

REPORT OF PARTICIPATION IN 17TH ALL INDIA MEET OF DISTRICT LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY OF LEGAL AID CELL

17th and 18th August, 2019

The 17th All India Meet of State Legal Services Authorities held at Radison Blu, Nagpur, on 17th and 18th August 2019. The annual conclave witnessed participation of Executive Chairpersons from various State Legal Services Authorities, High Court Legal Service Committees, Member Secretaries, SLSAs and Secretaries, High Court Legal Services Committees, Law college Principals, faculties and students from across the country.

The meet was inaugurated by Hon'ble Minister of Law and Justice and Electronics & Information Technology, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad. Expressing strong commitment of the government towards ensuring access to justice, one of key standpoints of good governance, he shared the vision of the government in making India a global hub of arbitration. He commended the legal aid movement successfully led by NALSA over the years and making access to justice a reality.

Hon'ble Minister reiterated the fact that Digital India is at the fulcrum of successful implementation of schemes and must be leveraged for the success of legal aid programmes as well. Power of social media must be recognized for reaching out to the people and spreading awareness, he emphasised.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.A. Bobde, Judge, Supreme Court of India & Executive Chairman, NALSA addressing the august gathering, spoke at length on the new model of legal aid on the lines of Public Defender system being introduced in the legal aid system in the country. He apprised the gathering about NALSA's initiative in this regard and quoted, 'The protocol spells out a framework for providing legal assistance at pre-arrest, arrest and remand stages. It is hoped that it will result in avoiding unnecessary arrests.' Highlighting the impressive success with three-fold increase in legal aid delivery since 2016, he added that there has been a huge focus on encouraging mediation and called for greater focus on pre-litigation mediation.

Member Students along with the faculty in charge of Legal Aid Centre of Symbiosis Law School, Nagpur participated in two days programme.

