

SIKKIM STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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SIKKIM STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

75th REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATION

Sikkim State Legal Services Authority celebrated 75th Republic Day in its office premises at Development Area, Gangtok on January 26th, 2024. The National Flag was unfurled by Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai, Judge, High Court of Sikkim and Executive Chairperson, Sikkim SLSA followed by National Anthem.

The programme was attended by Mr. Roger R. Rai, former Managing Director of SIDICO, Judicial Officers, Panel Advocates, Officers and staff of High Court of Sikkim and Sikkim SLSA.

Further, as per the direction of NALSA under Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav, legal aid stalls manned by Panel Advocates, Para-Legal Volunteers and staff of Social Welfare Department, Women & Child Development, Labour Department, Sikkim SLSA and DLSAs were set up in the main market of each district to make people aware about their entitlements, various enactments, welfare schemes, availability of free legal aid and services. Pamphlets published by Sikkim SLSA in vernacular languages were distributed. The theme song and other documentaries of NALSA were also displayed on the 'edisplay' boards set up in and around Gangtok and LED screen installed at Front Offices in all the DLSAs.





Celebration of 75th Republic Day on 26th January, 2024 in the office premises of Sikkim SLSA at Development Area, Gangtok



Legal aid stalls manned by Panel Advocates, Para-Legal Volunteers and staff of Social Welfare Department, Women & Child Development, Labour Department, Sikkim SLSA and DLSA, Gangtok in the main market of Gangtok District

RESTORING THE YOUTH: PAN INDIA CAMPAIGN FOR IDENTIFYING JUVENILES IN PRISONS AND RENDERING LEGAL ASSISTANCE - 2024

The campaign was launched virtually by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Executive Chairman, NALSA on January 25th, 2024 for identifying persons currently in prisons who are potentially minors at the times of offence and assist them in filing the necessary applications for claim of juvenility along with the supporting documents.

In order to identify such persons (undertrial/convict) and as per the directions of Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai, Judge, High Court of Sikkim and Executive Chairperson, Sikkim SLSA, the DLSAs had deputed the Jail Visiting Lawyers and Para-Legal Volunteers to the two prisons viz; State Central Prison Rongyek, Gangtok District and District Prison, Boomtar, Namchi District. Upon verification, it was found that none of the prisoners were minor at the time of offence and no application for the claim of juvenility of the prisoner was filed by the respective DLSAs.

The valedictory meeting of the campaign convened by Ms. Santosh Snehi Mann, Member Secretary, NALSA and Ms. Shreya Arora Mehta, OSD I, NALSA was attended virtually by Mr. Jagat B. Rai, Member Secretary, Sikkim SLSA on February 27th, 2024.

FOUNDATION DAY OF NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

Mr. Jagat B. Rai, Member Secretary, Sikkim SLSA attended the Foundation Day of National Commission for Women on January 31st, 2024 at Plenary Hall, Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

OBSERVANCE OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

In accordance with the calendar of activities of Sikkim SLSA, the District Legal Services Authorities and Taluk Legal Services Committees under the aegis of Sikkim SLSA observed International Women's Day on 8th March, 2024 and the week thereafter, as Legal Services Week for Women by organizing legal awareness programmes and door-to-door campaign through mobile vans in their respective jurisdiction w.e.f. 8th to 14th March, 2024.

Further, as a publicity drive, Sikkim SLSA published messages on legal rights of women in local newspapers/dailies as well as broadcasted awareness of Rights of Women in All India Radio and also disseminated awareness on Rights of Women through local cable network.

Glimpses of the awareness programme



MENTAL HEALTH CAMP

In compliance to the resolution taken during the 19th All India Meet of State Legal Services Authorities held on 30th June to 1st July, 2023 at Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir and under the NALSA (Legal Services to the Mentally III and Mentally Disabled Persons) Scheme, 2015, the Sikkim SLSA under the aegis of NALSA and in co-ordination with Sikkim Manipal University, Department of Psychiatry (SMIMS) organized Mental Health Camps at State Central Prison, Rongyek, Gangtok District on 30th March, 2024.

Similar camp was organized jointly by District Legal Services Authority, Namchi and Taluk Legal Services Committees, Namchi, Jorethang and Yangang in co-ordination with the Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of Sikkim at District Prison, Boomtar, Namchi District on 30th March, 2024.

During these camps, the Convicts and Under Trial Prisoners who were undergoing medical treatment for mental health issues were examined and the other Convicts and Under Trial Prisoners suffering from various mental issues were provided counselling by the Psychiatrists and Clinical Psychologists and medicines were also prescribed to them.

The Resource Persons for the mental camps were: -

Prison	Resource Persons	Convicts/UTPs examined and provided counselling
State Central Prison, Rongyek, Gangtok	1. Dr. Samrat Singh Bhandari, Professor of Psychiatry, Department of Psychiatry (SMIMS), Sikkim Manipal University	263 inmates (152 Convicts including 02 female and 111 UTPs including 04 female) were examined and provided counselling.
	2. Dr. Anmol Pradhan, Professor of Psychiatry, Department of Psychiatry (SMIMS), Sikkim Manipal University	
	3. Dr. Sweta Tirkey, Clinical Psychologist, Department of Psychiatry (SMIMS), Sikkim Manipal University	
	4. Dr. Vinisha Gupta, PG Resident, Department of Psychiatry (SMIMS), Sikkim Manipal University	

	5. Dr. Prajwal Patil, Professor of Psychiatry, Department of Psychiatry (SMIMS), Sikkim Manipal University
District Prison Boomtar, Namchi District	1. Dr. Upashna Gurung, Psychiatrist, STNM Multispecialty Sochakgang Gurung, 11 UTPs were examined and provided counselling.
	Ms. Divyaswari Rai, Clinical Psychologist, District Hospital, Namchi

The camp organized at State Central Prison, Rongyek was attended by Mrs. Matilda Isaacs, Consultant, Sikkim SLSA, Mr. Praveen Pradhan, Deputy Secretary, Sikkim SLSA and Mr. Kunga Nima Barphungpa, Under Secretary, Sikkim SLSA along with the staff of Sikkim SLSA.



Mental Health Camp at District Prison, Boomtar, Namchi District on 30th March, 2024

OTHER ACTIVITIES

HIGH COURT LOK ADALAT:

S.No	. Date	Presided over by	Cases taken up	Cases Disposed of
1.	20/03/2024	Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.P. Subba, former Judge, High Court of Sikkim along with Other Persons Ms. Geeta Gurung and Mr. Wangyal Tshering Bhutia	07	Nil

NATIONAL LOK ADALAT:

National Lok Adalat was held on 9th March, 2024 wherein out of 27 cases that were taken up, 12 cases have been settled and a total amount of Rs. 6,42,827/- only was awarded.

Details of cases taken up and disposed of are as follows:

(i) Court of District & Sessions Judge, Special Division- II, Gangtok:

No. of cases taken up	:	05
No. of cases settled	:	03
Amount Awarded (in Rs.)	:	2,50,000/-

(ii) Court of District & Sessions Judge, Namchi:

No. of cases taken up	:	04
No. of cases settled	:	04
Amount Awarded (in Rs.)	:	53,367/-

(iii) Court of District & Sessions Judge, Gyalshing:

No. of cases taken up	:	04
No. of cases settled	:	02
Amount Awarded (in Rs.)	:	17,200/-

(iv) Court of Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate, Rangpo:

No. of cases taken up		08
No. of cases settled	:	NIL
Amount Awarded (in Rs.)	:	NIL

(v) Court of Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate, Namchi:

No. of cases taken up	:	04
No. of cases settled	:	01
Amount Awarded (in Rs.)	:	200/-

(vi) Court of Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate, Gangtok:

No. of cases taken up		01
No. of cases settled	:	01
Amount Awarded (in Rs.)	:	3,00,000/-

(vii) Court of Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate, Gyalshing:

No. of cases taken up	:	01
No. of cases settled	:	01
Amount Awarded (in Rs.)	:	22,060/-

REGULAR LOK ADALAT AT THE DISTRICT AND TALUK LEVEL DURING THE QUARTER JANUARY TO MARCH, 2024

DISTRICT LOK ADALAT, GANGTOK

No. of Lok Adalat held	Previous Pending	No. of cases received	Total	No. of cases disposed	No. of cases pending
04	18	138	156	148	08

DISTRICT LOK ADALAT, GYALSHING

No. of Lok Adalat held	Previous Pending	No. of cases received	Total	No. of cases disposed	No. of cases pending
03	NIL	10	10	04	06

DISTRICT LOK ADALAT, NAMCHI

No. of Lok Adalat held	Previous Pending	No. of cases received	Total	No. of cases disposed	No. of cases pending
05	24	26	50	23	27

TALUK LOK ADALAT, RANGPO

No. of Lok Adalat held	Previous Pending	No. of cases received	Total	No. of cases disposed	No. of cases pending
03	NIL	08	08	08	NIL

TALUK LOK ADALAT, NAMCHI

No. of Lok Adalat held	Previous Pending	No. of cases received	Total	No. of cases disposed	No. of cases pending
04	05	09	14	09	05

TALUK LOK ADALAT, JORETHANG

No. of Lok Adalat held	Previous Pending	No. of cases received	Total	No. of cases disposed	No. of cases pending
02	04	05	06	02	04

TALUK LOK ADALAT, GYALSHING

No. of Lok Adalat held	Previous Pending	No. of cases received	Total	No. of cases disposed	No. of cases pending
04	11	11	22	15	07

TALUK LOK ADALAT, SORENG

No. of Lok Adalat held	Previous Pending	No. of cases received	Total	No. of cases disposed	No. of cases pending
03	02	01	03	02	01

LEGAL AID

Legal aid was provided to 232 beneficiaries by the Sikkim State Legal Services Authority during the quarter, January to March, 2024.

Categories of beneficiaries are as under:

QUARTER	S.C.	S.T.	WOMEN	CHILD	UNDER TRIAL/DETAINED BY CUSTODY	GENERAL	DISABLED	SENIOR CITIZEN NIL	TOTAL 232
January to March, 2024	14	31	118	03	47	19	NIL	INIC	

STATISTICS OF MEDIATION

JANUARY – MARCH, 2024									
MEDIATION CENTRE	NO. OF MEDIATIONS HELD	NO. OF CASES TAKEN UP	NO. OF CASES SETTLED	NO. OF CASES RETURNED	NO. OF CASES PENDING				
Gangtok	77	41	01	11	26				
Mangan	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL				
Namchi	14	11	02	01	08				
Gyalshing	17	13	04	03	06				
Total	108	65	10	15	40				

STATISTICS OF PRE-LITIGATION MEDIATION

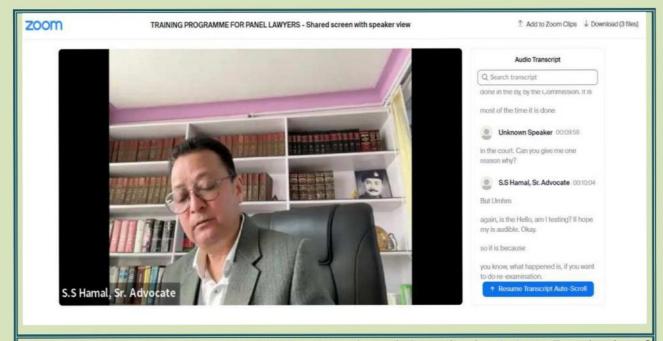
		JANUARY	- MARCH, 2	024		
District Legal Services Authority	No. of ongoing/pending mediation at the beginning of quarter	No. of applications received for mediation	No. of applications where mediation remains non-starter	No. of applicatio ns where parties reached to settlement	No. of application s where parties could not reach to settlement	No. of ongoing/pen ding mediation at the end of quarter
Gangtok	01	07	03	01	01	03
Mangan	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Namchi	NIL	02	02	NIL	NIL	NIL
Gyalshing	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Total	01	09	05	01	01	03

TRAINING PROGRAMMES FOR PANEL ADVOCATES

Under the directions of Hon'ble Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai, Judge, High Court of Sikkim & Executive Chairperson, Sikkim SLSA, training programmes are being conducted by Sikkim SLSA every month through webinar for the Panel Lawyers (upto 12 years of practice).

A training programme was conducted via virtual mode during the quarter January to March, 2024 which are as follows:

SI. No.	Date	Topic	Resource Person
1.	02/03/2024	Examination & Cross Examination of Witnesses, Chapter X of the Indian Evidence Act including Section 27 and 32 of Indian Evidence Act, 1872 with Case Laws	Mr. S.S. Hamal, Senior Advocate, High Court of Sikkim & Sr. Panel Advocate, Sikkim SLSA



Training programme conducted via virtual mode on the topic 'Examination & Cross Examination of Witnesses, Chapter X of the Indian Evidence Act including Section 27 and 32 of Indian Evidence Act, 1872 with Case Laws' by Mr. S.S. Hamal, Senior Advocate, High Court of Sikkim & Sr. Panel Advocate, Sikkim SLSA on 2nd March, 2024

LEGAL AWARENESS PROGRAMMES THROUGH DOORDARSHAN AND ALL INDIA RADIO

As an awareness drive, Sikkim State Legal Services Authority has been disseminating information on various legal topics which is telecast in Doordarshan once a month under "Gramin Kariakram" and All India Radio every Saturday under "Kanuni Kura". The Resource Persons comprises of Panel Advocates of Sikkim SLSA.

The topics discussed during the quarter January to March, 2024 are as follows:

• Doordarshan (once a month):

SI. No.	Month	Topic	Resource Person
1.	February, 2024	Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016	Mr. Tashi Rapten Barfungpa, Panel Advocate, Sikkim SLSA
2.	March, 2024	Rights of Labour in India The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 The Payment of Wages Act, 1936 The Factories Act, 1948 etc.	Mr. Umesh Ranpal, Panel Advocate, Sikkim SLSA

• All India Radio (every Saturday):

SI. No.	Date	Topic	Resource Person
1.	10/02/2024	The Mental Health Care Act (MHA), 2017	Mr. Sajal Sharma, Panel Advocate, Sikkim SLSA
2.	17/02/2024	Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005	Mrs. Zola Megi, Panel Advocate, Sikkim SLSA
3.	24/02/2024	The Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 (as amended by Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019	Mr. K.B. Chettri, Panel Advocate, Sikkim SLSA
4.	02/03/2024	Sikkim Anti – Drugs Act (SADA), 2006 (as amended in 2011, 2017 and 2018)	Mr. Sunil Baraily, Panel Advocate, Sikkim SLSA

5.	09/03/2024	Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 (as amended by Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, (Amendment) Bill, 2019	Mr. Safal Sharma, Panel Advocate, Sikkim SLSA
6.	16/03/2024	Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, 2015	Mr. Sushant Subba, Panel Advocate, Sikkim SLSA
7.	23/03/2024	Sikkim State (Registration of Documents) Rules, 1930	Mr. Umesh Pradhan, Panel Advocate, Sikkim SLSA
8.	30/03/2024	The Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 with reference to the Execution of Decree and Judicial Order	Mr. Jorgay Namka, Sr. Advocate, High Court of Sikkim & Sr. Panel Advocate, Sikkim SLSA

COUNSELLING FOR THE INMATES ARRESTED UNDER SADA, 2006 AND NDPS ACT, 1985

Counseling is being provided to the inmates involved in cases under Sikkim Anti Drugs Act, 2006 and Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Act, 1985 and lodged in State Central Prison, Rongyek, East Sikkim and District Prison, Boomtar, Namchi, South Sikkim by the Counselors from the Rehabilitation Homes (1) Serenity Home, Rehabilitation Centre, Lower Burtuk, Gangtok and (2) Freedom Facility, Rehabilitation Centre, Tathangchen, Gangtok on rotation basis under NALSA (Legal Services to the Victims of Drug Abuse and Eradication of the Drug Menace) Scheme, 2015 from the office of Sikkim SLSA.

Twenty six counselling programmes were conducted by the Counsellors from Freedom Facility Rehabilitation Centre, Tathangchen, Gangtok via virtual/physical mode during the quarter January to March, 2024 as detailed below:

SI. No.	Date	Prison	Name of the Counsellor	No. of Participants (UTPs)
1.	03/01/2024	State Central Prison, Rongyek	Mr. Hishey Bhutia and Mr. Andrew Rai	10 (physical)

2.	08/01/2024	State Central Prison, Rongyek	Mr. Kalsang Wangdi Bhutia and Mr. Paul Gurung	11 (physical)
3.	10/01/2024	State Central Prison, Rongyek	Mr. Hishey Bhutia and Mr. Andrew Rai	12 (physical)
4.	12/01/2024	District Prison, Boomtar	Mr. Karma Bhutia and Mr. Puran Gurung	19 (virtual)
5.	17/01/2024	State Central Prison, Rongyek	Mr. K.C. Nima	13 (physical)
6.	19/01/2024	District Prison, Boomtar	Mr. Paul Gurung	18 (virtual)
7.	24/01/2024	State Central Prison, Rongyek	Mr. K.C. Nima	13 (physical)
8.	29/01/2024	State Central Prison, Rongyek	Mr. Darpan Rai and Mr. Shashi Trivedi	11 (physical)
9.	31/01/2024	State Central Prison, Rongyek	Mr. Karma Jigmee Bhutia and Mr. Mustang Gurung	16 (physical)
10.	02/02/2024	District Prison, Boomtar	Mr. Darpan Rai and Mr. Phu Tshering Lepcha	16 (virtual)
11.	07/02/2024	State Central Prison, Rongyek	Mr. K.C. Nima	15 (physical)
12.	14/02/2024	State Central Prison, Rongyek	Mr. K.C. Nima and Mr. Kalzang Bhutia	14 (physical)
13.	16/02/2024	District Prison, Boomtar	Mr. Phu Tshering Lepcha and Mr. Stephen Subba	19 (virtual)
14.	19/02/2024	State Central Prison, Rongyek	Mr. Darpan Rai and Mr. Phu Tshering Lepcha	10 (physical)
15.	21/02/2024	State Central Prison, Rongyek	Mr. Andrew Rai and Mr. Karma Lepcha	10 (physical)
16.	23/02/2024	District Prison, Boomtar	Mr. Darpan Rai and Mr. Surja Pradhan	22 (virtual)
17.	26/02/2024	State Central Prison, Rongyek	Mr. Darpan Rai and Mr. Stephen Subba	11 (physical)
18.	28/02/2024	State Central Prison, Rongyek	Mr. K.C. Nima and Mr. Andrew Rai	12 (physical)
19.	01/03/2024	District Prison, Boomtar	Mr. Darpan Rai and Mr. Suvam Gurung	15 (virtual)

20.	04/03/2024	State Central Prison, Rongyek	Mr. Darpan Rai and Mr. Bikash Gurung	08 (physical)
21.	11/03/2024	State Central Prison, Rongyek	Mr. Kalsang Wangdi Bhutia and Mr. Diwakar Majhi	15 (physical)
22.	13/03/2024	State Central Prison, Rongyek	Mr. Karma Zigmee Bhutia	13 (physical)
23.	15/03/2024	District Prison, Boomtar	Mr. Darpan Rai and Mr. Norbu Lachungpa	15 (virtual)
24.	20/03/2024	State Central Prison, Rongyek	Mr. K.C. Nima	13 (physical)
25.	22/03/2024	District Prison, Rongyek	Mr. Kalsang Wangdi Bhutia and Mr. Diwakar Majhi	17 (virtual)
26	27/03/2024	State Central Prison, Rongyek	Mr. K.C. Nima	20 (physical)

COUNSELLING FOR RECOVERING SUBSTANCE ABUSERS AND REHABILITATED DRUG ABUSERS

On the request of Sikkim State Legal Services Authority, a room has been allotted at Old STNM Hospital, Gangtok by the Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of Sikkim to be used as a "Day Care and Counselling Centre" for recovering substance abusers and rehabilitated drug abusers and is functioning since 20th January, 2022.

The Centre is being run by the Counselors of Serenity Home, Lower Burtuk.

The number of persons who have visited the Day Care and Counselling Centre for the quarter January to March, 2024 are as under:

Month	No. of Days visited by the recovering substance abusers/rehabilitated drug abusers	No. of visitors
January, 2024	21	48
February, 2024	12	55
March, 2024	18	36

OTHER LEGAL AWARENESS PROGRAMMES

CONDUCTED BY	DATE	Name of the Programme	VENUE
DLSA &TLSC East at Gangtok, Rangpo & Pakyong	23/02/2024	NALSA (Legal Services to the Mentally ILL and Mentally Disabled Persons) Scheme, 2015	Freedom Facility Rehabilitation Centre.
	08.03.2024	Ensuring Access to Justice for Widows Living in Shelter Homes, 2017	Mamtalaya, Gangtok
	15/03/2024	World Consumer Rights Day	Panchayat Bhawan, Syari, Gangtok
DLSA & TLSC North at Mangan	14/02/2024	NALSA (Legal Services to the Mentally ILL and Mentally Disabled Persons) Scheme, 2015	Government Senior Secondary School, Phodong
	15/03/2024	Ensuring Access to Justice for Widows Living in Shelter Homes, 2017	Sangkalang, Dzongu
		World Consumer Rights Day	
DLSA & TLSC South at Namchi	16/02/2024	NALSA (Legal Services to the Mentally ILL and Mentally Disabled Persons) Scheme, 2015	Sripatam Lower Samrok Ward, Namchi
	15/03/2024	World Consumer Rights Day	Debrung, Namchi
	22/03/2024	Ensuring Access to Justice for Widows Living in Shelter Homes, 2017 and Beneficial Laws for Women including their Menstrual Hygiene	Village Administrative Centre, Borong – Phantam GPU, Namchi

DLSA & TLSC Gyalshing and Soreng	26/02/2024	NALSA (Legal Services to the Mentally ILL and Mentally Disabled Persons) Scheme, 2015	District Institute of Education and Training, Kyongsa, Gyalshing
		Ensuring Access to Justice for Widows Living in Shelter Homes, 2017	Government Senior Secondary School, Sakyong
	15/03/2024	World Consumer Rights Day	Haat Bazaar, Reshi, Gyalshing

Glimpses of the awareness programme



Panchayat Bhawan, Syari, Gangtok district



Sangkalang, Dzongu, Mangan district



Debrung, Namchi district



District Institute of Education and Training, Kyongsa, Gyalshing district

MGNREGA LEGAL LITERACY CAMPS

CONDUCTED BY	DATE	VENUE
DLSA &TLSC East at Gangtok	23/02/2024	Freedom Facility Rehabilitation Centre, Tathangchen, Gangtok.
DLSA& TLSC North at Mangan	22/02/2024	Ramthang – Tangyek GPU
DLSA & TLSC South at Namchi	14/03/2024	Kitam GPU, Namchi
DLSA & TLSC West at Gyalshing	12/03/2024	Haat Bazaar, Bermiok, Gyalshing

Glimpses of the awareness programme





Ramthang – Tangyek GPU, Mangan district



Kitam GPU, Namchi district



Haat Bazaar, Bermiok, Gyalshing district

MICRO LEGAL LITERACY CAMPS

CONDUCTED BY	DATE	VENUE
DLSA &TLSC East at Gangtok	29/02/2024	Government Secondary School, Majhitar, Rangpo
DLSA, & TLSC North at Mangan.	12/03/2024	Government Girls Senior Secondary School, Mangan
DLSA & TLSC South at Namchi	23/02/2024	Government Junior High School, Gumpa Ghurpisey, Namchi
DLSA & TLSC West at Gyalshing & Soreng	05/02/2024	Sribadam Monastery, Soreng

