



### SIKKIM STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

## SPECIAL BULLETIN OF

REGIONAL MEET OF THE STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITIES OF NORTH-EASTERN STATES SIKKIM CHAPTER, 2015



Sitting L-R: Hon'ble Mr. Justice Uma Nath Singh, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Deepak Gupta, Mr. Pawan Chamling, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Sikkim, Hon'ble Mr. Justice T.S. Thakur, Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.K. Sinha, Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.P. Wangdi and Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Meenakshi M. Rai



## ACTION TAKEN BY SIKKIM STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY FOR THE REGIONAL MEET OF THE STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITIES OF NORTH-EASTERN STATES-SIKKIM CHAPTER 2015

The Regional Meet of the State Legal Services Authorities of the North-Eastern States - Sikkim Chapter 2015 was held at Gangtok, East Sikkim in the office of the State Legal Services Authority, Development Area on May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2015. An awareness programme was also held at Gnathang, a remote village in East District of Sikkim for the public of Gnathang and surrounding areas on May 3<sup>nd</sup> 2015.

In this connection, in pursuance to the directions of the Hon'ble Executive Chairman the Sikkim SLSA along with the District Legal Services Authorities and Taluk Legal Services Committees held several meetings. Committees were constituted involving the Chairpersons of the District Legal Services Authorities/TLSCs, Senior Panel Advocates and Advocates.

For the legal awareness programme at Gnathang a recce was made by Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.P. Wangdi, Judge, High Court of Sikkim/Executive Chairman, Sikkim SLSA, Member Secretary and other officers of Sikkim SLSA, Panel Advocates on 14th April 2015. However, due to inclement weather and heavy snowfall beyond Tsongu lake, the entourage had to return mid way. Another recce was conducted by the Additional Secretary, Sikkim SLSA along with two panel advocates Mr. Sonam Palden Bhutia and Mr. William Tamang via a longer route from Rongli enroute Zuluk on 25th April 2015. The Army Authorities stationed at Gnathang (Sunnyvale Madras Regiment) along with the officials of the Sikkim Police Department, Panchayats and local gentries of the area extended all possible help.

Some glimpses of the recce at Gnathang, East Sikkim

14th April, 2015

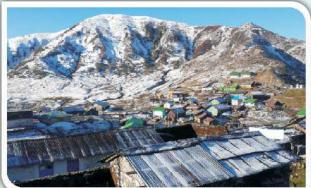




Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.P. Wangdi with Army Officers, Officers of Sikkim SLSA, Panel Advocates and Panchayat Members

#### 14th April, 2015 and onwards





Gnathang village, East Sikkim



Addl. Secy., Sikkim SLSA with Panel Advocates, Panchayat Members, Army Officers and Sikkim Police during the recce on 25th April, 2015



Army Jawans cleaning the area for the Awareness Programme



Tsongu Lake during the recce



Zuluk during second recce on 25th April, 2015

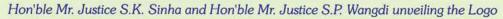
# UNVEILING OF THE LOGO FOR THE REGIONAL MEET OF STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITIES OF NORTH-EASTERN STATES SIKKIM CHAPTER, 2015

Logo for the Regional Meet of State Legal Services Authorities of North Eastern States Sikkim Chapter, 2015 was unveiled by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sunil Kumar Sinha, Chief Justice, High Court of Sikkim and Patron-in-Chief, Sikkim SLSA and Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.P. Wangdi, Judge, High Court of Sikkim and Executive Chairman, Sikkim SLSA/Member, Central Authority, NALSA in the presence of Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai, Judge, High Court of Sikkim, the then Principal District and Sessions Judge, East at Gangtok/Chairman, DLSA (East) at a function organised by Sikkim SLSA on 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2015 in the Auditorium, High Court of Sikkim.

Also present on the occasion were Mrs. K.C. Barphungpa, Registrar General, High Court of Sikkim/Secretary, High Court Legal Services Committee, Mr. N.G. Sherpa, Registrar, High Court of Sikkim, Mr. Suraj Chettri, Chief Judicial Magistrate-cum-Sr. Civil Judge (East & North)/Secretary, DLSA (East), Senior Advocates/Advocates, Officials of High Court of Sikkim and staff of Sikkim SLSA. The vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. K.W. Bhutia, Member Secretary, Sikkim SLSA.



Some glimpses of the function







The logo signifies the State Tree (Rhododendron), the State Deity (Mt. Khangchendzonga) and the Clear Blue Sky in the background

#### INAUGURAL FUNCTION OF REGIONAL MEET OF STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITIES OF NORTH-EASTERN STATES AT CHINTAN BHAWAN, GANGTOK

The inaugural function of the Regional Meet of State Legal Services Authorities of the North-Eastern States-Sikkim Chapter, 2015 was held on  $2^{nd}$  May, 2015 at Chintan Bhawan, Gangtok, East Sikkim.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice T.S. Thakur, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Executive Chairman, NALSA inaugurated the meet as the Chief Guest presided over by Mr. Pawan Chamling, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Sikkim and Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.K. Sinha, Chief Justice, High Court of Sikkim/Patron-in-Chief as Guests of Honour in the august presence of Hon'ble Patron-in-Chief, Hon'ble Executive Chairmen of the State of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura, Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Meenakshi M. Rai, Judge, High Court of Sikkim, Madam Asha Menon, Member Secretary, NALSA, Mr. Alok Agarwal, OSD, NALSA and Member Secretaries of the respective North Eastern States.

The function was attended by the Judicial Officers of Sikkim, Ex-Officio Members of Sikkim SLSA, Officers of the various State Government Departments, Panel Advocates, faculty members and students from Sikkim University and Sikkim Government Law College.

Addressing the inaugural function, Hon'ble Shri Justice T.S. Thakur, Chief Guest said that the Legal Services Authority is a very noble concept, where legal knowledge and aid is being provided to the people who are illiterate and ignorant about their legal rights, disparity should not be and impediment for the weaker sections of the society and the under privileged, and to this Legal Services Authority thus assures of providing "Access to Justice for All". The challenge for Legal Services Authority is not only to provide suitable lawyers to fight the cases of the legal beneficiaries in the Courts, but the real challenge lies in creating legal awareness and literacy to such a huge populace of India who are not fully aware and literate about their legal rights and duties.

His Lordship also mentioned that it was heartening to see that Sikkim had done some really exemplary works in the field of judiciary by not only providing infrastructural development but by also giving a conducive environment.

In his presidential address, Mr. Pawan Chamling, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Sikkim expressed his great delight to be amongst such legal luminaries, and lauded that Sikkim has a robust and vibrant judiciary. He also enlightened the Government efforts undertaken to establish Human Rights Courts, Family Courts, Lok Adalats and Mediation Centres which were all actively functioning.

The keynote address was delivered by Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.K. Sinha, Chief Justice, High Court of Sikkim & Patron-in-Chief, Sikkim SLSA, while Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.P. Wangdi, Judge, High Court of Sikkim & Executive Chairman, Sikkim SLSA presented the welcome address.

The 4th Edition of the amended version of "Lessons in Law" published by Sikkim State Legal Services Authority was also released by the Chief Guest, Hon'ble Mr. Justice T.S. Thakur in the

presence of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Sikkim, Hon'ble Chief Justice and Patron-in-Chief, High Court of Sikkim, Gauhati, Assam, Meghalaya and Hon'ble Executive Chairman, Sikkim SLSA and Judge, High Court of Sikkim.

The vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. K.W. Bhutia, District and Sessions Judge (East) and Member Secretary, Sikkim SLSA followed by National Anthem.

Glimpses of the Inauguration of the Regional Meet at Chintan Bhawan, Gangtok, East Sikkim



Hon'ble Mr. Justice T.S. Thakur, Executive Chairman, NALSA



Mr. Pawan Chamling Hon'ble Chief Minister of Sikkim



Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.K. Sinha, Patron-in-Chief, Sikkim SLSA



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Deepak Gupta, Patron-in-Chief, Tripura SLSA



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Uma Nath Singh, Patron-in-Chief, Meghalaya



Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.P. Wangdi, Executive Chairman, Sikkim SLSA



Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Meenakshi M. Rai, Judge, High Court of Sikkim



Hon'ble Mr. Justice T.S. Thakur addressing the gathering



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Sikkim addressing the gathering



Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.K. Sinha addressing the gathering



Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.P. Wangdi addressing the gathering



Releasing of amended version of the book "Lessons in Law" for standards IX and XI by the dignitaries



Executive Chairmen of North-Eastern States and Hon'ble Justice A.P. Subba, former Judge, High Court of Sikkim and Executive Chairman, Sikkim SLSA in the middle



Spouses of the dignitaries

## INAUGURATION OF NEW OFFICE OF SIKKIM STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY AT DEVELOPMENT AREA, GANGTOK, EAST SIKKIM

After the inaugural function at Chintan Bhawan, Gangtok, East Sikkim, the Hon'ble dignitaries then proceeded for the inauguration of the new office of Sikkim State Legal Services Authority located at Development Area, Gangtok, East Sikkim.

Sikkim is the only State in the North East where State Legal Services Authority has its own office building. Constructed at an estimated cost of Rs. 6.55 Cr. by the Buildings and Housing Department, the five storied Sikkim SLSA building with a floor area of 3058 sq feet has been designed as per the National Building Code 2005 considering adequate earthquake safety features making the building earthquake resistant. The building has parking facilities, video conference room, conference hall, Lok Adalat Room, library, Mediation Room, training hall and room for Sikkim SLSA office-bearers.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice T.S. Thakur, Judge, Supreme Court of India & Executive Chairman, NALSA inaugurated the new office building of Sikkim State Legal Services Authority. In his brief address, Hon'ble Mr. Justice T.S. Thakur was all praise for the State of Sikkim and said though small in size and population, Sikkim is an exemplary State from which the country can learn so much. He also stated that it is due to the efforts of both the executive as well as the judiciary that Sikkim State Legal Services Authority has its own premises and all the State Legal Services Authorities should emulate the same.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Pawan Chamling, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Sikkim mentioned that Sikkim though is a peaceful State, yet have to be vigilant against elements leading to dissatisfaction and discontent in the society. He stated that Sikkim has changed the basic perception about a border State and proved that it could be peaceful and equally progressive with many development opportunities for the people.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.K. Sinha, Chief Justice, High Court of Sikkim & Patron-in-Chief, Sikkim SLSA mentioned that Sikkim SLSA building and infrastructure should be used properly by Sikkim SLSA to give proper services to the people.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.P. Wangdi, Judge, High Court of Sikkim & Executive Chairman, Sikkim SLSA/Member, Central Authority, NALSA also addressed the gathering.

The welcome address was presented by Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Meenakshi M. Rai, Judge, High Court of Sikkim.

The Principal Chief Engineer-cum-Secretary (Buildings & Housing Department), Mr. M.B. Gurung gave a brief resume of the new Sikkim SLSA building. The vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. K.W. Bhutia, Member Secretary, Sikkim SLSA.

#### Inauguration of new office building of Sikkim SLSA



Hon'ble Mr. Justice T.S. Thakur and Hon'ble Chief Minister of Sikkim opening the plaque of the new building of Sikkim SLSA



Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.K. Sinha and Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.P. Wangdi offering prayers



Visit of Office Library of Sikkim SLSA by the dignitaries



Hon'ble Mr. Justice T.S. Thakur



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Sikkim



Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.K. Sinha



Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.P. Wangdi



Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Meenakshi M. Rai delivering the welcome address

The Regional Meet of the State Legal Services Authorities of North-Eastern States 'Sikkim Chapter 2015' chaired by Hon'ble Mr. Justice T. S. Thakur, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Executive Chairman, National Legal Services Authority was held in the Conference Hall of the new Sikkim State Legal Services Authority building.

#### The following topics were discussed:

- (i) Challenges and Impediments faced in the implementation of NALSA's programmes in the North-Eastern States and
  - (ii) Future Plan of Action and Solutions to the Impediments.

The meet was attended by the Hon'ble Patron-in-Chief, Hon'ble Executive Chairmen and Hon'ble Judge, High Court of Sikkim:

- 1. Hon'ble Mr. Justice T. S. Thakur, Judge, Supreme Court of India
- 2. Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. K. Sinha, Patron-in-Chief, Sikkim SLSA.
- 3. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Deepak Gupta, Patron-in-Chief, Tripura SLSA.
- 4. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Uma Nath Singh, Patron-in-Chief, Meghalaya SLSA.
- 5. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Hrishikesh Roy, Executive Chairman, Arunachal Pradesh SLSA.
- 6. Hon'ble Mr. Justice T. Vaiphei, Executive Chairman, Assam SLSA.
- 7. Hon'ble Mr. Justice N. Kotishwar Singh, Executive Chairman, Manipur SLSA.
- 8. Hon'ble Mr. Justice T. Nandakumar Singh, Executive Chairman, Meghalaya SLSA.
- 9. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ujjal Bhuyan, Executive Chairman, Mizoram SLSA.
- 10. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Nishitendu Chaudhury, Executive Chairman, Nagaland SLSA.
- 11. Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. P. Wangdi, Executive Chairman, Sikkim SLSA
- 12. Hon'ble Mr. Justice U. B. Saha, Executive Chairman, Tripura SLSA.
- 13. Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai, Judge, High Court of Sikkim.

The following Member Secretaries and Officer of NALSA were present:

- 1. Mrs. Asha Menon, Member Secretary, NALSA.
- 2. Mr. Budi Habung, Member Secretary, Arunachal Pradesh SLSA.
- 3. Mr. Mridul Kumar Saikia, Member Secretary, Assam SLSA.
- 4. Mr. Ch. Brajachand Singh, Member Secretary, Manipur SLSA.
- 5. Mr. Noor-Ain-Khan, Member Secretary, Meghalaya SLSA.

- 6. Mr. Joel Joseph, Member Secretary, Mizoram SLSA.
- 7. Mr. K. W. Bhutia, Member Secretary, Sikkim SLSA.
- 8. Mr. B. Palit, Member Secretary, Tripura SLSA.
- 9. Mr. Alok Agarwal, OSD, NALSA.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.K. Sinha, Chief Justice, High Court of Sikkim & Patron-in-Chief, Sikkim SLSA welcomed Hon'ble Mr. Justice T.S. Thakur, Executive Chairman, NALSA and all the dignitaries.

The meeting commenced with Working Session - I on the topic "Challenges and Impediments faced in the implementation of NALSA's programmes in the North-Eastern States" and Working Session - II "Future Plan of Action and Solutions to the Impediments".

Hon'ble Mr. Justice T.S Thakur, Executive Chairman, NALSA in his valedictory address said that the purpose of holding regional conference of this nature was two fold, viz., (i) to review the progress made by the SLSAs after the Meet at Ranchi and New Delhi; and (ii) to identify certain thrust areas which are peculiar to the North-East region.

His Lordship stated that there needs to be a clear manifesto of our organization, a road map for the future to implement the policies effectively. In this manner, the SLSAs would be in a position to properly plan and spend the allocated budget. The inability of SLSAs to spend the allocated fund arises out of the lack of proper planning. Consequently, not only does the budget remain unspent but access the performance of SLSAs. Whereas, if SLSAs have definite focus areas and if the allocation is clearer, SLASs would have to spend the money for the said purpose and therefore, there would be no area which gets neglected.

His Lordship said that there are certain areas which are common for all the States, such as, labourers working in the unorganized sector, child trafficking, drug abuse, sex workers and their rehabilitation, etc. However, the purpose of regional meet is also to identify specific issue of this region which requires special attention. Schemes could be framed for the North-East region wherein five specific areas of concern could be included, viz. (i) tribal issues of the North-East States, (ii) ethnic conflict, (iii) administration of justice through customary Courts/concept of Gaon Buras, (iv) violation of rights of women in cases such as single mothers, substitute wives, grace wives, etc. and (v) shifting (jhum) cultivation.

His Lordship requested Hon'ble Mr. Justice Deepak Gutpa, Chief Justice, High Court of Tripura and Patron-in-Chief, Tripura SLSA, to coordinate with the Hon'ble Executive Chairmen of all the North-Eastern States in preparing a draft scheme on these subjects and other subjects that

may be of relevance to the Region to be considered by NALSA for framing a Policy which would be specific to the North-Eastern States.

Hon'ble Executive Chairman, NALSA said that legal awareness could be conducted with the aid of documentary films. To make it more effective, the panchayats are to be involved. It could be done in a way melas are organised, in partnership with other Government and Non Government Agencies. Educational institutions should also be used in generating legal awareness. His Lordship also spoke on the plight of the students from the North-East who travel to the other parts of the country for educational purpose and expressed that there is a common feeling amongst those students of not being treated fairly and being looked down upon. To deal with such complaints, his Lordship suggested that the concerned SLSAs could establish cells and provide guidance to such students.

The following resolutions were passed in the meeting:

- 1. State Legal Services Authorities of the North-East States would request NALSA to take up with the concerned State Legal Services Authorities to establish cells for children/students from the North-East States who have become victim of racial harassment, to provide effective legal aid, assistance and guidance. So far as possible, people who are deputed to man these cells should be from the North-East States.
- 2. State Legal Services Authorities of the North-East States shall nominate up to four Gaon Buras from each State to attend a training programme at New Delhi to be conducted by NALSA.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. P. Wangdi, Executive Chairman, Sikkim SLSA.

#### CULTURAL PROGRAMME AT HIGH COURT OF SIKKIM, GANGTOK

The working sessions was followed by a Cultural Programme organised by Sikkim SLSA at the Auditorium of the High Court of Sikkim which was attended by Hon'ble dignitaries. Children from various Children Homes viz; Tarcon-Lee Shelter Home, Mangan, North Sikkim; Balika Niketan, Tadong, East Sikkim; Blind School, Namchi, South Sikkim; Padma Odzer Choeling School, Chongey, East Sikkim; Special School for Hearing Impaired, East Sikkim; Spastic Society, Development Area, East Sikkim; NGO; Members, Bar Association of Sikkim, Gangtok and Dance Troupe of Cultural Affairs and Heritage Department, Gangtok showcased a splendid performance which was applauded by all.

#### Glimpses of Cultural programme



Welcome song by Members, Bar Association of Sikkim, Gangtok



Group song by Spastic Society, Gangtok



Group song by Blind School, Namchi, South Sikkim



Action song by children from Special School for Hearing Impaired, Gangtok



HE AS DESCRIBES

Children of Tarcon-Lee Shelter Home, Mangan, North Sikkim





(We are Indians) skit by NGO 'Zest', Gangtok





Traditional Lepcha Dance by Padma Odzer Choeiling School, Chongyek, East Sikkim



Bhutia Dance by Rongong Youth Club, Phodong, North Sikkim



Nepali (Maruni) dance by Balika Niketan, Upper Samdur, Gangtok





"Singhi" (Snow Lion) Dance by Cultural Affairs and Heritage Deptt., Govt. of Sikkim

Hon'ble dignitaries enjoying the Cultural show









#### LEGAL AWARENESS PROGRAMME AT GNATHANG FOR THE PUBLIC OF GNATHANG, KUPUP & ITS SURROUNDING AREAS ON 3<sup>RD</sup> MAY, 2015

A legal awareness programme with the general public of Gnathang, Kupup and its surrounding areas was held at Gnathang on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2015 by Sikkim State Legal Services Authority in coordination with the Army authorities of Sunnyvale Madras Regiment, Gnathang and G.S.O. Intelligence, Division Headquarter and the Panchayats of the above areas.

The programme was chaired by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Deepak Gupta, Chief Justice of Tripura & Patron-in-Chief, Tripura SLSA as the Chief Guest, Hon'ble Mr. Justice U.B. Saha, Judge, High Court of Tripura & Executive Chairman, Tripura SLSA, Hon'ble Mr. Justice T. Vaiphei, Judge, High Court of Meghalaya & Executive Chairman, Meghalaya SLSA, Hon'ble Mr. Justice N. Kotishwar Singh, Judge, High Court of Manipur & Executive Chairman, Manipur SLSA along with their spouses and families, Mrs. Asha Menon, Member Secretary and Mr. Alok Agarwal, O.S.D., National Legal Services Authority, Mr. Budi Habung, Member Secretary, Arunachal Pradesh SLSA, Mr. Ch. Brajachand Singh, Member Secretary, Manipur SLSA, Mr. B. Palit, Member Secretary, Tripura SLSA, Mr. K.W. Bhutia, Member Secretary, Mrs. Matilda Isaacs, Additional Secretary, Sikkim SLSA, Panel Advocates, Army Personnel and public of Gnathang and its surrounding areas.

During the public interaction with Hon'ble dignitaries, the issues discussed were installation of BSNL tower in the region and provision of internet facilities, educated people to be trained as Para-Legal Volunteers and setting up of legal aid clinics and conservation of the environment.

#### Glimpses of the Awareness Programme



Mr. Sonam P. Bhutia, Panel Advocate of Sikkim SLSA escorting Hon'ble Mr. Justice Deepak Gupta to the venue of Legal Awareness Camp at Gnathang



Traditional Welcome to the dignitaries by local people









Hon'ble Mr. Justice Deepak Gupta, Chief Justice, Hon'ble Mr. Justice U.B. Saha, Judge of Tripura High Court and Hon'ble Mr. Justice N. Kotishwar Singh, Judge, High Court of Manipur interacting with the public of Gnathang

#### Glimpses of the interaction with the public and Civil Officials during Legal Awareness Camp





















Sitting L-R: Mr. Alok Agarwal, OSD and Mrs. Asha Menon, Member Secretary, NALSA with the dignitaries



Shri B.C. Tamang, Panel Advocate of Sikkim SLSA briefing on PLV Scheme of NALSA



Hon'ble Justice N. K. Singh, Executive Chairman, Manipur SLSA with Mrs. Asha Menon, Member Secretary, Mr. Alok Agarwal, OSD, NALSA, Panel Advocates, Officers of SLSA and local gentries



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Deepak Gupta discussing with local gentries



Conclusion of the programme



New Office building of Sikkim State Legal Services Authority,
Development Area, Gangtok

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