

The Sikkim State Legal Services Authority under the guidance of Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai, Acting Chief Justice, High Court of Sikkim and Executive Chairperson, Sikkim SLSA conducted a "State Meet of Para-Legal Volunteers and Commendation Ceremony of best PLVs on 22.09.2018(Saturday) in the Conference Hall of Sikkim State Legal Services Authority, Development Area, Gangtok.

The above Meet was presided over by Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai, Acting Chief Justice, High Court of Sikkim and Executive Chairperson, Sikkim SLSA as Chief Guest in the august presence of Hon'ble Mr. Justice Bhashkar Raj Pradhan, Judge, High Court of Sikkim as Guest of Honour.

The programme was also attended by Mr. N.G. Sherpa, Registrar General, High Court of Sikkim, Mr. K.W. Bhutia, Registrar, High Court of Sikkim, Shri Suraj Chettri, Member Secretary, Sikkim SLSA, Mr. Jagat Bahadur Rai, Ld. District & Sessions Judge, East at Gangtok & Chairman, District Legal Services Authority, East, Ms. Ranjeeta Pradhan, Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate, East at Gangtok & Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, East, Para-Legal Volunteers of all the four districts, press and media along with the officers and staff of Sikkim SLSA.

Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai, in her address, applauded the commendable work done by the PLVs for aiding the Sikkim SLSA, the Authorities at District and Taluk level and mentioned that PLVs are intermediaries bridging the gap between the common people and the legal services institution to remove impediments in access to justice. Her Ladyship also thanked active PLVs for their hard work and contribution to bridge gap between legal services authority and general public and also for generating awareness to the public at large.

Her Ladyship also mentioned that the PLVs must have passion for learning. It was apprised that in today's scenario counseling of school children has become extremely necessary and the PLVs were requested to provide counseling to the

children about the ill-effect of early marriage. Her Ladyship also mentioned that the PLVs should also generate awareness on the issues pertaining to Mental Illness, Drug Abuse, Women & Child Trafficking, POCSO Act, 2012 etc.

In her address Her Ladyship's stressed that the victim of drug abuse should not be stigmatized by our society .

It was also mentioned that PLVs and others should not try to settle any offences under POCSO Act or the offence of rape. She also mentioned that failure to report commission of an offence under POCSO Act is also a punishable offence.

There was an interactive session between the Hon'ble dignitaries and the audience present.

11 PLVs selected by the respective DLSAs were awarded with certificates and mementos as a mark of appreciation.

Further, the Chairpersons and Secretaries of DLSAs were also felicitated for their dedication and commitment to the cause of legal services.

The Welcome Address was delivered by Mr. Suraj Chettri, Member Secretary, Sikkim SLISA while the vote of thanks was proposed by Shri Bikash Sharma, Deputy Secretary, Sikkim SLISA.