



NATIONAL LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

NEWSLETTER | ISSUE – IV | OCTOBER – DECEMBER, 2025

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON “STRENGTHENING LEGAL AID DELIVERY MECHANISMS” – 2025



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- *Eastern Regional Conference*
- *NALSA National Photography & Art Showcase*
- *National Conference on “Strengthening Legal Aid Delivery Mechanisms”*
- *Sensitization on Reproductive Autonomy through Legal Aid*
- *Special Session on Maintenance and Welfare of Parents & Senior Citizens Act, 2007*

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HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VIKRAM NATH

JUDGE, SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

&

EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN, NALSA

Dear Readers,

It gives me immense satisfaction to present the October–December 2025 edition of NALSA's Quarterly Newsletter, which captures a period of institutional consolidation, national dialogue and renewed commitment to strengthening access to justice across the country.

This quarter marked an important phase of reflection and capacity-building for Legal Services Institutions, with a renewed focus on strengthening delivery mechanisms, embracing technology and deepening community-centric approaches to justice. The emphasis during these months was not only on expanding outreach, but also on reinforcing the quality, efficiency and responsiveness of legal aid systems.

The quarter witnessed several significant milestones. The East Zone Regional Conference held in October provided a valuable platform for regional engagement and exchange of best practices. In November, the National Conference on "Strengthening Legal Aid Delivery Mechanisms" brought together key stakeholders from across the country. The launch of the National Legal Aid Defence Counsels System (LADCS) Dashboard by Hon'ble the then Chief Justice of India, Justice B.R. Gavai, marked a major step towards data-driven governance and transparency. The launch of the Community Mediation Training Manual reinforced mediation as a people-centric dispute resolution mechanism.

In December, the National Webinar commemorating the International Day of Persons with Disabilities reaffirmed the centrality of inclusion, dignity and equal participation in justice delivery. The quarter culminated with the successful conduct of the 4th National Lok Adalat on 13th December 2025, once again demonstrating the transformative potential of amicable, swift and accessible dispute resolution.

As we move forward, our collective task remains clear: to strengthen legal aid institutions, empower vulnerable communities and ensure that justice is not only accessible, but also compassionate and inclusive. I am confident that the initiatives reflected in this edition will inspire continued dedication to our enduring constitutional ideal of justice for all, and encourage every stakeholder to contribute meaningfully to a more equitable and humane justice system.

Warm Regards,
Vikram Nath



Message from the Member Secretary, NALSA

Dear Readers,

I am pleased to present the October–December 2025 edition of NALSA’s Quarterly Newsletter, which documents a quarter of sustained engagement, institutional strengthening and people-centric legal outreach across the country. This edition reflects the collective resolve of Legal Services Institutions to continuously enhance both the reach and quality of legal aid delivery.

The quarter captures a wide spectrum of activities, demonstrating how legal empowerment is being advanced through coordinated national and regional efforts. A strong emphasis during this period was placed on improving delivery mechanisms, strengthening legal aid defence systems, promoting mediation and ensuring inclusion of vulnerable sections.

Focused regional and national-level engagements enabled a review of operational challenges, exchange of implementation experiences and streamlining of approaches to legal aid delivery. Technological interventions introduced during the quarter have strengthened data management, monitoring and functional oversight within the legal aid defence framework, while structured training resources supported the continued expansion of mediation as a community-oriented and accessible mode of dispute resolution.

Targeted outreach initiatives addressed the specific legal needs of vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities, reinforcing inclusive service delivery. The quarter concluded with the successful conduct of the 4th National Lok Adalat, underscoring the effectiveness of amicable dispute resolution in ensuring timely and accessible justice.

I also take this opportunity to place on record my sincere appreciation for the valuable contributions of Shri Bharat Parashar, the then Learned Member Secretary, NALSA, now Secretary General, Supreme Court of India. His stewardship in the planning and conduct of national and regional conferences, along with his institutional guidance, significantly strengthened NALSA’s initiatives. The momentum and organisational clarity achieved during his tenure continue to inform and support our ongoing efforts.

I extend my sincere appreciation to the Hon’ble Executive Chairpersons and Ld. Member Secretaries of the State Legal Services Authorities, Judicial Officers, Legal Aid Defence Counsels, Panel Lawyers, Mediators, Para Legal Volunteers and administrative staff, whose dedication and tireless efforts give life to NALSA’s mission. Their work on the ground ensures that legal services remain accessible, responsive and humane, and continues to strengthen the foundation of justice for all.

Sanjiv Pandey

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON “STRENGTHENING LEGAL AID DELIVERY MECHANISMS”

The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) organised the National Conference on “Strengthening Legal Aid Delivery Mechanisms” on 8th and 9th November 2025 at the Supreme Court of India, New Delhi, marking three decades of sustained service in furtherance of the constitutional mandate of access to justice and commemorating the observance of National Legal Services Day. The Conference, acting as a national deliberative forum, brought together the leadership of the Judiciary, representatives of Legal Services Institutions across the country, judicial officers, members of the Bar and frontline legal aid functionaries—including Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) / *Adhikar Mitr*, Panel Lawyers and LADC—on a common platform to reflect on institutional progress and to chart future pathways for strengthening India’s legal aid architecture.

The Conference reaffirmed the vision enshrined in Article 39A of the Constitution of India, underscoring that justice must not remain a formal entitlement but must be realized as accessible, timely, affordable and humane in practice. Over two days, the deliberations focused on institutional strengthening, capacity building, community centric justice delivery and the financial sustainability of Legal Services Institutions, while foregrounding the human dimension of legal aid as a transformative instrument of social justice. The discussions emphasized the need for responsive institutions capable of adapting to emerging social realities and the evolving needs of vulnerable populations, with particular attention to strengthening last-mile delivery mechanisms across diverse regional and social contexts.



Left to Right : Hon’ble Mr. Justice Vikram Nath, Hon’ble Mr. Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai, Hon’ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi, Hon’ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant & Hon’ble Minister of State (IC) for Law and Justice Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal.

The National Conference on “Strengthening Legal Aid Delivery Mechanisms” was inaugurated on 8th November 2025 at the Supreme Court of India by Shri Narendra Modi, Hon’ble Prime Minister of India, in the august presence of Hon’ble Mr. Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai, the then Chief Justice of India and Patron-in-Chief, NALSA; Hon’ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant, the then Executive Chairman, NALSA (Currently the Hon’ble Chief Justice of India); Hon’ble Mr. Justice Vikram Nath, the then Chairman, Supreme Court Legal Services Committee; and Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Hon’ble Minister of State (IC) for Law and Justice, Government of India, along with other Hon’ble Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts, senior officers of the Government of India and representatives of Legal Services Institutions from across the country.

The Conference also saw the National Photography and Art Showcase as a distinctive segment, presenting a compelling visual narrative of legal empowerment at the grassroots. The showcase was inaugurated by Hon’ble Mr. Justice B. R. Gavai. Through curated photographs and artworks received from across States and Districts, the exhibition depicted the outreach efforts of legal services institutions, the role of PLVs and legal aid functionaries and the tangible human impact of access to justice initiatives. By translating field-level legal aid work into powerful visual stories, the showcase reinforced the Conference’s objective of recognizing community-centric engagement and bringing to the fore the lived realities underlying institutional legal services delivery.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON “STRENGTHENING LEGAL AID DELIVERY MECHANISMS”

The Welcome Address by the then Hon'ble Executive Chairman, NALSA, emphasised that legal aid represents the point at which constitutional ideals translate into lived reality for millions of citizens. Highlighting that the true measure of a justice system lies in its ability to reach the last person standing at the margins, the address reflected upon NALSA's evolution over three decades into a nationwide institutional network committed to inclusivity, dignity and pragmatic justice.

In his address, the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India reiterated that justice becomes the foundation of social justice only when it is accessible to all, timely in its delivery and understandable to the common citizen. Emphasising the role of Legal Services Authorities as a vital bridge between the judiciary and the people, he underscored the importance of ease of justice as an integral component of ease of living and ease of doing business. On this occasion, the Hon'ble Prime Minister also launched NALSA's Community Mediation Training Module, describing it as a contemporary articulation of India's civilisational tradition of dispute resolution through dialogue and consensus.



Left to Right : Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant & Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vikram Nath.

Addressing the gathering, the then Hon'ble Chief Justice of India reflected on the deeper purpose of the legal aid movement, observing that its true success lies not merely in statistics or reports, but in the trust and quiet gratitude of citizens who feel seen, heard and supported by the justice system. Drawing upon personal experiences from the field, His Lordship emphasised empathy, humility and human connection as the cornerstones of effective legal aid delivery.

The inaugural session concluded with the launch and screening of a short film chronicling NALSA's three-decade journey, setting a reflective and action-oriented tone for the Conference deliberations. The film highlighted key milestones, institutional evolution and the enduring commitment of Legal Services Authorities to advancing access to justice for the marginalized, thereby reinforcing the Conference's overarching vision of inclusive and responsive justice delivery.

Thematic Working Sessions

The Conference deliberations were structured around five carefully curated thematic working sessions, each addressing a core pillar of India's legal aid delivery architecture. These sessions combined institutional review with forward looking dialogue, facilitating the exchange of best practices and the formulation of actionable strategies for strengthening Legal Services Institutions nationwide.

Working Session I

Institutional Defence for Inclusive Justice – The Legal Aid Defence Counsel System (LADCS) Approach

The First Working Session, held on 8th November 2025, focused on strengthening the Legal Aid Defence Counsel System (LADCS) as a cornerstone of inclusive criminal justice. The session was chaired by Hon'ble Mr. Justice J.K. Maheshwari, Judge, Supreme Court of India, and co chaired by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manindra Mohan Shrivastava, Chief Justice, High Court of Madras and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Nitin Jamdar, Chief Justice, High Court of Kerala.

Presentations were made by Hon'ble Mr. Justice V. Kameswar Rao, Executive Chairperson, Delhi State Legal Services Authority and Hon'ble Smt. Justice Anu Sivaraman, Executive Chairperson, Karnataka State Legal Services Authority. The deliberations underscored institutional representation as a constitutional safeguard, highlighting the need for quality representation, professional continuity, accountability mechanisms and uniform standards to ensure fair trial rights for undertrial prisoners and indigent accused across jurisdictions.



Left to Right : Hon'ble Mr. Justice V. Kameswar Rao, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manindra Mohan Shrivastava, Hon'ble Mr. Justice J.K. Maheshwari, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Nitin Jamdar & Hon'ble Smt. Justice Anu Sivaraman.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice J.K. Maheshwari underscored that the critical question before the system today is not whether LADCS is conceptually sound, but how effectively it can be implemented. He identified key challenges in this regard, including recruitment and training of defense counsel, which must transition from routine procedural exercises to purposeful capacity-building.

The LADCS, he stated, is not a temporary initiative but a structural reform aimed at advancing a more compassionate and credible justice system. He stressed that inclusive justice must not remain an aspiration, but must be realized in practice, ensuring that the last, the lost and the least have meaningful access to legal representation and justice.

Panel Lawyers at the Forefront – Strengthening Legal Aid for Inclusive Justice

The Second Working Session examined the role of panel lawyers as the professional backbone of the legal aid system and the primary interface between Legal Services Institutions and legal aid seekers. The session was chaired by Hon'ble Mrs. Justice B.V. Nagarathna, Judge, Supreme Court of India and co chaired by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sheel Nagu, Chief Justice, High Court of Punjab & Haryana and Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Sunita Agarwal, Chief Justice, High Court of Gujarat.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice M.S. Sonak, Executive Chairperson, Goa State Legal Services Authority, and Hon'ble Mr. Justice P. Sam Koshy, Executive Chairperson, Telangana State Legal Services Authority, addressed the session as speakers. Discussions centred on capacity building, ethical engagement, performance evaluation and sustained professional motivation, reinforcing the importance of panel lawyers as long term institutional partners in justice delivery.



Left to Right : Hon'ble Mr. Justice M.S. Sonak, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sheel Nagu, Hon'ble Mrs. Justice B.V. Nagarathna, Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Sunita Agarwal & Hon'ble Mr. Justice P. Sam Koshy.

Hon'ble Mrs. Justice B.V. Nagarathna, opened the session by underlining her personal connection with the subject, having herself served as a Panel Lawyer for the Karnataka State Legal Services Authority and the High Court Legal Services Committee from 1998 to 2008.

Justice Nagarathna identified major causes such as uneven empanelment, lack of diversity, inadequate training and discouraging honorarium structures. Stressing that “legal aid to the poor does not mean poor legal aid”, she highlighted the urgent need to build citizen’s confidence in legal aid services, which currently remains low despite statutory entitlements. Justice Nagarathna suggested that a structured feedback form be provided to every litigant availing legal aid to evaluate the performance of the representing advocate, with its format to be determined by the Executive Chairperson of the respective State Legal Services Authority.

Justice Nagarathna further emphasized that meaningful reform in legal aid delivery requires a shift from a purely administrative approach to a culture of professional pride and accountability. She observed that transparent empanelment criteria, periodic performance review and fair remuneration are critical to attracting committed and competent lawyers to the legal aid system. She also underscored the importance of mentoring young panel lawyers and promoting gender and social diversity within legal aid panels. Such measures, she noted, would strengthen institutional credibility and restore public trust in the promise of equal justice.

Empowering Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) – Building Competence and Community Reach

The Third Working Session foregrounded the pivotal role of Para Legal Volunteers as community based facilitators and first responders in the legal aid ecosystem. The session was chaired by Hon'ble Mr. Justice M.M. Sundresh, Judge, Supreme Court of India and co chaired by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Harish Tandon, Chief Justice, High Court of Orissa and Hon'ble Mr. Justice M.S. Ramachandra Rao, Chief Justice, High Court of Tripura.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta, Executive Chairperson, Uttar Pradesh State Legal Services Authority and Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. Muhamed Mustaque, Executive Chairperson, Kerala & Lakshadweep State Legal Services Authorities, addressed the session as speakers. The deliberations recognised PLVs as the human bridge between institutions and communities, emphasising the significance of structured training, cultural sensitivity, institutional support and recognition to enhance their effectiveness and morale.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice M.M. Sundresh noted that the ambit of PLVs has commendably expanded from being limited to teachers to now encompassing students, senior citizens, Anganwadi workers, health workers, ex-servicemen and other individuals from diverse walks of life. Calling for the creation of a robust and continuously reviewed system, his Lordship emphasized that strengthening and refining the existing institutional framework is essential for improving the functioning of the State machinery.



Left to Right : Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Harish Tandon,, Hon'ble Mr. Justice M.M. Sundresh, Hon'ble Mr. Justice M.S. Ramachandra Rao, Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. Muhamed Mustaque.

Building on this observation, Hon'ble Mr. Justice M.M. Sundresh underscored that the effectiveness of Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) depends not merely on their numerical expansion but on the quality of their engagement and institutional support. His Lordship highlighted the need for structured training modules, clear role demarcation, and continuous handholding to ensure PLVs are equipped to address complex, ground-level legal and social issues. He emphasized that regular evaluation and refresher programmes would enable PLVs to remain responsive to evolving legal frameworks and community needs. Strengthening coordination between PLVs and district-level legal services institutions was also identified as critical for timely intervention and meaningful outreach. Such systemic reinforcement, he noted, would enhance the credibility and impact of PLVs as the first point of contact for justice delivery at the grassroots.

Concluding his remarks, his Lordship observed that a well-supported PLV framework serves as a vital bridge between communities and formal legal institutions. He reiterated that empowering PLVs through institutional trust, capacity-building, and accountability would significantly strengthen last-mile access to justice. This approach, he noted, is integral to ensuring that legal services translate into tangible relief for those most in need.

The discussion concluded with a shared recognition that a strengthened PLV ecosystem is indispensable to responsive and people-centric justice delivery. Participants agreed that sustained institutional support would enable PLVs to continue serving as effective catalysts for legal awareness and access to justice at the grassroots.

Strengthening Permanent Lok Adalats (PLAs) – Reach, Regularity and Responsiveness

The Fourth Working Session, conducted on 9th November 2025, examined Permanent Lok Adalats (PLAs) as accessible and people centric forums for pre-litigation dispute resolution, particularly in matters relating to public utility services. The session was chaired by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pamidighantam Sri Narasimha, Judge, Supreme Court of India and co-chaired by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Gurmeet Singh Sandhawalia, Chief Justice, High Court of Himachal Pradesh, and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya, Chief Justice, High Court of Delhi.

Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Lisa Gill, Executive Chairperson, Haryana State Legal Services Authority and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Alpesh Y. Kogje, Executive Chairperson, Gujarat State Legal Services Authority, shared experiences and best practices. The deliberations highlighted the importance of regular sittings, improved infrastructure, procedural consistency and enhanced public awareness to expand the reach and responsiveness of the Permanent Lok Adalat framework.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice P. S. Narasimha contrasted PLAs with arbitration and mediation, noting that while arbitration often lacks structured institutional support and mediation remains underdeveloped in terms of organized infrastructure, PLAs benefit from the advantage of statutory incorporation. This institutionalization, his Lordship emphasized, enables systematic monitoring and accountability, thereby distinguishing PLAs from *ad hoc* dispute resolution mechanisms.

His Lordship cautioned against perceiving PLAs merely as alternatives to formal courts or as tools for reducing High Court dockets. Instead, his Lordship urged participants to recognize PLAs as independent institutions capable of delivering transformative justice.



Left to Right : Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Lisa Gill, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Gurmeet Singh Sandhawalia, Hon'ble Mr. Justice P. S. Narasimha, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya & Hon'ble Mr. Justice Alpesh Y. Kogje.

Justice P. S. Narasimha further emphasized that the true strength of Permanent Lok Adalats lies in their capacity to deliver justice that is both accessible and responsive to everyday disputes affecting ordinary citizens. He observed that PLAs are uniquely positioned to address pre-litigation disputes in public utility services through a participatory, conciliatory, and rights-oriented process. He underscored that procedural flexibility, when coupled with statutory safeguards, allows PLAs to balance efficiency with fairness. Such an approach, his Lordship noted, enables PLAs to evolve as credible forums that reinforce trust in decentralized and people-centric justice delivery.

His Lordship also underscored that strengthening PLAs requires sustained institutional investment, including specialised training of presiding officers and support staff. He observed that consistent jurisprudential clarity and well-reasoned awards would enhance the authority and legitimacy of PLAs. Emphasising on uniform practices across jurisdictions, he noted that such consolidation would enable PLAs to function as dependable forums for early, effective and people-oriented dispute resolution.

Financial Management and Budgetary Allocation in Legal Services Institutions

The Fifth Working Session focused on financial governance as a critical enabler of sustainable and accountable legal aid delivery. The session was chaired by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant, Judge, Supreme Court of India and the then Executive Chairman, NALSA; and co-chaired by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva, Chief Justice, High Court of Madhya Pradesh, and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arun Palli, Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ashutosh Kumar, Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ashwani Kumar Mishra, Executive Chairperson, Punjab State Legal Services Authority, addressed the session. The discussions underscored transparency, prudent fund utilisation, timely financial reporting and capacity building in budgeting and accounts management as essentials to ensure institutional sustainability and public trust in the legal aid system.

Justice Surya Kant highlighted three core areas of concern for deliberation - Grants-in-Aid Assessment & Allocation, Compliance with the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 and Regulatory adherence.

Justice Surya Kant elaborated on the bifurcation of funds, noting that 50% of the total budget is earmarked for Legal Aid and Advice, 25% for Awareness and Outreach and 25% for Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and Mediation. He emphasized that effective financial planning must align with statutory obligations under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, ensuring every rupee serves the purpose of enhancing access to justice. His Lordship concluded that public funds are a public trust, and fiscal discipline is essential for sustaining confidence in the legal aid movement.



Left to Right : Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ashwani Kumar Mishra, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arun Palli, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vikram Nath, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ashutosh Kumar.

The session also deliberated on the need to institutionalise best practices in financial governance across Legal Services Authorities, with emphasis on uniform accounting standards and data-driven decision-making. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant underscored that financial governance is not merely an administrative function but a foundational pillar of institutional credibility and long-term impact. The Hon'ble Judges on the panel also highlighted that streamlined procedures, regular audits and capacity-building of administrative staff would ensure efficient utilisation of resources. Such a structured and transparent approach, it was observed, would further strengthen public confidence and reinforce the integrity of the legal aid delivery system.

The discussion concluded with a shared understanding that sound financial governance is indispensable to the credibility and continuity of legal aid institutions. Collectively, the session underscored that responsible stewardship of public funds is integral to strengthening access to justice and sustaining public confidence in the legal services framework.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON “STRENGTHENING LEGAL AID DELIVERY MECHANISMS”

Valedictory Programme, 9th NOVEMBER 2025

The Valedictory Programme, held on 9th November 2025, marked the culmination of the two-day National Conference. The session was graced by Hon’ble Mr. Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai, the then Chief Justice of India and Patron in Chief, NALSA; Hon’ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant, Judge, Supreme Court of India and the then Executive Chairman, NALSA; and Hon’ble Mr. Justice Vikram Nath, Judge, Supreme Court of India and the then Chairman, Supreme Court Legal Services Committee, along with other Hon’ble Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts, Chief Justices, Executive Chairpersons and Member Secretaries of State Legal Services Authorities, senior Law Officers and distinguished delegates.



Left to Right : Hon’ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant, Hon’ble Mr. Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai, Hon’ble Mr. Justice Vikram Nath.

The Valedictory Session reflected upon the key deliberations of the Conference and reaffirmed the collective resolve to advance a legal aid system grounded in empathy, professionalism and constitutional values. The launch of the LADCS Dashboard by the Hon’ble Chief Justice of India marked a significant step towards data driven transparency and institutional monitoring. The proceedings concluded with a renewed commitment to strengthening access to justice through coordinated institutional action, innovation and compassion.



As NALSA moves forward, the deliberations and outcomes of this Conference will continue to guide efforts towards building a justice delivery system that is inclusive, responsive and truly accessible to all.

NALSA NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY & ART SHOWCASE

- 8th NOVEMBER, 2025



Left to Right : Justice Vijay Bishnoi, Justice V.M. Pancholi, Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra, Justice N.V. Anjaria, Justice P.B. Varale, Justice P.S. Narasimha, Justice Sanjay Karol, Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah, Justice B.V. Nagarathna, Justice Surya Kant, Justice B.R. Gavai, Justice Vikram Nath, Justice K.V. Viswanathan, Justice N. Kotiswar Singh and Justice K. Vinod Chandran, Judges, Supreme Court of India



Inauguration of the National Photography and Art Showcase

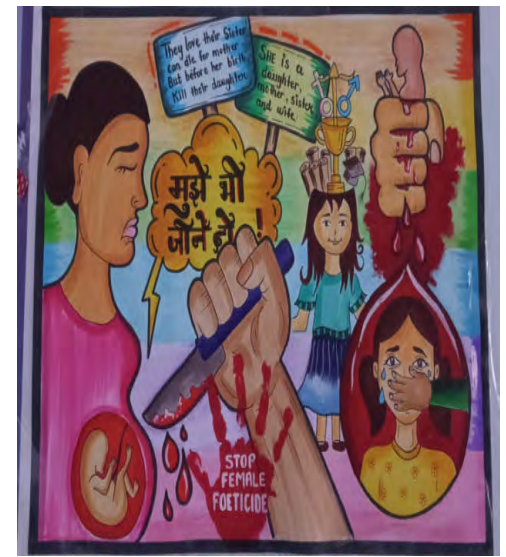
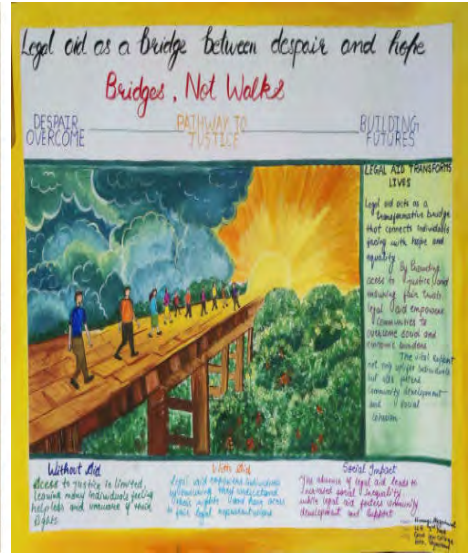


Hon'ble Judges Viewing the Artworks at the Showcase



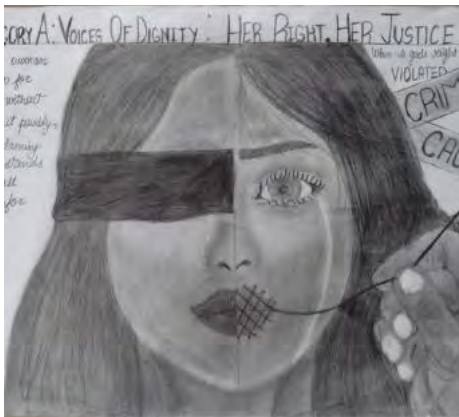
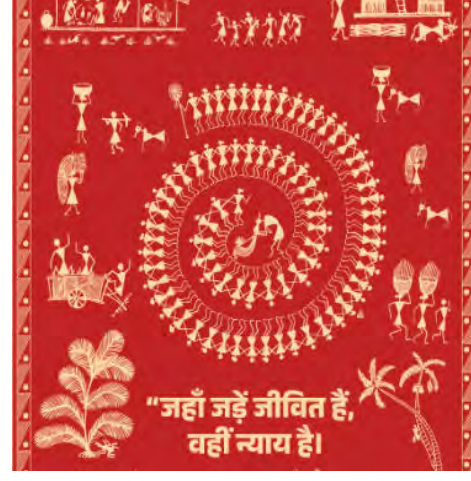
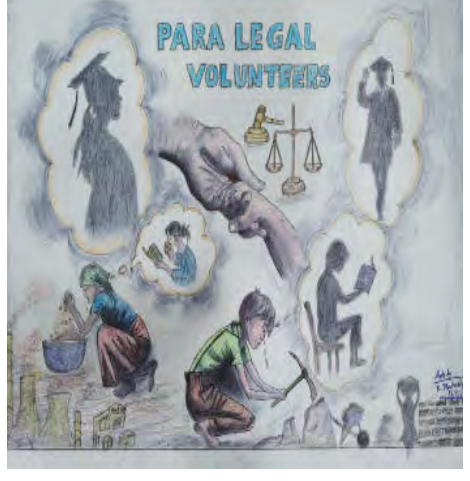
The National Photography and Art Showcase, organised on 8th November 2025, presented a visual chronicle of NALSA's work at the grassroots. Through evocative photographs and artworks, the exhibition highlighted stories of legal empowerment, human resilience and access to justice, adding a reflective and people-centric dimension to the Conference proceedings.

NALSA NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY & ART SHOWCASE : JUSTICE FOR ALL: THROUGH THE LENS OF LEGAL AID



**“Freedom of mind is the real freedom”
— Dr. B. R. Ambedkar**

NALSA NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY & ART SHOWCASE : JUSTICE FOR ALL: THROUGH THE LENS OF LEGAL AID



EAST - ZONE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

The East-Zone Regional Conference of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) was held on 11th and 12th October 2025 at Sonapur, Guwahati, in collaboration with the Assam State Legal Services Authority and the Gauhati High Court. The two-day Conference brought together Hon'ble Judges of the Supreme Court of India and High Courts, senior functionaries of Legal Services Institutions, representatives of State Governments and domain experts from the North-Eastern States as well as Bihar, West Bengal, Jharkhand and Odisha, providing a focused forum for deliberation on region-specific concerns.



The inaugural programme was graced by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant, Judge, Supreme Court of India and then Executive Chairman, NALSA; Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam; and Hon'ble Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India. The inaugural session was further attended by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dipankar Datta, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ujjal Bhuyan, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sandeep Mehta, Hon'ble Mr. Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Joymalya Bagchi and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vijay Bishnoi, Judges of the Supreme Court of India. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ashutosh Kumar, Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court and Patron-in-Chief, Assam State Legal Services Authority and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Michael Zothankhuma, Judge, Gauhati High Court and Executive Chairman, Assam State Legal Services Authority, also shared the dais and welcomed the participants, alongside the Chief Justices of the participating High Courts.

In his inaugural address, Justice Surya Kant underscored that justice must effectively reach communities across the diverse terrains of Eastern and North-Eastern India, including tea garden areas, border regions and tribal habitations. He highlighted persistent vulnerabilities such as child marriage, substance abuse, displacement of tribal populations and mental health challenges and reaffirmed NALSA's commitment to translating legal provisions into tangible, everyday justice through focused flagship initiatives and strengthened regional collaboration.

The technical deliberations were spread across five thematic sessions over two days. The first day focused on child marriage and child rights, narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and tribal rights with reference to the NALSA (SAMVAD Strengthening Access to Justice for Marginalized, Vulnerable Adivasis and Denotified/Nomadic Tribes) Scheme, 2025, while the second day addressed issues concerning tea garden populations and mental health and legal aid. These sessions enabled concise yet substantive exchanges on regional challenges, best practices and effective State-level interventions.

The East-Zone Regional Conference thus served as an important platform for strengthening cooperative engagement within the legal services framework and reaffirmed NALSA's resolve to advance inclusive, responsive and region-sensitive access to justice across India.

NATIONAL WEBINAR IN OBSERVANCE OF INT'L DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES – 3RD DECEMBER



The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) organised a National Webinar on 3rd December 2025 to commemorate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, aligning with the United Nations' 2025 theme, "Fostering Disability-Inclusive Societies for Advancing Social Progress." The programme reaffirmed NALSA's constitutional mandate under Article 39A to ensure equal access to justice through accessibility, dignity and non-discrimination.

The Webinar commenced with the Welcome Address by Shri Sanjiv Pandey, Member Secretary, NALSA, who set the context for a focused discussion on disability-inclusive legal aid. Delivering the Keynote Address, Justice Vikram Nath, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Executive Chairman, NALSA, underscored that disability inclusion is a matter of justice and equal personhood, not charity. Emphasising that the removal of barriers unlocks human potential, His Lordship called for systemic efforts to create enabling environments where persons with disabilities can participate fully and meaningfully.

Drawing inspiration from Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam's interaction with children with disabilities, Justice Nath highlighted the power of dignity, optimism and resilience in shaping inclusive societies. He stressed that legal aid outreach must proactively reach persons with disabilities through hospital visits, mental health institutions, special schools, community centres, mobile legal services and accessible legal literacy initiatives. His Lordship further advocated mandatory disability sensitisation for judges, panel lawyers, police personnel and court staff, ideally co-designed with organisations of persons with disabilities.

Two technical sessions followed, focusing on implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, NALSA (Legal Services to Persons with Mental Illness and Persons with Intellectual Disabilities) Scheme, 2024, accessibility in legal processes and facilitation of welfare schemes such as UDID, ADIP and DDRS. The Open House Session enabled rich exchange among SLSAs, DLSAs, PLVs, panel advocates and academicians, reinforcing best practices and grassroots perspectives.

The Webinar concluded with an address by Shri Kunal Vepa, Director, NALSA, reaffirming NALSA's resolve to advance a barrier-free, accessible and compassionate justice system for persons with disabilities across the country.

SENSITISATION PROGRAMME ON REMOVING BARRIERS TO REPRODUCTIVE AUTONOMY THROUGH LEGAL AID



On 2nd November 2025, the Uttar Pradesh State Legal Services Authority organised a sensitisation programme on addressing barriers to Reproductive Autonomy through Legal Aid at the Judicial Training & Research Institute, Lucknow. The programme was inaugurated by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant, Judge, Supreme Court of India and the then Executive Chairman, NALSA, in the august presence of Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vikram Nath, the then Chairman of Supreme Court Legal Services Committee, and other honourable Judges of the Allahabad High Court.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant observed that irrespective of the circumstances she faces, every woman is entitled to the confidence that the justice system stands firmly with her, assuring dignity, protection and meaningful access to her rights. He also commended Uttar Pradesh SLSA for the launch of the AI-enabled legal aid chatbot "Nyaya Marg", noting that technology-driven initiatives of this nature can significantly enhance access to legal information and bridge the gap between beneficiaries and their rights.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vikram Nath, while quoting Dr. B. R. Ambedkar that "I measure the progress of a community by the progress its women have made", emphasized that the position of women reflects the true advancement of society. He also commended initiatives such as "Sankalp" which promote sensitivity towards issues relating to reproductive autonomy.

The deliberations underscored the need for time-bound medical assistance, sensitive legal support, psychological support in unintended motherhood and coordinated institutional response for women facing reproductive rights violations, particularly survivors of sexual violence. Experts from The National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), the National Health Mission (NHM), Association of Advocacy and Legal Initiatives (AALI) and Mission Vatsalya discussed the medico-legal dimensions of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act, 1971, psychological support systems and the role of legal aid in ensuring informed reproductive choices.

The programme reaffirmed the justice system's commitment to dignity, autonomy and compassionate access to justice.

INAUGURATION OF "SPANDAN" AUDITORIUM AT UPSLSA, LUCKNOW

On Sunday, 2nd November 2025, the newly constructed auditorium "Spandan" at the office of the Uttar Pradesh State Legal Services Authority, Gomti Nagar Extension, Lucknow, was also inaugurated by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant, Judge, Supreme Court of India and the then Executive Chairman, NALSA. The state-of-the-art auditorium has been developed as a dedicated space for training programmes, conferences, capacity-building initiatives and public legal awareness activities, thereby strengthening the institutional infrastructure of the legal services framework in the State.



SPECIAL SESSION ON MAINTENANCE AND WELFARE OF PARENTS & SENIOR CITIZENS ACT, 2007



On 17th November 2025, the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), in collaboration with the Department of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India, organised a Special Session on the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre (DAIC), New Delhi. The session was convened with the objective of creating awareness about the legal rights of senior citizens, the policies and programmes facilitating these rights, and the role of families, communities and institutions in their effective enforcement at both individual and collective levels.

The programme was graced by the presence of Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant, Judge, Supreme Court of India, the then Executive Chairman, NALSA and Dr. Virendra Kumar, Hon'ble Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment, along with senior government officials, representatives of NGOs, academicians, legal professionals, students and senior citizens.

Addressing the gathering, Hon'ble Justice Surya Kant emphasised that the protection of senior citizens is not an act of charity but a binding societal and legal obligation under the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents & Senior Citizens Act, 2007. He called for coordinated action among legal services authorities, social welfare agencies, police authorities and legal volunteers, while urging the younger generation to foster compassion, respect and responsibility towards the elderly.

The Hon'ble Union Minister underscored the invaluable contribution of senior citizens in nation-building and highlighted the importance of preserving India's joint family value system. He elaborated on government initiatives for elderly welfare, including assistive devices under Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana, emotional support through the Elderline helpline (14567) and enhanced health insurance coverage for senior citizens aged 70 and above.

The session brought together a common platform towards reinforcing the commitment to ensuring dignity, security and meaningful participation of senior citizens in society.



“अभिवादन शीलस्य नित्यं वृधोपसेविन |
चत्वारि तस्य वर्धन्ते आयुर्विद्या रंशो बलम् |”

OBSERVANCE OF WORLD AIDS DAY - 1st DECEMBER



Manipur



Maharashtra



Uttar Pradesh



Himachal Pradesh



Haryana



Chhattisgarh



Assam



Andhra Pradesh



Tripura



Punjab



Madhya Pradesh



Daman & Diu

OBSERVANCE OF INT'L DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES- 3rd DECEMBER



Andhra Pradesh



Chandigarh



Haryana



Jammu & Kashmir



Telangana



West Bengal



Punjab



Uttar Pradesh

“PROTECT TODAY, SECURE TOMORROW” – ENVIRONMENTAL LEGAL LITERACY & COMMUNITY PROTECTION INITIATIVE



Bihar



Chandigarh



Uttar Pradesh



Himachal Pradesh



Haryana



Chhattisgarh



Jharkhand



Kerala



Manipur



Meghalaya



Uttarakhand



Mizoram

OBSEVANCE OF WORLD HUMAN RIGHTS DAY - 10th DECEMBER



Andhra Pradesh



Bihar



Chhattisgarh



Delhi



Jammu & Kashmir



Mizoram



Uttarakhand



West Bengal

LEGAL AWARENESS & OUTREACH PROGRAMMES

At Community Level : Empowering Communities through Knowledge



Awareness Programme on 'Mediation for the Nation' Campaign (Chhattisgarh)

On 1st November, an awareness programme was conducted at Nari Niketan, Chandigarh, under the Victim Care and Support System on Acid Attack. The resource person, Dr. Aastha Arora (PLV) addressed inmates, staff and attendants, sensitizing them on acid attack prevention, victims' legal rights and available rehabilitation mechanisms. The session covered victim compensation provisions, free medical treatment in government and empanelled private hospitals and legal support available through the DLSA. Participants were also informed about the penal consequences under Sections 326A and 326B IPC (Section 124 BNS). Through interactive discussion and audio-visual material, the programme emphasized awareness, empathy and timely legal intervention, reinforcing community responsibility towards survivor support and justice

On 7th October, under the guidance of the Chairperson and Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Mungeli (Chhattisgarh), an awareness programme was conducted in the villages of Rajpalpur and Baijalpur as part of the NALSA-MCPC "Mediation for the Nation" campaign. The nationwide initiative, held from 1st July to 7th October 2025, seeks to promote mediation as a peaceful, cost-effective and time-efficient mechanism for resolving suitable disputes pending from Taluka Courts to High Courts. Participants were apprised of eligible categories of cases, the advantages of mediation and its flexible modes of conduct, including offline, online and hybrid formats. Information on NALSA Schemes and the NALSA Helpline 15100 was also disseminated. The programme reinforced community trust in mediation as a constructive and amicable means of dispute resolution, contributing to the reduction of litigation burdens.



Awareness Program on Acid Attack Victim Care and Support (Chandigarh)



Awareness Programme on Rights of Senior Citizens (Dadra & Nagar Haveli)

On 17th November, DLSA, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Silvassa, organized an awareness programme on the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 at Silvassa. The session witnessed the participation of senior citizens, officials from the CDPO and members of the Bar. The session focused on sensitizing participants to the rights, legal protections, remedies and institutional support mechanisms available to elderly persons under the Act and access to legal aid. Participants sought clarifications regarding legal procedures and support mechanisms. The interactive nature of the session enhanced awareness and confidence among participants, encouraging them to assert their rights and seek institutional assistance when required. The programme underscored the critical role of legal awareness in empowering senior citizens to assert their rights and seek timely redressal. It reaffirmed the commitment of the Legal Services Authorities to safeguarding the dignity, security and overall welfare of senior citizens through accessible and effective legal remedies.

LEGAL AWARENESS & OUTREACH PROGRAMMES

At Community Level : Empowering Communities through Knowledge



Awareness Programme for Unorganised Sector Workers (Gujarat)

On 17th November, an awareness programme on the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 was organized in Jammu & Kashmir to sensitize the public about the legal protections and remedies available to elderly persons. The programme focused on informing participants about the statutory obligations of children and relatives, provisions relating to maintenance, protection of life and property, and the remedies available in cases of neglect or ill-treatment. Emphasis was also placed on the role of Legal Services Institutions in facilitating access to justice through counselling, legal assistance and appropriate redressal mechanisms. The initiative sought to promote respect, dignity and social security for senior citizens, while reinforcing awareness of legal aid services that safeguard their rights and encourage timely intervention to ensure their well-being, independence and meaningful participation in society.

On 16th November, the DLSA Ahmedabad (Rural), organized an awareness programme under the NALSA (Legal Services to the Workers in the Unorganised Sector) Scheme, 2015 at Construction Site, Sanand-Sarkhej Highway, Ahmedabad. Para Legal Volunteers interacted directly with workers at the site and sensitized them about their legal rights, statutory entitlements and the availability of free legal aid services. Pamphlets containing information on legal assistance, grievance redressal mechanisms and relevant welfare measures were distributed to enhance outreach and understanding. The programme sought to bridge the information gap faced by unorganised sector workers, empower them with legal awareness and strengthen their access to justice by enabling informed and timely use of legal services and institutional support mechanisms. Such initiatives play a crucial role in ensuring that vulnerable workers are not excluded from legal protection and welfare due to lack of awareness or access.



Awareness Programme on Rights of Senior Citizens (Jammu & Kashmir)



Legal Awareness Camp for Sex Workers and Transgender Persons (Haryana)

On 24th December, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Sirsa organized a legal awareness camp under the scheme “Sweekar – Nyaya Aur Samman”, focusing on sex workers and transgender persons with the objective of promoting inclusion, dignity and access to justice. The programme witnessed the participation of multiple departments, including the Red Cross, Civil Hospital, District Social Welfare Office, District Women Office and the Education Department. Panel Advocates sensitized participants about free legal aid services, legal rights and protections under the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, and various government welfare schemes. Medical check-ups were conducted at the site and medical kits were distributed. Overall, the initiative strengthened awareness, encouraged confidence among marginalized communities and reaffirmed the commitment towards ensuring equality, social justice and humane legal support.

LEGAL AWARENESS & OUTREACH PROGRAMMES

At Colleges & Schools : Empowering the Future Leaders through Knowledge



Vigilance Awareness Week: Road Safety Training for Students (Chandigarh)

On 28th October, as part of Vigilance Awareness Week, the Road Safety Department of Ajit Karam Singh International Public School, NALSA along with, Chandigarh, in collaboration with the Chandigarh Traffic Police, conducted an informative road safety training session for students. The programme highlighted key issues such as wearing helmets, avoiding underage driving and adhering to traffic rules. Students also received hands-on exposure through live traffic management training at traffic lights, helping them understand the importance of responsible and vigilant road behaviour. The interaction aimed to build awareness among students about safe road practices and responsible conduct on public roads. It sensitized young minds to their role as responsible citizens and reinforced NALSA's commitment to child safety and legal awareness for the well-being of future generations.

On 3rd November, as part of Legal Services Week (Day-01), the DLSA Udhampur, organized an awareness programme at Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Udhampur. The initiative aimed to sensitize students about the importance of legal awareness, the role and functioning of Legal Services Institutions and the availability of free legal aid for eligible sections of society. Emphasis was laid on nurturing legal literacy at an early stage, enabling students to understand their rights, duties and lawful avenues for grievance redressal. The programme highlighted how access to legal information empowers individuals to make informed decisions and promotes respect for the rule of law. Through interactive discussions and student engagement, the session encouraged young learners to view law as a protective and enabling tool rather than a distant institution. The programme reinforced access to justice as a foundational democratic value and sought to inspire students to act as informed, responsible and legally aware citizens within their communities.



Legal Services Week (Jammu & Kashmir)

During November 2025, the DLSA/TLSC (Namchi) conducted a series of legal awareness programmes across government schools in South Sikkim as part of National Legal Services Day under various NALSA Schemes throughout the week. On 10th November, awareness sessions were organized at Government Junior High School, Phalidara focusing on National Legal Services Week and NALSA JAGRITI Scheme, 2025. Similar programmes were held at Government Junior High School, Mamley on 12th November and Salleybong on 13th November. Further, on 18th November, multiple sessions were conducted at Government New Secondary School, Namchi on the NALSA ASHA SOP (Towards Eliminating Child Marriage), Legal Services Unit Manonyay and MICRO initiatives. These programmes aimed to promote legal literacy among students and foster early awareness of rights, responsibilities and access to justice.



Legal Awareness Programmes at School Level (Sikkim)

LEGAL AWARENESS & OUTREACH PROGRAMMES

At Colleges & Schools : Empowering the Future Leaders through Knowledge

On 15th November, the New Delhi District Legal Services Authority, under the aegis of NALSA and the Delhi State Legal Services Authority (DLSLA), organized a workshop on mental health, emotional well-being and healthy coping strategies for children and their parents at Lal Bahadur Shastri School, Delhi. The workshop created a safe and interactive platform for open dialogue, guiding parents and children on identifying early signs of stress, anxiety and emotional distress, and responding through supportive and constructive coping mechanisms. A Legal Aid Counsel served as the resource person, emphasizing the importance of emotional awareness, effective communication within families and timely access to support systems. The session also highlighted how legal and institutional mechanisms can complement mental health care, particularly for children. The programme reinforced the importance of early intervention, mental well-being and nurturing supportive family environments as essential to holistic child development, emotional resilience and meaningful access to justice, especially in educational settings and communities.



Workshop on Mental Health and Emotional Well-being at School (Delhi)



Awareness Programme on Legal Services for Persons with Disabilities (Rajasthan)

On 14th November, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Ukhru, organized a painting competition titled “My Dream World” at Pashong Aided School, Ukhru District, on the occasion of Children’s Day. The programme was led by Ms. Kimneingah Kipgen, Secretary, DLSA Ukhru, who delivered the keynote address. The initiative aimed to raise awareness about child rights, particularly the Right to Education, through creative expression. Students participated enthusiastically, using art as a medium to reflect their aspirations and understanding of rights. A large number of students actively participated in the programme, which fostered legal awareness and encouraged child-centric engagement in a supportive learning environment nurturing awareness through creativity.

On 3rd December, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Dungarpur organized an awareness programme at Special Teacher Training College, Tapas Sansthan, Dungarpur, focusing on the NALSA (Legal Services to Persons with Mental Illness and Persons with Intellectual Disabilities) Scheme, 2024. The programme was conducted under the guidance of the Secretary, DLSA, Dungarpur, with the Principal of the institution serving as the main Resource Person. The session aimed to sensitize students and faculty on child protection, disability rights, inclusive education and the availability of free legal aid for persons with mental illness and intellectual disabilities. Interactive discussions highlighted early identification, legal safeguards and rehabilitation support. The programme benefited the participants and strengthened awareness on inclusive justice, child-centric legal protection and access to support services.



Children’s Day Painting Competition: Promoting Child Rights (Manipur)

Orientation, Capacity Building & Training Programmes

On 25th October, the Karnataka State Legal Services Authority and the Karnataka Judicial Academy, Bengaluru, jointly organized a Two-Day Advanced Training Programme for Legal Aid Defence Counsels. The programme was inaugurated by *Hon'ble Justice Anu Sivaraman*, Executive Chairperson, KSLSA. The training focused on advanced advocacy skills, ethical defence practices, effective client communication, trial preparation and recent developments in criminal law and procedure. Interactive sessions, expert lectures and practical discussions enabled participants to enhance their professional competence and address challenges faced while representing marginalized and vulnerable accused persons. The programme significantly contributed to capacity building and reaffirmed NALSA's commitment to developing a skilled and quality-driven legal aid defence system.



Advanced Training Programme for Legal Aid Defence Counsels (Karnataka)



Para Legal Volunteer Induction Training for Law Students (Arunachal Pradesh)

On 4th November, the Arunachal Pradesh State Legal Services Authority organized a Para Legal Volunteer (PLV) Induction Training Programme for law students of Arunachal Law Academy, Lekhi at the Don Bosco Youth Centre, Itanagar. Over 184 law students participated in the training, which forms part of Arunachal Pradesh SLSA's calendar activities to build grassroots legal capacity. The inaugural session was graced by *Shri Sang Phunsok*, Member, Lokayukta, Arunachal Pradesh, who spoke on the role and importance of the Lokayukta. Resource persons sensitized students on NALSA schemes, free legal aid, victim compensation, child and juvenile justice laws, Lok Adalats, legal aid clinics and the pivotal role of PLVs in bridging the justice system with communities. The training equipped aspiring legal professionals with the knowledge and orientation necessary to serve as effective PLVs, strengthening community-level legal awareness and advancing the goal of accessible justice for all.

On 15th and 16th November, as per the guidance of NALSA, the Telangana State Legal Services Authority, in consultation with the Telangana State Judicial Academy, conducted a Two-Day Refresher Training Programme for 86 newly engaged Legal Aid Defence Counsels. The programme aimed at strengthening functional understanding of the Legal Aid Defence System, enhancing courtroom advocacy and case management skills, and familiarising counsels with ethical standards, procedural safeguards and client-centric defence strategies. Emphasis was laid on ensuring effective representation at the pre-trial and trial stages, adherence to constitutional mandates of fair trial and sensitivity while dealing with undertrial prisoners and vulnerable accused persons. The programme was graced by the presence of *Hon'ble Sri Justice P. Sam Koshy*, *Hon'ble Executive Chairman*, TSLSA, and *Hon'ble Smt. Justice Moushumi Bhattachary*, Judge, High Court for the State of Telangana, whose guidance enriched the deliberations and reinforced the commitment to strengthen quality legal defence services.



Refresher Training Programme for Legal Aid Defence Counsels (Telangana)

Orientation, Capacity Building & Training Programmes



Interactive Mediation Training for Judicial Officers (Odisha)

On 23rd December, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Chirang conducted an Orientation Training Programme for Mahila Mitras at the Conference Room of the District Judicial Court, Kajalgaon. The programme was organized with the objective of strengthening the capacity of Mahila Mitras to effectively address and respond to issues of gender-based violence at the grassroots level. The sessions focused on sensitization to gender justice, relevant legal provisions, and the crucial role of community-level functionaries in identifying, preventing and responding to cases of violence against women. Emphasis was also laid on timely reporting, victim support mechanisms and coordination with Legal Services Institutions. The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation, underscoring the importance of community-led interventions in promoting safety, dignity and access to justice for women.

On 29th November, the Odisha State Legal Services Authority (OSLSA) organized the first one-day interactive practical (role-play) session as part of the 40-Hours Mediation Training Programme for Judicial Officers, conducted in hybrid mode at the Judicial Academy, Cuttack. The session emphasized experiential learning through simulated mediation exercises, enabling participants to apply theoretical concepts in practical settings. Judicial officers were trained in negotiation techniques, effective communication, conflict management and consensus-building skills essential for successful mediation. The programme aimed to strengthen institutional capacity for effective mediation, encourage early and amicable settlement of disputes and reduce litigation burden, thereby reinforcing OSLSA's commitment to advancing alternative dispute resolution mechanisms within the justice delivery system.



Orientation Training of Mahila Mitras on Gender-Based Violence (Assam)



Refresher Training Programme for Para-Legal Volunteers (Maharashtra)

On 24th December, a Legal Awareness and Refresher Training Programme was organized in Maharashtra under the aegis of the National Legal Services Authority for Para-Legal Volunteers (PLVs). The programme focused on reinforcing the foundational legal knowledge of PLVs, including basic laws, their functions, duties and ethical responsibilities as frontline legal aid functionaries. The refresher course aimed to strengthen their capacity to effectively identify legal issues at the grassroots level, guide beneficiaries to appropriate legal remedies and facilitate access to legal services. Interactive discussions and practical insights further enhanced their understanding of field-level challenges. The session also reiterated the pivotal role of PLVs in bridging the gap between communities and the justice delivery system, thereby enhancing the quality, responsiveness and outreach of legal aid services. Such capacity-building initiatives ensure that legal assistance remains accessible, informed and effective at the community level.

At Jails : Rekindling Hope Behind Bars

On 4th October, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manoj Tiwari, Executive Chairman, Uttarakhand SLSA conducted an extensive inspection of District Jail, Dehradun, accompanied by senior administrative and judicial officers. He inspected both male and female barracks, interacted with inmates including young offenders in the age group of 18–21 years as well as convicted prisoners and reviewed the condition of inmates undergoing treatment at the district hospital. The inspection also covered the jail kitchen and meal preparation process following which necessary directions were issued to the DIG (Prisons) and the Jail Superintendent. He visited the Jail Legal Aid Clinic and inspected workshop, where prisoners are engaged in producing various items, and commended their work and craftsmanship. The inspection reflected the commitment of the Legal Services Authorities to dignity, welfare, and reformatory justice within correctional institutions.



District Jail Inspection by Hon'ble Executive Chairman, Uttarakhand SLSA (Uttarakhand)



Awareness Session on Drug and Substance Abuse (Delhi)

On 6th November, the New Delhi District Legal Services Authority (NDDLISA) conducted an awareness session on Drug and Substance Abuse at the Observation Home for Boys, Delhi Gate, New Delhi. A Counsellor deputed by the Authority served as the Resource Person and sensitized juveniles about the harmful physical, psychological and social effects of substance abuse, its legal consequences and the importance of making informed and healthy life choices. The session encouraged open interaction, self-reflection and dialogue, enabling juveniles to express concerns and seek guidance in a supportive environment. Emphasis was placed on prevention, rehabilitation and responsible decision-making, while also highlighting the availability of counselling support and legal aid services. The programme played a crucial role as a preventive and reformatory intervention by promoting awareness, resilience and positive behavioural change.

On 14th November, the DLSA Churachandpur (Manipur) conducted a Jail Visit-cum-Awareness Programme at the Temporary Prison, Churachandpur. The visit, led by Chairperson, DLSA Churachandpur, focused on reviewing the living conditions of inmates, addressing their legal concerns, and creating awareness about their legal rights and entitlements. During the programme, Legal Aid Defence Counsels interacted with inmates, responded to individual grievances and provided guidance on access to free legal aid, case status updates and welfare measures available under relevant laws. The Chairperson emphasized the importance of rehabilitation, humane treatment and ensuring fair and effective access to justice for all incarcerated persons. The programme strengthened inmates' confidence in the legal services framework and reaffirmed NALSA's commitment to delivering justice with dignity.



Jail Visit-cum-Awareness Programme at Temporary Prison, Churachandpur (Manipur)

At Jails : Rekindling Hope Behind Bars



Awareness Programme on Assistance to Children in Conflict with Law (Rajasthan)

On 10th December, in commemoration of Human Rights Day, an awareness programme was conducted at the District Jail, Osmanabad, to sensitize inmates about their fundamental rights, human dignity and the safeguards available under law. The session focused on the constitutional and human rights of prisoners, access to free legal aid and mechanisms for grievance redressal within the prison system. Inmates were also informed about the role of Legal Services Authorities and the availability of legal assistance for undertrial prisoners and convicts. Emphasis was placed on humane treatment, fair procedures and legal entitlements during custody. The programme encouraged meaningful interaction, enabling inmates to seek clarifications and understand the importance of rights-based protections within custodial settings, thereby reinforcing the principles of fairness, dignity, accountability and access to justice. Such initiatives reaffirm NALSA's commitment to upholding human rights and ensuring legal empowerment even within custodial institutions.

On 5th December, the District Legal Services Authority, Jaipur Metropolitan First, in collaboration with the Child Protection Unit, Jaipur, organized an awareness programme at the Children Observation Home (JJB), Jaipur. The session was conducted under the guidance of a Panel Advocate (Nyay Mitra), DLSA, with the objective of sensitizing children in conflict with law about the legal safeguards, assistance mechanisms and rehabilitative support available to them under the juvenile justice framework. The programme emphasized child-friendly procedures, access to free legal aid and the importance of rehabilitation over punishment. A total of 54 participants benefited from the initiative, reinforcing NALSA's commitment to child-centric justice and protection of children's rights.



Awareness Programme on Human Rights Day at District Jail, Osmanabad (Maharashtra)



Jail Visit on World Human Rights Day (Delhi)

On 10th December, on the occasion of World Human Rights Day, the New Delhi District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), under the aegis of the National Legal Services Authority and the Delhi State Legal Services Authority, organized a visit to Jail No. 4, Tihar Jail Complex. During the visit, the Ld. Member Secretary, NALSA, along with senior officials, interacted with inmates and addressed their legal queries in accordance with applicable legal provisions. The interaction provided inmates an opportunity to seek clarity on their rights, legal remedies and access to free legal aid services. The dignitaries also inspected various wards, medical facilities, barracks, the Permanent Legal Aid Clinic of New Delhi DLSA, and the Tihar ART Gallery to assess institutional arrangements. The visit reaffirmed the importance of humane treatment, transparency and legal awareness within custodial settings, reinforcing NALSA's commitment to safeguarding the rights, dignity and access to justice of incarcerated persons.

PROMOTING AWARENESS, DIGNITY AND WELL-BEING: STATE OBSERVANCES



Awareness Session on Breast Cancer and Wellness for Senior Citizens (Chandigarh)

On 28th October, in observance of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, which is globally marked to promote early detection, prevention and awareness of breast cancer, Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) of the District Legal Services Authority, U.T. Chandigarh conducted an awareness session at a Senior Citizen Home in Chandigarh. The programme engaged residents and staff through an interactive discussion. To promote holistic well-being, a yoga session was also organized, encouraging participants to adopt a healthy, active and stress-free lifestyle. In addition, information was shared on frontline support services including medical assistance, social welfare schemes, police support, legal aid services and important helpline numbers. The initiative helped enhance health consciousness among senior citizens and emphasized the need for timely medical attention.

On 10th October, in observance of World Mental Health Day, DLSA, Yamuna Nagar organized an awareness camp at UTTHAN's Koshish, Institute of Disability Management and Rehabilitation. It focused on promoting mental well-being, creating awareness about mental health challenges and emphasizing the rights of persons with disabilities. It highlighted the importance of early identification, timely intervention and sustained community support in addressing mental health concerns. Participants were sensitized about the availability of free legal aid, welfare schemes and support services for individuals facing mental health issues. The role of legal mechanisms in ensuring protection and access to justice for vulnerable groups was also underscored. The initiative served as a platform to reduce stigma associated with mental illness and encouraged participants to seek help without hesitation.



Awareness Camp on World Mental Health Day (Haryana)



Legal Awareness Programme on World Human Rights Day (Arunachal Pradesh)

On 10th December, in observance of World Human Rights Day, DLSA East Siang, in collaboration with the Legal Aid Cell, Faculty of Law & Forensic Science, Apex Professional University, Pasighat, organized a Legal Awareness Programme at Berung Village. The programme was conducted with the objective of promoting awareness about fundamental rights, constitutional values and the role of Legal Services Institutions in ensuring access to justice. Students and members of the local community were sensitized about their legal rights and duties, with particular emphasis on equality, dignity and protection under law. Information was also shared regarding the availability of free legal aid services for vulnerable and marginalized sections. A Legal Aid Help Desk was established during the programme to provide on-the-spot legal assistance, guidance and information to villagers, addressing their immediate legal concerns. The initiative enhanced community-level legal awareness, encouraged informed engagement with legal institutions and reaffirmed NALSA's commitment to fostering a rights-aware, empowered and justice-oriented society.

NATIONAL LOK ADALATS

Resolving Disputes, Restoring Harmony

GLIMPSE OF 4th NATIONAL LOK ADALAT - 2025



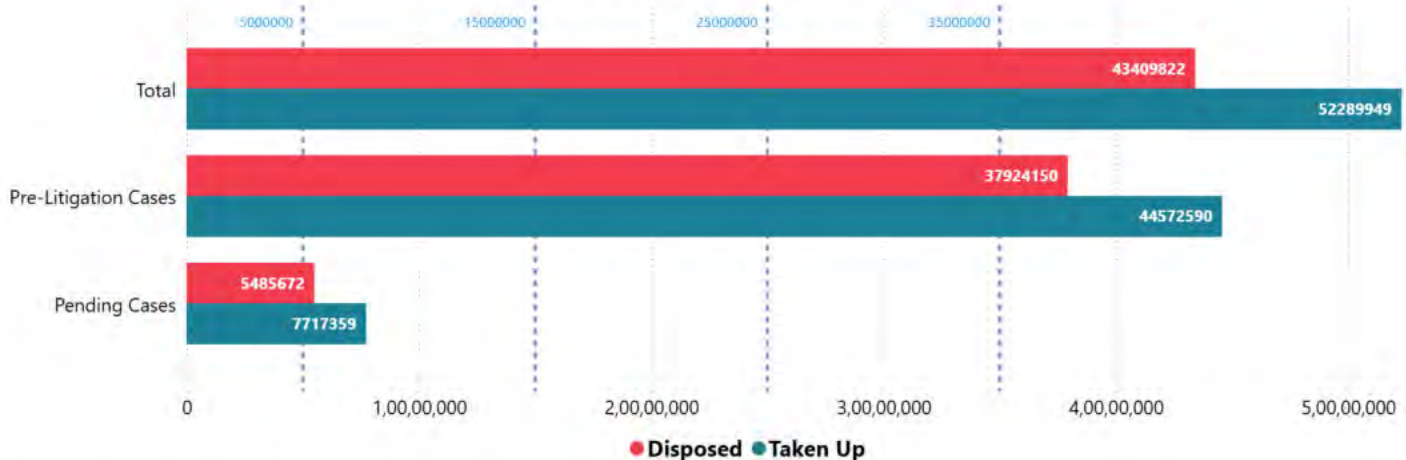
Lok Adalat remains a cornerstone of India’s justice delivery system. Organised under the aegis of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), this nationwide initiative play a crucial role in reducing court pendency while ensuring that justice reaches citizens in a timely and equitable manner.

The 4th National Lok Adalat of 2025, held on 13th December 2025, was convened under the esteemed guidance of Hon’ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant, Chief Justice of India and Patron-in-Chief, NALSA and Hon’ble Mr. Justice Vikram Nath, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Executive Chairman, NALSA. Conducted across 28 States and 8 Union Territories, the Lok Adalat addressed a wide spectrum of pre-litigation and pending disputes, including criminal compoundable offences, bank recovery matters, motor accident claims, cheque dishonour cases, labour and service disputes, matrimonial matters (excluding divorce), consumer cases and other civil disputes.

According to reports, an impressive 4,34,09,822 cases were resolved nationwide. This included 3,79,24,150 pre-litigation matters and 54,85,672 pending cases, with total settlement values exceeding ₹17,631.49 crores.

Beyond the scale of disposals, the true significance of the 4th National Lok Adalat lies in the relief it brought to millions of litigants by delivering swift, affordable and amicable justice. Through such sustained efforts, NALSA continues to bridge the gap between the justice system and the people, reinforcing public faith in alternative dispute resolution and advancing the constitutional vision of “Access to Justice for All.”

4th National Lok Adalat 2025



Settlement Amount: Rs. 17,631.49 Crores

NALSA TEAM AT THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE



Sh. Bharat Parashar, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant, then Executive Chairman, NALSA, Sh. Ajit Atri and Sh. Sanjiv Pandey



Ms. Aarti Singh, Ms. Amandeep Sibia, Sh. Ajit Atri, Sh. Bharat Parashar, Sh. Sanjiv Pandey, Ms. Shreya AroraMehta & Ms. Aavritee Naithani



NALSA TEAM AT THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE



INTERNS AT NALSA

The NALSA Internship Programme during this quarter continued to serve as a vital academic-practical interface for law students from across the country, offering them an opportunity to engage closely with the institutional framework. Designed to complement classroom learning, the programme familiarised interns with the constitutional vision underpinning legal services and the mechanisms through which NALSA operationalises that vision nationwide. Throughout the quarter, interns were actively involved in research and observational learning across diverse thematic areas. Field visits to Legal Service Clinics, prisons, Lok Adalats and Legal Services Institutions enabled interns to

witness how legal aid functions at the grassroots level, addressing the legal needs of marginalized communities, undertrial prisoners, women, children and other vulnerable sections. Meaningful interactions with judicial officers, and frontline legal

aid functionaries allowed interns to understand the practical challenges of justice delivery and the importance of sensitivity, ethical responsibility and procedural fairness. These engagements helped bridge the gap between theoretical legal education and lived legal realities, reinforcing the role of legal aid as a service-oriented and rights-based intervention. The internship also featured structured orientation and interactive sessions. Interns gained insight into evolving approaches such as community mediation technology-driven legal services, enhancing their understanding of how innovation strengthens accessibility and efficiency within the justice system. Beyond skill-building, the programme sought to instil a sense of social responsibility and public service among participants. By observing the human impact of legal aid interventions, interns developed a deeper appreciation of law as a tool for empowerment rather than mere adjudication. Their experience underscored that justice is not confined to courtrooms but is realised through sustained outreach, awareness and compassionate engagement. The October-December internship cohort reflected the curiosity, commitment and potential of young legal minds, reaffirming NALSA's belief that nurturing future lawyers with a strong grounding in legal aid is essential to sustaining the ideal of "Access to Justice for All."



National Legal Services Authority October Internship Batch - 2025



ROW - I (Left to Right) : Priyanshi Mishra; Khushal Bhardwa; Alok Prasad Kurni; Aastha Yadav; Tanisk Gupta; Shristi Gupta; Ms. Amandeep Sibia, District Judge, Gujarat/OSD NALSA; Shubham Saxena; Abhijeet Verma; Vibek Meher; Abhinav Upadhyay.

ROW - II (Left to Right) : Sandhya Sharma; Manej Kumar; Manan Dhiman; Tosheeq Ahmed.



National Legal Services Authority November Internship Batch - 2025



ROW - I (Left to Right) : Ms. Richa Upadhyay, Additional District & Sessions Judge, Uttar Pradesh/OSD NALSA; Ms. Shreya Arora Mehta, District Judge, Delhi/OSD NALSA; Shri Sanjiv Pandey, Member Secretary NALSA; Ms. Shikha Srivastava, Additional District & Sessions Judge, Uttar Pradesh/OSD NALSA; Ms. Aavritee Naitani, Judicial Magistrate-I-cum-Additional Civil Judge (Junior Division), Bihar/OSD NALSA.

ROW - II (Left to Right) : Vani Palgwal; Sanjana Rani; Taniya Gupta; Samridhhi Ghosh; Shipra Patel.

ROW - III (Left to Right) : Raman Bind; Harshit; Vikrant Pratap Singh; Eerla Jaya Prakash; Raj Pratap Singh.



National Legal Services Authority December Internship Batch - 2025



ROW - I (Left to Right) : Ms. Amandeep H. S. Sibia, Officer on Special Duty in NALSA; Mr. Sanjiv Pandey, Member Secretary (I/C) in NALSA; Ms. Richa Upadhyay, Officer on Special Duty in NALSA.

ROW - II (Left to Right) : Soumya Thakur; Lakshita; Aadya Narula; Aasmi Bati; Bhoomi Singh; Akyan Munda; Rose; B.Prashanth Kumar.

ROW - III (Left to Right) : Chesta Yadav; Anandi Nain; Aashwary Raj; Ritik Ranjan; Dhishanth M; Tanmay Singh; Nishant Matta; Arjun Singh Rajara; Utkarsh Yadav.

STORIES OF IMPACT

Success Story 1 : A New Beginning for Lallan Singh: Restoring Dignity Through Legal Aid (Chandigarh)

An elderly resident of Vikas Nagar approached the DLSA Legal Aid Clinic in October, when he was facing multiple hardships. His old-age pension had not been initiated, limited mobility made daily life difficult and he was unable to navigate the procedural requirements for government housing schemes. Recognizing the urgency of his situation, PLVs Manoj Kumar Shukla and Sandeep Kumar extended prompt assistance. They facilitated the correction of errors in his pension application, coordinated with the concerned authorities to ensure its approval, arranged a walker through an NGO to support his mobility and guided him through the application process under the Chandigarh Housing Board Scheme. Today, with his pension restored, improved mobility and renewed confidence, his journey stands as a powerful reminder that accessible legal support, delivered with empathy, can restore dignity, instill hope and meaningfully change lives.

Success Story 2 : From Discord to Dignity: Rebuilding a Marriage Through Legal Aid (Chhattisgarh)

A resident of Kikrda, Janjgir–Champa district, had been living separately from her husband, due to persistent domestic disputes and social pressures following their marriage. The strained relationship had led to emotional distress and family discord. With the timely intervention of a Para Legal Volunteer at the Janjgir–Champa Parivar Paramarsh Kendra, counselling and reconciliation efforts were initiated. Through sustained dialogue and guidance, both parties were encouraged to resolve their differences amicably. As a result, wife willingly agreed to resume cohabitation with her husband, marking a meaningful restoration of marital harmony. This success story reflects the transformative role of legal counselling in strengthening families and restoring dignity.

Success Story 3 : Preventing a Child Marriage Through Timely Legal Intervention (Jharkhand)

In Debiana Panchayat of Nirsa Block, the DLSA, Dhanbad received credible information regarding an imminent child marriage. Acting without delay, Aadhikar Mitras Pankaj Kumar Verma and Shyam Kumar Jha coordinated with the Block Development Officer and the SHO of Nirsa Police Station, following which a joint team immediately reached the spot, where wedding preparations were already in progress. Upon verification of the girl's age, the team counselled the family at length, explaining the legal prohibitions, as well as the social, educational and emotional consequences of child marriage. Although the family initially resisted the intervention, sustained counselling and patient engagement led to a positive outcome. The girl's father ultimately acknowledged the potential harm and executed a written undertaking committing to solemnize his daughter's marriage only after she attains the age of 18 years. Through this timely and coordinated intervention, a child marriage was successfully prevented, thereby protecting the child's rights, dignity and future prospects.

Success Story 4 : A Mother's Perseverance Rewarded: Child Restored After Two Years – Purba Medinipur (West Bengal)

After enduring an unimaginable ordeal, a helpless mother was finally reunited with her newborn son, following timely intervention by the District Legal Services Authority, Purba Medinipur. Her child had been illegally taken and sold by a private nursing home and later declared abandoned by the Child Welfare Committee (CWC), leaving her entangled in prolonged procedural delays despite being the biological mother and a victim. Acting on her application, DLSA Purba Medinipur gathered critical evidence, including police charge sheets and a DNA report, and requested the CWC to act accorsing to the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015. Within a week, the CWC passed the restoration order, and on 10th November, the child was lawfully reunited with his mother, bringing justice, dignity and closure to a long struggle.

Success Story 5 : Reuniting a Lost Child with His Family through Swift Legal Aid Intervention (Uttarakhand)

Upon receiving information from a Para Legal Volunteer (PLV), the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Champawat promptly intervened to assist a minor boy from the Nanakmatta area who was found wandering in an abandoned condition near Boom Chowki. The PLV, accompanied by Head Constable Ghanshyam Arya, immediately located and identified the child. After due verification, necessary arrangements were made for his safe release, and he was reunited with his family at Boom Chowki. The family expressed heartfelt gratitude for the swift and compassionate action taken. On this occasion, the PLV also sensitized those present about the purpose of Lok Adalats and the importance of legal aid and child protection services, which was widely appreciated.



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