

Nyaya Bandhu Legal Aid programme

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The Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal Service) is one of the programmes under the scheme of “Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice” (DISHA) which is being implemented by Department of Justice. The Nyaya Bandhu program registers interested Pro Bono Advocates and connects them with the beneficiaries (who are entitled for free legal aid under Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987) through the Nyaya Bandhu Application (available iOS/Android/UMANG Platform). At present, there are 9261 advocates who have volunteered and registered on Nyaya Bandhu platform. A panel of Pro Bono Advocates has also been constituted in 23 High Courts to strengthen institutional mechanism for delivering pro bono legal services to the beneficiary. Further, to instill the spirit of pro bono work among law students and nurture a long-term commitment to legal service, Pro Bono Clubs have been constituted across 109 law colleges in the country.

To enhance the reach and effectiveness of the Nyaya Bandhu program in remote areas, Pro Bono Clubs (PBCs) in the Law schools are engaged in providing community care legal assistance and legal awareness to the beneficiaries in the villages, for a sustained pro bono participation nationwide.

In order to broadbase the outreach of Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal Services), a dedicated portal on Nyaya Bandhu (<https://www.probono-doj.in/>) is available for the citizens in 22 scheduled languages of the country. Access to relevant Information Education and Communication (IEC) material on Nyaya Bandhu has been provided, in the form of message from the Hon’ble Minister of State, Law & Justice (I/C), print and digital material relating to the registration process on Nyaya Bandhu Application for both citizens and Advocates, broadcast of information through L-Band and Aston Band on Doordarshan, voices of Pro Bono Advocates, short film on Nyaya Bandhu and dissemination of Nyaya Bandhu pamphlets across District Courts and display of hoardings at the petrol pumps, convenience centers and other public places for enhancing outreach in the country.

Till 30th June, 2025, approximately, 14888 women beneficiaries have registered under the Nyaya Bandhu App, seeking legal assistance related to civil and criminal laws, including Women and Child safety, Family and Matrimonial disputes, Domestic Violence, Property Disputes, Workplace Harassment, etc.

The Nyaya Bandhu Application has been integrated with Tele- Law (pre-litigation advice) services under the DISHA scheme. Through the Tele- Law App, beneficiaries may consult with a panel lawyer on seeking further legal advice and assistance from Nyaya Bandhu Pro Bono advocate. With support from the Village

Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) and Panel Lawyers engaged in pre-litigation advice under Tele-Law, awareness about the Nyaya Bandhu is being spread to the citizens in their regional language at the Common Service Centres (CSCs) and via Helpline Toll- free number 14454. This seamless integration aims to create a mechanism for delivering legal advice and assistance to needy beneficiaries across the country.

This information was given by the Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Law and Justice; and Minister of state in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal in a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha today.

Samrat/ Allen

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