NATIONAL LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

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Highlights

- ***Megal Legal Camps - Dharmshala and Srinagar***
- ***Colloquium on Crimes Against Women - Ranchi, Jharkhand***
- ***Launch of Pan-India E-Prisons Early Release Processing Module***
- ***Observance of International Yoga Day and International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking***
- ***Prison reforms through Rights-based Initiatives at Central Prison, Bengaluru***
- ***North Zone Regional Conference on "Enhancing Access to Justice" - Dehradun, Uttarakhand***

WE AT NALSA

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Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant

Executive Chairman
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vikram Nath

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HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VIKRAM NATH

JUDGE, SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

&

EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN, NALSA

Dear Readers,

At the National Legal Services Authority, we remain steadfast in our commitment to strengthen legal aid mechanisms, foster innovation and ensure that justice is delivered in a manner that is accessible, inclusive and responsive to the evolving needs of society. The period from ***April to June 2026*** has witnessed several significant initiatives that reaffirm our collective resolve to make justice a lived reality for every citizen. It has demonstrated that meaningful access to justice is achieved not only through courts, but equally through dialogue, technology, legal awareness and active community participation.

A defining milestone of the quarter was the ***North Zone Regional Conference on "Enhancing Access to Justice",*** which provided a valuable platform for deliberations on legal aid delivery, prison reforms, community mediation, forest rights and victim rehabilitation. Complementing these efforts, the ***Community Mediation Initiative*** launched by the Gujarat State Legal Services Authority, along with mediation capacity-building programmes, reflected our continued endeavour to institutionalize mediation as an effective and people-centric mechanism for dispute resolution.

Technology and institutional reforms also remained central to our efforts. The launch of the ***Pan-India e-Prisons Early Release Processing Module,*** marked a significant step towards ensuring timely justice and safeguarding the dignity and legal rights of incarcerated persons. Continued engagement with Chairpersons and Member Secretaries of District Legal Services Authorities in Karnataka further strengthened institutional coordination and reinforced our shared commitment to improving legal aid delivery across the country.

Our commitment to protecting vulnerable sections of society was reflected in the ***Colloquium on Crimes Against Women*** at the Ranchi Judicial Academy, which promoted meaningful dialogue on victim-centric justice and institutional responses to crimes against women. Equally significant were the ***Mega Legal Literacy Camp*** at Dharamshala and the ***Mega Legal Awareness Programme*** at Srinagar, which brought legal services directly to the people.

Capacity building and legal awareness continued to be integral to our mission. Initiatives such as the ***Third Zonal Workshop, "From Classroom to Courtroom: Law Students as Catalysts for Social Justice"*** and legal literacy initiatives across the country helped foster legal awareness and encourage wider participation in the legal aid movement.

As we move forward, we remain committed to strengthening institutions, embracing innovation, fostering partnerships and expanding the reach of legal services. Together, let us continue our collective endeavour to make justice not merely a constitutional promise, but a lived reality for every individual.

Warm Regards,
Vikram Nath

Message from the Member Secretary, NALSA

Dear Readers,

The true strength of the legal services movement lies in the collective commitment of Legal Services Institutions to translate the initiatives into meaningful outcomes for the people they serve. The activities featured in this edition of the Newsletter are a reflection of that commitment and of the tireless efforts being made across the country to ensure that justice reaches every section of society.

The quarter witnessed several significant initiatives that strengthened institutional collaboration and enhanced the delivery of legal services. The ***North Zone Regional Conference on "Enhancing Access to Justice"*** enabled stakeholders to review implementation challenges and share successful practices in legal aid delivery, whereas the ***Colloquium on Crimes Against Women*** provided an important platform for discussing legal and institutional measures to enhance support for victims of gender-based violence. Such engagements continue to play a vital role in improving coordination, capacity and service delivery across the legal services network.

The continued emphasis on innovation and institutional capacity building remained a defining feature of the quarter. The launch of the ***Pan-India e-Prisons Early Release Processing Module*** and rights-based prison initiatives reflected our endeavour to make legal aid delivery more efficient, responsive and humane. At the same time, the expansion of ***Community Mediation Initiatives*** in Gujarat and the ***Third Zonal Workshop on "From Classroom to Courtroom: Law Students as Catalysts for Social Justice"*** underscored our commitment to strengthening dispute resolution mechanisms and building the capacity of present and future stakeholders in the justice delivery system.

Bringing legal services closer to the people continued to remain at the heart of our efforts. The ***Mega Legal Literacy Camp*** on **Constitutional Values and Legal Awareness** at Dharamshala and the ***Mega Legal Awareness Programme on "Empowering Women and Strengthening Institutional Legal Support"*** at Srinagar exemplified the commitment of Legal Services Institutions to empowering communities through legal awareness and outreach.

Beyond these flagship initiatives, State Legal Services Authorities and District Legal Services Authorities continued to undertake a wide range of initiatives and outreach programmes. The remarkable diversity of initiatives showcased in this edition reflects the adaptability of Legal Services Institutions in responding to local needs while remaining firmly anchored to the constitutional promise of equal access to justice.

The inspiring success stories featured in this Newsletter remind us that behind every programme and initiative are our stakeholders working with compassion, professionalism and unwavering commitment. Their collective efforts continue to strengthen public confidence in the legal services movement and ensure that justice reaches those who need it the most.

I sincerely appreciate the contribution of every State Legal Services Authority, District Legal Services Authority and stakeholder associated with the legal services movement. I hope this edition serves not only as a record of the work accomplished during the quarter but also as a source of inspiration for continued innovation, collaboration and excellence in our shared mission of ensuring ***Access to Justice for All.***

Warm Regards,
Sanjiv Pandey

NORTH ZONE REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON "ENHANCING ACCESS TO JUSTICE" HELD AT DEHRADUN, UTTARAKHAND

JUDGES OF THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA AT THE NORTH ZONE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

From Top to bottom, left to right: Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India, Justice Surya Kant, Patron-in-Chief, NALSA, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vikram Nath, Exeuctive Chairman, NALSA, Hon'ble Mr. Justice J.K. Maheshwari, Exeuctive Chairman, SCLSC, Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.V. Bhatti, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Satish Chandra Sharma, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sandeep Mehta and Hon'ble Mr. Justice N. Kotiswar Singh.

NORTH ZONE REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON "ENHANCING ACCESS TO JUSTICE" HELD AT DEHRADUN, UTTARAKHAND

Article 39A of the Constitution envisions a justice system in which economic or social disadvantage does not become a barrier to the enjoyment of legal rights. Translating this constitutional promise into lived reality requires institutions that are responsive, accessible and deeply rooted in the needs of society's most vulnerable. It was with this shared commitment that the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), in collaboration with the Uttarakhand State Legal Services Authority (UKSLSA), convened the **North Zone Regional Conference on "Enhancing Access to Justice"** at Dehradun on 11th–12th April 2026 under the theme ***"Justice Beyond Barriers: Rights, Rehabilitation and Reform for the Most Vulnerable."***

Bringing together Hon'ble Judges of the Supreme Court of India and the participating High Courts, Executive Chairpersons and Member Secretaries of State Legal Services Authorities, Judicial Officers, Legal Aid Defence Counsels, Panel Lawyers, Para Legal Volunteers, domain experts, civil society representatives and delegates from across the North Zone, the Conference provided a vibrant platform for examining some of the most pressing challenges confronting legal aid today—from the rights of forest-dwelling communities and undertrial prisoners to survivor-centric justice for acid attack victims and stronger institutional protection for women and children. More importantly, it reflected NALSA's continuing evolution from a provider of legal aid into an institution driving systemic reform, technological innovation and community-centred justice.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice J.K. Maheshwari,
Judge, Supreme Court of India & Executive Chairman, SCLSC

The Inaugural Address by **Hon'ble Mr. Justice J.K. Maheshwari, Judge, Supreme Court of India & Chairman, Supreme Court Legal Services Committee**, established the philosophical foundation for the Conference. Invoking the renowned observation of political philosopher John Rawls that "*Justice is the first virtue of social institutions, as truth is of systems of thought. Laws and institutions, no matter how efficient and well-arranged, must be reformed or abolished if they are unjust*" His Lordship emphasised that legal institutions must continually evaluate themselves through the lens of justice rather than administrative efficiency alone. Building on this premise, His Lordship observed that the effectiveness of Legal Services Institutions cannot be measured merely by the number of schemes formulated or offices established, but by their ability to respond to human suffering with compassion and sensitivity.

NORTH ZONE REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON "ENHANCING ACCESS TO JUSTICE" HELD AT DEHRADUN, UTTARAKHAND

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sandeep Mehta
Judge, Supreme Court of India

Delivering his Special Address, **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sandeep Mehta, Judge, Supreme Court of India**, appreciated the Conference for selecting themes that resonate with the everyday realities of those who frequently remain invisible within institutional processes. Drawing inspiration from Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy, His Lordship reminded participants that the true measure of any justice system lies in its ability to serve "*the last person in the queue*." Access to justice, therefore, cannot be assessed solely through legislation, infrastructure or institutional expansion; rather, it must be judged by its capacity to reach those standing at the farthest margins of society. His Lordship's remarks served as a powerful reminder that empathy must remain the defining characteristic of every legal aid initiative, and that constitutional promises derive their legitimacy only when they become meaningful in the lives of ordinary citizens.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice N. Kotiswar Singh
Judge, Supreme Court of India

In his Special Address, **Hon'ble Mr. Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Judge, Supreme Court of India**, observed that legal aid is far more than a statutory obligation or constitutional mandate—it is intrinsically connected to the lived realities, livelihoods and aspirations of millions of citizens. Access to justice, His Lordship remarked, cannot be viewed in isolation from broader questions of development, social inclusion and democratic participation. The difficulties experienced by vulnerable communities in asserting their legal rights often mirror deeper developmental challenges, making robust legal aid systems indispensable to strengthening constitutional governance and the rule of law. His address reinforced the idea that Legal Services Institutions occupy a pivotal position not merely within the justice delivery system, but within India's broader constitutional project of inclusive development.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta
Chief Justice, High Court of Uttarakhand & Patron-in-Chief UKSLSA

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manoj Kumar Tiwari
Judge, High Court of Uttarakhand & Executive Chairman UKSLSA

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta, in his speech called for a more inclusive and responsive justice delivery system that actively reaches vulnerable communities and transforms constitutional promises into lived realities. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manoj Kumar Tiwari**, highlighted Uttarakhand's institutional initiatives to strengthen last-mile justice delivery through legal aid, community outreach and alternative dispute resolution.

TECHNICAL SESSION I

Effective Implementation of the Forest Rights Act, 2006: From Recognition to Realisation

Left to Right: Ms. Anitha Shenoy, Sr. Adv., Supreme Court of India, , Justice G.S. Sandhawalia, Chief Justice, High Court of Himachal Pradesh, Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Judge, Supreme Court of India, Justice J.K. Maheshwari, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Exeuctive Chairman, SCLSC , Justice Sheel Nagu, Chief Justice, High Court of Punjab & Haryana and Ms. Shomona Khanna, Adv., Supreme Court of India.

The first technical session examined the continuing journey from statutory recognition of forest rights to their effective implementation on the ground. Chaired by **Hon'ble Mr. Justice J.K. Maheshwari, Judge, Supreme Court of India & Executive Chairman, SCLSC** and co-chaired by **Hon'ble Mr. Justice N. Kotiswar Singh**, **Judge, Supreme Court of India** the session brought together **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sheel Nagu, Chief Justice, High Court of Punjab & Haryana; Hon'ble Mr. Justice G.S. Sandhawalia, Chief Justice, High Court of Himachal Pradesh; Ms. Anitha Shenoy, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India; and Ms. Shomona Khanna, Advocate, Supreme Court of India**, for a focused discussion on strengthening the implementation of the Forest Rights Act, 2006.

The deliberations highlighted the continuing challenges faced by forest-dwelling communities in securing effective recognition of both individual and community forest rights, notwithstanding the statutory framework. Particular emphasis was placed on improving legal awareness, facilitating access to institutional mechanisms and ensuring that administrative processes remain responsive to the needs of vulnerable communities. A particularly moving intervention by a representative of the Van Gujjar community brought the discussion into sharp perspective by narrating the practical difficulties experienced in securing recognition of traditional rights.

The session also examined the importance of strengthening the institutional framework for implementation through closer coordination between Legal Services Authorities, Forest Rights Committees, Sub-Divisional Level Committees and District Level Committees. Speakers emphasised that legal empowerment must extend beyond courtroom representation to include timely legal counselling, assistance in filing and pursuing claims, facilitation of appeals where claims are rejected and continuous engagement with forest-dependent communities. It was observed that Legal Services Institutions, through their extensive grassroots network of Para Legal Volunteers and legal aid lawyers, are uniquely positioned to bridge the gap between statutory entitlements and their practical enforcement, particularly in remote and geographically isolated regions. The discussions also underscored the need for capacity-building, community participation and institutional coordination to ensure effective implementation of the Act.

The session concluded with a shared recognition that Legal Services Institutions have a significant role to play in supporting awareness, facilitating legal processes and ensuring that the constitutional promise underlying the Forest Rights Act, 2006, is realised in practice rather than remaining confined to legislation.

TECHNICAL SESSION II
Prison Reforms, Undertrial Justice and Human-Centric Legal Aid

Left to Right: Prof. (Dr.) Vartika Nanda, Founder, Tinka Tinka Foundation, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manoj Kumar Tiwari, Judge, High Court of Uttarakhand, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arun Bansali, Chief Justice, High Court of Allahabad, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sandeep Mehta, Judge, Supreme Court of India, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arun Palli, Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and Mr. Gaurav Agrawal, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India.

The second technical session focused on one of the most significant dimensions of constitutional justice—the rights, dignity and rehabilitation of prisoners. Chaired by **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sandeep Mehta, Judge, Supreme Court of India**, the session featured **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arun Bansali, Chief Justice, High Court of Allahabad; Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arun Palli, Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh; Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manoj Kumar Tiwari, Judge, High Court of Uttarakhand; Mr. Gaurav Agrawal, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India; and Prof. (Dr.) Vartika Nanda, Founder, Tinka Tinka Foundation**.

The discussions reaffirmed that constitutional rights do not cease at the prison gates and that meaningful legal aid must extend throughout the criminal justice process. Deliberations addressed the challenges of prolonged undertrial incarceration, humane prison administration and strengthening institutional accountability, while emphasising that rehabilitation should remain the central objective of correctional systems. Particular attention was devoted to technology-driven reforms, including the evolving E-Prison ecosystem, which promises greater transparency, timely legal intervention and improved coordination among stakeholders. Innovative practices such as open prisons and initiatives including Prison Radio were also highlighted as examples of correctional reforms that restore dignity, encourage rehabilitation and facilitate reintegration into society.

The deliberations further highlighted the importance of strengthening legal aid mechanisms within prisons through regular prison visits, effective legal counselling and closer coordination between prison authorities, Legal Aid Defence Counsels and Legal Services Institutions. Speakers emphasised that early legal intervention, periodic review of cases involving undertrial prisoners and timely identification of eligible inmates for bail, remission and premature release are essential to preventing unnecessary incarceration. The need for comprehensive legal literacy programmes inside prisons, improved access to legal documentation and greater involvement of Para Legal Volunteers was also underscored as critical to ensuring that every prisoner is able to effectively exercise the rights guaranteed under the Constitution and law.

The session concluded with a clear consensus that prison reforms must remain firmly anchored in constitutional values of dignity, fairness and rehabilitation, with Legal Services Institutions playing a proactive role in ensuring timely legal assistance, institutional oversight and human-centric justice for every individual within the criminal justice system through sustained institutional collaboration.

DAY TWO
Institutional Innovation for Last-Mile Justice

While the first day of the Conference laid a strong foundation by examining key priorities for strengthening access to justice, the second day focused on institutional innovation—demonstrating how technology, community engagement and administrative reforms can translate constitutional ideals into practical realities. Beyond deliberation, the Conference showcased a series of initiatives designed to strengthen legal aid delivery and improve the responsiveness of Legal Services Institutions across the North Zone.

A significant milestone was the launch of the **UKSLSA Nyay Mitra Portal** by **Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India**. Conceived as a technology-enabled platform to strengthen citizen engagement, the Portal seeks to simplify access to legal services, facilitate greater transparency and bring legal aid closer to those who need it most. By reducing procedural barriers and enabling easier interaction between citizens and Legal Services Institutions, the initiative reflects the growing role of digital governance in strengthening access to justice.

The Conference also witnessed the release of the **E-Booklet on Best Practices and Legal Aid Initiatives** by **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vikram Nath**. The publication documents innovative practices adopted by Legal Services Institutions and serves as a valuable repository of replicable models capable of strengthening legal aid delivery across jurisdictions. By encouraging knowledge-sharing and institutional learning, the initiative reinforces NALSA's commitment to continuous improvement and collaborative reform.

Reflecting the increasing emphasis on preventive legal aid, the programme also marked the **launch of Anti-Drug Units** by **His Excellency Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh (Retd.), Hon'ble Governor of Uttarakhand**, reaffirming NALSA's recognition that legal services extend beyond dispute resolution into community awareness, early intervention and social rehabilitation. Addressing substance abuse requires coordinated institutional responses involving legal services, healthcare providers, educational institutions and civil society, and the initiative represents another step towards expanding the preventive dimensions of legal aid.

Another important highlight was the flagging off of Multi Utility Vehicles (MUVs) for deployment across District Legal Services Authorities and UKSLSA. Designed to strengthen last-mile outreach, these mobile units will enable Legal Services Institutions to reach remote, geographically challenging and underserved communities with legal awareness programmes, legal aid clinics and outreach activities. Together, these initiatives reflected a common philosophy—that access to justice is strengthened not only through courts and legislation but also through institutions that are mobile, technologically enabled and responsive to the needs of every citizen.

TECHNICAL SESSION III
Justice for Acid Attack Survivors: Compensation, Rehabilitation and Dignity-Centric Support

Left to Right: Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.V. Bhatti, Judge, Supreme Court of India, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya, Chief Justice, High Court of Delhi, Ms. Laxmi Agarwal, Founder, The Laxmi Foundation, and Dr. Navpreet Kaur, Co-Founder, The Laxmi Foundation

The third technical session addressed one of the most sensitive dimensions of victim-centric justice—ensuring dignity, rehabilitation and meaningful institutional support for survivors of acid attacks. Chaired by **Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.V. Bhatti, Judge, Supreme Court of India** and co-chaired by **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya, Chief Justice, High Court of Delhi**, the session featured **Ms. Laxmi Agarwal, Founder, The Laxmi Foundation** and **Dr. Navpreet Kaur, Co-Founder, The Laxmi Foundation**, whose lived experiences and advocacy enriched the deliberations.

The discussion moved beyond compensation alone to examine the broader challenges of long-term rehabilitation, psychological recovery, livelihood opportunities and social reintegration. Sharing her personal journey, Ms. Laxmi Agarwal reminded participants that survivors require not sympathy but sustained institutional support that restores dignity, confidence and agency. Referring to the landmark decision in ***Laxmi v. Union of India [(2014) 4 SCC 427]***, the deliberations emphasised the enforceability of survivors' rights to compensation, free medical treatment and institutional assistance.

The session also underscored the importance of preventive measures, including effective regulation of acid sale, greater public awareness and prompt enforcement of statutory safeguards. Speakers emphasised that rehabilitation must be viewed as a continuous process requiring sustained legal assistance, access to education and skill development, financial independence and psychosocial support. It was observed that Legal Services Institutions can play a transformative role by ensuring coordinated implementation of survivor-centric welfare schemes and facilitating access to the full spectrum of legal and rehabilitative entitlements.

The session concluded with a shared affirmation that a truly victim-centric justice system must uphold the constitutional values of dignity, equality and compassion by ensuring that every survivor is supported in reclaiming agency, opportunity and a life of dignity. The deliberations reaffirmed that survivor-centred justice requires sustained institutional commitment, coordinated action and unwavering respect for the dignity and rights of every survivor.

TECHNICAL SESSION IV
Strengthening Legal Protection and Support Systems for Women and Children

Left to Right: Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vikram Nath, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Executive Chairman, NALSA, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Judge, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and Executive Chairman J&K SLSA, Ms. Manju Dhaundiyal, Consultant (Women and Children Issues) and Foundation and Ms. Sampurna Berua, Executive Director, India Child Protection.

The fourth technical session examined strategies for strengthening institutional responses to issues affecting women and children. Chaired by **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vikram Nath, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Executive Chairman, NALSA**, and co-chaired by **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Judge, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority**, the session featured **Ms. Manju Dhaundiyal, Consultant (Women and Children Issues), and Ms. Sampurna Behura, Executive Director, India Child Protection** as speakers.

The deliberations underscored that effective protection requires far more than legal remedies after violations occur. Speakers emphasised the importance of preventive legal awareness, community outreach, convergence among Legal Services Institutions, law enforcement agencies, educational institutions and child protection mechanisms, and greater utilisation of Para Legal Volunteers as trusted community-based facilitators. Particular attention was devoted to child-friendly justice systems, institutional sensitivity, cyber safety and bridging implementation gaps that continue to prevent vulnerable women and children from fully accessing available legal protections.

The discussion also highlighted the importance of ensuring that legal services are accessible at the earliest stage of vulnerability through strengthened legal aid clinics, dedicated support services and effective referral mechanisms. Speakers emphasised that women and children often face multiple social, economic and institutional barriers in accessing justice, making timely intervention and coordinated assistance essential. Particular emphasis was placed on strengthening victim support services, promoting child-sensitive and gender-responsive approaches across institutions, and fostering greater legal literacy to enable women and children to recognise, assert and effectively enforce their legal rights.

The session concluded with a renewed commitment to strengthening coordinated, rights-based and survivor-centric institutional frameworks capable of providing timely and effective support.

NORTH ZONE REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON "ENHANCING ACCESS TO JUSTICE" HELD AT DEHRADUN, UTTARAKHAND

Welcome Session: Advancing the Future of Legal Services

The Welcome session brought together constitutional vision, institutional innovation and practical governance, offering a compelling roadmap for the future of legal services in India. The programme was graced by **Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India and Patron-in-Chief, NALSA, Mr. Justice Surya Kant; Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vikram Nath, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Executive Chairman, NALSA; His Excellency Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh (Retd.), Hon'ble Governor of Uttarakhand; Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttarakhand; and Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Law and Justice, Government of India**, together with Hon'ble Judges, Chief Justices and representatives of Legal Services Institutions from across the North Zone.

Delivering the keynote address, **Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India, Mr. Justice Surya Kant**, articulated the central message that resonated throughout the Conference: "*The real barrier to justice today is not the absence of laws, but the gap between rights and their accessibility.*"

Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India and Patron-in-Chief, NALSA, Justice Surya Kant

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vikram Nath
Judge, Supreme Court of India & Executive Chairman, NALSA

His Lordship observed that legal services must increasingly move beyond formal legal entitlements and respond to the lived realities of citizens, particularly those residing in remote and underserved regions. Referring to NALSA's expanding outreach across diverse geographical and social landscapes, His Lordship described Legal Services Institutions as platforms for "*constitutional listening*"—institutions capable not only of delivering legal remedies but also of understanding the everyday challenges faced by vulnerable communities. Innovation, adaptability and institutional sensitivity, His Lordship emphasised, will define the next phase of India's legal aid movement.

Building upon this vision, **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vikram Nath** observed that access to justice must now be understood as a function of reach, awareness and trust, rather than merely physical access to courts. His Lordship demonstrated how technology and institutional innovation can bring legal services closer to citizens by highlighting initiatives such as the Nyay Mitra Portal, the Best Practices E-Booklet and the deployment of Multi Utility Vehicles. Appreciating grassroots initiatives such as **Uttarakhand's "*One Village, One PLV*" model**, His Lordship emphasised the transformative role of Para Legal Volunteers and community mediation in fostering preventive, participatory and community-driven justice systems. Invoking Mahatma Gandhi's enduring philosophy, His Lordship reminded participants that the true measure of every legal services initiative ultimately lies in how effectively it reaches the last person in need. His Lordship concluded by emphasising that the future of legal services lies in institutions that are accessible, compassionate and responsive to the evolving needs of every citizen.

His Excellency Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh (Retd.), Hon'ble Governor of Uttarakhand, stressed that justice must remain timely, affordable and accessible, particularly for citizens residing in geographically remote regions, cautioning that procedural delays erode public confidence in institutions. **Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttarakhand**, reaffirmed the State Government's commitment to ensuring that justice reaches the last citizen by continuously removing institutional and procedural barriers. **Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Law and Justice, Government of India**, observed that sustained legal aid efforts at the grassroots, though often incremental, collectively contribute to the constitutional vision of justice for all. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta also highlighted the continuing importance of victim support mechanisms and women- and child-centric legal aid initiatives, while Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manoj Kumar Tiwari expressed gratitude to all dignitaries and participants for their valuable contributions to the Conference.

His Excellency Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh (Retd.), Hon'ble Governor of Uttarakhand

Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttarakhand

Shri. Arjun Ram Meghwal, Hon'ble Minister for State (Independent Charge) for Law and Justice

The North Zone Regional Conference reaffirmed that access to justice can no longer be understood solely in terms of legal representation or courtroom proceedings. It encompasses the recognition of forest rights, the dignity of prisoners, rehabilitation for survivors of violence, effective protection for women and children and institutions capable of reaching citizens wherever they are. Throughout deliberations, technology, community participation, legal awareness and institutional collaboration emerged not as independent themes but as complementary instruments for realising the constitutional vision embodied in Article 39A. By combining constitutional values with technological innovation, grassroots outreach and human-centred governance, the Conference reaffirmed that justice is not fulfilled merely by the existence of rights—it is realised only when every individual, particularly the most vulnerable, is able to meaningfully exercise them. In doing so, the North Zone Regional Conference offered not merely a blueprint for strengthening legal aid, but a renewed affirmation of the constitutional promise that justice must remain accessible, compassionate and inclusive for all.

GLIMPSES FROM THE NORTH ZONE REGIONAL CONFERENCE HELD AT DEHRADUN, UTTARAKHAND

GUJARAT SLSA LAUNCHES COMMUNITY MEDIATION INITIATIVE AND EXPANDS LEGAL AID OUTREACH

On the occasion of the Annual Conference of Judges of the District Judiciary, the Gujarat State Legal Services Authority (GSLSA) organised a series of initiatives at the Gujarat High Court Auditorium, Ahmedabad, on 4th April 2026, aimed at strengthening access to justice and promoting institutional mediation across the State. The programme was graced by **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vikram Nath, Judge, Supreme Court of India & Executive Chairman, NALSA,** in the august presence of **Hon'ble Mr. Justice N. V. Anjaria and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vipul M. Pancholi, Judges, Supreme Court of India, Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Sunita Agarwal, Chief Justice of High Court of Gujarat, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Alpesh Y. Kogje, Judge, High Court of Gujarat and Executive Chairman, Gujarat, SLSA and Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. S. Supehia, Judge, High Court of Gujarat.** The programme also witnessed the distribution of certificates to eleven mediators from Gujarat who were newly empanelled as trainers under the Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee after successfully completing the Training of Trainers programme. The initiative is expected to strengthen mediation capacity across the State and further advance NALSA's vision of accessible, community-driven and citizen-centric dispute resolution.

A key highlight of the programme was the launch of the "**Community Mediation (Trading Community**)" Initiative under the aegis of NALSA and in consonance with the Mediation Act, 2023. The initiative seeks to institutionalise traditional dispute resolution practices within Chambers of Commerce and Vyapari Associations by identifying, training and recognising community mediators. By encouraging amicable settlement of commercial disputes through trusted community institutions, the initiative is expected to reduce litigation, promote consensual dispute resolution and strengthen public confidence in mediation as an effective justice delivery mechanism.

On the occasion, 25 Multi-Utility Vehicles were flagged off for deployment by the Gujarat State Legal Services Authority and District Legal Services Authorities to enhance the outreach of legal aid services in rural, remote and underserved areas, thereby strengthening last-mile access to justice.

The programme showcased a holistic approach to strengthening the justice delivery system by combining institutional capacity-building with community engagement and enhanced outreach. While the empanelment of mediation trainers and the Community Mediation Initiative sought to embed consensual dispute resolution within society, the deployment of mobile legal aid units reinforced the commitment to ensuring that legal services reach even the most remote and underserved communities.

Together, these initiatives underscored the shared commitment of NALSA and Gujarat SLSA to promoting accessible, people-centric justice by strengthening mediation, expanding legal outreach and enhancing institutional capacity.

JUSTICE VIKRAM NATH INTERACTS WITH CHAIRPERSONS AND MEMBER SECRETARIES OF DLSAS IN KARNATAKA

As part of NALSA's continuing efforts to strengthen the institutional functioning of Legal Services Authorities, an interaction with the Chairpersons and Member Secretaries of all District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) in Karnataka was held on 19th April 2026 at the Dr. Babu Rajendra Prasad International Convention Centre, Bengaluru. The meeting was chaired by **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vikram Nath, Judge, Supreme Court of India & Executive Chairman, NALSA**, in the august presence of **Hon'ble Smt. Justice Anu Sivaraman, Judge, High Court of Karnataka & Executive Chairperson, Karnataka State Legal Services Authority (KSLSA).**

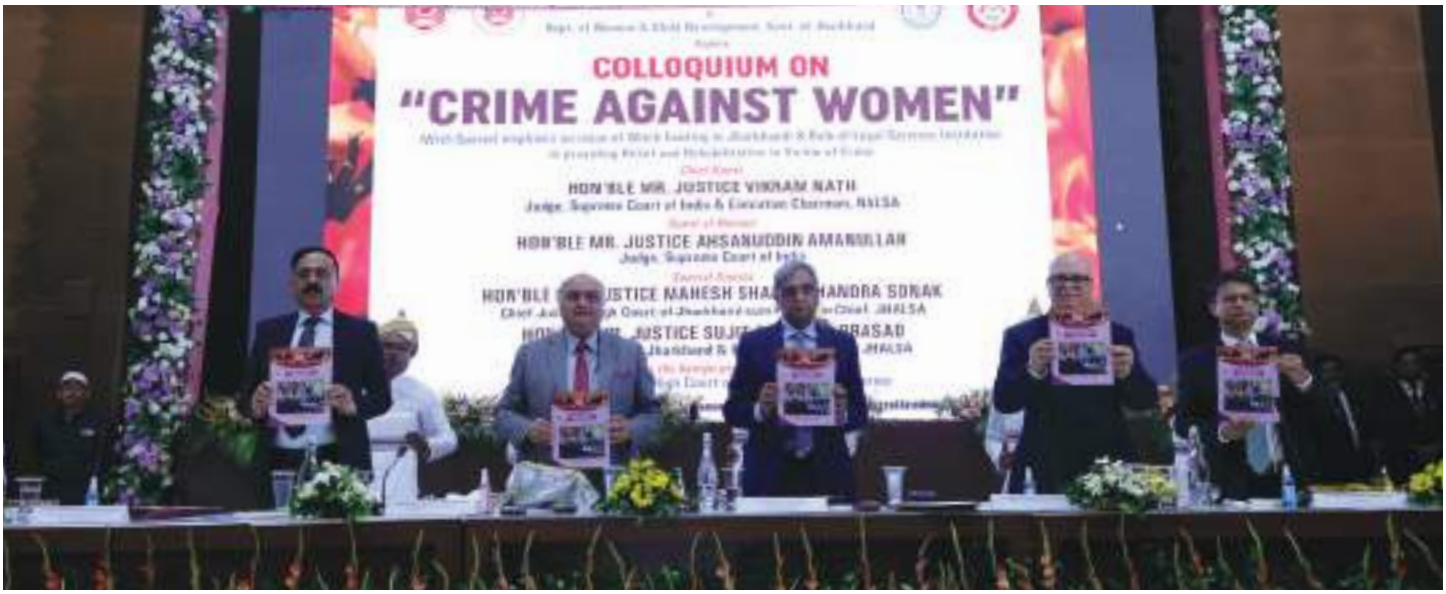
Addressing the gathering, **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vikram Nath** emphasised that Legal Services Institutions must continuously strive to improve efficiency, accountability and outreach to ensure that legal aid reaches every deserving beneficiary. His Lordship called upon District Legal Services Authorities to closely monitor pending matters, regularly review the functioning of the Legal Aid Defence Counsel System (LADCS) and promptly fill vacant positions to strengthen quality legal representation. Stressing the importance of technology-driven governance, His Lordship advised Member Secretaries to make regular use of prison portals for monitoring undertrial prisoners, bail applications and premature release cases, thereby ensuring timely legal intervention.

His Lordship also highlighted NALSA's initiatives on Community Mediation and the Litigation-Free Village concept, encouraging DLSAs to expand grassroots legal awareness through Village Legal Aid Clinics, Para Legal Volunteers and greater engagement with law colleges. Appreciating Karnataka's initiative of engaging former High Court Judges on a pro bono basis for the implementation of NALSA Schemes, he urged all stakeholders to strengthen collaborative efforts in advancing access to justice.

The interaction concluded with a renewed commitment to enhancing institutional coordination, timely implementation of NALSA's flagship programmes and strengthening the delivery of legal services through proactive leadership at the district level. The deliberations reaffirmed the pivotal role of District Legal Service Authorities as the primary interface between Legal Services Institutions and the communities they serve.

COLLOQUIUM ON CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN HELD IN RANCHI, JHARLHAND

The Jharkhand State Legal Services Authority (JHALSA), in collaboration with the Department of Women, Child Development & Social Security, Government of Jharkhand, organised a **Colloquium on "Crime Against Women"** at the Judicial Academy, Ranchi, on 25th April 2026. The programme deliberated on strengthening institutional responses, victim rehabilitation and access to justice for women affected by gender-based violence with a special focus on witch hunting in Jharkhand.



The programme was graced by **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vikram Nath, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Executive Chairman, NALSA**, as the Chief Guest, and **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah, Judge, Supreme Court of India**, as the Guest of Honour, alongside **Hon'ble Mr. Justice M.S. Sonak, Chief Justice, High Court of Jharkhand, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sujit Narayan Prasad, Judge, High Court of Jharkhand & Executive Chairman, Jharkhand SLSA** and other distinguished dignitaries.

In his address, Justice Vikram Nath underscored the need for a survivor-centric justice system focused on rehabilitation, while Justice Amanullah highlighted the constitutional imperative of ensuring substantive equality and effective implementation of victim protection mechanisms.

The colloquium featured three technical sessions on the legal and socio-economic dimensions of crimes against women, particularly witch hunting and discussed victim compensation, witness protection and rehabilitation. The occasion also witnessed the launch of a JHALSA Chatbot, a 90-day legal awareness campaign, a Special Lok Adalat for Negotiable Instruments Act cases, and the inauguration of the Sub-Divisional Legal Services Committee at Chakradharpur, reaffirming JHALSA's commitment to strengthening access to justice for women across the State.

NALSA LAUNCHES PAN-INDIA E-PRISONS EARLY RELEASE PROCESSING MODULE

In a significant step towards strengthening technology-enabled access to justice, the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) launched the **E-Prisons Early Release Processing Module** on 27th May 2026 in virtual mode for implementation across the country. Developed by the **National Informatics Centre (NIC)** pursuant to the directions of the ***Hon'ble Supreme Court in Surendra @ Sunda v. State of Uttar Pradesh (2026)***, the module seeks to ensure timely, transparent and efficient processing of remission and premature release cases of eligible prisoners. The module was launched by **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant, Chief Justice of India & Patron-in-Chief, NALSA**, in the august presence of **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vikram Nath, Judge, Supreme Court of India & Executive Chairman, NALSA**, **Hon'ble Mr. Justice J.K. Maheshwari, Judge, Supreme Court of India & Chairman, Supreme Court Legal Services Committee**, senior officers of NALSA, the National Informatics Centre, prison authorities and representatives of Legal Services Institutions across the country.

Delivering the keynote address, **Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India** observed that a prisoner who has become eligible for consideration of remission or premature release should not continue to remain in uncertainty merely because administrative procedures move slowly or responsibility shifts between authorities. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vikram Nath** remarked that the true success of the initiative would not lie in the sophistication of the technology, but in its ability to reduce unnecessary incarceration, ensure timely consideration of eligible prisoners and translate the constitutional promise of fairness into reality. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice J.K. Maheshwari** underscored that Article 21 does not fall silent at the prison door, reaffirming that constitutional protections accompany every individual, including those in custody. Integrated within the existing e-Prisons platform, the module automates the identification of eligible prisoners well before their eligibility dates, enables online processing of proposals, generates real-time SMS and WhatsApp alerts, provides colour-coded monitoring mechanisms and offers centralised dashboards to facilitate effective coordination among prison authorities, police, Legal Services Institutions and other stakeholders. Successfully piloted at Central Jail, Agra and District Jail, Lucknow, the platform is now being rolled out across States and Union Territories in accordance with their respective remission policies.

The launch marks another milestone in the National Legal Services Authority's ongoing efforts to harness technology for strengthening prison administration and ensuring that constitutional guarantees of liberty, dignity and access to justice are translated into timely and meaningful relief for eligible prisoners.

FROM CLASSROOM TO COURTROOM: THIRD ZONAL WORKSHOP INSPIRES FUTURE LEGAL AID LEADERS

The Karnataka State Legal Services Authority (KSLSA), in association with the Karnataka State Law University and M.S. Ramaiah College of Law, organised the Third Zonal Workshop on "***From Classroom to Courtroom: Law Students as Catalysts for Social Justice***" on 31st May 2026 at Bengaluru. The workshop brought together nearly 1,300 participants from 97 law colleges across the Bengaluru Zone to deliberate on the role of legal education in advancing access to justice through legal aid and community engagement.

The workshop was inaugurated by **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vikram Nath, Judge, Supreme Court of India & Executive Chairman, NALSA**, and presided over by **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vibhu Bakhru, Chief Justice, High Court of Karnataka & Patron-in-Chief, KSLSA**. The programme was also graced by **Hon'ble Smt. Justice Anu Sivaraman, Judge, High Court of Karnataka & Executive Chairperson, KSLSA**, along with senior judicial officers, academicians and legal experts. Delivering the inaugural address, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vikram Nath emphasised that legal education must extend beyond classrooms and become an instrument for justice, equality and social transformation. Referring to Article 39A of the Constitution and the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, His Lordship underscored that law students are future custodians of constitutional values and have a vital role in advancing access to justice through community engagement and public service. His Lordship urged law students to embrace their responsibility towards society by participating in legal aid camps, village outreach programmes and Legal Services Clinics, thereby developing into socially responsible professionals committed to serving the poor and marginalised. In his address, **Justice Vibhu Bakhru** encouraged students to actively engage in legal awareness initiatives and community outreach. **Justice Anu Sivaraman** highlighted that the transition from classroom to courtroom must be guided by ethics, empathy, constitutional values and professional integrity, underscoring the important role of Legal Services Clinics in nurturing socially conscious lawyers. The workshop featured techincal sessions on legal service camps, Legal Service Clinics and the objectives of the Legal Services Authorities, Act, 1987, reaffirming the vital role of legal education in streghtening grassroots legal aid and fostering a new generation of lawyers dedicated to advancing constitutional values and equal access to justice.

NALSA REINFORCES PRISON REFORMS THROUGH RIGHTS-BASED INITIATIVES AT CENTRAL PRISON, BENGALURU

The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), in collaboration with the Karnataka State Legal Services Authority (KSLSA) and the Department of Prisons and Correctional Services, organised a programme on "***Right of Parole, Remission and Release under Poor Prisoner's Scheme***" at the Central Prison, Parappana Agrahara, Bengaluru, on 31st May 2026, Continuing its commitment to ensuring humane and rights-based prison administration.

The programme was inaugurated by **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vikram Nath, Judge, Supreme Court of India & Executive Chairman, NALSA**, in the presence of **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vibhu Bakhru, Chief Justice, High Court of Karnataka & Patron-in-Chief, KSLSA, Hon'ble Smt. Justice Anu Sivaraman, Judge, High Court of Karnataka & Executive Chairperson, KSLSA** and other senior judicial and prison officials. On the occasion, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vikram Nath inaugurated a Computer Lab, established with the support of R.V. College of Engineering and the TELE-MANAS mental health initiative of NIMHANS, aimed at enhancing educational opportunities and psychological support for prison inmates. The initiatives reflected a shared commitment to technology-enabled rehabilitation and humane correctional administration. Addressing the gathering, **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vikram Nath** emphasised that access to justice must extend beyond courtrooms and remain meaningful even for those in custody. Highlighting the importance of legal aid and rehabilitation, His Lordship underscored that awareness of legal rights relating to parole, remission and premature release is essential for ensuring that eligible prisoners are able to effectively avail the benefits provided under law. The programme reaffirmed NALSA's commitment to a correctional system that is guided not merely by incarceration but by dignity, reform and rehabilitation.

During the visit, the Hon'ble Judges interacted with inmates who had received legal assistance through the Legal Aid Defence Counsel System and District Legal Services Authorities. They also inspected the Prison Legal Aid Clinic, prison barracks and the de-addiction centre, reviewing the legal aid and welfare services available within the correctional facility. The visit reinforced the importance of regular judicial engagement, effective legal aid mechanisms and institutional collaboration in safeguarding the constitutional rights and dignity of persons in custody.

MEGA LEGAL LITERACY CAMP ON CONSTITUTIONAL VALUES AND LEGAL AWARENESS HELD IN DHARAMSHALA

The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), in collaboration with the Himachal Pradesh State Legal Services Authority (HPSLSA), organised a **Mega Legal Literacy Camp on Constitutional Values and Legal Awareness** at Dharamshala on 6th June 2026 through the District Legal Services Authority, Kangra. Centred on the themes "***Fundamental Rights and Duties: Present Scenario***" and "**Empowered, Capable and Harmonious Society – Constitutional Goal**", the programme sought to deepen public understanding of constitutional values while strengthening access to justice through legal awareness.

The programme was attended by **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vikram Nath, Judge, Supreme Court of India & Executive Chairman, NALSA**, as the Chief Guest, along with **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Karol and Hon'ble Mr. Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Judges, Supreme Court of India**; **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Gurmeet Singh Sandhawalia, Chief Justice, High Court of Himachal Pradesh & Patron-in-Chief, HPSLSA**; **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vivek Singh Thakur, Judge, High Court of Himachal Pradesh & Executive Chairman, HPSLSA**; **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sandeep Sharma, Judge, High Court of Himachal Pradesh & Executive Chairman, HCLSC**, officers of NALSA, judicial officers and distinguished guests were also present.

In his address, **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vikram Nath** underscored that legal awareness is indispensable for ensuring that justice reaches every individual, particularly those living in remote and underserved areas. Reiterating NALSA's commitment to last-mile justice delivery, His Lordship urged citizens to uphold constitutional values in their daily lives.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice G.S. Sandhawalia highlighted that legal literacy empowers vulnerable and marginalised communities to realise their rights, while **Hon'ble Mr. Justice N. Kotiswar Singh and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Karol** emphasised that constitutional values and civic responsibility together form the bedrock of an inclusive and participatory democracy. Introducing the theme of the programme, **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vivek Singh Thakur** stressed the importance of enhancing public awareness of both constitutional rights and corresponding duties.

The programme also witnessed the flagging off of eleven Multi-Utility Vehicles for deployment across the District Legal Services Authorities in Himachal Pradesh to strengthen legal aid outreach in remote regions. Relief assistance was distributed to disaster-affected families, and an exhibition showcasing legal services initiatives was organised. The Mega Legal Literacy Camp reaffirmed NALSA's commitment to promoting constitutional awareness and ensuring that access to justice is strengthened through informed, empowered and legally aware communities.

JAMMU & KASHMIR SLSA ORGANISES MEGA LEGAL AWARENESS PROGRAMME TO PROMOTE ACCESS TO JUSTICE

The Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority (J&K SLSA), under the aegis of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), organised a **Mega Legal Awareness Programme** on 20th June 2026, bringing together judicial officers, Legal Services Institutions, government departments and members of the public to strengthen legal awareness and facilitate access to welfare schemes and legal services across the Union Territory.

The programme was graced by **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vikram Nath, Judge, Supreme Court of India & Executive Chairman, NALSA** and **Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.V. Bhatti, Judge, Supreme Court of India** along with **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Acting Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh & Executive Chairman, J&K SLSA** and **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Dhar, Judge, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh & Executive Chairman, HCLSC,** other Hon'ble Judges of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, senior judicial officers, representatives of government departments and Legal Services Institutions.

Addressing the gathering, **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vikram Nath** emphasised that the constitutional promise of access to justice can be realised only when legal awareness reaches the grassroots and every eligible citizen is able to avail legal aid and welfare entitlements without impediment. His Lordship highlighted the pivotal role of Legal Services Authorities in bridging the gap between legal rights and their effective enforcement.

The Programme comprised two Technical Sessions. The first session, on the theme *"Women's Rights, Legal Empowerment and Access to Justice: Role of Legal Services Institutions*", was chaired by **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vikram Nath and Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.V. Bhatti**. The second session, on the theme "*Institutional Support, Victim Assistance and Convergence Mechanisms for Women in Distress*", was chaired by **Hon'ble Smt. Justice Sindhu Sharma and Hon'ble Ms. Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi, Judges, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.**

On the occasion, Multi-Utility Vehicles were flagged off for deployment across the District Legal Services Authorities in the Kashmir Province to strengthen outreach and enhance access to legal services in remote and underserved areas. J&K SLSA also released its Annual Newsletter Compendium of Legal Services Activities, ENDEAVOUR-2025.

The programme also featured legal awareness sessions, dissemination of information on NALSA schemes and government welfare programmes, and facilitation of legal assistance for beneficiaries. By bringing legal services closer to communities, the initiative reinforced NALSA's vision of an accessible, inclusive and citizen-centric justice delivery system founded on constitutional values and meaningful public engagement.

Inspection Visit to Central Jail, Dibrugarh and Pujashree Old Age Home (Assam)

On 25th April, the Madhya Pradesh SLSA, in collaboration with the High Court of Madhya Pradesh, organised a one-day "Udaan – Adolescent Empowerment Programme" under the NALSA (Child Friendly Legal Services for Children) Scheme, 2024. The programme was conducted under the guidance of Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva, Patron-in-Chief, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vivek Rusia, Executive Chairman, MPSLSA and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anand Pathak, Chairman, HCLSC, High Court of Madhya Pradesh, Gwalior. It aimed to empower adolescents through awareness of child rights and protection laws, with around 400 students from nearly 20 Government Schools participating in interactive sessions. Winners of poster-making and street play competitions on girl child empowerment and environmental protection were also felicitated, highlighting informed decision-making, responsible citizenship and holistic development.

Statewide Mega Tree Plantation Drive Concludes with Plantation of Over 15 Lakh Trees (Haryana)

On 3rd April, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Michael Zothankhuma, Judge, High Court of Gauhati & Executive Chairman, Assam State Legal Services Authority (ASLSA), undertook an inspection visit to the Central Jail, Dibrugarh and Pujashree Old Age Home, Dibrugarh. During the visit, interactions were held with inmates and residents to understand their concerns and assess the availability of legal aid, welfare measures and institutional support mechanisms. The inspection provided an opportunity to review living conditions, healthcare facilities and access to legal services being extended to prisoners and senior citizens. The visit reaffirmed the commitment of Legal Services Institutions towards safeguarding the rights and dignity of vulnerable sections of society and strengthening access to justice and welfare services through regular monitoring and institutional engagement.

Workshop Empowers Adolescents Through Legal Awareness and Life Skills (Madhya Pradesh)

Under the leadership and guidance of Hon'ble Mr. Justice Deepak Sibal, Judge, High Court of Punjab and Haryana & Executive Chairman, Haryana State Legal Services Authority, a State-wide Mega Tree Plantation Drive was undertaken by Haryana SLSA in collaboration with the Forest Department, Haryana, from 5th June to 5th August, 2026. Launched on World Environment Day with an initial target of approximately 15 lakh trees, the campaign concluded with the plantation of 15,17,985 trees, surpassing the target. Plantation activities were carried out by DLSAs across Court Complexes, ADR Centres, Judicial Residential Complexes and other suitable public places, with emphasis on indigenous, medicinal, fruit-bearing and shade-giving species. The successful completion of the drive reflects the collective efforts of Legal Services Institutions, judicial officers, staff, Forest Department officials, volunteers and other stakeholders.

Lecture on the Art of Examination and Cross-Examination (Nagaland)

On 8th May, the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Harsimran Singh Sethi, Executive Chairman, SLSA, U.T. Chandigarh, inaugurated a Legal Services Clinic established at the office of the Assistant Labour Commissioner, Sector 30, Chandigarh. The initiative was undertaken with the objective of strengthening access to justice for workers and members of the public by providing legal services at an easily accessible location. The Legal Services Clinic has been established to provide on-the-spot legal consultation, guidance regarding legal rights and remedies, assistance in availing free legal aid and support in navigating legal procedures. The inauguration of the Legal Services Clinic marks another significant step towards decentralizing legal services and strengthening institutional mechanisms for last-mile delivery of justice, particularly for workers and other vulnerable sections of society.

Inauguration and Inspection of Heat Wave Preparedness and Labour Protection Camps (Delhi)

On 6th May 2026, the Nagaland State Legal Services Authority (NSLSA), in collaboration with the High Court Bar Association, Kohima and the Kohima Bar Association, organized a one-day lecture on "The Art of Examination and Cross-Examination in Civil and Criminal Matters" at the Gauhati High Court, Kohima Bench. The programme was graced by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Kalyan Rai Surana, Judge, Gauhati High Court and Executive Chairman, Nagaland SLSA. His Lordship highlighted the significance and complexities of examination and cross-examination in judicial proceedings. Emphasizing that effective cross-examination is a skill refined through years of practice, preparation and a sound understanding of the law, The lecture also focused on practical strategies for advocates. The programme contributed significantly towards enhancing advocacy skills and strengthening the capacity of members of the Bar.

Inauguration of Legal Services Clinic at the Office of the Assistant Labour Commissioner (Chandigarh)

On 5th June, the Delhi State Legal Services Authority (DSLSA) organized Heat Wave Preparedness and Labour Protection Camps at the Kartavya Bhavan 8/9 Construction Site and other locations in New Delhi for the welfare of construction workers, daily wage earners and their families. Hon'ble Mr. Justice V. Kameswar Rao, Judge, High Court of Delhi & Executive Chairman, DSLSA visited the camps, inspected the arrangements and interacted with the beneficiaries. The camps facilitated access to various welfare services, including Aadhaar registration and updation, Labour Card registration, health check-ups, legal aid and awareness services, vocational counselling and assistance through the One Stop Centre (SAKHI). Heat Wave Relief Kits and sanitary kits were also distributed. The initiative strengthened access to legal services and welfare schemes while promoting preparedness against extreme heat conditions.

Observance of World Autism Awareness Day (Chandigarh)

On 14th May, a programme was organized at New Seemapuri, Delhi to commemorate Menstrual Hygiene Day and the International Day of Action for Women's Health under the NALSA (JAGRITI) Scheme, 2025. The programme aimed to create awareness among women and adolescent girls regarding the importance of maintaining menstrual hygiene, proper use and safe disposal of sanitary products, prevention of menstrual infections and overall reproductive well-being. The session also highlighted various legal rights and welfare measures available for women, emphasizing the importance of health, dignity and access to essential services. Sanitary napkins were distributed among the participants, and interactive discussions were held. The initiative contributed towards breaking social stigma, promoting health awareness and empowering women through informed choices and access to essential information.

Observance of World Red Cross Day through Blood Donation Camp (Delhi)

On 2nd April, an awareness programme was organized at Government Model High School, Chandigarh to observe World Autism Awareness Day. The programme aimed to sensitize students about autism and dispel common misconceptions associated with the condition. Through an informative awareness session and audio-visual presentations, students were educated about identifying developmental concerns, interacting sensitively with autistic children and the importance of early intervention and supportive care. Emphasis was laid on fostering values of patience, compassion, inclusion and respect towards children with special needs. The programme also highlighted that autism is a manageable developmental condition requiring timely support and community acceptance. The initiative promoted inclusivity and creating greater awareness regarding the rights and well-being of children with autism.

Observance of Menstrual Hygiene Day and International Day of Action for Women's Health

On 9th May, the South and South-East District Legal Services Authorities, under the aegis of NALSA and DSLSA, organized a Blood Donation Camp at the Saket Courts Complex, New Delhi, in association with the Indian Red Cross Society to commemorate World Red Cross Day 2026. The programme aimed to promote voluntary blood donation and reinforce the spirit of humanitarian service and community responsibility. Judicial officers, advocates, court staff, officials of Legal Services Authorities and members of the public actively participated in the initiative, demonstrating collective commitment towards supporting lifesaving healthcare interventions. The observance highlighted voluntary blood donation as a vital humanitarian act and reaffirmed the commitment of LSIs towards social welfare initiatives and engagement beyond conventional legal aid activities.

Observance of International Day for Biological Diversity (Ladakh)

On 4th June, on the occasion of the International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression, the Taluka Legal Services Committee (TLSC), Jesar, organized an awareness programme to highlight the rights, protection and welfare of children affected by violence, abuse and conflict situations. During the programme, participants were sensitized about the vulnerabilities faced by children and the need to ensure a safe, secure and nurturing environment for their growth and development. Emphasis was laid on child protection laws, the importance of safeguarding children's rights and the collective responsibility of society in preventing violence and exploitation against children. The programme also underscored the significance of providing timely support, rehabilitation and access to justice for child victims, thereby reaffirming the commitment of Legal Services Institutions towards protecting the rights and dignity of every child.

Observance of International Missing Children's Day

On 22nd May, the International Day for Biological Diversity was observed across various villages in Ladakh with the objective of promoting environmental awareness and encouraging community participation in biodiversity conservation. During the observance, awareness activities were undertaken to sensitize about the importance of protecting biodiversity. Participants were informed about the adverse impact of pollution, deforestation and plastic waste on ecological balance and human well-being. The programmes also emphasized the adoption of eco-friendly practices such as tree plantation, proper waste management, reduction in plastic usage, conservation of water resources and protection of local flora and fauna. Cleanliness drives were also organized. The initiative contributed towards fostering greater environmental consciousness and sustainable practices at the grassroots level.

Observance of the International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression

On 25th May, the Taluka Legal Services Committee (TLSC), Lathi (Gujarat) organized a comprehensive Legal Awareness Programme to observe International Missing Children's Day. The programme aimed to create awareness regarding child safety, prevention of child trafficking and abduction, and the mechanisms available for tracing and rehabilitating missing children. Participants were sensitized about the importance of timely reporting of missing children cases, the role of law enforcement agencies and LSIs, and the legal protections available under various child protection laws. Emphasis was also laid on community vigilance, parental awareness and coordinated efforts among stakeholders to ensure the safety and well-being of children. The programme reaffirmed the commitment of LSIs towards safeguarding and promoting a secure and protective environment for every child.

International Labour Day
1st May

World Earth Day
22nd April

World No Tobacco Day
31st May

World Environment Day
5th June

World Day Against Child Labour
12th June

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
15th June

International Yoga Day- 21st June

International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking – 26th June

International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking – 26th June

At Community Level : Empowering Communities through Knowledge

Awareness Programme on Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (Jammu & Kashmir)

During April 2026, the Haryana State Legal Services Authority (HALSA) continued its efforts towards strengthening Community Mediation across the State. The initiative seeks to promote amicable settlement of disputes at the grassroots level through community participation and consensual dispute resolution mechanisms. Community Mediation Centres have been established across districts with the objective of resolving local disputes through trained community mediators drawn from among respected members of the community. The initiative has already yielded encouraging results, thereby reducing adversarial litigation and fostering social harmony. The initiative reflects a significant step towards promoting dialogue-based dispute resolution and fostering a culture of peace and community participation in the justice delivery system.

Comprehensive Legal Awareness Programme on NALSA Schemes and Child Protection (Dadra & Nagar Haveli)

On 20th April, an awareness programme on the "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" initiative was organized in Baramulla (Jammu & Kashmir), to promote the importance of education, empowerment and protection of the girl child. The programme focused on creating awareness regarding gender equality. Participants were sensitized about the rights of girls, access to educational opportunities and various government welfare schemes aimed at their welfare and empowerment. The initiative also highlighted issues relating to prevention of child marriage, protection from gender-based discrimination and the importance of ensuring equal opportunities for girls in all spheres of life. Emphasis was laid on the collective responsibility of families and communities in creating a supportive environment for girls to thrive and achieve their full potential, thereby contributing to a more equitable, inclusive and progressive society.

Strengthening Community Mediation at the Grassroots Level (Haryana)

On 13th May, a comprehensive Legal Awareness Programme was organized at the Function Hall, Naroli Gram Panchayat, Silvassa (Dadra & Nagar Haveli), with the objective of promoting legal literacy and disseminating information regarding various welfare-oriented schemes and legal protections available to vulnerable sections of society. The programme covered a wide range of subjects, including child protection and safety under the "Surakshit Bachpan, Surakshit Bhavishya" initiative, the POCSO Act, 2012, Victim Compensation Schemes and various other Schemes of NALSA. Participants were sensitized about legal rights, welfare entitlements, access to free legal aid and the role of Legal Services Authorities in extending assistance to marginalized and vulnerable communities. The programme contributed significantly towards enhancing awareness regarding various legal aid and welfare mechanisms.

At Community Level : Empowering Communities through Knowledge

In May 2026, a Legal Awareness Programme on the topic "Rights and Entitlements of LGBTQIA+ Persons" was organized in North Tripura with the objective of promoting awareness regarding the legal rights, constitutional protections and welfare entitlements of LGBTQIA+ individuals. The programme focused on sensitizing participants about the principles of equality, dignity and non-discrimination. Awareness was also created regarding the legal protections available to LGBTQIA+ persons and the availability of free legal aid through Legal Services Authorities. Participants were encouraged to foster an inclusive and respectful environment and to support the rights and well-being of members of the LGBTQIA+ community. The initiative reinforced the commitment of Legal Services Institutions towards ensuring equal access to justice for all sections of society.

Legal Awareness Programme on Rights and Entitlements of LGBTQIA+ Persons (Tripura)

Legal Awareness and Interaction Programme for Senior Citizens (Gujarat)

In May 2026, the District Legal Services Authority, Surat organized a Legal Awareness and Interaction Programme at Pranjivan Bhagat Old Age Home, Surat (Gujarat), with the objective of sensitizing senior citizens. The programme focused on creating awareness regarding various government schemes and legal protections available, including access to free legal aid and remedies for issues affecting their well-being. An interactive session was also held with the residents, during which the senior citizens shared their grievances and concerns relating to legal and social issues. The initiative aimed to strengthen legal awareness among senior citizens, facilitate resolution of their concerns and ensure that elderly persons are able to access legal services and social support mechanisms with dignity and confidence.

On 6th June, the North District Legal Services Authority (Delhi) organized Mega Legal Awareness and Health Check-up Camps across five major construction sites in North Delhi with the objective of promoting labour welfare, legal awareness and health preparedness among construction workers, particularly in view of the prevailing heat-wave conditions. The camps focused on sensitizing workers. During the camps, workers were registered for Labour Cards and were also facilitated with Aadhaar registration, thereby strengthening their access to welfare benefits and social security schemes. Free health check-up services and essential heat-relief materials were distributed. Interactive sessions on legal rights, occupational safety and health awareness were also conducted to encourage informed decision-making and promote worker welfare. The initiative reflected a holistic approach towards legal empowerment, social security and health protection of vulnerable and unorganized labourers.

Mega Legal Awareness and Health Check-up Camps for Construction Workers (Delhi)

At Colleges & Schools : Empowering the Future Leaders through Knowledge

Awareness Programmes on Road Safety and Responsible Driving (Assam)

In April 2026, awareness programmes on Road Safety were conducted in educational institutions across Assam. The programmes aimed to sensitize students about responsible road usage, adherence to traffic regulations and the importance of safe driving practices. Participants were educated on the dangers of drunk driving, the significance of traffic signs and signals and the legal consequences of traffic violations. Emphasis was also laid on fostering a culture of road safety, responsible citizenship and accident prevention among young people. Through interactive discussions and awareness sessions, students were encouraged to act as responsible ambassadors of road safety within their families and communities. The initiative significantly contributed encouraging safe road practices and careful conduct.

On 21st–23rd April, an Assessment Camp for specially-abled students studying in government schools of the North-East District (Delhi) was organized as part of the ongoing campaign "**शिखर उज्जवल भविष्य की ओर बढ़ते कदम**", in collaboration with the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO). The camp was aimed at identifying the assistive needs of children with disabilities and facilitating access to appropriate aids and appliances to enhance their mobility, education and overall quality of life. During the three-day programme, specially-abled students were assessed for assistive devices. The initiative built upon earlier efforts undertaken for senior citizens and persons with disabilities and reflected a continued commitment towards promoting inclusion, accessibility and equal opportunities for children with special needs. The assessment camp also helped connect beneficiaries with welfare support systems and ensured that eligible students receive appropriate assistive devices to support their educational and developmental needs.

Assessment Camp for Specially-Abled Students in Government Schools (Delhi)

Awareness Session on the POCSO Act under the "Surakshit Bharat, Surakshit Bhavishya" Campaign (Chandigarh)

On 12th May, an awareness session on the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 was organized at Government Model Senior Secondary School, Manimajra, Chandigarh under the "Surakshit Bharat, Surakshit Bhavishya" campaign. The programme aimed to educate students about child rights, personal safety and the legal safeguards available for the protection of children from sexual offences. The session covered key provisions of the POCSO Act, 2012, including the concepts of Good Touch and Bad Touch, reporting mechanisms, child-friendly procedures under the law, punishments for offences and the availability of support services such as the Child Helpline (1098). Students were encouraged to speak up against abuse, seek timely assistance and contribute towards creating safe and supportive educational environments. The initiative promoted a culture of safety, dignity and child protection.

At Colleges & Schools : Empowering the Future Leaders through Knowledge

On 20th June, a Sensitization and Awareness Programme on the NALSA (DAWN – Drug Awareness and Wellness Navigation) Scheme, 2025 was organized in Warangal (Telangana) with the objective of creating awareness among students regarding the harmful effects of drug abuse and the importance of adopting a healthy and responsible lifestyle. The programme focused on educating students about the wide consequences of substance abuse, while emphasizing the significance of preventive measures, early intervention and community participation in addressing the menace of drugs. Participants were also informed about the objectives of the DAWN Scheme, 2025 and the role of LSAs in promoting awareness, facilitating rehabilitation and ensuring access to support services for affected individuals. The initiative encouraged informed decision-making among young persons and strengthen preventive efforts towards building a drug-free, healthy and resilient society.

Sensitization and Awareness Programme on the NALSA (DAWN) Scheme 2025 (Telangana)

Awareness Programme under the "Ghar Ghar Mein Nyay Ki Jagriti" Campaign (Assam)

In May 2026, DLSAs across Assam organized a series of awareness programmes in educational institutions under the "Ghar Ghar Mein Nyay Ki Jagriti" Campaign launched as part of the NALSA (JAGRITI) Scheme, 2025. The campaign sought to strengthen legal literacy among students. As part of the initiative, DLSA, Hojai organized an awareness programme on the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 at Udali Senior Secondary College on 29th May 2026. The session focused on child rights, legal safeguards against sexual offences, reporting mechanisms, victim support services and the availability of free legal aid. Participants were also encouraged to report instances of abuse without fear and to act as informed citizens in promoting a safe and child-friendly environment. The programme contributed towards empowering students with knowledge of their legal rights and responsibilities.

On 8th May 2026, an awareness session on drug abuse prevention and the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985 was organized at Government Model High School, Sector 46, Chandigarh, in collaboration with the Samavesh Team and the DLSA. The programme aimed to sensitize students about the adverse effects of substance abuse and the legal implications associated with narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The session highlighted the harmful physical, psychological and social consequences of drug addiction, the penal provisions of the NDPS Act, 1985, and practical strategies for resisting peer pressure and making informed life choices. Students were also informed about the availability of counselling services, free legal aid and important helplines for assistance and rehabilitation. The programme contributed towards reinforcing collective efforts to build a drug-free and responsible society.

Awareness Session on Drug Abuse Prevention and the NDPS Act (Chandigarh)

Orientation, Capacity Building & Training Programmes

On 4th April, a focused training programme on "Effective Implementation of the Delhi Victim Compensation Scheme" was organized at the Rouse Avenue Court Complex, New Delhi. The programme was organised with the objective of strengthening the understanding of victim compensation mechanisms and ensuring their effective implementation. The session covered key legal provisions relating to victim compensation, including statutory provisions under the criminal justice framework and relevant judicial pronouncements. Special emphasis was laid on the role of Legal Services Authorities in processing and disbursing compensation, as well as the rights and entitlements of victims under special legislations such as the POCSO Act, 2012. The programme contributed towards enhancing institutional capacity and promoting a victim-centric approach within the justice delivery system.

Training Programme on Effective Implementation of the Delhi Victim Compensation Scheme (Delhi)

Orientation-cum-Sensitization Programme for Para Legal Volunteers (West Bengal)

On 21st April, an Orientation-cum-Sensitization Programme was organized in Bankura (West Bengal) for Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) with the objective of strengthening their understanding of the legal services framework and enhancing their role in legal aid delivery. The programme focused on familiarizing PLVs with the functioning of Legal Services Authorities, various NALSA schemes and their responsibilities in facilitating access to justice for vulnerable and marginalized sections of society. Special emphasis was laid on their role under the "Samadhan Samaroha" initiative of the Supreme Court of India, as well as their duties in Correctional Homes and Police Stations. The programme aimed to equip PLVs with the necessary knowledge, skills and practical insights required for effective community outreach, legal awareness and assistance to beneficiaries. The initiative contributed towards strengthening grassroots legal services delivery and enhancing the capacity of PLVs as vital links between the justice system and the community.

On 29th May, a One-Day Refresher Training Programme for Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) was organized at the Ladakh Legal Services Authority, Melongthang (Ladakh), with the objective of enhancing their knowledge, skills and understanding of their role in promoting access to justice at the grassroots level. The training programme focused on strengthening the capacity of PLVs to undertake legal awareness activities, facilitate access to legal aid and assist vulnerable and marginalized sections in availing legal and welfare services. Sessions covered the duties and responsibilities of Para Legal Volunteers, community outreach strategies and their role in bridging the gap between Legal Services Institutions and the public. Interactive discussions enabled participants to share field experiences, discuss practical challenges and exchange best practices for effective legal awareness initiatives. The programme contributed towards enhancing the effectiveness of PLVs as key stakeholders in strengthening legal empowerment and access to justice across communities.

Refresher Training Programme for Para Legal Volunteers (Ladakh)

Orientation, Capacity Building & Training Programmes

One-Day Seminar on Access to Justice for Victims of Human-Wildlife Conflict (Nagaland)

On 30th June, an Orientation Training Programme for PLVs was organized by Chairman, DLSA, Bhavnagar (Gujarat). The orientation programme focused on sensitizing the participants about the functioning of Legal Services Institutions, various NALSA schemes, legal awareness activities and the crucial role of PLVs in facilitating access to justice for marginalized and vulnerable sections of society. Emphasis was laid on community outreach, identification of beneficiaries, dissemination of legal awareness and assistance in accessing legal aid and welfare schemes. The participants were also guided on effective engagement with communities and the importance of acting as a bridge between Legal Services Authorities and the public. The programme contributed towards enhancing the knowledge and skills of PLVs, thereby strengthening grassroots legal empowerment and access to justice initiatives.

Full-Day Capacity Building Workshop on the POCSO Act, 2012 under the JAGRITI Scheme 2025 (Chandigarh)

On 30th May, a One-Day Seminar on the NALSA (Access to Justice for Victims of Human-Wildlife Conflict) Scheme, 2025 was organized at Wokha (Nagaland) in collaboration with the District Administration to enhance awareness regarding legal remedies and relief measures available to victims of human-wildlife conflict. The seminar focused on the legal framework governing human-wildlife conflict, relief and compensation mechanisms, and the role of Legal Services Authorities in facilitating access to justice for affected individuals and communities. A Legal Literacy Stall and Legal Help Desk were also established at the venue to disseminate information on various NALSA schemes and provide legal guidance. The programme strengthened awareness on protecting the rights of victims while promoting coordinated institutional responses to human-wildlife conflict.

Orientation Training Programme for Para Legal Volunteers (Gujarat)

On 22nd May, a full-day capacity-building workshop was organised on the theme "Surakshit Bharat, Surakshit Bhavishya" under the NALSA (JAGRITI) Scheme, 2025 for Station House Officers, Investigating Officers and police officials dealing with POCSO cases. The programme aimed to strengthen institutional capacity for effective implementation of child protection laws and promote a coordinated, victim centric approach in the investigation and prosecution of offences against children. The training covered key aspects of the POCSO Act, 2012 and best practices for child-friendly handling of cases. Interactive sessions also addressed practical challenges encountered during investigation and trial, with emphasis on inter-agency coordination among the police, Legal Services Authorities, Child Welfare Committees and courts. The programme contributed towards enhancing the professional competence of law enforcement officials and strengthening institutional mechanisms for safeguarding the rights and welfare of children.

At Jails : Rekindling Hope Behind Bars

On 23rd April, an inspection visit was conducted by Secretary, DLSA (Chandigarh) at the Observation-cum-Special Home, Sector 25, Chandigarh to review the functioning of the institution and assess the living conditions of children housed therein. The infrastructure, safety arrangements, educational & vocational training facilities, medical services and counselling support available to the children were examined. Interactions were also held with the staff and children to understand their concerns and evaluate the implementation of welfare and rehabilitation measures under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015. Emphasis was laid on ensuring a safe, child-friendly and rehabilitative environment that supports the overall development and reintegration of children in conflict with law. Necessary directions were issued for further strengthening the services within the institution.

Inspection Visit to Observation-cum-Special Home (Chandigarh)

Legal Awareness Programme on Plea Bargaining, Rights of Undertrial Prisoners and Bail Provisions (Ladakh)

On 29th April, a legal awareness programme was organized at District Jail, Leh (Ladakh). During the session, inmates were sensitized about their rights and available legal remedies, including the concept and benefits of plea bargaining as a mechanism for expeditious resolution of eligible criminal cases. Emphasis was laid on the rights of undertrial prisoners, including access to free legal aid, the right to a fair and speedy trial and safeguards against prolonged detention. The programme also covered various provisions relating to bail, including regular, interim and default bail, with particular focus on statutory safeguards available to undertrial prisoners. An interactive session was also held, during which inmates raised queries regarding bail, legal aid and case proceedings. The initiative contributed towards strengthening legal literacy among prisoners and promoting access to justice within correctional institutions.

In May 2026, District Legal Services Authorities across Assam conducted a Special Drive to monitor jail reform initiatives and review issues affecting inmates in correctional institutions. The initiative focused on facilitating timely legal assistance and strengthening access to justice for persons in custody. The drive included review of appeals filed by convicted prisoners, screening of eligible inmates for legal assistance, examination of bail bond issues relating to undertrial prisoners and identification of cases requiring further legal intervention. Attention was also given to other concerns affecting inmates, with an emphasis on ensuring effective legal representation and expeditious resolution of pending matters. The initiative reflected the continued commitment of Legal Services Institutions towards safeguarding the rights of prisoners, addressing systemic issues within correctional institutions and promoting a more humane and accessible justice delivery system.

Special Drive on Jail Reforms and Review of Inmate-Related Issues (Assam)

At Jails : Rekindling Hope Behind Bars

Virtual Orthopedic Medical Consultation for Prison Inmates (Jammu & Kashmir)

On 29th April, an inspection visit was conducted by Secretary, DLSA, at the District Jail, Ajmer to review the living conditions, welfare measures and legal aid services available to inmates. The arrangements relating to the visitors' area, security measures, cleanliness of barracks, kitchen hygiene, availability of safe drinking water and maintenance of sanitation facilities were assessed. Special attention was given to the health and welfare of elderly inmates and prisoners suffering from serious illnesses, including the availability of medical care and essential support services. The inspection also included a review of the legal aid being provided to undertrial prisoners, the status of legal assistance in filing appeals on behalf of convicted prisoners and the overall functioning of legal aid clinics within the prison. The initiative aimed to strengthen prison administration, ensure humane living conditions and reinforce timely access to legal aid, healthcare services and rehabilitation support.

Mental Wellness and Meditation Programme for Prison Inmates (Delhi)

On 15th May, a virtual medical consultation was organized for inmates of District Jail Amphalla and Central Jail Kot Bhalwal, Jammu by the DLSA (Jammu) with the objective of ensuring timely access to healthcare services within correctional institutions. The initiative focused on addressing orthopedic health concerns of inmates through virtual consultation, enabling them to receive expert medical advice without the need for physical transfer outside the prison premises. The programme underscored the importance of integrating healthcare services with inmate welfare and facilitating timely medical intervention for persons in custody. By leveraging virtual consultation, the initiative contributed towards improving access to quality healthcare, safeguarding the health rights of inmates and strengthening welfare measures within correctional institutions.

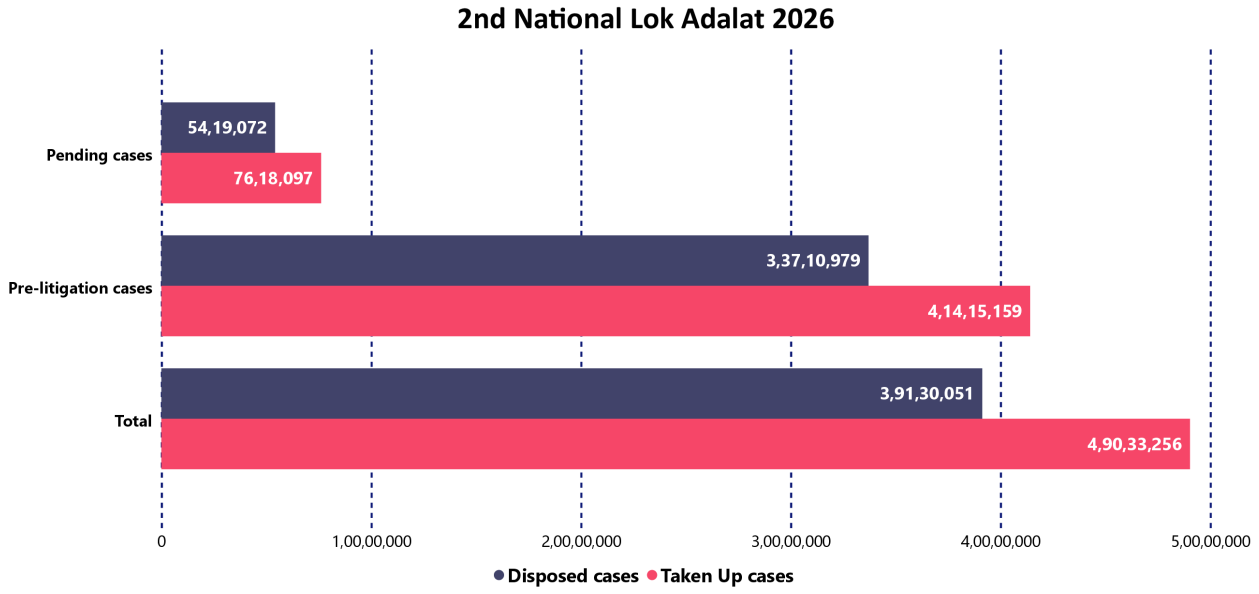
Inspection Visit to District Jail, Ajmer (Rajasthan)

On 18th–21st May, a series of Mental Wellness and Meditation Sessions was organized by the DLSA (Delhi-South) for inmates of Central Jail No. 3, Tihar, New Delhi, in compliance with the directions of the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi regarding therapeutic interventions for prisoners. The initiative aimed to promote mental well-being, emotional resilience and psychological health among inmates. The sessions included guided meditation, breathing exercises and mindfulness practices designed to help participants manage stress, improve emotional stability and develop a positive outlook towards life. The programme sought to support the rehabilitation process by addressing the mental health needs of inmates and fostering emotional well-being within the correctional environment. The initiative reflected the importance of mental health interventions as an integral component of prison reform and inmate welfare.

The 2nd National Lok Adalat of 2026, organised under the aegis of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) on 9th May 2026, marked another significant milestone in the pursuit of accessible, affordable and expeditious justice. Held under the leadership of **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant, the Chief Justice of India & Patron-in-Chief, NALSA** and **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vikram Nath, Executive Chairman, NALSA**, the National Lok Adalat reaffirmed the continued effectiveness of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms in reducing litigation and promoting amicable settlement of disputes.

Organised across all States and Union Territories through thousands of benches constituted at courts, tribunals, Consumer Commissions and Permanent Lok Adalats, the National Lok Adalat facilitated the settlement of an impressive **3,91,30,051 cases.** These included **3,37,10,979 pre-litigation matters** and **54,19,072 pending court cases**, with a total settlement amount of approximately **₹17,299.65 crore**. The National Lok Adalat demonstrated the remarkable collective efforts of Legal Services Institutions in providing speedy, affordable and people-centric justice while substantially reducing the burden on courts.

The National Lok Adalat dealt with a diverse range of disputes. Special emphasis was also placed on the disposal of long-pending matters identified through the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), reflecting NALSA's continued commitment to reducing pendency and strengthening the efficiency of the justice delivery system. The success of the 2nd National Lok Adalat, 2026 once again reflects the collective efforts of the Legal Services Institutions across the country in promoting accessible, efficient and people-centric justice, while reinforcing NALSA's unwavering commitment to ensuring Access to Justice for All.



Settlement Amount: Rs. 17,299.64 Crores

INTERNS AT NALSA

The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) continues to provide meaningful learning opportunities to law students and young researchers through its internship programme, aimed at fostering greater understanding of legal aid, access to justice and the functioning of Legal Services Institutions in India.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vikram Nath, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Executive Chairman, NALSA.

ROW - II (Left to Right) : Sammi Sethi; Senamika Prasad; Shalini Singh; Shivani Singh Tomar; Mukul Mahtha; Mahendra Kumar; Mohammad Shahil Qureshi; Krishna; Rahul Patel.

ROW - III (Left to Right) : Aysha Zehadha; Manasvi Jain; Shivani Singh; Abhishek Mahato; Umesh Vishwakarma; Giridharan. S; Aarav Gupta; Harsh Vardhan Singh; Mohammad Rehan.

ROW - I (Left to Right) : Ms. Richa Upadhyay, Officer on Special Duty in NALSA; Mr. Kunal Vepa, Director in NALSA.

ROW - II (Left to Right) : Shreyashi Srivastava; Tripti; Vanshika Garg; Anupma; Anmol Patel; Aarya Pandey; Aatha Pandey; Prachi Mittal; Anushka Singh; Manasvi Lal; Naveen Yadav; Gaurank Nagar; Nalik Gupta.

ROW - III (Left to Right) : Manas Pratap Singh; Yash Tiwari; Kishlaw Kumar; Jeet Chaudhary; Keshvanek Rustagi; Pratyush Pathak; Sanika Aggarwal; Shreyashi Srivastava; Prashant Singh; Anuk Yadav; Vansh Yadav; Lakshay Bahal; Dhruv Aditya; Garvit.

During their internship at NALSA, interns are exposed to the institutional framework of legal services functioning at the national, state and district levels. They gain insights into various schemes, outreach initiatives and policy interventions undertaken for vulnerable and marginalized sections of society, including women, persons in custody, victims of trafficking, persons with disabilities and economically weaker communities. Interns are also familiarized with programmes relating to legal awareness, alternative dispute resolution, victim compensation, LADCS and community - based justice initiatives.

The internship experience at NALSA combines academic engagement with practical exposure. Interns are often involved in legal research and analysis relating to outreach activities and delivery system. They also receive opportunities to observe the functioning of Lok Adalats, mediation initiatives, awareness programmes and institutional coordination mechanisms undertaken by Legal Services Authorities across the country.

ROW - I (Left to Right) : Ms. Amandeep Sidhu, Officer on Special Duty in NALSA; :

ROW - II (Left to Right) : Vidhi Kachar; Rishabh Kashyap; Bhanu Kumar; Riya Singh; Priya Kumari; Bajaj Gajabi Ashishkumar; Atul Bansal; Priyanka Jain; Gautam Khatri; Bhika.

ROW - III (Left to Right) : Uday Sankar Debbarma; Abhishek Kumar; Krishna Kant; Satyam Tiwari; Aayush Srivastav; Dhanit Bhushan; Shubham Kumar.

In addition to research and documentation work, the programme encourages interns to appreciate the human and social dimensions of law. By engaging with issues concerning access to justice, social welfare and legal empowerment, interns develop a broader understanding of the role of law as an instrument of social transformation. The programme also provides an opportunity to interact with judicial officers, legal aid practitioners and officials associated with the legal services framework, thereby enriching their professional and academic perspective.

STORIES OF IMPACT

Success Story 1: Over 600 Bonded Labourers Rescued Through Timely Legal Intervention (Telangana)

The Telangana State Legal Services Authority (SLSA) took a prompt action which led to the rescue and rehabilitation of over 600 bonded labourers, including women and children, from brick kilns in Nizamabad and Nalgonda districts. Acting on complaints received from victims and credible field inputs, Telangana SLSA coordinated with the District Legal Services Authorities, district administration, police and other stakeholders to conduct rescue operations. The interventions resulted in the rescue of over 500 labourers in Nizamabad and 109 migrant labourers, including child labourers, in Nalgonda, followed by legal assistance, registration of criminal cases and rehabilitation measures. The coordinated efforts restored freedom, dignity and access to justice for the rescued families.

Success Story 2: Pre-Litigation Intervention Helps 67 Workers Recover Provident Fund Dues (Jharkhand)

The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Ranchi, successfully resolved a long-pending provident fund dispute through its pre-litigation and mediation mechanism, enabling 67 workers to recover their rightful PF dues without resorting to prolonged litigation. After receiving the complaint, the appointed mediator coordinated closely with the workers and the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) to address technical issues that had led to the freezing of their accounts. The sustained efforts resulted in the de-freezing of all affected accounts, allowing the workers to access their savings for housing, education and other essential needs. The intervention demonstrated the effectiveness of mediation in delivering timely, affordable and people-centric justice while safeguarding the rights of vulnerable workers.

Success Story 3: Legal Aid Secures Compensation for Tribal Landowners (Uttarakhand)

The District Legal Services Authority, Chamoli, successfully facilitated compensation for members of the Bhotiya tribal community whose land had been acquired during road widening works but who had not received the compensation due to them. Acting on representations received during a legal awareness camp, DLSA coordinated with the concerned authorities and pursued the matter until the pending claims were processed. As a result, affected families from six villages received the compensation they were legally entitled to. The intervention reflects DLSA's commitment to protecting the rights of tribal communities and ensuring that developmental projects are implemented in a fair and just manner.

Success Story 4: Legal Aid Provides Shelter to Vulnerable Senior Citizen (Assam)

The District Legal Services Authority, Udalguri extended timely assistance to an elderly, partially visually impaired man who was found alone and unable to care for himself. After assessing his condition, the DLSA coordinated with the concerned authorities to facilitate his admission to an old age home, where he now receives shelter, food, medical care and other essential support. Simultaneously, efforts were initiated to trace his family and facilitate their reunion. The intervention ensured the immediate protection and welfare of the senior citizen while reaffirming the commitment of the legal services institutions to safeguarding the rights and dignity of elderly persons in vulnerable circumstances.

Success Story 5: Technology-Enabled Legal Aid Supports Prisoner's Mental Health (Jammu & Kashmir)

The Legal Aid Clinic and Support Centre at Government Medical College, Jammu, facilitated virtual psychiatric consultations for an inmate suffering from severe stress and depression in District Jail, Poonch. Through the coordinated efforts of a Para Legal Volunteer and medical professionals, the inmate received timely psychiatric evaluation, treatment and follow-up consultations via telemedicine. The inmate subsequently reported significant improvement in his condition. The initiative demonstrates how Legal Services Institutions can leverage technology to ensure that persons in custody have access not only to legal assistance but also to specialised healthcare, safeguarding their well-being and dignity.

Success Story 6: Swift Legal Aid Ensures Immediate Relief for Acid Attack Survivor (Gujarat)

The District Legal Services Authority, Surat, acted swiftly following an acid attack to provide comprehensive legal and financial assistance to the survivor. A Para Legal Volunteer was immediately deputed to the hospital to assist the family with documentation and victim compensation formalities, while legal representation was arranged without delay. In coordination with the Gujarat State Legal Services Authority, interim compensation of ₹3 lakh, released in two instalments, was promptly sanctioned to support emergency medical treatment and subsequent rehabilitation. The timely intervention minimized administrative delays, ensured uninterrupted financial assistance, and provided the survivor with immediate legal and institutional support during a critical period of recovery.

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