts with employers amicably and efficiently, reducing the need for prolonged legal proceedings.

"If sufficient wages will not be paid to labourer, no reform will be possible. It is the duty of the Company Owner to take steps for the upliftment of the living standards of the labourer." -Dr. BR Ambedkar



CALENDAR FOR MONTH OF MAY 2025

01-05-2025	Thursday	<p>Meeting of the DLSA Secretaries with the Member Secretary, RSLSA regarding programs to be conducted in the coming month in compliance with the Action Plan</p> <p>Ceremonial Observance of Labour Day. Organize awareness camp under NALSA (Legal Services to the Workers in the Unorganized Sector) Scheme, 2015</p> <p>Conduct workshops on workers' rights, workplace safety, and labor laws at industries and offices.</p> <p>Organize camp at DLSAs and TLSAs levels for registration of various classes of labours under various government schemes with the cooperation of the Labour Department. All classes of Labourers are to be registered in various schemes of Government</p> <p>Awareness camps on Right of Employment, Rights of Unorganized Labourers, Minimum Wages Act, Workmen Compensation and other related Labour Laws.</p>
02-05-2025	Friday	Legal Awareness Program on Fundamental Rights and Fundamental Duties
03-05-2025	Saturday	Legal Awareness Camps on Public Utility Services
05-05-2025	Monday	Visit of Observation Homes/Special Homes/Place of Safety by Legal Awareness Teams in compliance of directions issued by RSLSA from time to time for welfare of Inmates and Children in conflict with law.
06-05-2025	Tuesday	Organize legal literacy camps on ill effects of Child Marriage like Interrupted Education of Child, Early Pregnancy and Maternal Health Issues, Mental Health Issues, Domestic Violence and Exploitation and Forced Labor.

07-05-2025	Wednesday	Meeting of Empowered Committee with regard to Support to Poor Prisoners Scheme
08-05-2025	Thursday	Legal awareness programmes related to - NALSA (Effective Implementation of Poverty Alleviation Schemes Scheme, 2015 NALSA (Protection and Enforcement of Tribal Rights) Scheme, 2015. NALSA (Legal Services to Victims of Acid Attacks) Scheme, 2016. NALSA (Child friendly legal services for Children) Scheme, 2024 Rajasthan Victim Compensation Scheme, 2011.
09-05-2025	Friday	Jail Inspection by Team of Visitors (Secretary, DLSA, Panel Advocate and Woman Panel Advocate)
10-05-2025	Saturday	NATIONAL LOK ADALAT
12-05-2025	Monday	Legal Awareness Program on Cyber Crimes
13-05-2025	Tuesday	Organise a special awareness/sensitization programme for Specially abled persons.
14-05-2025	Wednesday	Meetings of DLSA to be convened to take up its regular work; like applications for Legal Aid, Victim Compensation and other issues. In this meeting, different Legal Services Functionaries viz. Judge-in-charge Mediation, Judicial Officers, Members of Monitoring & Mentoring Committee, Nodal Officer Lok Adalat, President, Bar Association, and one Senior Member of each Legal Awareness Team responsible for the

		implementation of NALSA and RLSA Schemes be also invited for monitoring of all legal services activities, to identify the difficulties, to find out solutions thereof and way forward. This meeting is to be organized as per the directions already in vogue. Minutes of the meeting to be forwarded to RLSA.
15-05-2025	Thursday	Monthly Inspection of Nari Niketan by Secretary, DLSA
16-05-2025	Friday	DLSA shall organise awareness camps to sensitize authorities/management/employers, employees and adolescent groups with provisions of the POSH act
17-05-2025	Saturday	Visit of Old Age Homes by Secretary, DLSA (Two Panel Advocates and Two PLVs) at District & Taluka Headquarters. Visit of Children Home & Observation Home by Secretary, DLSA
19-05-2025	Monday	Monthly Inspection of One Stop Crisis Centre by Secretary, DLSA
20-05-2025	Tuesday	Awareness program regarding Environment Protection and Pollution Control/Tree plantation drive
21-05-2025	Wednesday	Legal Awareness Program on Rights of Senior Citizens
22-05-2025	Thursday	Observation of International Biodiversity Day
23-05-2025	Friday	Meeting of PLVs and other functionaries associated with legal services to be organized by DLSAs & TLSCs for the effective implementation of Legal Services Programme.

26-05-2025	Monday	Legal Awareness Program on Drug Abuse
27-05-2025	Tuesday	Organize legal literacy camps on ill effects of Early Pregnancy and Maternal Health Issues, Mental Health Issues, Domestic Violence and Exploitation and Forced Labor
28-05-2025	Wednesday	Meeting of District Child Victims Compensation Assistance Committee and Meeting of Monitoring and Mentoring Committee
30-05-2025	Friday	Review Meeting of LADCs with their respective DLSA secretaries
31-05-2025	Saturday	Observance of World Anti-Tobacco Day. Legal awareness programmes related to NALSA (Legal Services to the Victims of Drug Abuse and Eradication of Drug Menace) Scheme, 2015 Awareness programmes in schools/ Colleges/Educational Institutions and other public places be conducted regarding ill effects of tobacco products and drug addiction.

Important Note: Jail Inspections shall be conducted weekly and monthly by Secretary DLSA along with a team of visitors (LADC, Panel Advocate, PLV, etc)

ACTION PLAN

JUNE, 2025

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE: TOWARDS A GREENER TOMORROW



Environmental Justice

Towards a Greener Tomorrow

From a legal perspective, the environmental law refers to the legal frameworks established to protect and preserve the environment. Environmental law encompasses a wide range of regulations, policies, and treaties that aim to prevent environmental degradation, manage natural resources sustainably, and protect ecosystems and biodiversity. This branch of law addresses issues such as pollution control, climate change, waste management, land use, and wildlife conservation.

The legal environment also emphasizes the concept of environmental justice, which seeks to ensure that vulnerable communities, often those most affected by environmental harm, have access to legal remedies and are included in decision-making processes. Courts play a crucial role in interpreting and enforcing environmental laws, allowing individuals, communities, and organizations to seek redress for violations of environmental rights.

Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's need, but not every man's greed. —Mahatma Gandhi

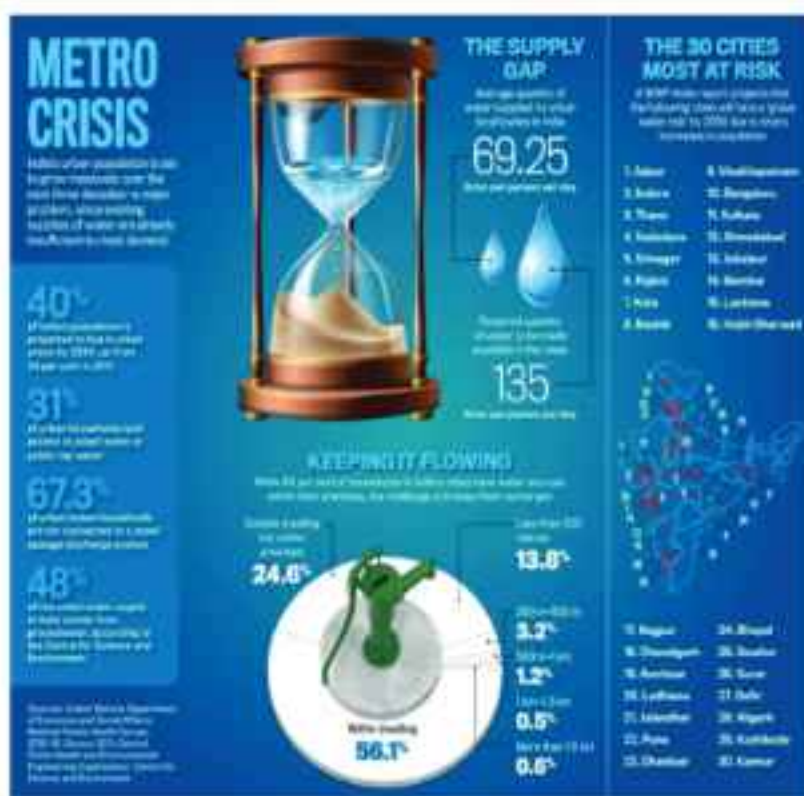


Environmental Challenges Threatening the Ecosystem:

- **Natural disasters:** Natural disasters are catastrophic events caused by natural processes of the Earth. They include phenomena like earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, wildfires, volcanic eruptions, and tsunamis. These events often result in significant loss of life, property damage, and disruption to communities. The impact of natural disasters is influenced by factors such as geography, climate change, and human vulnerability. While they are largely unpredictable, preparedness and mitigation strategies, such as early warning systems, disaster relief plans, and resilient infrastructure can reduce their effects. Addressing climate change is also crucial in reducing the frequency and severity of some natural disasters, like storms and wildfires.
- **Climate Change:** Climate change refers to long-term shifts in global temperatures and weather patterns, primarily caused by human activities such as burning fossil fuels, deforestation, and industrial processes. These activities release greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide and methane, trapping heat in the atmosphere. The consequences include rising global temperatures, melting glaciers, rising sea levels, and extreme weather events like hurricanes, floods, and droughts. Climate change also threatens biodiversity, disrupts ecosystems, and impacts human health and livelihoods, addressing this crisis requires reducing greenhouse gas emissions, transitioning to renewable energy, conserving natural resources, and adopting sustainable practices to ensure a resilient future for the planet.
- **Pollution:** Pollution is the contamination of the environment by harmful substances or activities, adversely affecting air, water, soil, and living organisms. It results from industrial emissions, vehicle exhaust, improper waste disposal, deforestation, and excessive use of chemicals like pesticides. Major types include air pollution,

causing respiratory diseases; water pollution harming aquatic life; and soil pollution, reducing fertility and crop yields. Noise and plastic pollution also pose significant challenges. Pollution disrupts ecosystems, accelerates climate change, and endangers public health. Addressing pollution requires reducing waste, using eco-friendly technologies, enforcing strict regulations, and promoting awareness to protect the environment and ensure a healthier planet.

- Wetland Degradation:** Human activities cause wetland degradation and loss by changing water quality, quantity, and flow rates; increasing pollutant inputs; and changing species composition as a result of disturbance and the introduction of nonnative species. In India, wetlands are rapidly being destroyed primarily due to urbanization, land use changes, pollution, encroachment, and agricultural expansion, resulting in the loss of nearly 30% of natural wetlands over the past three decades; this destruction significantly impacts biodiversity and can lead to issues like flooding and water insecurity in cities.



- **Water scarcity:** Water scarcity refers to the lack of sufficient and accessible water resources to meet the needs of people and ecosystems. It is caused by factors such as overpopulation, climate change, pollution, inefficient water use, and over-extraction of groundwater. Scarcity affects agriculture, industry, and daily life, leading to food shortages, health issues, and economic challenges. It also threatens ecosystems, disrupting aquatic life and biodiversity. Solutions include promoting water conservation, improving infrastructure, recycling wastewater, adopting sustainable farming practices, and protecting natural water sources. As per the below WWF report, Jaipur is at the highest risk of facing grave water crisis by 2050 due to sharp increase in population.

Legal Framework

India has a comprehensive legal framework to protect the environment, encompassing constitutional provisions, statutes, and judicial interventions. Key provisions of the Constitution include:

- Article 48-A: This is a directive principle that requires the state to protect and improve the environment, forests, and wildlife. It was added by the 42nd Amendment in 1976.
- Article 51-A(g): which deals with Fundamental Duties of the citizens states: "It shall be the duty of every citizen of India to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife and to have compassion for living creatures.

Other important Acts ensuring Environment Protection include:

- The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986: This act provides a framework for environmental regulation and enforcement. The objective of the Environment Protection Act (EPA) is to protect and improve the environment and environmental conditions. It also implements the decisions made at the UN Conference on Human Environment that was held in

Stockholm in the year 1972. To take strict actions against all those who harm the environment.

- The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974: Focuses on preventing and controlling water pollution) - It aimed at preventing and controlling water pollution by establishing regulatory bodies (State Pollution Control Boards) to monitor and enforce standards for industrial and sewage discharge, ensuring the wholesomeness of water sources across the country; it requires industries and individuals to obtain prior consent before releasing any wastewater, with penalties for violations.
- The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981: The key feature of the Act includes advising Central Government of Air and Air Pollution related issues; Research about the causes and impact of Air Pollution; Spread awareness to stop air pollution; To establish central and State Boards and empower them to monitor air quality and control pollution. Addresses air pollution through monitoring and control mechanisms.
- The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Protects wildlife and their habitats - This act provides a legal framework to protect wild animals, birds, and plants by regulating their habitat management, hunting, and trade, aiming to control poaching and illegal wildlife trade while establishing protected areas to safeguard endangered species across the country. The Act includes schedules classifying animals with varying levels of protection, with stricter penalties for harming those listed in Schedule I and II and allows for the establishment of state-level wildlife advisory boards to guide conservation efforts.

- The Forest Conservation Act, 1980: This act primarily aims to restrict the diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes without prior approval from the Central Government, essentially regulating deforestation and protecting forest areas by requiring strict oversight before any forest land can be used for development activities like mining, construction, or agriculture; it also establishes provisions for an advisory committee to guide the government on forest conservation matters.
- Wetlands (Conservation and Management Rules) 2017 - This Rules are primarily implemented in India, aim to protect and manage wetland areas by prohibiting harmful activities like reclamation, industrialization, and waste dumping within wetland boundaries, while also requiring prior approval for any activity that could potentially impact the wetland ecosystem, including water withdrawal, resource harvesting, and dredging; these rules are overseen by a central regulatory authority that identifies and designates protected wetland sites based on state government submissions and assessments.

We are blessed to be a part of a culture where living in complete harmony with the environment is central to our ethos. Let's ensure that even the smallest step we take in our daily lives will be an effort towards conserving nature and natural resources. – PM Narendra Modi

Role of Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority

Lok Adalats for Environmental Disputes - RLSA organizes Lok Adalats to address environmental grievances in a cost-effective and time-efficient manner. These Lok Adalats resolve disputes related to:

- Illegal mining.
- Encroachments on forests or water bodies.
- Industrial pollution affecting nearby communities.
- Compensation for victims of environmental hazards.

Collaborations with Government and NGOs - The RLSA collaborates with organizations like the Rajasthan Pollution Control Board (RPCB), Forest Department, and local NGOs to monitor and address environmental challenges. Joint initiatives include tree plantation drives, water conservation programs, and campaigns against plastic pollution.

Protection of Tribal and Rural Communities - Special attention is given to tribal and rural communities who are disproportionately affected by deforestation, mining, and water scarcity. The RLSA ensures their participation in environmental decision-making processes and helps them claim compensation for environmental harm.

Training Programs for Legal Professionals - Judicial officers, legal aid lawyers, and paralegal volunteers are trained in emerging environmental issues, including climate change, biodiversity loss, and sustainable development. These programs strengthen the capacity of legal professionals to address complex environmental cases.

Environment Protection - Awareness Camps

RLSA aims to launch extensive awareness campaigns, conduct workshops, and seminars to educate citizens about environmental laws, rights, and responsibilities. This will include information on pollution control, waste management, water conservation, and sustainable practices. To ensure the long-term environmental well-being of Rajasthan, it is essential to implement a comprehensive and sustainable approach. Here are some steps that can be taken:

Awareness programmes/camps:

- to promote water conservation, afforestation, sustainable agriculture, and renewable energy can contribute to the long-term environmental well-being of Rajasthan.
- to promote efficient water use in agriculture through techniques such as drip irrigation camps in Coordination with local agriculture departments/authorities.
- to promote rainwater harvesting systems and other methods to capture and store rainwater.
- to raise awareness as to the regulation of groundwater extraction to prevent over-exploitation.
- to encourage the use of solar and wind energy through subsidies and incentives.
- to educate farmers on soil conservation techniques and water-efficient farming methods.
- to encourage proper waste segregation at the source & to promote recycling and composting to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfills.
- to increase public awareness about climate change and its impacts.
- to raise awareness about responsible and sustainable mining practices.

Workshops: These environmental educational workshops should be conducted in schools & colleges, communities, rural and urban areas especially those which are prone to environmental law violation and where activities of mining and environmental degradation are conducted vastly. Workshops in coordination with the Local Administration, Forest Department, Irrigation Department and NGOs working in the field of environment protection and conservation on the following topics:

- Afforestation and Biodiversity Conservation
- Drought Mitigation and Desertification Control
- Air and Water Quality Management

- Solid waste Management
- Climate Change Adaptation
- Mining Regulation and Sustainable Practices
- Use of Sustainable & Renewable Resources instead of Natural Resources which are on the verge of extinction.

Tree Plantation Drive - 2025

Under the Tree Plantation Drive of RSLSA the following activities are to be conducted in the next two months of monsoon:

(1) Intensive tree plantation campaign: Tree plantation programs will be organized across the districts up to the taluka level. This campaign should not end with just planting trees, but necessary measures should be taken to take care of the said trees for the next 3 years.

(2) Community Participation: Maximum success in this campaign can be achieved by involving local communities and residents in the planning, implementation and maintenance of afforestation efforts, encouraging tree adoption, and a sense of affinity and responsibility among them.

(3) It is to be kept in mind that during this campaign, a plan for the protection and development of the trees plantation for long term during these months will be prepared and a special action plan for watering the trees and pest and weed management will be prepared.

(4) Celebration and Recognition: Organize initiation events and ceremonies to celebrate the success of the plantation drive and recognize the contributions of volunteers and partners. Share stories, photos, and testimonials highlighting the positive outcomes.

(5) DLSA secretaries will collaborate with local administration, local communities, schools, and NGOs to raise awareness about the importance, and social and economic impact of trees and plants, environmental balance, organize planting programs, and provide awareness on forest conservation.

"Preserve and cherish the pale blue dot, the only home we've ever known." - Carl Sagan

CALENDAR FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE 2025

02-06-2025	Monday	Meeting of the DLSA Secretaries with the Member Secretary, RSLSA regarding programs to be conducted in the coming month in compliance with the Action Plan
03-06-2025	Tuesday	Legal Awareness Camps on Public Utility Services Meeting of the Monitoring Committee with regard to Compensation of Victims of Hit and Run Motor Accidents Scheme, 2022
04-06-2025	Wednesday	Visit of Observation Homes/Special Homes/Place of Safety by Legal Awareness Teams in compliance of directions issued by RSLSA from time to time for welfare of Inmates and Children in conflict with law.
05-06-2025	Thursday	Observance of World Environment Day To spread awareness and sensitize the public at large for environmental protection and the dire consequences of increasing pollution, a workshop/seminar/awareness program on the suggested themes, will be conducted with the cooperation and coordination of the Officials of the Forest department, Local Administration, Environmental activists, and NGOs or other institutions working on air and water pollution and environmental protection.
06-06-2025	Friday	Organize legal literacy camps on ill effects of Child Marriage like Interrupted Education of Child, Early Pregnancy and Maternal Health Issues, Mental Health Issues, Domestic Violence and Exploitation and Forced Labor.

07-06-2025	Saturday	Meeting of Empowered Committee with regard to Support to Poor Prisoners Scheme
09-06-2025	Monday	Legal awareness programmes related to - NALSA (Effective Implementation of Poverty Alleviation Schemes Scheme, 2015 NALSA (Protection and Enforcement of Tribal Rights) Scheme, 2015. NALSA (Legal Services to Victims of Acid Attacks) Scheme, 2016. NALSA (Child friendly legal services for Children) Scheme, 2024 Rajasthan Victim Compensation Scheme, 2011.
10-06-2025	Tuesday	Jail Inspection by Team of Visitors (Secretary, DLSA, Panel Advocate and Woman Panel Advocate)
11-06-2025	Wednesday	Organise a special awareness/sensitization programme for Specially abled persons.
12-06-2025	Thursday	Observance of World Day Against Child Labour: Conduct awareness campaigns in schools, communities, and workplaces to educate people about the negative impact of child labour.
13-06-2025	Friday	Legal Awareness Program on Cyber Crimes
16-06-2025	Monday	Awareness program regarding Environment Protection and Pollution Control/Tree plantation drive
17-06-2025	Tuesday	Monthly Inspection of Nari Niketan by Secretary, DLSA

18-06-2025	Wednesday	Visit of Old Age Homes by Secretary, DLSA (Two Panel Advocates and Two PLVs) at District & Taluka Headquarters. Visit of Children Home & Observation Home by Secretary, DLSA
19-06-2025	Thursday	Legal Awareness Program on Drug Abuse
20-06-2025	Friday	Review Meeting of LADCs with their respective DLSA secretaries
21-06-2025	Saturday	Observance of International Day of Yoga Launch social media challenges encouraging participants to share their yoga poses or routines with specific hashtags. This can create a sense of community and inspire others to join in.
23-06-2025	Monday	Meeting of District Child Victims Compensation Assistance Committee and Meeting of Monitoring and Mentoring Committee
24-06-2025	Tuesday	Organize legal literacy camps on ill effects of Early Pregnancy and Maternal Health Issues, Mental Health Issues, Domestic Violence and Exploitation and Forced Labor
25-06-2025	Wednesday	Meeting of PLVs and other functionaries associated with legal services to be organized by DLSAs & TLSCs for the effective implementation of Legal Services Programme.

26-06-2025	Thursday	<p>Observance of International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking</p> <p>Conduct awareness campaigns in schools, colleges, and communities to educate people about the dangers of drug abuse.</p> <p>Organize workshops on drug prevention, rehabilitation, and harm reduction strategies.</p> <p>Organize poster-making competitions or art exhibitions that focus on the theme of drug abuse prevention.</p> <p>Utilize various media channels, including television, radio, and social media, to disseminate anti-drug messages.</p> <p>Organize legal awareness camps to educate people about the consequences of involvement in drug trafficking or illegal drug-related activities.</p>
27-06-2025	Friday	Monthly Inspection of One Stop Crisis Centre by Secretary, DLSA
30-06-2025	Monday	Legal Awareness Program on Fundamental Rights and Fundamental Duties

Important Note: Jail Inspections shall be conducted weekly and monthly by Secretary DLSA along with a team of visitors (LADC, Panel Advocate, PLV, etc)

ACTION PLAN

JULY, 2025

ADDRESSING THE DRUG CRISIS: A HOLISTIC RESPONSE TO DRUG ABUSE AND ADDICTION



Addressing the Drug Crisis

A Holistic Response to Drug Abuse and Addiction

Drug abuse or substance abuse refers to the use of certain chemicals for the purpose of creating pleasurable effects on the brain. Drug addiction, also called substance use disorder, is a disease that affects a person's brain and behavior and leads to an inability to control the use of a legal or illegal drug or medicine.

Inhalant use among youth is rising, with approximately 1.7% of children between 10 and 17 years old using inhalants as an accessible and affordable drug option. Adolescents in India, facing social pressures, lack of support, and easy access to over-the-counter sedatives, often turn to inhalants. Many of these cases remain untreated due to stigma, inadequate parental awareness, and limited specialized treatment programs for youth.

Data and Statistics: India

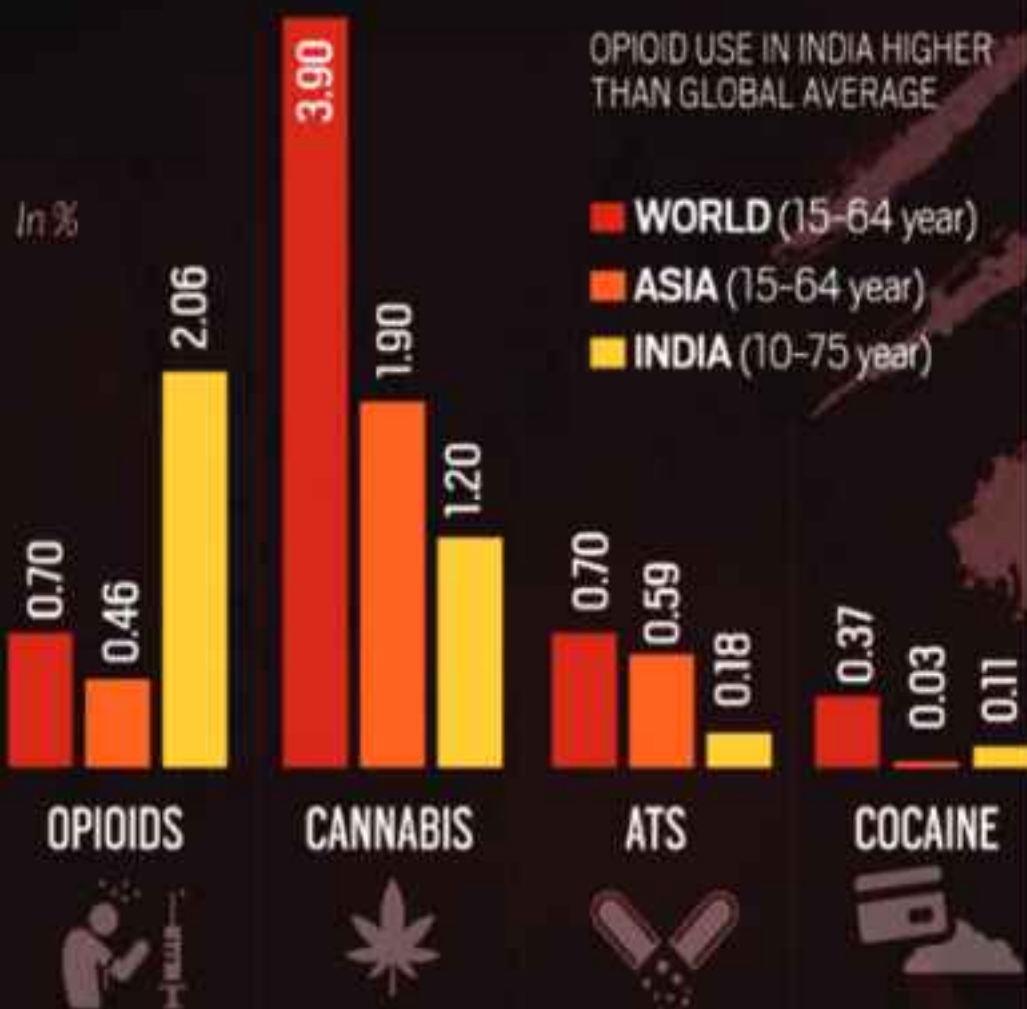
The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has conducted the first National Survey on Extent and Pattern of Substance Use in India through the National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre (NDDTC) of the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi during 2018. Some of the findings as per the report are:

- (1) Alcohol is the most common psychoactive substance, followed by Cannabis and Opioids.
- (2) About 16 Crore people consume alcohol in the country; more than 5.7 Crore individuals are affected by harmful or dependent alcohol use and need help for their alcohol use problems.
- (3) 3.1 Crore individuals in India use cannabis products; about 25 lacs suffer from cannabis dependence.
- (4) 2.26 Crore use opioids; approximately 77 lakh individuals require help for their opioid use problems.
- (5) 1.7% of children and adolescents are inhalant users. Nearly 18 lakh children need help for inhalant use.

⁹https://www.nisd.gov.in/drug_abuse_prevention.html#:~:text=1.7%25%20of%20childre n%20and%20adolescents,need%20help%20for%20inhalant%20use.&text=Protecting%2 0children%20from%20the%20widespread,challenges%20being%20faced%20by%20India.

¹⁰<https://socialjustice.gov.in/writereaddata/UploadFile/Survey%20Report.pdf>

HIGH ON DRUGS



Cannabis data presented here pertain only to illicit forms like ganja/charas.
Source: UNODC, Ministry of Social, Justice and Empowerment,
Government of India, AIIMS. Chart: Dipu Rai, Sarfraz

"Strength does not come from physical capacity. It comes from an indomitable will."
– Mahatma Gandhi

The Impact of Drug Use and the Challenges Faced by Addicts

Drug use poses severe risks to individuals, families, and society as a whole. One of the most significant harms of drug consumption is its detrimental impact on physical and mental health. Prolonged drug use can lead to organ damage, weakened immune function, and chronic illnesses such as liver disease, heart problems, and respiratory disorders. Many drugs also impair brain function, causing memory loss, cognitive decline, and severe psychological disorders like depression, anxiety, and paranoia. Addicts often suffer from hallucinations, delusions, and mood swings, making it difficult for them to maintain healthy relationships and a stable lifestyle. The risk of overdose is another serious concern, as many drugs, especially opioids and synthetic substances, can lead to respiratory failure, coma, or even death.

Beyond the health implications, drug addiction leads to severe social and economic consequences. Addicts often experience financial ruin due to their inability to hold jobs, leading to poverty, homelessness, and criminal activities to sustain their drug habits. Many individuals lose the trust and support of their families, further pushing them into isolation. Relationships deteriorate as addicts become emotionally unstable, unreliable, or even violent due to the psychological effects of drug dependency. In many cases, substance abuse leads to legal troubles, including arrests for possession, trafficking, or violent crimes committed under the influence. The burden of drug-related crimes and healthcare costs also places immense strain on law enforcement agencies, rehabilitation centers, and public health systems.

Addicts face numerous challenges when trying to overcome their dependency. One of the biggest obstacles is withdrawal symptoms, which can be extremely painful and distressing, leading many to

relapse. Symptoms such as severe anxiety, nausea, tremors, hallucinations, and intense cravings make quitting a difficult and often discouraging process. The social stigma associated with drug addiction further isolates individuals, making it harder for them to seek help. Many struggle to find affordable rehabilitation centers or mental health support, leaving them trapped in the cycle of addiction. Without proper counselling, medical treatment, and social support, many addicts fail to reintegrate into society and continue to suffer from unemployment, discrimination, and psychological distress.

Ultimately, drug addiction is not just a personal issue but a societal crisis that requires a comprehensive approach, including preventive education, strong legal frameworks, rehabilitation services, and community support systems. Raising awareness about the dangers of drug use and providing accessible treatment options can help individuals break free from addiction, rebuild their lives, and contribute positively to society.

Indians Laws Relating to Drugs and Poisons

Article 47 of the Indian Constitution which enshrines the Directive Principles of State Policy, lays down that the state is duty bound to prevent the consumption of intoxicating drinks and drugs except the consumption of it for medicinal purposes which are not injurious to health. There are three most significant UN Conventions, namely, Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971, Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988, which have had a great influence upon the Indian legal provisions to curb the abuse and misuse of drugs. India has been a signatory to the UN Conventions and has also drawn notable legislation based on the provisions of these Conventions.

The Drugs and Cosmetics Act (1930)

This Act was amended in 1964, and very recently in 2008. It deals with “the import, manufacture, distribution, and sale of all kinds of drugs (allopathic, ayurvedic, unani, siddha, etc.) and cosmetics.

The Drugs and Cometic Rules (1945)

This is supplementary legislation to the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and is concerned mainly with the standard quality of drugs, apart from exercising control over the “manufacture, sale, and distribution, of Drugs and Cosmetics.

The Drugs Control Act (1950)

This Act regulates the supply and disposal of drugs, and in addition to guiding the maker or business owner to fix the maximum price for each drug.

Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)

Narcotics Control Bureau was established in 1986 as per the NDPS Act, it is the apex body that regulates drug trafficking in India. The headquarters of NCB is at New Delhi, and the zonal office is in Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and Varanasi.

Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act 1985

The act covers three broad categories of drugs and substances:

- (1) narcotic drugs (as defined in the 1961 Convention),
- (2) psychotropic substances (as defined in the 1971 Convention or the drugs notified by the government as such), and
- (3) controlled substances that are used to manufacture these substances, including precursor chemicals such as ephedrine and pseudoephedrine.

“Say Yes to Life, No to Drugs”
NCB Pledge

National Programs Related to Drug Abuse

Central Sector Scheme for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drug) Abuse 1985

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) has been implementing a Central Sector Scheme of Assistance for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse since 1985–1986 for identification, counseling, treatment, and rehabilitation of people with addiction through voluntary and other eligible organizations.

Drug De-Addiction Program of India 1988

India's Drug De-Addiction Program (DDAP) is another major program constituted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW), Government of India, in 1988. It operates in selected government medical institutions by providing a grant for treatments of SUDs.

National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) 2018

Section 71 of the NDPS Act, 1985 (the power of the government to establish centers for the identification and treatment of addicts and the supply of NDPS) states that "The Government may establish, recognize or approve as many centers as it thinks fit for identification, treatment, management, education, after-care, rehabilitation, social reintegration of addicts and for supply, subject to such conditions and in such manner as may be prescribed, by the concerned Government of any narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances to the addicts registered with the Government and to others where such supply is a medical necessity

Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA)

This campaign is a three-pronged approach to drug abuse prevention, including:

Supply curb, Outreach and awareness, Demand reduction, De-addiction centers, Targeted Interventions Programs, etc.

NALSA Scheme for Victims of Drug Abuse

National Legal Services Authority (Legal Services to the Victims of Drug Abuse and the Eradication of Drug menace) Scheme, 2015

The NALSA (National Legal Services Authority) Scheme for Drug Abuse Victims is a comprehensive initiative aimed at addressing the legal, social, and rehabilitation needs of individuals affected by substance abuse. The scheme primarily focuses on providing free legal aid to drug abuse victims, ensuring they have access to justice and are aware of their rights. It seeks to promote decriminalization of victims by treating them as individuals in need of care rather than as criminals.

A key feature of the scheme is its collaboration with government and non-government de-addiction centres, offering medical treatment, counselling, and rehabilitation services. Additionally, NALSA emphasizes awareness and prevention by conducting educational programs in schools, colleges, and communities to inform people about the dangers of drug abuse. Special attention is given to vulnerable groups, including juveniles, women, and those from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

The scheme also facilitates coordination with law enforcement agencies to ensure humane treatment of victims. Furthermore, it aids in social reintegration, helping rehabilitated individuals find employment and rebuild their lives. NALSA's toll-free helplines offer immediate legal support, making the scheme a holistic approach to combating drug abuse through legal intervention and social welfare. Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority has issued direction to all DLSAs in Rajasthan to effectively implement the scheme at ground level. Regular monitoring through newspaper and news channels is done and if nay pressing issue arises then proper action is taken at desired level.

Legal Aid and Counselling: It ensures access to free legal representation, advice, and counselling for drug abuse victims to help them navigate legal challenges and understand their rights.

Rehabilitation and De-addiction Support: The scheme collaborates with governmental and non-government de-addiction centres to facilitate treatment and rehabilitation services.

Awareness and Preventive Measures: NALSA conducts awareness programs in schools, colleges, and communities to educate people about the harmful effects of drugs and prevent substance abuse.

Special Focus on Vulnerable Groups: It prioritizes helping juveniles, women, and socio-economically disadvantaged individuals affected by drug addiction.

Coordination with Law Enforcement: The scheme works with police and judiciary to ensure that victims of drug abuse are treated as patients needing care, not just offenders.

Reintegration into Society: Post-rehabilitation, the scheme assists victims in finding employment and reintegrating into society.

Role of Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority

RSLSA conducts extensive awareness campaigns to educate communities about the impact of drug abuse, the rights of affected individuals, and the legal protections available to them. Through workshops, public events, and digital outreach, we aim to reduce stigma, promote understanding, and encourage early intervention. Special attention will be given to engaging with vulnerable and at-risk communities to address root causes like poverty, unemployment, and lack of education, focusing on prevention and early support.

To ensure holistic assistance, RSLSA provides free legal aid to individuals struggling with drug abuse and their families, helping them address discrimination, access rehabilitation services, and navigate legal challenges. In collaboration with rehabilitation centres and de-addiction programs, RSLSA works to expand the reach of quality treatment, especially in rural and underserved areas, ensuring affected individuals receive the support they need to recover and reintegrate into society.

RSLSA also prioritizes a rehabilitative approach to drug-related cases, advocating for treatment and recovery over punitive measures. By partnering with policymakers, we aim to promote a shift from incarceration to rehabilitation for individuals struggling with substance abuse.

Support for families of affected individuals will include counselling sessions and family-focused programs to help them cope and actively participate in their loved one's recovery. Additionally, RSLSA will establish crisis helplines to provide immediate assistance, offering guidance on accessing legal aid, rehabilitation services, and emergency care.



CALENDAR FOR MONTH OF JULY 2025

01-07-2025	Tuesday	Meeting of the DLSA Secretaries with the Member Secretary, RSLSA regarding programs to be conducted in the coming month in compliance with the Action Plan
02-07-2025	Wednesday	Special Awareness program on Rights of Tribal People
03-07-2025	Thursday	Legal Awareness Camps on Public Utility Services
04-07-2025	Friday	Meeting of Empowered Committee with regard to Support to Poor Prisoners Scheme
05-07-2025	Saturday	Visit of Observation Homes/Special Homes/Place of Safety by Legal Awareness Teams in compliance of directions issued by RSLSA from time to time for welfare of Inmates and Children in conflict with law.
07-07-2025	Monday	Organize legal literacy camps on ill effects of Child Marriage like Interrupted Education of Child, Early Pregnancy and Maternal Health Issues, Mental Health Issues, Domestic Violence and Exploitation and Forced Labor.
08-07-2025	Tuesday	Legal awareness programmes related to - NALSA (Effective Implementation of Poverty Alleviation Schemes Scheme, 2015) NALSA (Protection and Enforcement of Tribal Rights) Scheme, 2015. NALSA (Legal Services to Victims of Acid Attacks) Scheme, 2016. NALSA (Child friendly legal services for Children) Scheme, 2024 Rajasthan Victim Compensation Scheme, 2011.

09-07-2025	Wednesday	DLSA shall organise awareness camps to sensitize authorities/management/employers, employees and adolescent groups with provisions of the POSH act
10-07-2025	Thursday	Jail Inspection by Team of Visitors (Secretary, DLSA, Panel Advocate and Woman Panel Advocate)
11-07-2025	Friday	World Population Day To celebrate this day DLSAs shall organize sensitization and awareness programmes emphasizing the importance of Family Planning, Gender Equality, Poverty, Maternal Health and Human Rights.
12-07-2025	Saturday	RSLSA to conduct pre review of UNDER TRIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE (UTRC) meeting
14-07-2025	Monday	Organise a special awareness/sensitization programme for Specially abled persons.
15-07-2025	Tuesday	Meeting of the UNDER-TRIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE (UTRC) Monthly Inspection of Nari Niketan by Secretary, DLSA
16-07-2025	Wednesday	Meeting of DLSA Meetings of DLSA to be convened to take up its regular work; like applications for Legal Aid, Victim Compensation and other issues. In this meeting, different Legal Services Functionaries viz. Judge-in-charge Mediation, Judicial Officers, Members of Monitoring & Mentoring Committee, Nodal Officer Lok Adalat, President, Bar Association, and one Senior Member of each Legal Awareness

		Team responsible for the implementation of NALSA and RLSA Schemes be also invited for monitoring of all legal services activities, to identify the difficulties, to find out solutions thereof and way forward. This meeting is to be organized as per the directions already in vogue. Minutes of the meeting to be forwarded to RLSA.
17-07-2025	Thursday	Celebrating World Day of International Justice To celebrate this day, DLSAs and TLSCs shall organize District and Taluka level respectively, essay, debate, speech, poster, and slogan competitions and awareness programs can also be held by DLSAs and TLSCs.
18-07-2025	Friday	Visit of Old Age Homes by Secretary, DLSA (Two Panel Advocates and Two PLVs) at District & Taluka Headquarters. Visit of Children Home & Observation Home by Secretary, DLSA
19-07-2025	Saturday	Awareness program regarding Environment Protection and Pollution Control/Tree plantation drive
21-07-2025	Monday	Monthly Inspection of One Stop Crisis Centre by Secretary, DLSA
22-07-2025	Tuesday	Meeting of District Child Victims Compensation Assistance Committee and Meeting of Monitoring and Mentoring Committee
23-07-2025	Wednesday	Review Meeting of LADCs with their respective DLSA secretaries
24-07-2025	Thursday	RLSA to conduct post review of UNDER TRIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE (UTRC) meeting

25-07-2025	Friday	Meeting of PLVs and other functionaries associated with legal services to be organized by DLSAs & TLSCs for the effective implementation of Legal Services Programme.
28-07-2025	Monday	Organize legal literacy camps on ill effects of Early Pregnancy and Maternal Health Issues, Mental Health Issues, Domestic Violence and Exploitation and Forced Labor
29-07-2025	Tuesday	Legal Awareness Program on Drug Abuse
30-07-2025	Wednesday	Legal Awareness Program on Cyber Crime
31-07-2025	Thursday	Legal Awareness Program on Tribal Rights

Important Note: Jail Inspections shall be conducted weekly and monthly by Secretary DLSA along with a team of visitors (LADC, Panel Advocate, PLV, etc)

ACTION PLAN AUGUST, 2025

ADDRESSING SOCIAL INEQUALITY CASTE- BASED DISCRIMINATION IN INDIA



Addressing Social Inequality

Caste-Based Discrimination in India

Indian society has long practised caste discrimination, with the caste system classifying people according to their place of birth. The system places priests (Brahmins) at the top, followed by warriors (Kshatriyas), merchants (Vaishyas), and laborers (Shudras). People outside of the caste system, such as Dalits (formerly known as untouchables), were seen to be completely outside of society. Rajasthan had the second-highest number of crimes against minorities in India in 2022, according to the National Crime Records Bureau.

Caste-based violence in Rajasthan is a deeply entrenched issue, reflecting the rigid hierarchical structures of the caste system. The state has witnessed numerous incidents where marginalized communities, particularly Dalits, have been subjected to discrimination, humiliation, and physical violence. Common forms of caste-based violence include physical assaults, lynching, honor killings, sexual violence against Dalit women, and social ostracism. Tribal people in India are estimated at 10.4 crore, and they cover 8.61 percent of the country's total population, and the 2011 census has given this report.

Even today caste minorities in India continue to face significant socio-economic challenges, including limited job opportunities due to systemic discrimination and bias in hiring processes. The educational gap remains a major issue, as many from marginalized castes lack access to quality education, leading to lower literacy rates and fewer professional prospects. Financial disparity exacerbates their struggles, with restricted access to credit, land ownership, economic resources, keeping many in cycles of poverty. Social exclusion, unequal representation in governance, and discrimination in public spaces further hinder their progress, making it crucial to implement stronger policies for inclusion, empowerment, and equal opportunity.

“A just society is that society in which ascending sense of reverence and descending sense of contempt is dissolved into the creation of a compassionate society.”

– Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

Forms of Caste-Based Discrimination

Caste-based violence manifests in various forms, including physical assault, sexual violence, economic exploitation, and social ostracism. Dalits, in particular, bear the brunt of these atrocities, often at the hands of dominant caste groups. Instances of violence often arise from perceived transgressions of caste norms or attempts by marginalized communities to assert their rights.

Rajasthan has witnessed numerous cases of brutal physical violence against individuals from lower castes, highlighting the entrenched caste-based discrimination prevalent in the state. Many of these incidents arise from disputes over land, inter-caste relationships, or perceived violations of social hierarchies. Dalits attempting to access public spaces, such as temples or water sources, often face violent resistance. In extreme cases, lynchings have occurred, reflecting the deep-rooted prejudice and a lack of accountability within the system. These acts of violence serve as a grim reminder of the systemic oppression faced by marginalized communities.

Sexual violence against women from marginalized communities is another harrowing aspect of caste-based oppression in Rajasthan. Such acts are frequently employed as tools of domination and humiliation, reinforcing caste hierarchies and instilling fear. Victims of sexual violence often encounter significant barriers in seeking justice, including social stigma, threats from perpetrators, and institutional apathy. These challenges compound the trauma faced by survivors and perpetuate a culture of silence and impunity.

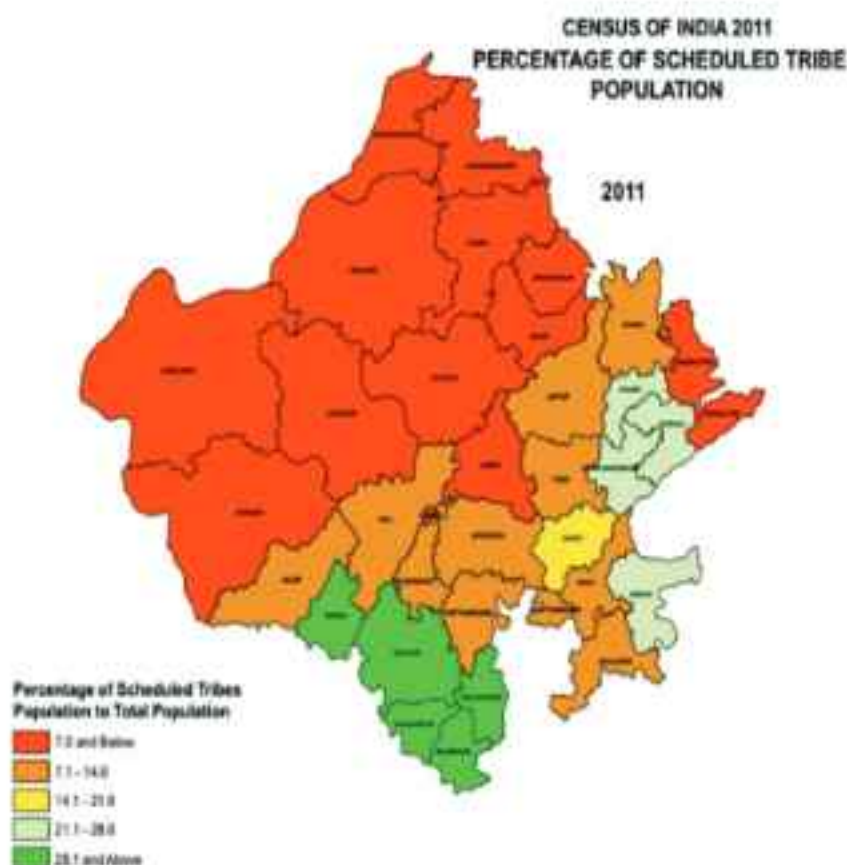
Economic exploitation remains widespread in Rajasthan, where Dalits and Adivasis are often relegated to low-paying, labour-intensive occupations. Discrimination in employment is rampant, with many being denied fair wages or subjected to bonded labour. Attempts by these communities to demand better working conditions or fair treatment are frequently met with violence or social boycotts, leaving them vulnerable to continued exploitation and oppression.

¹³<https://legalresearchandanalysis.com caste-discrimination-in-rajasthan/>

¹⁴<https://ncst.nic.in/sites/default/files/documents/Tribal%20Profile%20Census%202011%20from%20MTA.pdf>

Social ostracism is another potent weapon used to enforce caste-based oppression. Marginalized communities are often denied access to essential services such as education, healthcare, and housing. Inter-caste marriages, though protected by law, are met with severe backlash, including social boycotts and violence against the couple and their families. This exclusion reinforces societal divisions and perpetuates systemic inequalities.

Despite being abolished under Article 17 of the Indian Constitution, untouchability persists in Rajasthan, affecting Dalits in various spheres. They face denial of access to public spaces like temples and water sources, discrimination in schools, economic marginalization through low-paying jobs and bonded labour, and exclusion from religious and cultural practices. Dalit students often experience segregation, while efforts to seek better opportunities are met with resistance, boycotts, and violence. This deep-rooted discrimination reflects enduring caste prejudices, perpetuating social and economic inequality in both rural and urban areas.



Legal Framework

India is a diverse country with a rich tapestry of cultures, languages, and ethnicities. Among its population, tribal communities hold a significant place, constituting about 8.6% of the total population as per the 2011 Census. These indigenous groups, often referred to as Scheduled Tribes (STs), have unique cultural identities, customs, and traditional rights over natural resources. To safeguard their interests and promote their welfare, the Indian Constitution provides specific legal and constitutional provisions. The major tribes in Rajasthan Bhils, Damaria, Dhanka, Meenas(Minas), Patelia, Sahariya, Lambada(Banjara).

Constitutional Safeguards for Minorities

The Indian Constitution incorporates several provisions aimed at protecting the rights of minorities.

1. Article 15(4): This provision empowers the State to make special provisions for the advancement of Scheduled Tribes, along with Scheduled Castes and other socially and educationally backward classes.
2. Article 14: Ensures equality before the law.
3. Article 16: Ensures equality of opportunity in matters of public employment to all citizens. It prohibits discrimination in employment based on certain characteristics.
4. Article 19(5): It allows the State to impose restrictions on the rights of citizens to move freely or settle in certain areas to protect the interests of Scheduled Tribes.
5. Article 29: It guarantees the right to conserve distinct languages, scripts and cultures, thereby preserving tribal identities.
6. Article 38 (2): obligation of the State 'to endeavour to eliminate inequalities in status, facilities and opportunities' amongst individuals and groups of people residing in different areas or engaged in different vocations

7. Article 46: This directive principle directs the State to promote the educational and economic interests of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and other weaker sections while protecting them from social injustice and exploitation.
8. Article 338A: It establishes the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST), which oversees the implementation of constitutional safeguards and advises on tribal welfare programs.
9. Article 330 and Article 332: These provide for the reservation of seats for Scheduled Tribes in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies, respectively, to ensure their representatives in legislative processes.

Statutory Provisions

- The Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 has been enacted which prescribes punishment for practising untouchability.
- The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 has been enacted with a mandate to prevent the commission of offences of atrocities against SCs and STs.
- The Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 has been enacted which provides for the extension of Panchayati Raj system to the Scheduled Areas.
- The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 has been enacted to recognize the forest rights in forest land in forest - dwelling scheduled tribes.

Government Schemes

The various schemes that have been launched by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the promotion and advancement of Scheduled tribes are:

- Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Tribal Sub Scheme (TSS) (hitherto known as SCA to Tribal Sub Plan (TSP))
- National Fellowship and Scholarship for Higher Education of ST students

¹⁹https://tribal.nic.in/downloads/Statistics/3-STinindiaascensus2011_compressed.pdf

- National Overseas Scholarship for ST Students
- Pre-Matric Scholarship for ST students
- Post Matric Scholarship for ST students
- Girls & Boys Hostels for STs
- Ashram Schools in Tribal Sub-Plan Area
- Vocational Training in Tribal Areas
- Equity Support to National / State Scheduled Tribe Finance and Development Corporations
- Institutional support for Development and Marketing of Tribal Products / Produce, Support to Tribal Research Institutes
- Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)
- Grants-in-Aid to Voluntary Organisations working for the welfare of STs
- Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price
- Tribal Festival, Research, Information and Mass Education, Development Programmes in the Tribal Areas (EAP)
- Van Bandhu Kalyan Yojana.

"My fight against untouchability is a fight against the impure in humanity. - Mahatma Gandhi



RSLSA Campaign for Spreading Awareness about Abolition of Manual Scavenging:

RSLSA shall conduct public awareness campaigns on the issue of Caste discrimination and Manual scavenging, human dignity, the prohibition against untouchability, and the right to life, using various media channels, including radio, television, social media, and print.

Constitute teams of PLVs and panel lawyers for working on Legal Awareness/Literacy in the respective areas of the district regarding the abolition of untouchability and manual scavenging. Identify government departments/authorities and request them to nominate one officer as the nodal officer for awareness/literacy programmes organized in your district.

Every week one awareness/literacy camp at the following places may be organized with the help of the Legal Awareness Team, the nodal officer of the concerned govt. department and local administration:

- Panchayat Samiti
- Nagar Palika/Nagar Parishad
- Schools/ Colleges/Homes
- Hospitals
- Bus Stops
- Sabji Mandi
- Public Places

In Schools, Colleges and homes quiz competitions regarding legal awareness/literacy should be organized on topics abolition of untouchability and manual scavenging. Explain basic legal concepts in the morning prayer meeting in schools to provide students with a fundamental understanding of the abolition of untouchability and practices that violate human dignity, once a month during the campaign.

In collaboration with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community groups conduct workshops and seminars on topics related to the abolition of manual scavenging in communities.

Conduct legal literacy programs to educate individuals, especially children whose families are involved in scavenging as social stigmatization may affect their education, so awareness needs to be raised related to the effects of manual scavenging.

CALENDAR FOR MONTH OF AUGUST 2025

01-08-2025	Friday	Meeting of the DLSA Secretaries with the Member Secretary, RLSA regarding programs to be conducted in the coming month in compliance with the Action Plan
02-08-2025	Saturday	Special Awareness program on Rights of Senior Citizens
04-08-2025	Monday	Meeting of the Monitoring Committee with regard to Compensation of Victims of Hit and Run Motor Accidents Scheme, 2022
05-08-2025	Tuesday	Visit of Observation Homes/Special Homes/Place of Safety by Legal Awareness Teams in compliance of directions issued by RLSA from time to time for welfare of Inmates and Children in conflict with law.
06-08-2025	Wednesday	Legal Awareness Camps on Public Utility Services
07-08-2025	Thursday	Organize legal literacy camps on ill effects of Child Marriage like Interrupted Education of Child, Early Pregnancy and Maternal Health Issues, Mental Health Issues, Domestic Violence and Exploitation and Forced Labor.
08-08-2025	Friday	Legal awareness programmes related to - NALSA (Effective Implementation of Poverty Alleviation Schemes Scheme, 2015 NALSA (Protection and Enforcement of Tribal Rights) Scheme, 2015. NALSA (Legal Services to Victims of Acid Attacks) Scheme, 2016. NALSA (Child friendly legal services for Children) Scheme, 2024 Rajasthan Victim Compensation Scheme, 2011.

09-08-2025	Saturday	Ceremonial Observance of World Tribal Day Legal Awareness programmes shall be organized by DLSAs on NALSA (Protection and Enforcement of Tribal Rights) Scheme, 2015, SC & ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 and The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.
11-08-2025	Monday	Jail Inspection by Team of Visitors (Secretary, DLSA, Panel Advocate and Woman Panel Advocate)
12-08-2025	Tuesday	Meeting of Empowered Committee with regard to Support to Poor Prisoners Scheme
13-08-2025	Wednesday	Legal Awareness Program on Cyber Crimes
14-08-2025	Thursday	Organise a special awareness/sensitization programme for Specially abled persons.
15-08-2025	Friday	Celebration of Independence Day
18-08-2025	Monday	Visit of Old Age Homes by Secretary, DLSA (Two Panel Advocates and Two PLVs) at District & Taluka Headquarters. Visit of Children Home & Observation Home by Secretary, DLSA
19-08-2025	Tuesday	Awareness program regarding Environment Protection and Pollution Control/Tree plantation drive
20-08-2025	Wednesday	Meeting of District Child Victims Compensation Assistance Committee and Meeting of Monitoring and Mentoring Committee
21-08-2025	Thursday	Legal Awareness Program on Rights of Senior Citizens

22-08-2025	Friday	Review Meeting of LADCs with their respective DLSA secretaries
25-08-2025	Monday	Meeting of PLVs and other functionaries associated with legal services to be organized by DLSAs & TLSCs for the effective implementation of Legal Services Programme.
26-08-2025	Tuesday	Organize legal literacy camps on ill effects of Early Pregnancy and Maternal Health Issues, Mental Health Issues, Domestic Violence and Exploitation and Forced Labor
27-08-2025	Wednesday	Legal Awareness Program on Drug Abuse
28-08-2025	Thursday	Monthly Inspection of One Stop Crisis Centre by Secretary, DLSA
29-08-2025	Friday	Special Awareness program on Prisoners' Rights
30-08-2025	Saturday	Meeting of DLSA Meetings of DLSA to be convened to take up its regular work; like applications for Legal Aid, Victim Compensation and other issues. In this meeting, different Legal Services Functionaries viz. Judge-in-charge Mediation, Judicial Officers, Members of Monitoring & Mentoring Committee, Nodal Officer Lok Adalat, President, Bar Association, and one Senior Member of each Legal Awareness Team responsible for the implementation of NALSA and RLSA Schemes be also invited for monitoring of all legal services activities, to identify the difficulties, to find out solutions thereof and way forward. This meeting is to be organized as per the directions already in vogue. Minutes of the meeting to be forwarded to RLSA.

Important Note: Jail Inspections shall be conducted weekly and monthly by Secretary DLSA along with a team of visitors (LADC, Panel Advocate, PLV, etc)

ACTION PLAN SEPTEMBER, 2025

SAFEGUARDING THE GOLDEN YEARS: INITIATIVES FOR UPHOLDING THE RIGHTS OF SENIOR CITIZENS



Safeguarding the Golden Years

Initiatives for Upholding the Rights of Senior Citizens in India

As of December 2023, India's elderly population is 15.3 crore people aged 60 and older. This number is expected to grow to 34.7 crore by 2050, which is more than the number of children in the country. The increasing number of older persons in India's population is mainly due to the general improvement in the health care facilities over the years. The major challenge is to ensure that the elderly persons do not merely live longer, but also lead a secure, dignified and productive life.

In India, the older persons or senior citizens are protected under Article 41 in Part IV (Directive Principles of State Policy) and Article 21 of the Constitution of India: -

Article 41: Right to work, to education and to public assistance in certain cases:

The State shall, within the limits of its economic capacity and development, make effective provision for securing the right to work, to education and to public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement, and in other cases of undeserved want.

Article 21: Article 21 of the Constitution of India guarantees the right to life and personal liberty. It states that no person can be deprived of their life or liberty unless it is done according to the procedure established by law.

"With age comes wisdom, but sometimes age comes alone." - Oscar Wilde.

¹⁴<https://india.unfpa.org/en/news/indias-ageing-population-why-it-matters-more-ever>

Part I

Elderly People- India, at a Glance

I POPULATION	Male	Female	Total
Total Population (in millions)			
Rural	427.8	406.0	833.8
Urban	195.5	181.6	377.1
Total	623.3	587.6	1210.9
Population Aged 60+ (in millions)			
Rural	36.0	37.3	73.3
Urban	15.1	15.5	30.6
Total	51.1	52.8	103.9
Share of Elderly Population in Total Population (%)			
Rural	8.4	9.2	8.8
Urban	7.7	8.5	8.1
Total	8.2	9.0	8.6
II ECONOMY			
Old-Age Dependency Ratio			
Rural	14.5	15.8	15.1
Urban	11.8	13.1	12.4
Total	13.6	14.9	14.2
Elderly Population Working (%)			
Rural	66.4	28.4	47.1
Urban	46.1	11.3	28.5
Total	60.4	23.4	41.6
III HEALTH			
Life Expectancy 60+ (Years)			
Total	16.9	19.0	17.9
Death Rate (60-64years) (Per Thousand)			
Rural	22.3	17.2	19.7
Urban	16.6	13.4	15.0
Total	20.7	16.1	18.4
Physically Disabled Among 60+(Per Hundred Thousand)			
Rural	5713	5476	5593
Urban	4361	4007	4181
Total	5314	5045	5177
IV EDUCATION			
Literacy Rate 60+			
Rural	50.5	18.4	34.2
Urban	79.6	52.7	66.0
Total	59.1	28.5	43.5

Sources : Population Census 2011, SRS Report 2013

Challenges Faced by Senior Citizens

Elderly individuals face a range of challenges that impact their quality of life and overall well-being. Financial insecurity is a significant concern due to insufficient retirement savings, limited pension schemes, rising healthcare costs, and inflation affecting fixed incomes. Many seniors also struggle with financial literacy and are vulnerable to frauds and scams. Health challenges are prevalent, including chronic illnesses like diabetes, hypertension, and arthritis, compounded by limited access to affordable and quality healthcare, particularly in rural areas, and inadequate geriatric care infrastructure. Social isolation and loneliness are also major issues, often resulting from family migration, changing societal dynamics, and reduced intergenerational bonding, alongside a lack of community engagement opportunities.

Elder abuse is another alarming problem, manifesting as physical, emotional, and financial abuse, neglect, or disrespect within families or care institutions. Accessibility remains a barrier, as public spaces, transportation, and housing are often not senior-friendly, and assistive technologies and mobility aids are limited. The generational divide poses additional challenges, with rapid technological advancements and limited digital literacy making it difficult for seniors to access essential services or maintain social connections. Legal and policy gaps further exacerbate their struggles, including ineffective implementation of laws like the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007, and delays in legal recourse for property or care-related disputes.

Psychological issues, such as depression, anxiety, and mental health concerns, are prevalent among seniors due to isolation, grief, or loss of purpose, often compounded by the stigma around seeking mental health care. Lastly, a lack of awareness about their rights and government welfare schemes further marginalizes elderly individuals, who face difficulties in navigating bureaucratic processes to avail these benefits. Addressing these challenges requires a comprehensive and compassionate approach to improve the lives of senior citizens.

Benefits Extended by Central Ministries for Senior Citizens

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE EMPOWERMENT (MOSJE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Policy on Older Persons (NPOP) • The Atal Pension Yojana (APY) • Integrated Programme for Senior Citizens • The Scheme of National Awards for Senior Citizens - Vayoshreshtha Samman. • National Council of Senior Citizens
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indira Gandhi national age pension scheme (IGNOAPS)
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National program for health care for the elderly (NPHCE) • Rashtriya swasthya Bima yojana (RSBY) • Senior citizen health insurance scheme (SCHIS)
MINISTRY OF FINANCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health insurance • Tax benefits
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pradhan mantrishram yogi maan-dhan (PM-SYM)
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure safety and security and for elimination of all forms of neglect, abuse and violence against old persons • sensitization of police personnel regarding safety, security of older persons. • regular visit of the beat staff • setting up of toll-free senior citizens helplines. • setting up of senior citizen security cell; verification of domestic helps, drivers, etc.
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separate ticket counters • Provision of lower berth • Wheelchairs at stations for old age passengers. • Wheelchairs are available for the elderly at railway stations
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • automated buggies airports. • small trolleys after security check for carriage of hand baggage
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two seats are reserved for the senior citizens in front row of the buses of the State Road Transport Undertakings.

Legal framework

The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007

Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens 2007 ("Maintenance Act") recognizes and provides for more effective provisions for the maintenance and welfare of parents and senior citizens guaranteed and recognized under the Constitution.

Parents and grandparents who are unable to maintain themselves from their own income can demand maintenance from their children, grandchildren or relatives, inclusive of food, clothing, residence, medical attendance and treatment, to a maximum of Rs. 10,000 per month.

Legal Provisions for Claiming Maintenance

Section 125 of the Code of Criminal Procedure 1973 or Section 144 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) deals with the maintenance of wife, children, parents and grandparents. Under this section, old parents, irrespective of their religion, can seek maintenance.

If any person having sufficient means neglects or refuses to maintain his father or mother, unable to maintain himself or herself, a Magistrate of the first class may, upon proof of such neglect or refusal, order such person to make a monthly allowance for the maintenance of his father or mother, at such monthly rate as the Magistrate thinks fit, and to pay the same to such person as the Magistrate may from time to time direct.



NALSA Scheme for Senior Citizens

India constitutes one-eighth of the global senior citizen population. However, these demographic faces numerous challenges spanning social, physical, mental, and economic dimensions. These issues are further compounded by the decline of the traditional joint family system. With the migration of younger, productive family members, many elderly individuals are left to manage on their own. Moreover, instances of systematic abuse—ranging from physical and emotional harm to psychological mistreatment—by family members and society are an increasing concern.

The primary objective of this initiative is to strengthen the framework of legal aid, advice, and counselling services for senior citizens at the national, state, district, and taluka levels. It aims to help them access various legal provisions and government schemes, ensuring their rights are upheld. The scheme also seeks to coordinate with police, healthcare authorities, and district administrations to provide prompt healthcare, social security, and physical safety for senior citizens.

The scheme focuses on engaging with senior citizens through Legal Services Clinics and Para-Legal Volunteers, who will serve as a vital link between the elderly and Legal Services Institutions, as well as police, healthcare providers, district administrations, and other relevant authorities. Legal Services Institutions will maintain a comprehensive database of Central and State Government schemes, policies, and programs for senior citizens. This information will be disseminated through booklets, pamphlets, awareness programs, and print and electronic media.

Additionally, as per the monthly calendar, the DLSA secretaries will visit old age homes to ensure the provision of basic facilities and dignified treatment for senior citizens. They also promote and facilitate the creation of self-help groups among senior citizens to foster community support and reduce dependency, thereby empowering them to lead more independent and fulfilling lives.

***“Old age is just a record of one's whole life.”
- Muhammad Ali***

¹⁹National Policy for Senior Citizens, 2011

Role of Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority

The Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority (RSLSA) plays a pivotal role in ensuring the rights and well-being of senior citizens through legal aid, awareness programs, and the implementation of various schemes. Recognizing the vulnerabilities of senior citizens, RSLSA focuses on safeguarding their rights under the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007, and related legal frameworks. The DLSA secretaries regularly visit old age homes and inspect them to check whether they are working as per mandate or not. In case of any shortcomings, then proper action is taken to rectify it.

Free Legal Aid: RSLSA provides free legal advice and representation to senior citizens, especially those belonging to marginalized or economically weaker sections.

Legal Awareness Camps: Regular camps are organized to educate senior citizens about their rights, including inheritance, property disputes, and the provision of maintenance under the law. RSLSA conducts interactive workshops and seminars in urban and rural areas to educate senior citizens, their families, and the general public about elder abuse. These sessions cover the various forms of abuse, including physical, emotional, financial, and neglect, and provide information about the legal protections available under laws like the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007. The aim is to reduce stigma, encourage reporting, and foster community responsibility toward elderly care.

Counselling Services: Senior citizens facing neglect or abuse can access counselling and mediation services to resolve disputes amicably.

Dedicated Helplines and Legal Clinics: RSLSA collaborates with local authorities to set up helplines specifically for senior citizens to report grievances, seek legal advice, and access emergency support. Legal Aid Clinics are established in old-age homes to address the unique challenges faced by the elderly. The toll-free helpline number for legal aid in Rajasthan is 15100.

Community Outreach Campaigns: Awareness campaigns are conducted through public events, social media platforms, and local media outlets.

RSLSA engages with community leaders, self-help groups, and youth organizations to create a collective effort in recognizing and addressing elder abuse. Outreach efforts may include street plays, poster exhibitions, and the distribution of pamphlets with helpline information and legal guidance.

Collaborations with Law Enforcement: RSLSA works closely with local law enforcement agencies to ensure swift action in cases of reported elder abuse. Specialized training sessions are conducted for police officers to help them identify signs of abuse, handle cases with sensitivity, and provide timely assistance to elderly victims. A dedicated liaison officer may be appointed to coordinate between RSLSA and law enforcement.

Monitoring and Inspections of Old Age Homes: Regular visits and inspections of old age homes are carried out to assess the living conditions, treatment of residents, and compliance with legal standards. RSLSA ensures that these facilities provide adequate care, respect the dignity of the elderly, and address any grievances reported by residents.

"In the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years." – Abraham Lincoln



CALENDAR FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2025

01-09-2025	Monday	Special Awareness program on Mental Health
03-09-2025	Wednesday	Legal Awareness Camps on Public Utility Services
04-09-2025	Thursday	Meeting of Empowered Committee with regard to Support to Poor Prisoners Scheme
06-09-2025	Saturday	Organize legal literacy camps on ill effects of Child Marriage like Interrupted Education of Child, Early Pregnancy and Maternal Health Issues, Mental Health Issues, Domestic Violence and Exploitation and Forced Labor.
08-09-2025	Monday	Legal awareness programmes related to - NALSA (Effective Implementation of Poverty Alleviation Schemes Scheme, 2015 NALSA (Protection and Enforcement of Tribal Rights) Scheme, 2015. NALSA (Legal Services to Victims of Acid Attacks) Scheme, 2016. NALSA (Child friendly legal services for Children) Scheme, 2024 Rajasthan Victim Compensation Scheme, 2011.
09-09-2025	Tuesday	Visit of Observation Homes/Special Homes/Place of Safety by Legal Awareness Teams in compliance of directions issued by RLSA from time to time for welfare of Inmates and Children in conflict with law.
10-09-2025	Wednesday	Jail Inspection by Team of Visitors (Secretary, DLSA, Panel Advocate and Woman Panel Advocate)

11-09-2025	Thursday	Awareness program regarding Environment Protection and Pollution Control/Tree plantation drive
12-09-2025	Friday	Monthly Inspection of Nari Niketan by Secretary, DLSA
13-09-2025	Saturday	NATIONAL LOK ADALAT
15-09-2025	Monday	DLSA shall organise awareness camps to sensitize authorities/management/employers, employees and adolescent groups with provisions of the POSH act
16-09-2025	Tuesday	Legal Awareness Program on Fundamental Rights and Fundamental Duties
17-09-2025	Wednesday	Organise a special awareness/sensitization programme for Specially abled persons.
18-09-2025	Thursday	Visit of Old Age Homes by Secretary, DLSA (Two Panel Advocates and Two PLVs) at District & Taluka Headquarters. Visit of Children Home & Observation Home by Secretary, DLSA
19-09-2025	Friday	Special Awareness program on Prisoners' Rights
20-09-2025	Saturday	Special Awareness program on Rights of Senior Citizens
22-09-2025	Monday	Review Meeting of LADCs with their respective DLSA secretaries
23-09-2025	Tuesday	Meeting of District Child Victims Compensation Assistance Committee and Meeting of Monitoring and Mentoring Committee

24-09-2025	Wednesday	Organize legal literacy camps on ill effects of Early Pregnancy and Maternal Health Issues, Mental Health Issues, Domestic Violence and Exploitation and Forced Labor
25-09-2025	Thursday	Meeting of PLVs and other functionaries associated with legal services to be organized by DLSAs & TLSCs for the effective implementation of Legal Services Programme.
26-09-2025	Friday	Legal Awareness Program on Drug Abuse
29-09-2025	Monday	Monthly Inspection of One Stop Crisis Centre by Secretary, DLSA

Important Note: Jail Inspections shall be conducted weekly and monthly by Secretary DLSA along with a team of visitors (LADC, Panel Advocate, PLV, etc)

ACTION PLAN OCTOBER, 2025

EMPOWERING MINDS: A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT AND AWARENESS



Empowering Minds

A Holistic Approach to Mental Health Support and Awareness

Mental health has emerged as a significant public health concern in India, reflecting deep societal, economic, and healthcare system challenges. Despite a growing awareness of mental health issues, addressing mental illness in India remains hampered by stigma, inadequate healthcare infrastructure, and a lack of trained professionals.

Mental health disorders in India affect a large proportion of the population. According to a 2019 report by the National Mental Health Survey of India, nearly 14% of the population needed active mental health interventions, while approximately 1 in 7 Indians were estimated to have a mental disorder. Depression and anxiety disorders are among the most common conditions, impacting millions of people across all age groups.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated mental health issues, leading to an increase in anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) among the population. Lockdowns, social isolation, and economic uncertainty have intensified mental distress, particularly among vulnerable groups such as healthcare workers, migrants, and individuals with pre-existing mental health conditions. The Mental Healthcare Act 2017 (MHCA 2017) in India specifically addresses patients' rights and establishes the moral and legal standards for mental health care. This law places a strong emphasis on the value of confidentiality, informed consent, and the right to mental health treatment.

"Although the world is full of suffering, it is full also of the overcoming of it." — Helen Keller

¹⁶<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10460242/>

Government Initiatives to Combat Mental Health Related Challenges

The National Mental Health Programme (NMHP) is being implemented in all states and UTs in India, with the objective of ensuring the availability and accessibility of minimum mental health care for all, with a special focus on the most vulnerable and underprivileged sections of the population.

To ensure the availability of health-care services at the community level, the Government of India, under its Ayushman Bharat initiative, included the “Mental health, Neurological and Substance use disorders” (MNS) package at Health and Welfare Centers (HWCs). The government has a target of operationalizing 1,50,000 HWCs by the end of 2022. Recently, the government has announced the launch of telemedicine services to be implemented through NIMHANS as the nodal center.

District Mental Health Programme component of the National Mental Health Programme has been sanctioned for implementation in 767 districts. Under the Tertiary care component of NMHP, 25 Centres of Excellence have been sanctioned to increase the intake of students in PG departments in mental health specialities as well as to provide tertiary level treatment facilities. Mental health services have been added in the package of services under Comprehensive Primary Health Care provided at Ayushman Arogya Mandirs.

Challenges in Enforcing Mental Health Well Being

The stigma associated with mental illness can make it difficult to obtain mental health services and can make it difficult to enact and enforce mental health regulations. Bridging discrepancy in the field of mental health care is difficult due to the lack of research facilities for implementation and policy reform.

A lack of skilled professionals in the mental health field might make it difficult to effectively execute and enforce legislation on mental health. This problem can be resolved by integrating mental health treatments into primary care. Resources should be made available by governments and international organizations to aid in the implementation of mental health laws in these situations.

NALSA Scheme for Mental Health Well Being

NALSA (Legal Services to Persons with Mental Illness and Persons with Intellectual Disabilities) Scheme, 2024

The NALSA (Legal Services to Persons with Mental Illness and Persons with Intellectual Disabilities) Scheme, 2024 is a dedicated initiative by the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) aimed at ensuring accessible and inclusive legal services for individuals with mental illnesses and intellectual disabilities. This scheme acknowledges the unique legal challenges faced by these individuals, including limited legal awareness, discrimination, and inadequate support structures. The initiative aligns with the spirit of the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017 and seeks to uphold the rights and dignity of affected persons by ensuring comprehensive legal aid, representation, and support.

The objective of the Scheme is to ensure that the mentally ill or mentally disabled are not stigmatized and they are able to enforce all rights they are entitled to and as assured to them by law. As regards the mentally disabled persons, they are to be treated as persons with disabilities under Section 2 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 (PWD Act). Under the Scheme, the Legal Services Authorities are expected to ensure that the benefits under this Act are accessed by the mentally disabled persons and to take any remedial action as required to do so.

Key Objectives

- 1. Enhanced Access to Legal Aid:** The scheme aims to provide free legal services to individuals with mental illnesses and intellectual disabilities, facilitating their access to justice.
- 2. Protection of Rights and Dignity:** The scheme underscores the protection of human rights, especially for those who may be vulnerable to exploitation or abuse due to their mental health conditions.
- 3. Support for Guardians and Caregivers:** Recognizing the critical role of caregivers, guardians, and family members, the scheme provides them with legal assistance and counseling.

4. Collaboration with Mental Health and Social Welfare Institutions:

The scheme encourages partnerships with mental health professionals, social workers, NGOs, and government institutions, facilitating a more integrated support system.

5. Sensitization of Legal Professionals: The scheme includes provisions to train and sensitize legal aid providers, such as paralegal volunteers, lawyers, and judges, to the specific needs of individuals with mental health and intellectual disabilities.

Role of Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority

The **Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority (RSLSA)** plays a pivotal role in safeguarding the rights of individuals with mental health issues and disabilities by ensuring they receive the legal aid and support necessary to access justice, government benefits, and healthcare services. RSLSA works in alignment with laws such as the **Mental Healthcare Act, 2017** and the **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016**, aiming to provide equitable opportunities and protect the dignity of these individuals.

RSLSA offers free legal aid to address issues such as discrimination, property disputes, access to healthcare, and wrongful institutionalization. The authority emphasizes supported decision-making, where trained volunteers assist individuals in making informed legal and personal decisions.

To raise awareness, RSLSA conducts **outreach programs, workshops, and awareness campaigns** to educate the public about the rights and entitlements of individuals with mental health issues and disabilities. These initiatives also focus on reducing stigma and encouraging inclusivity within society. Additionally, RSLSA works closely with NGOs, mental health professionals, and government departments to provide holistic support, including access to rehabilitation services, vocational training, and social reintegration.

Following are few regular activities that RSLSA conducts at grassroot levels:

- **Workshops and Seminars:** RSLSA organizes regular workshops and seminars at schools, colleges, workplaces, and community centres. These sessions address topics such as the legal rights of

individuals with disabilities, the importance of mental health care, and ways to ensure accessibility and inclusivity. Experts, including legal professionals, mental health practitioners, and disability rights activists, are often invited to conduct these sessions.

- **Community Outreach Programs:** To reach rural and underserved areas, RSLSA conducts door-to-door campaigns and community outreach events. These programs use simple language and local dialects to educate individuals and families about government schemes, legal aid services, and the rights of people with mental health issues and disabilities. Mobile legal aid vans are also deployed to provide on-the-spot counselling and assistance.
- **Public Awareness Campaigns:** RSLSA leverages traditional and digital media to run state-wide campaigns about disability rights and mental health. Pamphlets, posters, and booklets are distributed, and public service announcements are broadcasted via television, radio, and social media. These campaigns often coincide with observances like **World Mental Health Day** and **International Day of Persons with Disabilities** to maximize impact.
- **Helplines and Online Awareness:** RSLSA promotes dedicated helplines and online platforms where individuals can seek information about their rights and available support. These platforms are also used to share resources like legal documents, FAQs, and guides for people with disabilities and their families.
- **Inclusive Events:** RSLSA organizes inclusive public events, such as cultural programs, sports competitions, and awareness rallies, where people with disabilities participate alongside others. These events are designed to celebrate diversity, break stereotypes, and promote the capabilities of people with disabilities.

"We all have mental health in the same way that we all have physical health. It's OK to have depression, it's OK to have anxiety, it's OK to have an adjustment disorder." — Prince Harry

CALENDAR FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

01-10-2025	Wednesday	<p>Observance Of International Day of Older persons</p> <p>Intense awareness camps be organized at wards, villages, Panchyatas, public places etc, regarding rights of senior citizens & importance of senior citizens in families. Rights of Senior Citizens and duties of family members towards them including various welfare schemes meant for them be highlighted in these camps.</p> <p>Camps shall be organized for creating legal awareness programme on Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior citizens Act, 2007 and various welfare schemes of Govt. for senior citizens and NALSA (Legal Services to Senior Citizens Scheme, 2016).</p>
02-10-2025	Thursday	<p>Celebration of Gandhi Jayanti</p> <p>To spread the Gandhian ideology in public a Prabhat Pheri be organised at the level of Panchayat, Block and District headquarters.</p> <p>Awareness camps in educational institutions, jails and other public places to be organized to familiarize the students, inmates and others with principles of Gandhian philosophy. These camps should also focus on national integrity and duties of citizens towards Nation and society.</p>
03-10-2025	Friday	<p>Legal Awareness Camps on Public Utility Services</p> <p>Meeting of the Monitoring Committee with regard to Compensation of Victims of Hit and Run Motor Accidents Scheme, 2022</p>

04-10-2025	Saturday	<p>Meeting of the DLSA Secretaries with the Member Secretary, RSLSA regarding programs to be conducted in the coming month in compliance with the Action Plan</p> <p>Visit of Observation Homes/Special Homes/Place of Safety by Legal Awareness Teams in compliance of directions issued by RSLSA from time to time for welfare of Inmates and Children in conflict with law.</p>
06-10-2025	Monday	Organize legal literacy camps on ill effects of Child Marriage like Interrupted Education of Child, Early Pregnancy and Maternal Health Issues, Mental Health Issues, Domestic Violence and Exploitation and Forced Labor.
07-10-2025	Tuesday	Meeting of Empowered Committee with regard to Support to Poor Prisoners Scheme
08-10-2025	Wednesday	<p>Legal awareness programmes related to -</p> <p>NALSA (Effective Implementation of Poverty Alleviation Schemes Scheme, 2015</p> <p>NALSA (Protection and Enforcement of Tribal Rights) Scheme, 2015.</p> <p>NALSA (Legal Services to Victims of Acid Attacks) Scheme, 2016.</p> <p>NALSA (Child friendly legal services for Children) Scheme, 2024</p> <p>Rajasthan Victim Compensation Scheme, 2011.</p>
09-10-2025	Thursday	Jail Inspection by Team of Visitors (Secretary, DLSA, Panel Advocate and Woman Panel Advocate)

10-10-2025	Friday	Observance of World Mental Health Day Besides regular activities as performed in previous years, special legal awareness programmes related NALSA (Legal Services to Persons with Mental Illness and Persons with Intellectual Disabilities) Scheme, 2024 and Mental Health Care Act, 2017. In these programmes, emphasis should be on myths and superstitions like witchcraft, evil eye etc. prevailing in society regarding mental illness and to motivate the public at large to adopt scientific treatment of mental illnesses.
13-10-2025	Monday	RSLSA to conduct Pre review of UNDER TRIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE (UTRC) meeting with DLSA Legal Awareness Program on Cyber Crimes
14-10-2025	Tuesday	Organise a special awareness/sensitization programme for Specially abled persons.
15-10-2025	Wednesday	Meeting of the UNDER-TRIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE (UTRC) Awareness program regarding Environment Protection and Pollution Control/Tree plantation drive
16-10-2025	Thursday	Monthly Inspection of Nari Niketan by Secretary, DLSA Meeting of District Child Victims Compensation Assistance Committee and Meeting of Monitoring and Mentoring Committee

17-10-2025	Friday	Visit of Old Age Homes by Secretary, DLSA (Two Panel Advocates and Two PLVs) at District & Taluka Headquarters. Visit of Children Home & Observation Home by Secretary, DLSA
24-10-2025	Friday	Meeting of PLVs and other functionaries associated with legal services to be organized by DLSAs & TLSCs for the effective implementation of Legal Services Programme.
27-10-2025	Monday	RSLSA to conduct Post review of UNDER TRIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE (UTRC) meeting with DLSA Legal Awareness Program on Drug Abuse
28-10-2025	Tuesday	Monthly Inspection of One Stop Crisis Centre by Secretary, DLSA Review Meeting of LADCs with their respective DLSA secretaries
29-10-2025	Wednesday	Legal Awareness Program on Fundamental Rights and Fundamental Duties
30-10-2025	Thursday	Organize legal literacy camps on ill effects of Early Pregnancy and Maternal Health Issues, Mental Health Issues, Domestic Violence and Exploitation and Forced Labor
31-10-2025	Friday	Special Awareness program on Mental Health

Important Note: Jail Inspections shall be conducted weekly and monthly by Secretary DLSA along with a team of visitors (LADC, Panel Advocate, PLV, etc)

ACTION PLAN NOVEMBER, 2025

CONSTITUTIONAL GOALS: THE FOUNDATION OF SOCIAL JUSTICE



Constitutional Goals

The Foundation of Social Justice

The term 'social justice' was used to emphasize equal distribution of resources. But now-a-days the term is used in a much broader sense. It implies equitable distribution of resources along with equality of treatment and opportunity to all without any consideration of factors like caste, class, religion, gender, origin or any of the factors that divide the society.

Opposing, it doesn't mean that special provisions made for those in need of development will amount to breach of the rule of social justice. Rather it is an enabling aspect of the concept of social justice. Thus, social justice is not an 'us versus them' rather it is a 'we are in it together' mentality. It is the identification of where our privileges intersect with somebody else's oppression. Social justice takes within its sweep the objective of removing all inequalities and affording equal opportunities to all citizens in social affairs as well as economic activities.

Indian constitution is the world's lengthiest written constitution stressing principles of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity. The Constituent Assembly made deliberations and laid the foundation of a sovereign, socialist, secular and democratic republic.

Objectives of The Constitution to uphold Social Justice:

- To achieve the goal of social harmony through removal of inequalities and change in social order
- To meet the challenge of socio-economic inequality by rule of law
- To achieve economic justice without any violent conflict
- To eradicate challenges of casteism, untouchability, and other discrimination in society
- To ensure life to be meaningful and livable with human dignity.

“Liberty, equality, and fraternity are not to be treated as separate items in a trinity. They form a union of trinity in the sense that to divorce one from the other is to defeat the very purpose of democracy” – Dr BR Ambedkar

Provisions of the Indian Constitution:

The Preamble

The Preamble of the Constitution of India is a profound declaration of the country's guiding principles and objectives. It serves as the soul of the Constitution, reflecting the vision of the framers for a just, equitable, and inclusive society. Among its many facets, the emphasis on social justice stands out as a cornerstone, reaffirming India's commitment to ensuring fairness, equality, and dignity for all its citizens.

The Preamble begins by declaring India to be a "Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic Republic." The term "Socialist" embodies the principles of social and economic justice. It mandates the reduction of socio-economic inequalities, ensuring equitable distribution of resources, and empowering marginalized communities. While India's socialism is democratic, not doctrinaire, it envisions a welfare state where social justice forms the bedrock of governance. The Preamble proclaims the resolve of the people to secure "Justice - social, economic, and political" for all. Social justice implies the abolition of systemic barriers that have historically marginalized certain sections of society, such as caste, class, gender, and religion. It seeks to eliminate discrimination and provide every individual with equal opportunities to lead a life.

The Preamble of the Constitution of India embodies the essence of social justice as a fundamental goal. It envisions a society free from discrimination, inequality, and exploitation, where every individual enjoys equal opportunities and a life of dignity. By prioritizing social justice, the Preamble establishes the foundation for a harmonious and inclusive India, committed to upholding the values of equity, liberty, and fraternity. This enduring vision continues to guide the nation in its pursuit of a fair and just society.

Right to Equality

The Right to Equality enshrined in the Constitution of India is a fundamental pillar that upholds the principle of social justice. Spanning Articles 14 to 18 in Part II of the Constitution, it aims to eradicate discrimination, promote equal opportunities, and ensure that all

individuals are treated with dignity and fairness. This right directly corresponds with the objective of creating a socially just society, as envisioned in the Preamble, which resolves to secure justice and equality for all citizens.

Article 14: Equality Before Law and Equal Protection of Laws

Article 14 guarantees equality before the law and equal protection of the laws within the territory of India. Equality before the law means that no individual is above the law, irrespective of their social, economic, or political status. Equal protection of the laws ensures that all individuals are treated equally in similar circumstances. Together, these provisions form the bedrock of social justice by ensuring fairness and impartiality in the legal system, empowering marginalized communities to seek justice on an equal footing with others.

Article 15: Prohibition of Discrimination

Article 15 explicitly prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth. However, it also allows the state to make special provisions for women, children, Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), and socially and educationally backward classes. This affirmative action aligns with the principle of social justice, as it recognizes that equality is not just about treating everyone the same but about addressing historical injustices and systemic disadvantages faced by certain groups.

Article 16: Equality of Opportunity in Public Employment

Article 16 guarantees equality of opportunity in matters of public employment and prohibits discrimination based on religion, race, caste, sex, descent, place of birth, or residence. Like Article 15, it provides for reservation policies to ensure adequate representation of SCs, STs, and other backward classes in public services. By enabling these groups to access opportunities previously denied to them, the constitution promotes substantive equality, a key component of social justice.

Article 17: Abolition of Untouchability

Article 17 abolishes untouchability in all its forms and makes its practice a punishable offense. This provision is crucial for achieving social justice, as it seeks to dismantle caste-based discrimination and restore the dignity of individuals belonging to marginalized communities. The abolition of untouchability is a significant step toward creating an inclusive society.

Article 41: Right to work, to education and to public assistance in certain cases

The State shall provide the right to work, education, and public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness, and disablement.

Directive Principles of State Policy

The Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSPs) in Part IV of the Constitution of India correspond to various Articles aimed at achieving social justice. These principles guide the state to create an equitable society and improve the welfare of people, particularly the disadvantaged. The Articles related to Social Justice are:

Article 38: State to secure a social order for the promotion of welfare of the people

- The State shall strive to promote the welfare of the people by securing and protecting a social order in which justice- social, economic, and political- shall inform all institutions of national life.
- The State shall reduce inequalities in income, status, facilities, and opportunities.

Article 39: Certain principles of policy to be followed by the state

The State shall direct its policy towards securing:

- Equal right to adequate means of livelihood for all citizens.
- Equitable distribution of material resources to serve the common good,
- Prevention of concentration of wealth and means of production to the detriment of society.
- Equal pay for equal work for men and women.

- Protection of the health and strength of workers and children from exploitation.

Article 39A: Equal Justice and Free legal Aid

Article 39A of the Indian Constitution emphasizes equal justice and free legal aid as a Directive Principle of State Policy. It mandates the state to ensure that justice is not denied to any citizen due to economic or other disabilities. It highlights the role of the state in providing free legal aid and promoting an equitable legal system.

The State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs) are established under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, to implement Article 39A. Key functions of SLSAs include:

- Providing free legal aid to the marginalized sections, including Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, women, children, and economically weaker sections.
- Promoting awareness about legal rights and remedies among citizens.

Impact of Article 39A ensures access to justice for underprivileged groups it helps in reducing the burden on courts through alternative dispute resolution mechanisms. And bridges the gap between the right to equality (Article 14) and justice for all by providing resources for fair representation. In essence, Article 39A and SLSAs collectively work towards achieving social justice and fulfilling the constitutional mandate of an equitable legal framework.



Fundamental Duties

The Fundamental Duties, enshrined in Article 51A of the Indian Constitution, align with the ideals of social justice by emphasizing the responsibilities of citizens in creating a fair, inclusive, and just society. These duties aim to foster a sense of collective responsibility and ensure harmony among groups.

Key Fundamental Duties Linked to Social Justice

Article 51A(b):

- Duty to cherish and follow the noble ideals of the freedom struggle.
- Promotes equality and justice, as the freedom struggle was rooted in these principles.

Article 51A(c):

- Duty to uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity, and integrity of India
- Encourages citizens to work towards a united society, which is essential for social justice.

Article 51A(d):

- Duty to defend the country and render national service
- Calls for collective action in ensuring the welfare and protection of all citizens.

Article 51A(e):

- Duty to promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood.
- Focuses on eradicating social discrimination based on religion, caste, language, or gender.
- Strengthens the constitutional mandate of social justice by promoting inclusivity and equity.

Article 51A(f):

- Duty to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture

- Ensures respect for diversity, which is integral to social harmony and justice.

Article 51A(g):

- Duty to protect and improve the environment
- Safeguards the rights of future generations, particularly marginalized groups, ensuring environmental justice

Article 51A(h):

- Duty to develop scientific temper, humanism, and the spirit of inquiry.
- Encourages rational thinking and humanism, reducing social inequalities and superstitions.

Article 51A(i):

- Duty to strive towards excellence in all spheres
- Promotes individual and collective growth, reducing social and economic disparities.

The Legal Services Provided by RLSA:

The definition of "Legal Service" as stated in Section 2(c) of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 includes the rendering of any service in the conduct of any case or other legal proceeding before any court or other authority or tribunal and the giving of advice on any legal matter.

Legal aid services provided by Legal Services Institutions (LSIs) in Rajasthan are aimed at ensuring that justice is accessible to all, especially those who are economically disadvantaged. The provision of legal aid is governed by the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. Here are some key aspects of legal aid services offered by LSAs:

1. Court-based Free Legal Representation

LSAs provide free legal representation to individuals who are unable to afford a lawyer. This includes representation in both civil and criminal cases. Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 sets criteria for eligibility for legal services. This section contemplates that every person who has to file or defend a case shall be entitled to legal services under this

Act if that person is-

- a member of a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe;
- a victim of trafficking in human beings or beggars as referred to in Article 23 of the Constitution of India;
- a woman or a child;
- a person with disability as defined in clause (i) of section 2 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 (1 of 1996);
- a person under circumstances of undeserved want such as being victim of a mass disaster, ethnic violence, caste atrocity, flood, drought, earthquake or industrial disaster;
- an industrial workman;
- in custody, including custody in a protective home within the meaning of clause (g) of section 2 of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act 1956(104 of 1956) or in a juvenile home within the meaning of clause of section 2 of the Juvenile Justice Act, 1986 (53 of 1986) or in a psychiatric hospital or psychiatric nursing home within the meaning of clause (g) of section 2 of the Mental Health Act, 1987 (14 of 1987);
- in receipt of annual income less than Rupees 3,00,000. (Applicant is required to furnish an affidavit to this effect)

2. Lok Adalats

Lok Adalat is the most efficient method to facilitate alternative dispute resolution and amicable settlement of disputes. Participation in Lok Adalats is voluntary, and both parties must agree to the settlement. The emphasis is on resolving disputes amicably. Settlements reached in Lok Adalats are deemed as legal and binding decree of a court. Once an agreement is reached, it has the same enforceability as a decree of a civil court. In Lok Adalats cases are resolved swiftly, providing relief to litigants who may otherwise face prolonged legal battles. The process of Lok Adalats is cost-effective and promotes the culture of alternative dispute resolution and amicable settlement of disputes.

Presently these Lok Adalats are conducted in three forms:

(a) Permanent Lok Adalat

Permanent Lok Adalats have been set up under section 22b of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 as permanent bodies with a Chairman and two members for providing a compulsory pre-litigation mechanism for conciliation and settlement of cases relating to Public Utility Services like transport, postal, telegraph etc. Currently in 24 Districts of Rajasthan Permanent Lok Adalats have been established as full-time separate bodies and in the remaining 12 districts charge of PLA is given to the concerned District Judges.

(b) National Lok Adalats

National Lok Adalats are organized by the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) in collaboration with State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs) and District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs). National Lok Adalat is a multi-tier structure organized simultaneously across the country. Lok Adalats operate at various levels, including the national, state, district and taluka levels. The composition of benches of the Lok Adalat consists of judicial officers, legal professionals, and social workers who serve as conciliators and mediators. These Lok Adalats deal with a broad range of cases, including Civil cases related to property disputes, recovery of dues, and other civil compoundable matters, Criminal compoundable cases, i.e., cases where the parties can reach a compromise, cases involving matrimonial and family disputes including, maintenance and child custody matters, cases related to motor accident claims, revenue matters and all other compoundable cases.

3. Financial Assistance (Victim Compensation)

Section 357A of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) provides for the establishment of a Victim Compensation Scheme. This section emphasizes the rights of victims to receive compensation for the losses or injuries suffered as a result of a crime. In Rajasthan, victim compensation is typically administered under the Rajasthan Victim Compensation Scheme, 2011 (RVCS-2011). The scheme is designed to provide financial assistance and support to victims of various crimes. The scheme applies to victims of

various crimes, including loss of life, rape, acid attacks, and other offences mentioned in the schedule. Victims may be eligible for financial assistance to cover medical expenses, rehabilitation costs, loss of earnings, and other related expenses.

4. Legal Awareness Programs

LSIs organize legal awareness programs to educate people about their rights and entitlements under the law. This includes conducting legal literacy camps, workshops, seminars, and other outreach activities. Mobile Legal Aid Units (Mobile vans) are also operated to reach remote and underserved areas, providing legal assistance to people who may face challenges in accessing legal services.

5. Awareness of Government Schemes

Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority (RSLSA) and subordinate LSIs play a crucial role in creating awareness about various government welfare schemes as well. Their efforts are geared toward ensuring that individuals, especially those from marginalized and economically weaker sections of society, are informed about the benefits and opportunities provided by these schemes. LSI's teams across Rajasthan work tirelessly to create awareness about various government welfare schemes and programmes, ensuring that eligible individuals can benefit from them.

6. Legal Aid Clinics

Legal Aid Clinics play a crucial role in providing accessible legal services to individuals. These clinics are established by Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority (RSLSA) all across Rajasthan to promote legal awareness, ensure legal assistance, and bridging the gap between the legal system and marginalized communities. Legal aid services are extended to individuals in prisons through establishing Legal Aid Clinics to ensure that the legal rights of prisoners or inmates are protected, and they receive fair representation.

7. ADR Mechanism (Mediation and Conciliation)

Mediation and conciliation are alternative dispute resolution (ADR) processes used to resolve conflicts and disputes outside the traditional court system. These methods are designed to encourage communication,

negotiation, and voluntary agreement between parties involved in a dispute. Both mediation and conciliation offer advantages over traditional litigation, including cost-effectiveness, timeliness, and preservation of relationships. These methods are particularly beneficial when parties wish to maintain control over the resolution process and seek solutions that meet their unique needs and interests. RLSA provides mediation services across Rajasthan through Trained Mediators.

8. Support for Marginalized Groups

RLSA and Subordinate units (DLSAs and TLSCs) focus on providing legal aid support through support persons and PLVs to marginalized and vulnerable groups, including women, children, senior citizens, members of scheduled castes and tribes, and mentally ill people.

9. Online Portals and Websites

RLSA maintains its official website www.rlsa.gov.in, where detailed information about the activities of RLSA is available. This website serves as a resource module for individuals seeking information. Apart from this RLSA has launched its mobile App 'Nyay Ro Sathi' which allows access to all the legal services available on the user's palms.

10. Campaign for Spreading Awareness about Legal Services

These legal aid services aim to bridge the gap between the marginalized and the legal system, ensuring that justice is not denied to anyone due to financial constraints. Legal services are most effective when coupled with a well-informed and aware citizenry. Without awareness, individuals may not fully understand their rights, how to access legal services, or how to navigate the legal system. Legal awareness becomes a catalyst for individuals to make informed decisions, seek appropriate legal assistance, and actively engage with the legal processes.

Spreading awareness about legal aid services involves engaging in various activities to reach different segments of the population. Here are several activities that are to be undertaken to effectively communicate information about legal aid services by all DLSAs with collaboration of TLSCs, Panel lawyers, Pro Bono lawyers, PLVs, NGOs and Local administration:

- **Legal Awareness Campaigns in Urban and Rural Areas:** Conduct targeted awareness campaigns in rural and remote areas, utilizing local community centres, village gatherings, and mobile legal aid units. During these awareness programmes special focus shall be given to the:
 - Free Legal aid
 - Awareness about general laws/ welfare schemes
 - ADR mechanism
- **Legal Workshops and Seminars:** Organize workshops and seminars in community centres, schools and colleges to educate people about their legal rights and the availability of legal aid services.
- **Collaborate with Local Organizations:** Partner with local NGOs, community groups, and civic organizations to reach a wider audience. Collaborative efforts can amplify the impact of awareness campaigns.
- **Street Plays and Drama Performances:** Use Street plays, skits, and drama performances to convey legal concepts in an entertaining and engaging manner. This can be particularly effective in public spaces.
- **Legal Aid 24x7 Helpline 15100:** NALSA has established the all-India legal aid helpline 15100 to which individuals can call to get information about legal aid services, ask questions, and seek legal services. It is the duty of LSIs, working in Rajasthan, to reach this helpline number to every person residing even those far-flung.
- **Mobile Legal Aid Units (Mobile vans):** Deploy mobile vans to travel to different neighbourhoods and provide on-the-spot legal consultations. This is particularly useful for reaching areas with limited access to legal services.
- **Digital Awareness Campaign:** Launch a digital awareness campaign using social media platforms. Share informative posts, graphics, and videos to reach a broader online audience.

- **Awareness through Radio and Television:** Utilize local radio and television stations to broadcast public service announcements and interviews with legal professionals discussing legal aid services.
- **Distribution of Informational Material:** Print and distribute pamphlets, brochures, and posters that explain legal aid services, eligibility criteria, and how individuals can access assistance.
- **School and College Programmes:** Conduct awareness programs in schools and colleges, educating students about legal aid services and encouraging them to share the information with their families.
- **Legal Aid Awareness Campaigns during Events:** Participate in local events, fairs, and festivals to set up awareness booths, distribute information, and interact with the community.
- **Collaborate with Legal Professionals:** Collaborate with local lawyers and legal professionals to conduct pro-bono legal clinics where individuals can receive initial legal advice.

In India, National Legal Services Day is observed on November 9th every year. This day is celebrated to commemorate the enactment of the Legal Services Authorities Act 1987, which came into effect on this day. The objective of National Legal Services Day is to raise awareness about the importance of providing free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of society.



CALENDAR FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2025

01-11-2025	Saturday	Meeting of the DLSA Secretaries with the Member Secretary, RLSA regarding programs to be conducted in the coming month in compliance with the Action Plan
03-11-2025	Monday	Legal Awareness Camps on Public Utility Services
04-11-2025	Tuesday	Visit of Observation Homes/Special Homes/Place of Safety by Legal Awareness Teams in compliance of directions issued by RLSA from time to time for welfare of Inmates and Children in conflict with law.
06-11-2025	Thursday	Meeting of Empowered Committee with regard to Support to Poor Prisoners Scheme
07-11-2025	Friday	Organize legal literacy camps on ill effects of Child Marriage like Interrupted Education of Child, Early Pregnancy and Maternal Health Issues, Mental Health Issues, Domestic Violence and Exploitation and Forced Labor.
09-11-2025	Sunday	Celebrating Legal Services Day Celebrating Legal Services Week on the occasion of Legal Services Day (09.11.2025) at large scale with coordination of various departments of government and organizing awareness camps in jails, schools, colleges, educational institutions and other public places on significance of Legal Services to uphold the rule of law and its Constitutional aspects including spreading awareness about activities and schemes run by NALSA & RLSA.

10-11-2025	Monday	Jail Inspection by Team of Visitors (Secretary, DLSA, Panel Advocate and Woman Panel Advocate)
11-11-2025	Tuesday	National Education Day To organize legal literacy camps on large scale in coordination with education department to emphasize the need of education for children from rural area in the line with programme of "Education for all" (सर्व शिक्षा अभियान) on the occasion of National Education Day.
12-11-2025	Wednesday	Legal awareness programmes related to - NALSA (Effective Implementation of Poverty Alleviation Schemes Scheme, 2015 NALSA (Protection and Enforcement of Tribal Rights) Scheme, 2015. NALSA (Legal Services to Victims of Acid Attacks) Scheme, 2016. NALSA (Child friendly legal services for Children) Scheme, 2024 Rajasthan Victim Compensation Scheme, 2011.
13-11-2025	Thursday	DLSA shall organise awareness camps to sensitize authorities/management/employers, employees and adolescent groups with provisions of the POSH act
14-11-2025	Friday	Observance of "National Children's Day" - Special programmes to be organized in schools at mass level dedicated for spreading positive ambience among Children and to make them feel a significant part of the society free from all evils.

15-11-2025	Saturday	Monthly Inspection of Nari Niketan by Secretary, DLSA
17-11-2025	Monday	Organise a special awareness/sensitization programme for Specially abled persons.
18-11-2025	Tuesday	Visit of Old Age Homes by Secretary, DLSA (Two Panel Advocates and Two PLVs) at District & Taluka Headquarters. Visit of Children Home & Observation Home by Secretary, DLSA
19-11-2025	Wednesday	Organize legal literacy camps on ill effects of Early Pregnancy and Maternal Health Issues, Mental Health Issues, Domestic Violence and Exploitation and Forced Labor
20-11-2025	Thursday	Awareness program regarding Environment Protection and Pollution Control/Tree plantation drive
21-11-2025	Friday	Meeting of District Child Victims Compensation Assistance Committee and Meeting of Monitoring and Mentoring Committee
24-11-2025	Monday	Special Awareness program on Rights of Tribal People
25-11-2025	Tuesday	Meeting of PLVs and other functionaries associated with legal services to be organized by DLSAs & TLSCs for the effective implementation of Legal Services Programme.
26-11-2025	Wednesday	Observance of National Law Day/Constitution Day: Seminars shall be organized on Right to Education, other Fundamental Rights and Constitutional empowerment.

27-11-2025	Thursday	Legal Awareness Program on Drug Abuse Review Meeting of LADCs with their respective DLSA secretaries
28-11-2025	Friday	Monthly Inspection of One Stop Crisis Centre by Secretary, DLSA
29-11-2025	Saturday	Legal Awareness Program on Fundamental Rights and Fundamental Duties

Important Note: Jail Inspections shall be conducted weekly and monthly by Secretary DLSA along with a team of visitors (LADC, Panel Advocate, PLV, etc)

ACTION PLAN DECEMBER, 2025

EMPOWERING ABILITIES: RIGHTS AND CHALLENGES OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES



Empowering Abilities

Rights and Challenges of Persons with Disabilities

Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) refer to individuals who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory impairments that may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others. Disabilities can be categorized into various types, including physical, visual, hearing, intellectual, and psychosocial impairments. World Health Organization (WHO) defines disability as impairment, limitation, or restriction in activity caused mainly by health issues and environmental factors.

Assistive technologies, inclusive infrastructure, and legal frameworks like the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (2016) in India aim to enhance their quality of life and enable them to contribute meaningfully to society.

The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities in the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment aims to facilitate empowerment of the Persons with Disabilities. As per Census 2011, the number of Persons with Disabilities in the country are 2.68 crore, which is 2.21 percent of the total population of the Country. As per the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016, there are 21 types of Disabilities which includes Locomotor Disability, Visual Impairment, Hearing Impairment, Speech & Language Disability, Intellectual Disability, Multiple Disabilities, Cerebral Palsy, Dwarfism etc.

According to the 2011 Census data, Rajasthan has approximately 15 lakh people with disabilities, with a significant portion of them being children, primarily located in rural areas; this represents around 2% of the state's total population, with data suggesting underreporting of disability cases in the state.

“Concentrate on the abilities your disability doesn't hinder and don't dwell on the things it interferes with. Be disabled physically, not in spirit” - Stephen Hawking.

¹⁷<https://censusindia.gov.in/nada/index.php/catalog/43469>

¹⁸<https://www.census2011.co.in/data/disability/state/8-rajasthan.html>

Challenges Faced by Persons with Disabilities

People with disabilities face numerous challenges that hinder their independence and overall well-being. Limited accessibility to public spaces, transportation, and buildings remains a persistent issue, as inadequate infrastructure and the lack of universally designed environments create obstacles that restrict mobility and independence. Social stigma and discrimination further exacerbate these challenges, with prejudice and misconceptions about disabilities leading to social marginalization. Stereotypes often hinder opportunities for education, employment, and social integration, perpetuating a cycle of exclusion. Inaccessible facilities, a lack of appropriate accommodations, and a shortage of trained educators make it difficult for students with disabilities to thrive academically.

In the job market, individuals with disabilities encounter significant employment disparities. Discrimination, inaccessible workplaces, and inadequate accommodations limit their opportunities for meaningful employment, requiring coordinated efforts from employers and policymakers to address these issues. Physical inaccessibility of medical facilities, lack of accessible information, and neglect of specific healthcare needs compromise the quality of care available to people with disabilities. Additionally, financial strains are a common challenge, with the costs of medical treatments, assistive devices, and specialized care placing an economic burden on individuals and their families.

In today's digital world and ever evolving technologies, technological gaps further limit the empowerment of individuals with disabilities, as assistive technologies are often expensive and not readily accessible, preventing many from benefiting from advancements that could enhance their quality of life. Transportation challenges also remain significant, with public transportation systems frequently lacking accommodations such as wheelchair ramps and audible announcements, making independent mobility difficult. Many individuals experience higher rates of depression, anxiety, and social isolation, underscoring the need for mental health support tailored to their unique challenges.

"We must be treated as equals – and communication is the way we can bring this about." – Louis Braille

Legislations for Specially Abled Persons

The Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987: The Act constitutes legal services institutions at the National, State, District and Taluka levels to provide free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society, to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities.

As per Section 12 (d) of the LSA Act, for all persons who are in custody in a psychiatric hospital or psychiatric nursing home, legal Services Institutions (LSIs) working under the aegis of NALSA, viz. the State Legal Services Authorities (SLSA), Supreme Court Legal Services Committees (SCLSC), High Court Legal Services Committees (HCLSC), District Legal Service Authorities (DLSA), Taluka Legal Services Committees (TLSC), thus, have a statutory obligation to provide free and competent legal services to persons with mental illness and persons with intellectual disabilities, whenever a need arises or legal assistance is specifically sought by or on behalf of such persons.

Right of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 - The Act replaces the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995.

- "Person with disability" means a person with long term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which, in interaction with barriers, hinders his full and effective participation in society equally with others.
- "Person with benchmark disability" means a person with not less than 40% of a specified disability where specified disability has not been defined in measurable terms and includes a person with a disability where specified disability has been defined in measurable terms, as certified by the certifying authority.
- The types of disabilities have been increased from 7 to 21. The act added mental illness, autism, spectrum disorder, cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, chronic neurological conditions, speech and language disability, thalassemia, haemophilia, sickle cell disease, multiple disabilities including deaf blindness, acid attack victims and Parkinson's disease which were largely ignored in earlier act.

In addition, the Government has been authorized to notify any other category of specified disability.

- It increases the quantum of reservation for people suffering from disabilities from 3% to 4% in government jobs and from 3% to 5% in higher education institutes.
- Stress has been given to ensure accessibility in public buildings in a prescribed time frame along with Accessible India Campaign.
- The Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities and the State Commissioners will act as regulatory bodies and Grievance Redressal agencies, monitoring implementation of the Act.
- A separate National and State Fund be created to provide financial support to persons with disabilities.
- The Act provides for grant of guardianship by District Court under which there will be joint decision – making between the guardian and the persons with disabilities.
- The Act provides for penalties for offences committed against persons with disabilities and also violation of the provisions of the new law.

Disabled Population by Sex and Residence India : 2001-11



Disabled Population by Sex and Residence
India, 2011
(In millions)

Residence	Persons	Males	Females
Total	26.8	18.6	8.2
Rural	15.0	10.4	4.6
Urban	11.8	8.2	3.6

Decadal Change in Disabled Population
by Sex and Residence, India, 2001-11

Residence	Absolute Increase (Millions)			Percentage Decadal Growth		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
Total	4.9	2.4	2.5	22.4	18.9	27.2
Rural	2.2	1.0	1.2	13.7	10.6	17.9
Urban	2.7	1.4	1.3	48.2	43.3	55.0

Source: C-Series, Table C-30, Census of India 2001 and 2011

Government schemes to aid Persons with Disability

Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase / Fitting of Aids and Appliances

ADIP Scheme is in operation since 1981 with the main objective to assist the needy disabled persons in procuring durable, sophisticated and scientifically manufactured, modern, standard aids and appliances that can promote their physical, social and psychological rehabilitation by reducing the effects of disabilities and enhance their economic potential. Assistive devices are given to PwDs with an aim to improve their independent functioning and to arrest the extent of disability and occurrence of secondary disability.

Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme to promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities (DDRS)

DDRS Scheme is a Central Sector Scheme of the Government of India that provides financial assistance to voluntary organizations working for the education and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. The scheme was launched in 1999 and was revised and renamed in 2003.

DDRS provides a wide range of benefits to persons with disabilities, including:

- 1. Early intervention:** The DDRS provides financial assistance to voluntary organizations for early intervention programs for children with disabilities. These programs help to identify and address developmental delays early on, which can improve the child's long-term outcomes.
- 2. Development of daily living skills:** The DDRS provides financial assistance to voluntary organizations for programs that help persons with disabilities to develop the skills they need to live independently. These programs may include training in activities such as cooking, cleaning, and personal care.
- 3. Education:** The DDRS provides financial assistance to voluntary organizations for educational programs for children and adults.

with disabilities. These programs may include mainstream education, special education, and vocational training.

4. **Skill development oriented towards employability:** The DDRS provides financial assistance to voluntary organizations for skill development programs that help persons with disabilities to find employment. These programs may include training in computer skills, office skills, and trade skills.
5. **Training and awareness generation:** The DDRS provides financial assistance to voluntary organizations for training programs for staff and caregivers of persons with disabilities. These programs help to build capacity and raise awareness about disability issues.
6. **Construction and upgradation of infrastructure facilities for persons with disabilities:** The DDRS provides financial assistance to voluntary organizations for the construction and upgradation of infrastructure facilities for persons with disabilities. This may include ramps, accessible toilets etc.

Role of Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority

RSLSA plays a vital role in empowering persons with disabilities (PwDs) by ensuring access to justice and promoting awareness of their rights. We prioritize accessibility and inclusivity by making our facilities, services, and information accessible to PwDs. This includes providing physical accessibility, offering information in accessible formats such as Braille or electronic formats, and ensuring effective communication for individuals with sensory impairments.

To address the unique needs of PwDs, RSLSA offers specialized legal aid and assistance. Experts, well-versed in disability law, guide individuals on issues such as discrimination, accessibility, and accommodations. Organize awareness programs, including workshops, seminars, and informational campaigns, to educate both PwDs and the general public about the rights of persons with disabilities, available legal support services, and avenues for seeking justice. These initiatives help dispel misconceptions and foster a more inclusive understanding of disabilities in society.

RSLSA regularly collaborates with disability advocacy groups and organizations to enhance the effectiveness of our legal services. These partnerships provide valuable insights into the specific needs of PwDs and help us develop targeted awareness and support programs. In addition, it is ensured that legal professionals receive training on disability rights and inclusive legal practices so they can offer effective legal representation to PwDs. In addition to this, RSLSA provides accessible resources and information, using plain language and offering materials in various formats to ensure that all PwDs can understand their legal rights. It actively advocates for policy changes to strengthen disability-related legislation and ensure the enforcement of existing laws that protect the rights of PwDs.

To remove financial barriers, RSLSA offers pro bono services specifically for PwDs, ensuring that financial constraints do not prevent access to justice. Our staff is encouraged to volunteer their expertise in addressing the legal needs of PwDs. We also leverage technology, including online platforms and mobile applications, to enhance the accessibility of legal services, especially for those in remote or underserved areas.

In an effort to reach individuals in far-flung regions, RSLSA deploys mobile vans to offer legal aid, awareness sessions, and counselling to PwDs who face challenges accessing traditional legal services. We also collaborate with TLSCs, NGOs, local administrations, and government officials to organize workshops and seminars that educate individuals with disabilities about their rights and available legal support services. Moreover, legal workshops in schools, colleges, and universities help create a more informed and inclusive society by educating students, teachers, and parents about the rights of PwDs.

RSLSA also conducts periodic legal aid clinics on a rotational basis in each Taluka of the district, particularly in areas with high populations of PwDs. These clinics provide free legal assistance, counselling, and guidance on issues such as discrimination and social welfare entitlements. Our partnerships with NGOs and disability-specific organizations ensure that our legal services reach marginalized

communities, amplifying the impact of our programs. Additionally, we actively participate in government initiatives aimed at disability inclusion, providing input on policy formulation, collaborating on accessibility projects, and integrating the legal perspective into broader disability-related programs. Through these efforts, RSLSA is committed to ensuring equal access to justice for persons with disabilities and fostering a more inclusive society.

The Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority (RSLSA) is committed to empowering children with disabilities by providing **scholarships to support their education**. RSLSA provides scholarships of monthly 2500 Rs to 100 differently abled students between the age of 6-18. These scholarships help reduce financial barriers, ensuring that children with special needs have access to quality learning opportunities. By facilitating financial aid, RSLSA promotes inclusive education and enables children to achieve their academic potential without economic constraints.

In addition to educational support, **RSLSA organized sports day in the month of September-October 2024** for children with disabilities, fostering a spirit of inclusivity and empowerment. These events provide a platform for children to showcase their abilities, build confidence, and engage in physical activities adapted to their needs. By promoting sports and recreational activities, RSLSA not only encourages their overall development but also spreads awareness about the importance of equal opportunities for all children.

"Once we accept our limits, we can surpass them."
– Albert Einstein

CALENDAR FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2025

01-12-2025	Monday	<p>Meeting of the DLSA Secretaries with the Member Secretary, RLSA regarding programs to be conducted in the coming month in compliance with the Action Plan</p> <p>Observance of World AIDS day</p> <p>Awareness programmes be organized to make the public at large aware of cause and serious consequences of AIDS including legal rights of AIDS victims and duties of family members towards them. Issues related to Transgender and Kinnars (Hijras) may also be included in these programmes.</p> <p>Awareness Programme: The Legal rights of persons affected with HIV/AIDS. Legal literacy classes on Human rights, and Awareness classes on the rights of disabled persons.</p>
02-12-2025	Tuesday	<p>Meeting of the Monitoring Committee with regard to Compensation of Victims of Hit and Run Motor Accidents Scheme, 2022</p>
03-12-2025	Wednesday	<p>Observance of International Day of Persons with Disabilities-</p> <p>To organize Legal Literacy camps, workshop, seminar, etc. creating awareness about legal rights of differently abled persons. Special campaign to be launched to reach out to them to ensure providing benefit of welfare schemes of the Govt.</p>
04-12-2025	Thursday	<p>Meeting of Empowered Committee with regard to Support to Poor Prisoners Scheme</p>

05-12-2025	Friday	Visit of Observation Homes/Special Homes/Place of Safety by Legal Awareness Teams in compliance of directions issued by RLSA from time to time for welfare of Inmates and Children in conflict with law.
06-12-2025	Saturday	Organize legal literacy camps on ill effects of Child Marriage like Interrupted Education of Child, Early Pregnancy and Maternal Health Issues, Mental Health Issues, Domestic Violence and Exploitation and Forced Labor.
08-12-2025	Monday	Legal Awareness Camps on Public Utility Services
09-12-2025	Tuesday	Jail Inspection by Team of Visitors (Secretary, DLSA, Panel Advocate and Woman Panel Advocate)
10-12-2025	Wednesday	Observance of Human Rights Day- Special programmes be organized in Jails, schools, colleges and other public places for awareness of human rights. These programmes should focus on observance of fundamental duties, dignified behavior with all who come in contact and adherence of minimum courtesy in interacting with each other.
11-12-2025	Thursday	Legal awareness programmes related to - NALSA (Effective Implementation of Poverty Alleviation Schemes Scheme, 2015 NALSA (Protection and Enforcement of Tribal Rights) Scheme, 2015. NALSA (Legal Services to Victims of Acid Attacks) Scheme, 2016. NALSA (Child friendly legal services for Children) Scheme, 2024 Rajasthan Victim Compensation Scheme, 2011.

12-12-2025	Friday	Legal Awareness Program on Cyber Crimes
13-12-2025	Saturday	NATIONAL LOK ADALAT
15-12-2025	Monday	Awareness program regarding Environment Protection and Pollution Control/Tree plantation drive
16-12-2025	Tuesday	Monthly Inspection of Nari Niketan by Secretary, DLSA
17-12-2025	Wednesday	Special Awareness program on Mental Health
18-12-2025	Thursday	Visit of Old Age Homes by Secretary, DLSA (Two Panel Advocates and Two PLVs) at District & Taluka Headquarters. Visit of Children Home & Observation Home by Secretary, DLSA
19-12-2025	Friday	Special Awareness program on Rights of Tribal People
20-12-2025	Saturday	Meeting of District Child Victims Compensation Assistance Committee and Meeting of Monitoring and Mentoring Committee
22-12-2025	Monday	Special Awareness program on Rights of Senior Citizens
23-12-2025	Tuesday	Review Meeting of LADCs with their respective DLSA secretaries
24-12-2025	Wednesday	National Consumer Rights Day Consumer Rights Workshops: Organize workshops or seminars to educate consumers about their rights, responsibilities, and avenues for redress in case of grievances. Invite legal experts, consumer rights activists, and representatives from consumer protection agencies to provide insights and guidance.

		<p>Consumer Rights Awareness Campaign: Launch a public awareness campaign through social media, radio, television, and print media to highlight key consumer rights issues, share tips for responsible consumer behaviour, and promote consumer protection resources. Partner with local media influencers and campaigns raising awareness about consumer rights and available legal resources.</p> <p>Competitions Activities: Organize competitions for students and youth to write essays or create posters highlighting the importance of consumer rights protection. Award prizes and recognition to winners to incentivize participation and creativity.</p>
25-12-2025	Thursday	Meeting of PLVs and other functionaries associated with legal services to be organized by DLSAs & TLSCs for the effective implementation of Legal Services Programme.
26-12-2025	Friday	Monthly Inspection of One Stop Crisis Centre by Secretary, DLSA
29-12-2025	Monday	Legal Awareness Program on Drug Abuse
30-12-2025	Tuesday	Special Awareness program on Prisoners' Rights
31-12-2025	Wednesday	Organize legal literacy camps on ill effects of Early Pregnancy and Maternal Health Issues, Mental Health Issues, Domestic Violence and Exploitation and Forced Labor

Important Note: Jail Inspections shall be conducted weekly and monthly by Secretary DLSA along with a team of visitors (LADC, Panel Advocate, PLV, etc)

ACTION PLAN

JANUARY, 2026

SECURING CHILDHOOD: PROTECTING RIGHTS AND BUILDING FUTURE



Securing Childhood

Protecting Rights and Building Futures

Children represent the most vulnerable segment of society, requiring dedicated protection and care to ensure their physical, emotional, and psychological wellbeing. Unfortunately, offences against children continue to be a serious and widespread issue around the world, with millions of minors subjected to various forms of abuse, exploitation, and neglect every year. India, as one of the most populous and diverse countries, faces unique challenges in safeguarding its young population from a wide range of crimes.

India is home to over 47.2 crore children, constituting nearly 39% of its population. Despite this demographic advantage, children in India face multiple challenges such as poverty, lack of access to quality education, malnutrition, child labour, abuse, and exploitation. The recognition of these vulnerabilities has led to the development of an intricate web of laws, policies, and welfare programs aimed at safeguarding children's rights. India's commitment to children's rights extends to its adherence to global standards. The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) program and Mission Vatsalya, aim to holistically address issues like nutrition, health, education, and safety. However, significant challenges remain in the effective implementation of these laws and policies. Issues such as the high incidence of child labour, gender-based discrimination, trafficking, and inadequate child protection mechanisms underscore the need for continuous vigilance, reform, and community participation.

***"The ultimate test of a moral society
is the kind of world that it leaves to its children."
– Pope Francis***

¹⁶<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC2738347/#:~:text=India%20is%20a%20home%20to,section%20is%20always%20the%20children>.

Challenges to Children's Rights

Begging

According to a report by NHRC on India, 40,000 children are abducted each year which means one child goes missing every 8 minutes, over 25% of whom remain untraced. Forced begging offers an important area for the struggle for children's rights because it represents one of the most extreme, yet troubling and commonplace, forms of exploitation of children in the world today.

Child Trafficking

This refers to illegal transportation of children for forced labour, slavery or any other kind of exploitation. Child trafficking is a crime banned under law in every nation of the world; still the practice continues in poor and developing nations. Even trafficking children for the purpose of adoption is a crime. The crime of child trafficking has serious human rights implications and results in mental and physical trauma for the children.

Child Labour

The Child and Adolescent Labor (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 1986 defines a "child" as someone who has not reached the age of 14. Child labour is defined by the International Labour Organization (ILO) as work that robs children of their youth, their potential, and their dignity, as well as harms their physical and mental development.

Educational Challenges

Lack of education in India remains a significant challenge, affecting socio-economic progress and individual empowerment. Despite efforts to improve literacy rates, millions of children, especially in rural and underprivileged areas, lack access to quality education due to poverty, inadequate infrastructure, and social disparities like caste and gender bias. High dropout rates, underqualified teachers, and insufficient funding further exacerbate the issue, leaving many without the skills needed for employment and social mobility.

According to recent data, in India, a significant portion of children do not attend school properly, with estimates suggesting that less than half of children between ages 6 and 14 are enrolled in school, and only about a

third of those who start grade one reach grade eight; this disparity is particularly pronounced in rural areas, where access to education is limited; additionally, dropout rates are high, especially at the secondary level, with a large gender gap in certain regions

Malnutrition

As per World Health Organization (WHO), malnutrition refers to deficiencies, excesses or imbalances in a person's intake of energy and nutrients. It is a condition that arises from inadequate intake of vital nutrients essential for optimal health, growth, and development within an individual's diet. Childhood malnutrition in India is a direct result of both poverty and systemic inequalities. India accounts for nearly 40% of the global poverty rate. This economic hardship is a root cause of malnutrition, leaving 6.2 crore children — 48% of India's child population — living with weak immune systems, higher disease risk, and impaired cognitive development, according to data from the Population Reference Bureau.

Child Sexual Abuse

The World Health Organisation has defined child sexual abuse as the involvement of a child in sexual activity as he or she does not fully comprehend, is unable to give informed consent to, or for which the child is not developmentally prepared and cannot give consent, or that violates the laws or social taboos of society. It includes different sexual activities like fondling, inviting a child to touch or be touched sexually, intercourse, exhibitionism, involving a child in prostitution or pornography, or online child luring by cyber-predators. As per the NCRB data, in 2020, a total of 28.9% of the total child population faced some kind of crime against them but only 65.6% of the total crime committed is reported.

Child Marriage

In India, The Child Marriage (Restraint) Act, 1929 and now the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 has prescribed the age of marriage which is 18 for girls and 21 for boys. Rajasthan records one of the highest numbers of child marriages in the country. Significant efforts are made by the government to curb this evil, and this effort has brought down the numbers in the last few years.

As per (2010-2019) National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) compiled State level data and through its annual reports 'Crime in India':

Child Marriage (District Level Findings)

The prevalence of child marriage differs substantially across districts in Rajasthan. While 12 districts in Rajasthan show higher prevalence of child marriage than the State average, other districts have a relatively lower prevalence. The top three districts with highest prevalence of child marriage amongst girls in the 15-19 years of age group are Bhilwara (36.3%), Chittorgarh (33.3%) and Rajasamand (26%).

Top Three Districts with Highest Prevalence of Child Marriage Amongst Girls in the Age Group 15-19 Years



12 districts in Rajasthan Show Higher Prevalence of Child Marriage than the State Average of 16.2%



Immediate Action in the matters of Child Marriages:

In an emergency, where DLSA receives any complaint of a child marriage, the Secretary, DLSA must take this information in cognizance on a priority basis and immediately take action as per the law. The Secretary shall ensure to take the following action which includes:

- To prevent solemnization of child marriages by taking such action as he may deem fit.
- To ensure the prevention of such marriage practices, advise in individual cases to the parents and relatives of the bride/groom, not to indulge in promoting, helping, aiding or allowing the solemnization of child marriages.

²⁰https://nhrc.nic.in/sites/default/files/AR_2021-2022_EN.pdf

²¹<https://www.prb.org/resources/water-sanitation-hygiene-and-malnutrition-in-india/#:~:text=In%20India%2C%20almost%2062%20million,of%20dying%20before%20age%205.>

²²<https://www.ncrb.gov.in/crime-in-india-year-wise.html?year=2020&keyword=>

(c) In proper individual cases, the Secretary, DLSA shall also ensure the intervention of the District Child Marriage Prohibition Officer, Police and local administration in stopping such child marriage.

(d) The Legal Aid Helpline number 15100 may also be publicised for receiving child marriage complaints though, anyone can file a complaint of child marriage, on 1098 (toll-free number) also, which is available 24/7 and it operates across India.

Recent Supreme Court Judgments Regarding Children's Rights

In Re: Right to Privacy of Adolescents

The Supreme Court of India directed all States and Union Territories to strictly enforce the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 and the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act, 2015 (JJ Act) to enhance the protection of child victims of sexual offenses. The Court emphasized the immediate reporting of offenses to the Child Welfare Committee and the Special Court, as mandated under Section 19(6) of the POCSO Act, ensuring that child victims receive timely intervention and support. It also clarified that, under Section 375 read with Section 376(2)(n) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), the offense is established regardless of any consensual relationship, reinforcing the strict interpretation of laws concerning sexual offenses against minors.

Further, the Court mandated the formation of an expert committee to provide assistance and review support measures for child victims, ensuring a more structured and responsive framework. It also directed States to consider framing rules under Section 46 of the Juvenile Justice Act, which deals with aftercare provisions for children transitioning out of institutional care, securing their rehabilitation and well-being.

Additionally, the Court underscored that failure to provide immediate aid and support to victims under the POCSO Act constitutes a violation of their fundamental rights under Article 21 of the Constitution, emphasizing the necessity of a victim-centric approach in handling such cases. These directives aim to strengthen child protection mechanisms, ensuring swift legal action and comprehensive support for survivors of sexual offenses.

Society for Enlightenment and Voluntary Action & Anr. v. Union of India & Ors.

Supreme Court held that Prohibition of Child Marriage Act cannot be stunted by personal laws and traditions. To strengthen the enforcement of laws against child marriage, the Supreme Court of India issued directives mandating State Governments and Union Territories (UTs) to appoint dedicated Child Marriage Prevention Officers (CMPOs) at the district level. These officers must undergo mandatory training and regular performance reviews to ensure efficiency in their duties. Collectors and Superintendents of Police will be held accountable for actively preventing child marriages in their districts and prosecuting facilitators. The Court further directed states to integrate Special Juvenile Police Units (SJPU) into the child marriage prevention framework for enhanced enforcement. Additionally, a State Special Child Marriage Prohibition Unit must be constituted, comprising CMPOs and social workers with expertise in child rights, to ensure a coordinated and effective approach in tackling child marriages.

The Supreme Court directed the assessment of establishing special fast-track courts to expedite child marriage cases, ensuring swift justice for victims. Furthermore, strict disciplinary and legal action is mandated against public servants who neglect their duties in preventing child marriages. Recognizing that mass weddings on auspicious days are often used to solemnize child marriages, the Court has instructed Magistrates and law enforcement agencies to maintain heightened vigilance and take pre-emptive measures on such occasions.

Community involvement has been emphasized as a crucial component of child marriage prevention. The Supreme Court directed all States and UTs to develop Annual Action Plans with Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to measure progress in eradicating child marriage. A "Child Marriage-Free Village" initiative must be launched, urging Panchayats and local community leaders to actively participate in prevention efforts. Additionally, the Court has mandated regular orientation programs and workshops for all stakeholders to build capacity and ensure culturally sensitive interventions in high-risk areas.

The Court also stressed the importance of public awareness campaigns in eradicating child marriage. CMPOs must conduct regular awareness programs in schools, religious institutions, and Panchayats to educate communities about the legal consequences and social harms of child marriage. Comprehensive sexuality education must be integrated into school curriculum, equipping children with knowledge on their rights and the dangers of early marriage. The Supreme Court has further directed educational materials on child marriage prevention be prominently displayed in schools, public institutions, and community spaces. Targeted community awareness programs, girl empowerment initiatives, and helpline awareness campaigns must also be implemented for effective outreach.

To ensure a well-coordinated response, the Supreme Court mandated specialized training programs for community health workers, law enforcement officers, and judicial personnel to enhance their ability to detect and prevent child marriages. Teachers and school administrators must be trained to recognize warning signs of potential child marriages and report cases to the relevant authorities. Local leaders and community influencers should undergo capacity-building programs to challenge harmful social norms and act as advocates for children's rights. The Court has further directed collaborations with NGOs to facilitate volunteer training and grassroots-level intervention programs aimed at eradicating child marriage through a multi-sectoral approach.



²³8 S.C.R. 575 : 2024 INSC 614 (Suo Motu Writ Petition (Civil) No. 3 of 2023)

²⁴2024 INSC 790

Legal Framework

- Article 21A: The Constitution (Eighty-sixth Amendment) Act, 2002 inserted Article 21-A into the Indian Constitution, making it a Fundamental Right to offer free and compulsory education to all children aged six to fourteen years in such a manner as the State may specify by law.
- Article 23: Prohibition of traffic in human beings and forced labour.
- Article 24: No child below the age of fourteen years shall be employed to work in any factory or mine or engaged in any other hazardous employment.
- Article 39A provides that the State shall secure that the operation of the legal system promotes justice on basis of equal opportunity, and shall, in particular, provide free legal aid, by suitable legislation or schemes or in any other way, to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities.
- Article 39(f) of the Constitution of India states that children should have the opportunity to develop in a healthy way. It also guarantees protection for children and young people from exploitation and abandonment.
- Article 45: Requires the state to provide free and compulsory education for all children from age 6 to 14.
- **The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012:**

This act specifically deals with sexual offenses against children and provides for their protection during investigation and trial.

- **Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015:**

This act focuses on the care, protection, and rehabilitation of children, including provisions for the prevention and control of trafficking.

- **The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006**

Whoever performs, conducts, directs or abets any child marriage shall be punishable with rigorous imprisonment which may extend to two years

and shall be liable to fine which may extend to one lakh rupees unless he proves that he had reasons to believe that the marriage was not a child marriage.

- **The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act or Right to Education Act (RTE)**

The Act describes the modalities of the importance of free and compulsory education for children between 6 and 14 in India under Article 21a of the Indian Constitution. The Act makes education a fundamental right of every child between the ages of 6 and 14 and specifies minimum norms in elementary schools.

Government Schemes Relating to Children's Rights

- **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao:** Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme to address concerns about gender discrimination and women empowerment in the country. The name Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao translates to 'Save the girl child, educate the girl child'. The scheme aims to educate citizens against gender bias and improve the efficacy of welfare services for girls.
- **The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (SMILE-Scheme)** The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has formulated an Umbrella Scheme/Central Sector Scheme Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise (SMILE) which includes sub scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of Begging.
- **Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)** To improve the nutritional and health status of preschool children 0-6 years of age group.
- **Improving Infant & Young Child feeding (IYCF)** To give training to grass root level ICDS functionaries on Infant and young child feeding practices.
- **Mukhyamantri Hunar Vikas Yojna** To promote skill development of

children who are residing in homes, CM Hunar Vikas is being implemented in state.

- **Integrated Child Protection Scheme:** The Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) is a centrally sponsored scheme aimed at building a protective environment for children in difficult circumstances, as well as other vulnerable children, through Government-Civil Society Partnership.
- **Pahal Yojna:** It is an award scheme (PAHAL Scheme) on the lines of Mukhbir Yojana for dissuading violation of child rights. Initial strategy note & Road map has been developed to monitor & provide directions for Protection & Enforcement of Child Rights.
- **Lado Protsahan Yojana** A saving bond of ₹ 100000 will be provided by the state government on the birth of a daughter. Under this, an amount of one lakh rupees will be given to girls in seven instalments till the age of 21 years. This scheme, operated through the Department of Women and Child Development, will benefit daughters born after August 1, 2024.

Schemes of NALSA on children

NALSA (Child-Friendly Legal Services for Children) Scheme 2024

This scheme provides access to a range of services for victims of child marriage, including legal aid, education, medical care, and mental health counselling. It is a significant initiative aimed at safeguarding the legal rights of children and ensuring their access to justice in a child-friendly manner. This scheme focuses on providing legal aid, representation, and support to children in conflict with the law, children in need of care and protection, and other vulnerable children. It emphasizes creating a child-sensitive legal environment, where their voices are heard, and their rights are upheld.

The scheme outlines mechanisms for setting up child-friendly legal aid clinics at the district and taluka levels, ensuring that children can access free and competent legal services without facing intimidation or legal complexities. It advocates for the active involvement of legal services

authorities in collaboration with child welfare committees, juvenile justice boards, and non-governmental organizations to address the unique legal and psychological needs of children.

Additionally, the scheme highlights the importance of capacity-building programs for legal aid lawyers, judicial officers, and law enforcement personnel to sensitize them about child rights and child-centric legal procedures. It promotes the use of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, such as mediation and counselling, in cases involving children to minimize their exposure to adversarial court proceedings.

The scheme also places a strong emphasis on awareness campaigns to educate children, their families, and communities about child rights, legal protections, and available legal aid services. By fostering a supportive legal framework, the NALSA (Child-Friendly Legal Services for Children) Scheme, 2024, aims to create an inclusive and protective legal system that prioritizes the best interests of children and empowers them to seek justice confidently.

Role of Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority

To combat child marriage, child abuse, and child labour, the Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority (RSLSA), along with District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) and Taluka Legal Services Committees (TLSCs), takes proactive steps through awareness, legal enforcement, education, and community engagement.

A child abuse-free society begins with preventive education and legal literacy. RSLSA, in collaboration with DLSAs, NGOs, law enforcement, and community influencers, conducts awareness campaigns in schools, religious institutions, Panchayats, and public spaces. These programs focus on child rights, legal provisions, and the dangers of child marriage, child labour, and abuse. A "Child Marriage-Free Village" initiative will involve community leaders, religious figures, and local influencers in advocating against child marriage and harmful social norms. The use of social media, radio, TV, and digital platforms help spread awareness about the legal and health consequences of child abuse.

To address dropout rates and out-of-school children, special awareness campaigns educate families on the Right to Education (RTE) Act, emphasizing free and compulsory education for children aged 6-14. Incentives like scholarships, vocational training, and financial support encourage girls and economically vulnerable children to stay in school. Economic development programs provide alternative livelihoods for families, reducing financial pressures that contribute to child labour and child marriages.

Legal aid and representation is provided to victims of child abuse, labour, and marriage, ensuring access to justice and protection. Special awareness camps are organized before Akha Teej, Peepal Purnima, and Dev Uthani Ekadashi, when child marriages are most common, to prevent such incidents. Law enforcement, CMPOs, and fast-track courts work together to monitor, report, and take immediate legal action against child marriage and child labour. Support services, including counselling, helplines, and rehabilitation programs, assist victims and their families in coping with the aftermath of abuse. Teachers, healthcare professionals, and police officers are trained to identify and report cases of child abuse, ensuring swift intervention.

Comprehensive surveys identify out-of-school children, victims of child labour, and child abuse hotspots, particularly in factories, construction sites, and informal work sectors. Schools and children's homes are also assessed to ensure safe learning environments with proper sanitation, drinking water, and essential facilities.

"Let us sacrifice our today so that our children can have a better tomorrow." - A.P.J. Abdul Kalam

CALENDAR FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2026

02-01-2026	Friday	Meeting of the DLSA Secretaries with the Member Secretary, RLSA regarding programs to be conducted in the coming month in compliance with the Action Plan Special Awareness program on Fundamental Rights and duties
03-01-2026	Saturday	Organise a special awareness/sensitization programme for Specially abled persons.
05-01-2026	Monday	Visit of Observation Homes/Special Homes/Place of Safety by Legal Awareness Teams in compliance of directions issued by RLSA from time to time for welfare of Inmates and Children in conflict with law.
06-01-2026	Tuesday	Legal awareness programmes related to - NALSA (Effective Implementation of Poverty Alleviation Schemes Scheme, 2015 NALSA (Protection and Enforcement of Tribal Rights) Scheme, 2015. NALSA (Legal Services to Victims of Acid Attacks) Scheme, 2016. NALSA (Child friendly legal services for Children) Scheme, 2024 Rajasthan Victim Compensation Scheme, 2011.
07-01-2026	Wednesday	Organize legal literacy camps on ill effects of Child Marriage like Interrupted Education of Child, Early Pregnancy and Maternal Health Issues, Mental Health Issues, Domestic Violence and Exploitation and Forced Labor.

08-01-2026	Thursday	Legal Awareness Camps on Public Utility Services
09-01-2026	Friday	Jail Inspection by Team of Visitors (Secretary, DLSA, Panel Advocate and Woman Panel Advocate)
12-01-2026	Monday	RSLSA to conduct pre review of UNDER TRIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE (UTRC) meeting with DLSA National Youth Day- To organize legal literacy camps on Victim Compensation Schemes & organize live question & answer programmes on TV and Radio for Unfair Means in Examinations & anti-ragging laws.
13-01-2026	Tuesday	Meeting of Empowered Committee with regard to Support to Poor Prisoners Scheme
15-01-2026	Thursday	Meeting of the UNDER TRIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE (UTRC) Legal Awareness Program on Cyber Crimes
16-01-2026	Friday	Awareness program regarding Environment Protection and Pollution Control/Tree plantation drive
17-01-2026	Saturday	Visit of Old Age Homes by Secretary, DLSA (Two Panel Advocates and Two PLVs) at District & Taluka Headquarters. Visit of Children Home & Observation Home by Secretary, DLSA
19-01-2026	Monday	Special Awareness program on Mental Health
20-01-2026	Tuesday	Meeting of District Child Victims Compensation Assistance Committee and Meeting of Monitoring and Mentoring Committee

21-01-2026	Wednesday	Special Awareness program on Rights of Senior Citizens
22-01-2026	Thursday	Meeting of PLVs and other functionaries associated with legal services to be organized by DLSAs & TLSCs for the effective implementation of Legal Services Programme.
23-01-2026	Friday	Special Awareness program on Rights of Tribal People
24-01-2026	Saturday	<p>RSLSA to conduct post review of UNDER TRIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE (UTRC) meeting with DLSA</p> <p>Celebration of Balika Divas (Girl Day)</p> <p>Awareness camps are to be organized in the schools/colleges at mass level focusing on important features of Beti Bachao - Beti Padhao national campaign. Public at large should also be made aware of the menace of female foeticide and stringent legal provisions to curb the evil.</p> <p>Mass poster on "Save the Girl Child"/ awareness programme on the protection of girl child/ slogan writing/essay writing.</p>
25-01-2026	Sunday	<p>National Voters Day:</p> <p>Organize Legal Awareness Camp in Colleges & General Public to emphasize the importance of Right to Vote in democracy.</p>
26-01-2026	Monday	<p>National Republic Day:</p> <p>This Day be celebrated by organizing Legal Awareness camps on Fundamental Rights and Duties of All the Citizens of India.</p>

27-01-2026	Tuesday	Legal Awareness Program on Drug Abuse Review Meeting of LADCs with their respective DLSA secretaries
28-01-2026	Wednesday	Monthly Inspection of One Stop Crisis Centre by Secretary, DLSA
29-01-2026	Thursday	Organize legal literacy camps on ill effects of Early Pregnancy and Maternal Health Issues, Mental Health Issues, Domestic Violence and Exploitation and Forced Labor
30-01-2026	Friday	Legal Awareness Program on Fundamental Rights and Fundamental Duties
31-01-2026	Saturday	DLSA shall organise awareness camps to sensitize authorities/management/employers, employees and adolescent groups with provisions of the POSH act

Important Note: Jail Inspections shall be conducted weekly and monthly by Secretary DLSA along with a team of visitors (LADC, Panel Advocate, PLV, etc)

ACTION PLAN

FEBRUARY, 2026

CYBER SAFETY: PROTECTING THE PRESENT, SECURING THE FUTURE



Cyber Safety

Protecting the Present, Securing the Future

Information technology has transformed how we live, work, and interact, bringing significant advancements in governance, accessibility, and judicial processes. The rapid adoption of digital tools in the judicial ecosystem has enhanced efficiency, transparency, and convenience. However, it has also given rise to new vulnerabilities, with cyber threats becoming a growing concern for citizens and government alike.

Fraudsters are using technology for data breaches, targeting information their victims believe is only available to government authorities, and making otherwise unlikely demands appear credible.

In this digital and technology paced age, where Artificial Intelligence and Technology plays a significant role in our daily lives, there is a growing necessity of establishing laws to regulate the online world. As India moves forward in adopting technologies towards its realisation of the "Digital India" scheme, there is requirement of robust legal measures and frameworks to safeguard individuals, enterprises and the nation from the diverse risks that come with the digital age.

India suffered cyber fraud losses amounting to Rs 11,333 crore in the first nine months of 2024, according to data from the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), a division of the Ministry of Home Affairs. Stock trading scams accounted for the highest losses, with Rs 4,636 crore reported across 2,28,094 complaints. Investment-related scams followed, costing victims Rs 3,216 crore from 1,00,360 cases, while "digital arrest" frauds led to losses of Rs 1,616 crore from 63,481 complaints. Data from the Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting and Management System (CFCFRMS), revealed nearly 12 lakh cyber fraud complaints in 2024. Of these, 45% originated from Southeast Asian countries, including Cambodia, Myanmar, and Laos. Since its inception in 2021, the CFCFRMS has recorded 30.05 lakh complaints, with total losses reaching Rs 27,914 crore. The yearly breakdown shows 11,31,221 complaints in 2023, 5,14,741 in 2022 and 1,35,242 in 2021²⁵.

Types of cybercrimes

Cybercrime involves unlawful human actions conducted through computers, networks and/or the internet. These illegal activities can be aimed at individuals, businesses or governmental bodies with the goal of causing system disruptions obtaining data or engaging in schemes. There are numerous crimes associated in the cyber world, like: –

Breach of Cybersecurity:

A breach incident in cybersecurity occurs when an individual or organization obtains unauthorized access to computer systems or networks and such unauthorized access leads to data theft or operational disruptions. These incidents encompass data breaches, ransomware attacks, cyber terrorism and supply chain infiltrations.

Cyber Threats:

Cyber threats refer to the illegal acts of hackers whose primary goals are to disrupt the computer network, harm the computer systems and/ or engage in malpractices on those devices. Examples include, but are not limited to Trojan attacks, Advanced Persistent threats (ATPs), phishing activities like fraudulent emails and messaging to trick individuals.

Digital Content Offenses and Cyberbullying & Harassment:

This category encompasses the creation or distribution of hateful content online. Digital content offenses include a wide range of activities, including, but not limited to identity theft, cyberbullying, phishing, child pornography, cyberstalking, morphing, hate speech and others. The Information Technology Act (IT Act), The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and the Indian Penal Code have specified punishment for each of such types of terrible acts.

Fraudulent Activities in Cyberspace:

Credit card, OTP scams have taken over the world. These involve deceiving individuals or organizations, with the intention of obtaining electronic signatures, money or personal information. This also includes identity theft, investment frauds and Aadhar card frauds are on the rise in India.

²⁸<https://thewire.in/tech/india-lost-rs-11333-crore-to-cyber-fraud-in-2024>

Digital Arrest

Digital arrest refers to the restriction of an individual's digital access, such as blocking their internet usage, freezing social media accounts, or preventing online financial transactions, often as a legal or administrative measure. It is used to curb cybercrimes, enforce legal compliance, or as a modern form of house arrest where movement is restricted through digital surveillance. While it can help in law enforcement, concerns over misuse and digital rights violations remain significant.

What is Cyber Law?

Cyber law or information technology law involves studying matters related to using the internet electronic devices, for communication and computer networks. This field addresses topics such as agreements, digital crimes, data protection, privacy rights, jurisdiction in cyberspace and legal principles in the digital realm. Its significance lies in safeguarding the rights of people and businesses to maintain a trustworthy online space.

Cyber Law in India

In the age of India's rapid development, cyber law has become an essential aspect of the legal framework. It covers a range of legal matters in the digital realm related to the use of electronic devices, computer networks and the increased use of social media. It plays an important role in protecting the rights of individuals and organizations in the world ensuring a safe and reliable online environment.

Information Technology Act, 2000 (IT Act):

The IT Act in India serves as the foundation of cyber law and covers types of cybercrimes, imposes punishments for crimes involving unauthorized accessing into computer systems stealing data, hacking, cyberterrorism and spreading inappropriate or offensive material on the internet.

The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)

The BNS is a criminal justice system that aims to address the complexities of modern digital offenses. It aims to protect individuals and organizations from cybercrimes by providing detailed guidelines and strict penalties. It also complements the existing IT Act.

The Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 (DPDPA):

DPDPA focuses on regulating data collection, processing, storage and usage while bolstering privacy safeguards with an emphasis on securing minor consent through the permission of guardian. While the Act was passed in August 2023, is awaiting enforcement.

India has made huge strides in cybersecurity by establishing the National Cyber Coordination Centre (NCSC) and the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT In) to combat cyber threats, data breaches and to improve cybersecurity resilience. The IT Act mandates companies and organisations to report data breaches within a 6-hour window of noticing such data breach to CERT In for investigation and response to cyber-attack.

Cybercrime Investigation:

Specialized cyber cell units within the police force have been set up specifically for investigating and prosecuting cybercrimes efficiently. The Digital India Initiative by the Government needs to be applauded for the sound implementation of this initiative.

"It is not data that is being exploited, it is people who are being exploited"
-Edward Snowden



Challenges in Tackling Cybercrime

Cybersecurity faces numerous challenges, with low awareness being one of the primary obstacles. Many individuals and businesses remain unaware of the risks associated with cyber threats and the necessary protective measures they should adopt. This lack of knowledge leaves them vulnerable to attacks such as data breaches, identity theft, and malware infections. Coupled with this, there is a significant shortage of skilled cybersecurity professionals, which hampers the ability to effectively detect, prevent, and mitigate cybercrimes. The limited availability of experts also makes it difficult for organizations to implement robust cybersecurity strategies, leaving gaps in defense systems. RLSA aims to conduct cyber literacy programs so that public at large is protected from cyber-crimes.

Another complex challenge arises from jurisdictional issues. Cybercrimes often span multiple locations, making it difficult for law enforcement agencies to take action. The nature of the internet means that criminals can operate from different countries, creating complications in terms of legal enforcement and cooperation between jurisdictions. Furthermore, the rapid evolution of technology poses a continuous challenge for law enforcement, as criminals adopt new technologies and methods to bypass security measures.

In addition to these hurdles, underreporting remains a significant problem. Victims of cybercrimes often hesitate to report incidents due to embarrassment, fear of public exposure, or a lack of trust in the legal system's ability to address the crime effectively. This underreporting creates an incomplete picture of the scale and scope of cybercrime, making it more difficult to understand the true extent of the problem and to implement effective preventive measures. These combined challenges make it clear that addressing cybersecurity issues requires comprehensive efforts, including education, investment in skilled professionals, and stronger international collaboration.

Key Agencies Addressing Cybercrime

- **Cyber Crime Cells:** Specialized police units in various states to investigate cyber offenses.

- Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In): Coordinates responses to cybersecurity incidents.
- National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal: An online platform to report cybercrimes (www.cybercrime.gov.in).
- Cyber Swachhta Kendra: Promotes cybersecurity hygiene and provides tools to remove malicious software.

Government Schemes to Combat Cyber Crimes

Cybercrime Prevention against Women and Children (CCPWC) Scheme

The Cybercrime Prevention against Women and Children (CCPWC) Scheme was launched by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, to address the growing menace of cybercrimes targeting women and children. This scheme aims to prevent such crimes, enhance law enforcement capabilities, and aid victims while promoting awareness of online safety. A key feature of the scheme is the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal, where individuals can report incidents like cyberstalking, harassment, and child sexual abuse material (CSAM) anonymously.

The scheme also focuses on building capacity by training law enforcement personnel through specialized programs and establishing Cybercrime Forensic Labs across the country to analyze digital evidence effectively. To spread awareness, the scheme conducts extensive campaigns in schools, colleges, and communities, educating women and children about the risks of online platforms and preventive measures. Additionally, it collaborates with international organizations and Interpol to combat cross-border cybercrimes, particularly those involving child exploitation.

The scheme facilitates the establishment of Cybercrime Coordination Centers in states and union territories, ensuring a robust response mechanism. Despite its significant achievements, including enhanced victim reporting and increased digital literacy, the scheme faces challenges like underreporting crimes in rural areas and evolving crime patterns. Strengthening collaboration with tech platforms, providing psychological support to victims, and regularly updating training modules are essential for the scheme's long-term success. Overall, the CCPWC Scheme

represents a proactive step toward creating a safer digital space for vulnerable groups in India.

Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)

The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) was established by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, in 2018 as a comprehensive mechanism to address and combat the growing threat of cybercrimes in the country. This initiative aims to create a unified response system to deal with cybercrimes effectively, including those of a transnational nature. Operating as a nodal agency, I4C coordinates efforts between law enforcement agencies, state governments, and international organizations to ensure a cohesive approach to cybercrime prevention, detection, investigation, and prosecution.

One of its significant achievements is the launch of the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal, which allows citizens to report various cybercrimes, with a specific focus on crimes against women, children, and financial frauds. The I4C also works towards strengthening the cyber forensic capabilities of the country by establishing advanced forensic laboratories. It actively conducts training programs and capacity-building initiatives to enhance the skills of law enforcement personnel in handling sophisticated cybercrimes. Moreover, I4C facilitates real-time information sharing between different stakeholders to identify emerging threats and trends, enabling proactive measures against cybercriminals.

The initiative is also instrumental in creating awareness among the public about online safety and cybersecurity practices through outreach programs and collaboration with educational institutions and NGOs. By integrating resources, expertise, and technology, the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre is a pivotal step toward ensuring a secure digital environment for all citizens while addressing the complexities of modern cyber threats.

The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In)

The CERT-In plays a vital role in controlling cybersecurity incidents and coordinating incident response activities. It acts as the central agency for

incident response, vulnerability handling, and security management in India's cyberspace.

Cyber Surakshit Bharat: To enhance the government's vision of "Digital India," the Cyber Surakshit Bharat was launched by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) with National Electronic Governance Division (NeGD). This initiative was launched to ensure more awareness about the latest cybercrimes and the cybersecurity challenges of India.

Cyber Swachhta Kendra: The Cyber Swachhta Kendra is an initiative that focuses on detecting and removing malicious botnet programs from computers and devices. It provides free tools for malware analysis and helps improve the security of systems and devices.

National Cybersecurity Policy: The National Cyber Security Policy is a crucial initiative taken by the Indian government to combat cyber threats. It provides a framework for creating a secure cyber ecosystem and aims to protect information and other critical infrastructures.

Role of Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority

RSLSA will launch extensive awareness campaigns to educate the public about cyber abuse, its various forms, and the legal protections available. Through community workshops, social media outreach, and educational programs, individuals will be empowered to recognize, report, and prevent cyber abuse while promoting safe online practices. Special emphasis will be placed on educating vulnerable groups such as women, children, and senior citizens to help them stay safe online.

To provide immediate support, RSLSA will establish dedicated cyber abuse helplines that will guide victims on reporting incidents, securing evidence, and accessing legal and counselling services. These helplines will ensure confidentiality and encourage victims to report abuse without fear or hesitation. Additionally, RSLSA will advocate for anonymous reporting mechanisms to build trust and facilitate a safe reporting environment.

Collaboration with cybercrime cells and law enforcement agencies will be strengthened to ensure swift action on reported cases and streamline the

investigation and resolution process. RSLSA will also work towards the effective implementation and periodic updating of cyber laws, including the Information Technology Act, 2000, to address emerging challenges in the digital space.

RSLSA will also engage with schools, colleges, and workplaces to create awareness about cyberbullying and online harassment, fostering a culture of accountability and respect in digital spaces. Furthermore, RSLSA will promote digital literacy programs, particularly in rural and underserved areas, to ensure individuals can use technology securely and responsibly



CALENDAR FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2026

02-02-2026	Monday	Meeting of the DLSA Secretaries with the Member Secretary, RLSA regarding programs to be conducted in the coming month in compliance with the Action Plan
03-02-2026	Tuesday	Legal Awareness Camps on Public Utility Services Meeting of the Monitoring Committee with regard to Compensation of Victims of Hit and Run Motor Accidents Scheme, 2022
04-02-2026	Wednesday	Awareness program regarding Environment Protection and Pollution Control/Tree plantation drive
05-02-2026	Thursday	Visit of Observation Homes/Special Homes/Place of Safety by Legal Awareness Teams in compliance of directions issued by RLSA from time to time for welfare of Inmates and Children in conflict with law.
06-02-2026	Friday	Organize legal literacy camps on ill effects of Child Marriage like Interrupted Education of Child, Early Pregnancy and Maternal Health Issues, Mental Health Issues, Domestic Violence and Exploitation and Forced Labor.
07-02-2026	Saturday	Meeting of Empowered Committee with regard to Support to Poor Prisoners Scheme
09-02-2026	Monday	Legal awareness programmes related to - NALSA (Effective Implementation of Poverty Alleviation Schemes Scheme, 2015 NALSA (Protection and Enforcement of Tribal Rights) Scheme, 2015.

		NALSA (Legal Services to Victims of Acid Attacks) Scheme, 2016. NALSA (Child friendly legal services for Children) Scheme, 2024 Rajasthan Victim Compensation Scheme, 2011.
10-02-2026	Tuesday	Jail Inspection by Team of Visitors (Secretary, DLSA, Panel Advocate and Woman Panel Advocate)
11-02-2026	Wednesday	Special Awareness program on Rights of Senior Citizens
12-02-2026	Thursday	Monthly Inspection of Nari Niketan by Secretary, DLSA
13-02-2026	Friday	Legal Awareness Program on Cyber Crimes
16-02-2026	Monday	Special Awareness program on Rights of Tribal People
17-02-2026	Tuesday	Organise a special awareness/sensitization programme for Specially abled persons.
18-02-2026	Wednesday	Visit of Old Age Homes by Secretary, DLSA (Two Panel Advocates and Two PLVs) at District & Taluka Headquarters. Visit of Children Home & Observation Home by Secretary, DLSA
19-02-2026	Thursday	Special Awareness program on Prisoners' Rights
20-02-2026	Friday	Celebration of World Day of Social Justice Legal Awareness programmes relating to Social Justice.
21-02-2026	Saturday	Meeting of District Child Victims Compensation Assistance Committee and Meeting of Monitoring and Mentoring Committee

23-02-2026	Monday	Awareness program regarding Environment Protection and Pollution Control/Tree plantation drive
24-02-2026	Tuesday	Organize legal literacy camps on ill effects of Early Pregnancy and Maternal Health Issues, Mental Health Issues, Domestic Violence and Exploitation and Forced Labor
25-02-2026	Wednesday	Meeting of PLVs and other functionaries associated with legal services to be organized by DLSAs & TLSCs for the effective implementation of Legal Services Programme.
26-02-2026	Thursday	Legal Awareness Program on Drug Abuse Review Meeting of LADCs with their respective DLSA secretaries
27-02-2026	Friday	Monthly Inspection of One Stop Crisis Centre by Secretary, DLSA

Important Note: Jail Inspections shall be conducted weekly and monthly by Secretary DLSA along with a team of visitors (LADC, Panel Advocate, PLV, etc)

ACTION PLAN

MARCH, 2026

STRENGTHENING WOMEN'S RIGHTS: A PATHWAY TO EQUALITY AND PROGRESS



Strengthening Women's Rights:

A Pathway to Equality and Progress

Women represent half of the population of the society. Women Empowerment implies the capacity of women to make decisions close to their lifestyles and giving identical rights to them in all spheres like private, social, monetary, political and so forth. The term refers to the liberation of women from socio-economic restraints of reliance. The concept of Women Empowerment strives to change the societal outlook towards women's participation in fundamental institutions such as education and employment. A woman balances among her commitment to her profession properly along with her domestic and circle of relatives. They juggle more than one role as a mother, daughter, sister and wife and at running locations as specialists with amazing simplicity and complexity.

Empowering women involves breaking barriers such as gender discrimination, violence, and unequal access to resources, enabling them to achieve their full potential. By fostering an environment of respect, inclusion, and equal opportunities, women empowerment contributes to building stronger families, communities, and nations. It is a vital step toward achieving sustainable development and ensuring justice and equality for all genders.

Indian Constitution forms the bedrock of gender justice by stressing upon Equality and Non-Discrimination for women. The Indian Constitution is a quantum leap in women's rights and provides for upliftment of women folk even by treating it a class apart. Despite all these, women face the brunt of unevenness, financial dependence, oppression and various social evils. It's a significant impediment for their growth to be living under the shackles of enslavement for so many centuries.

"If you want to make a woman happy, give her freedom and education" - Savitribai Phule

Gender-based issues faced by women

- 1. Selective Abortion and Female Infanticide:** The practice of aborting female foetuses after determining their sex has been a deeply ingrained issue in India for years. Often facilitated by unethical medical professionals, this practice underscores gender discrimination even before birth. As per UN Population Fund World Population Report 2022, unsafe abortions are the third leading cause of maternal mortality in India, and close to 8 women die from causes related to unsafe abortions each day. As per the sex ratio at birth (SRB) data from the Civil Registration System, Rajasthan had the lowest SRB of 806 amongst all states in India.
- 2. Sexual Harassment:** Sexual exploitation of women and girls is pervasive, occurring in homes, public spaces, workplaces, and transportation. Victims are often targeted by family members, neighbours, or acquaintances, making this a widespread societal issue. As per National Family Health Survey (NFHS) – 5 data, nearly one-third of women aged 15-49 in India have experienced some form of violence. Despite the enactment of the Protection of Women from Sexual Harassment Act, 2013 (POSH Act), sexual harassment in the workplace is still a concern.
- 3. Dowry Demands and Bride Burning:** Women in some families often face dowry-related exploitation during or after marriage. In extreme cases, unfulfilled dowry demands result in bride burning, a heinous crime.
- 4. Educational Disparities:** Despite advancements, women's education levels remain lower than men's, particularly in rural areas. This disparity continues to hinder women's empowerment and opportunities. As per World Economic Forum's 2024 Global Gender Gap Report, the literacy rate gap between men and women is 17.2 percentage points.
- 5. Domestic Violence:** Domestic violence affects nearly 70% of Indian women, according to the Women and Child Development Ministry. This abuse, often inflicted by husbands or relatives, is an

endemic problem that devastates lives and families. In India, 32% of ever-married women reported having experienced physical, sexual, or emotional violence by their husbands in their lifetime. As per NFHS-5 data, 29.3% of married Indian women between the ages of 18 and 49 have experienced domestic/sexual violence, while 3.1% of pregnant women aged 18 to 49 have suffered physical violence during their pregnancy, between 2019 to 2021. Also, there is a severe underreporting of cases, as 87% of married women who are victims of marital violence do not seek help.

6. **Child Marriage:** Early marriages, particularly in rural areas, are frequently arranged to avoid dowry demands. This practice deprives young girls of education and opportunities, perpetuating cycles of inequality. According to UNESCO, one in three of the world's child brides live in India. As per NFHS-5 data, prevalence of child marriage in India is 23.3%, with Rajasthan having a prevalence rate of 25.4%.
7. **Inadequate Nutrition:** Women from lower-middle-class and poor families often face inadequate nutrition during childhood, leading to lifelong health issues. This reflects broader economic and gender disparities. As per NFHS-5 data, Malnutrition among women aged 15-49 years is 18.7%, whereas prevalence of anemia among women is 57%, among adolescent girls is 59.1% and among pregnant women is 52.2%
8. **Low Status within Families:** Women often endure emotional and physical abuse within their families, reflecting entrenched beliefs about their inferior status. As per the Census, 2011 the child sex

²⁵ <https://www.unfpa.org/annual-report#:~:text=Perhaps%20most%20notably%2C%20the%20human,nutrition%2C%20public%20health%20and%20more.>

²⁷ https://india.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/sex_ratio_at_birth_in_india_-_july.pdf

²⁸ https://mohfw.gov.in/sites/default/files/NFHS-5_Phase-II_0.pdf

²⁹ <https://www.weforum.org/publications/global-gender-gap-report-2024/>

³⁰ https://mohfw.gov.in/sites/default/files/NFHS-5_Phase-II_0.pdf

ratio (0-6 years) has shown a decline from 927 females per thousand males in 2001 to 919 females per thousand males in 2011. The low status of women in Indian society was also due to son meta preference.

9. **Gender Discrimination in Careers:** Women are often considered inferior to men and excluded from important roles, limiting their career opportunities and societal contributions. As per UNDP's Gender Inequality Index (GII), 2022 report released by HDR 2023-24, India stands at rank 108th out of 193 countries, with a score of 0.437. According to the Periodic Labor Force Survey (PLFS) 2020, only 18.6% of working-age women in India take part in the labor force, which is three times lower than men. According to the World Bank, Indian women's participation in the formal economy is among the lowest in the world and the present contribution of women to the national GDP is around 18%. At present, there are 43.2 crore women of working age in India, out of which 34.3 crore are employed in the unorganized sector. Sector wise, women make up 48% of the agricultural workforce but own only 13% of the land.

"We cannot all succeed when half of us are held back." - Malala Yousafzai

³¹ https://mohfw.gov.in/sites/default/files/NFHS-5_Phase-II_0.pdf

³² https://mohfw.gov.in/sites/default/files/NFHS-5_Phase-II_0.pdf

³³ <https://pib.gov.in/newsite/printrelease.aspx?relid=103437>

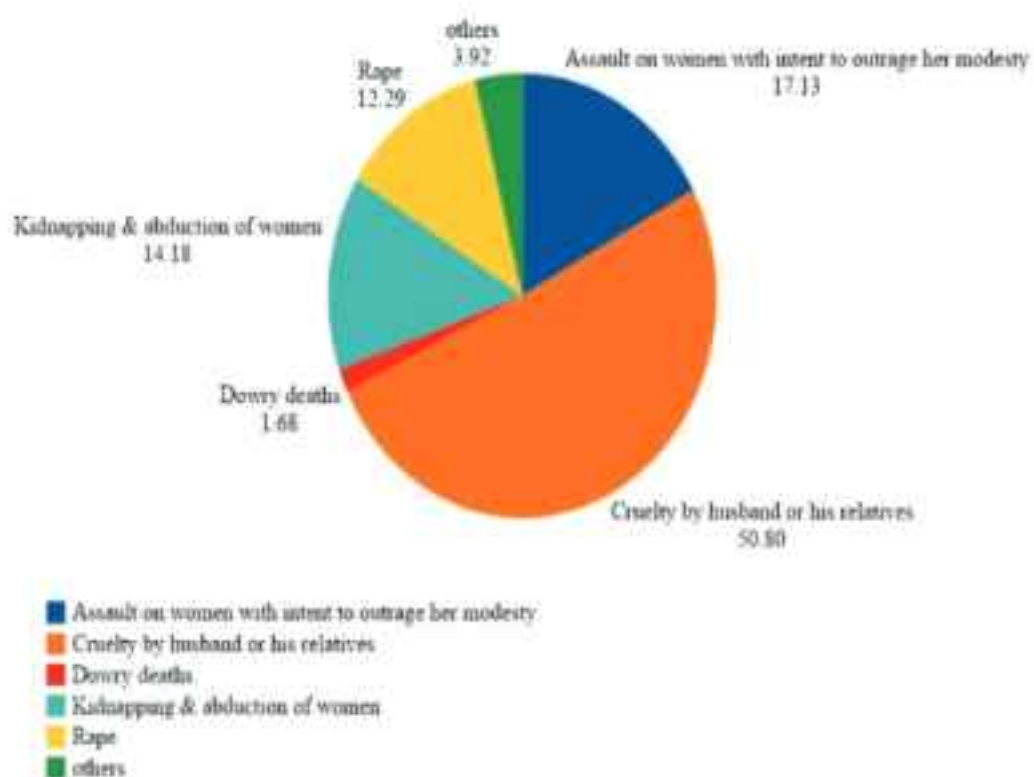
³⁴ <https://www.undp.org/india/press-releases/india-shows-progress-human-development-index-ranks-134-out-193-countries>

³⁵ <https://skillsip.nsdciindia.org/sites/default/files/kps-document/Insights%20from%20PLFS%202019-2020.pdf>

³⁶ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/speech/2018/03/17/women-indias-economic-growth>

³⁷ <https://www.niti.gov.in/sites/default/files/2023-03/Decoding-Government-Support-to-Women-Entrepreneurs-in-India.pdf>

Key Statistics on Violence Against Women



RELATIVE SHARE OF MAJOR REGISTERED CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN IN RAJASTHAN DURING 2010-2019 AS PER NCRB

Recent Supreme Court Judgments Regarding Women's Rights:

Aureliano Fernandes vs State of Goa³⁸ and Ors.

With a significant ruling in the case of Aureliano Fernandes v state of Goa and Others, the Supreme Court has highlighted several lapses and gaps in the implementation of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act, 2013 ("POSH Act"). The Supreme Court has prescribed several guidelines in the case and directed the State and non-State actors (for example educational institutions, private hospitals and nursing homes) to ensure the strict enforcement of the POSH Act in the interest of all working women and to make sure that the altruistic object behind enacting the POSH Act is achieved in letter and spirit.

Directions pertaining to compliance under POSH Act:

The Supreme Court voiced its concern over a survey published by a daily newspaper that reported that out of the 30 national sports federations in the country, 16 had not constituted an Internal Complaints Committee (ICC). Further, where the ICC have been constituted, they do not have the stipulated number of members or lack the mandatory external member.

Accordingly, the Supreme Court issued the following directives to improve the implementation of the POSH Act in the interest of working women across the country:

The Court mandated that a time-bound exercise be conducted to verify whether all concerned authorities, including public sector undertakings, institutions, and statutory bodies, have duly constituted Internal Complaints Committees (ICCs) in accordance with the law. Furthermore, all relevant details, including the composition of these committees, designated contact persons, email IDs, procedures for submitting complaints, and applicable rules and regulations, must be made readily available on the official websites of the respective authorities to facilitate transparency and accessibility.

The Court further directed that statutory regulatory bodies overseeing professionals such as doctors, lawyers, architects, chartered accountants, and others, along with universities, colleges, training centres, and both government and private healthcare institutions, must conduct a similar compliance review. Authorities, management, and employers are required

to take immediate steps to familiarize committee members with the procedures for conducting inquiries. Additionally, they must organize orientation programs, workshops, and awareness seminars to ensure committee members are well-equipped to handle complaints and to educate women about their rights under the Act.

The Supreme Court instructed the National Legal Services Authority and State Legal Services Authorities to develop training modules and conduct workshops to raise awareness among employers, employees, adolescent groups, and all stakeholders about the provisions of the POSH Act. It also directed the National Judicial Academy and State Judicial Academies to include orientation programs, seminars, and workshops in their annual training calendars.

To oversee the implementation of these directives, the secretaries of all Union government ministries and the chief secretaries of each state and Union Territory will be responsible for ensuring compliance. The judgment was also to be sent to the Medical Council of India, the Council of Architecture, the Institute of Chartered Accountants, the Institute of Company Secretaries, and the Engineering Council of India to ensure adherence to these guidelines.

Additionally, the SC directed that the Chairperson of the Bar Council of India and the heads of other apex regulatory bodies are required to forward the judgment to all State Bar Councils and State-Level Councils. The Supreme Court further directed the Union government, along with all states and Union Territories, to submit affidavits within eight weeks, providing a compliance report on the implementation of these directives.



³⁸[2023] 7 S.C.R. 772

Legal Framework

Constitutional Rights to Women

- Article 15(1) the state shall not discriminate against any citizen of Indian on the ground of sex.
- Article 15(3) the state is empowered to make any special provision for women. In other words, this provision enables the state to make affirmative discrimination in favor of women.
- Article 16(2) No citizen shall be discriminated against or be ineligible for any employment or office under the state on the ground of sex.
- Article 39(a) the state to secure for men and women equally the right to an adequate means of livelihood.
- Article 39(d) the state to secure equal pay for equal work for both men and women.
- Article 39(e) the state is required to ensure that the health and strength of women workers are not abused and that they are not forced by economic necessity to enter avocations unsuited to their strength.
- Article 42 the state shall make provision for securing just and humane conditions of work and maternity relief.
- Article 51-A (e) it shall be the duty of every citizen of India to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women.
- Article 243-D (3) One third of the total number of seats to be filled by direct election in every panchayat shall be reserved for women.
- Article 243-D (4) One third of the total number of offices of chairpersons in the panchayats at each level shall be reserved for women.
- Article 243-T (3) One third of the total number of seats to be filled by direct election in every municipality shall be reserved for women.
- Article 243-T (4) the offices of chairperson in the municipalities shall be reserved for women in such manner as the state Legislature may provide.

Government Run Schemes for Women Upliftment in India

Scheme	Launch Year	Objectives
STEP (Support to Training and Employment Program for Women)	1986-87	Its objectives are to guarantee job possibilities and provide women with skill development training. Through this government-sponsored program, institutions and organisations can conduct training programs using funds.
UJJAWALA 2.0	2021	The Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) seeks to protect women's and children's health by giving them access to clean cooking fuel, such as LPG, so they won't have to risk their health by cooking in smoky kitchens or by foraging for firewood in dangerous places.
Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme	2015	This government program for women seeks to address the falling sex ratio, raise societal awareness, and improve the effectiveness of welfare services designed for girls to guarantee the survival, safety, and education of female children.
One-Stop Centre Scheme	2015	It is intended to offer state governments 100% central aid in defending women who are victims of gender-based abuse in public and private settings. To counteract all forms of violence against women, the program offers non-emergency services, emergency medical care, legal aid, and counselling.

Women Helpline Scheme	2016	A single toll-free number (181) is used by the Women Helpline Scheme, a government effort, to give emergency assistance to women who have been victims of assault in public or private settings, 24/7.
National Creche Scheme	2017	The government launched the National Creche Scheme as a women's empowerment initiative for working moms' children. It offers creche services to help children's physical, social, and holistic development; it also educates parents on how to provide better childcare practices; and it improves the health and nutritional status of the children.
Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)	2017	The Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) is a Conditional Cash Transfer Scheme where all pregnant women and lactating mothers (PW&LM) are eligible for the maternity benefit under PMMVY, except for PW&LM who work regularly for the federal government, state governments, public sector undertakings (PSUs), or who receive similar benefits for their first living child from any currently enacted law.

There is an urgent need to tackle the ills of the society against women through active participation of all- men, women, society, governments. It is imperative to make women empowerment a people's movement -Sushma Swaraj

Schemes Run by Rajasthan Government for Women/Girls

- **The Rajasthan Prasuti Sahayata Yojana** is a scheme launched by the Government of Rajasthan to provide financial assistance to pregnant women from registered construction worker families in the state.
- **Chief Minister Ekal Nari Samman Pension Yojana.** Under this scheme, a pension amount is given to all the divorced, widowed or abandoned women of Rajasthan so that they can easily bear the expenses of their house. The objective of the scheme is to provide financial help to women so that they do not face difficulties in leading a normal life.
- **Mukhyamantri Hamari Betiyan Yojana** was launched in 2015-16 by center under the secondary education department for the benefit of girls in their education.
- **MukhyamantriKanyadaan Yojana** launched by Social Justice and empowerment in 2015 by Rajasthan for Family provides financial support to eligible families to help them cover the expenses associated with their daughters' weddings
- **Mukhyamanti Nari Shakti Parsikshanva Kaushal Samvardhan Yojna** This scheme launched by the Rajasthan government to empower women by providing them with training, loans and other financial assistance to start or expand their businesses
- **The Mukhyamantri Rajshri Yojana** is a program launched by the Rajasthan government In June 2016. It aims to improve the overall development of girls in the state by providing financial assistance for their health and education.
- **Mahila Samridhi Yojana (MSY)** is a scheme aimed to benefit the women entrepreneurs from backward backgrounds or poor backgrounds. Under this scheme, the Government provides micro-finance to the women entrepreneurs either directly or through Self-Help Groups (SHGs).

Schemes Run by National Legal Services Authority

1. **NALSA Scheme for Legal Services to Victims of Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation:** This scheme focuses on providing legal aid and support to women who are victims of human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation. It ensures their rehabilitation and protects their rights.
2. **NALSA (Protection and Enforcement of Tribal Rights) Scheme, 2015:** While primarily focused on tribal rights, this scheme includes provisions for tribal women, ensuring their access to justice and protection against exploitation.
3. **NALSA Scheme for Legal Services to Workers in the Unorganized Sector:** This scheme extends support to women workers in unorganized sectors, addressing issues like workplace exploitation, wage disputes, and lack of legal awareness.
4. **NALSA (Victims of Acid Attacks) Scheme, 2016:** Focused on women who are victims of acid attacks, this scheme provides legal and rehabilitative aid, ensuring their dignity and rights are upheld.
5. **NALSA (Child Friendly Legal Services to Children) Scheme, 2024:** Although it primarily addresses children's issues, this scheme includes provisions for young girls, especially those affected by violence, abuse, or neglect.



Role of Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority

Sensitization campaigns for women's rights are essential in fostering awareness, understanding, and empathy towards the challenges women face and promoting a more gender-inclusive society. These campaigns aim to sensitize individuals, communities, and institutions to the importance of women's rights and the need for collective action to address gender-based discrimination.

Legal Services Institutions in Rajasthan, in collaboration with TLSCs, DLSAs, NGOs, and women's rights organizations, play a vital role in empowering women by raising awareness about their legal rights and providing accessible legal aid. They organize legal literacy camps in various settings, including educational institutions, social gatherings, religious places, prisons, and shelter homes, to educate women on their rights and available legal remedies. These camps also offer consultations with legal professionals, guidance on legal documentation, and encourage victims to report crimes through helplines and legal aid services. Additionally, media campaigns across television, radio, print, and social media promote awareness about issues like domestic violence, workplace harassment, and property rights.

Workshops and seminars focus on topics such as reproductive rights, cyberbullying, and legal recourse for victims, with special attention to financial literacy and women's entrepreneurship. Awareness drives, like campaigns on the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse, are conducted with local support systems to highlight protective laws and available services. Mobile legal aid clinics and crisis intervention programs further ensure that women, especially in marginalized communities or high-risk areas, have access to legal assistance.

The Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority (RSLSA) provides free legal aid to women irrespective of their financial status or income level. This initiative ensures that women, particularly those from marginalized communities, do not face legal hurdles due to financial constraints. RSLSA extends its support beyond individual legal assistance by actively collaborating with social welfare institutions that work with women, both in urban and rural areas.

In addition to legal representation, RSLSA plays a crucial role in amicable dispute resolution by encouraging mediation and conciliation to help women resolve conflicts outside the courtroom. This approach not only reduces litigation costs and time but also provides a less adversarial and more empowering resolution process. When legal proceedings become necessary, RSLSA ensures that women receive representation by qualified advocates, enabling them to effectively present their cases and claim their legal rights.

To further remove financial barriers in legal matters, RSLSA also covers process fees, witness expenses, and other legal charges, ensuring that women can pursue justice without financial strain.

RSLSA provides financial compensation to victims of crime, particularly those affected by serious offenses like rape, sexual assault, trafficking, and domestic violence. The scheme aims to support victims by covering medical expenses, rehabilitation, and other related costs, helping them recover from the physical, emotional, and financial impact of the crime. The compensation is awarded through legal aid authorities and is designed to ensure that victims receive timely assistance and justice, promoting their recovery and reintegration into society.

The path from dreams to success does exist. May you have the vision to find it, the courage to get on it and the perseverance to follow it. - Kalpana Chawla



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CALENDAR FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2026

02-03-2026	Monday	Meeting of the DLSA Secretaries with the Member Secretary, RLSA regarding programs to be conducted in the coming month in compliance with the Action Plan
03-03-2026	Tuesday	Special Awareness program on Mental Health
06-03-2026	Friday	Meeting of Empowered Committee with regard to Support to Poor Prisoners Scheme
07-03-2026	Saturday	Organize legal literacy camps on ill effects of Child Marriage like Interrupted Education of Child, Early Pregnancy and Maternal Health Issues, Mental Health Issues, Domestic Violence and Exploitation and Forced Labor.
08-03-2026	Sunday	Celebration of International Women's Day Organise a mega legal literacy and empowerment camp in the remotest village of every DLSA and TLSCs
09-03-2026	Monday	Legal awareness programmes related to - NALSA (Effective Implementation of Poverty Alleviation Schemes Scheme, 2015 NALSA (Protection and Enforcement of Tribal Rights) Scheme, 2015. NALSA (Legal Services to Victims of Acid Attacks) Scheme, 2016. NALSA (Child friendly legal services for Children) Scheme, 2024 Rajasthan Victim Compensation Scheme, 2011.

10-03-2026	Tuesday	Jail Inspection by Team of Visitors (Secretary, DLSA, Panel Advocate and Woman Panel Advocate)
11-03-2026	Wednesday	Visit of Observation Homes/Special Homes/Place of Safety by Legal Awareness Teams in compliance of directions issued by RLSA from time to time for welfare of Inmates and Children in conflict with law.
12-03-2026	Thursday	Special Awareness program on Prisoners' Rights
13-03-2026	Friday	DLSA shall organise awareness camps to sensitize authorities/management/employers, employees and adolescent groups with provisions of the POSH act
16-03-2026	Monday	Organise a special awareness/sensitization programme for Specially abled persons.
17-03-2026	Tuesday	Awareness program regarding Environment Protection and Pollution Control/Tree plantation drive
18-03-2026	Wednesday	Visit of Old Age Homes by Secretary, DLSA (Two Panel Advocates and Two PLVs) at District & Taluka Headquarters. Visit of Children Home & Observation Home by Secretary, DLSA
19-03-2026	Thursday	Monthly Inspection of Nari Niketan by Secretary, DLSA
20-03-2026	Friday	Meeting of District Child Victims Compensation Assistance Committee and Meeting of Monitoring and Mentoring Committee
21-03-2026	Saturday	Special Awareness program on Rights of Tribal People

22-03-2026	Sunday	World Day of Water DLSA shall also organize legal awareness programmes for saving water.
23-03-2026	Monday	Special Awareness program on Rights of Senior Citizens
24-03-2026	Tuesday	Organize legal literacy camps on ill effects of Early Pregnancy and Maternal Health Issues, Mental Health Issues, Domestic Violence and Exploitation and Forced Labor
25-03-2026	Wednesday	Meeting of PLVs and other functionaries associated with legal services to be organized by DLSAs & TLSCs for the effective implementation of Legal Services Programme.
26-03-2026	Thursday	Review Meeting of LADCs with their respective DLSA secretaries
27-03-2026	Friday	Monthly Inspection of One Stop Crisis Centre by Secretary, DLSA
30-03-2026	Monday	Legal Awareness Program on Fundamental Rights and Fundamental Duties
31-03-2026	Tuesday	Legal Awareness Program on Cyber Crimes

Important Note: Jail Inspections shall be conducted weekly and monthly by Secretary DLSA along with a team of visitors (LADC, Panel Advocate, PLV, etc)

General Instructions and SOP for inspections:

1. Inspection of Jail by DLSA Secretary includes inspection of all Sub-Jails situated in the district.
2. Reports with necessary statistics, HD quality photographs and Audio-visuals (if relevant) have to be sent to RSLSA after every visit undertaken and camp organized during inspection as per the Action Plan by the DLSA.
3. During every Visit/Inspection, besides other things, it must also be ensured and certified by the Secretary, DLSA that:-
 - a. Proper hygiene and sanitation are being provided;
 - a. Every inmate, whether under trial or convict, if not represented by his private counsel, is represented by proper and efficacious legal assistance;
4. Similarly, while visiting/inspecting Vimanditbaal Grah, Children Home, Observation Home, Juvenile Home, Balika Grah, Shishu Grah, Shelter Home, Special Home, Nari Niketan, One Stop Crisis Centre, Swadhar Grah, Rain Basera and Old Age Home, and other similar places of abode for persons in difficulty besides other things, it must also be ensured and certified by the Secretary, DLSA that:-
 - a. Proper hygiene and sanitation are being provided;
 - a. Adequate and Nutritious food is being provided to them as per norms;
 - a. Proper means and arrangements are there for education and health of such inhabitants;
 - a. Every person inhabiting there, if not represented by his private counsel, is represented by proper and efficacious legal assistance;
5. While undertaking all the legal services activities, the official and other stakeholders of concerned DLSAs and TLSCs must ensure accountability of public servants performing public duties. Indolent and nonchalant Public Servants must be identified and a report indicating all deficiencies found during visit be sent to the RSLSA, so

that appropriate Authority may be apprised with such deficiency and indolence for rectifying the deficiency and remedial action taken in this regard.

6. The certificates and reports mentioned in above paragraphs shall be signed by Secretary, DLSA and countersigned by the Chairman, DLSA.

B. Guidelines for Awareness Programmes and workshops:

The organization of an awareness program by District Legal Services Authorities (DLSA) involves careful planning and execution. The goal is to educate the community about their legal rights, the services offered by DLSAs, and how they can access legal aid. It should also be noted that Awareness and Outreach Programs are organized to spread awareness among the poor, backward and deprived sections of society and the objective of legal service institutions is to provide legal aid to these sections of society as well as spread awareness about the schemes run by the Central and State Government through these programs.

It is to be mentioned here that the directions issued in this Action Plan for organizing or conducting awareness programmes should not be treated as a mere formality, they must be followed in letter and spirit. Photographs of 2,3 or 4 people show that whatever is shown is done only for catering purposes. Secretary DLSAs should ensure that the awareness program goes beyond a mere formality, to have a meaningful impact on the community's understanding of legal rights and services.

Here's a set of guidelines to help in planning of a successful awareness program for DLSA:

- 1. Define Objectives:** Clearly outline the objectives of the awareness program, whether it's about legal rights, dispute resolution, specific legal services provided or a special drive or campaign run by DLSA.

- 2. Identify Target Audience:** Determine the specific groups within the community that would benefit the most from the awareness program (e.g., women, children, tribles, labourers, elderly, marginalized communities). Plan outreach events in rural areas, where legal awareness may be limited. Design specific sessions addressing legal issues faced by women and other marginalized communities.

3. Collaboration and Partnerships: Collaborate with local NGOs, local influencers, community leaders, schools/colleges, and other stakeholders to maximize outreach and effectiveness. Collaborate with local panchayats, community leaders, and grassroots organizations. Seek support and involvement from local government officials and law enforcement agencies. Involve local influencers, community leaders, or respected figures to endorse the program. To enhance the reach by utilizing local resources and leverage their influence to increase participation and credibility. Train and involve para-legal volunteers and panel advocates from the local community to assist in the program.

4. Develop Engaging Contents: Prepare informative and engaging contents that simplifies legal concepts for a general audience. Use visual aids, multimedia presentations, and real-life examples to enhance understanding. Incorporate Interactive storytelling sessions featuring real-life legal cases from Rajasthan. Encourage community members to share their experiences during interactive sessions.

5. Legal Literacy Material: Create brochures, pamphlets, and other informational materials in local languages. Ensure that the content is accessible and easy to comprehend.

6. Interactive Sessions: Include interactive sessions such as Q&A sessions, role-plays, or case studies to make the program more engaging. Encourage participants to share their experiences and ask questions.

7. Legal Aid Services Overview: Provide a comprehensive overview of the legal aid services offered by DLSAs/ TLSCs. Explain the process of availing legal aid services and highlight any eligibility criteria.

8. Local Outreach Events: Organize outreach events in local markets, community centres, or schools to reach a wider audience. Set up information booths and distribute awareness materials.

9. Awareness Workshops: Conduct workshops on specific legal topics. Tailor workshops based on the identified needs of the community.

10. National Legal Aid Helpline Information: Provide information on the legal aid helpline 15100 and other communication channels for seeking assistance. Ensure that participants know how to reach out in case of legal issues.

11. Media reporting: Leverage local media channels such as radio, newspapers, and community bulletin boards to promote the awareness program. Request coverage or interviews to reach a broader audience.

12. Feedback Mechanism: Establish a feedback mechanism to gather insights from participants. Use feedback to improve future awareness programs and address any concerns.

13. Legal Awareness Campaigns through social media: Launch targeted legal awareness campaigns on social media platforms such as facebook, instagram, youtube etc. to reach a wider demographic. Use hashtags and shareable content to increase online visibility.

14. Mobile Van Awareness Campaign: Use mobile vans equipped with audio-visual aids to disseminate legal information in remote areas. Schedule stops in different villages for increased coverage. Optimum use of Mobile Vans for the campaigns is to be ensured in all awareness programmes /camps.

15. Documentation and Reporting: Document the participation and impact of the awareness program. Prepare a report summarizing key findings, feedback, and recommendations for future. Attach HD quality photography and videos as per need.

By adhering to these guidelines, you can organise a tremendously successful awareness program for DLSA that is culturally sensitive, area-specific, and effectively addresses the legal needs of the local community. Regularly evaluate program impact and adjust strategies based on community feedback for continuous improvement.

C. Guidelines for Statistical Informations:

Submitting statistical information is a crucial aspect of maintaining transparency and accountability for Legal Aid Institutions. Here are guidelines to streamline the process and ensure accurate and timely submission of statistical information:

1. Follow the reporting calendar: There is a clear calendar outlining the deadlines for sending various types of routine statistical data, always follow the calendar.

2. Reporting of special campaigns: After conducting a special campaign, camp or drive please send a short report with news cuttings and photograph latest by the next day.

3. Standardized templates and formats: Use standardized templates and formats for reporting to ensure consistency.

4. Never miss a submission deadline: Set yourself realistic and attainable deadlines for submitting data. Always consider a grace period for unexpected challenges.

5. Data Accuracy and Verification: There is no need to explain how important it is for the data to be accurate. Secretaries are requested to go through the verification process themselves to ensure the reliability of the data submitted.

By implementing these guidelines, DLSAs can ensure a smooth, accurate, and transparent process for submitting statistical information, contributing to informed decision-making and imparting effective legal services.

Calendar of Information			
क्र. सं.	सूचना का नाम	सूचना का प्रकार	रालसा भेजने की दिनांक
1	नालसा A to K प्रोफोर्मा सूचना	मासिक	28 तारीख तक
2	POCSO (NCPCR) सूचना	मासिक	05 तारीख तक
3	POCSO (Bal Adhikarita) सूचना	मासिक	05 तारीख तक
4	DCVC स्कीम सूचना	मासिक	05 तारीख तक
5	आदर्श विधिक सेवा केन्द्र सूचना	मासिक	05 तारीख तक
6	UDID स्कीम सूचना	मासिक	05 तारीख तक
7	Victim Compensation scheme सूचना	मासिक	28 तारीख तक
8	Special Days सूचना	मासिक	28 तारीख तक
9	POCSO मामलों के संबंध में सूचना	त्रैमासिक	05 तारीख तक
10	Received & allowed application for the Victim Compensation to the child victims by DLSA सूचना	त्रैमासिक	05 तारीख तक
11	NALSA स्कीम सूचना	मासिक	28 तारीख तक
12	RSLSA स्कीम सूचना	मासिक	28 तारीख तक
13	रालसा द्वारा जिला विधिक सेवा प्राधिकरण को प्रेषित Grievances में ATR प्रेषित करना	पत्र में दी गई तिथि अनुसार	
14	रालसा के कर्मचारीगण जो जिला विधिक सेवा प्राधिकरणों में पद स्थापित हैं, उनकी मासिक उपस्थिति रालसा को प्रेषित करना	मासिक	10 तारीख तक

15	LADCs लेखा शाखा बजट संबंधी सूचना	मासिक	05 तारीख तक
16	Cost लेखा शाखा बजट संबंधी सूचना	मासिक	05 तारीख तक
17	4c लेखा शाखा बजट संबंधी सूचना	मासिक	05 तारीख तक
18	मध्यस्थता सूचना	मासिक	05 तारीख तक
19	राष्ट्रीय लोक अदालत संबंधित सूचना	लोक अदालत गाईड लाईन के निर्देशानुसार	राष्ट्रीय लोक अदालत के आयोजन के अनुसार
20	Pre institution mediation and settlement in commercial disputes	मासिक एवं त्रैमासिक	05 तारीख तक
21	JJB सूचना	त्रैमासिक	05 तारीख तक
22	Shelter Home/Widow Woman सूचना	त्रैमासिक	05 तारीख तक
23	नारी निकेतन सूचना	दो माह में एक बार	05 तारीख तक
24	नालसा ऑनलाईन वेबीनार कैम्प	मासिक	01 तारीख तक
25	Pro Bono case Allotment सूचना	मासिक	01 तारीख तक
26	One Stop Centre निरीक्षण सूचना	मासिक	01 तारीख तक

27	वृद्धाश्रम निरीक्षण सूचना	मासिक	01 तारीख तक
28	Module on Sexual Harassment of woman at work place सूचना	मासिक	01 तारीख तक
29	Awareness Module on Senior Citizens सूचना	मासिक	01 तारीख तक
30	रेन बसेरा सूचना	रालसा के पत्रानुसार	
31	Monitoring and Mentoring Committee सूचना	प्रत्येक 15 दिवस में	
32	Observation Home निरीक्षण सूचना	मासिक	01 तारीख तक
33	जेल निरीक्षण सूचना	साप्ताहिक	प्रत्येक सप्ताह के अंत में
34	जेल निरीक्षण सूचना	मासिक	05 तारीख तक
35	LADCs सूचना	मासिक	05 तारीख तक
36	UNDER TRIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE (UTRC) मीटिंग सूचना	मासिक	05 तारीख तक
37	Pre arrest, arrest remand stage पर दी गई विधिक सहायता सूचना	मासिक	05 तारीख तक
38	NALSA (Child friendly legal services for Children) Scheme, 2024 संबंध में सूचना	दो माह में एक बार	28 तारीख तक
39	NALSA (Child friendly legal services for Children) Scheme, 2024 संबंध में सूचना	अर्धवार्षिक	28 तारीख तक

40	NALSA (Legal Services to Persons with Mental Illness and Persons with Intellectual Disabilities) Scheme, 2024 संबंध में सूचना	दो माह में एक बार	28 तारीख तक
41	NALSA (Legal Services to Persons with Mental Illness and Persons with Intellectual Disabilities) Scheme, 2024 संबंध में सूचना	अर्द्धवार्षिक	28 तारीख तक
42	विचाराधीन बंदीगण के संबंध में मासिक सूचना (Satyendra kumar Antil Vs. CBI)	मासिक	05 तारीख तक
43	सजायाप्राप्त बंदीगण के संबंध में मासिक सूचना (Suhas Chakma Vs. UOI)	मासिक	05 तारीख तक
44	रिटेनर अधिवक्ता केस अलॉटमेंट सूचना	मासिक	01 तारीख तक
45	Prison Legal Aid Clinic संबंध में सूचना	मासिक	01 तारीख तक



RAJASTHAN STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

Rajasthan High Court Campus, Jaipur Bench

Vidhik Seva Sadan, Vidhik Seva Marg, C-Scheme, Jaipur

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