

**REPORT ON UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE DAY BEING OBSERVED
BY THE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITIES UNDER THE STATE LEGAL
SERVICES AUTHORITY, WEST BENGAL**

In pursuance of the directions and guidelines issued by the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), various awareness and outreach activities were conducted across all districts of the State of West Bengal through the respective District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs). The present report consolidates district-wise data and detailed accounts of the programmes organised in connection with the observance of Universal Health Coverage Day celebrated on 12th December 2025. The compiled information reflects the collective efforts undertaken at the State and district levels to advance the mandate of Universal Health Coverage and strengthen legal empowerment in the healthcare sector.

UTTAR DINAJPUR

District Legal Services Authority, Uttar Dinajpur conducted awareness programmes at Kunor BPHC and Kamlabari Hat to promote equitable access to public healthcare services. The programmes focused on spreading awareness regarding free medicines and diagnostic services, Non-Communicable Disease screening, maternal and child health services, and telemedicine facilities available at Health and Wellness Centres.

The Secretary, DLSA, Uttar Dinajpur addressed the participants, emphasizing the significance of Universal Health Coverage and the right of every citizen to access quality healthcare without financial hardship.

Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) were sensitised to identify remote areas, assist vulnerable groups in accessing Health and Wellness Centres, and report instances of illegal charging for free government health services to the appropriate authorities. The programmes witnessed active participation from local residents, health officials, and PLVs, contributing to enhanced awareness of healthcare entitlements.



DAKSHIN DINAJPUR

Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Day 2025 was observed on 12 December 2025 across Dakshin Dinajpur district by the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Dakshin Dinajpur through awareness and legal literacy programmes conducted by Para Legal Volunteers (Adhikar Mitras). The observance aimed to promote awareness about health-related rights, government health schemes, and legal remedies in cases of denial of healthcare services, with special focus on vulnerable and marginalised sections of society.

Under the guidance of DLSA, Adhikar Mitras organised legal awareness camps, legal literacy sessions, door-to-door outreach, and leaflet distribution at hospitals, ICDS centres, villages, tribal habitations, tuition centres, schools, marketplaces, and community spaces. Participants were informed about patient rights, Universal Health Coverage, Ayushman Bharat–PM-JAY, Health and Wellness Centres, availability of free medicines and diagnostic services, maternal and child healthcare, non-communicable disease screening, telemedicine services (eSanjeevani), and free legal services provided by legal services institutions. The programmes witnessed active participation from women belonging to SC/ST communities, children, adolescents, elderly persons, patients, guardians, and local residents.



BIRBHUM

As per the directions Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Day 2025 was observed on 12 December 2025 by the District Legal Services Authority, Birbhum through awareness programmes organised by Para Legal Volunteers at various public places across the district. The programmes focused on creating awareness about government health schemes and healthcare entitlements.





ALIPURDUAR

In compliance with the directions, DLSA, Alipurduar observed the day by organising an awareness programme in hybrid mode involving Para Legal Volunteers, ASHA workers, doctors, and nurses to sensitise participants about health-related rights and various government health schemes, with special focus on vulnerable and marginalised communities, including residents of tea garden and forest areas. The Secretary, DLSA, Alipurduar highlighted the importance of Universal Health Coverage and emphasised the role of field-level stakeholders in assisting the needy and promoting awareness regarding health, hygiene, and access to basic public health services.

Further, Para Legal Volunteers (Adhikar Mitras) were directed to conduct grassroots awareness drives on free antenatal check-ups, free delivery services including Caesarean sections, free newborn care, and cash incentives. Accordingly, PLVs conducted eight awareness camps across tea gardens, ICDS centres, health centres, and tribal areas to reach the intended beneficiaries. Photographs of the programmes are enclosed for kind information and perusal.



PURBA MEDINIPUR

Universal Health Coverage Day 2025 was observed by the District Legal Services Authority, Purba Medinipur through a Legal Awareness Camp held at Tamralipta Medical College & Hospital, Tamluk. Para Legal Volunteers, along with nursing and hospital staff, participated in the programme, during which approximately 52 patients and their accompanying family members were sensitised about health-related rights, government health schemes, and healthcare entitlements.

The DLSA team also visited the OPD, Maternity Ward, and Tuberculosis Department to create awareness regarding the availability of free medicines, free diagnostic services, and other facilities provided at the hospital. Participants were further informed about the regular Legal Services Help Desk functioning at the Medical College and Hospital, Tamluk, which is being manned by Para Legal Volunteers of DLSA, Purba Medinipur.



KOLKATA

The District Legal Services Authority, Kolkata observed Universal Health Coverage Day 2025 by organising a special awareness programme at the All-Bengal Women's Union, with a focus on promoting oral health as an integral component of universal health care. The programme was attended by approximately 250 participants, including school students, their parents, and teaching and non-teaching staff, ensuring wide community

participation and effective dissemination of health-related awareness beyond the classroom.

The session featured an address by Dr. Gourab Goswami of R. Ahmed Dental College and Hospital, who highlighted the importance of oral hygiene, common dental issues, preventive care, and the link between oral health and overall well-being. The Secretary, DLSA Kolkata also addressed the gathering on health-related rights, equitable access to healthcare, and the availability of free legal aid services. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks and successfully reinforced the message that oral health is a fundamental right and an essential element of Universal Health Coverage.



MALDA

The DLSA Malda organised an awareness camp which was conducted by the Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) to spread legal literacy about health schemes. Information about Ayushman Bharat (PMJAY), eligibility for health cards, free medicines, diagnostics, and maternal health benefits under government schemes like JSY and regarding TB support was given to the people present.



KALIMPONG

District Legal Services Authority, Kalimpong under the chairmanship of the Learned Chairman-cum-District Judge, DLSA, Kalimpong through a Legal Awareness Programme organised at the District Court Building, Kalimpong. The programme was addressed by the Secretary, DLSA, Kalimpong as the resource person, who highlighted the significance of Universal Health Coverage and sensitised participants about various health-related programmes and schemes under Ayushman Bharat. The programme was attended by court staff, DLSA staff, and Para Legal Volunteers, with approximately 20 participants. Photographs of the programme are enclosed for kind reference.



JHARGRAM

District Legal Services Authority, Jhargram observed Universal Health Coverage Day 2025 on 12 December 2025 by coordinating with the District Health Department, Jhargram and organising a one-day Legal Help Desk at Jhargram Government Medical College and Hospital. The Help Desk was manned by a Panel Advocate and Para Legal Volunteers of DLSA, Jhargram, who assisted patients, attendants, and hospital staff by creating awareness about free healthcare entitlements, with special emphasis on maternal, child health, and emergency healthcare rights.





HOWRAH

District Legal Services Authority, Howrah observed Universal Health Coverage Day 2025 by organising legal awareness programmes on 12.12.2025 at various locations across the district, including Amta Hospital, Mohesh Bhattacharyya Homeopathy College and Hospital, District General Hospital, Howrah, Sumba Swasthya Kendra, Uluberia, Bachri Swasthya Kendra, Shyampur, Super Speciality Hospital, Uluberia, Sunflower Hospital, Bugnan, and Dihibhursut Prathamik Swasthya Kendra, Udaynarayanpur.

The programmes aimed to create awareness among patients, attendants, and hospital staff regarding the right to healthcare, availability of government health schemes, access to free legal services, and legal remedies in cases of denial of medical facilities. The initiatives were well received and significantly contributed to sensitising the public about health-related rights and the role of legal services institutions in ensuring universal access to healthcare.



BANKURA

The District Legal Services Authority, Bankura organised a Legal Awareness Programme at Bamunkuli ICDS Centre under Chhatna Block to create awareness about eligibility, benefits, e-card generation, empanelled

hospitals, and grievance redressal mechanisms under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY). Participants were also informed about the availability of free medicines and diagnostic services, non-communicable disease screening, maternal health services, and telemedicine facilities at Health and Wellness Centres. More than 20 women along with their children attended the programme.



JALPAIGURI

In observance of the day, a Legal Awareness Camp was organised at Malkani Hat, Khariaja Berubaru II Gram Panchayat, Sadar Block, Jalpaiguri, with the active assistance of the District Health Department, Jalpaiguri. The Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Jalpaiguri addressed the gathering and highlighted the importance of Universal Health Coverage and various government health welfare schemes available for citizens.



PURBA BARDHAMAN

The District Legal Services Authority, Purba Bardhaman organised a Health Check-up Camp at the District Book Fair, Satgachia-I under P.S. Memari,

Purba Bardhaman in connection with the observance of Universal Health Coverage Day 2025, in collaboration with Nihar Health & Education (NGO). Around 50 persons availed health check-up services during the programme.



NORTH 24 PARGANAS

On 12.12.2025, the Sub-Divisional Legal Services Committee, Barrackpore observed Universal Health Coverage Day 2025 by organising Legal Awareness Camps at Babanpur Lock Gate, ICDS School Centre No. 126, Mohanpur; Barrackpore Special Correctional Home; and Sankarpur Gram Panchayat. The programmes focused on creating awareness about universal health coverage, government health schemes, and health-related legal rights.



PASHCHIM BARDHAMAN

The District Legal Services Authority, Paschim Bardhaman observed Universal Health Coverage Day 2025 on 12.12.2025 at the Block Primary Health Centre, Pitheykari under Salanpur Block, in collaboration with the Health Department, Government of West Bengal. The programme was addressed by the General Duty Medical Officer of the concerned BPHC, who created awareness regarding eligibility, benefits, e-card generation, empanelled hospitals, and grievance redressal mechanisms under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY). Information was also disseminated on the implementation of free or subsidised essential medicines, diagnostics, and dialysis under the National Health Mission, as well as schemes such as Janani Suraksha Yojana, Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram, and Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana.

Para Legal Volunteer sensitised the participants on assisting families in identifying SECC 2011 coverage, e-card generation, and accessing treatment without illegal charges, and highlighted coordination with District Implementation Units in cases of denial of services. Emphasis was also laid on awareness of free medicines and diagnostics, NCD screening, maternal health services, telemedicine at Health and Wellness Centres, and free antenatal, delivery (including C-section), and newborn care services along with cash incentives. The programme was attended by community health workers, ASHA and Anganwadi workers, and local residents. Photographs of the programme are enclosed for kind perusal.



PASCHIM MEDINIPUR

The District Legal Services Authority, Paschim Medinipur organised an Awareness Programme in connection with the observance of Universal Health Coverage Day 2025, focusing on Ayushman Bharat, Health and Wellness Centres, child health, the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme, pollution and public health, control of respiratory diseases, health rights of workers, and various initiatives under the National Health Mission. The programme also emphasised empowering people to realise their health-related rights and entitlements and highlighted the role and functions of the District Legal Services Authority, with participation of 267 patient parties.



MURSHIDABAD

The District Legal Services Authority, Murshidabad observed Universal Health Coverage Day 2025 on 12.12.2025 at Hazbibidanga Gram Panchayat under Nabagram Block in the presence of a Panel Advocate and Para Legal Volunteers of DLSA and SDLSC, Lalbagh. The participants were sensitised about the significance of the day, the services provided by the Legal Services Authority, and various NALSA schemes, with total attendance of 35 persons.



HOOGLY

In compliance with the directions of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), the District Legal Services Authority, Hooghly organised Health Camps on 13.12.2025 in connection with Universal Health Coverage Day 2025 at village level and within the Court premises on the day of the National Lok Adalat. Free basic health check-ups were provided with the assistance of medical professionals and Para Legal Volunteers, particularly for underprivileged and marginalised sections.

Legal awareness was also disseminated regarding Ayushman Bharat-PM-JAY, maternal and child health schemes, and other welfare initiatives. Litigants, court staff, advocates, and the public were guided on eligibility, enrolment, and grievance redressal mechanisms, and the programmes witnessed active participation, enhancing awareness about health entitlements and legal services.



PURULIA

Various awareness programmes throughout the district of Purulia was conducted on this day.



DARJEELING

District Legal Services Authority, Darjeeling observed Universal Health Coverage Day 2025 on 12.12.2025 at the District Hospital, Darjeeling. The programme focused on creating awareness about health-related rights, government health schemes, and the need to reduce healthcare costs, with special emphasis on underprivileged persons, women, and senior citizens.

During the programme, Adhikar Mitra/Para Legal Volunteer Ms. Purnakala Thapa addressed the participants on the functions of DLSA and SDLSC, Darjeeling, benefits of pre-litigation counselling, National Lok Adalat, and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms. She also explained the benefits of the Ayushman Bharat Card providing health coverage up to ₹5 lakh per family per year and highlighted the role of PLVs as a bridge between the

government and the public. The programme concluded with the distribution of informative leaflets among the participants.

