



NATIONAL LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

NEWSLETTER | ISSUE - 1 | JANUARY - MARCH, 2025

Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority

Brief Symposium on "Prison Reforms & Open Jails"

and Launching Ceremonies of "Nyay Ro Sarthi"



Highlights

- *Stories of Impact*
- *Mega Medical Camp - Manipur*
- *1st National Lok Adalat - 2025*
- *State Outreach Visits - Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh*
- *NALSA's Impact - A Statistical Overview (January - March)*
- *Mega Legal Services Camps - Maharashtra and Arunachal Pradesh*



HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE B.R. GAVAI

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

Dear Readers,

It gives me immense satisfaction to connect with you through this latest edition of our Newsletter. This platform stands as a testament to our enduring dedication to safeguarding the rights of the most vulnerable, ensuring that legal aid reaches every corner of our society where it is needed the most.

At the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), our mission has always been rooted in the conviction that justice must be available to all and not just as a concession, but as an inherent right. Our tireless efforts through awareness campaigns, outreach initiatives, and pro bono support reflect our belief in a legal system that empowers every citizen, particularly those who are often unheard and unseen.

This edition brings to you stories of resilience, community engagement, and the evolving landscape of legal aid in India. It showcases the meaningful impact of our collective work in narrowing the divide between the law and the lives it is meant to protect.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to our judicial officers, panel lawyers, para-legal volunteers, Legal Aid Defence Counsels, and staff who contribute their time and expertise with unwavering commitment. It is through their efforts that our vision of equitable justice takes shape on the ground.

I hope this Newsletter inspires greater participation in our shared journey towards legal empowerment. Every step taken in solidarity brings us closer to a society where justice is not an aspiration but a lived reality. I welcome your insights and reflections as they guide us in refining our efforts and deepening our impact.

*Warm regards,
B.R. Gavai*



Message from the Member Secretary, NALSA

Dear Readers,

I have the honour of presenting the January–March 2025 edition of our Newsletter, which offers an overview of the initiatives undertaken and the impact achieved by Legal Services Authorities across the nation. This edition encapsulates the momentum of our collective efforts, highlighting key milestones in our continued pursuit of accessible and inclusive justice for all.

One of the standout initiatives in this quarter was the launch of “Connecting with the Cause,” on 3rd January, 2025, commemorating the memory of Krantijyoti Savitribai Phule. This innovative competition invited law students to produce short films and reels on NALSA schemes, Lok Adalats, and Mediation. NALSA also collaborated with law universities to offer clinical courses and internship programmes which would help link legal education with legal aid and public outreach.

During this period Hon’ble Mr. Justice B.R. Gavai, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Executive Chairman, NALSA made several visits across the country promoting access to justice for all. In Arunachal Pradesh - legal aid was provided to tribal communities and empathetic outreach was emphasized. In Manipur, Hon’ble Mr. Justice B.R. Gavai led medical camps for IDPs, launched legal aid clinics, and underscored unity and justice. Legal Services Camps in Washim and Dharni, Maharashtra, empowered thousands through legal aid, mobility aids, and access to welfare schemes. NALSA also collaborated with law universities to integrate legal education with legal aid.

This edition celebrates the success of the 1st National Lok Adalat of 2025, which saw over 3.09 crore cases settled, an outstanding example of the potential of alternate dispute resolution. As you turn the pages, may you be inspired by the unity of purpose that drives our legal services network and the shared resolve to ensure Access to Justice for All.

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STATE OUTREACH VISIT - RAJASTHAN



January 4, 2025: Rajasthan SLSA in Jaipur marked an important occasion with the unveiling of its official logo, the launch of badges for Para-Legal Volunteers (*Adhikar Mitrs*), and the introduction of “*Nyay Ro Sarthi*”, a periodic newspaper initiative to promote legal awareness. A monthly scholarship scheme for specially-abled children was also initiated, underscoring the commitment to inclusive and accessible justice. The event was graced by Hon’ble Mr. Justice B. R. Gavai, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Executive Chairman, NALSA; Hon’ble Mr. Justice Sandeep Mehta, Judge, Supreme Court of India along with Hon’ble Chief Justice Manindra Mohan Shrivastava, Hon’ble Mr. Justice Pankaj Bhandari, and other distinguished Judges of the Rajasthan High Court.

STATE OUTREACH VISIT - UTTAR PRADESH



January 18, 2025: Uttar Pradesh SLSA inaugurated its newly constructed office building in Lucknow in the august presence of Hon’ble Mr. Justice B. R. Gavai, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Executive Chairman, NALSA; Hon’ble Mr. Justice Vikram Nath, Judge, Supreme Court of India; Hon’ble Mr. Justice Arun Bhansali, Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court and Patron-in-Chief, UPSLSA; and Hon’ble Mr. Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta, Senior Judge, Allahabad High Court and Executive Chairman, UPSLSA. The visit featured a tour of exhibition stalls showcasing products made by jail inmates, the inauguration of a One-Day Sensitization Programme for judicial officers and stakeholders at the Judicial Training and Research Institute, and the launch of a Compendium of Standard Operating Procedures to streamline legal aid services in the state.

MEGA LEGAL SERVICES CAMP - MAHARASHTRA (DHARNI)



February 9, 2025: Marking a major step towards justice, inclusion, and social upliftment, the Mega Legal Services Camp at Zilla Parishad Ground, Dharni, Amravati (Maharashtra), saw participation from over 10,000 individuals and directly benefited 32,520 people. Held under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Mr. Justice B.R. Gavai, Judge, Supreme Court of India & Executive Chairman, NALSA, the camp featured over 40 government stalls delivering essential services, extended legal aid to marginalized communities, and facilitated the distribution of wheelchairs, cheques, and certificates. Special focus was laid on empowering Adivasi communities through awareness of government schemes.

MEGA LEGAL SERVICES CAMP - MAHARASHTRA (WASHIM)



February 22, 2025: The Mega Legal Services Camp held at Watane Lawns, Washim (Maharashtra), under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Mr. Justice B.R. Gavai, Judge, Supreme Court of India & Executive Chairman, NALSA, facilitated wide-ranging outreach initiatives. Among the key interventions were the distribution of mobility tricycles under government welfare schemes, provision of on-site legal assistance to marginalized sections, and facilitation of access to various entitlements through 24 government service stalls. A street play based on the POCSO Act was also staged to enhance public legal awareness. The camp reaffirmed NALSA's commitment to promoting inclusive and accessible justice. It witnessed enthusiastic participation from beneficiaries and stakeholders, creating a vibrant platform for legal empowerment. The multi-sectoral presence of welfare departments ensured that the community received holistic support. Such initiatives are a testament to the collaborative approach adopted to bridge the gap between law and society.

MEGA MEDICAL CAMP - MANIPUR



March 22, 2025: Hon'ble Mr. Justice B.R. Gavai, Executive Chairman, NALSA, visited Manipur along with Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vikram Nath, Judge, Supreme Court of India; Hon'ble Mr. Justice M.M. Sundresh, Judge, Supreme Court of India; Hon'ble Mr. Justice K.V. Vishwanathan, Judge, Supreme Court of India, and Hon'ble Mr. Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Judge, Supreme Court of India. During the visit, Mega Medical Camps were conducted across 290 relief camps established for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). These camps were made possible through the dedicated efforts of over 400 doctors and 800 support staff, who provided essential healthcare services. Four Legal Aid Clinics were launched, sanads were distributed to 41 newly enrolled advocates, and study materials were provided to re-enrolled students. Essential relief items such as mosquito nets, milk powder, diapers, and emergency lamps were distributed in Churachandpur and Bishnupur districts.

MEGA LEGAL AWARENESS PROGRAMME CAMP - ARUNACHAL PRADESH



March 29 & 30, 2025: A Mega Legal Awareness Programme Camp-cum-Sewa Apke Dwar was held in Dirang, Bomdila, and Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh, organized by the Arunachal Pradesh SLSA under the aegis of NALSA, in collaboration with local authorities. The programme was graced by the presence of Hon'ble Mr. Justice B.R. Gavai, Judge, Supreme Court of India & Executive Chairman, NALSA, and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ujjal Bhuyan, Judge, Supreme Court of India. It successfully reached out to tribal communities, who constitute over 68% of the state's population, spreading awareness on key legislations such as the Forest Rights Act, 2006, and NALSA's Tribal Rights Scheme, 2015. The camp facilitated on-the-spot legal aid, grievance redressal, and access to Central and State welfare schemes. As part of their visit, the Hon'ble Justices also visited a jail and a children's home in Tawang, furthering NALSA's commitment to accessible and inclusive justice.

LEGAL AWARENESS & OUTREACH PROGRAMMES

At Community Level : Empowering Communities through Knowledge



NATIONAL LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

**Pan - India Zonal
Reel Making & Short Film
Competition for Law Students**

CONNECTING WITH THE CAUSE

3rd January, 2025 – 8th March, 2025

Birth Anniversary of
Krantijyoti Savitribai Phule International Women's Day

Registration Rules*

Categories : Reels – 1:30 mins
Short film – 3 mins Based on NALSA Schemes
to promote Legal Literacy

Prize

Winner : ₹ 10,000 /- | Runner up : ₹ 5,000 /- | From each zone
Participation Certificates for all

*For any queries :
Contact your nearest District Legal Services Authority (DLSA)

Glimpse of the Launch Poster of Nationwide Competition - Connecting with the Cause

February 3, 2025: The Gujarat SLSA launched an impactful outreach initiative through its Mobile Legal Aid Van, equipped with digital displays and educational materials to raise awareness about legal rights among citizens in remote and underserved areas. The 2025 campaign began with extensive coverage in the districts of Morbi and Kachchh. It was flagged off by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Biren A. Vaishnav, Executive Chairman of Gujarat SLSA, and the van travelled across talukas such as Vankaner, Maliya, Morbi, Tankara, Bhuj, Nakhatrana, and Rapar. The initiative focused on spreading awareness about key legislations, government welfare schemes, and the availability of free legal aid. Interactive sessions, videos, and pamphlets in local/regional languages were used to ensure effective communication. Local communities actively participated and engaged with legal services authorities.

January 3, 2025: With the approval of Hon'ble Mr. Justice B. R. Gavai, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Executive Chairman, NALSA, a nationwide competition for law colleges titled "Connecting with the Cause" was launched. This dynamic initiative encouraged law students across the country to produce reels and short films that creatively highlighted and promoted various NALSA schemes, Lok Adalat and Mediation. The purpose was to showcase a wide range of issues each reflecting a strong sense of civic responsibility. The campaign also served as a powerful and effective platform for nurturing a culture of pro-bono engagement among future lawyers. The competition aimed to promote legal awareness by tapping into the innovative spirit and storytelling abilities of young legal minds. By leveraging modern digital platforms and visual media, it made legal literacy more accessible, engaging, and relatable to the general public.



Glimpse from the Flag - Off Ceremony of the Mobile Van for Legal Awareness in Districts - Morbi and Kachchh

February 18, 2025: DLSA, Ambala (Haryana), in collaboration with the Women and Child Development Department, organized an awareness campaign under the NALSA (Victims of Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation) Scheme, 2015, across various villages. The initiative was conducted by Para-Legal Volunteers (PLVs) and it was aimed at sensitizing the community about the rights and protections available to victims. The campaign received an encouraging response, with around 300 individuals participating and engaging in the sessions. Informational materials were distributed, and PLVs used storytelling and real-life examples to foster deeper understanding. Emphasis was laid on early identification, community support, and available government schemes for rehabilitation. The campaign not only raised awareness but also encouraged vigilance and reporting within the community.



Glimpse from a Legal Awareness Programme conducted by DLSA, Ambala (Haryana)

LEGAL AWARENESS & OUTREACH PROGRAMMES

At Community Level : Empowering Communities through Knowledge



DLSA, Ukhrul (Manipur) at Champhung/Aphung Village

February 20, 2025: DLSA, Kra-Daadi (Arunachal Pradesh) District organized a legal awareness programme titled “*Legal Awareness Campaign*” at Nyokum Ground, Palin. The programme aimed to educate the public on various legal rights and welfare schemes, including key NALSA and State Schemes such as the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (POSH Act), the Victim Compensation Scheme, 2024, the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. A total of 48 individuals participated in the campaign, which served as an important initiative to spread legal awareness and ensure that citizens are informed of their rights and the legal remedies available to them. This initiative fostered a sense of confidence amongst the participants.

January 28, 2025: DLSA, Ukhrul (Manipur), in collaboration with Tora Legal Aid Clinic, organized a Legal Awareness Programme at Champhung/Aphung village in Ukhrul District. The programme focused on three key topics: the menace of drug abuse, legal rights, and the availability of legal services. Advocates from Ukhrul District served as the Resource Person, delivering insightful guidance on these important issues. A total of 50 participants attended the session, which aimed to empower the local community with knowledge of their rights and available legal remedies while also addressing the growing concern of drug abuse. Resource persons engaged in interactive discussions with community members, encouraged them to speak openly about challenges faced within their locality.



DLSA, Kra-Daadi (Arunachal Pradesh) at Nyokum Ground, Palin



Glimpse from a Legal Awareness Programme conducted by DLSA, South-East (New Delhi)

March 5, 2025: DLSA, South-East (New Delhi), in collaboration with Bal Vikas Dhara NGO, organized an awareness session for transgender individuals and sex workers on the topic “*Legal Rights of Sex Workers & Fundamental Rights.*” The session witnessed the participation of approximately 40 individuals. The initiative aimed to raise awareness about the legal provisions and protections available to sex workers and transgender persons, including their fundamental rights and access to justice. The Participants were also informed about available support systems such as the NALSA Helpline (15100) and DSLSA Helpline (1516), both of which are operational 24x7. The session not only fostered open dialogue but also addressed individual concerns, and emphasized the importance of dignity, equality, and legal empowerment for marginalized communities. Through an interactive format, the initiative created a safe and inclusive space for participants to share their experiences and better understand their legal rights. It also reinforced the commitment of legal services institutions to extend meaningful support to those who are often on the fringes of the justice system.

LEGAL AWARENESS & OUTREACH PROGRAMMES

At Colleges & Schools : Empowering the Future Leaders through Knowledge

With the approval of Hon'ble Mr. Justice B.R. Gavai, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Executive Chairman, NALSA, a significant boost was given to clinical legal education through the approval of proposals submitted by select universities. At MNLU Nagpur, an exclusive one-month internship at Legal Services Institutions was approved as a mandatory component of the B.A. LL.B. (Hons. in Adjudication and Justicing) five-year degree programme. At MNLU Mumbai, a four-week Internship Programme on Legal Research, Drafting, and Practical Exposure to Governance Mechanisms was approved for first and second-year law students, aimed at fostering a deeper understanding of the functioning of legal services authorities and judicial institutions. NLU Delhi has also been granted approval to involve students in various projects under NALSA and legal aid framework, offering them valuable experiential learning opportunities.



Glimpse from MNLU Convocation: MoU signed for a one-month internship programme with MNLU



DLSA, Chandel (Manipur) at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV)

January 30, 2025: DLSA, Dehradun (Uttarakhand), organized a legal awareness camp at Shri Guru Ram Rai Public School, Bindal, to educate students on important legal and social issues. The session covered the POCSO Act, Cybercrime, Social Media fraud, the ill effects of drug addiction, and introduced students to the NALSA toll-free legal aid helpline 15100. In addition to the awareness programme, a cleanliness rally was conducted by the students to mark National Cleanliness Day, promoting hygiene and social responsibility. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation and served as a meaningful initiative towards empowering youth through legal knowledge and civic awareness. Resource persons from the legal fraternity and police department engaged with the students, addressing their queries and encouraging proactive legal awareness. The session adopted a student-friendly approach, making complex legal topics more relatable for the young audience.



DLSA, Dehradun (Uttarakhand) at Shri Guru Ram Rai Public School, Bindal

LEGAL AWARENESS & OUTREACH PROGRAMMES

At Colleges & Schools : Empowering the Future Leaders through Knowledge



DLSA, Dibang Valley (Arunachal Pradesh) at Government Residential School, Punli

February 21, 2025: A Legal Awareness Camp was held at VKV Zilla Parishad School, Basantipur, organized by SDLSC Mayabunder under DLSA Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The event aimed to educate both students and teachers on key legal issues, with a focus on important laws such as the Juvenile Justice Act, POCSO Act, NDPS Act, and the Child Marriage Restraint Act. In addition, the camp covered essential topics related to general health and hygiene. The session emphasized DLSA's commitment to spreading legal awareness and ensuring that individuals have access to justice, while also facilitating a deeper understanding of legal safeguards within the community. Through this initiative, the DLSA sought to empower participants with the knowledge and tools to protect their rights and make informed decisions.

February 24, 2025: DLSA, Dibang Valley (Arunachal Pradesh), organized a one-day Free Legal Awareness Camp at the Government Residential School in Punli. The session aimed to enlighten students and staff about key legal safeguards for children, focusing on the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, and the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006. The camp sought to enhance awareness and understanding of child protection laws, promoting legal literacy among young learners and empowering them with knowledge about their rights and protections under the law. It also encouraged open discussions about challenges faced by children in the community and highlighted the importance of reporting any form of abuse. The session was designed to ensure that the students and staff are equipped with the essential information and practical knowledge to protect themselves and those around them.



DLSA, Andaman & Nicobar Islands at VKV Zilla Parishad School, Basantipur



Glimpse from a Legal Awareness Programme conducted by DLSA, Jaipur (Rajasthan)

March 11, 2025: DLSA, Jaipur (Rajasthan), in collaboration with SSG Pareek College, Jaipur, organized an awareness campaign titled "Sensitization Programme on the Rights of Women, Scheduled Castes, Children, the Elderly, Persons with Disabilities, Poor Migrants, People Living with HIV/AIDS, and Transgender Persons." The primary objective of the campaign was to spread awareness about the rights and legal provisions available to these vulnerable groups and to promote inclusivity and legal empowerment through education. The session highlighted the importance of legal safeguards and support systems for marginalized communities. The event saw enthusiastic participation from 35 students, who actively engaged in meaningful discussions and gained valuable insights into the legal protections and resources available to these groups. The campaign aimed to cultivate a sense of social responsibility and encourage the students to become advocates for the rights and welfare of these vulnerable populations.

LEGAL AWARENESS & OUTREACH PROGRAMMES

Orientation, Capacity Building & Training Programmes

January 4, 2025: DSLSA organized a training programme for Legal Services Advocates associated with Child Welfare Committees (CWCs) and Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs) at the Conference Hall, Rouse Avenue District Court Complex, New Delhi. Sh. Rajeev Bansal, Ld. Member Secretary, DSLSA, introduced the objective of the training and delivered a session on “Sharing of Best Practices: Standards of Professional Ethics in Legal Representation of Children.” Sh. Mridul Gupta, Ld. Additional Secretary, and Sh. Abhinav Pandey, Ld. Secretary (Litigation), DSLSA, engaged with the participants. Advocate and Consultant Sh. Anant Asthana led a session on “Law and Procedure on Age Determination: Emerging Frontiers”. Sh. Preetam Yadav, Counsellor, South & South East DLSA, addressed “Best Interest Principle: Child Psychology and Sensitization to Issues Affecting the Child.”



Glimpse from a Training Programme Organized by Delhi SLSA



Glimpse from a Training Programme Organized by Andhra Pradesh SLSA

February 17, 2025: A 40-hour Mediation Training Programme was conducted at the premises of the Hon'ble High Court, organized by the Andhra Pradesh SLSA, Andhra Pradesh HCLSC, and the Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee (MCPC). The programme was inaugurated by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ravi Nath Tilhari, who emphasized the importance of mediation in resolving disputes efficiently and reducing court caseloads. The Master Trainer provided participants with hands-on training in mediation techniques. The training aimed to enhance participants' mediation skills, enabling them to resolve disputes amicably and contribute to a more efficient justice system. The programme received an enthusiastic response from participants, reflecting a growing recognition of mediation as a vital tool in access to justice. Such initiatives are instrumental in building a cadre of trained mediators to support alternative dispute resolution mechanisms across the country.

January 17, 2025: DLSA, Sirsa (Haryana), conducted a meeting with Para-Legal Volunteers (PLVs) to review their work and discuss various NALSA Schemes. During the meeting, PLVs shared the challenges they face while organizing legal aid camps in remote areas in reaching marginalized communities. Panel Advocates, briefed the PLVs on two important NALSA Schemes: the NALSA (Effective Implementation of Poverty Alleviation Schemes) Scheme, 2015, which helps people access government poverty alleviation programmes, and the NALSA (Legal Services to Workers in the Unorganized Sector) Scheme, 2015, which focuses on providing legal support to workers in the unorganized sector. The session aimed to equip PLVs with the knowledge and tools to effectively implement these schemes in their respective areas. The meeting concluded with a renewed commitment to strengthen grassroots legal outreach.



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

LEGAL AWARENESS & OUTREACH PROGRAMMES

Orientation, Capacity Building & Training Programmes

February 15 & 16, 2025: DLSA, KB Asifabad (Telangana), conducted an Orientation Training Programme for members of the Legal Services Unit for Persons with Mental Illness and Persons with Intellectual Disabilities under the NALSA (LSUM) Scheme, 2024. The training was held at the Senior Civil Judge Court Hall in Asifabad. The session was designed to provide the members with comprehensive knowledge and practical skills to effectively assist individuals with mental illnesses and intellectual disabilities in navigating and accessing legal services. The programme also focused on engaging participants in understanding the legal challenges faced by these individuals and provided insights into their rights and the legal provisions available for their protection and empowerment.



Glimpse from Capacity Building Programme Organized by DLSA, KB Asifabad (Telangana)

March 23, 2025: A One-Day Refresher Training Programme was organized for Legal Aid Defense Counsels at the Chhattisgarh State Judicial Academy. The training aimed to strengthen the legal knowledge, courtroom skills, and procedural understanding of Legal Aid Defense Counsels to ensure effective representation of beneficiaries with professionalism, empathy & a strong commitment to justice under the legal aid system. The programme included expert-led sessions, interactive discussions, and practical insights on recent developments in criminal law and defense strategies. Participants also had the opportunity to engage in case studies to apply the knowledge gained in real-world scenarios. This initiative forms an integral part of the ongoing and concerted efforts to enhance the quality and efficiency of legal aid services across the state.



Glimpse from Refresher Training Programme conducted at Chhattisgarh State Judicial Academy

March 6, 2025: DLSA, Ajmer (Rajasthan), organized a Training-cum-Sensitization Session titled “PLV Orientation Training.” The session aimed to enhance the knowledge and capacity of Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) by providing in-depth insights into the Para Legal Volunteer Scheme, its objectives, and implementation framework. The training focused on equipping participants with the necessary legal awareness and practical skills to effectively serve their communities and assist in promoting access to justice. It emphasized the vital role PLVs play in supporting marginalized groups and facilitating legal aid. Through interactive discussions and case studies, the session aimed to prepare PLVs to address common legal issues and provide assistance in legal matters such as domestic violence, women’s rights, and access to government schemes. This initiative contributed to building a stronger, more knowledgeable network of volunteers dedicated to enhancing legal awareness and access to justice within the community. Participants also shared field experiences, allowing for collective learning and exchange of strategies to address grassroots legal challenges. The session reinforced the importance of empathy, vigilance, and accountability in PLVs’ day-to-day roles.



Glimpse from Orientation Training Organized by DLSA, Ajmer (Rajasthan)

LEGAL AWARENESS & OUTREACH PROGRAMMES

At Jails : Rekindling Hope Behind Bars



DLSA Nainital (Uttarakhand) at District Jail Nainital and Sub Jail Haldwani

February 13, 2025: A Special Campaign and Legal Awareness Programme was conducted at District Jail, Lunglei (Mizoram) in collaboration with the Healthy Lunglei Campaign. The initiative included a health screening drive to address the legal and medical needs of the inmates, ensuring their holistic well-being and access to justice. In addition to providing legal awareness on topics such as prisoner rights, legal aid, and available support schemes, the programme aimed to promote health and wellness among the inmates. The session offered a holistic approach to care, addressing both an individual's physical health concerns and legal entitlements, ensuring they are informed and empowered in seeking justice and support. This multifaceted and rehabilitative campaign underscored the critical and often overlooked link between legal empowerment and physical well-being within custodial settings.

January 6, 2025: A legal awareness camp was organized by DLSA Nainital (Uttarakhand) at District Jail Nainital and Sub Jail Haldwani, where prisoners' concerns were addressed by the Hon'ble Chairman, DLSA. Inmates were informed about National Lok Adalat, compounding, remission, commutation, the e-Prison portal, e-true copy, and sensitization was done regarding various schemes and prisoner rights. It emphasized the importance of legal support and dignity for incarcerated individuals. The benefits of skill development were highlighted, with discussions focusing on how acquiring new skills can significantly contribute to the rehabilitation and reintegration of prisoners into society post-release. Jail PLVs were sensitized on the NALSA Prison Legal Aid Clinic SOP to ensure effective implementation of legal aid services inside prisons. A survey on caste-based discrimination in jail work allotment was also conducted.



Glimpse from a Legal Awareness Programme at District Jail, Lunglei (Mizoram)



DLSA, Kaithal (Haryana) at District Jail, Kaithal

January 17, 2025: DLSA, Kaithal (Haryana), in collaboration with the Legal Aid Defence Counsel Office, organized five awareness programmes for female inmates of District Jail, Kaithal. The inmates were informed about their rights, including access to free legal aid, bail, parole, furlough, education, and the procedure for applying for legal assistance under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. The sessions were specifically designed to empower the female inmates by providing them with crucial legal knowledge and practical insights, enabling them to better understand and navigate the complexities of the justice system. A total of 24 female inmates benefited from these sessions, gaining a clearer understanding of their rights and available resources. The initiative aimed to create an environment of legal literacy, ensuring that the inmates were aware of the legal support they could access for their rehabilitation, overall well-being and to assert their rights and seek justice.

At Jails : Rekindling Hope Behind Bars

March 27, 2025: DLSA, Leh (Ladakh) organized an awareness programme at the District Jail, Leh, focusing on the rights and entitlements of prisoners. As part of the initiative, the DLSA also conducted a screening to identify undertrial prisoners who were unrepresented, in order to extend free legal aid and ensure access to justice. This outreach programme aimed to create awareness among inmates about their legal rights while reinforcing the commitment of the DLSA to safeguard the rights of undertrial prisoners. Additionally, the programme highlighted the importance of legal representation in ensuring fair trial and preventing prolonged detention without proper legal recourse. The initiative emphasized the DLSA's role in promoting legal literacy and fostering a more inclusive justice.



DLSA, Leh (Ladakh) at District Jail, Leh

March 26, 2025: DLSA, Majuli (Assam) organized an awareness programme at the District Jail, Majuli, focusing on key aspects of the Premature Release, Parole, and Furlough of Prisoners, along with the broader Rights of Prisoners. The programme was focused on generating consciousness amongst the inmates and prison authorities about legal safeguards and mechanisms available under the law to ensure humane and just treatment of incarcerated individuals. It provided valuable information on the procedures for applying for premature release, parole, and furlough, helping inmates understand their rights and avenues for seeking temporary release. The initiative also emphasized the importance of ensuring fair treatment for prisoners, promoting rehabilitation, and encouraging better access to legal remedies. By addressing these critical issues, the programme aimed to significantly enhance legal awareness among inmates and reinforce the principles of justice and human dignity within the prison system.



DLSA, Majuli (Assam) at District Jail, Majuli

March 25, 2025: DLSA, North (New Delhi) organized a mental health awareness session titled "From Isolation to Connection" at Central Jail No. 10, Rohini, for inmates, Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs), legal sewadars, and staff. The session emphasized the importance of mental well-being, offering coping strategies for stress, isolation, and anxiety, along with mindfulness techniques and information on available psychological support within the correctional system. Around 40 inmates actively participated, sharing their experiences in an open and supportive environment. The session aimed to destigmatize mental health issues and promote emotional resilience, ensuring inmates were aware of the mental health resources available to them. The session concluded with one-on-one counseling and guidance for the inmates on accessing ongoing mental health resources, empowering participants to take proactive steps toward improving their mental well-being.



DLSA, North (New Delhi) at Central Jail No. 10, Rohini

1st NATIONAL LOK ADALAT - 2025

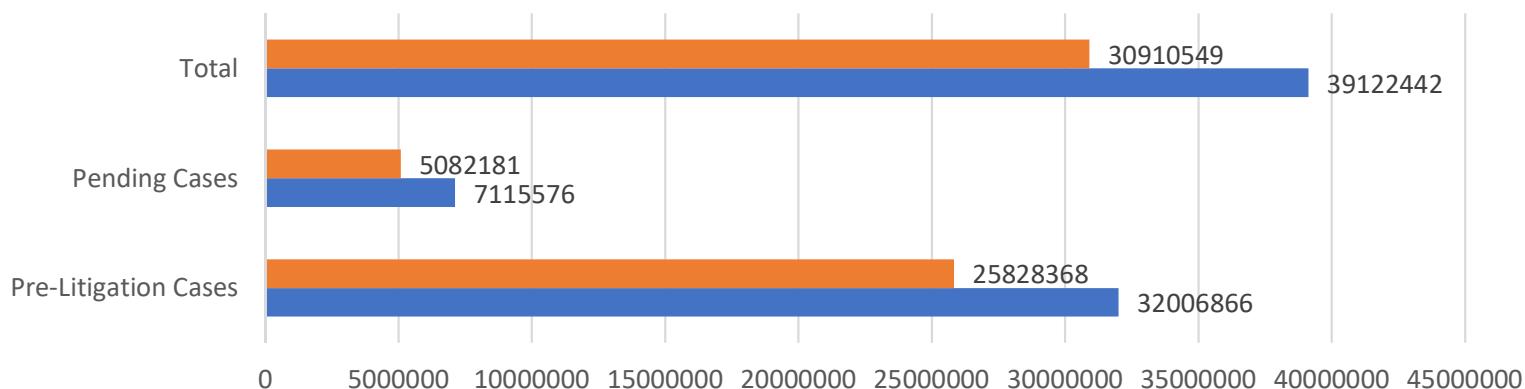
Resolving Disputes, Restoring Harmony

GLIMPSE OF 1ST NATIONAL LOK ADALAT – 2025



Lok Adalats serve as an effective alternative dispute resolution mechanism, facilitating amicable settlements between parties outside the formal court system. The scope of Lok Adalats extends across a wide range of cases, including criminal compoundable offences, traffic challans, revenue matters, bank recovery disputes, motor accident claims, cheque dishonour cases, labour disputes, matrimonial matters (excluding divorce cases), land acquisition cases, consumer disputes, and IPR-related issues. In 2025, four National Lok Adalats are scheduled, with the first being set on March 8, 2025. This 1st National Lok Adalat of 2025 marked a significant milestone in expeditious justice delivery, achieving a high disposal rate of 79.01%. A total of 3.09 crore cases were resolved across 37 States and Union Territories, including 2.58 crore pre-litigation cases and 50.82 lakh pending cases. The settlements, amounting to ₹18,212.23 crores, provided substantial financial relief to individuals and institutions. Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest number of case disposals, while Jharkhand achieved an exceptional disposal rate of 99.95%. The success of the 1st National Lok Adalat of 2025 reaffirms the effectiveness of alternative dispute resolution in delivering swift and accessible justice.

1st National Lok Adalat - 2025



	Pre-Litigation Cases	Pending Cases	Total
Disposed	25828368	5082181	30910549
Taken up	32006866	7115576	39122442

■ Disposed
 ■ Taken up

STORIES OF IMPACT

Success Story 1: Restoring Dignity: Pension Reinstated After 8 Years for Paralyzed Villager (Uttarakhand)

During a legal awareness camp held in Almora, a PLV brought attention to the case of Shri Pratap Ram, a paralyzed resident of Village Naya Singoli, Tehsil Jainti. Despite living in extreme poverty, his old age pension had been discontinued for eight years. Following DLSA Almora's intervention, his pension was successfully reinstated on 09.01.2025.

Success Story 2: Facilitation of Financial Aid and Welfare Benefits for Cancer Patient Through PLV Intervention (Jharkhand)

During a door-to-door campaign, PLV Ms. Dipenty Kumari Gupta identified Latika Devi, a cancer patient unable to afford treatment. With the support of DLSA Dhanbad, she secured an income certificate, coordinated with the Civil Surgeon, and facilitated a ₹5,00,000 grant under the Mukhya Mantri Asadhya Rog Yojana. The patient underwent successful surgery at TATA Memorial Hospital. The PLV also helped her obtain a ration card and Ayushman Bharat enrollment.

Success Story 3: Timely Intervention by PLV Ensures Welfare Support for Vulnerable Children in Dhanbad (Jharkhand)

As part of a community outreach initiative, PLV Hemraj Chouhan of Dhanbad Block identified four children who had lost their father and were struggling to meet their basic needs. He promptly informed the Secretary, DLSA Dhanbad, and under his direction, coordinated with government departments to ensure the issuance of Ration and Ayushman Cards. With support from the Child Welfare Committee, the children were also registered under the Sponsorship Scheme. The families expressed heartfelt gratitude to DLSA Dhanbad for the timely assistance.

Success Story 4: DLSA, Purba Bardhaman (West Bengal) Assists Senior Citizen in Securing Guardianship and Victim Compensation for Grandchildren

Mr. Chandu Das, a senior citizen from Village Ronda, approached DLSA Purba Bardhaman for legal assistance after the death of his daughter and the incarceration of his son-in-law. Unable to afford a private lawyer, he sought guardianship of his three grandchildren. Recognizing the urgency, the Secretary, DLSA, appointed an advocate to file a guardianship petition and informed Mr. Das about the children's entitlement to compensation under the West Bengal Victim Compensation Scheme, 2017. The prompt and compassionate support provided much needed relief to Mr. Das and his family.

INTERNS AT NALSA

The NALSA Internship Programme provides aspiring legal professionals with a unique opportunity to gain practical exposure to legal aid and justice delivery. This hands-on experience enables interns to understand how free legal services are extended to marginalized groups, including women, children, prisoners, trafficking victims, and persons with disabilities. The programme serves as a bridge between academic learning and real-world legal practice, allowing law students to witness the crucial role of legal aid in ensuring access to justice.



Interns engage with various legal service institutions, such as, District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) and Taluk Legal Services Committee (TLSCs), Legal Aid Clinics, Prisons, CAW Cells, Juvenile Justice Boards, and Lok Adalats. Their responsibilities include conducting legal research, participating in advocacy initiatives, and contributing to legal literacy programmes that promote human rights and awareness. This immersive experience not only deepens their understanding of India's legal system but also equips them with the skills needed to support vulnerable communities effectively.



Beyond professional development, the internship fosters a strong commitment to social justice. Interns interact with legal aid beneficiaries, assist in legal counseling, and develop key skills in communication, empathy, and ethical legal practice. By the end of the programme, participants emerge as advocates for change, making a meaningful contribution to the legal aid ecosystem. The NALSA Internship Programme is more than an academic opportunity - it is a call to action for future lawyers who envision law as a tool for social change.



A. LOK ADALAT : CASE DISPOSAL STATISTICS

National Lok Adalat



3,09,10,549

State Lok Adalat



1,36,587

Permanent Lok Adalat



76,703

B. VICTIM COMPENSATION SCHEME : IMPLEMENTATION AND IMPACT

Total Applications Received

6,969

Total Applications Decided
(including pending applications)

6,846

Compensation Disbursed

1,34,70,11,712

C. LEGAL AWARENESS PROGRAMMES : OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

Total
Awareness Programmes Organized



1,33,853

Total
Number of Attendees



1,02,88,233



NATIONAL LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

**B- Block, Ground Floor, Administrative Building Complex,
Supreme Court of India, New Delhi – 110001**

**Ground Floor, Jaisalmer House, 26, Mansingh Road
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