

## \* NATIONAL LITERACY MISSION

- The national literacy mission (NLM) is a nationwide program started by Government of India in 1988. It aims to make 60 million adults in the age group of 15-35 literate over an eighty-year period. By "Literacy", the NLM means not only learning how to read, write and count but also helping people become aware of why they are deprived and helping them move towards change.
- This mission was set up by the government of India on 5 May 1988 with an aim to eradicate illiteracy in the country by imparting functional literacy to non-literates.
- National literacy mission works under the guidance of National Literacy Mission authority, an independent wing of Ministry of Human Resources and Development.
- This mission has two flagship programs - (1) Total literacy program (2) post literacy program - through which it gives shape to its aims. But with the

revitalization of National literacy mission program on 30<sup>th</sup> September 1999.

→ The National literacy mission initiated its first successful literacy Campaign in kottayam city of Kerala. Till November 2002, 596 districts out of the total 600 districts of country had been covered up by the National Literacy Mission.

Out of which, 191 was in the post literacy phase and 238 in the continuing education phase.

→ The initiation of total literacy Campaigns by the National Literacy Mission has achieved due recognition also. The UN agency - UNESCO in year 1999 conferred upon it UNESCO Noma Literacy prize. It also received appreciation of the Jury for the teaching learning material produced by it and for the voice raised by it to make quality primary education in school.

→ NLM even release funds of ~~the~~ for the districts. While the ratio between Centre and State is 2:1, it is 4:1 for the tribal sub plan districts.

\* In 2005 9<sup>th</sup> of November

which is observed as the "National legal literacy Day" as on this day in the year 1995.

→ The approach of making people aware of their rights gets impetus from the National legal literacy mission which was launched by our

Hon'ble prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh under the aegis of NALSA.

It envisages the creation of a cadre, called the 'paralegals', who shall be trained and deployed as 'community advocate' - the persons who would be able to understand, appreciate and articulate the needs of the poor underprivileged.

→ Hon'ble P.M also remind ourselves that in our endeavour to meet the mandate of Article 39A by <sup>providing equal justice & free legal aid</sup> the provision of legal aid, which is made functional through the institution of NALSA and its cohorts.

→ He also said that the question stirring in his mind is that how to make this legal instrument efficient so as to enable it to play the revolutionary role of transfor

-ming 'unequals' into equals.  
They also said that lessons in legal literacy are the means of making people aware of their rights. Legal literacy is the core basis of rule of law and constitution.

The judges, as officers of legal service authority, across the country should reach out to the poor, know their grievances and get them justice by forming collaboration with other stakeholders of the civil society and the executive.

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