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OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY, SAMBA

PRESS RELEASE

In a first of its kind initiative in embracing technology as a medium for inauguration of three different facilities, Hon'ble Ms. Justice Gita Mittal, the Chief Justice , High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Patron-in- Chief, Jammu & Kashmir State Legal Services Authority, today E-Inaugurated three facilities viz Ahata-e-Waqar (Day Care and Recreation Centre for Senior Citizens) ,Vulnerable Witnesses Deposition Complex and Crèche facility at District Court Complex, Samba, in the august presence of Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajesh Bindal, Executive Chairman Jammu and Kashmir State Legal Services Authority, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Tashi Rabstan, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Hon'ble Ms. Justice Sindhu Sharma, Administrative Judge for District Samba, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Hon'ble Mr. Justice V.C.Koul, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Puneet Gupta and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Javed Iqbal Wani, Judges High Court of Jammu and Kashmir . On the occasion, Sh. Mohammad Akram Chowdhary, Principal District & Sessions Judge, and Chairman District Legal Services Authority, Samba delivered the welcome address and explained the purpose and

objective underlying the creation of these facilities at Court Complex, Samba. In his address he lauded the direction and guidance of Hon'ble Ms. Justice Gita Mittal, Chief Justice, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sh. Rajesh Bindal Executive Chairman State Legal Services Authority and Hon'ble Ms. Justice Sindhu Sharma, Administrative Judge for Samba in setting up these facilities. He explained that the Ahata-e-Waqar shall be a place of pride for the elderly citizens to spend their quality day time at the centre in the company of their friends and which shall also serve as a place for celebrations of Birth and Marriage Anniversaries and other events and this place shall be used by the elderly citizens, promoting the concept of ageing with dignity. He enumerated the concept of Vulnerable Witness Deposition Complex as an initiative to improve the response of justice dispensation system and ensuring sensitivity towards vulnerable witnesses to minimize their repeated victimization. The Creche facility aims to provide a stimulating environment for the children of working parents, up to the age of 06 yrs. for their overall development. The programme was witnessed on Online mode by participants including Judicial Officers, Senior Citizens, Advocates, Officers from the Administration, Para Legal Volunteers and Retainer Lawyers of District Legal Services Authorities and Social Activists.

Ahata-e-Waqar Centre, established at Old Court Complex Building, Samba aims to serve as a place of pride for the Senior Citizens where they can spend their day in constructive and recreational activities. The Senior Citizens can spend quality time at the Centre in the company of their peer group and can engage themselves in various pursuits. They can avail the facilities of free Legal Aid and Police assistance from the Help desk established within the centre. The Vulnerable Victim Deposition Complex is situated on the first floor of the District Court Complex at Nandini Hills, Samba. The Complex has been designed for Vulnerable Witnesses including the victims of sexual offences and child witnesses of various heinous crimes who need to be protected from undue influence or intimidation from the accused. Situated on the ground floor, the Crèche has been established for the facility of children of working parents including Advocates, Clerks, Officers and Court staff and is available for children between age group of 06 months up to 06 yrs. The Crèche has reading material, play material and other activities suitable for the holistic development of children of working parents.

In her Presidential address, Hon'ble Ms. Justice Gita Mittal, Chief Justice of High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Patron in Chief, Jammu and Kashmir State Legal Services Authority highlighted the importance and necessity of creation of such facilities in all districts

for their maximum utilization by the persons in need of such facilities. She referred to the already existent facilities in the districts of the Union Territory and the beneficial purpose being served by them. She underscored the necessity of Ahata-e-Waqar facility as being a place of pride for the Senior Citizens and a place they can call their own where they can share their life experiences with each other and spend quality time. She referred the Senior Citizens as being treasures of experience. The importance of maintaining active help desks of Legal Services and Police assistance was also stressed upon where the Senior Citizens can seek legal advice. She referred to the Vulnerable Witnesses Deposition Complex as being a very important concept of dispensation of justice where the vulnerable victims can depose in a safe environment without any pressure or fear. She highlighted the importance of Crèche facility as being the need of the hour in the present times when both parent are working and require a safe and suitable place for their children simultaneous to their mental and physical health. She lauded the efforts of District Judiciary Samba in creating and developing these facilities.

In the Key note address Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajesh Bindal, Judge High Court of Jammu and Kashmir, Executive Chairman Jammu and Kashmir State Legal Services Authority highlighted the importance of

the facilities and impressed upon need for creating such facilities and also maintaining them in a qualitative manner by a robust mechanism.

In her inaugural address Hon'ble Ms. Justice Sindhu Sharma, Judge High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Administrative Judge for District Samba discussed the concept of the three facilities in detail and underscored the importance of the facilities for the use of Senior Citizens, working parents and for the convenience of Vulnerable Witnesses. The Online audience were given links of the three newly inaugurated facilities by keeping them on a virtual tour of Ahata-e-Waqar, Vulnerable Victim Deposition Complex and the Crèche, separately.

Secretary
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