

UNDERGRADUATE CERTIFICATE COURSE IN RTI, PIL & LEGAL AWARENESS(RPLA)

(SESSION 2025-26 ONWARDS)

General Rules, Examination, Regulation and Course



**Chotanagpur Law College, Ranchi,
Jharkhand**

About the Programme

In a vibrant democracy like India, citizens' ability to access information, seek judicial remedies for collective concerns, and spread awareness about legal rights is fundamental to ensuring transparency, accountability, and justice. The Right to Information (RTI) Act and Public Interest Litigation (PIL) have emerged as two of the most powerful legal tools to achieve these objectives, empowering individuals and communities to challenge arbitrary governance, demand transparency, and protect public interest.

The UG Certificate Course in RTI, PIL & Legal Awareness, offered by Chotanagpur Law College, Ranchi, is a focused, practice-oriented programme aimed at equipping undergraduate students with the knowledge, skills, and practical exposure necessary to effectively use these legal mechanisms. Building on the college's strong academic foundation and its commitment to socially responsive legal education, the course integrates doctrinal learning with experiential training.

Over six months, students will be introduced to the constitutional foundations of transparency and public participation, the detailed provisions of the RTI Act, 2005, and the procedural requirements for filing and pursuing PILs in High Courts and the Supreme Court. They will also explore strategies for designing and delivering impactful legal awareness programmes that address the needs of diverse communities.

The course emphasizes hands-on skill development through drafting RTI applications, preparing appeals, simulating PIL petitions, and conducting community outreach initiatives. Learners will participate in workshops, field visits, and legal literacy campaigns under the mentorship of experienced faculty, RTI activists, and practising lawyers.

This certificate programme is ideal for undergraduate students aspiring to work in litigation, social justice advocacy, public policy, investigative journalism, or community development. It aligns with the objectives of the National Education Policy by fostering skill-based, socially engaged, and interdisciplinary learning, preparing students to become informed and active participants in strengthening the rule of law.

Duration: 6 Months (Two Terms)

Mode: Online / Offline / Hybrid

Eligibility: Undergraduate Students of Law / Postgraduate Students of Law or Equivalent

Objectives

1. To impart a comprehensive understanding of the legal framework, principles, and procedures governing the Right to Information and Public Interest Litigation in India.
2. To develop practical skills in drafting RTI applications, appeals, and PIL petitions, and in conducting effective legal awareness initiatives.
3. To cultivate analytical and advocacy abilities for identifying issues of public concern, framing legal strategies, and engaging with public authorities and judicial forums.
4. To promote socially responsible lawyering by encouraging participation in transparency, accountability, and community legal literacy efforts.

Assessment of Students' Performance and Scheme of Examination Pass Percentage & Promotional Criteria

1. Assessment of student performance shall consist of 70 marks for the End-Term Written Examination and 30 marks for Internal Assessment for each paper.
2. The duration of the End-Term Written Examination shall be three hours and shall cover all units of the respective subject.
3. The internal assessment of each paper shall be conducted by a panel of three faculty members, constituted by the Principal in consultation with the Head of Department (HoD).
4. There shall be no requirement for dissertation, project, or internship in this certificate course.
5. In each paper, 30 marks shall be reserved for continuous internal evaluation within the classroom environment. The HoD will issue prior notification (at least one week in advance) regarding the internal evaluation schedule, in consultation with the concerned faculty. All awarded marks will be verified by the HoD before being forwarded to the Controller of Examinations.
6. Break-up of Internal Assessment (30 Marks): Internal Test – 10 marks, Assignment with Presentation – 10 marks & Classroom Seminar / Participation – 10 marks.

Attendance

A student must maintain at least 75% attendance in each paper to be eligible to appear in the End-Term Examination. The Principal may grant relaxation up to 25% in genuine and documented cases including:

- Participation in NCC/NSS camps duly supported by a certificate from competent authority.
- Participation in College Team (S) Games or Inter State Tournament (S) duly supported with a certificate from competent authority.
- Participation in any of the co-curricular activity organized by the college duly certified by competent authority.
- Prolonged illness duly certified by the superintendent/CMO of government hospital or registered medical practitioners/hospitals.

Note: The Principal reserves the right to condone attendance deficiencies on valid and cogent grounds.

End-Term Examination

- The End-Term Examination shall be conducted at the end of each of the two terms (3 months each).
- Examinations shall be scheduled as per the academic calendar of Chotanagpur Law College (generally in December and June). Students are required to fill the examination form and submit it with the prescribed fee through the HoD to the Registrar of the College.

- Students will appear in three theory papers in each term, amounting to a total of six written examinations for the full course.

Grad Point and SGPA, CGPA Calculations:

Assessment as per college policy relating to implementation of choice-based credit system (CBCS) to all the programs offered at Chotanagpur Law College.

Rules of Promotion:

A student shall not be promoted to the second term if he/she fails in more than two papers in the first term. The paper(s) in which a student fails shall be treated as back paper(s). In no case shall a student having backlogs in more than two papers be permitted to continue to the next term, and he/she will be considered to have a term back.

In case of a term back, the student must seek readmission in the same academic year after approval from the Principal/Head of Department and pay the prescribed readmission fee.

Upon readmission, the student shall have the following options:

1. He/She can choose to reappear in all the papers of the academic year.
2. He/She may opt to appear only in the papers in which he/she has failed.
3. The student must submit their choice in writing at the time of readmission.
4. No repeat attempt is allowed for internal assessment components only.
5. The student shall be required to repeat the complete course, including both theory and internal assessment in the selected papers.

Note: A student must secure a minimum of 50% marks in each paper (combined internal + end-term) to be considered as having passed that paper.

Course Modules:

The course is structured into two terms (Term I and Term II), covering both the conceptual foundations and practical application of the Right to Information, Public Interest Litigation, and community legal awareness.

Programme Learning Outcomes (PLOs):

1. Upon completion of the Certificate Course in RTI, PIL & Legal Awareness, learners will be able to:
2. Demonstrate comprehensive knowledge of the RTI Act, PIL procedures, and constitutional principles underpinning transparency and access to justice.
3. Draft effective RTI applications, appeals, and PIL petitions in compliance with statutory formats and procedural rules.
4. Plan and execute community legal awareness programmes to empower citizens.
5. Analyze landmark judgments and their impact on governance, social justice, and public accountability.
6. Engage ethically and professionally with public authorities, courts, and civil society organizations in matters of public interest.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs):**Term I:**

- Understand the constitutional and statutory framework governing the RTI Act, 2005.
- Learn to draft RTI applications, first appeals, and second appeals to Information Commissions.
- Interpret and apply judicial precedents on transparency and the right to information.
- Engage with online RTI portals and filing procedures through hands-on exercises.

Term II:

- Comprehend the concept, scope, and evolution of PIL in India.
- Draft and file PIL petitions in line with Supreme Court and High Court procedures.
- Identify and research issues suitable for PIL intervention.
- Design and implement legal awareness programmes for targeted communities.

Term I: Right to Information – Concepts and Practice

S.No.	Course Code	Course Name	L-IA-P	Total Credit
1.	RPIL 101	Foundations of RTI: Constitutional and Legal Framework	3-2-0	5
2.	RPIL 102	Drafting and Filing RTI Applications and Appeals	3-2-0	5
3.	RPIL 103	Judicial Interpretations of RTI and Governance	3-2-0	5
Total Credit in Term I:				15

Term II: Public Interest Litigation and Legal Awareness

S.No.	Course Code	Course Name	L-IA-P	Total Credit
1.	RPIL 201	PIL: Concept, Evolution, and Procedures	3-2-0	5
2.	RPIL 202	Drafting PIL Petitions and Case Strategies	3-2-0	5
3.	RPIL 203	Legal Awareness Campaigns: Design and Implementation	3-2-0	5
Total Credit in Term II:				15

- The Certificate Course comprises six papers, three papers per term.
- Each paper carries 5 credits, making the total credit requirement = 30 credits.
- All papers integrate theoretical learning with practical skills including drafting, fieldwork, and simulations.

Term I**Paper I – RPIL 101****FOUNDATIONS OF RTI: CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK****Duration: 36 hours (including lectures, seminars, and assessments)****Credits: 5****Introduction:**

The Right to Information (RTI) is a cornerstone of democratic governance, enabling citizens to access information from public authorities and thereby promoting transparency, accountability, and participatory decision-making. This paper introduces students to the constitutional foundations, legislative framework, and institutional mechanisms of the RTI Act, 2005. Emphasis is placed on understanding the Act's provisions, exemptions, and procedures, as well as analyzing landmark judicial pronouncements that have shaped India's information rights regime. Students will gain the theoretical grounding and initial practical skills needed to effectively utilize RTI as a tool for social justice and good governance.

Course Outcomes (C.O.):

1. To understand the objectives, scope, and principles underlying the RTI Act, 2005.
2. To analyze the constitutional basis for the right to information in India.
3. To interpret and apply statutory provisions, rules, and regulations under the RTI Act.
4. To assess the role of RTI in promoting transparency, accountability, and citizen participation.

Programme Outcomes:

1. To provide a foundational understanding of information rights and transparency laws.
2. To introduce the legal and institutional framework of RTI at central and state levels.
3. To develop analytical skills for interpreting statutes and judicial decisions related to RTI.
4. To prepare students for practical application of RTI in civic, journalistic, and legal contexts.

Syllabus:**Unit I: Constitutional Foundations of RTI**

- Concept of Right to Information as part of Fundamental Rights
- Relationship between RTI and Article 19(1)(a) – Freedom of Speech & Expression
- Article 21 – Right to Life and Personal Liberty in the context of transparency
- Directive Principles and RTI: Articles 38, 39, 41, and 43A
- Supreme Court decisions recognizing RTI before 2005 legislation (e.g., *State of U.P. v. Raj Narain*, *S.P. Gupta v. Union of India*)

Unit II: Evolution and Objectives of the RTI Act, 2005

- Historical background: from Official Secrets Act, 1923 to RTI Act, 2005

- International context: FOI laws worldwide and India's commitments
- Objectives and salient features of the Act
- Role of civil society and RTI movements in India
- Overview of the structure of the RTI Act

Unit III: Key Provisions and Institutional Framework

- Definitions: Public Authority, Information, Record, Third Party
- Obligations of Public Authorities (Section 4)
- Appointment, powers, and functions of Public Information Officers (PIOs) and Appellate Authorities
- Information Commissions – composition, powers, and functions
- Suo moto disclosure requirements
- Exemptions from disclosure (Sections 8 & 9) and partial disclosure provisions

Unit IV: Judicial Interpretation and Case Law

- *CBSE v. Aditya Bandopadhyay*, (2011) 8 SCC 497 – Scope of “information” under RTI
- *Namit Sharma v. Union of India*, (2013) 1 SCC 745 – Qualifications of Information Commissioners
- *Girish Ramchandra Deshpande v. CIC*, (2013) 1 SCC 212 – Personal information and privacy under RTI
- *Bihar Public Service Commission v. Saiyed Hussain Abbas Rizwi*, (2012) 13 SCC 61 – Public interest override
- Analysis of High Court decisions on proactive disclosure

Suggested Readings:

Books:

- Venkatesh Nayak, *A Guide to Using the Right to Information Act, 2005*, 1st Edition, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI), New Delhi, 2022.
- P.K. Saini & R.K. Gupta, *Right to Information Act, 2005: A Practical Guide*, 2nd Edition, Satyam Law International, New Delhi, 2021.
- M.P. Jain, *Indian Constitutional Law, 8th Edition*, LexisNexis, Gurugram, 2023.
- Alok Kumar, *Right to Information: Law and Practice*, 4th Edition, Central Law Publications, Allahabad, 2022.
- S.K. Sharma, *Commentary on the Right to Information Act*, 3rd Edition, Universal Law Publishing, New Delhi, 2021.
- R.P. Misra, *Right to Information Law and Practice in India*, 1st Edition, Satyam Law International, New Delhi, 2020.
- K.P. Sharma, *Transparency and Accountability through RTI in India*, 1st Edition, Regal Publications, New Delhi, 2017.

Articles / Reports

- Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI), *Implementing RTI: Lessons from India*, CHRI, New Delhi, 2018.
- Transparency International India, *Empowering Citizens through RTI*, Transparency International India, New Delhi, 2019.
- Second Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC), *Right to Information – Master Key to Good Governance* (4th Report), Government of India, New Delhi, 2006.
- Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT), Government of India, *RTI Act – Guidelines and Best Practices*, DoPT, New Delhi, 2021.
- Law Commission of India, *Report No. 272 – Assessment of RTI Implementation*, Government of India, New Delhi, 2018.
- World Bank, *The Right to Information: An Implementation Toolkit for Developing Countries*, World Bank, Washington DC, 2016.
- UNESCO, *Access to Information: A Key to Building Knowledge Societies*, UNESCO Publishing, Paris, 2019.

Case Law References:

- State of U.P. v. Raj Narain, AIR 1975 SC 865
- S.P. Gupta v. Union of India, 1981 Supp SCC 87
- CBSE v. Aditya Bandopadhyay, (2011) 8 SCC 497

Evaluation Scheme:**Internal Assessment (30 Marks):**

- Two written assignments – 10 marks
- One classroom presentation – 10 marks
- Participation/Seminar/Viva – 10 marks

End Semester Examination (70 Marks):

- **Section A:** Short answer questions (30 marks)
- **Section B:** Analytical/Essay-type questions (40 marks)

Paper II – RPIL 102
DRAFTING AND FILING RTI APPLICATIONS AND APPEALS

Duration: 36 hours (including lectures, workshops, and assessments)

Credits: 5

Introduction:

Drafting effective RTI applications and appeals requires a sound understanding of the RTI Act's procedural framework, the skill to frame precise questions, and the ability to navigate administrative processes. This paper focuses on the practical aspects of preparing RTI requests, first appeals, and second appeals before Information Commissions. Students will learn the statutory requirements, language, and structure of RTI documents, along with strategies for overcoming delays, refusals, and misuse of exemptions. Through drafting workshops, case studies, and simulation exercises, learners will develop the competence to use RTI as an actionable legal tool.

Course Outcomes (C.O.):

1. To understand the procedural requirements for filing RTI applications and appeals.
2. To acquire drafting skills for preparing clear, concise, and targeted RTI requests.
3. To learn the structure, format, and legal language used in RTI applications, first appeals, and second appeals.
4. To apply RTI mechanisms to real-life information needs and public interest causes.

Programme Outcomes:

1. To equip students with practical skills in RTI drafting for civic, legal, and journalistic purposes.
2. To enhance familiarity with online and offline RTI filing systems at central and state levels.
3. To build capacity for addressing refusals, exemptions, and non-disclosure through the appeal process.
4. To prepare students for active participation in transparency and accountability initiatives.

Syllabus:

Unit I: Basics of Drafting RTI Applications

- Statutory requirements under Sections 6 & 7 of the RTI Act
- Identifying the correct public authority and PIO
- Crafting specific and answerable questions
- Use of plain language in RTI drafting
- Avoiding vague, speculative, or multiple-topic queries
- Time limits for response and deemed refusal

Unit II: Drafting First Appeals

- Grounds for appeal under Section 19(1)
- Structure and components of the first appeal

- Common reasons for rejection of RTI applications
- Role of the First Appellate Authority
- Case-based exercises on framing grounds of appeal

Unit III: Drafting Second Appeals and Complaints

- Second appeal to the Central or State Information Commission under Section 19(3)
- Format, timelines, and supporting documents
- Drafting complaints under Section 18 for refusal, delays, or non-compliance
- Common pitfalls and best practices in appellate drafting
- Practical workshop on preparing a second appeal file

Unit IV: Online and Offline Filing Mechanisms

- Central RTI Online Portal (<https://rtionline.gov.in>) – features and workflow
- State RTI portals – similarities and differences
- Physical filing through post or in-person submission
- Fee payment modes and exemptions for BPL applicants
- Tracking applications and appeals

Unit V: Practical Exercises and Case Studies

- Drafting and filing a model RTI application on a governance issue
- Preparing a first appeal based on a real-life RTI response
- Simulating a second appeal before an Information Commission
- Studying notable RTI interventions in public interest

Suggested Readings:

Books:

- P.K. Saini & R.K. Gupta, *Right to Information Act, 2005: A Practical Guide*, 2nd Edition, Satyam Law International, New Delhi, 2021.
- Venkatesh Nayak, *Using the Right to Information Act Effectively*, 1st Edition, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI), New Delhi, 2022.
- M.P. Jain, *Indian Constitutional Law*, 8th Edition, LexisNexis, Gurugram, 2023.

Articles / Reports:

- Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI), *Open Governance through RTI: Best Practices and Model Formats*, Revised Edition, CHRI, New Delhi, 2019.
- Transparency International India, *RTI Appeals – Challenges and Solutions*, 1st Edition, Transparency International India, New Delhi, 2020.
- Government of India, *RTI Act User Guide*, Updated Edition, Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT), New Delhi, 2021.

Case Law References:

- *CBSE v. Aditya Bandopadhyay*, (2011) 8 SCC 497 – Scope of “information”

- *Namit Sharma v. Union of India*, (2013) 1 SCC 745 – Qualifications and independence of ICs
- *Union of India v. Vishwas Bhamburkar*, 2013 SCC OnLine Del 2805 – Timelines and penalties for delay

Evaluation Scheme:**Internal Assessment (30 Marks):**

- Two written assignments – 10 marks
- One classroom presentation – 10 marks
- Participation/Seminar/Viva – 10 marks

End Semester Examination (70 Marks):

- **Section A:** Short answer questions (30 marks)
- **Section B:** Analytical/Essay-type questions (40 marks)

Paper III – RPIL 103
JUDICIAL INTERPRETATIONS OF RTI AND GOVERNANCE

Duration: 36 hours (including lectures, seminars, and case law analysis)

Credits: 5

Introduction:

Judicial interpretation has been instrumental in shaping the scope, effectiveness, and limitations of the Right to Information Act, 2005. Courts have clarified definitions, expanded the reach of transparency norms, balanced RTI with privacy and national security, and reinforced the duties of public authorities. This paper focuses on landmark Supreme Court and High Court decisions that have influenced governance through RTI jurisprudence. Students will learn how judicial reasoning has addressed conflicts between transparency and other competing interests, and how such interpretations have impacted administrative practices and public accountability.

Course Outcomes (C.O.):

1. To understand the role of the judiciary in interpreting the RTI Act and related constitutional provisions.
2. To analyze landmark judgments and their implications for transparency, accountability, and governance.
3. To evaluate the balance between the right to information and competing interests such as privacy, national security, and commercial confidentiality.
4. To apply judicial principles from case law to hypothetical and real-life RTI disputes.

Programme Outcomes:

1. To develop skills in reading, summarizing, and applying judicial decisions.
2. To build capacity for legal reasoning in RTI-related matters.
3. To link judicial interpretations to governance reforms and administrative changes.
4. To prepare students for advocacy in RTI cases before Information Commissions and courts.

Syllabus:

Unit I: Pre-RTI Act Judicial Recognition of Information Rights

- State of U.P. v. Raj Narain, AIR 1975 SC 865 – Citizens' right to know
- S.P. Gupta v. Union of India, 1981 Supp SCC 87 – Judicial transparency and disclosure
- Association for Democratic Reforms v. Union of India, (2002) 5 SCC 294 – Disclosure of candidates' information

Unit II: Scope and Interpretation of "Information"

- CBSE v. Aditya Bandopadhyay, (2011) 8 SCC 497 – Examination answer scripts as information
- Khanapuram Gandaiah v. Administrative Officer, (2010) 2 SCC 1 – RTI not a mechanism for grievances or opinions

- Reserve Bank of India v. Jayantilal N. Mistry, (2016) 3 SCC 525 – Public interest override in financial disclosures

Unit III: Privacy, Confidentiality, and RTI

- Girish Ramchandra Deshpande v. CIC, (2013) 1 SCC 212 – Personal information and privacy limits
- Bihar Public Service Commission v. Saiyed Hussain Abbas Rizwi, (2012) 13 SCC 61 – Public interest test for disclosure
- Canara Bank v. C.S. Shyam, (2018) 11 SCC 426 – Employee records and RTI

Unit IV: Governance Reforms and Administrative Impact

- Namit Sharma v. Union of India, (2013) 1 SCC 745 – Composition and qualifications of ICs
- Union of India v. Namit Sharma, Review Petition – Judicial officers in Information Commissions
- High Court decisions mandating proactive disclosure under Section 4

Unit V: Contemporary Issues and Trends

- RTI and digital governance – use of online platforms for disclosure
- RTI in environmental governance – M.C. Mehta and related cases
- RTI and electoral reforms – ADR and Lok Prahari judgments
- Analysis of ongoing debates: misuse of RTI, frivolous queries, and strengthening compliance

Suggested Readings:

Books:

- P.K. Saini & R.K. Gupta, *Right to Information Act, 2005: A Practical Guide*, 2nd Edition, Satyam Law International, New Delhi, 2021.
- Venkatesh Nayak, *Transparency in Governance: The Role of RTI in India*, 1st Edition, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI), New Delhi, 2022.
- M.P. Jain, *Indian Constitutional Law*, 8th Edition, LexisNexis, Gurugram, 2023.
- Alok Kumar, *Right to Information: Law and Practice*, 4th Edition, Central Law Publications, Allahabad, 2022.
- S.K. Sharma, *Commentary on the Right to Information Act*, 3rd Edition, Universal Law Publishing, New Delhi, 2021.
- R.P. Misra, *Right to Information Law and Practice in India*, 1st Edition, Satyam Law International, New Delhi, 2020.

Articles / Reports:

- Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI), *Judicial Trends in RTI: Balancing Transparency and Privacy*, CHRI, New Delhi, 2019.

- Transparency International India, *RTI and Accountability in Governance*, Transparency International India, New Delhi, 2020.
- Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT), Government of India, *Annual RTI Report – Analysis of Trends in Appeals and Disclosures*, DoPT, New Delhi, 2022.
- Law Commission of India, *Report No. 272: Assessment of RTI Implementation and Judicial Interpretation*, Government of India, New Delhi, 2018.
- Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, *Ten Years of the Right to Information Act: Case Law Analysis and Impact*, Vidhi Policy Paper, New Delhi, 2015.
- Asian Development Bank, *Right to Information: Comparative Jurisprudence and Lessons for Asia*, ADB Publication, Manila, 2017.

Case Law References:

- State of U.P. v. Raj Narain, AIR 1975 SC 865
- S.P. Gupta v. Union of India, 1981 Supp SCC 87
- CBSE v. Aditya Bandopadhyay, (2011) 8 SCC 497
- Reserve Bank of India v. Jayantilal N. Mistry, (2016) 3 SCC 525
- Girish Ramchandra Deshpande v. CIC, (2013) 1 SCC 212

Evaluation Scheme:**Internal Assessment (30 Marks):**

- Two written assignments – 10 marks
- One classroom presentation – 10 marks
- Participation/Seminar/Viva – 10 marks

End Semester Examination (70 Marks):

- **Section A:** Short answer questions (30 marks)
- **Section B:** Analytical/Essay-type questions (40 marks)

Term II**Paper I – RPIL 201****PIL: CONCEPT, EVOLUTION, AND PROCEDURES****Duration: 36 hours (including lectures, seminars, and practical exercises)****Credits: 5****Introduction:**

Public Interest Litigation (PIL) has emerged as one of the most significant judicial innovations in Indian constitutional law, enabling courts to address issues affecting large sections of society, particularly marginalized and disadvantaged groups. This paper introduces students to the concept, history, and jurisprudence of PIL, its procedural framework in the Supreme Court and High Courts, and its role in promoting social justice, environmental protection, and governance reforms. Special emphasis is given to understanding the liberalization of locus standi, the shift from adversarial to investigative justice, and safeguards against misuse of PIL.

Course Outcomes (C.O.):

1. To understand the meaning, objectives, and distinctive features of PIL in India.
2. To analyze the constitutional provisions and judicial interpretations underpinning PIL.
3. To learn the procedural requirements for initiating PILs in the Supreme Court and High Courts.
4. To evaluate the impact of PIL on governance, policy, and rights protection.

Programme Outcomes:

1. To equip students with theoretical and procedural knowledge for effective PIL advocacy.
2. To enable critical engagement with the benefits and criticisms of PIL jurisprudence.
3. To develop skills for identifying public interest causes suitable for litigation.
4. To prepare students for practical drafting and filing of PIL petitions.

Syllabus:**Unit I: Concept and Origins of PIL**

- Definition and scope of PIL
- Difference between PIL and traditional litigation
- Historical development of PIL in India
- Role of Justice P.N. Bhagwati and Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer in shaping PIL jurisprudence
- Comparative perspectives: PIL and class actions in other jurisdictions

Unit II: Constitutional Foundations of PIL

- Articles 32 and 226 – Writ jurisdiction of Supreme Court and High Courts
- Article 39A – Free legal aid and access to justice
- Expansion of locus standi – from “aggrieved person” to “public-spirited citizen”
- PIL and Fundamental Rights – Part III of the Constitution
- PIL and Directive Principles – Part IV of the Constitution

Unit III: Procedural Aspects of PIL

- Filing PILs in Supreme Court and High Courts – format, court fees, and affidavits
- Letters, postcards, and suo moto cognizance as PILs
- Role of amicus curiae in PIL cases
- Interim orders, monitoring committees, and continuing mandamus
- Frivolous PILs – judicial guidelines and cost imposition

Unit IV: Landmark PIL Judgments

- Hussainara Khatoon v. State of Bihar, 1979 – Right to speedy trial
- Vishaka v. State of Rajasthan, 1997 – Sexual harassment at workplace
- M.C. Mehta v. Union of India series – Environmental jurisprudence
- Olga Tellis v. Bombay Municipal Corporation, 1985 – Right to livelihood
- PUCL v. Union of India (Right to Food case)

Unit V: Contemporary Issues and Reforms in PIL

- PIL in environmental, human rights, and governance contexts
- Judicial activism vs. judicial overreach in PIL
- PIL in the era of social media and digital evidence
- Proposals for codifying PIL procedures
- Impact of PIL on policy-making and democratic accountability

Suggested Readings:

Books:

- S.P. Sathe, *Judicial Activism in India: Transgressing Borders and Enforcing Limits*, 2nd Edition, Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 2002.
- P.N. Bhagwati, *The Role of the Judiciary in Democracy*, 1st Edition, Universal Law Publishing, New Delhi, 1994.
- M.P. Jain, *Indian Constitutional Law*, 8th Edition, LexisNexis, Gurugram, 2023.
- Upendra Baxi, *The Indian Supreme Court and Politics*, 1st Edition, Eastern Book Company, Lucknow, 1980.
- S. Muralidhar, *Law, Poverty, and Legal Aid: Access to Justice*, 1st Edition, LexisNexis, Gurugram, 2004.
- Lakshminath & M. Sridhar Acharyulu, *Public Interest Litigation: Legal Aid and Lok Adalats*, 3rd Edition, LexisNexis, Gurugram, 2018.
- V.R. Krishna Iyer, *Justice at Crossroads: PIL and Social Change*, Revised Edition, Universal Law Publishing, New Delhi, 2011.

Articles / Reports

- Law Commission of India, *Report No. 229 – Need for Transparency in PILs*, Government of India, New Delhi, 2009.
- People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL), *PIL as a Tool for Social Change*, PUCL Policy Paper, New Delhi, 2017.

- EPW – Economic & Political Weekly, “*Public Interest Litigation in India: A Critical Review*”, EPW Special Article, Vol. 49, No. 30, 2014.
- Supreme Court of India, *Handbook on Public Interest Litigation*, Supreme Court Registry, New Delhi, 2010.
- National Judicial Academy, *PIL: Concept, Scope, and Emerging Challenges*, NJA Training Module, Bhopal, 2019.
- UNDP India, *PIL and Access to Justice for the Marginalized*, UNDP Policy Brief, New Delhi, 2016.
- Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, *PIL: Comparative Experiences and Global Lessons*, CHRI, New Delhi, 2015.
- Centre for Public Interest Law (NLSIU), *PIL and the Indian Legal System*, NLSIU Publication, Bengaluru, 2018.

Case Law References:

- Hussainara Khatoon v. State of Bihar, 1979 AIR 1369
- Vishaka v. State of Rajasthan, (1997) 6 SCC 241
- Olga Tellis v. Bombay Municipal Corporation, (1985) 3 SCC 545
- M.C. Mehta v. Union of India, (1987 onwards) – multiple environmental rulings
- PUCL v. Union of India, (2001) 5 SCC 577

Evaluation Scheme:**Internal Assessment (30 Marks):**

- Two written assignments – 10 marks
- One classroom presentation – 10 marks
- Participation/Seminar/Viva – 10 marks

End Semester Examination (70 Marks):

- **Section A:** Short answer questions (30 marks)
- **Section B:** Analytical/Essay-type questions (40 marks)

Paper II – RPIL 202**DRAFTING PIL PETITIONS AND CASE STRATEGIES****Duration: 36 hours (including lectures, drafting workshops, and assessments) Credits: 5****Introduction:**

Drafting a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) petition requires a nuanced understanding of legal procedure, constitutional principles, and persuasive writing. This paper equips students with practical skills to draft PIL petitions, affidavits, and related applications while also developing strategic thinking to plan and conduct PIL litigation effectively. Students will learn to identify justiciable issues, collect supporting evidence, and structure pleadings to withstand judicial scrutiny. The course combines doctrinal learning with simulation-based exercises, enabling learners to develop competence in preparing high-quality PIL documents for real-world advocacy.

Course Outcomes (C.O.):

1. To understand the essential components and structure of a PIL petition.
2. To develop practical drafting skills for PILs, including affidavits and interlocutory applications.
3. To plan litigation strategies for effective case presentation in PIL matters.
4. To evaluate the role of legal research, evidence collection, and stakeholder engagement in PIL success.

Programme Outcomes:

1. To build drafting proficiency aligned with Supreme Court and High Court PIL procedures.
2. To enhance ability to integrate legal analysis, factual evidence, and public interest arguments.
3. To foster strategic thinking in selecting remedies and structuring legal arguments.
4. To prepare students for advocacy in social justice and policy reform contexts.

Syllabus:**Unit I: Essentials of a PIL Petition**

- Identifying the cause of action and public interest element
- Determining appropriate jurisdiction (Supreme Court or High Court)
- Structure of a PIL petition – cause title, synopsis, list of dates, main petition, prayers
- Drafting relief clauses – writs and directions under Articles 32 and 226
- Affidavit in support of the petition

Unit II: Drafting Related Applications

- Interlocutory applications – interim relief, appointment of commissioners, impleadment
- Applications for exemption from filing certified copies or fees
- Contempt petitions for non-compliance with PIL orders
- Review and curative petitions in PIL cases

Unit III: Legal Research and Evidence Collection

- Use of case law databases (SCC Online, Manupatra, Indian Kanoon)
- Identifying and citing constitutional and statutory provisions
- Gathering factual evidence, expert opinions, and survey data
- Attaching annexures – guidelines for documents, photographs, and reports
- Role of RTI in collecting evidence for PILs

Unit IV: Case Strategies in PIL Advocacy

- Framing issues and legal questions
- Anticipating counterarguments and government responses
- Coordinating with NGOs, activists, and affected communities
- Media engagement and public outreach to support PIL objectives
- Long-term monitoring of compliance through continuing mandamus

Unit V: Drafting Workshops and Simulations

- Drafting a complete PIL petition on a contemporary social or environmental issue
- Preparing an interim application for urgent relief
- Simulating arguments before a mock court on admissibility and merits
- Peer review and faculty feedback on drafts

Suggested Readings:

Books:

- S.P. Sathe, *Judicial Activism in India: Transgressing Borders and Enforcing Limits*, 2nd Edition, Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 2002.
- P.N. Bhagwati, *The Role of the Judiciary in Democracy*, 1st Edition, Universal Law Publishing, New Delhi, 1994.
- M.P. Jain, *Indian Constitutional Law*, 8th Edition, LexisNexis, Gurugram, 2023.
- Lakshminath & M. Sridhar Acharyulu, *Public Interest Litigation: Legal Aid and Lok Adalats*, 3rd Edition, LexisNexis, Gurugram, 2018.
- S. Muralidhar, *Law, Poverty, and Legal Aid: Access to Justice*, 1st Edition, LexisNexis, Gurugram, 2004.
- Upendra Baxi, *The Indian Supreme Court and Politics*, 1st Edition, Eastern Book Company, Lucknow, 1980.
- V.R. Krishna Iyer, *Justice at Crossroads: PIL and Social Change*, Revised Edition, Universal Law Publishing, New Delhi, 2011.
- S.K. Sharma, *Public Interest Litigation: Principles and Practice*, 2nd Edition, Central Law Publications, Allahabad, 2020.

Articles / Reports

- Law Commission of India, *Report No. 229 – Need for Transparency in PILs*, Government of India, New Delhi, 2009.

- Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI), *Strategic Use of Litigation for Public Interest*, CHRI Policy Brief, New Delhi, 2016.
- EPW – Economic & Political Weekly, “*Public Interest Litigation in India: A Critical Review*”, EPW Special Article, Vol. 49, No. 30, 2014.
- Supreme Court of India, *Handbook on Public Interest Litigation*, Supreme Court Registry, New Delhi, 2010.
- National Judicial Academy, *Best Practices in PIL Drafting and Litigation*, NJA Research Publication, Bhopal, 2019.
- Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, *Strengthening Public Interest Litigation Practice in India*, Vidhi Policy Report, New Delhi, 2018.
- UNDP India, *Strategic Litigation and Access to Justice*, UNDP Policy Brief, New Delhi, 2016.
- Centre for Public Interest Law (NLSIU), *Drafting and Managing PILs in India*, NLSIU Publication, Bengaluru, 2018.

Case Law References:

- Vishaka v. State of Rajasthan, (1997) 6 SCC 241 – Guidelines through PIL
- M.C. Mehta v. Union of India (series) – Environmental law through PIL
- Bandhua Mukti Morcha v. Union of India, (1984) 3 SCC 161 – Labour rights and PIL
- PUCL v. Union of India, (2001) 5 SCC 577 – Right to food through PIL

Evaluation Scheme:**Internal Assessment (30 Marks):**

- Two written assignments – 10 marks
- One classroom presentation – 10 marks
- Participation/Seminar/Viva – 10 marks

End Semester Examination (70 Marks):

- **Section A:** Short answer questions (30 marks)
- **Section B:** Analytical/Essay-type questions (40 marks)

Paper III – RPIL 203**LEGAL AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS: DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION****Duration: 36 hours (including lectures, workshops, and field exercises)****Credits: 5****Introduction:**

Legal awareness is the foundation for empowering citizens to understand and exercise their rights and duties. This paper trains students in conceptualizing, designing, and executing effective legal awareness campaigns that address real-world socio-legal issues. The focus is on practical engagement with communities through legal aid clinics, NGOs, government agencies, and educational institutions. Students will learn campaign planning, audience targeting, message framing, use of media, and evaluation techniques. Field-based activities will give learners first-hand experience in bridging the gap between law and society, making them active contributors to access to justice.

Course Outcomes (C.O.):

1. To understand the purpose, scope, and methods of legal awareness campaigns.
2. To develop skills in planning and executing community-based legal literacy programmes.
3. To apply effective communication techniques for diverse audiences using various media.
4. To evaluate the impact of legal awareness activities on targeted communities.

Programme Outcomes:

1. To prepare students for active participation in legal aid and community outreach.
2. To strengthen practical abilities in designing and delivering awareness programmes.
3. To foster ethical and culturally sensitive engagement with vulnerable groups.
4. To link classroom knowledge with field-based socio-legal interventions.

Syllabus:**Unit I: Concept and Objectives of Legal Awareness**

- Definition and significance of legal literacy
- Role in promoting access to justice and empowerment
- Constitutional and statutory basis for legal awareness programmes
- Role of NALSA, SLSAs, DLSAs, NGOs, and educational institutions

Unit II: Identifying Target Groups and Issues

- Understanding community demographics and needs
- Issues for awareness: RTI, PIL, human rights, women's rights, labour laws, environmental laws, consumer protection
- Special focus on vulnerable groups: women, children, marginalized communities, differently abled persons

Unit III: Designing Legal Awareness Campaigns

- Setting objectives and expected outcomes
- Framing messages for clarity and cultural appropriateness
- Selecting delivery methods: workshops, street plays, posters, social media campaigns, radio programmes
- Collaboration with legal aid bodies, media, and community leaders

Unit IV: Implementation Strategies

- Preparing schedules, materials, and resource persons
- Conducting legal aid camps and mobile legal aid clinics
- Role of students as para-legal volunteers
- Using local language and participatory methods for greater impact

Unit V: Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting

- Measuring reach, participation, and feedback
- Assessing behavioural and attitudinal changes in target groups
- Preparing campaign reports with photographs, statistics, and narratives
- Documenting best practices and lessons learned for future campaigns

Suggested Readings:

Books:

- NALSA (National Legal Services Authority), *Manual on Legal Literacy and Legal Awareness Programmes*, Revised Edition, NALSA, New Delhi, 2020.
- P. Ishwara Bhat, *Law and Social Transformation*, 1st Edition, Eastern Book Company, Lucknow, 2009.
- S.K. Sharma, *Legal Aid to the Poor: The Law and the Promise*, 2nd Edition, Deep & Deep Publications, New Delhi, 2011.
- M.S. Jagannath, *Legal Literacy and Legal Awareness*, 1st Edition, A.P.H. Publishing Corporation, New Delhi, 2018.
- K.P. Singh, *Legal Literacy: Awareness, Education, and Empowerment*, 1st Edition, Regal Publications, New Delhi, 2015.
- P.C. Rao & William Sheffield, *Alternative Dispute Resolution and Legal Aid*, 2nd Edition, Universal Law Publishing, New Delhi, 2012.

Articles / Reports

- NALSA, *Annual Reports* (latest editions), NALSA, New Delhi – <https://nalsa.gov.in>.
- UNDP, *Access to Justice and Legal Empowerment*, UNDP India Policy Paper, New Delhi, 2016.
- Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI), *Legal Awareness for Community Empowerment*, CHRI, New Delhi, 2018.
- Law Commission of India, *Report No. 266 – The Need for Legal Literacy*, Government of India, New Delhi, 2017.

- Amnesty International India, *Grassroots Legal Literacy Programmes: Best Practices*, Amnesty India Report, Bengaluru, 2019.
- National Judicial Academy, *Community Engagement and Legal Awareness: Training Manual for Lawyers and Law Students*, NJA Publication, Bhopal, 2020.
- Centre for Social Justice, *Participatory Legal Awareness Models in Rural India*, CSJ Publication, Ahmedabad, 2015.

Case Law References:

- Hussainara Khatoon v. State of Bihar, AIR 1979 SC 1369 – Right to legal aid
- Khatri v. State of Bihar, (1981) 1 SCC 627 – State's obligation to provide free legal aid
- State of Maharashtra v. Manubhai Pragaji Vashi, (1995) 5 SCC 730 – Legal aid in education and access to justice

Evaluation Scheme:**Internal Assessment (30 Marks):**

- Two written assignments – 10 marks
- One classroom presentation – 10 marks
- Participation/Seminar/Viva – 10 marks

End Semester Examination (70 Marks):

- **Section A:** Short answer questions (30 marks)
- **Section B:** Analytical/Essay-type questions (40 marks)