DISHA Scheme – Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Indian Polity and Governance*

Why in News?

Recently, Chennai Hosts Regional Tele-Law Workshop under DISHA Scheme.

- **Aim –** The DISHA scheme integrates multiple legal aid initiatives especially for ***marginalized and rural communities***.
- It fulfils the constitutional mandate of *Equal Justice and Free Legal Aid* through digital platforms and grassroots legal services.
- **Type of Scheme –** Central Sector Scheme (100% funded by the Union Government).
- **Launched in -** April 2021.
- **Duration -** 2021–2026.
- **Nodal Ministry –** Ministry of Law and Justice
- **Implementing Agency –** Department of Justice
- **Relevant constitutional provisions – Article 39A** (equal justice and free legal aid).
- **Article 14** (Equality Before Law and equal protection of the laws).
- **Article 21** (Fundamental right to life and personal liberty).
- **Coverage – Pan-India** coverage across all States and Union Territories.
- **Objectives –**Deliver citizen-centric legal services through a unified framework.
- Promote technology-enabled justice delivery.
- Improve legal literacy and awareness.
- Provide pre-litigation legal support to reduce court burden.

Key Components

- **Tele-Law Programme –** Provides free pre-litigation **legal advice** via panel lawyers.
- Accessible through Common Service Centres (CSCs) or the Tele-Law app

and a Toll-free helpline**.**

- **Nyaya Bandhu Programme –** Connects volunteer advocates with eligible beneficiaries for **free legal representation**.
- Pro Bono Clubs established in 109 law colleges.
- **e-Courts Mission Mode Project (Case Tracking) –** aims to digitise and modernise the judiciary using Information and Communication Technology.
- Phase III (2023–2027) – Focus on paperless courts and digital case management.
- **Digital Courts 2.1 system -** *AI-based tools like* ***LegRAA and SUPACE*** for legal research and case analysis.
- Virtual courts for cases such as *traffic challans***.**

  India's first fully paperless district court was inaugurated in Kalpetta, Wayanad (Kerala) in January 2026.

- **Nyaya Sahayaks –** Introduced in 2024, to provide door-to-door legal service, linking citizens to legal aid platforms.

Quick Facts

- **National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) –** It is established under the **Legal Services Authorities Act 1987.**
  - To Provide free legal aid to weaker sections.
  - Organise Lok Adalat for speedy dispute settlement.
  - Ensure equal access to justice.
  - Structure of Legal Services Authorities
- **Legal aid institutions at multiple levels** –
  - National Legal Services Authority **(NALSA)**,
  - State Legal Services Authorities **(SLSA)**,
  - District Legal Services Authorities **(DLSA)**,
  - Taluk Legal Services Committees.

References

1. PIB | DISHA Scheme
2. DOJ | DISHA Scheme



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