Nyaya Bandhu Legal Aid program

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance*

Why in News?

Union minister of law and justice in a written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha proceedings described Nyaya Bandhu Legal Aid program is enhancing legal aid in the country.

- **Nyaya Bandhu** – It is a ***pro bono legal services (free legal assistance)*** program to provide free legal aid to eligible marginalized beneficiaries through a mobile application.
- The program registers interested Pro Bono Advocates and connects them with the beneficiaries through the Nyaya Bandhu Application.

Pro bono advocates *are legal professionals provide legal services free of charge or at a minimal cost to individuals and organizations unable to afford legal assistance or access legal aid, serving the public good.*

- **Aim –** To create a mechanism for delivering legal advice and assistance to needy beneficiaries across the country.
- **Launched & implemented by** – Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice.
- **Program under** - Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice (DISHA) which is being implemented by Department of Justice.
- **Eligible beneficiaries** – People entitled for free legal aid under Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.
- **Features** - A panel of Advocates has also been constituted in 23 High Courts to strengthen institutional mechanism for delivering pro bono legal services to the beneficiary.
    - To instill the spirit of free legal work among law students.
    - Pro Bono Clubs constituted across 109 law colleges in the country.
- **Awareness in remote areas** – Through Pro Bono Clubs (PBCs) in the Law schools are engaged in providing community care legal assistance and legal awareness.
- through Common Service Centres (CSCs) in regional languages and via Helpline Toll-free number 14454.

Nyaya Bandhu Application

• **Availability** – It is available on iOS/Android/UMANG Platform.
• **Features and purpose** – Registration of both advocates and beneficiaries.
• Enabling *communication and updates exchange* between advocates and applicants through the app.
• Integration with the Tele-Law pre-litigation *advice services* for broader legal support reach.
• *Multilingual support* (about 22 scheduled languages) and availability on UMANG platform to enhance accessibility.

- **Impact** – Till 30th June, 2025, approximately, 14888 women beneficiaries have registered under the Nyaya Bandhu App seeking assistance across various problems.

Reference

PIB | Nyaya Bandhu Legal Aid program

