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1. Tele-Law service

Syllabus: GS Paper 2- Polity- Structure, Organization and Functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary

Prelims: Tele law service

Mains: Initiatives taken to broaden access to justice

Context:

- 18th All India Legal Services Meet at Jaipur

Background:

Tele-law service:

- Launched in 2017, the Tele-Law programme of Department of Justice is an e-interface and pre-litigation mechanism. It aims to connect needy and marginalized persons, in need of legal advice, through Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) with Panel Lawyers via video conferencing/ telephonic facilities available at Common Service Centres (CSCs) situated at the Panchayat level.
- Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) have been stationed to act as intermediaries, bridging the gap between common people and the Tele-Law service, and also to create public awareness about Tele-Law.
- Panel Lawyers have been positioned to provide legal advice and consultation to people.
- For easy and direct access Tele- Law Mobile Application (both Android and iOS) has also been launched in 2021 and it is presently available in 22 scheduled languages.

Details:

- The Minister of Law and Justice Shri Kiren Rijiju announced that going forward, Tele-Law service would be made free of cost for citizens in the country.

- Department of Justice, Ministry of Law & Justice and National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) exchanged Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Integrated Delivery of Legal Services. As per the provisions of the MoU, NALSA would provide the services of 700 lawyers, in each district exclusively for the Tele-Law program. The empanelled lawyers would also assist in strengthening the mechanism for dispute avoidance and dispute resolution at the pre-litigation stage.

Significance of tele-law service:

- Tele-Law has widened the outreach of legal services to 20 Lakh + beneficiaries in just five years. This has increased access to justice for a large section. Access to justice has been recognized as an integral part of the legal framework prescribed under the Constitution of India.
- Article 39A of the Constitution of India provides that State shall secure that the operation of the legal system promotes justice on a basis of equal opportunity, and shall, in particular, provide free legal aid, by suitable legislation or schemes or in any other way, to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disability.

2. Khadi and Village Industries Commission

Syllabus: Statutory bodies.

Prelims: KVIC

Context:

- Shri Manoj Kumar has assumed the charge as the newly-appointed Chairman of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).

For detailed information on KVIC refer to the following article:

<https://byjus.com/free-ias-prep/kvic-khadi-village-industries-commission/>