

INAUGURATION OF OFFICE OF LEGAL AID DEFENSE COUNSEL

The office of the Legal Aid Defense Counsel located at the Alternative Dispute Resolutions Centre at District & Sessions Court, Gangtok was inaugurated by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Biswanath Somadder, Chief Justice, High Court of Sikkim & Patron-in-Chief, Sikkim State Legal Services Authority in august presence of Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai, Judge High Court of Sikkim & Executive Chairperson, Sikkim State Legal Services Authority and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Bhaskar Raj Pradhan, Judge, High Court of Sikkim & Chairperson, High Court Legal Services Committee.

The Legal Aid Defense Counsel Scheme, 2022 has been launched by National Legal Services Authority and under this Scheme, Legal Aid Counsel will be providing free and competent legal services in criminal matters to persons eligible as prescribed by Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, namely, a member of a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe, victim of trafficking in human beings or begar, a woman, a child, persons with disability, persons under circumstances of undeserved want such as; victim of mass disaster, ethnic, violence, caste atrocity, flood, drought, earthquake or industrial disaster, an industrial workman, persons in custody and persons whose annual income is less than Rs. 3 lakhs.

Under the Scheme, a Chief Legal Aid Defense Counsel along with two Deputy Chief Legal Aid Defense Counsels and two Assistant Legal Aid Defense Counsels have been appointed and they will be taking up criminal cases in Courts under the jurisdiction of Gangtok District.