

Legal Awareness Programme at Outram Ghat for Gangasagar Mela 2026 from 10th January 2026 till 16th January 2026 in collaboration with Bhojpuri Seva Sangh.

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

In furtherance of its mandate to ensure access to justice and to promote legal awareness among vulnerable sections of society, the Bhojpuri Seva Sangh organized a Legal Awareness Programme at Outram Ghat for Ganga Sagar Mela, Kolkata, from 10th January 2026 to 16th January 2026. The programme was conducted at Outram Ghat, one of the principal bathing ghats where pilgrims congregate to perform the holy Ganga Snan in extremely cold conditions. A dedicated stall of SLISA was set up at the said location to facilitate outreach and dissemination of legal information.



Implementation and Manpower Deployment

The programme was implemented with the assistance of two Interns and one Para Legal Volunteer, who remained present throughout the six-day period and actively engaged with pilgrims and visitors attending the

mela. The target group primarily comprised persons belonging to lower middle income groups, economically weaker sections, below poverty line families, and other vulnerable sections who were largely unaware of their legal rights and the availability of free legal services.



Inaugural Programme

On 10th January 2026, an opening ceremony was organised at around 4:00 PM, which commenced with a brief religious observance in keeping with the sanctity of the occasion. Thereafter, an introductory session was conducted wherein the role, objectives, and functioning of the State Legal Services Authority were explained to the gathered pilgrims. Information was shared regarding the importance of legal aid as a fundamental right, the nature of free legal services provided, and the categories of persons entitled to avail such services, including women, children, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups.

Legal Awareness Activities During the Mela

During the subsequent days, i.e., from 10th January 2026 to 16th January 2026, continuous legal awareness activities were carried out at

the SLSA stall. Pamphlets, leaflets, and basic legal education guides were distributed among the pilgrims and visitors. The interns and Para Legal Volunteer interacted with members of the public on a one-to-one basis, sensitising them about their legal rights, available welfare legislations, and the procedure for approaching Legal Services Authorities for assistance.



Outreach to Vulnerable Sections

Special efforts were made to reach out to individuals from marginalised and economically disadvantaged backgrounds. The team explained, in simple and accessible language, how SLSA could assist them in matters relating to legal aid, counselling, and access to justice.

Conclusion

On 16th January 2026, the programme concluded after sustained interaction with pilgrims and effective dissemination of legal awareness materials. The initiative reaffirmed the commitment of the State Legal Services Authority to ensuring justice and legal empowerment for all.
