

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

VOL. NO. 14 ISSUE NO. 1

JANUARY-MARCH, 2021

REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATION

Sikkim State Legal Services Authority celebrated Republic Day in its office premises at Development Area, Gangtok on 26th January, 2021. The National Flag was hoisted by Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai, Judge, High Court of Sikkim and Executive Chairperson, Sikkim SLSA followed by National Anthem.

The programme was attended by Judicial Officers, Ex-Officio Members of Sikkim SLSA, Other Members, Panel Advocates, Officers and staff of Sikkim SLSA.

OBSERVANCE OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

In accordance with the calendar of activities, the District Legal Services Authorities and Taluk Legal Services Committees under the aegis of Sikkim SLSA observed International Women's Day on 8th March, 2021 and the week thereafter, as Legal Services Week through Video Conferencing and Whatsapp group in view of the current COVID-19 pandemic.

In order to commemorate the day, District Legal Services Authority, East Sikkim at Gangtok had organized a video- conferencing with the Female Under Trial Prisoners lodged in State Central Prison, Rongyek, East Sikkim.

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

**SENSITIZATION PROGRAMME ON NALSA
(PROTECTION & ENFORCEMENT OF TRIBAL RIGHTS) SCHEME,
2015**

In compliance to the directions of Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai, Judge, High Court of Sikkim & Executive Chairperson, Sikkim SLSA, a sensitization programme on NALSA (Protection & Enforcement of Tribal Rights) Scheme, 2015 was conducted by Sikkim SLSA in order to mark the launch of "Bharat Ka Amrut Mahotsav" on 12th March, 2021 at Labour Office, 7th Mile, East Sikkim duly complying with all the social distancing norms as laid down under COVID-19 protocol.

Mr. Sonam Palden Bhutia, Member Secretary of Sikkim SLSA was the Resource Person for the said programme.

The programme was attended by the members of Panchayat, Para-Legal Volunteers of Gnathang and Kupup and local residents of 7th Mile, J.N. Road, East Sikkim.

The participants were sensitized on (i) NALSA (Protection & Enforcement of Tribal Rights) Scheme, 2015, (ii) Various Central/State Government Welfare Schemes pertaining to Tribal Rights, (iii) Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, (iv) Sikkim Compensation to Victim or his Dependent Scheme, 2011 (as amended in 2016), (v) Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition & Redressal) Act, 2013, (vi) Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 and (vii) Rights of Women and Children.

Similar sensitization programmes were also conducted by the District Legal Services Authorities via video-conferencing, the details of which are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of the DLSA	Venue	Video Conferencing with
1.	DLSA (East) at Gangtok	ADR Centre, Gangtok	The Members of Goodwill Educational Development Society, Association of Social Health in India and children residing in Balika Niketan.

2.	DLSA (North) at Mangan	ADR Centre, Mangan	The teachers and students of Tasa Tengay Senior Secondary School and Kalzang Gyatso Senior Secondary School, North Sikkim.
3.	DLSA (South) at Namchi	ADR Centre, Namchi	Physical presence of the officers and staff of District Court (South) and local residents of Namchi.
4.	DLSA (West) at Gyalshing	ADR Centre, Gyalshing	The local gentry at Gangyap GPU and officers and staff of TLSC (Soreng), West Sikkim.

A MEETING TO WORK OUT THE MODALITIES FOR RE-COMMENCING THE AWARENESS PROGRAMMES

A meeting under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai, Judge, High Court of Sikkim & Executive Chairperson, Sikkim SLSA with the Officers of Sikkim SLSA, Social Welfare Department, Education Department, Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (Police Department) and Panel Advocates of Sikkim SLSA was held via video-conferencing on 17th March, 2021.

The meeting commenced with the welcome address delivered by Mr. Sonam Palden Bhutia, Member Secretary, Sikkim SLSA and he also briefly enumerated on the objective for conducting the said meeting.

The agenda items discussed are as under:

Agenda Item No. 1 : Working out the Modalities for Re-Commencing the Awareness Programme on NALSA (Legal Services to Victims of Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation) Scheme, 2015 including Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, Sikkim Anti Drugs Act (SADA), 2006 and Welfare Schemes of Central/State Government in the 94 Government/Private Senior Secondary and Secondary Schools in Sikkim with the team comprising of Panel Lawyers, Officers from the Anti Human Trafficking Unit and Social Welfare Department.

Agenda Item No. 2 : Any other item(s)

The following resolutions were passed during the meeting:

- i. Panel Advocates viz; Mr. Jorgay Namka, Mr. Tashi Raptan Barfungpa and Mrs. Zola Megi who are in the team for East District will formulate a plan in co-ordination with Social Welfare Department, Anti-Human Trafficking Unit and Education Department for re-commencing the awareness programmes in the remaining 94 Secondary and Senior Secondary Schools in Sikkim on various subjects viz; (i) NALSA (Victims of Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation) Scheme, 2015 including (ii) NALSA (Effective Implementation of Poverty Alleviation) Scheme, 2015, (iii) NALSA (Legal Services to the Victims of Drug Abuse and Eradication of Drug Menace) Scheme, 2015, (iv) NALSA (Legal Services to the Mentally ILL and Disabled Persons) Scheme, 2015, (v) Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, (vi) Sikkim Anti Drugs Act (SADA), 2006, (vii) Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985, (viii) HIV/AIDS and Welfare Schemes of Central and State Government and also include Career Counselling as one of the topics.
- ii. Sweets will be provided by Sikkim SLISA for distribution amongst students during the awareness programmes conducted by the team above.

- iii. Sikkim SLSA should request Social Justice & Welfare Department to provide materials with regard to One Stop Crisis Centres and Suicide Helpline Number for forwarding the said information to local cable television (scrolling) and Radio for broadcast as a publicity drive.
- iv. The Anti Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) shall co-ordinate with the Principals of the Schools and form Group of 9/10 matured students (one group in each School) who will be trained by AHTU especially in the topics such as sexual abuse, drug abuse, POCSO etc.
- v. Sikkim SLSA will print brochure/pamphlets containing information on One Stop Crisis Centres, Suicide Helplines and other important issues which will also have a calendar for the respective year printed in the backside.
- vi. Sikkim SLSA would provide an official vehicle for the team conducting the awareness programmes in the Schools in East District. Similarly, the District Legal Services Authorities of other districts would provide vehicle to the teams conducting awareness programmes in Schools of their respective District. The Sikkim SLSA shall inform the respective Chairpersons of the DLSAs of the same.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the chair proposed by the Member Secretary, Sikkim SLSA.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

HIGH COURT LOK ADALAT:

S.No.	Date	Presided over by	Cases taken up	Cases Disposed of
1.	26.02.2021	Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.P. Subba, former Judge, High Court of Sikkim along with Mr. Kiran Kumar Rasaily and Mrs. Yangchen Ladingpa as "Other Persons"	05	NIL

REGULAR LOK ADALAT AT THE DISTRICT AND TALUK LEVEL DURING THE QUARTER JANUARY TO MARCH, 2021

DISTRICT LOK ADALAT (EAST) AT GANGTOK

No. of Lok Adalat held	Previous Pending	No. of cases received	Total	No. of cases settled	No. of cases returned	No. of cases pending
07	52	21	73	02	05	66

DISTRICT LOK ADALAT (WEST) AT GYALSHING

No. of Lok Adalat held	Previous Pending	No. of cases received	Total	No. of cases settled	No. of cases returned	No. of cases pending
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

DISTRICT LOK ADALAT (SOUTH) AT NAMCHI

No. of Lok Adalat held	Previous Pending	No. of cases received	Total	No. of cases settled	No. of cases returned	No. of cases pending
04	36	04	40	09	03	28

TALUK LOK ADALAT (NORTH) AT MANGAN

No. of Lok Adalat held	Previous Pending	No. of cases received	Total	No. of cases settled	No. of cases returned	No. of cases pending
Nil	Nil	01	01	Nil	Nil	01

TALUK LOK ADALAT (SOUTH) AT RAVANGLA

No. of Lok Adalat held	Previous Pending	No. of cases received	Total	No. of cases settled	No. of cases returned	No. of cases pending
02	05	05	10	02	04	04

TALUK LOK ADALAT (WEST) AT GYALSHING

No. of Lok Adalat held	Previous Pending	No. of cases received	Total	No. of cases settled	No. of cases returned	No. of cases pending
04	04	04	08	01	04	03

TALUK LOK ADALAT (WEST) AT SORENG

No. of Lok Adalat held	Previous Pending	No. of cases received	Total	No. of cases settled	No. of cases returned	No. of cases pending
Nil	Nil	03	03	Nil	Nil	03

LEGAL AID

Legal aid was provided to **255** beneficiaries by the Sikkim State Legal Services Authority during the quarter January to March, 2021.

Categories of beneficiaries are as under:

QUARTER	S.C.	S.T.	WOMEN	CHILD	UNDER TRIAL/DETAINED BY CUSTODY	GENERAL	DISABLED	SENIOR CITIZEN	TOTAL
January to March, 2021	06	20	125	09	58	14	Nil	23	255

**CASES BEFORE THE MEDIATION CENTRES, EAST DISTRICT AT GANGTOK,
SOUTH DISTRICT AT NAMCHI, WEST DISTRICT AT GYALSHING AND NORTH
DISTRICT AT MANGAN FROM JANUARY TO MARCH, 2021**

CENTRE	NO. OF MEDIATIONS HELD	NO. OF CASES TAKEN UP	NO. OF CASES SETTLED	NO. OF CASES RETURNED	NO. OF CASES PENDING
Mediation Centre (East) at District Court Complex, Sichey, East Sikkim	08	07	Nil	Nil	07
Mediation Centre (South) at District Court Complex, Namchi, South Sikkim	07	06	03	01	02
Mediation Centre (West) at Civil Court Complex, Gyalshing, West Sikkim	04	15	04	03	08
Mediation Centre (North) at Pentok, Mangan, North Sikkim	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

OTHER LEGAL AWARENESS PROGRAMMES

CONDUCTED BY	DATE	Name of the Programme
DLSA, East at Gangtok	15.03.2021	World Consumer Rights Day
DLSA, North at Mangan	15.03.2021	World Consumer Rights Day
DLSA, South at Namchi	15.03.2021	World Consumer Rights Day
DLSA, West at Gyalshing	15.03.2021	World Consumer Rights Day
Information on about the importance of this day were disseminated through Whatsapp Group.		