

The Sikkim SLSA represented by its team, comprising of Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai, Judge, High Court of Sikkim & Executive Chairperson, Sikkim SLSA, Ms. Subarna Rai, Member Secretary, SSLSA, Shri Jorgay Namka, Senior Advocate and Panel Advocate, SSLSA, Ms. Zola Megi, Panel Advocate, Sikkim SLSA and Officers and staff of SSLSA visited the relief camps set up by the Government post the flash floods, at Majhitar Government Secondary School, Chanatar Community Hall at Rangpo and Singtam Bazaar on 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2023.

During the visit, Her Ladyship personally interacted with the people displaced by the glacial lake (*Lhonak Lake*) outburst in the early hours of 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2023 who are presently housed in the relief camps.

Under the directions of the Hon'ble Executive Chairperson, a Legal Aid Clinic was also set-up at Singtam Bazaar where interactions between the persons affected by the floods and the team from SSLSA took place.

At the said camps, they were informed that SSLSA while working under the aegis of National Legal Services Authorities of whom the Patron-in Chief is the Hon'ble Chief Justice of the India and the Executive Chairperson is the senior-most Hon'ble Judge of the Supreme Court of India, will be providing free legal aid and assistance to the victims of the disaster. The Scheme under which such assistance is provided is the NALSA (*Legal Services to Disaster Victims through Legal Services Authorities*) Scheme, 2010.

The Panel Advocates in the team informed the affected persons that the assistance by the SSLSA would be by way of drafting complaints, FIRs, etc pertaining to loss of documents, co-ordinating with the various government agencies and providing free legal counselling. The Legal Aid Clinic at Singtam

will be manned by Ld. Panel Advocates and Para-Legal Volunteers of Sikkim SLSA and will continue at the venue for the next one week or till such time as required.

**For assistance and queries, the public are to contact the following numbers:**

1. Office of Sikkim State Legal Services Authority, Development Area, Gangtok: 03592-205377
2. Office of District Legal Services Authority, East, District Court complex, Sichey, Gangtok: 03592-284462
3. Office of District Legal Services Authority, North, District Court complex, Pentok, Mangan: 03592-234694
4. Office of District Legal Services Authority, South, District Court complex, Namchi: 03595-264654
5. Office of District Legal Services Authority, West, District Court complex, Kyongsa, Gyalshing: 03595-250010
6. NALSA Helpline Number:15100