

PRO BONO CLUB



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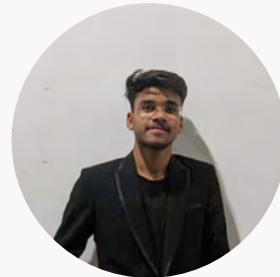
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About **BGU** BIRLA GLOBAL UNIVERSITY

Birla Global University (BGU) is a self-financed private unitary University and has been established by the enactment of Birla Global University Odisha Act, 2015 with its main campus spread over an area of nearly 30 acres of land in Gothapatna in Bhubaneswar the capital city of Odisha. The management of the University is carried out by a Board of Governors headed by Smt. Jayashree Mohta, Chairperson, Birla Academy of Art & Culture, being the main promoter of Birla Global University. The Hon'ble Governor of Odisha is the Chancellor of the University.





ABOUT BSOL

The Birla School of Law (BSOL) under Birla Global University, Bhubaneswar has been established with a goal to be the best destination for aspiring new-generation lawyers. It is committed to redefine quality in legal education with state-of-the-art facilities, best of infrastructure and the finest faculty.

The school provides quality teaching in the field of law and interdisciplinary studies. Students are provided opportunities for internship and placement. Our students also participate in advocacy, legal aid activities and are also encouraged to conduct independent research in specific area(s) of interest.

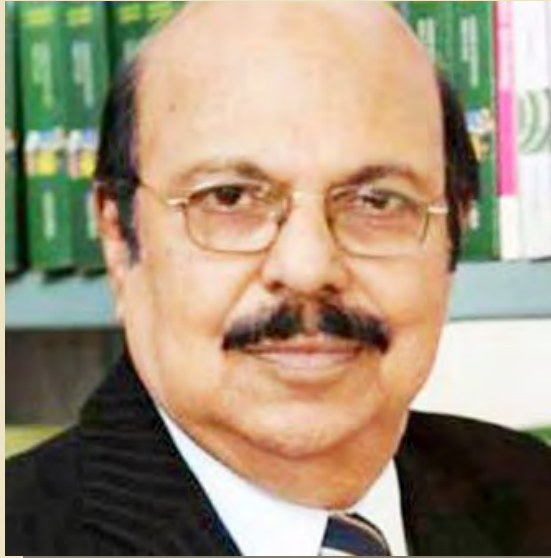
Birla Global University has entered into multiple MOUs and collaboration to facilitate internship and research opportunities for the students of BSOL (Birla School of Law). These include tie-ups with various Universities, Law -firms and civil societies.



PROF (DR) P P MATHUR **VICE-CHANCELLOR, BGU**

Prof. P.P. Mathur is an eminent scientist and academician with over 46 years of experience in teaching, research, and administration. He is the Vice-Chancellor of Birla Global University, Bhubaneswar. He has held several leadership positions in academia, including Vice-Chancellor of KIIT University, Bhubaneswar and Dean, School of Life Sciences at Pondicherry University. He is a Fellow of the National Academy of Medical Sciences, National Academy of Sciences, India, and the Indian Science Congress Association. He has published over 200 scientific papers and has received numerous awards for his work.





PROF (DR) B K DAS

REGISTRAR, BGU

Dr. Brajendra Kumar Das is a Ph.D. in Economics, LL.B., and Diploma in Business Management. He is also a Certified Associate of the Indian Institute of Bankers. He has over 30 years of experience in the banking sector, including as General Manager of a leading Public Sector Bank of India. He has also held several leadership positions in academia, including Director of Birla Global Institute Bhubaneswar. He is currently the Registrar and Professor Banking and Finance at Birla Global University (BGU), Bhubaneswar. He has been instrumental in setting up BGU and has made significant contributions to the field of banking and finance.



PROF (DR)LALIT KUMAR DEB DEAN, BSOL

Prof (Dr) Lalit Kumar Deb, Dean, Birla School of Law. He has over 36 years of teaching experience, he was the former Principal of Lingaraj Law College, Berhampur and the former Head of the UG Department of Maharashtra National Law University Mumbai. He practiced as an advocate for a few years and was a member of the Juvenile Justice Board, Ganjam for seven years. He has guided many PG students and Ph.d Scholars, in their desertation and thesis

Pro Bono services help in providing justice to the needy and underprivileged section of the society.”It gives me immense pleasure to be informed of the pro bono activities undertaken by the Pro Bono Club, BSOL. These outreach activities shall definitely bring about reforms in the society. I wish the Pro Bono Club, BSOL and pro Bono associates all the success in their future endeavours.



**ASHNA SIDDIQUI,
FACULTY IN-CHARGE, PRO BONO CLUB BSOL**

Ms. Ashna Siddiqui is a faculty at Birla School of Law, Birla Global University, Bhubaneswar. She is currently pursuing her PhD from NUJS, Kolkata. She has a Master of Laws (LLM) in Corporate and Commercial Laws from National Law University, Odisha and a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) (Hons) from KIIT University, Bhubaneswar. She has experience in teaching subjects like Human Rights, Gender Justice and Jurisprudence, Family Law, Interpretation of Statutes and Drafting Pleading & Conveyancing for almost half a decade. She has presented papers at prestigious conferences and published her research work in prominent journals. Ms Siddiqui has led the Rotaract club of the University for 3 years and is currently the Program Officer of NSS Law

As the Faculty in Charge of the Pro Bono Club, Birla School of Law, I am thrilled to share with you the incredible work our students have been doing to make a positive impact in our society.

Pro bono work lies at the heart of our commitment to justice and equality. Our dedicated students have been actively engaged in providing legal assistance to underserved communities, advocating for human rights, and addressing pressing social issues.

We believe that legal education goes beyond textbooks and courtrooms. It's about using our skills and knowledge to create real change in the world. The Pro Bono Club serves as a platform for our students to develop practical skills, gain valuable experience, and most importantly, make a difference. I wish the club continues to work for a more equitable and inclusive world.



NYAYA BANDHU

The Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal Services) is the Government of India's primary initiative to establish a framework for dispensation of pro bono legal services across the country. Under the programme, practicing advocates, interested in undertaking legal pro bono work, are connected, via mobile technology, with eligible marginalised beneficiaries, after due scrutiny for delivery of pro bono (free of charge) legal services.

In order to strengthen the Nyaya Bandhu network, Department of Justice proposed to set up and integrate pro bono panel of lawyers in each High Court (curated and moderated by the respective High Courts), within its Nyaya Bandhu programme. It envisages integrating the Nyaya Bandhu programme within the institutional framework of the justice system in India, so as to ensure its optimum utilization and impact.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- 1.Registrar General, High Court: Provide implementation support of Nyaya Bandhu Panel. Manage the registration, approval and review the performance of Lawyers. Designate an incharge to manage and administer the activities of this panel from High Court level. To organize orientation and awareness session of the activities of Nyaya Bandhu Panel on regular basis.
- 2.Department of Justice: Provide support in coordination and facilitation for successful implementation of this initiative. Conduct quarterly review meeting in coordination with High Court & develop a consolidated six-monthly report for submission to all stakeholders.
- 3.CSC e-Gov : Provides support in design, development, operation and maintenance of web based application of Nyaya Bandhu Panel for monitoring and reporting purpose in coordination with DoJ. Support in writing procedure, functions and triggers, maintain database, provide training and develop user manual of this application.



PROPOSED ACTIVITIES OF THE PRO-BONO CLUB

- 1.Pro Bono Litigation Assistance
- 2.Community Care Legal Assistance (CCLA)
- 3.Research, Documentation & Reporting
- 4.Promote Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanism
- 5.Recognition and Awards for PBAs and Alumni Nyaya Bandhu Advocates

OVERVIEW OF THE ACTIVITIES

Pro Bono Club (PB club) Scheme, has been conceptualized to strengthen the existing pro bono programme, by integrating law schools and students within its fold. The primary objective of this scheme is to improve the efficiency and quality of pro bono legal services by providing assistance to pro bono advocates through competent law students. Here, selected law students (known as 'Pro- Bono Associates' or PBA) are part of Pro Bono clubs attached to law schools and helmed by a dedicated faculty in-charge.



WOMENS WEEK

1ST MARCH, 2023 - 8TH MARCH, 2023



Pro Bono Club of Birla Global University had conducted a series of events through out the week celebrating Women's week



MARCH 1ST, 2023 : DAY-1

VISIT TO GODIBARI TRIBAL VILLAGE



The student members of the Pro Bono Club of Birla Global University started the week long celebration of International Women's Day by visiting a nearby tribal village, Godibari to meet and reach out the tribal women. The students approached women of all ages and the tribal women shared their victories and hardships they go through as women on a day to day basis and then initiated conversation with some sweets and leaflets of basic rights.

They not only shared personal anecdotes but also talked to them about their basic legal and personal rights like Right to Equality, Right to Education, Right to health, Right to free legal aid, Right against exploitation, Right against arrest, Right against discrimination, Right to vote and many more.

The women of the village welcomed the students and staffs with hospitality and shared their journey and hardships with them. The students then initiated conversation by giving treats and Basic Rights pamphlets to the villagers. They also interacted with the kids of the village asking them about their school, education and basic needs and later these little ones end up giving the students a tour of their beautiful village.





The team also visited the ANGANWADI of the village and had a talk with the supervisor regarding the needs of the students and the working of the child care centre.



March 2nd, 2023 : DAY-2

Discussion on

Feminism is Trans-Inclusive



On the second day of the celebration of International Women's Week, the Pro Bono Club of Birla School of Law organized a panel discussion on **"FEMINISM IS TRANS INCLUSIVE"** which was graced by the presence of Ms. Samikshya Behera, City Mission Manager for National Urban Livelihood Mission Project I, BMC; Ms. Ashisha Behera, Social Activist and Founder of TARIT Foundation; Ms. Meghena Sahoo, Social Activist and Secretary All Odisha Trans Gender Association. They shared their lifelong journeys of adversity and resiliency with the audience. The presenters also talked on how one should strive to be more humane and less gender-focused.



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KNOW THE SPEAKERS



MS. MEGHENA SAHOO
SOCIAL ACTIVIST AND
SECRETARY ALL ODISHA
TRANS GENDER
ASSOCIATION.

MS. SAMIKSHYA BEHERA,
CITY MISSION MANAGER FOR
NATIONAL URBAN
LIVELIHOOD MISSION
PROJECT I, BMC

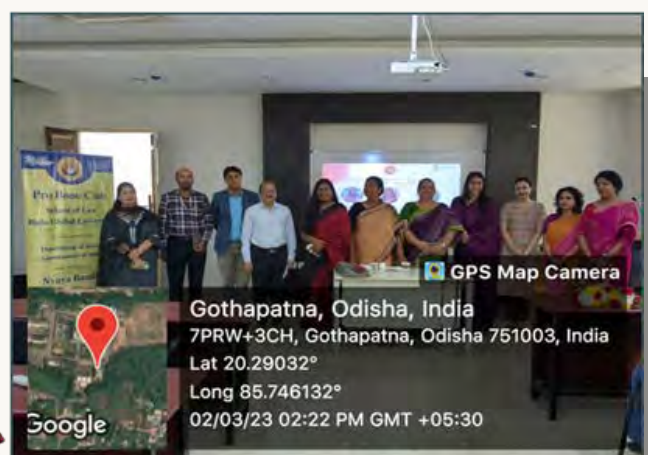


MS. ASHISHA BEHERA,
SOCIAL ACTIVIST AND
FOUNDER OF TARIT
FOUNDATION



It's important that we cultivate a culture wherein hatred simply isn't tolerated. It isn't enough simply not to be transphobic; it is important to stand firmly and actively against transphobia when it is expressed by friends, parents, relatives, teachers, professors, governments. It is important that a cis person uses that space of privilege to amplify our voices and stand by us as we fight for our rights.

Trinetra Hadar Gummuraja



MARCH 3RD, 2023 : DAY-3

RECOGNISED THE PRESENCE OF FEMALE SECURITY GUARDS AND HELPERS AT THE INSTITUTION

On the third day of Women's Week 2023, Pro Bono Club of Birla School of Law recognised the presence of female security guards and helpers at the institution, who occasionally go unappreciated for the effort they put into their jobs.



They were informed of their fundamental rights and given flowers as congratulations. In addition, several enjoyable activities, such as singing and dancing, were planned for them as part of the Pro Bono Club's weeklong awareness campaign and their celebration of achievement.



MARCH 4TH, 2023 : DAY-4

VISIT TO OLD AGE HOME



On the fourth day of Women's Week 2023, the Pro Bono Club of the Birla School of Law visited the Sanjeevani Old Age Home in Jagannathpur, Bhubaneswar, and celebrated the elderly ladies. As part of their Legal Awareness Campaign, which was held all this week, Pro Bono Club members informed people of their rights. We also donated fruits, other necessities like glucose packets, adult diapers, and other cereals, in addition to this awareness campaign.





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MARCH 5TH, 2023 : DAY-5

Slogan Writing Competition

BEST SLOGAN

"WOMEN IN 2030 WILL
SHOW THEIR METTLE,
MAKING THE WORLD
A BETTER PLACE,
WITHOUT ANY
NETTLE"

"IN 2030, WOMEN
WILL SHINE WITH
RESILIENCE AND
GRACE, LEAVING
GENDER BIASES IN
THE PAST, WITHOUT A
TRACE."



"WOMEN IN 2030 WILL BE
A FORCE TO RECKON,
THEIR STRENGTH AND
COURAGE SHINING, LIKE
A BRIGHT BECKON."

MARCH 6TH, 2023 : DAY-6



POSTER MAKING

The Pro Bono Club is holding a Poster Making Competition with the topic "Equity vs. Equality" on the sixth day of the Women's Week celebration. The Club kindly encourages University students to enter the competition by producing eye-catching posters on the specified subject.



BEJITA& BIRASH,
BBALLB 2020-25



WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP ROLE: *Breaking the glass ceiling*

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the father of the Indian constitution, said that the progress of a community can be measured by the progress of its women. In the 21st century, no institution can function efficiently without women's equal involvement in leadership roles. The glass ceiling is an invisible barrier that prevents women from progressing in their careers. This barrier is not due to a lack of ability or competence on the part of women. Instead, it is due to the fact that women are often purposefully or unintentionally prevented from reaching higher positions because they are women.



Kamala Harris rightly said that she might be the first woman in the office of the Vice President of the United States, but she certainly must not be the last. International Women's Day is a wonderful occasion to celebrate the leadership and achievements of women, and to draw attention to the most important problems and achievements affecting women's rights today.

The world needs to shatter the tables of subtle sexism and walk away from the disparity before we again hit the glass ceiling.

MARCH,
2023

15TH – 22ND MARCH



Consumer Rights Awareness Week

**THE PRO BONO CLUB OF BIRLA SCHOOL OF LAW
OBSERVED A WEEK OF CONSUMER RIGHTS
AWARENESS BY CONDUCTING FIELD ACTIVITIES
AND SESSION ON DRAFTING OF CONSUMER
COMPLAINT AND QUIZ COMPETITION FOR THE
STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY.**

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DAY 1

FIELD VISIT

15th March,
2023.



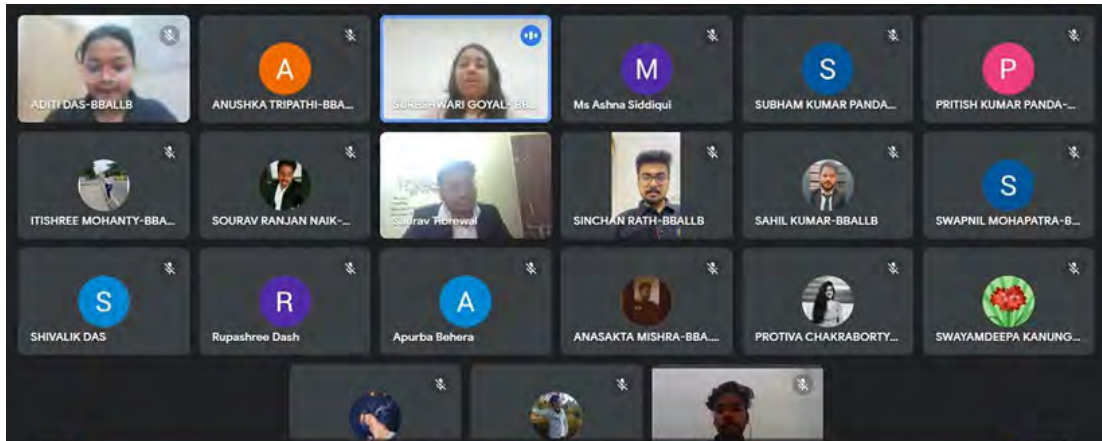
On the first day of the celebration of consumer's rights awareness week on the occasion of CONSUMERS' DAY 2022, the Pro Bono Associates visited near by localities and distributed pamphlets. These flyers contained basic consumers rights of an individual.



The students also talked to the local vendors and shopkeepers about the significance of the consumers' right and asked them to paste the flyers in their shops. Further, the team also educated people about filing of online consumer complaints.

MARCH 16TH, 2023 : DAY-2

HOW TO DRAFT A CONSUMER COMPLAINT& QUIZ COMPETITION ON CONSUMER RIGHTS



The students also talked to the local vendors and shopkeepers about the significance of the consumers' right and asked them to paste the flyers in their shops. Further, the team also educated people about filing of online consumer complaints. On the same day, the club has conducted a university level online quiz competition on Rights of consumer.



APRIL 01, 2023

UTKAL *Diwas*



88th Utkal Diwas was celebrated on April 1, 2023 with the theme 'In Odia, for Odia'. Our forefathers dreamt of a developed and well-educated state, and knowledge is the key to development. The Pro Bono Club celebrated this day by making people in Gothapatna, Bhubaneswar aware of their basic rights in Odia. This will empower the society and leave no one underprivileged.



MAY 25, 2023- MAY 31, 2023

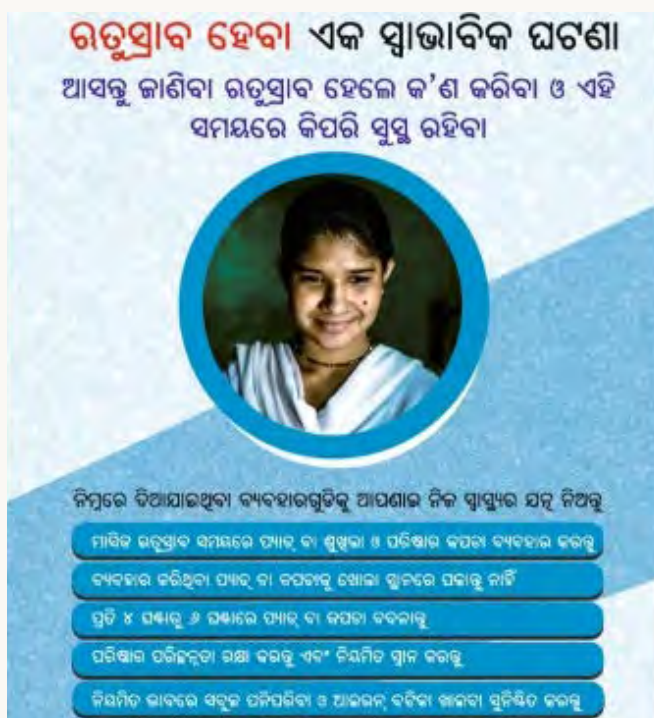
Menstrual Hygiene Week

Pro-Bono Club, School of Law, Birla Global University, in association with Rotaract Club, Birla Global University celebrated World Menstrual Hygiene Day Week from May 25, 2023 to May 31, 2023 on the theme 'Making Menstruation a Normal Fact of Life by 2030.'





Menstrual Day is celebrated annually on May 28 to raise awareness about menstrual care. Our clubs have always been at the forefront of such drives. This year, the volunteers distributed awareness flyers and sanitary products to people at Jeevan Jyoti Ashram, Bhubaneswar and female security and housekeeping staff of the university.



They also organized a Short Film Making Competition and spread awareness on social media. The clubs are committed to continuing such drives digitally.





AUGUST 10TH, 2023– AUGUST 11TH ,2023

VISIT TO JEEVAN JYOTI ASHRAM



The Pro Bono CLub of Birla Global University, Bhubaneshwar, visited Jeevan jyoti ashram, in spreading legal awareness particularly with respect to one's basic or fundamental rights. Interactions were made with the students of the schools and ashram during the visits besides distribution of flyers on basic rights, chocolates, sweets and food packets.



VISIT TO LOUIS BRAILLE SCHOOL



The Pro Bono CLub of Birla Global University, Bhubaneshwar, visited LOUIS BRAILLE SCHOOL

Spreading legal awareness particularly with respect to one's basic or fundamental rights. Interactions were made with the students of the schools and ashram during the visits besides distribution of flyers on basic rights, chocolates, sweets and food packets.



VISIT TO SANJEEVANI OLDAGE HOME

AUGUST 18TH, 2023



The members of the Club visited Sanjeevani Oldage Home, Jagannathpur, Bhubaneswar with the said objective, towards the fulfilment of the club's commitment in the said direction and particularly to raise awareness with regard to basic rights under the legal awareness drive, under the aegis of CCLA setup.

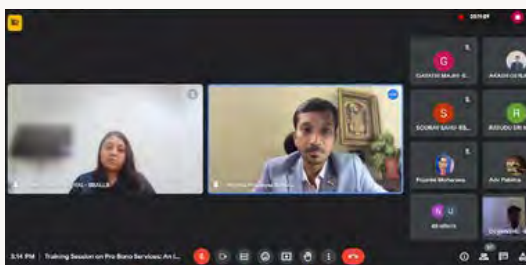
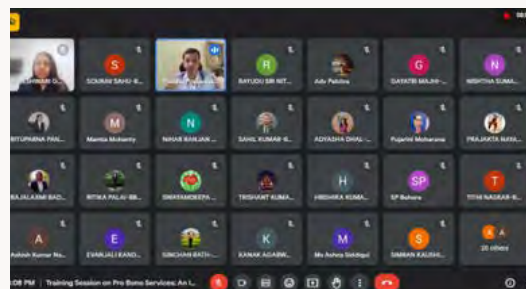
The visit resulted in legal awareness, particularly with respect to one's basic or fundamental rights among the inmates of the old age home. Moreover, interactions were made with the elderly persons of the old age home during the visit besides distribution of flyers and allied material on basic rights, sweets and food items and other essentials.



TRAINING SESSION ON PRO BONO LEGAL ASSISTANCE

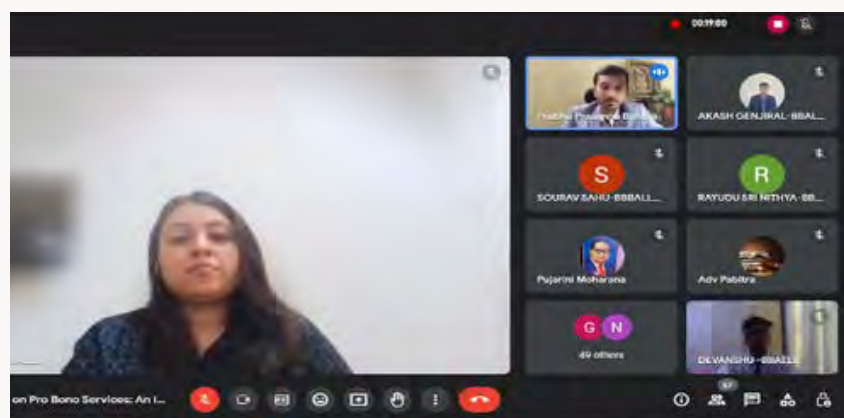
PRO BONO SERVICES : AN IMPERATIVE PRACTICE

August 19th, 2023



The training session was organized in online mode and the theme for the said session was “Pro Bono Services: An Imperative Practice”

Since this setup has been incorporated by the Department, in order to promote a culture of Alternative Dispute Resolution, and encouragement of same through Pro Bono Scheme among law students. The Club conducted the aforesaid session with the said objective resulting in fulfilment of Club’s commitment in the said direction following the mandates of the Department. The session resulted in awareness of ADR mechanism among the PBAs and the law students.

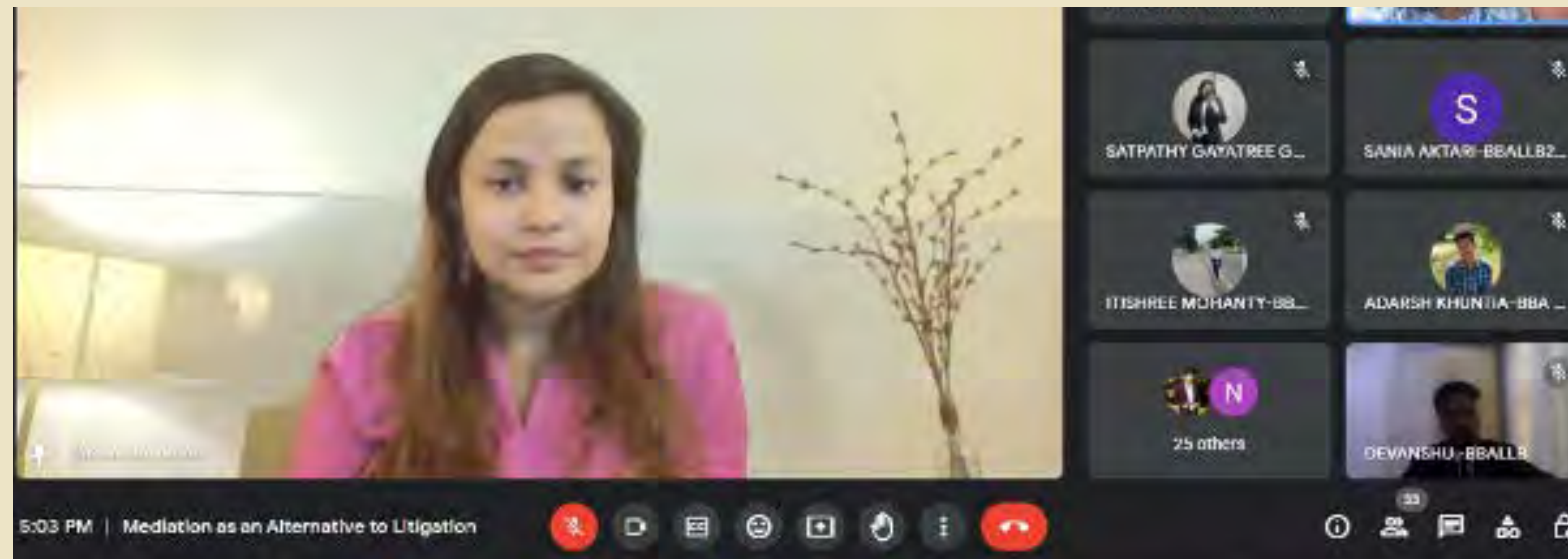


Advocate Prabhu Prasanna Behera, Central Government Counsel, Government of India, practicing with almost 12 years of experience in High Court of Orissa was the guest speaker for the session. He emphasized on the need of pro bono services, especially in the legal field, maintenance of equilibrium between one’s needs and that of the society as a whole.

The students were also enlightened with his real-life experiences vis-à-vis provisions of Indian as well as foreign laws. The session was attended by the members of the Pro Bono Club, other law students from and outside Birla Global University.

Mediation as an Alternative to Litigation

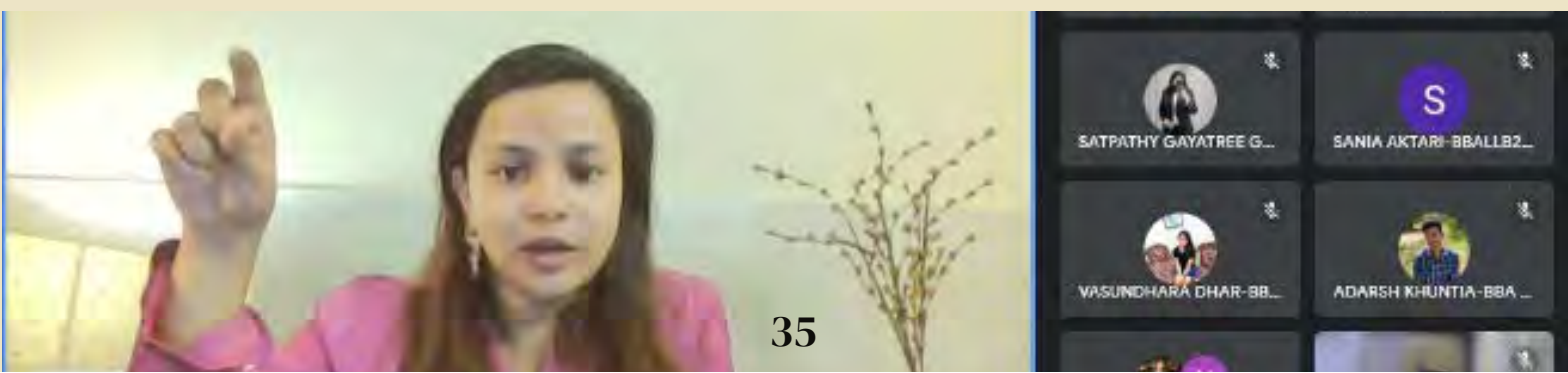
August 20th, 2023



Ms. Saima Mahmood, a dispute resolution expert, spoke about the importance of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) in today's complex world. She highlighted the benefits of mediation, a form of ADR that allows parties to resolve their disputes in a confidential and less adversarial setting.



Ms. Mahmood also discussed the challenges faced by different stakeholders in litigation, the procedural key aspects of mediation, and a brief analysis of the Mediation Bill, 2021. She emphasized the importance of taking a wholesome approach towards all stakeholders in the legal profession. The session was attended by members of the Pro Bono Club and other law students from Birla Global University and outside.



VISIT TO PANCHAYAT NODAL SCHOOL

August 24th, 2023

The members of the club visited Panchayat Nodal School, Paikarapur Bhubaneswar. The visit resulted in creation of awareness among the students of the school, particularly with respect to child rights as per Indian statutes as well as UN Convention on Child Rights, aid which they can get under different statutes including free legal aid, Nyaya Bandhu App under the scheme of the Department of Justice.

The students were also made aware with the basic rules and rights as enshrined under POCSO Act, 2012 besides fundamental rights. The students were also provided awareness materials including flyers, Nyaya Bandhu booklets after explaining the same by the members of the Pro Bono Club. At the end, students were also given chocolates and sweets as well.





VISIT TO GOVERNMENT UPPER PRIMARY SCHOOL

August 26th, 2023

The members of the club visited Government Primary School, Malipada, Bhubaneswar with the said objective, towards the fulfilment of the club's commitment in the said direction and particularly to raise awareness with regard to basic rights under the legal awareness drive, under the aegis of CCLA setup.

The Pro Bono Club visited a school to raise awareness about child rights. They explained the different statutes that protect child rights, including the Indian statutes and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. They also explained the different aids that are available to children, such as free legal aid and the Nyaya Bandhu App. They also made the students aware of the basic rules and rights under the POCSO Act, 2012. Finally, they provided the students with reading materials on child rights, as well as some chocolates, sweets, and sanitary products.



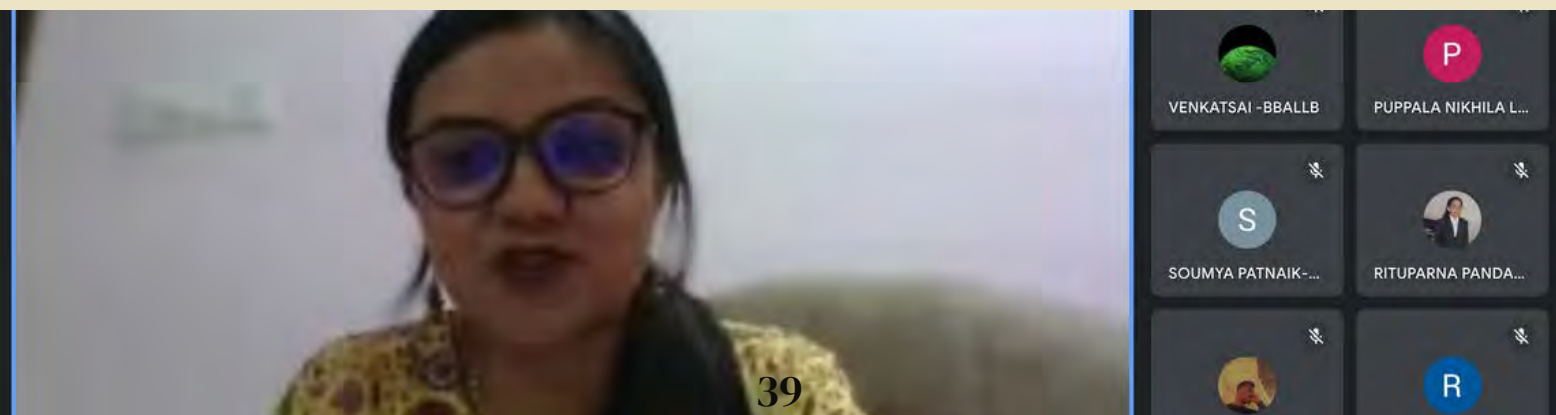
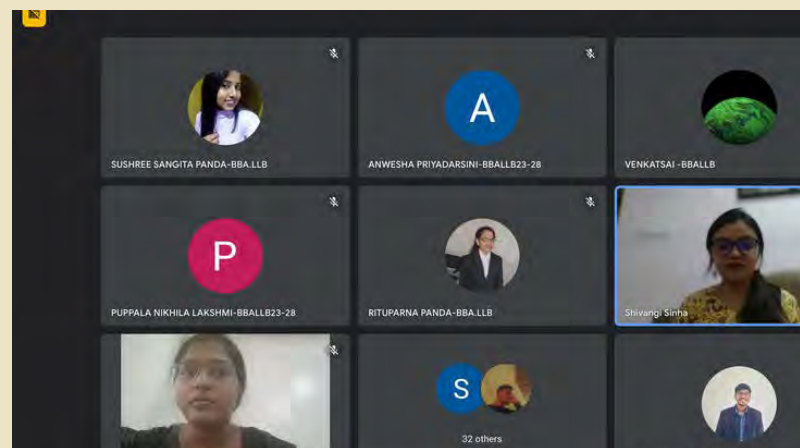
Lok Adalat in Indian Jurisprudence: An inspiration to ADR

August 30th, 2023



Ms. Shivangi Sinha, Assistant professor, Faculty Coordinator Madhyasthta - The ADR Cell, BVDU, New Law College, Pune, spoke about Lok Adalat in Indian Jurisprudence: An inspiration to ADR

Ms. SHIVANGI also illuminated Lok Adalats are forums where disputes/cases pending in the court of law or at pre-litigation stage are settled/compromised amicably. Lok Adalats have been successful in resolving a large number of cases quickly and inexpensively.. The session was attended by members of the Pro Bono Club and other law students from Birla Global University and outside.



Mandatory Pro Bono Legal Services: Need of the hour

August 31st, 2023



PRO BONO TRAINING SESSION




MANDATORY PRO BONO LEGAL SERVICES : NEED OF THE HOUR?

AISHVARY VIKRAM
Partner
Prudentia and Partners
New Delhi

**August 31st, 2023**
5:00 PM


Mr. Vikram has spoken about the benefits of pro bono legal services, both for the legal profession and for the public at large. He illuminated about the challenges that need to be addressed in order to make mandatory pro bono legal services a reality.

The session has raised awareness of the importance of self driven pro bono legal services by senior advocates as well as young advocates and has started a conversation about how to make them a reality.



LIST OF PRO BONO ASSOCIATES

2022-2023



1. Anisha Mishra
2. Sai Ujwal Mohanty
3. Adarsh Khuntia
4. Vasundhara Dhar
5. Nidhi Kaur
6. Asmita B
7. Mayank Samantray
8. Dharmashoka Panda
9. VLV Chaitra
10. Aditi Das
11. Venkata Sai Krishna
12. Subham Kumar Panda
13. Sureshwari Goyal
14. Akash G
15. Sahil Kumar
16. Sinchan Rath
17. A Sai Priya
18. Itishree Mohanty
19. Devanshu Sharma
20. Adyasha Dhal
21. Anushka Tripathi
22. Pritish Panda
23. Asutosh Mekap
24. Prajakta Nayak
25. Protiva Chakraborty
26. Sushree Sangita
27. Manisha Bahuguna
28. Anasakta Mishra
29. Rituparna Panda
30. Suman Kalyan
31. Mukesh Jana
32. Swapnil Mohapatra
33. Swayamdeepa Kanungo

PRO BONO CLUB



Venue of the display board: 2nd floor, law building.



Pro Bono Club of BSOL displays ostentatiously the astonishing original posters made by the participants in different competitions conducted during awareness programs.

