

AID TO MIGRANT WORKERS DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The Coronavirus Global pandemic has created an upheaval in the lives of people from all the sections of the society, but, the most affected are the poor migrant laborers who are stuck in the cities in penury. The Legal Aid and Awareness Committee has pitched into the humanitarian crisis to show its passion and devotion towards the society by making relief efforts for these stranded migrant workers in these times of crisis. The Committee has been working to ease the pain and suffering of thousands of migrant laborers who wanted to reach their native places but had insufficient economic resources and other provisions like adequate food, shelter and healthcare.

A. CONTACTING THE MIGRANT WORKERS

The war against COVID-19.



After the coordinated efforts of Prayas Centre for Labour Research and Action and the students of NLU-J, GNLU, and IIM-A, 29 migrant workers from Ahmedabad finally made the journey to their homes in Orissa.



**LAAC
2020**

The PRAYAS Centre for Labour Action and Research provided the Legal Aid and Awareness Committee [“LAAC”] with a database comprising contact details of around 19,000 migrant workers who were either in need of food supplies or stuck in Surat without transportation

facilities to Jharkhand. However, by the time LAAC realised that many migrant workers had already reached their homes by their own means but were still facing food shortages. Therefore, to update the record, LAAC decided to contact these workers by calling each one of them. For the same, a call for volunteers was made to various law colleges and their Legal Aid Committees and Societies. LAAC received a good response and had 600 volunteers to make the calls from various colleges and Universities including National Law University, Jodhpur and its alumni, Amity Law School, Noida, Chanakya National Law University, Patna, Jindal Global Law School, Sonapat, Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Patiala, RML National Law University, Lucknow and National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata.

Gujarat National Law University [GNLU] deserves a special mention for setting an example for other universities and taking the first step in aiding the migrant workers. GNLU also helped the Legal Aid Committee and CLRA in extending the financial and logistical help required to ensure that the migrant workers are informed about the scheduled train beforehand. Through crowd funding, GNLU provided financial help to those workers who did not even have enough money to reach the railway station on time.

Our main goal was to reduce the hardships faced by these workers by ensuring travel and/ or ration to the workers. Each volunteer was allotted 30-40 contacts from the database. Three main questions had to be asked-

- Are they stuck in Gujarat?
- If yes, do they want to go back to Jharkhand?
- What is their current status? (location and if they needed food supplies)

During the calls, the volunteers would also enquire for any other worker around them who had not registered in any such database and wanted to get registered. LAAC also enquired if someone was in any urgent need of food or medical supplies. Such cases, besides being recorded in our data sheet, were also compiled separately, so that urgent action could be taken by contacting the on-ground volunteers, police and government authorities. The calls were conducted in a span of 5-7 days and action on the urgent cases was taken side by side during the same time duration.



B. FACILITATING TRANSPORTATION OF MIGRANT WORKERS FROM GUJARAT TO JHARKHAND





In partnership with Prayas Center for Labour Research and Action [“CLRA”], the Legal Aid and Awareness Committee [“LAAC”] facilitated the transportation of over 1600 migrant workers to Jharkhand who were either stranded in Surat or Ahmedabad.

The committee was successful in also collecting the Aadhaar Card details and other credentials of all the labourers who wished to take a Shramik train back home. After completion of this process, an application was submitted to the concerned administrative authorities requesting them to arrange an urgent Shramik train to Jharkhand. The application was finally sanctioned on June 9, 2020. Before the journey, the ground level volunteers and members of CLRA ensured that the passengers are properly screened before boarding the train and also possess meals, biscuits, bread and water during the journey. The train departed from Ahmedabad junction at 8 PM with a stoppage in Surat at 11.30 PM and reached its destination, Ranchi at 4AM on June 11, 2020. Additionally, with the coordinated efforts of the students from GNLU and IIM-A, 29 migrant workers from Ahmedabad also made it to their homes in Orissa through buses.

Currently, LAAC is actively engaged in helping all the migrant workers who are still stranded by reaching out to various organizations working at the ground level.

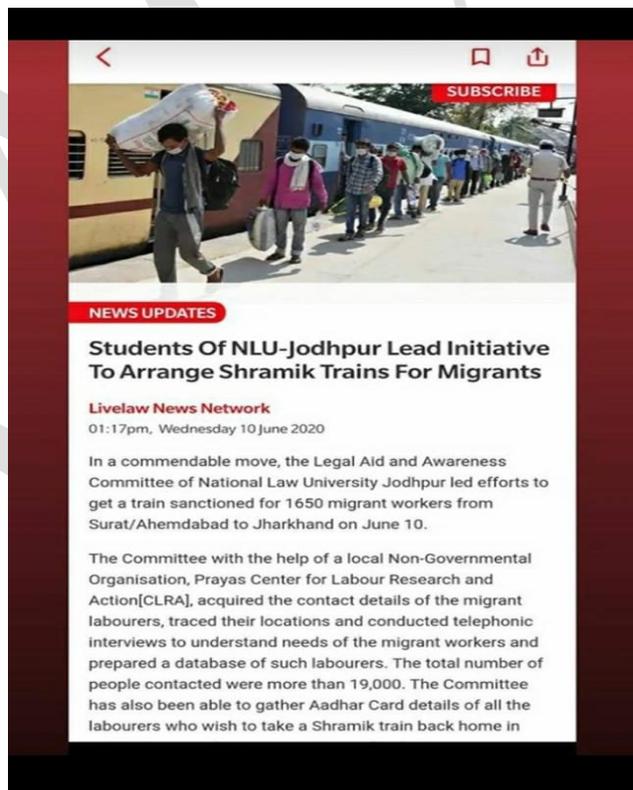
Home / India News / NLU arranges train to ferry over 1,600 migrants home

NLU arranges train to ferry over 1,600 migrants home

An application to allow an urgent the special train to transport 1,650 migrant workers amid coronavirus-triggered lockdown was made last week before the district magistrates of Ahmedabad and Surat. The request was sanctioned on June 9.



Migrant workers being thermal screened at the



NEWS UPDATES

Students Of NLU-Jodhpur Lead Initiative To Arrange Shramik Trains For Migrants

Livelaw News Network
01:17pm, Wednesday 10 June 2020

In a commendable move, the Legal Aid and Awareness Committee of National Law University Jodhpur led efforts to get a train sanctioned for 1650 migrant workers from Surat/Ahmedabad to Jharkhand on June 10.

The Committee with the help of a local Non-Governmental Organisation, Prayas Center for Labour Research and Action[CLRA], acquired the contact details of the migrant labourers, traced their locations and conducted telephonic interviews to understand needs of the migrant workers and prepared a database of such labourers. The total number of people contacted were more than 19,000. The Committee has also been able to gather Aadhar Card details of all the labourers who wish to take a Shramik train back home in



Legal Aid & Awareness Just now

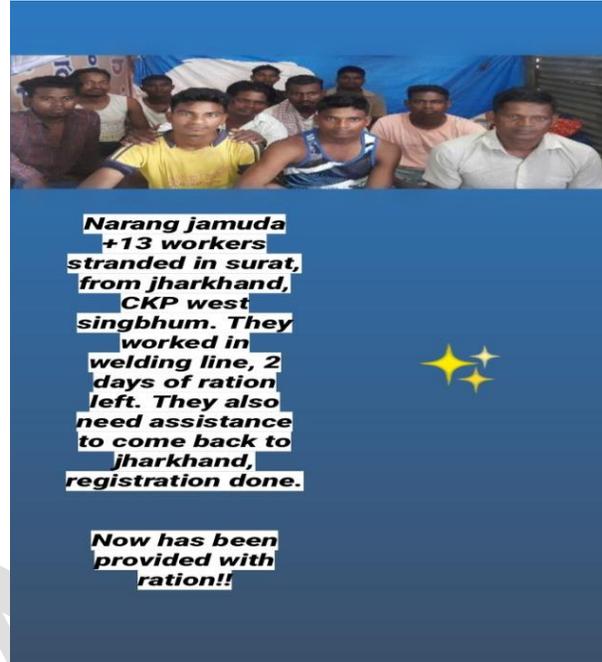
Mr daud who contacted us from surat, yesterday night, stuck there with a 8 month pregnant sister, a kid and wife and in dire need of food.

We could reach him this morning.

C. Food Distribution Campaign

The Legal Aid and Awareness Committee [“LAAC”] was able to successfully facilitate distribution of ration to many families who were in urgent need of food. The families who were helped belonged to the states of Jharkhand, Gujarat, Bihar and Delhi. Since the area of focus for LAAC was Surat and various districts of Jharkhand, majority of the help was provided in these two regions.

To effectively implement the initiative, LAAC collaborated with multiple civil society organisations and individuals who were working on ground in these areas. With the support of volunteers from different colleges, LAAC had compiled a list of families who were in urgent need of food supplies. The list was then segregated into two parts, the first being of those families, which had food supplies for a few days, and the second being of those who needed the supplies urgently. Accordingly, these lists were then forwarded to the concerned authorities and non-governmental organisations working at the ground level in these regions. LAAC also raised SOS in many cases with the help of Twitter and tagged the Local Police and District Collector for help. The tagged officials directed the local police to verify the claims and take the requisite action. The LAAC expresses its heartfelt gratitude to Jharkhand Police which took prompt action in many of the urgent cases and helped the needy in a short span of time



Jio LTE 9:31 PM 79%

Thread

India Cares @indiacares_2020 · 5h
 This group wanted to go back to Chhattisgarh. They went from Palampur, Kangra to Amritsar by bus and then to their home state by train. (2/3)

twitter.com/rajareeshav/st...



Raja Reeshav Roy · 30/05/20
 Name :Bhushan
 Contact:917725093035
 Address: Gurum, PO daher ,Kangra zila, Palampur, Himachal Pradesh....

1 10

Tweet your reply



Jio LTE 8:51 PM 5%

GIRIDIH POLICE @GIRIDIHPOLICE

Replying to @JharkhandPolice @rajareeshav and 3 others

महाशय, बिरनी थाना द्वारा राशन सामग्री उपलब्ध कर मदद की गई।

[Translate Tweet](#)



8:46 PM · 30/05/20 · Twitter for Android

4 Likes

CASES SOLVED DURING THE COVID- 19 PANDEMIC

A. LANDLORD CASES

Under the current circumstances, tenants and landlords are in an uncharted place facing a full or partial shutdown of business as a result of the government's constraints and regulations on our day-to-day activities. Various state governments have issued an advisory to landlords to defer rent for at least three months and not evict tenants for non-payment.



- (i) **In the case of Vikas Kumar (Ahmedabad)**, the migrant worker was harassed by the landlord when the worker was unable to pay the monthly rent of the residence. The best way to resolve the issue of non-payment of rent under the present circumstances is to mutually reach an amicable settlement with the landlords with regards to payment of rent. To settle this issue, we contacted the landlord and amicably solved the rental issue. The landlord agreed to extend the stay lease of Vikas Kumar. Therefore, Vikas Kumar was able to stay at his rental home amid this pandemic.
- (ii) **In the case of Nirjala Kumar (Surat)**, the migrant worker was staying with her family. Her husband is a rickshaw puller in Surat for the last 20 years. The landlord asked them to vacate the residential premise in absence of payment of monthly rent. We contacted them and asked them about their financial conditions, and after discussion, they agreed to pay rent from next month. Thereafter, we contacted the landlord who later on agreed to allow these workers to stay.

(iii) In the case of Nand Kishor Shau (Surat), the migrant worker has a family of 8 members.

The landlord forced them to vacate the home. They didn't have any conveyance to go back to hometown. We contacted the landlord and told him about government advisory. He didn't agree and thereafter we threatened him of filing a police complaint. Later on he agreed to let migrants continue their stay.

B. CONTRACTOR CASES



(i) In Rajkot (Gujarat), one factory owner refused to pay wages to its labourers citing his inability to pay amid this pandemic. Consequently, it became difficult for these labourers to run their livelihood. We filed a complaint to Rajkot SDM. He directed authorities to do the needful. Resultantly, the owner paid the dues to its labourers. However, he didn't pay full wages amount. So we are trying to contact authorities again to direct the owner to pay the full amount.

(ii) In Surendra Nagar (Gujarat), 74 labourers belonging to Jharkhand were stuck there. They were working in a factory. The factory owner couldn't provide wages to these labourers. After discussion, we reached an amicable solution. The owner agreed to provide ration and residence to these labours instead of wages and as and when situation gets normal suitable wages will be paid.