

NEWSLETTER

Pro Bono Club, Faculty of Law, BHU
Justice for All- Nyaya Bandhu Initiative



In collaboration with
Nyaya-Bandhu (Pro-Bono Legal Services)
An initiative of the Department of Justice
Ministry of Law and Justice



न्याय विभाग
DEPARTMENT OF
JUSTICE

सत्यमेव जयते

NEWSLETTER

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ABOUT

Faculty of Law, Banaras Hindu University



The Faculty of Law at Banaras Hindu University (BHU), established in 1924, stands as one of India's earliest and most prestigious law faculties. Its inception was marked by the leadership of Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya, the university's founder, who served as the first dean for three years. The faculty has been graced by eminent legal scholars, including Sir Rash Behari Ghosh and Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, who have held the esteemed position of Head & Dean.

Pioneering in legal education, the Law School offers various programs such as full-time three-year LL.B.(Hons.), B.A.LL.B. (Hons.), a two-year full-time LL.M, LL.M (HRDE), one year LL.M and multidisciplinary diplomas. It also holds the distinction of offering a two-year full-time specialized LL.M. in Human Rights and

Duties Education. Notably, BHU's Law School was among the first six in India to initiate 'Clinical Legal Services,' with its model being lauded as the best by Hon'ble Mr. Justice P. N. Bhagwati, former Chief Justice of India. The curriculum is meticulously designed to provide both theoretical and practical knowledge, preparing students to meet contemporary professional demands.

The faculty is dedicated to nurturing students' legal acumen through various activities, including debates, moot courts, seminars, and workshops. These initiatives enhance students' articulation skills and instill the confidence needed to distinguish themselves in the legal profession. Additionally, the Law School publishes the biannual 'Banaras Law Journal,' contributing to scholarly discourse in the legal field. In alignment with the digital era, the Law School provides access to extensive online and offline library resources. The faculty takes pride in its rich library, housing numerous books across various disciplines in both Hindi and English. Over its century-long history, the Faculty of Law at BHU has remained committed to excellence in legal education, producing distinguished legal professionals and scholars who have significantly contributed to the field.



Message from the Dean

Professor C.P. Upadhyay
Head & Dean, Faculty of Law, BHU



“I extend my sincerely gratitude to the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice for this meaningful initiative that nourishes our effort to connect legal education with real-world responsibilities. The Pro Bono Club at the Faculty of Law, BHU reflects our commitment to justice, providing students a platform to understand the law beyond textbooks and cater to the needs of the vulnerable communities and groups. With the support of our faculty, I am sure this club will grow into a space where law is not just studied but practiced with a sense of duty and purpose.”

Message from Faculty Coordinator- Pro Bono Club

Dr. Dolly Singh
Asst. Professor, Faculty of Law, BHU



“I would like to thank the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice for starting an excellent initiative with the larger objective of providing legal assistance to the marginalised, spreading legal literacy and opportunity, for the budding lawyers by making a way for them to reach courtroom during the phase of law classroom. With this mission of bridging the gap between legal knowledge and accessibility, I vision the Pro Bono Club of the Faculty of Law ensuring justice for all. With the rich knowledge of the learned faculty members of the law school and their spirit to provide guidance in resolving the complexities of law I believe that this club shall function to foster a culture of responsibility, ethics, and service.”

Other Faculty Members' Actively Associated with Activities of the Club



Dr. Gopal Krishna Sharma
Asst. Professor
Faculty of Law
Banaras Hindu University



Dr. Gurwinder Singh
Asst. Professor
Faculty of Law
Banaras Hindu University



Dr. Kiran Mishra
Asst. Professor
Faculty of Law
Banaras Hindu University



NYAYA BANDHU

About Nyaya Bandhu

The Nyaya Bandhu programme, led by the Department of Justice, connects Pro Bono advocates with eligible beneficiaries through mobile technology. To strengthen this initiative, Pro Bono panels in High Courts are being integrated, ensuring wider access to justice and institutionalizing Pro Bono culture in India's legal system. The Pro Bono Club (PB Club) Scheme aims to enhance Pro Bono legal services by integrating law schools and students into the framework of the Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal Services) initiative. Under this scheme, selected law students, known as Pro Bono Associates (PBAs) assist Pro Bono advocates in improving efficiency and delivering quality in legal aid. The scheme fosters a sense of community responsibility among young legal professionals by encouraging them to provide legal assistance to marginalized individuals. Key activities include Pro Bono Litigation Assistance, Community Care Legal Assistance (CCLA), Research & Documentation, ADR Promotion, and recognition for PBAs and Nyaya Bandhu Advocates.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Nyaya Bandhu Programme promotes Pro Bono legal assistance by encouraging lawyers and law firms to provide free legal aid. It involves law students in legal research and drafting under professional supervision. The initiative identifies marginalized beneficiaries (EWS, SCs, STs, women, senior citizens, and differently-abled persons) and raises awareness about their legal rights. The Nyaya Bandhu Mobile App connects beneficiaries with Pro Bono lawyers, enabling case registration and tracking. The program strengthens legal aid services in partnerships with law universities, Bar Councils, and NGOs while conducting awareness camps and training programs.

The Registrar General, High Court oversees implementation, managing lawyer registrations, approvals, and performance reviews while organizing regular awareness sessions. The Department of Justice ensures coordination, conducts quarterly reviews with High Courts, and prepares consolidated reports. CSC e-Gov handles the digital infrastructure, including web application development, database maintenance, training, and user manual preparation, ensuring smooth monitoring and reporting of the initiative.

Objective & Vision of Pro Bono Club

Objectives

The Pro Bono Club at the Faculty of Law, BHU, aims to:

1. Provide free legal aid to underprivileged sections of society.
2. Empower law students to engage in public service and Pro Bono activities.
3. Conduct legal literacy programs, awareness campaigns, and community outreach.
4. Collaborate with the Nyaya Bandhu initiative to extend legal aid services.

Vision

To create a legally empowered society where justice is accessible to all, and law students play an active role in bridging the gap between legal rights and reality.

The Pro Bono Club, Faculty of Law, BHU, envisions a society where justice is accessible to all, regardless of socio-economic status. It aims to empower marginalized communities by providing free legal aid, spreading legal awareness, and nurturing a culture of social responsibility among law students. Through collaborations with legal institutions, government bodies, and NGOs, the club seeks to bridge the justice gap, uphold constitutional values, and foster a new generation of socially committed legal professionals.

Activities by Pro Bono Club, Faculty of Law, BHU

Samvidhan Katta



Empowering Citizens through Constitutional Awareness:

The Pro Bono Club, Faculty of Law, BHU, successfully conducted the Samvidhan Katta initiative on 28th September, 2024 at Faculty of Law, BHU, fostering a deeper engagement with the Constitution of India. This initiative served as a platform for discussions on constitutional principles and their real world



applications, emphasizing how the constitution is a living document that shapes the daily lives of the citizens.

One of the highlights of this initiative was the case study titled "The River Saraswati and the Plight of Nirmalpur: Bhola's Fight for Justice." This narrative illustrated the power of constitutional rights in environmental justice. The villagers of Nirmalpur, led by Bhola Ram, invoked Article 21 (Right to Life) and filed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) against industrial pollution, ultimately securing a landmark judicial victory. The court's ruling upheld the Right to a Clean Environment, setting a precedent for similar struggles.

This activity reinforced the club's mission of bridging the gap between legal knowledge and social justice. Through engaging discussions and legal analysis, students and faculty explored the practical impact of constitutional provisions, empowering citizens to utilize legal frameworks for their rights and welfare. The Samvidhan Katta initiative stands as a testament to the transformative power of legal awareness, inspiring individuals to actively engage with their rights and responsibilities under the Constitution.



FACULTY OF LAW
BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY

PRO - BONO CLUB
presents

संविधान कट्टा

SAMVIDHAN KATTA
with
Special Emphasis on
“ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS”
In accordance with
ARTICLE 21



Consumer Rights Awareness Camp



Consumer Rights Awareness Camp: Protecting Consumer Interests

The Pro Bono Club, Faculty of Law, BHU, successfully organized a Consumer Rights Awareness Camp at the premises of Vishwanath Temple, BHU on 8th October, 2024. This event aimed at empowering citizens with essential knowledge about their rights under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, and equipping them with tools to address their consumer grievances effectively.

Highlights of the Camp

The camp focused on educating participants about their rights as consumers, including the right to be informed, the right to redressal, and the right to protection from unfair trade practices. The Pro Bono team provided practical guidance on filing consumer complaints through the official Consumer Forum website and demonstrated the use of the E-Dakhil



portal, which simplifies the process of seeking legal remedies for grievances.

During the event, the team entertained 10 individuals with real consumer grievances, ranging from e-commerce fraud to defective products and delayed services. Each case was documented, and the team assured further analysis to determine eligibility for filing formal complaints. For cases meeting the necessary criteria, E-Dakhil applications will be submitted to ensure swift and effective resolution.



The interactive session also included real-world case studies and insights into landmark consumer rights judgments, encouraging active participation from attendees. This not only raised awareness but also inspired confidence in utilizing legal mechanisms to address issues.

Commemorates the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women with Thought-Provoking Competitions



On the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, the Pro Bono Club, Faculty of Law, Banaras Hindu University, organized a series of impactful competitions aimed at fostering awareness and action against gender-based violence on 25th November, 2024 at Central Hindu Boys School, Varanasi. Pro Bono Club, BHU consciously chose to celebrate this day in boys' school with the aim to sensitize the young boys on the issue of violence against women so that these young boys become men who would promote gender equality.

Sensitization and Awareness Drive

The event commenced with Pro Bono Club associates engaging students in thought provoking discussions conducted in both Hindi and English.

This interactive session set the stage



for the competitions, reinforcing the responsibility of law students in addressing gender-based violence through legal and social interventions

Competitions: A Platform for Change

The Pro Bono Club organized three key competitions—Poster Making, Essay Writing, and Speech Competition—to encourage students to creatively and critically engage with the issue.

Poster Making Competition: Creativity with a Cause

Participants showcased their artistic talents by creating posters on themes such as:

Breaking the Silence: Empowering Women, Ending Violence

Unite for a Violence-Free Future: Justice, Equality, and Dignity for Women

Banaras Hindu University Faculty of Law PRO-BONO CLUB

celebrates **International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women**

Time: 25th November, 2024 (Monday)
Venue: Central Hindu Boys School, BHU

Eligibility:
Participants: *Students of Classes IX to XII*
Language: *English and Hindi*

Poster Making Competition	Essay Writing Competition	Speech Competition
Time: 90 minutes	Time: 90 minutes Word Limit: 450-500 words	Duration: 7-10 minutes
Theme: Breaking the Silence: Empowering Women, Ending Violence OR Unite for a Violence-Free Future: Justice, Equality, and Dignity for Women Participants to Bring: Paper, colors, sketches, paints, etc.	Topics: Legal Frameworks and Social Responsibilities: Combating Violence Against Women OR The Role of Education in Preventing Violence Against Women	Topics: From Awareness to Action: Youth's Role in Combating Violence Against Women OR Gender Equality: The Foundation for Ending Violence Against Women
Judging Criteria: Creativity, Relevance to Theme, Originality	Judging Criteria: Structure, Originality, Creativity, Language, Style, Impact, Conclusion	Judging Criteria: Clarity, Structure, Delivery, Presentation, Originality, Creativity, Impact, Overall Impression

Prizes: 1st, 2nd and 3rd from each category will be awarded certificate and trophies

For more information please contact Pro Bono Associates
 Vivek Verma: 9569586874, Saumya Dave: 9929454045 and Yashvardhan Singh: 9569586874
 Dr Dolly Singh (Faculty Coordinator, Pro Bono Club) Assistant Professor Faculty of Law, BHU



The posters beautifully depicted the students' passion and commitment to social justice, using visuals to convey strong messages on gender equality and women's rights.

Essay Writing Competition: Analytical Perspectives

Participants presented well-researched and critical essays on:

Legal Frameworks and Social Responsibilities: Combating Violence Against Women
The Role of Education in Preventing Violence Against Women

These essays reflected deep legal insight, critical thinking, and practical solutions to address violence against women.



Speech Competition: Voices for Justice

Participants delivered compelling speeches on:

From Awareness to Action: Youth's Role in Combating Violence Against Women

Gender Equality: The Foundation for Ending Violence Against Women

The competition witnessed passionate and articulate speeches, where participants emphasized the urgency



of addressing violence against women and the need for collective action to create a safer society.

Prize Distribution Ceremony

A Prize Distribution Ceremony was held at the Faculty Lounge, Faculty of Law, BHU, where prizes were awarded by Prof. C.P. Upadhyay Head and Dean, Faculty of Law, BHU, to honor the winners' outstanding performances.



Gratitude and Acknowledgment

The Pro Bono Club extends its heartfelt gratitude to the esteemed judges, Dr. Gopal Krishna Sharma and Dr. Kiran Mishra, faculty members of the Faculty of Law, BHU, for their valuable time and insightful judgment, which added immense value to the competitions.

A special thanks to Central Hindu Boys' Senior Secondary School, BHU, for their enthusiastic support and collaboration in making this initiative a success.

This event was not just about competitions; it was a movement—a step towards raising awareness, inspiring action, and shaping a generation committed to justice and gender equality.

Cyber Awareness and Redressal Camp



The Pro Bono Club of the Faculty of Law, BHU, held a highly impactful Cyber Awareness and Redressal Camp at the historic and revered Vishwanath Temple premises on 5th December, 2024. This event was remarkable endeavor to raise awareness about cyber rights and legal remedies available to address cybercrime grievances.

Objective of the Event

The camp aimed to:

1. Educate students, faculty, and members of the local community about their cyber rights.
2. Provide legal assistance and practical guidance to address and mitigate issues related to cybercrime.



3. Enhance awareness of the legal framework governing cybercrimes and the role of the judiciary in safeguarding individual rights.

4. Empower the community with the knowledge to stay vigilant and proactive in the ever-evolving digital landscape.

Activities Conducted

The event featured a variety of engaging and informative activities:

Interactive Workshops: Sessions were conducted by legal professionals and law students focusing on topics such as cybersecurity measures, data privacy, digital fraud prevention, and reporting mechanisms for cybercrimes.

Legal Guidance Booth: The Pro Bono Club set up a help desk to address individual grievances and provide tailored advice on resolving cybercrime-related issues through legal means.

Q&A Session: Participants had the opportunity to interact with speakers and clear their doubts about cyber laws and rights.



BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF LAW



PRO BONO CLUB

CYBER-CRIME AWARENESS AND COMPLAINT MECHANISM DESK



SOME TIPS FOR CYBER SAFETY AND REPORTING

Ensure to

- Updated with the latest patches
- Download from trusted sources
- NO to pirated software
- anti-virus with the latest version
- protected by a strong PIN or passcode
- Do not share your net banking password, (OTP), ATM or phone banking PIN, or CVV number with ANYONE
- Avoid operating personal accounts when connected with public wifi
- Strong Passwords for on your Wi-Fi router
- Ensure to LOGOUT from the banking portal/website after completion of the online transaction.
- Avoid downloading e-mail attachments received in e-mails from unknown or un-trusted sources
- Be careful while sharing ID Proof Documents
- If the phone is stolen, get the same blocked immediately by telling the IMEI code of your cell phone
- Be aware of SAFE INTERNET PRACTICES
- Learn about CYBER CRIME AND SAFE CYBER PRACTICE
- BE ALERT while using ATM Pin Code at the ATMs. Ensure that no body sees that

Incident Reporting

- Visit the nearest police station immediately to report a cybercrime.
- Report online through <https://cybercrime.gov.in>.
- File a cybercrime complaint offline by calling 1930.
- Report if you receive fraud SMS, emails, links, or phone calls requesting sensitive information.
- Report any adverse activity or unwanted behavior to CERT-IN through the following: Email: incident@cert-in.org.in Helpdesk: +91 1800 11 4949
- Provide these details while reporting an incident to CERT-IN: time of occurrence, information about the affected system or network, symptoms observed.
- For lost or stolen mobile phones, file a FIR at the local police station.
- Inform the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) by: Calling the helpline number 14422.
- Filing a complaint online at <https://ceir.gov.in>.
- If a stolen device is used with a different SIM card, the service provider will identify the new user and inform the police.
- Always be cautious of fraudulent communications asking for sensitive personal or financial details.
- Cybercrimes involving women and children can be reported anonymously for added privacy and safety.
- Use official channels and helplines to ensure timely and effective action against cybercrimes.

For Assistance in Reporting: Contact the Pro Bono Club at the Faculty of Law, BHU

Impact and Outreach

The camp witnessed overwhelming participation from students, faculty members, and the local community.

Attendance: Over 50 participants from various walks of life, including university students, temple staff, and neighborhood residents, actively took part in the event.

Community Engagement: The initiative fostered a collaborative environment, bringing together stakeholders to discuss real-world cyber challenges and solutions.

Awareness Material: Informative brochures and flyers about cyber laws, cybercrime reporting mechanisms, and safety tips were distributed among participants.



Adoption of Ramana Gram Panchayat for Legal Empowerment and Holistic Development



Pro Bono Club, Faculty of Law, BHU Officially Adopts Ramana Gram Panchayat for Legal Empowerment and Holistic Development

The Pro Bono Club of the Faculty of Law, Banaras Hindu University, has taken a commendable step in advancing rural legal empowerment by officially adopting the Ramana Gram Panchayat in Varanasi. This initiative is part of the Gram Vidhi Chetna sub-campaign under the "Hamara Samvidhan Hamara Samman" program spearheaded by the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India.

About Ramana Gram Panchayat:

Ramana, located in the Kashi Vidyapeeth block of Varanasi, is a vibrant rural community with a total population of 9,451 as per the 2011 Census. The population comprises 5,036 males and 4,415 females, with marginalized groups including Scheduled Tribes (542 individuals) and Scheduled Castes (37 individuals). The total

area of the village spans approximately 6 square kilometers. Despite its rich cultural heritage, the panchayat faces challenges in accessing justice, awareness of legal rights, and sustainable development opportunities.

The village is headed by Sarpanch Arti Patel, while administrative responsibilities are supported by Panchayat Secretary Nitin Kumar Yadav.

Objectives of the Initiative:

The Pro Bono Club's adoption of Ramana aims to fulfill the following objectives:

1. **Legal Awareness Drives:** Educating residents about their fundamental rights and duties, government schemes, and essential legal frameworks, especially focusing on marginalized communities.



2. **Access to Justice:** Offering Pro Bono legal advice and facilitating the resolution of disputes through legal channels.

3. **Holistic Development Programs:** Addressing health, education, and social welfare needs to ensure sustainable growth and community welfare.

4. **Youth Engagement:** Encouraging youth participation in the democratic process and social development initiatives.

This adoption reaffirms the Faculty of Law, BHU's commitment to its community and strengthens its role as a pioneer in legal education and outreach. By bridging the gap between legal professionals and grassroots realities, the club aims to build a more just and inclusive society.

Empowering Rural Communities Through Gram Vidhi Chetna



Pro Bono Club, Faculty of Law, BHU: Empowering rural communities through Gram Vidhi Chetna

The Pro Bono Club of the Faculty of Law, Banaras Hindu University, has proudly taken a significant step toward ensuring access to justice and empowerment in rural communities. Under the Gram Vidhi Chetna sub-campaign of the “Hamara Samvidhan Hamara Samadhan” initiative by the Department of Justice,

The club has adopted the Ramana Gram Panchayat in Varanasi.



As part of the campaign's first phase, the Pro Bono Club visited two government schools in the adopted gram panchayat—UPS Saraswati Vidyalaya (Government-Aided School) and Purva Madhyamik Vidyalaya (Government School) on 25th January 2025. During these visits, a team of 7 Pro Bono Associates engaged with the school principals, teachers, and students to collect primary data and identify challenges hindering the educational environment.

The team's findings highlighted several pressing issues faced by the schools, including:

Lack of Infrastructure: Inadequate facilities to support effective teaching and learning.

Toilet Facilities: Limited or poor sanitation facilities, especially for girl students.

Absence of Computer Facilities: No access to computers or digital literacy tools, which are critical in today's educational landscape.

A Care Free Attitude of Parents in Neglecting Irregularity of their Children at Schools was reported by the Schools Teachers: Apathy among parents in ensuring consistent assistance of their children at school.

Road Connectivity and Transportation Problems were also visible.

The survey underscored the critical need for interventions to address these challenges and create an enabling environment for education in these schools. The Pro Bono Club is now planning actionable steps, including awareness drives, capacity-building programs, and collaborations with authorities, to improve the educational experience and enhance access to justice in these communities.





“Connecting with a cause and working on grassroots challenges instills life into our efforts, making a real difference in people's lives.”

- Pro Bono Associate.

Pro Bono Associates



List of Pro Bono Associates:

- Mr. Vivek Verma
- Mr. Smit Mishra
- Mr. Saumya Dave
- Mr. Suryansh Singh
- Mr. Gaurav Singh
- Ms. Gurpreet Kaur
- Ms. Agrata Parajuli
- Ms. Tripti Mishra
- Ms. Akanksha Yadav
- Mr. Yashvardhan Singh
- Mr. Anurag Aryan

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