



# AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV

**A Pan India Awareness and  
Outreach Campaign**







# **State Legal Services Authority, West Bengal**

City Civil Court Building (1st Floor)  
2 & 3 Kiron Sankar Roy Road, Kolkata - 700 001  
033 - 2248 3892 / 4234



02.10.2021 - 14.11.2021



A Pan India Awareness and Outreach Campaign

**Activities of :**  
**State Legal Services Authority,**  
**West Bengal**  
**Under the Aegis of the**  
**National Legal Services Authority, New Delhi**



## **PREFACE**

*Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav*

On the occasion of India's 75th Independence day, the Government of India initiated a series of celebratory events to commemorate the progress, growth and remarkable development that India has earned. The programmes encapsulated within "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav" stand on six essential pillars corresponding to India's self-dependence, digital innovation, cultural legacy, resolve and celebration of lesser-known national heroes.

Under the rubric of "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav", the National Legal Services Authority with the Department of Justice, initiated a Pan-India event aimed at awareness and outreach. The central aim of the series of activities conducted between 02.10.2021 to 14.11.2021 was to spread consciousness and awareness among the people of India regarding the activities of the National Legal Services Authority and its respective State Legal Service Authorities.

The Pan-India Awareness and Outreach Campaign was inaugurated with a special ceremony held on 2nd October 2021 at Vigyan Bhawan, Delhi. The event was attended by the Hon'ble President of India, Sri Ram Nath Kovind, along with the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India Sri N.V. Ramana and Hon'ble Justice Uday Umesh Lalit, Supreme Court Judge and the Executive Chairperson of the National Legal Services Authority, India.

The activities conducted during the 45 days programme were to enlighten citizens regarding various governmental schemes, operations and free legal aid that they can avail themselves with their respective State Legal services departments. The outreach and awareness campaign adopted ingenious means and methods to ensure the widespread dissemination of its aims and objectives.

The National Legal Services Authority of India along with its various state departments are committed to ensuring that free legal aid reaches all eligible citizens of the country and to ensure that justice and fairness become major pillars of Indian society.



## **FOREWORD**

*Hon'ble Justice Uday Umesh Lalit*

To commemorate 75th year of India's independence and completion of 25 years of Legal Services in the country, a six-week long Pan India Legal Awareness and Outreach Campaign as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav launched by the National Legal Services Authority was inaugurated by the Hon'ble President of India on 2nd October, 2021.

The West Bengal State Legal Services Authority in collaboration with other stakeholders organised host of activities to make the people living in rural, remote and far-flung areas of the State aware of the availability of Legal Services through informative, educational, and communicational programmes.

The activities carried out during the Campaign have been documented and some of the important events are highlighted in the present report to showcase the strength, reach and vibrancy of the programme.

I congratulate the functionaries of the West Bengal State Legal Services Authority and all stakeholders who worked tirelessly to reach out to people in the State of West Bengal. My best wishes to Everyone.

**Hon'ble Justice Uday Umesh Lalit**

Judge, Supreme Court of India

Executive Chairperson,

National Legal Services Authority, India



## FOREWORD

*Hon'ble Justice Prakash Shrivastava*

The outreach programmes conducted by the State Legal Services Authority, West Bengal have been remarkable in their ingenuity and spirit. Keeping in tune with the theme of “Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav” which celebrates India’s fine legacy and history of Independence, the SLSA, W.B. initiated programmes that have spread the message of legal awareness in the remotest interiors of West Bengal. The outreach programmes and events have been successful in targeting areas that are not only physically remote but are also inhabited by certain vulnerable sections of Indian society in terms of economic, social and cultural deprivation.

The need for free legal aid for the marginalised and subaltern people comes from the deep-seated structural inequalities that exist in India. To traverse these boundaries and create the means for the Indian society to access the mechanism of justice, is the need of the hour. The SLSA, W.B. through the programmes conducted between 2.10.2021 – 14.11.2021, has shown considerable commitment to the above-mentioned cause.

The noble endeavour to cater to the legal necessity of an individual in a diversified panorama of India, even though cumbersome can be surmounted by unified effort and novel intention. The social responsibility, one has towards the downtrodden sections of society needs to be realised in a more concrete manner.

Thanking You

**Hon'ble Justice Prakash Shrivastava**

The Chief-Justice, High Court, Calcutta

Patron-in-Chief,

State Legal Services Authority, West Bengal





## FOREWORD

*Hon'ble Justice T.S. Sivagnanam*

The following newsletter/dossier is the product of a series of events organised by the State Legal Services Authority, West Bengal which conducted multiple events to commemorate the programme of “Azadi ka Mahotsav” in celebration of India’s 75th Independence Day.

The State Legal Services Authority of West Bengal is an office that works efficiently and tirelessly to ensure free legal aid to eligible citizens especially women and minorities in the country. As an office of justice, it is committed to serving and protecting the people of the country and providing the highest degree of help available to citizens.

The events conducted under the Pan-India awareness and outreach programme were varied and aimed at maximum exposure with respect to the working of SLSA, W.B. It included mobile vans, temporary kiosks at high exposure points, tireless volunteer work by all the Para Legal Volunteers of the Department and individual programmes across all twenty-two judicial districts that fall under West Bengal with the help of their respective District Legal Services Authority.

The assiduous work of the members of the local District Service Authorities and their volunteers ensured that the event was successful in its original aim. The challenges and pitfalls aside, the events organised to large public turnouts have been captured and presented in the following newsletter. It is my hope and belief that such work will be continued by the State Legal Services Authority, West Bengal and its respective District Legal Services Authorities with full support and cooperation as bestowed by the National Legal Services Authority, India.

Thanking You

**Hon'ble Justice T.S. Sivagnanam**

Judge, High Court, Calcutta

Executive Chairman,

State Legal Services Authority

West Bengal



# CONTENTS

- 01** *AWARENESS AND OUTREACH CAMPAIGNS*
- 04** *STATE LEVEL JUDICIAL EXHIBITION*
- 06** *CONDUCTION OF INTER-COLLEGE MOOT COURT COMPETITION*
- 07** *A LEGAL AWARENESS CAMP: A COLLABORATION WITH THE COMMONWEALTH HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE*
- 09** *KIOSKS AT RAILWAY STATIONS IN WEST BENGAL*
- 17** *AWARENESS AND OUTREACH PROGRAMMES IN THE DISTRICTS OF WEST BENGAL*
- 18** *DAKSHIN DINAJPUR*
- 22** *NADIA*
- 26** *COOCH BEHAR*
- 30** *HOOGHLY*
- 33** *UTTAR DINAJPUR*



# CONTENTS

**39** *BIRBHUM*

**43** *JHARGRAM*

**48** *BANKURA*

**52** *PURULIA*

**57** *NORTH 24-PARGANAS*

**64** *DARJEELING*

**68** *KALIMPONG*

**73** *SOUTH 24-PARGANAS*

**79** *JALPAIGURI*

**83** *MALDA*

**88** *MULTIPLE LEGAL AID CAMPAIGNS HELD AT VILLAGES*

**89** *ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE*



# CONTENTS

**90** *KOLKATA*

**95** *HOWRAH*

**99** *PASCHIM BARDHAMAN*

**104** *PURBA BARDHAMAN*

**108** *MURSHIDABAD*

**112** *PURBA MEDINIPUR*

**117** *PASCHIM MEDINIPUR*

**Awareness and  
Outreach  
Campaigns as  
organised by the  
State Legal Services  
Authority,  
West Bengal**

# WEST BENGAL

West Bengal is the 13th largest state in India with an expected GDP of over Rs. 15,10,762 Crore rupees for the year 2021-2022. The state is diverse in its geographical variations and the people it houses. The average population in West Bengal is estimated at around 9.13 crores with over 46 lakh men to 44 lakh women. The official languages used in the state include Bengali and English, however, multiple other languages are spoken in the state as well. These include Nepali, Urdu, Hindi, Odia, Rajbanshi, Punjabi, Kurmal and Hindi. The various languages used is indicative of the diverse groups of people that live in the state – the Bengalis being a majority. The minority groups that inhabit West Bengal include the Maithili community, the Marwaris, Nepali immigrants and various other groups.

West Bengal is known for its vibrant cultural, political and intellectual history and has emerged as one of the cornerstone states of India in terms of its artistic brilliance. Seen as the land of art and culture, the geographical variations in the state also stand to attest to its diversity. The Himalayan Hill Region, the Ganga delta, the Rarh region and the Coastal Sundarbans regions are found in West Bengal - making it the 7th most visited tourist destination in India.

The State of West Bengal has over 22 judicial districts. Approximately 31.87% of the population live in urban areas, the unemployment rate in West Bengal is 3.9% which is lower than the national average of 5.8%. The state has been home to eminent legal minds like C. R. Das, S.N. Banerjea, etc.

The ethos of the Indian Constitution rests on the *raison d'être* to make justice a reality for all Indian citizens. In the Indian Constitution, as enshrined under Article 14 - “The state shall not deny any person equality before law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India”, the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 was established to guarantee free legal aid to all. Those people who due to economic, political, or socio-cultural reasons, are not able to access the mechanism of judicial redressal and thus, remain hesitant to bring their problems to the fore are protected and patronized by this act.

The **National Legal Services Authority**, and under its aegis the **State Legal Services Authority, West Bengal** works tirelessly to achieve the original message as espoused in the Indian Constitution as well as to provide free legal aid for those people who are entitled to it by law. These include women, members of the scheduled tribes and groups, people affected by mass disasters, human trafficking, natural disasters, people in custodial homes and male citizens whose income is less than a lakh rupees a year.

The reality of India's society sadly stands to witness great inequality, while national development has been tremendous, those who benefit from it are few. The severe inequality results in the deprivation of certain sections of society that are subaltern and marginalised. The State Legal Services Authority, West Bengal works tirelessly to ensure that the message of free legal aid and all the schemes and provisions as introduced by the National Legal Services Authority, India are implemented with far-reaching impact.

Celebrating the occasion of India's 75th Independence Day – "**Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav**", the Pan-India awareness and outreach campaign, was crafted to ensure that the message of accessing free legal aid and free legal services were extended to the remotest corners of West Bengal – whether it was the tough mountainous terrains of the Darjeeling district or the backwaters of South-24 Parganas. The nexus of para-legal volunteers, panel lawyers, advocates and other office staff of the SLSA, W.B., were equally participant in the workings and functioning of multiple events that aimed at working to propagate the message of free legal aid for all.

# State Level Judicial Exhibition

*A Commemoration of 75  
years of Judicial Activism,  
Legal Aid and Progress in  
the Justice Delivery System*

The State Legal Services Authority, West Bengal organised a State Level Seminar with the full endorsement of the National Legal Services Authority, India to commemorate 75 years of tireless work done by the Judiciary with respect to Judicial Activism, Legal Aid and the continued progress shown in the delivery of Justice to the citizens of this country.

The event was organised on the **9th of November, 2021** on the Ground Floor of the Sesquicentenary Building, High Court, Calcutta.







The event was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Justice Prakash Srivastava, The Chief Justice Of Calcutta High Court and Patron-in-Chief of the State Legal Services Authority, West Bengal in the esteemed presence of the Hon'ble Justice T. S. Sivagnanam, Judge, High Court, Calcutta & Executive Chairman, State Legal Services Authority, West Bengal.



Those in presence included the respected Hon'ble Justice Soumen Sen, Judge, High Court, Calcutta & Chairman, Calcutta High Court Legal Services Committee, Mr. Raju Mukherjee, Member-Secretary, State Legal Services Authority, West Bengal, and other Hon'ble Judges of High Court, Calcutta.



# Conduction of Inter-College Moot Court Competition

The State Legal Services Authority, West Bengal organized an Inter College Moot Court Competition on the **9th and 10th of November 2021**, involving the students of some of the most imminent Law Colleges of West Bengal.

The event was the result of the wishes of the Hon'ble Justice Uday Umesh Lalit, Judge, Supreme Court of India & Executive Chairman, National Legal Services Authority, India to ensure that the awareness and outreach campaign could be spread amongst the students of the state to ascertain the commitment to judicial prudence.

The colleges that were invited and participated actively included West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences, Xavier Law School, Kolkata, Amity Law School, Kolkata, Heritage Law College, Kolkata, Rajiv Gandhi School of Intellectual Property Law, IIT Kharagpur and the Indian Institute of Legal Studies, Siliguri.

The agenda of the Moot Court was to simulate the hearings of an acid attack victim and the workings of according victim compensation to the Victims of Acid Attacks under the West Bengal Victim Compensation Scheme, 2007.

The Hon'ble Justice Ashim Kumar Roy, former Judge, High Court at Calcutta & Lokayukta of West Bengal was pleased to preside over the competition and enjoyed the spirited participation of all the young students. Manisha Das of Heritage Law College, Kolkata and Upashna Labar of Indian Institute of Legal Studies, Siliguri secured the first and second places respectively.

# A Legal Awareness Camp: A Collaboration with the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative



CHRI as a non-partisan body was effective in instilling in the inmates the confidence that their issues were valid and important enough to be heard by all. The organisation presented various informative posters that were displayed in the correctional home. The session ended with the documentation of the inmate's grievances by the PLVs to create a comprehensive report on the legal aid needs of the inmates and to ensure that swift action was followed through.

On **9th November 2021**, the State Legal Services Authority, West Bengal in collaboration with the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI), an independent, non-partisan, international non-government organisation that works to secure human rights for all, conducted a “Legal Awareness Campaign” at the Dum Dum Central Correctional Home. The collaborative event sought to address the grievances faced by the persons in the custody of the said correctional home with respect to the problems they face in accessing courts, lawyers, and their families.



The event commenced with an elaborate and meticulously detailed information session where the prisoners were provided with a comprehensive overview of the services provided by the SLSA, W.B.

The sensitization programme to ensure that all inmates of the correctional home were aware of their legal rights was followed by the active encouragement of the prisoners to share their experiences and grievances with the Para-Legal Volunteers (PLVs) and other legal aid authority members present there.



**Kiosks at  
Railway Stations in  
West Bengal:**

**Howrah Junction**  
**Sealdah Junction**  
**New Jalpaiguri**  
Junction  
**Asansol Junction &**  
**Kharagpur Junction**

The railways form the pulse of the country and are an essential part of the daily lives of a sizeable fraction of people in India. The use of railway stations for spreading legal awareness and legal aid was an ingenious and novel method adopted by the State Legal Services Authority, West Bengal.



**The Indian Railway network is considered to be the fourth largest transport network in the world carrying over 808.6 million people across the country in 2020 alone.**

Railway stations are an important focal point of travel for a large section of vulnerable people who travel in and out of areas in search of shelter, food and work. The central purpose of using railway stations as a strategic point for the awareness programmes was to ensure that the masses at large could be targeted.

All quadrants of the Indian railways with respect to their working out of the state of West Bengal were duly harnessed for the purpose of the Pan-India outreach campaigns in association with the Government of India.

The campaigns were carried out in the Eastern Railways division with kiosks and banners in Howrah station, Sealdah station, Asansol station and Kharagpur station. The Northwest Frontier Railway network was accessed through the setting up of kiosks and posters at New Jalpaiguri Station.

The kiosk was introduced as per the desire of the **Hon'ble Executive Chairman**, SLSA, W.B. and with the full guidance of the **Ld. Member Secretary**, SLSA, W.B.

The prime objective of the endeavour was to reach a larger base of people to offer legal aid and to create much-needed awareness regarding the services of the SLSA, W.B. department.

## Howrah Station

The creation of a mobile kiosk at one of the largest and busiest railway stations was undertaken by the department in lieu of the Pan-India outreach campaign. The kiosk at Howrah Station, Kolkata was set up with the intention of attracting the attention of the many people who not only reside in the metro city of Kolkata but come from nearly all the districts of West Bengal.



The estimated number of people who benefitted from the kiosk stands at **2520**.





## ***Sealdah and Asansol Station***

In association with the Eastern and South-Eastern Railways, a number of informative posters and banners were put up inside the compartment of trains. The estimated number of people who access these railway services stands at approximately 3.5 million commuters daily, making this one of the most lucrative endeavours to increase awareness about the SLSA, W.B. department.

## ***New Jalpaiguri Station***

The New Jalpaiguri Station is at a strategic location that connects major trade corridors in Eastern India. As part of the Northeast Frontier Railway services, the kiosk at New Jalpaiguri Station was seen as an effective mediatory tool by the passengers of the station. The PLVs present at the station engaged with multiple people and resolved disputes on spot, making matters easier for the judicial courts and the citizens alike.

The marginalised sections of society who remain largely unaware of free legal services were the intended target of the said programme. Through the complete and thorough utilisation of this Alternative Dispute Resolution System, a reduced docket creation at courts was also observed.

# Sealdah



# New jalpaiguri



# Kharagpur



# Asansol





## ***Kharagpur Station:***

The South Eastern Division in collaboration with the State Legal Services Authority, West Bengal and District Legal Services Authority, Paschim Medinipur established a kiosk at Kharagpur Railway Station where over 1295 people were helped with their cases instantly. The Kiosk was managed by the two PLVs. The kiosk was inaugurated on **02.10.2021** and emerged to be a vital point of awareness dissemination among the public.



The kiosks, in general, got an overwhelming response from the public at large, indicating a successful mission.

02.09.2022 – 14.11.2022

**Awareness and**

**Outreach**

**Programmes in the**

**Districts of West**

**Bengal**

# DAKSHIN DINAJPUR

The district emerges as a strategic cornerstone for West Bengal as it has three international borders with Bangladesh. The district is one of the most backward in the region and hence, required special care and attention to navigate.

The district has a population of approximately 16,76,276 people according to the 2011 Census of which the SC/ST population stood at 28.87% and 16.12% respectively. The society is largely agrarian with a large unorganised fishing community. Large scale industries remain absent with a few medium-sized industries in the district. The female workforce population is 25.14% which is lower than the national average. The district is severely underdeveloped and receives funding from the Backward Regions Grant Fund Programme.

The district scores lowly on the Human Development Index. Hence, a large portion of the population is blind to the benefits of legal aid and free legal services.

The Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav campaigns were instrumental in inculcating within the masses of Dakshin Dinajpur a sense of awareness pertaining to their legal rights and the services they are entitled to with the Legal Services Authority at the district level as well as the state level.

The District State Legal Services Authority, Dakshin Dinajpur was successful in carrying out the following campaigns aimed at the strategic dissemination of information related to free legal aid and services as enshrined in the Indian Constitution. The camps in question covered more than 1200 villages in the district and were as follows:

## **Legal Awareness Camps:**

Over 500 legal awareness campaigns were organized in the district over the course of two weeks. This was done by tapping into the existing networks of communication present in the district. The PLVs associated with the DLSA, Dakshin Dinajpur sensitized the masses to the problems of human trafficking, child marriage and child tracking. These are some of the most pertinent problems faced in the district. The camps were also vital in raising public awareness of legal rights and free legal services.

## **Door-To-Door Campaigns:**

The PLVs of the DLSA, Dakshin Dinajpur campaigned tirelessly for over two weeks to ensure that the message and objectives of the National Legal Services Authority reached the maximum number of people.

# DAKSHIN DINAJPUR

These campaigns were unique in their outreach as each door-to-door campaign not only undertook the arduous task of reaching interior villages in the district but also in covering certain villages up to three times in the cycle mentioned. The targeting of these vulnerable villages at the margin of the district was to ensure that no person was to be denied equal access to justice on account of poverty or socio-cultural deprivation. Over three villages were declared to be litigation free namely Uchhna, Sahananda, Minakuri.

## **Mobile Vans:**

The system of communication in the district of Dakshin Dinajpur remains on the underdeveloped side so the only plausible means of ensuring that the message of free legal aid and services reached even the most remote corners of the district was to utilise mobile vans, totos and e-rickshaws. This was done so in great numbers by the PLVs and used to the maximum advantage.

## **Legal Aid Clinics:**

Multiple legal aid clinics were established in the district to ensure immediate and rapid help to people in need. These clinics were managed by the PLVs associated with the DLSA and were effective in aiding a lot of citizens.

# DAKSHIN DINAJPUR







DAKSHIN DINAJPUR

# NADIA

The Nadia district of West Bengal is known for its rich legacy associated with the Bhakti movement in India. Its rich cultural history creates the unique charm that Nadia has. The district predominantly speaks Bengali with a spattering of Hindu and Sadri speakers. The district has approximately 51,67,601 people and the SC/ST population is 29.93% and 2.72% respectively as per the Census 2011.

Nadia is known for the beautiful temple associated with the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKON) at Mayapur. The district remains on the lower end of socio-economic development and has a sizeable population that lives in the subalterns of society.

## **Legal Camps:**

The District Legal Services Authority, Nadia along with a close crop of panel advocates, judicial officers, para-legal volunteers, district administrative officers, social workers and NGO activists conducted over 30 camps in the districts. The camps addressed various schemes and policies introduced by NALSA. The target audience was the vulnerable sections of society including women, slum dwellers and unorganised labourers – those people who do not have ready access to the judicial process.

## **Mobile Vans:**

Multiple motor vehicles, vans and rickshaws were used to distribute flyers, pamphlets, booklets etc which were instrumental in creating awareness among the people in the district.

## **Door-To-Door Campaigns:**

Over 1216 villages were covered under the door-to-door campaigns conducted by the PLVs associated with the DLSA, Nadia. The PLVs visited individual houses and made people aware of the free and competent legal services they are entitled to under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.

## **Legal Aid Clinics:**

The district of Nadia has over 10 legal aid clinics that give every citizen the option of accessing counselling and mediation facilities free of cost.

# NADIA

## **Special Events:**

- Several Legal Aid Awareness campaigns were conducted in association with the ISKON temple at Mayapur which helped a sizeable number of people.
- The use of Legal Aid Awareness Stall at the Kalyani Luminous Club & Kalyani Byabasi Samiti.
- Various legal aid clinics were set up with different Kali Puja Pandals, Durga Puja Pandals and Jagadhatri Puja Pandal that took place in the district to ensure that the message of legal aid and awareness reaches those who visited the pandals and many people were helped in the process.





NADIA





NADIA

# COOCH BEHAR

The district of Cooch Behar is smaller than most districts in West Bengal and the population stands at approximately 28,19,086 people. The district remains economically on a stronger foothold than other districts, one of the important reasons for this is the presence of a large Border Security Forces department in the district. The district shares an international border with Bangladesh and hence, has strategic significance for West Bengal.

The language largely spoken in the district is Kamtapuri and the district houses a Hindu majority population that stands at 76.44%. The second most populous group in the district are Muslims standing at 23.34%. The region has severe socio-economic disparity which places a generous section of the people in the throes of vulnerability and marginality.

The programmes conducted under the “Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav” were important in enlightening the people of Cooch Behar. The programmes conducted include:

## **Legal Awareness Camps**

The legal awareness camps were conducted across the remotest villages of Cooch Behar. These camps played a vital role in inculcating within the common people a sense of awareness with respect to legal aid and services as offered by the State Legal Services Authority and District Legal Services Authority. These campaigns were held in over 1200 villages with more than 600 villages being covered at least twice.

## **Mobile Vans**

The use of mobile vans was essential in distributing leaflets and flyers related to the work of the SLSA, WB and the DLSA, Cooch Behar. The use of cars, rickshaws and motorcycles fitted with microphones was a major source of awareness creation in the district.

## **Door-To-Door Campaigns**

The PLVs associated with the DLSA, Cooch Behar had an essential part to play in promoting the benefits of legal aid and schemes and making the ordinary citizens of Cooch Behar aware of their rights. The PLVs went from house to house in the district and spoke to all members of society. The language adopted was simplified to make comprehension easier.

# COOCH BEHAR

## **Legal Aid Clinics**

The district of Cooch Behar saw over 658 legal aid clinics held across the district. These clinics were strategically tied to Correctional Homes and other such centres to ensure maximum output.

## **Special Events**

- Mental Health Day was observed with the conduction of a sensitization programme with the inmates of Baharampur Mental Hospital.
- On International Day of the Girl Child, October 11th, a sensitization programme was conducted where the issues of women and children were addressed in particular.
- A nexus of Puja Pandals were used to spread the message of legal aid and free counselling to the people where stalls were installed and multiple flyers, brochures and booklets were distributed.
- A massive legal awareness campaign was conducted with the help of the National Commission for Women. The Chilkirat Gram Panchayat was involved in the programme. Gender was the theme of the programme with its focus mostly on women.



# COOCH BEHAR







COOCH BEHAR

# HOOGHLY

The district of Hooghly has an approximate population of over 55,19,145 people of which the SC/ST population stands at 24.35% and 4.15% respectively. The district is one of the most developed districts of West Bengal with high levels of male and female literacy as observed in the 2011 Census.

The district is known for jute cultivation and the consequent jute industry that developed prior to independence in the district. Being one of the most developed industrial districts of West Bengal it is home to one of the largest motor factories in India – the Hindustan Motors Factory. However, while economically prosperous, the benefit of development remains unequally distributed and thus, there are a sizeable number of people who require the services of the National Legal Services Authority, the State Legal Services Authority and the District Services Authority.

The Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav campaign was carried out with robustness and great pragmatism by the District Services Authority, Hooghly and their staff which included PLVs, panel advocates and office staff among others. The activities were to ascertain that all those who require the services provided by the Legal Services Authority are fully aware of their rights and seek them out actively. The campaigns conducted as part of the two-week campaign drive were as follows:

## **Legal Awareness Camps**

The District Legal Services Authority, Hooghly conducted a legal awareness camp in a remote village called Birendranagar in adherence to the module laid down by the National Legal Services Authority, India. The camp was preceded by the distribution of several pamphlets and flyers in the district. The camp was aimed at sensitizing the SC/ST population and tribal communities in the area. The vulnerability of these communities with respect to access to the proper mechanisms of judicial redressal remains alarmingly low hence, the camp was an important step to raise awareness about free legal aid and services that they are entitled to.

## **Door-To-Door Campaigns**

The Door-To-Door campaigns were carried out across the district with the distribution of booklets, flyers, and leaflets to ensure that the information on free legal services and aid. The tenacity of the DLSA and its volunteers were visible when they traversed diverse weather conditions like flooding and ensured that their campaigns were carried out. Boats were used to carry out campaigns at Arambagh, Goghat and Khanakul, all blocks that were affected by severe floods.

# HOOGHLY

## Mobile Vans

The campaigns carried out by the department used multiple vans, cars, and totos. Personal motorbikes and cycles were used to navigate terrains where the roads were not developed enough to sustain the movement of larger cars.

## Door-To-Door Campaigns

The Door-To-Door campaigns were carried out across the district with the distribution of booklets, flyers, and leaflets to ensure that the information on free legal services and aid. The tenacity of the DLSA and its volunteers was visible when they traversed diverse weather conditions like flooding and ensured that their campaigns were carried out. Boats were used to carry out campaigns at Arambagh, Goghat and Khanakul, all blocks that were affected by severe floods.

## Activities with a special focus

- World Mental Health Day was celebrated on 10.10.2021 where a legal awareness campaign was held with the Chandannagar Mental Health Home.
- An awareness programme with differently-abled inmates of the *Serampore Cheshire Home* via a legal awareness camp was held on 02.10.2021
- Celebration of the International Day of the Girl Child with the CNCP inmates of *Janashikha Prochar Kendra* on 11.10.2021 was done.
- The observation of World Students' Day on 15.10.2021 with the students of George School of Law, Konnagar saw very enthusiastic participation.
- Multiple pamphlet distribution schemes at various prominent locations including Chandernagore Strand, Baba Tarakhnath Dham and multiple Durga Puja pandals.
- Addressing Gender and LGBTQAI+ issues, a special event was held with the transgender community in association with *Anandam* – a local Non-Governmental Organisation and an awareness campaign in association with National Commission for Women, Asha workers, civic volunteers and civil defence employees.





# UTTAR DINAJPUR

The district of Uttar Dinajpur is one of the smaller districts in West Bengal with a population of over 30,07,134 people. The SC/ST population is 26.8% and 5.4% respectively. The main language spoken in the district is Bengali followed by Surjapuri, Urdu, Santhali, Hindi and Rajbanshi. Uttar Dinajpur shares an international boundary with Bangladesh.

The district is one of the least economically developed districts in West Bengal and a considerable number of the people in the district are extremely vulnerable and require assistance. The socio-economic conditions of the district, the absence of large-scale industrial profiles in the district and the largely agrarian population are reasons for the economic backwardness faced by Uttar Dinajpur. The district has sprawling bird sanctuaries and an abundance of temples that make for attractive tourist destinations.

The pan-India Outreach and Awareness campaigns as organised under the “Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav” were of great value for the district of Uttar Dinajpur as the population was in dire need of the sensitization endeavours as envisioned and carried out from 02.09.2021 – 14.11.2021. The camps, legal aid clinics, and the availability of panel advocates to settle minor issues were of great benefit to the people of Uttar Dinajpur. The activities undertaken are briefly reiterated below:

## **Legal Camps**

The District Legal Services Authority, Uttar Dinajpur conducted over 160 awareness programmes in the district from 02.09.2021 to 14.11.2021. The camps aimed to cover the services and schemes related to legal services. They were extensive in their agenda and addressed free legal aid, Lok Adalat, Mediation processes, Victim Compensation etc. The camps also distributed necessary flyers and brochures to the people present.

## **Door-To-Door Campaigns**

The door-to-door campaigns organised for the pan India outreach programmes were highly instrumental in warranting that every person in the district of Uttar Dinajpur was thoroughly exposed to the various schemes, scopes, workings and provisions provided by the DLSA, Uttar Dinajpur. The campaigns were carried out by the PLVs attached with the DLSA and other associated resource people. These campaigns largely used vernacular languages so that comprehension would be thorough at the receiver’s end. Each leaflet distributed was explained in clear terms so that awareness among the people could be maximized.



# UTTAR DINAJPUR

## **Mobile Vans**

The DLSA, Uttar Dinajpur deputed multiple mobile vans fixed with proper microphones to spread awareness among the people. The theme song of NALSA was played and various recordings detailing the contact information of the DLSA, its programmes and schemes were announced. These mobile vans were used in every gram panchayat and were managed by a PLV to ensure ceaseless execution.

## **Legal Aid Clinics**

Numerous Legal aid clinics were set up throughout the district with the sole intention of allowing people to understand the provisions of free legal aid and services that they are entitled to. Targeting vulnerable sections of society, these clinics played a crucial role in guaranteeing that justice reaches every person irrespective of their economic, social, cultural and political standing.

## **Special Events**

- UN Day was observed on 24.10.2021 where a legal awareness campaign was conducted that saw over 230 people benefit from the programme. This was done to honour the spirit of the United Nations that strives to ensure equality among all people globally.
- Children's Day was observed on 14.11.2021 with the inmates of the Suryadaya Children's Home for Deaf and Dumb Boys and Girls. The programme was conducted with full success.
- To address the issues faced by women in contemporary society, a sensitisation programme was conducted with the National Commission for Women. The programme included the presence of various NGOs, women's advocates, women's police personnel and other government officials. The central aim of the programme was to ensure that the most pertinent issues relating to women and the schemes in the interest of women were discussed in detail with all present. The language used was simplified to ensure better comprehension by the crowd. The programme ended with a question/answer section to appease the doubts raised.

# UTTAR DINAJPUR

- A Road Safety and Accident detailed camp was held with various NGOs, other entities like insurance companies, St. John's Ambulance services etc. The awareness campaign was essential in addressing road safety and safe sex measures among truckers and drivers. The campaign was integral in raising awareness along multiple lines and was successful in its original aim. HIV tests were also conducted among the truck drivers present.
- Legal Services Day, 2021 was conducted with a mega seminar/camp with the participation of over 50 individuals. The seminar reiterated the schemes, provisions and services of the State Legal Services Authority, West Bengal and District Legal Services Authority, Uttar Dinajpur in great detail.



UTTAR DINAJPUR



# UTTAR DINAJPUR







UTTAR DINAJPUR

# BIRBHUM

Birbhum is one of the largest districts in West Bengal. It has over 2400 villages with an approximate population of 35,02,404 according to the Census, 2011. Birbhum, known as the land of red soil, is a culturally vibrant district with a significant presence of folk and other indigenous forms of art, dance and aesthetics. The district patronizes different art forms like jatra, kavigan and alkap.

The district has a sizeable SC/ST population which stands at 29.5% and 6.7%. The rural population is at 92% and the tribal population is 88%. The district has a Hindu majority with a Muslim minority at 37%. The minority population mostly resides in the rural areas and is not privy to the benefits that the state provides. They remain alienated from the rest of society to a large extent.

The socio-economic development in Birbhum is highly divisive creating one section in the society that has prospered while leaving certain sections of the society impoverished. The masses in the district are largely underdeveloped and uneducated which stands in direct contrast to the fact that the district is host to one of the largest universities in India.

The sensitization programmes carried out during the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to make the common people aware of the free and competent legal services they are entitled to, were imperative in the district given the high rates of human trafficking, missing children, disparate gender conditions between men and women.

The events conducted between 02.10.2021 – 14.11.2021 are briefly reiterated below:

## **Legal Camps**

The district of Birbhum conducted over 10,618 legal camps in the district deploying people to the deepest parts of the village across 2,469 villages. These camps were extremely important for the people of the district as the sensitization levels remain relatively low. The approximate number of people impacted by these programmes was 24,44,040.

## **Mobile Vans**

Multiple mobile vans were used to cover over 2469 villages where teams of over 35 PLVs and 12 resource people interacted with over 41,09,190 people in the district over the course of two weeks.

# BIRBHUM

## Legal Aid Clinics

Over 22 Legal aid clinics were established with more than 2,30,980 people being helped. These clinics emerged as a major avenue of redressal and outside court settlements. The clinics were an excellent example of the benefits that the State Legal Services Authority, West Bengal and the District Legal Services, Birbhum can do for the people of the district.

## Special Events

- Three of the district's railway stations had legal awareness desks set up with the aim of targeting the remotest areas of the district. The stations were Suri, Bolpur, and Rampurhat.
- Concerning issues of missing children, women's rights and the appropriate rehabilitation and recovery of victims were addressed in detail as these are some of the problems that affect the district greatly. The National Commission of Women in association with NALSA got together all the female leaders of Birbhum to help spread legal awareness among people. Those present included the district magistrate, district collector of Suri, multiple IPS officers Suri, the district officer, the Teacher-In-Charge, Bengal Law College, Shantiniketan, the learned Retainer Advocate, DLSA Birbhum, Lady Counsellor, Suri Sardar Hospital.
- World Health Day was observed with mentally ill inmates from *Swadher Greh*. They were assisted and sensitized to the benefits they could avail themselves.
- On United Nations' Day, 24th October – a legal awareness programme called "Empowerment of the Poor" was held where issues of eradication of poverty and inequality were addressed.
- A Sit and Draw Competition was organised among the children to try and sensitize them to the world of legal aid and social justice. Handicapped children were part of the event and participated enthusiastically.



# BIRBHUM







# BIRBHUM

# JHARGRAM

The district of Jhargram was formed on 4th April 2017 and has an approximate population of over 11,37,163 people. The district has large tracts of forests and a significant rural population of over 96.5%. The district is a popular tourist destination known for its ancient temples, royal palaces and the Sal Forest. The district enjoys vibrant fairs and carnivals and has a sizeable cultural presence. Jhargram has a Hindu majority population. The Muslim minority only constitutes 2.46% of the population. The languages spoken in the district are Bengali, Santali, Mundari, and Kurmali.

The Industrial profile of the district is abysmal and scanty. The inequalities of development are visible. The district has faced severe law and order problems in the past as it was a Maoist infiltrated district. Once a major part of the Red Corridor of India, the district of Jhargram does have socio-economic problems that need immediate addressing.

The State Legal Services Authority, West Bengal and the District Legal Services, Jhargram, devised outreach programmes keeping in mind the complexities of the district and the pertinent problems faced by the people residing there. The programmes were extremely important for the people of the district as they remain unaware of the schemes and parameters of free legal aid and counselling. Jhargram represents one of those districts that used ingenious methods of introducing legal aid to the farthest parts of the district.

The main events of the Pan-India Awareness and Outreach Programme are as follows:

## **Legal Camps**

800 camps were conducted over two weeks from 02.10.2021 to 14.11.2021. These camps worked in creating awareness amongst people with respect to the various schemes, policies and provisions of pro-bono legal aid and counselling as provided by the SLSA, W.B. and DLSA, W.B.

## **Mobile Vans**

To ensure that the message of free legal aid and counselling reached the remotest corners of Jhargram, two mobile vans were used. The mobile vans equipped with microphones and flyers covered all 2513 villages of the district.

# JHARGRAM

## **Door-To-Door Campaigns**

All the villages of Jhargram were covered under the door-to-door campaigns where PLVs associated with DLSA ensured that every household in the said villages was aware and enlightened about the functioning of the Legal Services Authority. 4 villages were recognized as litigation free villages.

## **Legal Aid Clinics**

The district of Jhargram settled multiple disputes and pre-litigation cases with the help of various legal clinics organised in the district. The disputes settled greatly reduced the burden of the courts and the people.

## **Special Events**

- The District Legal Services Authority, Jhargram implemented a leaflet and flyer distribution campaign at all the prominent bus stands in the district to spread general awareness among the public on legal aid.
- A mega legal awareness camp was conducted at the Vivekananda Memorial Institute's Ground at Binpur. The camp saw over 2500 participants and over 1500 beneficiaries. Multiple unorganised workers were registered at the e-shram, people without Aadhar Cards were registered on the spot for the cards, life certificates were issued, zero-balance accounts were created by local banks who were present during the camp, multiple new LPG cylinder gas connections were also made for multiple people in the audience under the Ujjwal Scheme.
- The National Commission for Women in association with the District Legal Services Authority, Jhargram conducted a programme titled "Empowerment of Women through Legal Awareness" at Bachurdoba Town Hall. The event was attended by over 350 people including over 200 women and 150 men.
- A legal awareness camp was held at Jhargram Railway Station which benefited over 400 people.
- A legal awareness camp at Fenko Hatt, Gopiballavpur saw a massive turnover with over 9000 people. The camp was integral in raising awareness amongst the people of Jhargram.

# JHARGRAM

- One of the most important initiatives taken by the district of Jhargram was the conduction of a fortnight Lok Adalat where over 104 criminal cases were heard and settled.
- Legal awareness camps were also held at colleges, petrol camps, bus stands to reach ordinary people who remain unknowing of legal aid. Over 1800 people benefitted from these camps.



# JHARGRAM







JHARGRAM

# BANKURA

The district of Bankura remains a largely rural district. The population as recorded in the 2011 census is around 1,37,386 people. The rural population is 91.7% and the urban population at 8.3%. The district has many well-known tourist destinations including splendid temples, the Mukutmanipur Dam, Jhilimili natural forests. The literacy rate of Bankura is 70.26%. Male literacy remains higher than female literacy at 80.05% and 60.05% respectively.

The district is one of the most backward districts of West Bengal which sees low industrialisation and an extremely high dependence on agriculture. The handloom and handicraft industry are moderately developed and is one of the things the Bankura district is famous for. The languages spoken in the district include Bengali, Santali, and Kurmali Thar. The SC/ST population stands at 17.7% and 20.1% according to the 2011 census.

The low levels of industrial development and growth have resulted in disparate economic benefits in the district. As symptomatic of development in India, the benefits of development remain uneven.

The State Legal Services Authority, West Bengal and the District Legal Services Authority, Bankura conducted multiple camps and clinics to spread the message of legal aid and awareness among the people of Bankura. The following events were conducted from 2.10.2021 to 14.11.2021.

The events conducted are briefly mentioned below:

## **Legal Awareness Camps**

Several legal awareness camps were organised throughout the district of Bankura to perpetuate the messages of free legal aid and counselling. The camps were accompanied by the distribution of pamphlets and by answering all questions possible.

## **Legal Aid Clinics**

The district of Bankura established multiple legal aid clinics in the district to assist the people with a host of issues.

# BANKURA

## **Door-To-Door Campaigns**

The PLVs associated with the DLSA, Bankura covered over 3,000 villages in the district. The door-to-door campaigns were essential to promote the message of the legal services authority and to make people aware of their right to legal aid.

## **Mobile Vans**

The DLSA, Bankura used a mobile van to cover over 500 villages in the district. The mobile van was an attractive means of getting the attention of people. The van in use was equipped with a microphone, pamphlets, banners and a huge flex decorated the exterior of the van making it easier to spot and pay attention to.

## **Special Events**

- The DLSA, Bankura shot a documentary and screened the said documentary on the 8th of October 2021. The documentary titled “Access to Justice for All” was an illuminating film documenting the work of the DLSA emphasizing the benefits of free legal aid the services provided by the DLSA.
- The International Day of the Girl Child was celebrated. The celebration balanced work and fun. Whilst spreading the message of legal aid and counselling, the female students of the Legal Literacy Club were also taken pandal hopping. The event was presided over by the learned Panel Advocates Ankita Ghosh and Soumi Chakraborty.
- Collaborating with the National Commission for Women, the DLSA, Bankura organised a special event for women. The event took place at the Santore gram panchayat, Ouda block. The event addressed the various provisions made by the Constitution of India towards women and how the legal services Authorities can help release them. More than 60 women participated.
- World Student’s Day was observed with a webinar on 15th October 2021.
- A special programme called “Justice for All” was held on 14th October 2021 where legal aid clinics across 40 puja pandals were set up during the festival of Durga Puja.



# BANKURA



**Access to Justice**  
**for all**





BANKURA

# PURULIA

Purulia forms one of the smaller districts of West Bengal. The population of the district is approximately 29,30,115 people according to the Census 2011. 83.80% of this population is rural in nature. The industrial presence of steel and cement forms the backbone of the district. The district is known for its attractive tourist destinations like Ajodhya Hills, Matha, Murguma Dam, Kuilapal Forests, Jaychandi Pahar, Panchakote Raj and Duarsini Hills.

The district has disparate socio-economic conditions and Purulia remains one of the most backward districts in West Bengal. The SC/ST population of the district is 19.37% and 18.45%. The vulnerable sections of society remain unaware and unknowing of the various schemes and provisions of legal. Purulia is known for India's first solar town – Pandri.

The events undertaken by the District Legal Services Authority, Purulia during the Pan-India Awareness and Outreach Campaign are briefly summarised below:

## **Legal Awareness Camps**

Legal Awareness Camps were held at more than 350 talukas in Purulia. These camps were crucial and served as an excellent medium through which the various provisions and schemes of the National Legal Services Authority were communicated to the public of the district who otherwise remain oblivious to the work and benefits of the Legal Services Authorities.

## **Door-To-Door Campaigns**

Continuing in line with the agenda of the Pan-India awareness and outreach programmes, the district of Purulia undertook multiple door-to-door campaigns where PLVs and other resource people interacted with multiple households and made people aware of the functioning of the benefits of free legal aid and counselling.

## **Mobile Vans**

The district of Purulia used multiple mobile vans to reach the farthest corners of the district. Since a major portion of Purulia's population resides in rural areas, the use of mobile vans was most useful as they could infiltrate the terrain with ease. The use of a big flex on the van and the attached audio propagation taking place attracted many people.

# PURULIA

Purulia forms one of the smaller districts of West Bengal. The population of the district is approximately 29,30,115 people according to the Census 2011. 83.80% of this population is rural in nature. The industrial presence of steel and cement forms the backbone of the district. The district is known for its attractive tourist destinations like Ajodhya Hills, Matha, Murguma Dam, Kuilapal Forests, Jaychandi Pahar, Panchakote Raj and Duarsini Hills.

The district has disparate socio-economic conditions and Purulia remains one of the most backward districts in West Bengal. The SC/ST population of the district is 19.37% and 18.45%. The vulnerable sections of society remain unaware and unknowing of the various schemes and provisions of legal. Purulia is known for India's first solar town – Pandri.

The events undertaken by the District Legal Services Authority, Purulia during the Pan-India Awareness and Outreach Campaign are briefly summarised below:

## **Legal Awareness Camps**

Legal Awareness Camps were held at more than 350 talukas in Purulia. These camps were crucial and served as an excellent medium through which the various provisions and schemes of the National Legal Services Authority were communicated to the public of the district who otherwise remain oblivious to the work and benefits of the Legal Services Authorities.

## **Door-To-Door Campaigns**

Continuing in line with the agenda of the Pan-India awareness and outreach programmes, the district of Purulia undertook multiple door-to-door campaigns where PLVs and other resource people interacted with multiple households and made people aware of the functioning of the benefits of free legal aid and counselling.

## **Mobile Vans**

The district of Purulia used multiple mobile vans to reach the farthest corners of the district. Since a major portion of Purulia's population resides in rural areas, the use of mobile vans was most useful as they could infiltrate the terrain with ease. The use of a big flex on the van and the attached audio propagation taking place attracted many people.



# PURULIA

## **Legal Aid Clinics**

Over 129 legal aid clinics were established in Purulia where people were assisted with immediate help. The estimated number of people that accessed these clinics were substantial. The clinics also served as centres for spreading awareness about free legal aid and services.

## **Special events**

- The District Legal Services Authority, Purulia organised a legal awareness camp with children who got orphaned due to the Covid pandemic.
- Around 9 legal awareness stalls were set up with the local puja pandals during Durga Puja in Purulia. These stalls were strategically placed at locations that saw the most footfall ensuring a wider audience.
- A collaborative event was held with the National Commission for Women to spread legal awareness among women relating to the rights and benefits they enjoy.
- Legal Awareness stalls were set up at various Kali Puja pandals throughout the district. The stalls attracted many visitors due to the nature of their location. Pamphlets and flyers were distributed.
- Mental Health Day was celebrated with the inmates of the Mental Care Institute Purulia.
- A special Lok Adalat was held on 9th October 2021 at the District Judge's Court Compound at the ADR Building Purulia. Over 290 cases were heard and 90 were settled.

# PURULIA







PURULLIA

# NORTH 24-PARGANAS

The North 24-Parganas is the largest district of West Bengal with an estimated population of over 1,00,09,781 according to the Census conducted in 2011. The district ranks third in the state in terms of human development according to the West Bengal Human Development Report, 2004. Bengali, Hindi and Urdu are some of the major languages spoken in the district.

The district forms the heart of the Ganga-Brahmaputra Delta and multiple rivers flow through the district like the Hooghly, Ichhamati, Jamuna and Bidyadhari. This network of rivers has led a substantial fishing community to emerge in the region which forms a major part of the economic activities taking place in the district. Other activities include farming and cultivation.

The district is one of the more prosperous areas in the state. However, the benefit of economic development is concentrated mostly in the northern part of the district leaving the Southern part in conditions of deprivation and poverty. The Sundarbans area in the southern part of North 24-Parganas is a mangrove forest area present in the delta of the Padma, Brahmaputra and Meghna rivers. The region suffers from great natural calamities and is economically backward.

The people of North-24 Parganas are thus, divided along prosperity and deprivation. The State Legal Services Authority, West Bengal and District Legal Services Authority, North 24-Parganas worked consistently to ensure that the services and aid provided by them are spread to all corners of the district as part of the “Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav” outreach programme. The events undertaken in the district are as follows:

## **Legal Awareness Camps**

A series of legal awareness camps were conducted by the DLSA, North 24-Parganas. These camps mostly concentrated on slum areas and remote rural villages to target the most deprived sections of society. Over 1500 villages in the district were covered from 02.10.2021 to 14.11.2021. Gram panchayats were included in the campaigns and women’s rights were greatly focused on.

## **Mobile Vans**

A series of mobile vans were used to spread awareness among the people of the district. The schemes of NALSA and SLSA, W.B. were publicized with the help of LED screens and tableaus. The Chetona Sathi was used along with e-rickshaws or Totos, vans and motorcycles for the awareness campaigns.



# NORTH 24-PARGANAS

## **Door-To-Door Campaigns**

1599 villages were covered by the PLVs of North-24 Parganas were pamphlets, booklets and flyers outlining the work of NALSA and SLSA, W.B. was used. Over 400 villages were covered twice, and 50 villages were covered thrice as part of this endeavour.

## **Legal Aid Clinics**

Legal aid clinics were posted across the district to help people with immediate and swift results throughout the district. Panel advocates, PLVs and other staff were an integral part of these clinics.

## **Special Events**

- Targeting major areas of commuting which sees a massive footfall on a daily basis, the DLSA, North 24-Parganas established legal awareness camps at prominent railways stations and ferry ghats. These stations were the Thakurnagar station, the Bangoan Junction ferry ghat, the Bhasila station, the Gobarbanga and Lebutala stations. These points are used by travellers from the remotest point of the district and hence were of significant strategic value.
- On 13th November 2021 a Legal Aid System Exhibition was held at the ADR Centre, Zilla Adalat Bhawan at the Sodepur BDO.
- In collaboration with the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) Legal Services Day was observed at the Dum Dum Correctional Home on the 9th of November 2021.
- The Dum Dum Metro station which is one of the busiest junctions in the district was used to conduct a legal awareness camp where pamphlets, flyers and booklets to raise awareness levels among the people.
- Local trains were targeted, pamphlets were distributed in compartments of the local trains and flyers were put up in Bengali and English to get the attention of the huge number of people who avail these train facilities.
- The inmates of Sukanya Home for Girls were taken Pandal hopping on the International Day of the Girl Child. While having fun, the provisions of legal aid were discussed at length.

# NORTH 24-PARGANAS

- The events of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav were closed with a ceremony and the celebration of Children's Day with the inmates of the Nijoloy Home and Dhrubashram Home at Basirhat sub-division on the 14th of November. Multiple rallies were held by the PLVs, and legal awareness camps were conducted throughout the district.
- The district organised an exhibition on the 9th of November showcasing the illustrious past of the judiciary since Independence. The exhibition was an important endeavour as it displayed the working of the District Legal Services Authority, North 24 Parganas tireless work and the Indian Judiciary's dedication to the quest for justice.

# NORTH 24 PARGANAS







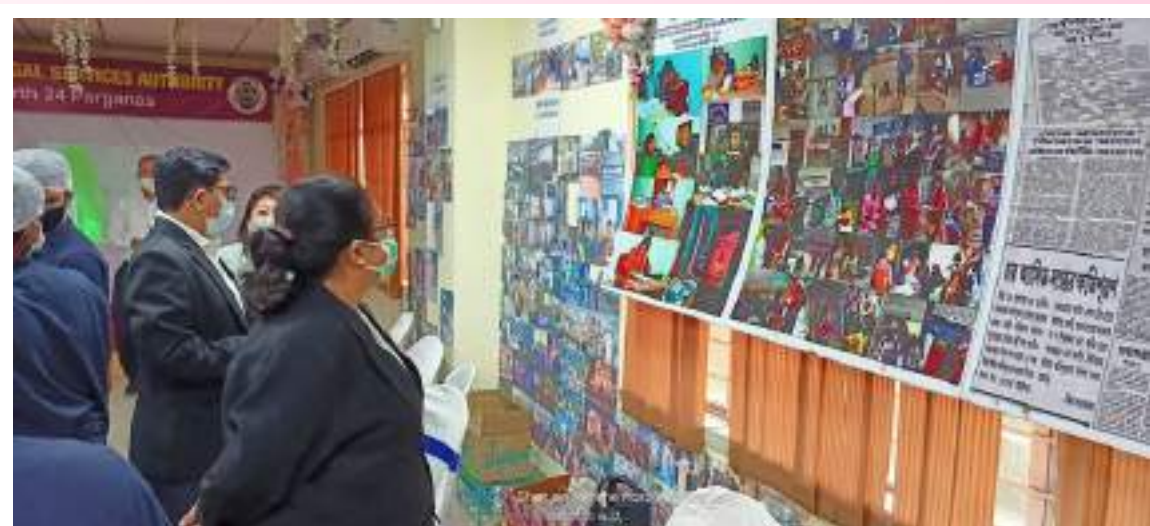
NORTH 24 PARGANAS



# NORTH 24 PARGANAS







# NORTH 24 PARGANAS

# DARJEELING

The district of Darjeeling is a hill station with deep colonial roots. Created as a retreat and strategic military point in the Eastern part of India, Darjeeling referred to as the “Queen of the Hills”, is a picturesque place known for its splendid beauty and warm people. The approximate population in the district is 1,20,414 according to the 2011 Census conducted by the government of India. The major language spoken in the district is Nepali and English followed by Tibetan, Hindi, and Bengali.

A major portion of Darjeeling’s revenue comes from tourism and tea. The socio-economic progress has been limited and the hilly terrain of the district makes it difficult to access. The main economic activities in the region include agriculture, animal husbandry, horticulture, tourism and tea cultivation. The district has seen many instances of social unrest and agitations to address the developmental challenges of the district.

The district of Darjeeling has a multi-ethnic and tribal diaspora which included the Indian Gorkha communities like the Chettris, Thakuris, Bahuns, Gurungs, Kamis, Damai, Tamangs, Newars, Thami, Sherpa, Yalmo. Other communities include Bhutias, Rais, Limbus, Yakkhas, Tibetans, the Han Chinese, Biharis, and Anglo-Indians.

The district of Darjeeling has faced socio-economic deprivation since colonial times and remains backwards to date. The geographical feature of the area makes it difficult to navigate. Prone to natural disasters like landslides and severe flooding, all activities in the district under the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav was carried out with utmost precision. The District Legal Services Authority, Darjeeling took sufficient measures to ensure that the activities were carried out well. The programmes and campaigns undertaken are briefly reiterated below:

## **Legal Awareness Campaigns**

The District Legal Services, Darjeeling conducted multiple legal awareness camps in the district. The issues related to the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act; schemes for Senior Citizens, people with disabilities, women’s rights, and other measures and programmes were discussed at length.

## **Door-To-Door Camps**

Around 14 Para Legal Volunteers from Darjeeling were recruited to cover every village in Darjeeling to spread the message of legal awareness and to ensure that the message of free legal services reached even the most remote corner of the district. Loudspeakers were used during these campaigns, leaflets, booklets and pamphlets were distributed.



# DARJEELING

## **Legal Aid Clinics**

Multiple legal aid clinics were established in Darjeeling with the intention of operationalising all the provisions of the Legal Services Authority and providing necessary services to people.

## **Mobile Vans**

The hilly terrain of Darjeeling is difficult to navigate. The roads are not as developed and, in some areas, it is even dangerous to drive large vehicles. Despite such conditions, the DLSA, Darjeeling used two mobile vans to cover more than 100 villages in the district not once but twice to spread awareness amongst the people. A conservative estimate states that over 2 lakh people were reached from 02.10.2021 to 14.11.2021 during these campaigns.

## **Special Events**

- The Ghoom Bhaniyang Community Hall was used to conduct a legal awareness camp with Smt. Jaynati Dewan, Principal and Smt. Indira Shah in the presence of other eminent people on 13th November 2021. The camp has an impressive turnout of people.
- The puja pandals set up throughout the district for Durga Puja, Kali Puja and Jagadhatri Puja were used to create awareness among the people. These pandals were used because of their strategic value as they attract people from all sections of society. The legal awareness camps held here were successful in impacting a large number of people. Over 50 stalls were installed.
- A legal awareness camp was held at St. Xavier's High School, Dilaram and the Takda School Darjeeling.
- An important initiative by the DLSA, Darjeeling was the conduction of a legal awareness campaign in the Jabra Tea Gardens area at Naxalbari. Another legal awareness camp took place at the Ajambari Sangha Community Hall, Guras Dara, Rangbul as well. More than 10,000 people were impacted due to this programme.
- In line with introducing the concept of social justice and the benefits of legal services to children – a sit and draw competition was organised at Clifton Hall School, Ghoom, Darjeeling on the 12th of November 2021.

# DARJEELING







DARJEELING



# KALIMPONG

One of the newer districts of West Bengal, Kalimpong is smaller and less populated than most districts. The total population of the district stands at 49,403. The district is part of the Gorkha Territorial Administration region and is mostly inhabited by Lepcha settlers.

The district has certain special developmental and economic needs that require immediate attention. The district is known for its monastery and horticulture. The Pan-India awareness and outreach programmes carried out during the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav were important and much needed in Kalimpong. The SC/ST population in the district is 52% and 48% respectively where most people remain oblivious to the benefits of free legal aid and services.

The following events were carried out from 02.10.2021 to 14.11.2021:

## **Legal Awareness Campaigns**

20 legal awareness campaigns were held across the district. This included a massive legal camp held at the District Correctional Home where queries from the inmates were answered immediately by the panel advocates and Para Legal Volunteers present there. The use of Nepali was widespread in order to reach each and every member of the district.

## **Door-To-Door Campaigns**

Due to the nature and area of the terrain – the organisation of door-to-door campaigns was a remarkable feat carried out by the PLVs and other members of the District Legal Services Authority, Kalimpong. The campaigns were carried out across the district in all 122 villages including areas like Akam, Gorubathan, Sombaray Dara, Chibbo Busty, Tamang Gaon etc.

## **Legal Aid Clinics**

Legal Aid Clinics were established at four major police stations in the district including the Kalimpong Police Station, Gorubathan Police Station, Jaldhaka Police Station and Kalimpong Women's Police Station.

# KALIMPONG

## **Mobile Vans**

The use of mobile vans in the district was done largely to disseminate information about the services available by the Legal Services Authorities. The mobile vans were equipped with microphones and speakers. They traversed difficult road conditions but covered every village in the district.

## **Special events**

- World Student's Day was celebrated with the conduction of a legal awareness camp at Lower Kaffer on the 15th of October 2021.
- A mega legal camp was held at Town Hall in Kalimpong. 14 stalls were put up during the camp to assist with the awareness programme. Miss Yasmin Fatima, District Judge, Mr B. Mangrati, Civil Judge Senior Division-Cum-DLSA Secretary inaugurated the event.
- A special campaign for women relating to the empowerment of women through legal awareness was held at the Tamang Gumba. The event was presided over by Mr Bishal Mangrati (Secretary of DLSA, Kalimpong); Ms Poonam Rai (District Child Protection Officer), Ms Triguna Roy (Inspector of MBP); Ms Shonna Sewa (O.C. of the Women's station) and Sister Subeshna Thappa (Director, Bal Suraksha Abhiyan).

# KALIMPONG

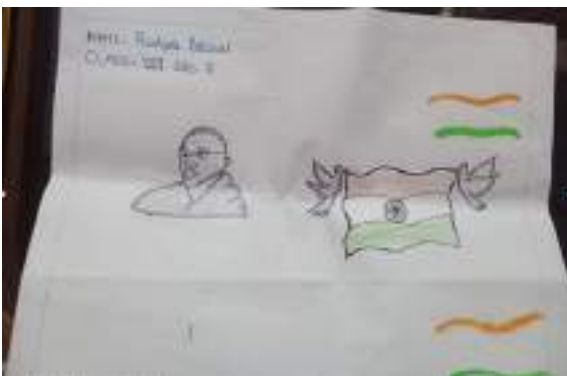






KALIMPONG

# KALIMPONG



# SOUTH 24-PARGANAS

The district of South 24-Parganas is one of the largest districts in the state of West Bengal which extends from the city of Kolkata to the remote riverine villages bordering Bangladesh. The district houses a complex diaspora of people from all over the country. The official population of the district is around 81,61,961 people according to the Census 2011. The SC/ST population stands at 30.19% and 1.29% respectively.

The district is an amalgamation of various forests and islands. The Sundarbans form an important part of the district. South 24-Parganas is known for its wildlife, rivers, and streams.

The district has rural and urban areas where the issues of development are different in nature. The peculiarity of its geography makes transportation and access to the remote location difficult and hard to reach. The district is plagued with the problems of unequal development and the rural/urban divide makes these problems difficult to address.

The pan-India awareness and outreach campaigns conducted were some of the most comprehensive in the state of West Bengal. The District Legal Services Authority, South 24 Parganas and the State Legal Services Authority, West Bengal carried out multiple campaigns, clinics and awareness programmes across the district. They navigated the island areas of the district and even reached all 36 islands in the district. The farthest island in the district “Mousami Island” was also accessed by Para Legal Volunteers of the DLSA.

The following events were carried out from 02.10.2021 to 14.11.2021:

## **Legal Awareness Camps**

The District Legal Services Authority, South 24 Parganas conducted multiple legal awareness camps across the district including camps at Vivekanda Ashram, Ramkrishna, Kashibati, Bishnupur, Jayoroni Sangha, Mirjapur, etc. All 2042 villages were covered during the campaign.

## **Door-To-Door Campaigns**

The PLVs associated with South 24 Parganas ensured that extensive door-to-door campaigns were carried out in all the villages and municipalities in South 24 Parganas. The campaigns were successful in their original mission of spreading the word about free legal aid and services. This included travelling with boats and streamers to far off islands to speak to the inhabitants of the islands there.



# SOUTH 24-PARGANAS

## **Legal Aid Clinics**

Multiple legal aid clinics were conducted in the district where pre-litigation matters were settled, and all forms of legal help were provided to people.

## **Mobile Vans**

Mobile vans were deployed for the purpose of awareness and campaigning. The vans were equipped with microphones, flexes, pamphlets, flyers etc to allow the dissemination of the appropriate information to the maximum number of people.

## **Special Events:**

- A collaborative seminar was held with the National Commission for Women titled “Empowerment of Women through Legal Awareness” at the Institute of Psychological and Educational Research, Kolkata with over 20 participants. The seminar addressed issues faced by women in contemporary times and how the Legal Services Authorities can help.
- The festivals of Durga Puja, Jagadhatri Puja and Kali Puja were used as the perfect event to target the masses in spreading the message of legal aid and counselling. All major pandals that record the highest footfall in the district were targeted including Maitar Chak Puja, Ramkrishna Mission Seva Pratisthan and the Khiderpore area pujas. More than 50 stalls were put up equipped with leaflets, booklets and pamphlets.
- A legal camp was organised at Chowrasta in Behala which is one of the major transportation junctions in the city. The camp saw an immense turnout of people and the interaction were spirited.
- The International Day of the Girl Child was celebrated with the inmates of the Sanlaap home, Narendrapur District on the 11th of November.
- A webinar was held with the Calcutta Pavlov Hospital, Kolkata and the DLSA, South 24-Parganas. Those in attendance include Mr Ganesh Prasad, Superintendent, Calcutta Pavlov Hospital, Smt. Dalia Bhattacharya, Judicial Magistrate, Second Court Alipore, Dr Somnath Roy, Professor Jogesh Chandra Chowdhury, Law College. The seminar saw over 64 participants.

# SOUTH 24-PARGANAS

- The district organised an exhibition on the 9th of November showcasing the illustrious past of the judiciary since Independence. The exhibition was an important endeavour as it displayed the working of the District Legal Services Authority, South 24 Parganas tireless work and the Indian Judiciary's dedication to the quest for justice.



SOUTH 24-PARGANAS



# SOUTH 24-PARGANAS







SOUTH 24-PARGANAS

# JALPAIGURI

Jalpaiguri has an approximate population of over 107341 people and is known for its three T's – Tourism, Tea and Timber. The district is one of the smaller districts in West Bengal with an average Schedule Caste population of around 42.05% and Schedule Tribe population of over 14.68%. The presence of such a sizeable minority population makes the district a lucrative area for legal services work.

The district of Jalpaiguri has an agrarian-based economy with sparse pockets of industrialisation. The area faces a massive deficit in irrigation facilities. The district shares an international border with Bhutan and Bangladesh in the north making it an important juncture of travel in Eastern India.

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce Report of 2016 records industries of jute and tobacco in the area. Jalpaiguri is the second-largest producer of tea in West Bengal.

The socio-economic conditions in the district are far from equal and the district has been plagued by law-and-order problems. It has been a major Maoist area in the past. The District Legal Services Authority, Jalpaiguri and the State Legal Services Authority, West Bengal worked to ensure that the people of the district become aware of their rights and entitlements and the functioning of the Legal Services Authority.

The following events were conducted from 02.10.2021 – 14.11.2021:

## **Legal Awareness Campaigns**

The Para Legal Volunteers associated with the DLSA, Jalpaiguri organised over 100 legal camps in the district. These camps were accessed by many people who showed genuine interest to know about their legal rights. Capitalising on this interest the PLVs spread information related to the services provided by the Legal Services Authorities.

## **Legal Aid Clinics**

Multiple legal aid clinics were established in the district where the problems of numerous litigants were heard, and cases settled. The PLVs at the desk performed their duties along with spreading basic information about legal awareness.



# JALPAIGURI

- Three major areas were covered in door-to-door campaigns carried out by the PLVs. These areas were Jalpaiguri, Malbazar and Alipurduar. Leaflets, pamphlets and flyers outlining the basic functioning of the Legal Services, the schemes associated with the department and the provisions of free legal aid and counselling were distributed.

## **Mobile Vans**

Multiple mobile vans were used to help spread the information related to the Legal Services Authority. These vans were well equipped with appropriate microphones and flex. These vans covered nearly 1400 villages throughout the campaigns.

## **Special Events**

- A helpdesk was established at Malbazar which saw over 20 people being assisted immediately on the 10th of October 2021
- A legal Awareness camp was set up at Jayant Tourist spot at Alipurduar to spread the message of free legal aid and services.
- In collaboration with the National Commission of Women and the DLSA, Jalpaiguri, a legal camp was held at Birpara Madrihat BDO office on 2nd October 2021.
- The students of Jalpaiguri Law College participated in a seminar held on World Student's Day. This seminar was conducted online while an offline seminar was conducted with the students of Netaji Bidyapath High School.
- A legal awareness camp was held at Dharanipur Tea Gardens Nagrakata Jalpaiguri which benefitted over 253 people.

# JALPAIGURI







# JALPAIGURI



# MALDA

The district of Malda has a population of over 39,88,845 people according to the Census 2011. Over 86.42% of the population lives in the rural area. The district is socio-economically still backward and is part of India's least developed district list. The district is known for its mangoes, jute and silk.

The district has over 1700 villages where people from different communities and tribes reside. These include *Polia*, *Shersabadia*, *Khotta*, *Panjhra* and *Sanths*. The developmental condition of the district is abysmal with no major industrial profiles present. Most of the population are unskilled labourers and agricultural workers that lack basic social and economic amenities.

The district ranks lowly on the Human Development Index as per the West Bengal Human Development Report 2004 where the district scored 0.44. These conditions are important indicators of the developmental problems in the district which leaves a large section of the population in vulnerability.

The District Legal Services Authority, Malda and the State Legal Services Authority, West Bengal tapped into the existing lines of communication within the district to spread the word on legal services. Malda enrolled an entire organic network of people for the pan-India outreach campaigns. It accessed the already present networks of communication ensuring reliable means of transmission and propagation of source material. This was done by involving all communities of society. The district of Malda exemplifies the amalgamation of quick thinking, the zeal to spread legal awareness and a dedicated task force. The district has truly done justice to the "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav" campaign cycle.

The events undertaken include the following:

## **Legal Awareness Campaigns**

Numerous legal awareness camps were held in the district to spread awareness among common citizens. The campaigns were manned by PLVs and panel advocates. They were very comprehensive in their agenda.

## **Legal Aid Clinics**

The DLSA, Malda established legal clinics with all the Gram Panchayats present in the district. The message of free legal aid and awareness was spread far and wide in the district.

# MALDA

## Door-To-Door Campaigns

PLVs carried out massive door-to-door campaigns where each village in the district was covered at least once during the outreach programme period. The PLVs also distributed pamphlets and flyers.

## Mobile Vans

The district villages were covered with the *Chetana Sathi* and Totos or e-rickshaws at least once during the two-week campaign. The mobile vans were fitted with audio devices like speakers and microphones to make matters easier. A huge flex was attached to the vans to attract the attention of people. These mobile vans were positively accepted by the people of Malda.

## Special Events

- A women's legal awareness camp was organised in association with the National Commission for Women to apprise the participants of the campaign about the various schemes and provisions for women present.
- Along with the students of Malda Women's college, the principal of the college and advocate Nabamita Pandey a webinar was held on the occasion of World Students' Day.
- On the 11th of November a legal services camp was held with representatives from various government units, police representatives, medical teams, and the fire brigade team. All units used PowerPoint presentations to be more precise and efficient. Out of the 300 participants over 69 were assisted on the spot itself.
- The International Day of the Girl Child was observed on 11th October 2021 with the inmates from Saishali Sishu Konya Abas Home. The inmates were given goody bags with colouring kits and were taken to see puja pandals. They were sensitized along with the fun they had to the legal benefits and provisions they could possibly avail. The simultaneous rally was held at Enayatour E.A. Higher Secondary School. The events saw a high turnover where the projected outreach was massive.
- Legal Services Day was celebrated on 9th November with the organization of a rally and tableau where multiple students, PLVs and Panel Advocates participated.

# MALDA

- The district of Malda used a unique means of spreading legal awareness in the district. With a sizeable Muslim population of 48%, the District Legal Services Authority, Malda with permission from the Mosque Authorities used the time of the *Azan* to spread awareness regarding the Legal Services Authority and its work. The *Imams* read aloud the message of free legal aid and counselling after the completion of the *Azan* at the mosque premises itself ensuring that it percolated loud and clear in the area.
- Legal Awareness Camps were held Malda Hospital, pamphlets were distributed at ration fair price shops, bank branches of various banks, all major puja pandals, among daily wage labourers of the unorganised sector, common citizens in market areas. The local newspaper vendors were also utilized by the DLSA, Malda where PLVs added pamphlets and flyers to the newspapers that were to be delivered.



# MALDA







MALDA

## MULTIPLE LEGAL AID CAMPAIGNS HELD AT VILLAGES BETWEEN 02.10.2021 to 24.10.2021

The awareness campaigns as implemented in the state of West Bengal, covered nearly every village of the state. A few villages were not only covered once but the teams in those villages through their relentless services and commitment to the mission of spreading the word on legal aid covered villages up to three times. The following table offers a glimpse of the work done by the DLSAs at the respective districts

Districts of WB	No. of villages	Villages covered	Once	Twice	Thrice
<b>BIRBHUM</b>	2469	2469	280	170	2019
<b>COOCH BEHAR</b>	1206	658	450	125	83
<b>DAKSHIN DINAJPUR</b>	1637	1236	790	310	136
<b>MALDA</b>	3071	2216	980	498	738
<b>MURSHIDABAD</b>	1937	1325	515	320	490
<b>SOUTH 24 PARGANAS</b>	2144	1573	524	703	346
<b>PASCHIM MEDINIPUR</b>	5694	1865	1192	319	354
<b>PURULIA</b>	2667	2309	1153	778	378
<b>UTTAR DINAJPUR</b>	2667	2309	1153	778	378
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22322</b>	<b>14195</b>	<b>5928</b>	<b>3412</b>	<b>4855</b>



## ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE: 02.10.2021 to 14.11.2021

The DLSAs of each district in West Bengal carried out multiple awareness campaigns and legal aid clinics with the sole objective of inculcating awareness among the general masses about legal aid and its benefits as envisioned by the Pan-India Campaigns under the “Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav” celebrations. The following table represents some of the valuable work done by the districts.

### Door to Door visits in villages:

Total number of Districts covered	22
Total number of Talukas covered	39
Total number of teams constituted in the State	13540
Total number of resources deployed in all teams	23142
Number of villages visited during day	101503
Number of persons surveyed or interacted during period	36241255

### Legal Awareness Programmes

Total number of Districts	22
Total number of teams constituted in the State	7789
Total number of resources deployed in all teams	14658
Total number of villages / Urban areas covered	59439
Total number of awareness programmes organized	41520
Total number of persons attended during period	27939185

### Awareness through Mobile Vans

Total number of Taluka covered - <b>39</b>
Total number of Mobile Vans deployed in the State - <b>1663</b>
Total number of villages visited - <b>68198</b>
Total number of persons interacted or benefitted - <b>46532190</b>

### Awareness through Legal Aid Clinic

Total number of Legal Aid Clinics used - <b>3367</b>
Total number of resources deployed - <b>4611</b>
Total number of persons interacted - <b>2121975</b>

# KOLKATA

The district of Kolkata is a completely urbanized area in West Bengal. It is the state capital, and the city is globally known as the land of culture and education in India. The city of Kolkata is diverse with a heterogeneous population of people belonging to multiple ethnicities and communities. The city houses people from different parts of the country and even the world.

The population of Kolkata is 44,96,694 people according to the Census of 2011. The SC/ST population stands at 5.38% and 0.24% respectively. The district has a Hindu majority population with Muslims, Christians, Sikhs and Jains making up the minority. The district has no rural areas and the people who are engaged in agricultural work is 0.69%. The literacy rate of the city is around 87% which is higher than the national average of 74%.

The city is known for its warm people, its food and its cultural ethos. The district has eminent universities and centres of education. It has produced brilliant poets, writers, artists and scholars. Kolkata is a city seeped in soul and charm. However, the socio-economic conditions of all people are not the same. There is a sizeable section of the district that is greatly affected by the ills of unequal economic growth.

The District Legal Services Authority, Kolkata with the State Legal Services Authority, West Bengal worked towards the successful implementation of the pan-India awareness and outreach campaigns that were conducted. The plan of action in Kolkata was devised to increase the outreach to the maximum possible audience. The events undertaken are mentioned below:

## **Legal Awareness Campaign**

The DLSA, Kolkata organised over 400 camps in the district at Kolkata. These camps were mostly conducted at strategic locations. Several pamphlets, flyers, booklets were distributed in these camps enlightening people about the activities and functions of the Legal Services Authority.

## **Legal Aid Clinics**

Legal Aid Clinics were established throughout the district. Over 9,000 people were interacted with during the clinics and many beneficiaries were registered. These clinics were even open on holidays to assure ceaseless delivery of justice.

# KOLKATA

## **Door-To-Door Campaigns**

The district of Kolkata has over 52 wards and 21 police stations. PLVs went from door-to-door in all these wards while focusing especially on slum areas, shanties and places where overall awareness of the provisions of legal aid and counselling would be very low. Over 150 people benefited from instant services provided by the PLVs during the campaigns.

## **Use of Mobile Vans**

Attractive mobile vans were used to spread the message of the working and functioning of the State Legal Services Authority, West Bengal and the District Legal Services Authority, Kolkata. Auto rickshaws were hired to reach every corner of the city where leaflets and pamphlets were distributed.

## **Special Events**

- Legal awareness camps were held at all 21 stations to reach people from all epochs of life. The camps at the police station were manned and managed by the PLVs associated with the DLSA, Kolkata.
- The PLVs of the DLSA, Kolkata conducted multiple legal awareness campaigns at various points in the city including metro stations that are used by majority people to commute from place to place, local bazars, major Post Offices, and other places that are frequently used by ordinary citizens as part of their daily lives.
- The International Day of the Girl Child was celebrated with a seminar. The theme of the seminar was “Digital Generation – Our Generation” where the pros and cons of the digital revolution were discussed at length.
- Multiple legal awareness stalls were established in puja pandals. Targeting the flocks of people who visit puja pandals on Durga Puja, Kali Puja, and Jagadhatri Puja, pamphlets, flyers, and booklets were distributed.
- United Nations Day was observed with Sankalp at the ADR Centre Kolkata. The DLSA, Kolkata Secretary Mr. Gautam Nag along with Professor Somabha Bandhpadhyay of the National University of Juridical Sciences (NUJS) were the speakers. The event saw over 25 participants.



# KOLKATA

- World Students' Day was organised with the students of Surendranath Law College where over 15 students participated. The Ld. Secretary of the DLSA, Kolkata addressed the students and discussed at length the functioning of the DLSA and its role in ensuring free legal and judicial services. The seminar ended with a lively interactive session.
- A legal awareness seminar on the rights of women was held in collaboration with the National Commission of Women. The seminar took place at the ADR Centre, Kolkata and received a very enthusiastic audience.

# KOLKATA







# KOLKATA



# HOWRAH

The district of Howrah is one of the smaller districts of West Bengal with a population of 48,50,029 people. The district is headquartered in Howrah which is the second-largest city in West Bengal after Kolkata. The district is a highly urbanized centre with only 150 villages. It falls under the Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority. It forms an important juncture of transportation between Kolkata and the rest of West Bengal.

The district is often referred to as the Sheffield of the East because of its engineering industry. The district has two of the longest bridges in the world including Howrah Bridge or Rabindra Setu and the Vidyasagar Setu. The demographic profile of the district is consistent with the rest of West Bengal. The literacy rate of the district is 83.37% higher than the national average.

The development in the district erupted in an erratic and unorganised manner making the district vulnerable to many issues including high levels of pollution and urbanisation. Despite being an urbanized district there are huge unlicensed slums in the district.

The District Legal Services Authority, Howrah carried out awareness and sensitization activities throughout the district. These activities were in compliance with the module laid out by the National Legal Services Authority and the plan of action devised by the State Legal Services Authority, West Bengal.

The following activities were carried out:

## **Legal Awareness Campaigns**

Legal awareness camps were held at various points in the district to help spread the message of free legal aid and counselling.

## **Legal Aid Clinics**

PLVs manned multiple legal aid clinics throughout the district. These clinics were established across the district of Howrah and emerged as an important centre of awareness and outreach during the two weeks.

## **Door-To-Door Campaigns**

The PLVs of the DLSA, Howrah conducted door-to-door campaigns where the residents of the district were given leaflets, flyers and booklets relating to the schemes and provisions of the Legal Services Authority.

# HOWRAH

## Mobile Vans

Multiple mobile vans were used during the campaigns reaching the remotest villages in the district.

## Special Events

- An empowerment and awareness campaign was held in collaboration with the National Commission for Women to observe “Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav” at Bagaun. The seminar was an initiative to raise awareness on gender issues in the district. A similar awareness programme was held at Sankrail on the 11th of November.
- A legal awareness camp and clothes distribution campaign was undertaken by the PLVs of the DLSA, Howrah at the Mohakalhati village under JB Pur Block. More than 50 beneficiaries were recorded from this endeavour.
- On 9th November 2021, in association with the NGO Sankalp a legal awareness was set up at Howrah Railway station. The event saw over 230 beneficiaries.
- A mass camp was held at Khaskhamar, Baruria, – the camp included members of the DLSA, Howrah, the police department, district administration and NGOs. More than 800 people benefited from the event.
- The Youth Welfare and Cultural Society with the DLSA, Howrah organised a drawing competition. The child inmates of the CCI participated in the event. The drawings reflected social issues and work of the legal services.
- Camps were held at puja pandal stalls in the district. One of the more prominent camps was held at Bantra Nabin Sangha.
- World Student’s Day was celebrated with the students of Law College Uluberia and Sister Nivedita Law University with over 100 participants on 15th October 2021.
- A special awareness programme was held under the aegis of NALSA relating to the “Protection and Enforcement of Tribal Rights” at the Panitras Free Primary School to promote awareness related to the rights and schemes of tribal people.







# HOWRAH



# PASCHIM BARDHAMAN

The district of Paschim Bardhaman has an approximate population of over 28,82,031 people. The district is known for its coal mines in Asansol and Durgapur. The SC/ST population of the district stands at 30.75% and 6.77% respectively. These figures have been indicated at the Census 2011. The district is mostly a mining-urban district. The literacy rate of the district is 78.75%.

The district is multilingual with a diverse ethnic and religious population. The languages spoken in the district are Bengali, Santali and Hindi.

The district enjoys agricultural prosperity because of the presence of the fertile alluvial Gangetic plains in the region. The district has 62 gram panchayats and 16 police stations. The District Legal Services Authority, Paschim Bardhaman carried out multiple programmes for Pan-India Awareness and Outreach Campaigns. These events carried out between 02.10.2021 to 14.10.2021 were integral to spreading the message of accessing mechanisms of judicial redressal and legal services by all irrespective of caste, class, creed or community.

The events carried out include:

## **Legal Awareness Campaigns**

Multiple legal awareness camps took place across the district. These camps were vital for the cause of disseminating and sensitizing the people of Paschim Bardhaman. The camps were held at many prominent places in the district and benefitted approximately 2,000 people.

## **Legal Aid Clinics**

Legal aid clinics were established across the district to help people and allow them to witness the working of the Legal Services Authority.

## **Door-To-Door Campaigns**

PLVs worked tirelessly to cover every village in the district over two weeks. They ensured that people were aware of the basic legal aid and counselling provisions available to them. The interior villages of Paschim Bardhaman were targeted for these programmes. More than 5,000 people benefitted immediately due to the door-to-door campaigns.

# PASCHIM BARDHAMAN

## Mobile Vans

Rural areas, tricky terrain areas, areas far off from the main routes of access were targeted by the mobile vans used during the campaign cycle. The vans were equipped with pamphlets, flyers, booklets in local languages that were distributed to the people. The vans also had loudspeakers attached to them so that the PLVs could keep talking about the work of the Legal Services Authority.

## Special Events

- United Nations' Day was observed at Bilapur village where more than 50 people attended the legal awareness campaign that was organised by the PLVs of the DLSA, Paschim Bardhawan.
- An awareness camp was held in association with the National Commission for Women to increase awareness among women with respect to their rights and the schemes present for them under the Legal Services Authority. The seminar was attended by more than 70 participants.
- Multiple stalls were set up at various puja pandals for higher visibility and greater outreach. There were over 110 stalls set up across the district to sensitize the people.
- World Mental Health Day was celebrated at Happy Home where PLVs interacted with the inmates and spread awareness among them.
- A drawing competition was held to celebrate NALSA Day on 9th November 2021. A rally was also held where basic legal awareness was propagated.
- Mobile camps were set up at Vadni, Ramchandrapur Maji Para – Alladi GP, Basudha, Bilpara – Bonkati GP More.
- On the occasion of the World Students' Day Celebration, a webinar was hosted with the students of Durgapur Law College where issues on legal aid and counselling were discussed at large.
- A Lok Adalat was held in Paschim Bardhaman where 30 cases were taken up and a settlement of over 15 cases was accomplished.



# PASCHIM BARDHAMAN

- The office of the DLSA, Paschim Bardhawan was used to promote basic legal awareness among the children present in attendance. This day also doubled as the closing ceremony of the programme.

# PASCHIM BARDHAMAN







# PASCHIM BARDHAMAN



# PURBA BARDHAMAN

The district of Purba Bardhaman has an approximate population of over 48,35,532 people. The literacy rate of the district is 74%. These figures have been indicated in the Census 2011. The district is the birthplace of Rashbehari Bose.

The district is multilingual with a diverse ethnic and religious population. The languages spoken in the district are Bengali, Santali and Hindi. The district faces abject rural poverty where around 37% of households live under the poverty line as represented in the Rural Household Survey 2005 of the Government of West Bengal.

The District Legal Services Authority, Purba Bardhaman carried out many campaigns and awareness programmes from 02.10.2021 to 14.11.2021. These have been reiterated below:

## **Legal Awareness Campaign**

Legal awareness campaigns were held across the district of Purba Bardhaman. These campaigns were extensive in their agenda to address the work and benefits of the Legal Services Authorities. The various schemes, policies, laws and acts were also discussed with people at length. More than 2,000 people benefitted from these campaigns on an immediate basis. Most work was carried out in the districts of Kalna and Katwa.

## **Legal Aid Clinics**

Multiple legal aid clinics were set up throughout the district which helped people instantly with their problems.

## **Door-To-Door Campaigns**

The PLVs associated with the DLSA, Purba Bardhaman dedicatedly visited every household of each village in the district. The door-to-door campaigns were an efficient way of ensuring that the message of “Access to Justice for All” was professed to the people at large at the grassroot level. More than 700 villages were covered.

## **Mobile Vans**

Mobile vans were used to cover all the villages in the district of Purba Bardhaman at least once as part of the Pan-India Awareness and Outreach Campaigns.

# PURBA BARDHAMAN

## Special Events

- The National Commission for Women along with the DLSA, Purba Bardhaman organised an empowerment seminar titled “Empowerment of Women through Legal Awareness”. The seminar was attended by the Secretary, DLSA, Purba Bardhaman; professors from Hatgobindaour College and teachers from Saktigarh Girls’ High School.
- A second seminar aiming at the empowerment of women was held at Amarpur, Asugarh in association with the National Commission for Women.
- World Mental Health Day was celebrated with the inmates of Ananda Niketan. The PLVs and other resource persons present imparted basic legal awareness among the people. They were also taken to visit the major puja pandals in and around.
- The students of Amex Law College, Purba Bardhaman along with the DLSA, Purba Bardhaman organised a legal awareness programme on the occasion of World Students’ Day on 15th October 2021.
- The International Day of the Girl Child was celebrated with the inmates of the Government of West Bengal – Children’s Home For Girls. The PLVs visited the Home and spread awareness among the inmates about the schemes and provisions.
- Using the season of festivities to the best, over 110 legal stalls were established across the district at various Puja Pandals.

# PURBA BARDAMAN







# PURBA BARDAMAN

# MURSHIDABAD

Murshidabad is one of the most fertile districts of West Bengal owing to the location of the district right next to the Ganges. The district is densely populated with over 71,03,807 people according to the Census 2011. The district draws its name from the city of Murshidabad which has a regal legacy as one of the most influential power centres in Bengal. The district has a literacy rate of over 62.59% lower than the national average.

Agriculture forms the economic background of the district and silk farming is also widely prevalent here. The district is also known for its Beedi industry with some of the major companies at the national level hailing from here. Murshidabad is known across the country for its Baluchari sarees.

The district remains backwards on most social and economic indicators of holistic development. It has been categorized as one of the most backward districts in the country and receives funds from the Backwards Regions Grant Fund Programme.

The district was in dire need of awareness about the activities of the Legal Services Authorities and the programmes conducted for “Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav” were of tremendous help to the people in the district.

The following programmes were implemented from 02.10.2021 to 14.11.2021:

## **Legal Awareness Programmes**

Several legal awareness camps were held focusing on issues of rights of women, child labour, child marriage, rights of senior citizens, consumer rights, drug abuse, tribal rights, free legal aid services and counselling options available at the Legal Services Authority.

## **Legal Aid Clinics**

Legal aid clinics were held across the district especially focusing on absolving issues and cases as soon as possible as convenient for the people.

## **Mobile Vans**

Mobile vans, Totos or e-rickshaws, autos were used to carry out campaigns. These vehicles were equipped with microphones, speakers and leaflets to distribute.

# MURSHIDABAD

## Door-To-Door Campaigns

The PLVs of the district of Murshidabad worked tirelessly to reach the remotest villages in the district. They interacted with people at length and addressed issues faced by the people in Murshidabad. They distributed leaflets, pamphlets, and booklets to the people. The PLVs focused on slum areas and migrant areas to ensure maximum outreach.

## Special Events

- An awareness programme was conducted from Chunakhali Bus Stop, Lalbagh where legal rights and general services provided by the District Legal Services Authority, Murshidabad were discussed. More than 75 people were present.
- To celebrate United Nations' Day a programme was held at the Conference Hall of the BDO office at Domkal. The programme focused on "Empowerment of the Poor and Eradication of Poverty". It was presided over by the Ld. Member Secretary of the DLSA, Murshidabad.
- A rally was conducted on Legal Services Day from Berhampore Court towards all prominent locations of the district. The rally was attended by PLVs, teachers, panel advocates, social workers, and students. Leaflets, pamphlets and brochures were distributed at large.
- A seminar was held in collaboration with students of Kandi Bimal Chandra College of Law and Domkal MAB Institute of Juridical Science. The seminar detailed the functionality and work of the DLSA, Murshidabad and Lok Adalats, PLV functions etc. The students of Kandi Bimal Chandra College of Law presented on child protection issues and the legal rights of women.



# MURSHIDABAD







MURSHIDABAD

# PURBA MEDINIPUR

The district of Medinipur was bifurcated into Purba Medinipur and Paschim Medinipur in 2002. The district of Purba Medinipur has its headquarters at Tamluk, a historically important place with a strong nationalist legacy. The district has rich alluvial plains making the area extremely fertile and agriculturally viable. Some of the major rivers in the area are Haldi, Rupnarayan, Rasulpur, Bagui and Keleghai.

The Census 2011 indicated that the official population of Purba Medinipur is 50,95,875 and the literacy rate is 87.66%. The district has over 29 police stations. The district has a predominantly Bengali speaking population with Hindi and Odia being spoken as well. The district is one of the more backward districts in West Bengal which comes with its own set of problems and issues. It receives funding from the Backward Regions Grant Fund Programme. The district has over 223 gram panchayats.

The district mostly has a rural-based population with certain developmental issues present. The district remains backwards in terms of health care accessibility, financial security of people, HDI index scores, gender equality among others. The people in the district were sensitized to the working and benefits of the Legal Services Authorities at the state and district levels. The programmes and campaigns carried out from 02.10.2021 to 14.11.2021 were wide-ranging and enlightening.

The following events were held:

## **Legal Awareness Campaigns**

Over 200 camps were held in the district in line with the module laid out for the Pan-India Awareness Campaign cycle. The camps were comprehensive and well informed using the local language of the district for dissemination.

## **Legal Aid Clinics**

Legal aid clinics were established at various correctional homes in the district. More than 5,000 people were helped and approached during these clinics making them highly functional and successful.



# PURBA MEDINIPUR

## **Door-To-Door Campaigns**

The PLVs of the DLSA, Purba Medinipur made door-to-door visits in every village of the district where they spoke at length about the provisions and schemes available at the Legal Services Authority. The target audience of these campaigns were those people who would normally not have access to these schemes and plans like senior citizens and rural women. Coastal areas were also covered in these campaigns.

## **Mobile Vans**

Multiple vans were used for the awareness and campaign programmes of the district. Flyers, pamphlets and brochures were distributed throughout.

## **Special Events**

- The district of Purba Medinipur organized a unique campaign to spread the message of free legal aid and counselling where handbills and flyers were distributed to people present there and spirited interactions took place with the Para Legal Volunteers of the DLSA, Purba Medinipur.
- The railway stations of the district were targeted for mass campaigns where flex, banners, hoardings were put up. Leaflets, pamphlets and flyers were distributed. The stations included Panskura, Digha, Haldia, Tamluk stations and in some places like Haldia students from Haldia Law College also assisted the PLVs.
- Keeping in line with the idea of spreading the word of legal awareness to the most remote corners of the state, the DLSA, Purba Medinipur organised an awareness campaign to the island of Nayachar where the specific needs of the inhabitants of the island were kept in mind in creating the agenda of the camp there. The Ld. Secretary of the DLSA, Purba Medinipur along with PLVs, panel advocates, and other resource people conducted the camp to widespread press coverage. More than 630 islanders benefited from the camp.
- An empowerment campaign was carried out by the DLSA, Purba Medinipur in association with the National Commission for Women at the Office of the Block Development Officer at Haldia. The campaign saw the participation of women from various spheres of life and the issues and problems pertinent to women in contemporary society were discussed.

# PURBA MEDINIPUR







PURBA MEDINIPUR



# PURBA MEDINIPUR



# PASCHIM MEDINIPUR

The district of Paschim Medinipur is in the South-western part of the state and is one of the largest districts in West Bengal. It has a sizeable rural and tribal population. The district is known for its temples and the Gurguripal Park, Hatibari Forest Bungalow and Jhilli Pakhiralay among other sites.

The population of Paschim Medinipur is 59,13,457 according to the Census 2011. The district has a literacy rate of 79.04%. The SC/ST population is 18.69% and 11.43% respectively. Bengali is spoken largely followed by Santali and Hindi.

The district was home to Khudiram Bose one of the youngest martyrs of the Indian Independence Movement and Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar one of the most prominent academics and writers to emerge during the Bengal Renaissance. Paschim Medinipur is part of the Red Corridor in India affected by Maoist activities and has been influenced heavily by the extremist activities of the Left-wing. It is a highly backward district that receives funding from the Backward Regions Grant Fund Programme.

The following activities were carried out by the District Legal Services Authority, Paschim Medinipur on “Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav”.

## **Legal Awareness Campaigns**

A special legal awareness campaign was held for physically challenged people where PLVs assisted and spoke to over 20 people. In total over 1354 campaigns were held in the district which saw over 24,000 families being reached with the message of access to justice for all and free legal aid.

## **Legal Aid Clinics**

Around 200 legal aid clinics were established throughout the district at BDO offices, gram panchayats, and police stations. Banners, leaflets, brochures, booklets were used for the clinics.

## **Door-To-Door Campaigns**

Over 30,000 families were impacted by the door-to-door campaigns held by the DLSA, Paschim Medinipur. The PLVs associated with the DLSA spoke to people at large about the role and objectives of the Legal Services Authority. Leaflets, booklets, and brochures were distributed amongst the people.

# PASCHIM MEDINIPUR

## Mobile Vans

Over 47 mobile vans were deployed on the streets of Paschim Medinipur to spread awareness about legal services and free legal counselling.

## Special Events

- A poster competition was held among children at C.K. Road and Children's Day was celebrated with the kids of Midnapore Sardar and Ghatal subdivision. During the celebrations PLVs constantly kept engaging with the kids explaining to them the benefits of free legal aid in a manner understood by all.
- The International Day of the Girl Child was celebrated by taking girls pandal hopping from Vidyasagar Balika Bhawan on 11th November.
- An awareness campaign was held focusing on the rights of women and the various schemes in place for them. This was a collaborative camp with the National Commission for Women held at the SHG Hall, DM Enclave.
- A legal awareness rally and campaign was held on World Nabi Day and Fateha Dohaz Daham on 19th October 2021. The rally benefited over 50 people overall. Simultaneously multiple legal awareness stalls were put up during Durga Puja, Kali Puja and Jagadhatri Puja to increase outreach among people. The use of religious holidays and occasions was strategically done to increase the number of people impacted by the activities of the DLSA, Paschim Medinipur.
- A mega legal awareness camp was held at Sahid Pradyout Smriti Sadan where the Ld. Secretary, DLSA, Paschim Medinipur spoke extensively on the Indian constitution and various topics including law and social justice.





PASCHHIM MEDNIPUR



# PASCHIM MEDNIPUR









**State Legal Services Authority, West Bengal**  
**City Civil Court Building (1st Floor)**  
**2 & 3 Kiron Sankar Roy Road, Kolkata - 700 001**  
**033 - 2248 3892/4234 | Toll Free Number: 15100**