

Report on the Mega Legal Awareness Camp

Date: 29th May 2025

Venue: Rabindra Bhavan, Asansol, Paschim Bardhaman

Organized by: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Paschim Bardhaman

In association with: Asansol Durbar Samity

Supported by: Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee

Introduction:

A Mega Legal Awareness Camp was successfully organized on 30th May 2025 at Rabindra Bhavan, Asansol by the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Paschim Bardhaman, in collaboration with Asansol Durbar Samity and supported by Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee. The event aimed to sensitize and empower Female Sex Workers (FSWs) through awareness on legal rights, protection laws, and access to social welfare schemes.

The camp witnessed enthusiastic participation from **640 Female Sex Workers** from Asansol and Durgapur. The program was graced by eminent dignitaries from the judiciary, administration, legal services, health, social welfare, and law enforcement sectors.

Dignitaries Present:

The event was honored by the presence of several distinguished personalities, including:

1. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Soumen Sen**, Judge, High Court at Calcutta & Executive Chairman, State Legal Services Authority, West Bengal
2. **Sri Satya Arnab Ghosal**, Ld Member Secretary, State Legal Services Authority, West Bengal
3. **Sri Shyamal Gupta**, Former District Judge
4. **Sri Debaprasad Nath**, Ld District & Sessions Judge, Paschim Bardhaman cum Chairman, DLSA Paschim Bardhaman
5. **Smt. Bipasha Mondal (Das)**, Ld Additional District & Sessions Judge, 4th Court, Asansol
6. **Sri Dibyendu Nath**, Ld Registrar cum Deputy Secretary, State Legal Services Authority, West Bengal
7. **Smt. Poonam Singhi**, Ld Deputy Secretary, State Legal Services Authority, West Bengal
8. **Dr. Md Yunus**, Chief Medical Officer of Health, Paschim Bardhaman
9. **Sri Biswajit Bhattacharya**, Sub Divisional Magistrate, Asansol Sadar
10. **Sri Nemaï Chandra Roy**, District Social Welfare Officer, Paschim Bardhaman
11. **Sri Manoj Kumar Roy**, Probation cum After Care Officer, South 24 Parganas
12. **Smt. Amrapali Chakraborty**, Secretary, DLSA Paschim Bardhaman
13. **Sri Rabi Lal Tudû**, Borough Chairman – VIII, Asansol Municipal Corporation
14. **Dr. Amitra Sudan Chakraborty**, Dean, Department of Law, RKDF University
15. **Smt. Sangita Mukherjee**, Guidestar India
16. **Sri Kaushik Kundu**, Inspector-in-Charge, Asansol South Police Station
17. **Dr. Protim Ray**, Senior Research Executive Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee

18. Smt. Basanti Biswas, Member of executive body (Durbar)

Program Highlights:

Opening Session:

The event commenced with an **opening song** performed by members of Asansol Durbar Samity, followed by the **ceremonial lighting of the lamp**, led by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Soumen Sen and other dignitaries. Each guest was welcomed and felicitated with a plant sapling, symbolizing growth and sustainability.



Welcome Address:

Speaker: *Sri Debaprasad Nath, Ld District & Sessions Judge, Paschim Bardhaman*

Sri Nath warmly welcomed all present and outlined the objectives of the camp. He emphasized awareness of legal provisions under **Section 364**, the **Victim Compensation Scheme**, and **Supreme Court guidelines for Aadhaar enrolment for FSWs with assured confidentiality**. He further informed about recent discussions with the ADM, who assured support for FSWs aged **40-45 years** through the formation of **Self-Help Groups (SHGs)**, provision of financial loans, and entrepreneurial skill training.



Keynote Address:

Speaker: *Hon'ble Mr. Justice Soumen Sen*

Justice Sen delivered a compassionate and insightful address, reaffirming every individual's right to **dignity and equality**, irrespective of profession. He highlighted the importance of **human rights, legal protections, and welfare schemes** for FSWs, women, and children, and stressed the need for collaborative efforts from the **judiciary, administration, and civil society**. Emphasizing the **Right to Education** as a fundamental entitlement, he urged FSWs and the public to actively seek legal aid and services through the **District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs)**.



Special Addresses:

- **Sri Shyamal Gupta, Former District Judge**
He introduced the philosophy of 3Rs — **Respect, Recognition, and Reliance**, encouraging FSWs to assert their rightful place in society through awareness, advocacy, and collective action.
- **Sri Nemaï Chandra Roy, District Social Welfare Officer**
He presented a comprehensive overview of various welfare schemes, including:
 - ✓ **Old Age Pension**
 - ✓ **Lakshmir Bhandar**
 - ✓ **Kanyashree & Rupashree**
 - ✓ **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana**
 - ✓ **One-Stop Crisis Centers**
 - ✓ **Old Age Homes, Shakti Sadan**
 - ✓ **Mission Vatsalya**
 - ✓ **Cottage Homes for Children**
 - ✓ **Childline (1098)**

He encouraged participants to contact **DLSAs** for guidance on these schemes and legal support services.

Dr. Protim Roy (Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee)

He highlighted DURBAR's enduring efforts in promoting legal literacy, welfare, and empowerment of FSWs, and reaffirmed the organization's commitment to strengthening community initiatives.



Cultural Performances: Children from Asansol Durbar Samity performed **dance and karate demonstrations**, symbolizing cultural vibrancy, empowerment, and self-defence readiness among the community.



Concluding Remarks:

Speaker: *Dr. Protim Roy*

Dr. Roy expressed gratitude to all dignitaries, collaborators, and participants. He emphasized the importance of continuous efforts in addressing **social stigma** and advancing inclusion and rights for FSWs and marginalized communities.



Key Impact Highlights:

- Participation of **640 Female Sex Workers** from Asansol and Durgapur.
- Strengthened awareness on **legal rights, protection laws, and social welfare schemes**.
- Initiation of action plans for **Self-Help Group formation and business skill training** for interested FSWs.
- Strengthened collaboration between **FSWs, legal authorities, administrative officials, and civil society**.
- Promoted dignity, safety, and empowerment through **cultural participation and legal advocacy**.



Conclusion:

The Mega Legal Awareness Camp proved to be a significant step towards empowering marginalized communities, promoting legal literacy, and facilitating access to welfare schemes. The event created a vital platform for dialogue, awareness, and community solidarity, reaffirming the collective commitment to safeguarding human rights and social justice.