

NATIONAL LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY NEWSLETTER

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Chief Justice of India

Executive Chairman

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay K. Kaul

Member Secretary

Ms. Santosh Snehi Mann

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UNDERTRIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE SPECIAL CAMPAIGN

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Judge, Supreme Court of India & Executive Chairman, National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), launched a nationwide campaign from 18th September to 20th November, 2023 to expedite the identification of prisoners who are eligible to be considered for release and follow-up on their applications for release.

The Campaign aimed to bolster and accelerate the functioning of the existing Undertrial Review Committees (UTRCs), which are district-level bodies headed by the respective Ld. Principal District & Sessions Judges. The Undertrial Review Committees also consist of the District Magistrates; Superintendents of Police; Secretaries of the District Legal Services Authorities; and Officers-in-Charge of Prisons, as its members.



The virtual launch event was attended by the Executive Chairpersons and Member Secretaries and other functionaries of all the State Legal Services Authorities, Secretaries of the DLSAs and other members of the UTRCs.

"The issues of undertrial prisoners languishing in prisons despite being eligible to be reviewed for release, have continued to come up before the Supreme Court as well as the High Courts."

- Mr. Justice Sanjay K. Kaul

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul further reminded everyone that "Our responsibility as judges is to ensure that the law is followed in letter and spirit, and that it does not discriminate between anyone on the basis of the quality of legal representation they can afford among other man-made qualifiers". In his address, Justice Kaul explained the intrinsic linkages between a robust legal aid system, access to justice and the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, an aspect that has been in focus during the G20 Summit- 2023 and which was also one of the resolutions adopted in the G-20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration.

UNDERTRIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE SPECIAL CAMPAIGN

Ms. Santosh Snehi Mann, Ld. Member Secretary, National Legal Services Authority, in her address, also harped on the mandate of UTRC to prevent imprisonment of undertrials, solely on account of financial constraints or lack of legal representation. She urged the UTRCs to ensure that the wheels of justice gain momentum, ensuring that no individual is left stranded in the intricate web of legal proceedings for want of proper and timely legal representation and regardless of their circumstances. She reiterated the principle that *'Bail is the rule & jail is the exception.'* She exhorted the members of the UTRCs to rise to this clarion call and identify as many UTPs as they could for moving applications for release during pendency of trial.

UTPs considered/ reviewed	UTPs recommended for release	Cases where bail/ other applications moved	Cases where bail/other applications are pending	UTPs released pursuant to UTRC's recommendations
56,323	42,172	26,891	5,296	21,304

MEGA LEGAL AWARENESS CAMP

On 28.09.2023, DLSA, Leh under the aegis of NALSA & Ladakh Legal Services Authority, organized a Mega Legal Awareness Camp at Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Choglamsar, Leh. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Executive Chairman, NALSA was the Chief Guest on the programme, which was also graced by Hon'ble Mr. Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Chief Justice, High Court of J & K and Ladakh & Patron-in-Chief, Ladakh Legal Services Authority; Hon'ble Mr. Justice Atul Sreedharan, Judge, High Court of J & K and Ladakh & Executive Chairman, Ladakh Legal Services Authority and Dr. Pawan Kotwal, Advisor to Hon'ble Lt. Governor of Ladakh. In his inaugural address Hon'ble Justice S. K. Kaul stated that legal awareness means the ability to understand words used in a legal context, to draw conclusions from them, and then to use to those conclusions to take action. His Lordship emphasized that the various organs/agencies should strive to achieve the constitutional objective of access to justice to all, particularly the marginalized and vulnerable sections of the society.



Vignettes from the Mega Legal Awareness Camp at Leh

COLLOQUIUM ON PROTECTING CHILD RIGHTS

On 17.09.2023, a State-level Colloquium on “Protecting Child Rights: Legal Perspective and Training”, was organized by Jharkhand State Legal Services Authority, in association with the Department of Women, Child Development and Social Security, Govt of Jharkhand; Kailash Satyarthi Children’s Foundation and Bachpan Bachao Andolan, at Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Auditorium at Jharkhand Judicial Academy. The programme was graced by Hon’ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Judge, Supreme Court of India & Executive Chairman, NALSA, who was the Chief Guest of the event; Hon’ble Mr. Justice Sanjaya Kumar Mishra, Chief Justice, High Court of Jharkhand cum Patron-in-Chief, JHALSA; Hon’ble Mr. Justice S. Chandrashekhar, Judge, High Court of Jharkhand & Executive Chairman, JHALSA; Hon’ble Mr. Justice Sujit Narayan Prasad; Hon’ble Mr. Justice Rongon Mukhopadhyay and other Hon’ble Judges of High Court of Jharkhand.



Vignettes from the programme at Jharkhand Judicial Academy

Hon’ble Mr. Justice Rongon Mukhopadhyay, Judge, Jharkhand High Court gave the welcome address wherein he thanked the judicial officers, police officials, members of Civil Society organizations etc. for gracing the occasion.

This was followed by the Opening Address by Hon’ble Mr. Justice Sujit Narayan Prasad, wherein he stated that ‘Children constitute the nation’s valuable human resources. The future wellbeing of the nation depends on how its children grow and develop’. He also quoted the great bard Milton, who had beautifully stated that ‘A child shows the man as morning shows the day’. He stated that it was the bounden obligation of the society to look after every child with a view to ensure the full development of his personality as children were the future custodians and torch bearers of the society being the messengers of our knowledge, cultural heritage, ideologies and philosophies.

The Introductory Address was delivered by Hon’ble Mr. Justice Sanjaya Kumar Mishra, Chief Justice, High Court of Jharkhand. He stated that world over, the children are voiceless victims of physical, emotional and sexual violence, and India was not an exception. Delving upon existing legal framework in India, he added that the enactment of POCSO Act in 2012 and J.J. Act in 2015 were watershed moments in the history of Child Rights in India as these Acts look after and zealously safeguard the best interests of a child. Justice Mishra also pointed out two harmful stereotypes regarding sexual abuse. Firstly, that only girls can be subjected to sexual or physical abuse, and not boys; and secondly, that the offenders are generally persons not known to the child. He exhorted the audience to debunk these myths and stereotypes. He expressed a sincere hope that concerted efforts of all stakeholders shall curb the menace of child sexual abuse, by not only protecting innocent children from sexual abuse but also by restoring lost childhoods by meeting the rehabilitative needs of child victims.

There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children.

- Nelson Mandela

COLLOQUIUM ON PROTECTING CHILD RIGHTS

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, addressed the august gathering wherein he said that 'Children are the future of the nation and their rights must be safeguarded to install them to their fullest vigour. Unfortunately, however India and many other countries face some challenges in this regard and there is an urgent need to address these challenges head-on and act collectively to protect and uphold their rights'.

Justice Kaul also emphasized that 'Every child regardless of gender, caste, social structure they belong to, deserves to be treated with dignity, respect and equality.' He referred to International Conventions and instruments as well as domestic legislations, safeguarding rights of children, while exhorting the concerned stakeholders including the Legal Services Institutions, to do their bit for effective realisation of the rights of the children. Justice Kaul quoted Justice K. Ramaswamy's observations that children's earliest experiences significantly influenced their education and hence, the focus should be their immediate growth and their holistic development.

Justice Kaul further stressed that 'one of the pressing issues is of child labour. According to data available, millions of children are still employed in hazardous and exploitative labour across India. These children are denied the opportunity to seek education, jeopardizing their future prospects and perpetuating the cycle of poverty. Child labour is deeply intertwined with poverty, therefore addressing the issue of poverty is equally important. This required comprehensive social welfare programs, access to education, skill development, livelihood opportunity for parents of child labour, and empowering families to break the inter-generational cycle of poverty.'



Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Chandrashekhara Judge, High Court of Jharkhand proposed the Vote of Thanks to all the participants, delegates, resource persons, dignitaries and volunteers.

The Inaugural Ceremony was followed by four technical sessions on various topics such as:

- i. Schemes and Programmes for development and welfare of vulnerable children in Jharkhand;
- ii. The Legal Perspective;
- iii. Understanding Children and their vulnerability to abuse and exploitation; and
- iv. Preparation of Plan of Action (including timeline for sensitization of all the VLCPC members across the state).

There is no trust more sacred than the one the world holds with children. There is no duty more important than ensuring that their rights are respected, that their welfare is protected, that their lives are free from fear and want and that they can grow up in peace.

- Kofi Annan

LEGAL SERVICES PROVIDED IN CRIMINAL CASES

At Pre-Arrest, Arrest and Remand Stage*

Suspects provided legal assistance at the pre-arrest stage at Police Stations	Suspects not arrested by the Police	Arrestees provided legal assistance at the Police Stations before producing them before the Courts	Persons provided legal assistance at remand stage	Bail applications filed at remand stage	Cases in which bail granted
20,671	10,020	17,364	1,34,178	50,347	28,881

*The aforesaid data is from January to September, 2023

To Undertrial Prisoners*

UTPs represented before the Courts	Convicts whose appeals filed in the Sessions Courts	Convicts whose papers/ applications sent to respective High Courts by DLSAs for filing appeals
1,57,149	2,744	3,626

*The aforesaid data is from January to September, 2023

Under the Legal Aid Defense Counsel System*

Districts with functional LADC office (as 30.09.2023)	Witnesses examined/ cross examined by LADCS	Legal Assistance at Pre-arrest and Remand Stage	Legal Advice given	Legal aid cases taken care of by Chief LADC	Legal aid cases assigned to Deputy Chief LADC	Legal aid cases assigned to Assistant LADC
529	49,294	42,079	1,14,472	20,123	22,981	39,667

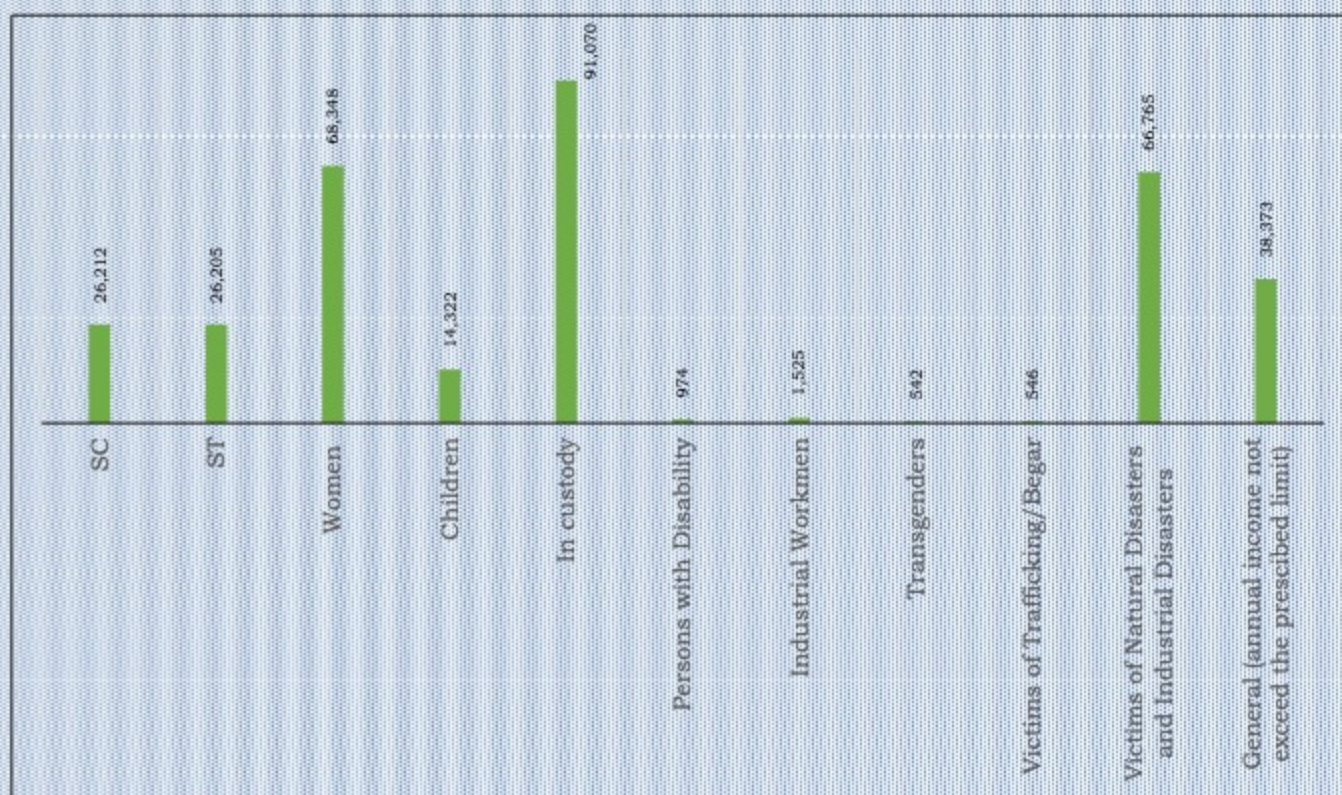
*The aforesaid data is from January to September, 2023

UTRC Meetings, Recommendations and Outcome*

No. of Meetings held	UTPs / Convicts recommended for bail/ release	Inmates released pursuant to UTRCs' recommendations
1,806	15,757	7,022

*The aforesaid data is from July-September, 2023

PERSONS BENEFITED THROUGH LEGAL SERVICES



**The aforesaid data is from July-September, 2023*

LEGAL AWARENESS PROGRAMMES

	Community Level	At School & Colleges/Universities
Programmes	33,243	33,562
Participants	17,54,924	38,94,941

OUTREACH INITIATIVES THROUGH

	Community Level	At School & Colleges/Universities
Legal Service Clinics	744	1,025
Persons Visited	30,686	13,384
Persons provided Legal Assistance	19,998	3,786

At Community Level: Empowering Communities through Knowledge

Awareness Programs conducted by NALSA serve as powerful tools, bringing law closer to the common people, thereby empowering people and communities with knowledge and understanding of their rights, entitlements, and legal remedies. These Awareness Programs act as the much-needed bridge between citizens and the legal system, helping the 'aam aadmi' navigate the legal landscape, without feeling overwhelmed or intimidated by legalese. Here are a few vignettes of these sessions from across the expanse of the country.

- On 13.07.2023 and 16.07.2023, DLSA, Sonitpur, Assam, organized awareness programs on the topic: 'Evils of Child Marriage', at Panchmeel Gaon Panchayat and Bindukuri Gaon Panchayat respectively, where around 150 participants were informed about the ill effects of child marriage and the preventive/ punitive provisions regarding the same.



Vignettes from the programme organized by DLSA Sonitpur, Assam

- On 15.07.2023, Meghalaya State Legal Services Authority, organised a Mega Camp-cum-Awareness Programme on the theme "Bridging the Gap", where people were informed about "NALSA and Government- Welfare Schemes". The Camp was organised at St. Francis De Sales Secondary School, Somonpara under Gambegre, Community and Rural Development Block, West Garo Hills district. To celebrate 25 years of legal aid services in Meghalaya, a project funded by the Department of Justice, titled "Increasing Access to Justice through Community Mediation" was also launched, whereunder the headmen or village court under District Council or Nokmas will be given special Mediation Training and would also be made to understand formal laws.



Vignettes from the programme organized by Meghalaya SLISA

- From 24.07.2023 till 19.08.2023, DLSA, East District, Delhi, ran a program titled "Project Shat Pratishat Kanooni Saksharta" to create legal awareness amongst the residents of Ghazipur Village, East Delhi. The Project was inaugurated by Ld. Principal District and Sessions Judge, East District, Karkardooma Courts on 24.07.2023 from Karkardooma Court Complex and the culmination ceremony for the same was held at MCD Community Hall, Ghazipur Village on 19.08.2023. The culmination ceremony was graced by Hon' ble Mr. Justice Siddharth Mridul, Judge, High Court of Delhi and Executive Chairman, DSLSA.



Vignettes from the programme organized by DLSA East, Delhi

At Community Level: Empowering Communities through Knowledge

- After the floods in Delhi in July, 2023, DLSA, Central District, Delhi, undertook relief work at relief camps at Pradhan Enclave and Parshuram Enclave, Burari, Mori Gate, Geeta Colony, Darya Ganj, Bela Estate etc. on 01.08.2023 and 02.08.2023 and facilitated in distribution of relief material, sanitary pads etc. The inhabitants of the said relief camps were also informed about the "NALSA Scheme for Legal Services to Disaster Relief Victims through Legal Services Authority". Around 862 flood victims benefited out of the work done by DLSA, Central Delhi.



Vignettes from the programme organized by DLSA, Central District, Delhi

- On 29.09.2023, DLSA, Senapati, Manipur, organized an interaction program with the families of victims of the violence in Manipur at the DLSA office. Interaction was done with around 14 families who had borne the brunt of the violence. They were informed about the provisions of the Manipur Victims' Compensation Scheme, 2019 and other forms of legal aid and assistance.



*Vignette from the programme organized by DLSA
Senapati, Manipur*

- On 23.08.2023, DLSA, Janjgir, Chhattisgarh, organised an Awareness Program at District Court Hall, Korba, on the provisions of the "Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007" and the "NALSA (Legal Services to Senior Citizens) Scheme, 2016". The program was attended by 70 participants. The Secretary, DLSA as well as SDM concerned addressed the participants on the given topic.



Vignettes from the programme organized by DLSA, Janjgir, Chhattisgarh

- On 27.07.2023, Andhra Pradesh SLISA in collaboration with International Justice Mission (IJM) and Navjeevan NGO, organised a Legal Awareness programme on Human Trafficking and the legal provisions pertaining to the same. The participants in the programmes were also informed about the Government schemes and Victim Compensation Schemes meant for the Victims of trafficking. Ld. Member Secretary, APSLSA participated in the workshop organised to observe World Day against Trafficking in Persons.



*Vignette from the programme organized by Andhra
Pradesh SLISA*

LEGAL AWARENESS & OUTREACH PROGRAMMES

At Colleges, Schools etc: Empowering the Future Leaders through Knowledge

- On 05.07.2023, DLSA, Vizianagram, Andhra Pradesh, organized an Awareness Program for college students at M.R. Degree College, where around 200 students were informed about the NALSA (Legal Services to Victims of Acid Attack) Scheme, 2016. Chairman of the Permanent Lok Adalat and Secretary, DLSA, Vizianagram, addressed the participants on the laws pertaining to Acid Attacks and the legal assistance that can be sought from the Legal Services Authority.



Vignettes from the programme organized by DLSA Vizianagram, Andhra Pradesh

- On 04.07.2023, DLSA Pathanamthitta, Kerala, organized an Awareness Program on “Drug Abuse” at Holy Angels Model School, where Secretary, DLSA addressed around 120 students and teachers. She also told them about the “NALSA (Legal Services to the Victims of Drug Abuse and Eradication of Drug Menace) Scheme 2015”.



Vignette from the programme organized by DLSA, Pathanamthitta, Kerala

- On 21.07.2023, DLSA, East Khasi Hills District, Meghalaya, under the aegis of Meghalaya State Legal Services Authority, organized an Awareness Program on “Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013”. The program was attended by around 100 students and faculty members.



Vignettes from the programme organized by DLSA East Khasi Hills, Meghalaya

- On 17.08.2023, DLSA, New Delhi opened a Legal Literacy Club in Bloom Public School, in the august presence of the Ld. Member Secretary, DSLSA and other Secretaries. DSLSA Information Board was also inaugurated there. Students were informed about the different services provided by DSLSA under the aegis of NALSA and the Toll-Free No. 1516 and 15100. Around 90 students attended the event.



Vignette from the programme organized by DLSA New Delhi District, Delhi

LEGAL AWARENESS & OUTREACH PROGRAMMES

At Colleges, Schools etc: Empowering the Future Leaders through Knowledge

- On 08.08.2023, DLSA, Dhubri, Assam, in collaboration with District Administration organized an Awareness program on the flagship programs of Government of India, namely "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" and "Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan", at Choibari Tea Estate Model School, Chapar. The program was attended by around 211 participants.



Vignettes from the programme organized by DLSA, Dhubri, Assam

- On 17.08.2023 and 24.08.2023, DLSA, Golaghat, Assam organised two sensitization programmes on "Evils of Child Marriage" and "Drug Abuse Menace" at Garigaon High School and Bokakhat Higher Secondary School respectively. Secretary, DLSA, Golaghat and Assistant Legal Aid Defense Counsel, Golaghat addressed the students.



*Vignette from the programme organized DLSA, Golaghat (above)
Vignette from the programme organized by Sikkim SLISA (below)*

- On 30.09.2023, Sikkim Legal Services Authority organized an Awareness Program at Ratna Bahadur Gurung (Tarpin) Government Secondary School, where around 70 students and teachers were informed about provisions of the NALSA (Legal Services to Victims of Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation) Scheme, 2015 and other government schemes for such victims.



- On 15.09.2023, DLSA, South- West, Delhi organized an Awareness Program and Nukkad Natak at Government Girls' Senior Secondary School, Bijwasan, Delhi, to spread awareness about vitriolage (acid attack) under DSLSA's Pan- Delhi Project titled "Sparsh- Give Care and Not Scars- Ending Vitriolage- An Effort through Legal Awareness". Around 315 students attended the said programme where a Legal Aid Counsel informed them about the various punitive, preventive and rehabilitative provisions dealing with Acid attack. Nukkad Natak was performed the students of Fairfield Institute of Management Studies, Dwarka, Sector-9, Delhi.



Vignettes from the programme organized by DLSA South-West, Delhi

At Jails: Rekindling Hope behind Bars

- **Around 1,18,251** persons visited the **1200** Legal Services Clinics set up in different Jails across the country.
- Out of these persons, **82,418** received free legal advice and assistance.
- Around **91,070** prisoners availed the benefit of legal aid services (**47,177** individuals received advice and counseling; **39,500** were provided with Legal Aid Counsels to represent them in legal proceedings and **4,393** received other forms of legal aid and assistance).



Glimpses from Programmes in Jails: Rekindling Hope behind Bars

- On 26.07.2023, DLSA, West District, Delhi organized an Awareness Program for inmates of Central Jail No. 5, Tihar Jail, Delhi, wherein they were informed about the provision of compounding of offences and early adjudication of cases by means of Plea Bargaining. A Legal Aid Counsel was the Resource Person for the said session, which was attended by 70 inmates.



Vignette from the programme at Tihar Jail (above)
Vignette from the programme at District Jail, Leh (below)

- On 29.08.2023, Leh DLSA organized a Legal Awareness Programme on "Plea Bargaining", at District Jail, Leh, which was attended by 57 jail inmates. A Legal Aid Counsel and an Inspector of Police addressed the jail inmates during the session and answered their queries. The jail inmates were also told about the provisions of compounding, remission etc.



- On 23.09.2023, the Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Hyderabad visited the Special Prison for Women at Chanchalguda, Hyderabad and addressed the inmates on the topic NALSA (Victims of Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation) Scheme, 2015. She also informed them about the victims' compensation scheme.

Vignettes from the programme at Special Prison for women, Chanchalguda, Hyderabad (right)



LEGAL SERVICES THROUGH ALTERNATE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

NATIONAL LOK ADALATS

- On 9th September, 2023, SLSAs of 35 States and Union Territories, organized the 3rd National Lok Adalat (as per the schedule provided by NALSA).
- On 8th October, 2023, SLISA of Delhi organized the 3rd National Lok Adalat.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

Cases pending in Courts, which were taken up	Cases pending in Courts which were disposed off	Settlement Amount in successfully disposed off Court cases (in Rupees)	Pre-Litigation Cases taken up	Pre-Litigation Cases disposed off	Settlement Amount in Pre-Litigation cases successfully disposed off
67,26,729	42,44,195	107,63,50,67,176	2,41,90,061	1,62,51,374	35,83,65,16,957
Total number of cases (pre-litigative as well as pending Court cases) taken up		Total Number of cases (pre-litigative as well as pending Court cases) disposed off		Settlement amount in cases which were successfully disposed off	
3,09,16,790		2,04,95,569		143,47,15,84,133	

GLIMPSES FROM THE 3rd NATIONAL LOK ADALAT



Vignettes from Ladakh



Vignettes from Meghalaya

LEGAL SERVICES THROUGH ALTERNATE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

STATE LEVEL LOK ADALATS

Pre-Litigation Cases		Pending Cases in Courts	
Taken up	Disposed of	Taken up	Disposed of
75,152	20,276	7,33,523	4,76,336

- In the Lok Adalats organized at the State-level, around 8,08,675 cases (Pending Court cases as well as Pre-litigation Cases) were taken up for disposal by 2,956 Benches constituted across the country. Out of these cases, around 4,76,336 Pending Court cases and 20,276 pre-litigation matters were settled.
- Settlement amount of such disposed off cases was Rs. 10,05,24,47,340 /- .

PERMANENT LOK ADALATS

PLAs Functioning	Sittings during the months	Cases pending on 01.07.2023	Cases received during the months of July-Sept, 2023	Cases settled during the months of July-Sept, 2023
346	7,936	1,27,192	30,095	58,266

- The Permanent Lok Adalats functioning across States and Union Territories, disposed off 58,266 cases from the pendency of cases.
- Settlement Amount of such disposed off cases was Rs. 1,30,30,13,342/-.
- Around 30,095 fresh cases were instituted before the different Permanent Lok Adalats.

MEDIATION

ADR Centres functional	Existing Mediation Centres (other than ADR Centres)	Judicial Officers trained as Mediators	Lawyers trained as Mediators	Other persons trained as Mediators	Judicial Officers deployed as Mediators	Lawyers deployed as Mediators	Any other person deployed as Mediators	Cases settled through Mediation
415	596	5,485	8,974	2,483	2,811	5,809	545	28,581

"An ounce of Mediation is worth a pound of Arbitration and a tonne of Litigation"

- Joseph Grynbaum

ORIENTATION, CAPACITY BUILDING & TRAINING PROGRAMMES

	Programmes	Participants
Panel Lawyers	558	13105
Para-Legal Volunteers	588	13267
Others	548	14517

Glimpses from the Orientation, Capacity Building and Training Programmes

- On 26.07.2023, Chandigarh DLSA organised a training program for its Para Legal Volunteers on 12 Social Welfare Schemes started by the Chandigarh Administration. They were informed about the benefits of the said Schemes and how they may facilitate the aggrieved persons in getting necessary documents to avail the benefits under the said Schemes.



Vignettes from programme organized by Chandigarh DLSA

- On 01.08.2023, Ld. Member Secretary, Delhi SLISA organised a Training Programme for Principal Magistrates of all Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs) at Conference Hall, Central Office, DSLISA. Ld. Special Secretary, DSLISA addressed the participants on the aspect of competent and effective legal representation to children in conflict with law. Mr. Anant Asthana, a child rights lawyer, discussed recent case laws of different High Courts on different issues under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2016.



Vignettes from programme organized by Delhi SLISA for Principle Magistrates, JJBs

- On 20.09.2023, Delhi SLISA, organised a Training Program for lawyers of the Rape Crisis Cell run by Delhi Commission For Women at Conference Hall, Rouse Avenue District Court Complex, New Delhi, where Ld. Member Secretary and Special Secretary, DSLISA addressed the participants on the topics "Way to Proceed for Adult Trial in POCSO Cases under J.J. Act" and the Delhi Victims' Compensation Scheme- 2018. The program saw participation of 48 lawyers of the Rape Crisis Cell.



Vignettes from programme organized by Delhi SLISA for lawyers of Rape Crisis Cell

- On 12.09.2023, DLSAs of East, Shahdara and North East Districts, Delhi, organised a capacity building program for their Legal Aid Counsels, at Conference Hall, Karkardooma Court Complex, Delhi, where they were addressed on the topic "Law related to grant of bail with special focus on cases under the NDPS Act". Shri Vishal Gogne, Ld. Additional District and Sessions Judge, and Dr. Rajesh Kumar, founder and National Executive Director of SPYM, addressed the participants.



Vignettes from programme at Karkardooma Court Complex, Delhi

COMPENSATION TO VICTIMS OF CRIME: ACKNOWLEDGING PAIN, PROVIDING SUCCOUR

Applications received directly by Legal Service Institutions (A)	Applications / orders marked / directed by any Court (B)	Applications received including Court Orders (A+B)	Applications Decided	Applications Pending	Compensation Awarded (in Rs.)
3,299	3,788	7,087	5,764	16,730	97,85,41,572

STORIES OF IMPACT



We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.

- Winston Churchill

SUCCESS STORY NO. 1: “Be the light at the end of the tunnel”

- A story was reported in the newspapers in Punjab regarding an Uzbek woman being arrested after being found loitering near the Indo-Pak border without her travel papers. Secretary, DLSA, Firozpur, Punjab immediately took steps to interact with the said lady, who informed the Secretary, DLSA, that she had lost her papers and hence, couldn't go back to Uzbekistan. Taking note of the plight of the said lady, Secretary, DLSA, Firozpur, got in touch with the authorities at Embassy of Uzbekistan to explore possibilities of repatriation of the said woman, thus rekindling a dim hope in the Uzbek women of being finally reunited with her loved ones back home.

SUCCESS STORY NO. 2: “Marriage can wait, Education cannot”

- On receiving information from a staff of an NGO ‘Shakti Vahini’ on 12.07.2023, regarding a marriage of a minor girl, which was about to be solemnized later in the day, without losing precious time, the Secretary, DLSA, Uttar Dinajpur, West Bengal alongwith one PLV and one staff, went to the house of the said girl child and counselled the child's mother regarding the harmful effects of child marriage and the penal consequences of such a marriage. The Secretary, DLSA, also explained to the mother of the girl that childhood needs to be lived and enjoyed and not be smothered and pushed down the precipice of an early marriage. Convinced, the mother of the minor girl gave an undertaking that she wouldn't marry off her daughter till the time she attained the legally permissible age for marriage and would also let her continue with her education.

SUCCESS STORY NO. 3: “Our mission: Compassion”

- With the intervention and counselling of a Para Legal Volunteer and a Legal Aid Counsel, from DLSA, South Chandrapur, Tripura, the long simmering disputes between Smt. ‘DD’ (a widow) and her in- laws were amicably resolved and the in- laws of the lady agreed to give a No Objection Certificate, which enabled the widow to get a job on compassionate grounds in place of her deceased husband. As they say, ‘All's well that ends well’. Both parties now live happy lives.

STORIES OF IMPACT

SUCCESS STORY NO. 4: “Visibilizing those who were hitherto Invisible”

- DLSA, Lakhimpur, Assam in collaboration with the District Administration, identified 3 transgenders and helped them get unique Identity Cards, thereby conferring on them a very important document, which would help them avail different kinds of benefits under different Government Schemes and policies and enjoying full personhood.

SUCCESS STORY NO. 5: “Making Rights a Reality”

- Coming to the aid of a widow, aged 62 years, Secretary, DLSA, Nabarangpur, Odisha, in coordination with the District Administration, got the Ration Card and Old Age Pension Card, issued in her favour. Further, since the widow was facing difficulty in walking on account of her advanced age, the pension and ration was directed to be delivered at her door- step. DLSA and the District Administration thus, lived upto their commitment of ‘Justice at the doorstep’.

SUCCESS STORY NO. 6: “Financial Security for those Grieving”

- Life had come to a standstill for Shri ‘SY’, when his father had an untimely demise on account of a road traffic accident. When Shri ‘SY’ shared his ordeal with a PLV working under DLSA, South East, Delhi, the latter informed Shri ‘SY’ about the provisions of the Delhi Victims’ Compensation Scheme- 2018. Once the untraced report was filed by the IO, Shri ‘SY’ was advised to file an application for compensation under the Delhi Victims’ Compensation Scheme- 2018. With assistance of a Legal Aid Counsel, Shri ‘SY’ moved an application before the concerned DLSA, and Rs. 10, 00, 000/- was awarded to the dependents of the deceased victim as final compensation, thereby providing some succor to the bereaved family.

SUCCESS STORY NO. 7: “Bridging familial chasms”

- Secretary, DLSA, Nellore, Andhra Pradesh, had received a petition from a young couple, whose respective families were opposed to their relationship and kept harassing them. Coming to the rescue of the young couple, Secretary, DLSA, Nellore held individual and group counselling sessions with the couple and their families. These efforts led to an amicable settlement of disputes between the couple and their families and both sides agreed to withdraw the several cases that they had filed against each other. With a single stone (settlement efforts), the Secretary, DLSA, Nellore, killed two bickering birds (or we may say, families).

NALSA THEME SONG

एहसास न्याय का सबके लिए, आकाश न्याय का सबके लिए,
उल्लास न्याय का सबके लिए, विश्वास न्याय का सबके लिए,
अपने इस हिन्दुस्तान पर, हक हमारा भी तोह है,
इंसाफ के इस आशियाँ पर, हक हमारा भी तोह है,
एक मुट्ठी आसमाँ पर, हक हमारा भी तोह है,
ये न सोचो दर्द हमारा कहीं सुना न जाएगा,
अब न्यायालय खुद चलकर चौपालों तक आएगा,
लाचारों को न्याय मिलेगा, दुखियारों को न्याय मिलेगा,
कमज़ोरों को न्याय मिलेगा, मज़लूमों को न्याय मिलेगा,
अपने इस हिन्दुस्तान पर, हक हमारा भी तोह है,
उम्मीदों के इस गुलिस्ताँ पर, हक हमारा भी तोह है,
एक मुट्ठी आसमान पर, हक हमारा भी तोह है।
गरीब और कमज़ोरों को मुफ्त एवं सक्षम कानूनी सहायता के लिए प्रतिबद्ध,
विधिक सेवा प्राधिकरण- NALSA- न्याय सबके लिए ।

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.”
- Margaret Mead

Vision

The vision of NALSA is to promote an inclusive legal system in order to ensure fair and meaningful justice to the marginalized and disadvantaged sector.

Mission

To legally empower the marginalized and excluded groups of the society by providing effective legal representation, legal literacy and awareness and bridging the gap between the legally available benefits and the entitled beneficiaries.

To strengthen the system of Lok Adalats and other Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanisms in order to provide for informal, quick, inexpensive and effective resolution of dispute and minimize the load of adjudication on the overburdened judiciary.



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