

Vision

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

Mission:

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

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

1. **Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987:** The Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 was enacted in the year 1987. It came into force on 9th November, 1995. NALSA was constituted on 05.12.1995 and became properly functional by February 1998.
2. **Structural frame work:**

Total SLSAs	DLSAs		Total TLSCs	Total HCLSCs
	Total DLSAs	Total No. of full time Secretaries of DLSAs appointed		
36	664	525	2254	36

Break-up

S.No.	SLSAs	Total No. of Judicial Districts	Total No. of DLSAs	Total No. of TLSCs	No. of Posts of Full Time Secretaries of DLSAs sanctioned	No. of Full Time Secretaries of DLSAs appointed	No. of High Court Legal Services Committees (HCLSCs)
1	Andhra Pradesh	13	13	138	13	13	1
2	Arunachal Pradesh	16	20	00	00	00	1
3	Assam	27	33	03	22	22	1
4	Bihar	37	37	43	37	37	1
5	Chhattisgarh	25	23	65	23	15	1

6	Goa	2	2	11	2	2	1
7	Gujarat	33	31	239	32	28	1
8	Haryana	22	22	33	22	22	0 *
9	Himachal Pradesh	11	11	42	11	11	1
10	Jammu & Kashmir	22	22	68	22	13	2
11	Jharkhand	24	24	4	24	24	1
12	Karnataka	30	30	148	30	30	1
13	Kerala	14	14	62	14	14	1
14	Madhya Pradesh	50	50	149	51	35	3
15	Maharashtra	34	34	305	34	34	3
16	Manipur	7	9	00	5	Nil	1
17	Meghalaya	7	11	04	11	3	1
18	Mizoram	8	8	00	00	00	1
19	Nagaland	11	11	00	00	00	Nil
20	Orissa	30	30	89	30	30	1
21	Punjab	22	22	40	22	22	0 *
22	Rajasthan	35	35	181	35	35	2
23	Sikkim	04	04	06	00	00	1
24	Tamil Nadu	32	32	150	32	29	2
25	Telangana	12	11	75	11	9	1
26	Tripura	8	5	14	5	2	1
27	Uttar Pradesh	75	71	304	71	51	2
28	Uttarakhand	13	13	31	13	13	1
29	West Bengal	23	19	42	19	19	1
30	A&N Islands	1	1	03	00	00	0
31	Chandigarh	1	1	00	1	1	1
32	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	1	00	00	00	0
33	Daman & Diu	02	02	00	00	00	0
34	Delhi	11	11	00	11	11	1
35	Lakshadweep	1	00	2	00	00	0
36	Puducherry	4	1	3	00	00	0
	Total	668	664	2254	603	525	36

Note: * Haryana, Punjab and Chandigarh SLSAs have common HCLSC, HCLSC, Chandigarh.

3. Panel Advocates

Total No. of Panel Advocates: 61295 (57154 excluding HCLSC + 4141 in HCLSC)

S. No.	SLSAs	Total number of Panel Lawyers in the State		
		Panel Lawyers (excluding HCLSC)	Number of Panel Lawyers in HCLSC	Total No. of Panel Lawyers
1	Andhra Pradesh	3009	73	3082
2	Arunachal Pradesh	238	4	242
3	Assam	914	86	1000

4	Bihar	2181	50	2231
5	Chhattisgarh	2481	107	2588
6	Goa	133	18	151
7	Gujarat	2782	145	2927
8	Haryana	1137	Mentioned in Chandigarh SLSA	1137
9	Himachal Pradesh	1275	117	1392
10	Jammu & Kashmir	218	30	248
11	Jharkhand	1405	81	1486
12	Karnataka	2,747	253	3,000
13	Kerala	3,882	119	4,001
14	Madhya Pradesh	7128	472	7600
15	Maharashtra	4,765	531	5,296
16	Manipur	174	11	185
17	Meghalaya	133	11	144
18	Mizoram	152	8	162
19	Nagaland	102	Nil	102
20	Orissa	479	150	629
21	Punjab	1417	Mentioned in Chandigarh SLSA	1417
22	Rajasthan	1830	305	2135
23	Sikkim	177	--	177
24	Tamil Nadu	1305	40	1345
25	Telangana	9174	650	9824
26	Tripura	531	48	579
27	Uttar Pradesh	1896	160	2056
28	Uttarakhand	405	15	420
29	West Bengal	3458	125	3583
30	Andaman & Nicobar	08	-	8
31	Chandigarh	113 (including DLSA)	347	460
32	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	12	NA	12
33	Daman & Diu	21	-	21
34	Delhi	1160	185	1345
35	Lakshadweep	14	-	14
36	Puducherry	298	-	298
	Total	57154	4141	61295

4. Para-Legal Volunteers (PLVs) :

Total No. of PLVs : 63025

S. No.	SLSA	PLVs trained as on August, 2019
1	Andhra Pradesh	2103
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1115
3	Assam	792
4	Bihar	2328
5	Chhattisgarh	2467
6	Goa	384
7	Gujarat	2811
8	Haryana	1202
9	Himachal Pradesh	5786
10	Jammu and Kashmir	599
11	Jharkhand	2777
12	Karnataka	1494
13	Kerala	2199
14	Madhya Pradesh	4684
15	Maharashtra	4585
16	Manipur	1014
17	Meghalaya	374
18	Mizoram	216
19	Nagaland	218
20	Orissa	4696
21	Punjab	1631
22	Rajasthan	1773
23	Sikkim	172
24	Tamil Nadu	2801
25	Telangana	2207
26	Tripura	520
27	Uttar Pradesh	2693
28	Uttarakhand	901
29	West Bengal	1975
30	Andaman & Nicobar	0
31	Chandigarh	676
32	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	13
33	Daman & Diu	19
34	Delhi	5612
35	Lakshadweep	0
36	Puducherry	406
	Grand Total	63243

5. Regulations, Rules and Schemes:

Regulations

1. The National Legal Services Authority (Lok Adalats) Regulations, 2009.
2. The National Legal Services Authority (Free and Competent Legal Services) Regulations, 2010.
3. The National Legal Services Authority (Legal Services Clinics) Regulations, 2011.

Rules

1. The National Legal Services Authority Rules, 1995
2. The Supreme Court Legal Services Committee Rules, 2000.
3. The Permanent Lok Adalat (other terms and conditions of appointment of Chairman and other persons) Rules, 2003.

Schemes

1. NALSA (Legal Services to Disaster Victims Through Legal Services Authorities) Scheme, 2010.
2. NALSA (Victim of Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation) Scheme, 2015.
3. NALSA (Legal Services to the Workers in the Unorganized Sector) Scheme, 2015.
4. NALSA (Child Friendly Legal Services to Children and their Protection) Scheme, 2015.
5. NALSA (Legal Services to the Mentally Ill and Mentally disabled Persons) Scheme, 2015.
6. NALSA (Effective Implementation of Poverty Alleviation Schemes) Scheme, 2015.
7. NALSA (Protection and Enforcement of Tribal Rights) Scheme, 2015.
8. NALSA (Legal Services to the Victims of Drug Abuse and the Eradication of the Drug Menace) Scheme, 2015.
9. NALSA (Legal Services to the Senior Citizens) Scheme, 2016.
10. NALSA (Legal Services to Victims of Acid Attack) Scheme, 2016.

6. Persons benefited through Legal Aid & Advice;

2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 (upto August, 19)
3,11,370	5,56,689	8,22,856	14,75,577	4,10,989

7. Total No. of Legal Services Clinics (other than Jails): 22711

8. **Total No. of Legal Services Clinics in Jails: 1098**
9. **Total No. of Legal Literacy Clubs in School & Colleges: Around 50,000**
10. **Legal Awareness Programmes Organized**

2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 (upto August, 19)
121126	165124	176546	66064

11. **Total No. of PLAs (PUS) functioning and disposal**

PLA functioning as on August, 2019	Disposal of PLAs			
	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 (upto August, 19)
336	93555	124459	102625	42320

12. **Total No. of Remand Advocates: 10742**
13. **Total No. of ADR Centers (other than Mediation Centers): 452**
14. **Total No. of Mediation Centers (other than ADR Centers): 571**
15. **Total No. of Mediators Trained**

Total No. of Mediators Trained		
MCPC	Non MCPC	Total
5764	5516	11280

16. **Cases settled through Mediation:**

2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 (upto August, 19)
53042	93732	107587	98966	39195

17. **Disposal of National Lok Adalat held during the last 3 years**

Subject	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 (upto September, 2019)
Pre-litigation	1,63,43,150	55,21,422	24,77,528	32,72,638	19,53,560
Pending Cases	61,58,564	49,77,031	29,28,339	26,09,923	19,27,273
Total	2,25,01,714	1,04,98,453	54,05,867	58,82,561	38,80,833

18. Disposal of Lok Adalats (other than National Lok Adalats) for the last three years

Subject	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 (upto August, 19)
Pre-litigation	758633	984512	375130	26394
Pending Cases	965679	944170	672525	226056
Total	1724312	1928682	1047655	252450

19. Training programmes conducted for:

Period	Panel Lawyers	PLVs	Any other	Total
2016-17	1193	1532	894	3619
2017-18	1301	1675	766	3742
2018-19	1087	1537	576	3200
2019-20 (upto August, 19)	562	678	264	1504

20. Some Pan India Campaigns

- **Campaign for women prisoners** – In 2018, this Pan India Campaign was implemented for women prisoners and children accompanying them in jails. The teams **had one to one interaction with 91% of women prisoners** i.e. 14,788 women prisoners. The campaign also saw the selection of **450 women inmates to be trained as Para Legal Volunteers (“PLV’s”)**. **145 women inmates** were found to be pregnant, and accordingly they were made aware about their legal rights. In certain cases bail applications were also filed on their behalf.
- **Campaign for Convicts** - This pan India campaign was launched in 2018 to address the issues of convicts such as lack of legal information and their legal rights as well to meet the objective of securing their rights of appeal. **88,372 convicts** were made aware about the availability of free legal services. **20,725 convicts** were apprised about the status of their appeals. **Around 2500** appeals were filed through legal aid.

- **Campaign for Legal Assistance to the Family Members of the Prisoners:-** In May, 2019, with the aim of addressing the issues which arise among the family members of the prisoners after their incarceration a campaign for them was started. This campaign was for a duration of three months, carried out by all the legal services authorities of the States/UTs enthusiastically covering almost all parts of the country. Following the strategy laid down by NALSA for the campaign, it was carried out in two stages. In order to address the issues faced by the family members of the prisoners the Legal Services Authorities also coordinated with various Government Departments and facilitated them in getting benefits under various welfare schemes. Interaction with 157206 number of prisoners was made during the campaign. After having feedback from the prisoners, interaction was done with 32783 families of the prisoners. 14866 number of family members were provided legal services/assistance and 4151 number of family members were provided legal aid.

21.Recent Initiatives(2019)

- **Legal aid Defense Counsel System:**

In order to further strengthen the court based legal services, Legal Aid Defense Counsel System was adopted in All India Meet at Nagpur. Under this system, lawyers will be exclusively engaged on full-time basis, for conducting legal aid cases in Sessions Courts. It will be implemented in 18 districts across the country on pilot basis for two years. All the 18 districts have started the process of recruitment of lawyers and staff and putting into action Legal Aid Defense Counsel System.

Some of the perceived advantages of Legal aid Defense Counsel System vis-a-vis assigned counsel system may be mentioned as follows:

- Availability and accessibility of Legal Aid Defense counsel
- Effective and efficient representation by seasoned lawyers
- Timely and effective Client Consultations
- Effective monitoring of legal aided cases
- Professional management of legal aid work in criminal matters
- Enhanced responsiveness leading to updating of legal aid seekers about the progress of their cases
- Ensuring accountability on the part of the legal aid providers.

• **Protocol for Legal assistance at pre-arrest, arrest and at remand stage:**

NALSA has recently prepared a protocol for providing access to justice to suspects and arrestees. It is being implemented across the country. The protocol spells out a framework for providing legal assistance at pre-arrest, arrest and remand stages. The protocol is expected to fulfil the following objectives:

- i. To provide legal assistance to needy suspects and arrestees during interrogation and other early stages of investigation.
- ii. To decrease the vulnerabilities of suspects and arrestees.
- iii. To assist in avoiding unnecessary arrests.
- iv. To assist the arrestees in filing bail applications and furnishing bail bonds.

It is likely to reduce undertrials, and is in line with the International standards for providing legal assistance at early stages of criminal justice.

22. Impact Assessment Studies

NALSA has completed the Tender process for allocating impact assessment studies in the following five subjects:-

- A. Evaluation and impact assessment and scheme for Para Legal Volunteers(PLVs).
- B. Evaluation of legal aid provided in civil and criminal matters in courts, tribunals and quasi-judicial bodies.
- C. Evaluation and Impact Assessment of practice and procedure of empanelment, capacity building , engagement and management of lawyers empanelled with Legal Services Authorities.
- D. Evaluation of the functional management and the impact, quality and effectiveness of legal services rendered through Front Offices and Legal Services Clinics.
- E. Evaluation and impact assessment of preventive, strategic and outreach access to justice programmes for marginalized sections of society.

Out of aforesaid, working orders have been issued in three studies mentioned at **A,B and C**.

23. Committees

Committee constituted by the Central Authority in its meeting held on 19.05.2018

Subject	Members
To frame SOP/Guidelines for the Legal Services Institutions spelling out the framework for engaging Legal Aid/Services Clinics set up in the Law Schools, Colleges and Universities in the Country.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey, Judge, Jammu and Kashmir High Court 2. Shri P. S. Narasimha, Addl. Solicitor General of India 3. Prof. M.R.K. Prasad, Principal, V.M. Salgaoncar College of Law, Goa 14 4. Prof. Ajay Pandey, Associate Professor, Jindal Global Law School, Sonipat

Committees constituted by the Central Authority in its meeting held on 20/7/2019

Subject	Members
Revision of fee payable to the Panel Lawyers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shri P.S.Narasimha 2. Shri Sriram Panchu 3. Shri Vijay Hansaria 4. Member Secretary, NALSA.

conducting a needs assessment exercise for optimum use of technology by NALSA and all State Legal Services Authorities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajesh Bindal 2. Hon'ble Ms. Justice Rekha Sharma 3. Shri P.S.Narasimha 4. Shri Naveen Gupta 5. Shri Vivek Raghavan and 6. Shri Manthan Trivedi
Discuss the issue with the Chairman, Bar Council of India and Chairman, Legal Education Committee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mohammad Rafiq 2. Shri Vijay Hansaria 3. Prof. Ajay Pandey
Issue of rehabilitation of women prisoners.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mohammad Rafiq 2. Shri Alok Srivasatava 3. Shri P.S.Narasimha 4. Mr.D.R.Mehta and 5. Shri Alok Agarwal
A scheme for Legal Services to Abandoned Homeless Persons.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hon'ble Ms. Justice Rekha Sharma 2. Shri Sriram Panchu 3. Shri Vijay Hansaria and 4. Dr. D.R.Mehta
Examine the feasibility of involving the specialised agency like TISS and utilising CSR for legal services activities.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hon'ble Ms. Justice Gita Mittal 2. Hon'ble Mr. Justice N.Kotiswar Singh 3. Shri P.S.Narasimha and 4. Shri Sriram Panchu

Committees constituted in the All India Meet of the SLSAs held on 17-18 August, 2019

Subject	Members
Scheme for putting in place a framework for ensuring that appeals through legal aid institutions are filed within limitation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.C. Dharmadhikari 2. Hon'ble Mr. Justice C. Praveen Kumar 3. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pankaj Kumar Jaiswal 4. Hon'ble Dr. Justice Vineet Kothari and 5. Hon'ble Executive Chairman, Bihar
Delving into the existing framework of Lok Adalats and Mediation, and to suggest ways for enhancing operational efficiency and plugging gaps, if any, for better application of these ADR mechanisms for weaker sections of the society.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.C. Dharmadhikari 2. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajesh Bindal 3. Hon'ble Mr. Justice G.S. Sistani 4. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Joymalya Bagchi 5. Hon'ble Mr. Justice M.S. Sonak
Suggest a model for assessing and projecting demands for Grant-in -aid for a financial year and other matters incidental thereto.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hon'ble Dr. Justice S.Muralidhar, 2. Shri Vijay Hansaria and 3. Shri P.S. Narasima
Devising framework and indicators for measuring performance and impact of outreach legal services activities.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hon'ble Mr. Justice G.S. Sistani 2. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mohd. Rafiq 3. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Jaswant Singh 4. Hon'ble Mr. Justice C.K. Abdul Rehim 5. Hon'ble Mr. Justice N. Kotiswar Singh

24.NALSA Fund

Year	2015-16 (Rs.)	2016-17 (Rs.)	2017-18 (Rs.)	2018-19 (Rs.)	2019-20 (as on 18.11.2019) Rs.
Budget Estimated	145 Crores	142 Crores	100 Crores	150 Crores	140 Crores
Opening Balance	49.74 Crores	57.22 Crores	13.21 Crores	0	Nil
Grant received from the Govt.	67.97 Crores	63.67 Crores	100 Crores	150 Crores	140 Crores
Total Grant	117.71 Crores	120.89 Crores	113.21 Crores	150 Crores	140 Crores
Grants released to SLSAs	60,29,88,995	110,09,96,000	* 115 Crore	155 Crores	132.50 Crores
Funds utilized	-	96, 62,11,779	1,71,40,75,907	155 Crores	132.60 Crores

* Additional expenditure is met out of unutilized grant received from 4 island SLSAs.

25. Broad focus Areas

- Enhancing the quality of court based legal services.
- Emphasis on evidence based outreach programmes.
- Strengthening basic units such as Front Offices and Legal Services Clinics.