



NATIONAL LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

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Highlights

- *Legal Services Day - 2024*
- *Human Rights Day - 2024*
- *NALSA's Impact - A Statistical Overview of 2024*
- *Regional Conference of Punjab, Haryana and U.T. Chandigarh SLSAs*



HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE B.R GAVAI

***Executive Chairman, NALSA
&
Judge, Supreme Court of India***

Dear Readers,

It is with great pleasure that I extend my warm greetings to all our esteemed readers and associates as we present this edition of the Newsletter. This publication serves as a reflection of our unwavering commitment to justice, legal empowerment, and access to legal aid for all, especially the marginalized and underprivileged sections of society.

The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has always been at the forefront of ensuring justice. It is not a privilege but a right accessible to every citizen. Through various initiatives, legal awareness programmes, and pro bono services, we strive to uphold the principles enshrined in our Constitution—equality, justice, and dignity for all.

This newsletter captures our latest efforts, success stories, and developments in legal aid and awareness across the country. It highlights our initiatives aimed at bridging the gap between legal systems and the people who need them the most, ensuring that justice is truly delivered at the grassroots level.

I take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to all our dedicated Judicial officers, para legal aid volunteers, panel lawyers, associated agencies, Legal Aid Defence Counsels and staff members who work tirelessly to make legal aid a reality for countless individuals. Their commitment strengthens our collective resolve to build an inclusive legal system that serves every citizen with fairness and compassion.

I hope this edition inspires more individuals to join our mission and contribute towards a just and equitable society. I encourage you to share your feedback, suggestions, and ideas, as your engagement is vital in shaping the future of legal aid services in our nation.

Warm regards,

B.R Gavai



Message from the Member Secretary, NALSA

Dear Readers,

I am pleased to present the October–December 2024 edition of our Newsletter, which chronicles the relentless efforts of Legal Services Authorities over the three months and also offers a broader reflection on the progress made throughout the year.

This edition features key events such as Legal Services Day 2024, Human Rights Day 2024, and Regional Conferences—each reaffirming our collective resolve to uphold the preambular vision of justice, particularly ensuring access to justice for all.

As you explore these pages, you will find insights into impactful legal awareness and outreach initiatives conducted at the grassroots level, in schools and colleges, and within prisons. Beyond events, this issue brings forth real stories of transformation—demonstrating the tangible impact of legal aid on lives and communities. With a robust network of 44,908 Panel Lawyers, 3,461 Legal Aid Defense Counsel (LADCs), 47,614 Para-Legal Volunteers (PLVs), and 7,947 Pro Bono Lawyers, our commitment to delivering justice remains stronger than ever.

Additionally, this edition presents a statistical overview of 2024, covering the presence of Legal Services Authorities across the country, case disposal data from Lok Adalats, the implementation of victim compensation schemes, and extensive legal awareness campaigns conducted throughout the year.

Through these sustained efforts, we reaffirm our mission to make legal aid more accessible and effective. As we look ahead, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our legal services authorities, workforce, and dedicated personnel for their unwavering commitment to justice.

Together, let us continue working towards a future where justice reaches to every individual across the nation.

S.C. Munghate

Patron-in-Chief

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjiv Khanna

Executive Chairman

Hon'ble Mr. Justice B.R Gavai

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LEGAL SERVICES DAY - 2024

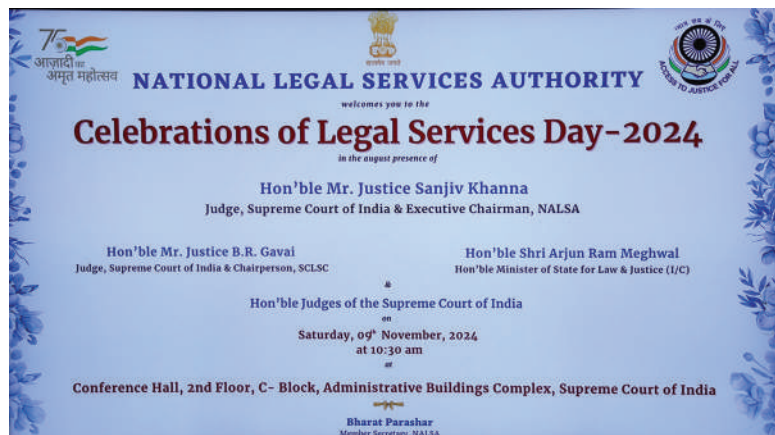


November 9, 2024: NALSA celebrated Legal Services Day at the Administrative Buildings Complex, Supreme Court of India. This day commemorates the enactment of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, aimed at providing free and competent legal services to marginalized sections of society.

The event was graced by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjiv Khanna, then Executive Chairman, NALSA and presently Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India; Hon'ble Mr. Justice B.R. Gavai, then Chairman, Supreme Court Legal Services Committee and presently Executive Chairman, NALSA; and Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Hon'ble Minister of State for Law and Justice.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjiv Khanna commended the dedication and commitment of legal aid functionaries, including Panel Lawyers, Legal Aid Defence Counsels (*Nyaya Rakshaks*), and Para-legal Volunteers (*Adhikar Mitrs*), in ensuring access to justice for marginalized communities. His Lordship elaborated on NALSA's existing legal aid framework, shedding light on its recent initiatives, ongoing projects, and vision for the future, which aims to further streamline and enhance legal aid accessibility across the nation.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice B.R. Gavai underscored NALSA's crucial role in upholding and safeguarding citizens' rights, stressing the importance of an uninterrupted and efficient legal aid process.



His Lordship emphasized the SCLSC's initiative to increase the number of empanelled lawyers, a step aimed at broadening the outreach and impact of legal services.

The event featured the release of a Special Newsletter of NALSA, along with the launch of two key schemes: the NALSA (Child-Friendly Legal Services for Children) Scheme, 2024, and the NALSA (Legal Services to Persons with Mental Illness and Persons with Intellectual Disabilities) Scheme, 2024.

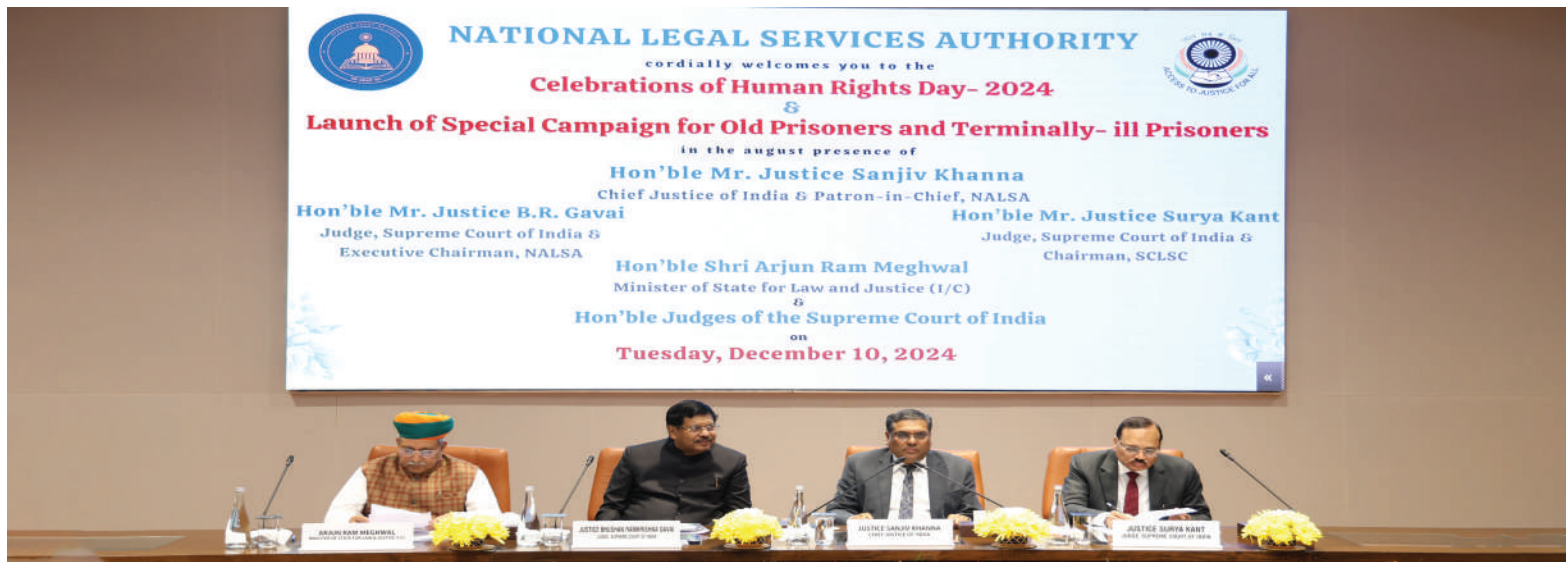
Additionally, a Training Module on the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, 2013, was introduced to enhance awareness and ensure compliance with the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in *Aureliano Fernandes v. State of Goa*, [2023] 7 S.C.R. 772.

REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF PUNJAB, HARYANA AND U.T CHANDIGARH SLSAs



November 17, 2024: Punjab, Haryana, and U.T. Chandigarh SLSAs jointly organized the Regional Conference on “*Empowering the Marginalized and A Step Towards Social Justice*” at Chandigarh Judicial Academy. Hon’ble Mr. Justice B. R. Gavai, Executive Chairman, NALSA, graced the occasion, marking it as the first official event in this role. The conference witnessed the launch of the Victim Care and Support System, an initiative aimed at assisting victims of crime in overcoming trauma and reintegrating into society. Further, a drug awareness video was unveiled, produced in regional languages by the organizing SLSAs, to educate the public about the dangers of substance abuse. Additionally, the Online Accounts Portal was introduced, offering a secure and transparent system for managing financial transactions.

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY - 2024



December 10, 2024: NALSA celebrated Human Rights Day at the Supreme Court of India under the theme “Every Right, Every Life.” To mark the occasion, NALSA launched a *Special Campaign for Old and Terminally-ill Prisoners* from December 10, 2024, to March 10, 2025. The campaign aims to expedite the release of these prisoners by providing effective legal aid. NALSA also released various awareness materials, including a brochure outlining NALSA’s mission and schemes. Further, two pamphlets were introduced—one highlighting the Toll-Free Helpline Number and another detailing the beneficiaries under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. Additionally, a video was launched to educate suspects and accused persons about their rights at different stages of the legal process. Furthermore, NALSA also released the 2025 schedule for the Under-Trial Review Committee (UTRC).

REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON MEDIATION



November 30, 2024: Maharashtra SLSA, in collaboration with the Bombay High Court's Mediation Committee, organized a Regional Conference on Mediation. Hon'ble Mr. Justice B.R. Gavai, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Executive Chairman, NALSA, inaugurated the event, emphasizing the transformative potential of mediation under the Mediation Act, 2023, to reduce litigation and promote harmonious dispute resolution. His Lordship also released the Maharashtra SLSA's Handbook on Mediation, the MSLSA theme song, and an E-launch of a social media message on free legal aid, underscoring the integration of modern outreach initiatives in legal services. Key addresses by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Prasanna B. Varale, Judge, Supreme Court, and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya, Chief Justice, High Court of Bombay and Patron-in-Chief, MSLSA, reinforced the importance of mediation in ensuring accessible justice.

JAIL VISIT - NAGPUR CENTRAL PRISON



December 1, 2024: Hon'ble Mr. Justice B.R. Gavai, Executive Chairman of NALSA, conducted a visit to Nagpur Central Prison, accompanied by Justices Ravindra V. Ghuge and Nitin W. Sambre. The visit emphasized the role of judicial oversight in addressing prison reforms. His Lordship inspected vocational training programmes, e-prison systems, and medical facilities while personally engaging with inmates, including women and children. His Lordship concluded the visit by issuing several pertinent directives. Certain key directives included proposals for new prison, enhanced video conferencing facilities, better medical support, and increased post-release financial grants for inmates.

LEGAL AWARENESS & OUTREACH PROGRAMMES

At Community Level : Empowering Communities through Knowledge



Glimpse from a Legal Awareness Programme Organized under the Initiative Vidhan Se Samadhan

November 30, 2024: DLSA, Kanpur Nagar (Uttar Pradesh), under the esteemed guidance of the Hon'ble Executive Chairman, Uttar Pradesh SLSA, organized a Mega Legal Awareness Camp at CSJM University. The event saw active participation from various government departments, including Health, MGNREGA, NRLM, Labour, and Social Welfare, which extended crucial welfare benefits to attendees. These included housing assistance, sanitary pads, Ayushman cards, and the provision of personal toilets, aimed at improving the quality of life for underprivileged sections of society. In total, 1,587 individuals received legal aid and welfare benefits during the event, which witnessed active participation from officials. This reinforces the commitment to access to justice and social welfare services for all, especially the marginalized and disadvantaged communities.

October & December, 2024: NALSA, in collaboration with the National Commission for Women (NCW), is organizing Legal Awareness Programmes at the Block-level across 11 States, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, and Uttar Pradesh, under the initiative called "Vidhan Se Samadhan". This initiative is designed to promote legal literacy among women in 1,495 blocks, with the first phase running until March 2025. Under this initiative, 250 camps were organized in these states in October, 2024 followed by 319 camps in December, 2024. The aim of these camps is to empower women by providing them essential knowledge about their legal rights and the legal remedies available under various laws, such as the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023; the Indian Penal Code, 1860; the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005; and the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, among others. Under the programme, participants are also educated about the roles and functions of key institutions and functionaries such as NALSA, NCW, Courts, etc.



Glimpse From Mega Legal Awareness Camp at CSJM University (Uttar Pradesh)



Delhi SLSA at India International Trade Fair, 2024.

November 14-27, 2024: Delhi SLSA set up a Legal Awareness Help Desk at the India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2024 to educate the public on legal rights, free legal aid, and welfare schemes. The help desk provided Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials, access to legal aid helplines, and informative videos on key legal issues. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vibhu Bakhru, Executive Chairperson, Delhi SLSA, visited the stall on November 23, appreciating the initiative's impact in reaching diverse sections of society. Legal aid advocates and paralegal volunteers actively engaged with visitors, addressing queries and providing guidance on accessing legal remedies. Through this extensive outreach, nearly 9,500 individuals were informed about their rights.

LEGAL AWARENESS & OUTREACH PROGRAMMES

At Community Level : Empowering Communities through Knowledge

November 16, 2024: DLSA, Upper Siang (Arunachal Pradesh) conducted the 2nd Day Legal Awareness Programme at Gelling, the last village of India. The Warfoot Warriors of DLSA Upper Siang organized the session in an area where both Indian and Chinese armies conduct patrols, highlighting the geographical and strategic significance of the region. Emphasizing their motto, "Reaching the Extreme," the team undertook a barefoot march covering nearly 5 km to symbolize their commitment to bringing legal services to even the most isolated communities. The awareness session addressed critical topics such as fundamental rights, government welfare schemes, land rights, and legal aid services. This initiative bridged the legal accessibility gap, demonstrating that distance should not be barriers to legal empowerment.



DLSA, Upper Siang (Arunachal Pradesh) at Gelling Village

December 14, 2024: At Nyaya Sadan, Jharkhand SLSA (Ranchi), 1,030 new Legal Services Clinics were inaugurated to expand legal aid access across 25% of Jharkhand's panchayats. Earlier, the state had around 400 clinics. In line with NALSA's directives, Jharkhand SLSA approved the expansion to ensure legal awareness and assistance for the underprivileged, aiming to bridge the gap between legal services and rural communities. DLSAs were tasked to identify panchayats with necessary infrastructure, and PLVs were to be deputed twice a week at each clinic to provide guidance and support. This initiative strengthens grassroots legal aid, ensuring justice reaches the most marginalized while fostering greater legal empowerment at the village level. This expansion bridges the justice gap in rural Jharkhand.



Glimpse from Inauguration of New Legal Services Clinic by Jharkhand SLSA

December 5 and 6, 2024: In Dehradun (Uttarakhand), a legal aid awareness campaign was conducted through a mobile van in remote, rural, and slum areas, as well as schools and densely populated regions. The initiative aimed to promote accessible justice and raise awareness about legal rights and government schemes. The mobile van was flagged off on December 5 by Ld. District Judge Mr. Prem Singh Khimal, with Judicial Officers, Defense Counsels, Paralegals, and court employees in attendance. The van provided information on legal aid, NALSA schemes, various pensions, government applications, and scholarships, ensuring that legal assistance reached those in need. Awareness camps were held at locations including Rajpur Road, Premnagar, Doiwala, and Rishikesh, where legal experts engaged with the public to clarify doubts and guide them on availing government benefits. This initiative ensured that legal aid information reached vulnerable communities at their doorstep.



Glimpse from the Flag-Off Ceremony of the Mobile Van for Legal Awareness in Dehradun

LEGAL AWARENESS & OUTREACH PROGRAMMES

At Colleges & Schools : Empowering the Future Leaders through Knowledge

October 21, 2024: DLSA, Dibrugarh (Assam) organized an awareness programme at Moran Blind School, Dibrugarh, focusing on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016. Led by the Secretary, DLSA, the event aimed to educate students about their legal rights and entitlements under the Act. The programme also covered key aspects of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, highlighting its role in safeguarding children's rights and preventing early marriages. A total of 70 students participated, engaging actively in discussions and gaining valuable insights. This initiative underscores DLSA's commitment to promoting legal awareness, ensuring inclusivity, and empowering marginalized communities.



DLSA, Dibrugarh (Assam) at Moran Blind School Dibrugarh

October 23, 2024: DLSA, Chandigarh conducted legal awareness mentoring session at Government Model Senior Secondary School, Maloya, Chandigarh, to equip students with essential legal knowledge and empower them to safeguard their rights. The session focused on educating students about the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, Cyber Crime, and the importance of Legal Aid, ensuring they understand the legal framework designed to protect them. With the participation of over 100 students from grades 8 to 12, the interactive session allowed students to engage in discussions, ask questions, and gain clarity on crucial legal issues affecting them. The initiative was organized under the guidance of Patron-in-Chief Prof. (Dr.) Renu Vig, Vice Chancellor of Panjab University, and Prof. (Dr.) Shruti Bedi, Director, UILS, who emphasized the need for continuous legal education among young learners. This outreach programme reflects a dedicated effort toward fostering legal awareness and promoting a culture of safety.



DLSA, Chandigarh at Government Model Senior Secondary School, Maloya (Chandigarh)

September 3, 2024: DLSA East, Shahdara, and North-East (Delhi), in collaboration with the Directorate of Education, Government of NCT, Delhi, launched DISHA – Disseminating Information to Secure Wholesome Awareness among Children: सजग एवं सुरक्षित बचपन की ओर. This initiative seeks to educate school communities on topics such as Virtual Touch, Cyber Safety and Consciousness, Rights of Children concerning child marriage and child labour, reporting mechanisms, and menstrual hygiene. In October 2024 alone, 209 awareness programmes were conducted across 46 schools, impacting approximately 45,700 students, teachers, principals, and school staff. This large-scale effort highlights the commitment of legal services authorities to fostering a secure, informed, and empowered environment for children. Furthermore, it encourages open discussions among students, ensuring they are well-equipped to recognize and respond to challenges affecting their safety and well-being. Such initiatives foster a culture of awareness and prevention in schools.



Glimpse from a Programme in Delhi under DLSA - Disseminating Information to Secure Wholesome Awareness among Children.

LEGAL AWARENESS & OUTREACH PROGRAMMES

At Colleges & Schools : Empowering the Future Leaders through Knowledge



DLSA, South-West (Delhi) at MCD Primary Boys School

November 7, 2024: Tamenglong (Manipur) DC Legal Aid Clinic, in collaboration with Model Village High School, organized a Legal Awareness Programme titled 'Child Rights' in Manipur, focusing on educating young minds about their legal protections and entitlements. The event was led by the Ld. Secretary, DLSA Tamenglong. The programme aimed to raise awareness about the NALSA (Child-Friendly Legal Services for Children) Scheme 2024, ensuring that students understood their rights related to education, juvenile justice, and free legal aid. A total of 50 students participated, engaging in interactive discussions and real-life case studies. This initiative enhanced their understanding of the legal services available to them, empowering them to seek justice and assistance when needed.

November 8, 2024: DLSA, South-West (Delhi) conducted an Awareness Session at MCD Primary Boys School, Bijwasan, attended by 100 students. The session covered two critical topics: Waste Management & Pollution and Good Touch & Bad Touch, along with an overview of the POCSO Act, 2012. Students learned about waste segregation, recycling, and practices to reduce pollution for a cleaner environment. The session also emphasized personal safety, educating students about bodily autonomy, recognizing inappropriate behavior, and how to report such incidents. A detailed explanation of the POCSO Act, 2012, was provided to help protect children from sexual abuse. The interactive format encouraged students to share their concerns and ask questions, fostering a safe space for discussions. This initiative aimed to empower students with essential knowledge for both environmental responsibility and personal safety, ensuring they grow into informed and responsible citizens.



DLSA, Tamenglong (Manipur) at Model Village High School



Glimpse from Legal Awareness Programme Organized by DLSA, Kurukshetra (Haryana)

November 26, 2024: On the occasion of "Constitution Day," DLSA, Kurukshetra (Haryana), in collaboration with Law Colleges and the District Education Office, organized a one-week awareness drive and quiz competitions in government and private schools, as well as law colleges, under the Legal Literacy Clubs. The initiative aimed to educate students about their Fundamental Rights and Duties, encouraging active civic participation and fostering a deeper understanding of constitutional principles. The Ld. Secretary of DLSA, Kurukshetra visited the Institute of Law and addressed the students, emphasizing the significance of constitutional awareness in shaping responsible citizens. A total of 8,500 students participated in the awareness drives and quiz competitions, enhancing their understanding of constitutional principles and values. The event successfully bridged the gap between legal education and community awareness, inspiring young minds to engage with the legal system and contribute effectively to nation-building.

LEGAL AWARENESS & OUTREACH PROGRAMMES

Orientation, Capacity Building & Training Programmes

October 21, 2024: DLSA, Sirsa (Haryana) convened a meeting with Panel Advocates and Para-Legal Volunteers (PLVs) to review the implementation of various NALSA schemes and assess their effectiveness. The session focused on addressing challenges faced by the advocates and PLVs during outreach camps in remote areas and identifying ways to enhance service delivery. The meeting served as a platform to gather feedback and ensure better execution of legal aid initiatives, reaffirming DLSA Sirsa's commitment to providing accessible and effective legal support in all regions. It also emphasized the need for capacity building and strategic collaboration to strengthen legal awareness and ensure that justice reaches the most marginalized sections of society.



Glimpse From Capacity Building Programme Organized by DLSA, Sirsa (Haryana)



Glimpse From Three - Day Induction Training Programme Organized by Delhi SLSA

October 7 to 9, 2024: Delhi SLSA organized a three-day Induction Training Programme for newly empanelled Legal Services Advocates (LSAs) of South, South East, North East, and Central DLSAs, along with LADCs from South and South East Districts. The training was held at the Seminar Hall, Saket Courts Complex, New Delhi. Sessions covered diverse topics, including the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, Victim Compensation Scheme, POCSO Act, evidence handling, family law, bail provisions, and professional ethics. Experienced resource persons provided valuable insights through case studies and interactive discussions, equipping the participants with essential skills to ensure effective legal aid delivery. The programme reinforced the commitment to accessible and quality legal assistance, emphasizing the role of LSAs in safeguarding justice for marginalized communities.

November 9, 2024: Arunachal Pradesh SLSA celebrated National Legal Services Day by organizing a Para Legal Volunteers (PLV) Induction Training Programme at Arunachal Law Academy. The event was attended by 120 participants. Mr. Yomge Ado, Ld. Member Secretary, Arunachal Pradesh SLSA, enlightened attendees on the role of SLSA and DLSA, free legal services, and legal aid clinics. The advocate-resource persons deliberated on key laws, such as the POCSO Act, the Domestic Violence Act, the Child Marriage Act, and NALSA Schemes, emphasizing their significance in legal aid and access to justice. The event also featured the screening of NALSA's theme song and documentary, along with discussions on the Legal Services Mobile App and Toll-Free Helpline Number 15100, highlighting the importance of digital accessibility in legal aid. Additionally, interactive sessions and case studies were conducted to provide PLVs with practical insights on handling real-life legal aid scenarios. The training empowered PLVs with the necessary knowledge and responsibilities to assist vulnerable communities, spread legal awareness, and support individuals in need of legal aid services effectively.



Glimpse from PLV Induction Training Programme Organized by Arunachal Pradesh SLSA.

At Jails : Rekindling Hope Behind Bars



DLSA, Tinsukia (Assam) at District Jail, Tinsukia.

October 17 and 26, 2024: DLSA, Nainital (Uttarakhand) conducted legal awareness camps at Sub-Jail Haldwani, aimed at addressing prisoner's concerns and educating them about their legal rights and entitlements. The sessions covered topics, including the National Lok Adalat, compounding of offences, remission, and digital services such as the e-Prison Portal and e-True Copy, which facilitate access to legal documents and case information. Prisoners were also informed about welfare schemes, such as the Support to Poor Prisoners Scheme, which provides financial aid for legal representation, and the benefits of skill development and vocational training programmes designed to aid their rehabilitation and reintegration into society post-release. Additionally, Para-Legal Volunteers (PLVs) at jail were sensitized about the NALSA Prison Legal Aid Clinic Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to enhance their capacity in providing Legal assistance within the prison system. The initiative underscores DLSA's commitment to strengthening prison legal aid mechanisms.

October 27, 2024: The Legal Aid Defense Counsels (LADCs) of DLSA, Tinsukia (Assam) actively engaged with 125 Undertrial Prisoners (UTPs) in the District Jail, Tinsukia. The focus was on addressing concerns related to trial proceedings, bail applications, and their legal right. The initiative aimed to ensure that undertrial prisoners receive timely legal assistance and are aware of their entitlements under the law. During the visit, the Ld. Secretary, DLSA, Tinsukia, personally interacted with 91 prisoners, discussing their cases, addressing grievances, and guiding them on legal procedures to facilitate fair trials. Additionally, 69 individuals, including family members of UTPs, who visited the DLSA office, were provided legal consultations and assistance by the LADCs on various legal matters, including family disputes, property issues, and procedural guidance. These efforts reflect DLSA's commitment to delivering accessible legal aid.



DLSA, Nainital (Uttarkhand) at Sub-Jail, Haldwani.



DLSA, North (Delhi) at Rohini Jail

October 19, 2024: DLSA, North (Delhi) conducted a Mental Health Programme at Jail No. 10, Rohini, New Delhi. The event, held under the guidance of Dr. Gauri Shankar, Professor at AIIMS, focused on addressing the mental health challenges faced by inmates to enhance their overall well-being. The programme included therapeutic workshops aimed at managing depression, anxiety, frustration and anger, promoting emotional resilience among inmates. Participants learned crucial practical strategies for improving mental health and fostering personal growth, while also being encouraged to seek professional support when needed. Approximately 40 inmates attended the session, which emphasized both immediate support and long-term rehabilitation. The initiative highlighted the critical need for mental health interventions in correctional facilities.

At Jails : Rekindling Hope Behind Bars

November 23, 2024: DLSA, New Delhi organized a Legal Awareness Session at Jail No. 04, Tihar Jail, Delhi, focusing on “Benefits of Lok Adalat, Compounding and Plea Bargaining, and the Probation of Offenders Act, 1958.” The Ld. Secretary, New Delhi, DLSA, also visited Jail No. 04, engaging with Under Trial Prisoners (UTPs) and assessing the jail’s working conditions to ensure better legal aid accessibility. During the session, he informed UTPs about free legal aid services, including daily visits by legal aid counsel and clinics at the jail. He further met with the jail’s Superintendent/Deputy Superintendent to ensure the efficient processing of UTPs’ applications and facilitate seamless interaction with visiting advocates, reinforcing the commitment to safeguarding prisoners’ legal rights and expediting justice.



DLSA, New Delhi at Tihar Jail



DLSA, Champawat (Uttarakhand) at Jail Inspection, Lohaghat

December 19, 2024: DLSA Champawat (Uttarakhand) conducted an inspection at Judicial Badighrah Lohaghat as part of the Special Campaign for Old & Terminally Ill Prisoners (10th Dec 2024 – 10th Mar 2025). The visit aimed to assess the living conditions, legal needs, and healthcare requirements of inmates, ensuring that vulnerable prisoners receive the necessary support. The committee interacted with 35 inmates, informing them about their legal rights, NALSA welfare schemes, and available legal aid services. The team provided detailed guidance on the process of applying for legal aid and assistance, ensuring that inmates understood how to seek legal representation, bail remedies, and medical parole. The initiative specifically focused on elderly and ailing prisoners, recognizing their increased need for legal and healthcare support. By addressing these concerns, DLSA Champawat reinforced its commitment to justice, prisoner welfare, and access to legal aid.

December 1, 2024: The Hon’ble Executive Chairman, Uttar Pradesh SLSA, visited the Observation Home, Meerut (Uttar Pradesh), to ensure the well-being of juveniles and the effective delivery of free and competent legal aid. He was accompanied by Mr. Sanjay Singh-I, Ld. Member Secretary, Uttar Pradesh SLSA; Mr. Rajat Singh Jain, District Judge, Meerut, and other officials from DLSA and Uttar Pradesh SLSA. During the visit, His Lordship interacted with the juveniles, inquiring about their educational, vocational, and recreational activities, and assured them of continued legal and rehabilitative support. His Lordship also observed their co-curricular engagement and felicitated the winners of a cricket match, encouraging positive social behavior and personal development of the juveniles. The visit further reaffirmed the commitment to ensuring a nurturing environment, legal assistance, rehabilitation and reintegration opportunities for young offenders.



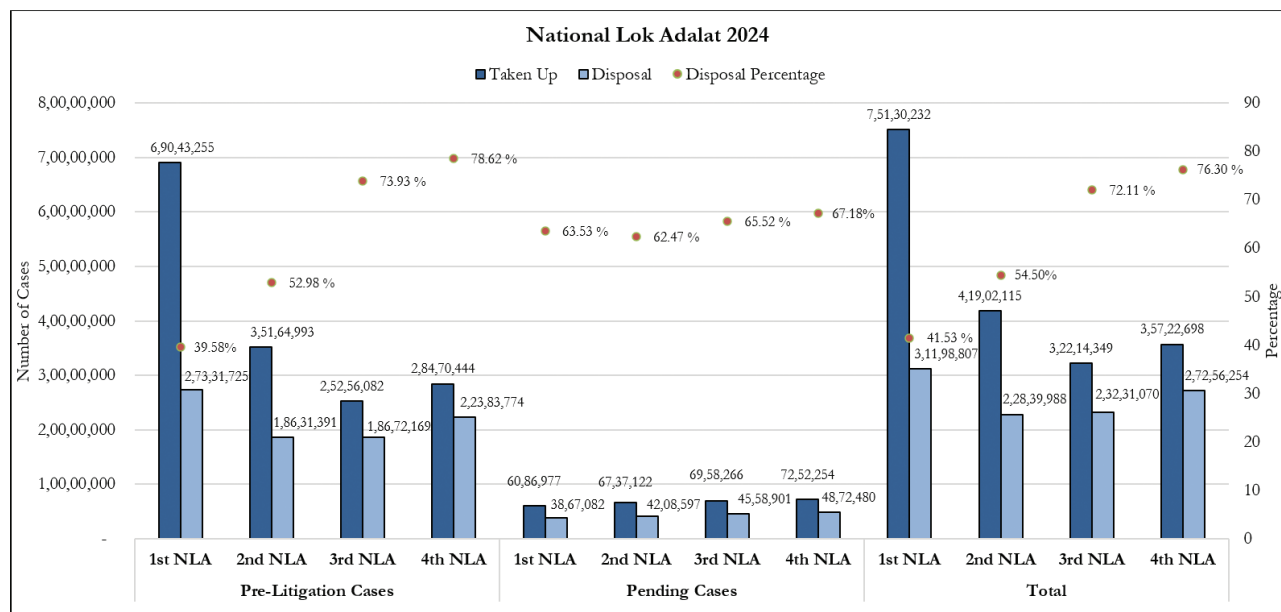
Glimpse from visit at observation Home, Meerut by Hon’ble Executive Chairman, Uttar Pradesh SLSA

NATIONAL LOK ADALATS

Resolving Disputes, Restoring Harmony



The National Lok Adalats, organized across India, according to the annual calendar of NALSA, have served as a pivotal mechanism in fostering amicable resolutions beyond the conventional judicial framework. They provided litigants a swift, cost-effective means of resolving disputes, while simultaneously alleviating the burgeoning caseload of the formal judicial system by promoting alternative dispute resolution methods. The four National Lok Adalats held in 2024 successfully disposed of over 10.45 crore cases, significantly preventing 8.7 crore new cases from entering the judicial system, while concurrently mitigating 1.75 crore ongoing cases that were straining an already overburdened judiciary. The importance of addressing pre-litigation cases is underscored by data, showing that a greater number of these cases are resolved compared to pending ones.



The disposal rate of cases has consistently increased from the 1st to the 4th National Lok Adalat of 2024, rising from 41.53% in the 1st to 54.50% in the 2nd, to an impressive 72.11% in the 3rd, and 76.30% in the 4th National Lok Adalat. This progressively increasing success of the Lok Adalat system is a testament to the public's unwavering trust in this expeditious and accessible mechanism, reflecting NALSA's steadfast commitment to facilitating amicable resolutions and restoring societal harmony.

STORIES OF IMPACT

Success Story 1: Mebo Police (Arunachal Pradesh) Reunite Missing Boy with Family in 30 Minutes

On October 3, 2024, Mebo Police, in collaboration with a Para-Legal Volunteer (PLV), successfully reunited a missing boy with his family within 30 minutes. The child, unable to recall his name, was located by the police, who initiated a focused search operation. Using social media platforms such as WhatsApp, Facebook, and local news channels, they disseminated information rapidly. The coordinated effort quickly yielded results, enabling the identification and reunion of the boy with his guardians.

Success Story 2: DLSA, Hajipur (Uttar Pradesh) Resolves Matrimonial Dispute and Secures Employment for Victim

PLV XYZ and Panel Lawyer ABC, associated with DLSA Hajipur, successfully counseled and resolved a matrimonial and property dispute involving Smt. PQR and her in-laws. Their intervention facilitated an amicable settlement, enabling Smt. PQR to obtain a no-objection certificate from her in-laws, which was crucial for securing the job of her deceased husband. This initiative ensured that the victim not only received justice but was also empowered through employment, reflecting DLSA Hajipur's commitment to holistic support and rehabilitation for individuals in need.

Success Story 3: PLV Stops Three Child Marriages in Dibrugarh (Assam)

In November 2024, a success story emerged from DLSA, Dibrugarh, where a Para Legal Volunteer (PLV), Rofiqul Islam Khanda-kar, played a pivotal role in preventing three child marriages in the Samguri region, Ghinai Gaon Panchayat. With the support of the concerned Gaon Burha (Village Head) and the Village Defense Party (VDP), Rofiqul successfully intervened, ensuring that the children were protected from early marriage. This initiative exemplifies the effective collaboration between legal volunteers, local authorities, and community leaders in safeguarding the rights and welfare of vulnerable individuals.

Success Story 4: PLV Ensures Social Security and Legal Rights in Champawat (Uttarakhand)

PLV Deepa Devi of DLSA Champawat assisted Mrs. Bhavana Patni, a widow from Chandni village, by securing her widow pension and enrolling her two minor children under Vatsalya Yojana, ensuring them 4,000 per month for education. Additionally, through a legal awareness camp, she helped Dharmanand Joshi and Rajendra Prasad from Bagheli village register their marriages. Errors in Rajendra's family register were corrected online, and Dharmanand's permanent residence certificate was facilitated. These initiatives reflect DLSA's commitment to providing legal aid and social security benefits to those in need.

Success Story 5: PLV Assists Woman in Securing Legal Aid & Maintenance in Sonipat (Haryana)

In November 2024, a Para Legal Volunteer (PLV) associated with DLSA, Sonipat, assisted and counseled Smt. ABC, who had been living separately from her husband due to ongoing harassment and dowry demands. The PLV helped Smt. ABC file an application for legal aid, and as a result, Advocate PQR was assigned to her case. The advocate provided counseling and filed cases for maintenance under Section 125 of the CrPC and for cruelty and harassment under Section 498A of the IPC. Due to the advocate's continuous efforts, Smt. ABC started receiving a monthly maintenance of Rs. 10,000, enabling her to regain independence and restart her life.

INTERNS AT NALSA

The Internship Programme at NALSA offers an exceptional opportunity for young and aspiring legal minds to immerse themselves in the practical aspects of justice and legal aid. Through hands-on experience, interns gain valuable insights into how free legal services are extended to marginalized communities, including women, children, prisoners, victims of trafficking, persons with disability, etc. It offers law students an exceptional opportunity to explore the world of legal aid and public interest law. The programme bridges the gap between academic learning and real-world legal practice, allowing students to witness firsthand the importance of access to justice for all.



Interns are exposed to a wide range of legal services institutions such as District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs), Taluk Legal Services Clinics (TLSCs), Legal Aid Clinics, Prison, CAW Cell, Juvenile Justice Boards, Lok Adalats, etc. They engage in legal research, advocacy, and support initiatives aimed at enhancing legal literacy and promoting human rights. This immersive experience helps interns develop a comprehensive understanding of India's legal framework while contributing to initiatives that bring legal aid closer to those who need it most.

The NALSA Internship Programme is not just about professional growth but also a personal commitment to social justice. Interns have the chance to interact directly with legal aid beneficiaries and assist in legal counseling under supervision, developing critical skills in communication, empathy, and professionalism. By the end of their internship, participants not only enhance their legal expertise but also become advocates for change, contributing to a lasting impact on the legal aid landscape.



A. LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITIES IN INDIA : NATIONWIDE PRESENCE

At High Court Level

38

At District Level

708

At Taluka Level

2,439

B. LEGAL AID WORKFORCE ACROSS INDIA

Panel
Lawyers

(including at SCLSC & HCLSC)

44,908

Legal Aid
Defense Counsel

(Chief, Deputy and Assistant)

3,461

Para
Legal Volunteers

(Adhikar Mitrs)

47,614

Pro-Bono Lawyers

(including at HCLSC)

7,947

C. LOK ADALATS 2024: CASE DISPOSAL STATISTICS

National Lok Adalat



10,45,26,119

State Lok Adalat



12,08,227

Permanent Lok Adalat



1,61,277

D. EXTENT OF LEGAL SERVICES PROVIDED IN 2024 : KEY DATA INSIGHTS

Fresh Cases Filed in 2024 <i>(at High courts and District courts)</i>	Total Number of Cases Dealt by LADCS, Panel Lawyers and Pro Bono Lawyers <i>(including pending cases)</i>	Total Beneficiaries of Legal Services <i>(including recipients of legal advice)</i>
1,84,929	7,09,306	17,05,792

E. VICTIM COMPENSATION SCHEME : IMPLEMENTATION AND IMPACT

Total Applications Received in 2024	Total Applications Decided <i>(including pending applications)</i>
19,948	20,165

Compensation Disbursed in 2024
3,49,97,25,919

F. LEGAL AWARENESS PROGRAMMES : OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

Total Awareness Programmes Organized	Total Number of Attendees
↓	↓
3,29,135	2,69,44,617



NATIONAL LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

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**Ground Floor, Jaisalmer House, 26, Mansingh Road
New Delhi – 110001**



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