

## **Detailed Report: Environmental Legal Literacy & Community Protection Initiative**

Title: Comprehensive Implementation Report on the “Protect Today, Secure Tomorrow” Campaign: A Multidistrict Environmental Legal Literacy Initiative

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### **Introduction**

In strict compliance with the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) directives, the West Bengal State Legal Services Authority (WBSLSA) launched the "Protect Today, Secure Tomorrow" initiative. This extensive campaign was designed to bridge the gap between environmental legal frameworks and community action across diverse districts, ensuring that citizens are empowered to safeguard their natural resources through legal awareness and practical intervention.

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### **Core Objectives**

The primary aim of the "Protect Today, Secure Tomorrow" initiative is to foster widespread environmental legal literacy by sensitizing the public, particularly vulnerable and marginalized groups, about their fundamental right to a clean and healthy environment as guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution. The campaign focuses on educating citizens about current pollution levels, associated health risks, and the legal duties individuals owe to their ecosystems, while simultaneously providing clear pathways for grievance redressal through the NALSA Toll-Free Helpline 15100 and the Pollution Control Board. Furthermore, the initiative seeks to capture grassroots environmental action by promoting community-led waste management, anti-plastic campaigns, and extensive tree plantation drives, ensuring that legal awareness translates into tangible ecological protection and a sustainable future for all.

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## **District-wise Implementation Reports**

Each district tailored its outreach to address local environmental challenges while maintaining the core legal literacy framework of the NALSA concept note.

### **Birbhum**

The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Birbhum focused its efforts on the younger generation by organizing Legal Awareness Camps in various locations across the town specifically for school students. To maximize impact, student-led rallies were conducted to promote environmental responsibility within the community. The campaign also featured extensive tree plantation drives and utilized the “Chetana Sathi” awareness vehicle to disseminate environmental messages throughout the region. These activities successfully combined physical action with legal education to foster a culture of conservation among the youth.



### **Malda**

On December 23, 2025, DLSA Malda conducted specialized programs at strategic locations, with a particular focus on Correctional Homes. Trained

Para-Legal Volunteers (PLVs) utilized approved resource materials to educate inmates and staff about their environmental legal rights. The initiative was highly effective in disseminating crucial information regarding environmental protection and the various grievance redressal mechanisms available to citizens. By targeting correctional facilities, the program ensured that legal literacy reached often-overlooked segments of the population.



### **Cooch Behar**

In Cooch Behar, a significant legal awareness programme was held on December 23, 2025, in Giranpur village. The event saw active participation from a large number of local villagers who engaged directly with legal authorities. Speeches delivered by the undersigned and Para-Legal

Volunteers emphasized the critical importance of environmental protection and the legal frameworks supporting it. The program successfully established a direct link between legal service providers and the rural community, fostering trust and awareness.



### **Hooghly**

DLSA Hooghly implemented a multi-layered campaign across schools, colleges, and villages, highlighting laws related to pollution control, forest conservation, and wildlife protection. Interactive sessions were a key feature, helping participants identify specific local environmental issues and the corresponding legal remedies available to them. Practical activities included anti-plastic campaigns, cleanliness drives, and the display of banners with legal messages to maintain public visibility. Para-Legal Volunteers also led tree plantation efforts to emphasize the importance of maintaining green cover in urban and rural areas.



### **Kalimpong**

On December 29, 2025, a legal awareness programme was conducted at the Kalimpong District Court premises. Led by Ld. Advocate Melody Poudyal, the session highlighted the necessity of maintaining a clean and healthy environment as a prerequisite for a better quality of life. The event was attended by approximately 21 participants, including DLSA staff, PLVs, Law Clerks, and members of the general public. The discussion centred on the importance of environmental laws and the specific duties citizens owe to their local ecosystems.



### **Purulia**

DLSA Purulia organized a series of legal awareness programmes throughout the district to sensitize the general public on environmental laws and duties. These sessions provided detailed information on pollution levels and the specific legal provisions designed to mitigate environmental damage. A significant portion of the outreach involved advertising the availability of free legal aid through the NALSA Helpline 15100. This initiative ensured that residents knew exactly where to turn for legal assistance regarding environmental violations.



### **Purba Medinipur**

This district focused on coastal and tourist areas, conducting campaigns at Digha, Mandarmani, and Tajpur beaches under the Contai Sub-Division. The initiative sensitized the public on the importance of safeguarding natural resources and preventing environmental degradation in sensitive coastal ecosystems. Participants were educated on adopting sustainable practices that protect the environment for both present and future generations. The campaign reaffirmed the DLSA's commitment to environmental justice through active community participation.



### **Paschim Medinipur**

DLSA Paschim Medinipur successfully executed its dedicated environmental legal literacy program on December 30, 2025. This program followed the broader state-wide mandate to enhance community protection and awareness. The initiative contributed to the regional effort of ensuring that environmental legal rights are well-understood by the local population.



### **Dakshin Dinajpur**

The campaign in Dakshin Dinajpur was led by PLVs across multiple locations, specifically targeting children, adolescents, and other vulnerable groups. The programs provided education on environmental laws, legal rights, and the various mechanisms for grievance redressal. Special emphasis was placed on understanding the health risks associated with pollution and adopting simple, daily preventive practices. The camps encouraged community-led actions such as waste management and tree plantation, aiming to build a more self-reliant and health-conscious community.

### **Darjeeling**

On December 29, 2025, DLSA Darjeeling held programs at high-visibility locations including Chowrasta in Darjeeling and the Atal Tea Estate in Siliguri. Conducted with the help of PLVs, police personnel, and NGOs, the sessions highlighted Article 21 and the right to a clean environment. Participants were educated on the harmful effects of smog and pollution-related health risks prevalent in the region. To provide immediate support, disposable masks were distributed and saplings were planted to promote public health and environmental protection during the winter.



### **Howrah**

A specialized legal awareness programme was held on December 30, 2025, at the Nari-O-Sishu Kalyan Kendra in Bauria. Led by the Secretary of DLSA Howrah and Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsels, the session focused on environmental health risks and legal entitlements. Under the theme “Protect Today, Secure Tomorrow,” residents were educated on low-cost preventive

measures for unsafe environmental conditions. These programs aimed to strengthen local legal literacy and encourage active community participation in safeguarding public health.



### **Bankura**

DLSA Bankura implemented the initiative to promote a sense of legal responsibility and proactive environmental action among citizens. Participants were educated on basic legal rights and the role of legal services in ensuring environmental security. A highlight was the Tree Plantation Programme held on December 29, 2025, at the Bankura District Correctional Home. Led by the Learned District & Sessions Judge, the event involved active participation from inmates, reinforcing the idea of environmental stewardship as a shared responsibility.



### North 24 Parganas

This district targeted industrial and agricultural sectors, with awareness campaigns held on December 27, 2025, for poultry farmers in Hansia Village. Another major session was conducted at a local brick field, involving approximately 200 workers and management staff. Furthermore, on December 30, 2025, a campaign at the RAJA BISCUITS factory in Sodepur reached 50 additional participants. All programs were aligned with the NALSA concept note to enhance environmental literacy among working-class populations.



### Uttar Dinajpur

DLSA Uttar Dinajpur organized “Environmental Justice Awareness Camps” on December 28–29, 2025, at Dhankail Gram Panchayat and Patirajpur Hat. Panel Lawyers and PLVs conducted these sessions for 160 participants from diverse backgrounds. The curriculum covered environmental rights,

pollution health risks, and the practical steps for grievance redressal. These camps were notable for providing on-the-spot legal support to attendees, facilitating immediate access to justice.



## Nadia

The programme in Nadia successfully educated the community on environmental protection laws, occupational safety, and the legal duties of conservation. Detailed discussions were held regarding water contamination, improper waste disposal, and the impact of air, noise, and soil pollution. Experts emphasized the specific health hazards caused by these pollutants and promoted the adoption of affordable preventive measures. By combining legal awareness with practical solutions, the initiative promoted sustainable and responsible community practices across the district.



## Alipurduar

DLSA Alipurduar held a primary awareness camp at the Dooars Utsav on December 30, 2025, involving legal professionals and law students. The

sessions addressed critical issues such as human waste management and the environmental impact of tourism on the local ecosystem. Simultaneously, “Adhikar Mitra” (PLVs) conducted extensive outreach in tea gardens, schools, and tribal forest areas. This comprehensive effort successfully highlighted community rights and the various legal channels available for environmental protection.



### **South 24 Parganas**

In December 2025, DLSA South 24 Parganas advanced regional legal literacy through programs at the authority's office and various commercial locations. These sessions focused on the vital role citizens play in safeguarding natural resources and protecting the environment. Secretary Hemantika Sundas led the initiative, which received positive participation from the local community. The campaign effectively fulfilled regional

directives by fostering essential grassroots awareness of environmental legal frameworks.



### Paschim Bardhaman

On December 24, 2025, a program was held at the Duburdih Checkpost to enhance legal awareness among vulnerable communities and industrial workers. The session centered on Article 21 and addressed regional concerns such as soil degradation and water contamination in the DVC area. Participants were sensitized to industrial pollution from brick kilns and the role of the Pollution Control Board in addressing violations. This initiative empowered residents to utilize legal aid-assisted grievance mechanisms to raise their environmental concerns.



## **Purba Bardhaman**

DLSA Purba Bardhaman executed specialized sessions on December 24, 2025, in Belna village and Bhatar industrial sites. The program addressed hazardous air pollution caused by the seasonal burning of paddy plants and the risks of toxic fly-ash emissions. Legal experts and university faculty educated participants on river contamination from paper mill waste and the fundamental right to health. By highlighting redressal mechanisms, the initiative empowered these vulnerable communities to take legal action against environmental violations.



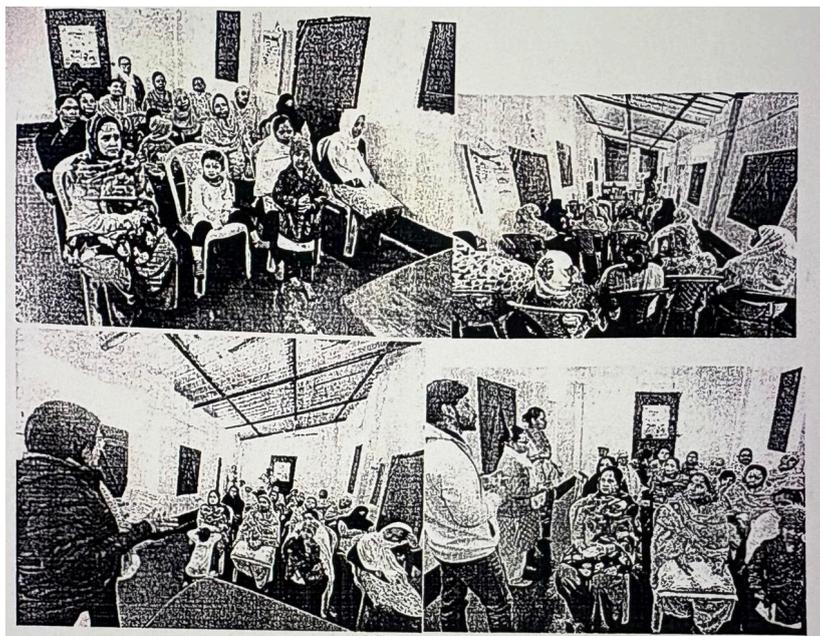
## **Murshidabad**

In December 2025, DLSA Murshidabad implemented district-wide awareness camps in Berhampore, Lalbagh, Jangipur, and Kandi. Engaging panel advocates and PLVs, the programs reached over 200 participants, including school students and residents near BDO offices. Discussions focused on environmental protection laws, public health, sanitation, and pollution control. The initiative actively promoted the NALSA toll-free helpline, empowering residents to safeguard their natural resources through informed legal participation.



### **Kolkata**

On December 29, 2025, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Kolkata, in collaboration with Seva Kendra Calcutta, conducted an environmental awareness camp at Motijhil to educate over 30 participants on the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016. Led by Adhikar Mitra Smt. Ankita Nag, the session focused on waste segregation at the source, the health impacts of improper disposal, and the legal duties of citizens. The program highlighted grievance redressal mechanisms and the role of the DLSA in community protection. Ultimately, the initiative emphasized that a healthy life depends on a clean environment protected through both legal compliance and small individual actions at home.



### **Jhargram**

On December 29, 2025, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Kolkata, in collaboration with the NGO Seva Kendra Calcutta, organized an environmental awareness camp at Motijhil led by Adhikar Mitra Smt. Ankita Nag. The program engaged over 30 participants on the "Protect Today, Secure Tomorrow" initiative, focusing on the health impacts of improper waste disposal and the requirements of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016. Key discussions centered on the necessity of waste segregation at the source, citizens' legal duties, and the available grievance redressal mechanisms through the DLSA and PLVs. By highlighting the connection between a clean environment and a healthy life, the camp empowered the community to take small but impactful steps toward environmental protection. This successful outreach serves as a vital step in fostering legal literacy and community-led environmental safeguarding in the region.



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## Conclusion

The “Protect Today, Secure Tomorrow” campaign has been a resounding success in West Bengal, reaching thousands of citizens through targeted, district-specific interventions. By integrating legal education with practical activities like tree planting and health measures, the initiative has laid a strong foundation for a more environmentally conscious and legally

empowered society. This multidistrict effort underscores the vital role of Legal Services Institutions in champion environmental justice and sustainable development for all.

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