



# RIGHT TO INFORMATION AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

**PROF. SAIRAM BHAT**

Department of Law

National Law School of India University

**TYPE OF COURSE** : New | Elective | UG/PG

**COURSE DURATION** : 12 weeks (20 Jul' 20 - 9 Oct' 20)

**EXAM DATE** : 18 Oct 2020

**PRE-REQUISITES** : UG

**INTENDED AUDIENCE** : Law and non-law students

**INDUSTRIES APPLICABLE TO :**

All Departments and Ministries of the Government. All Public Sector Undertakings All Public Authorities as defined in the RTI Act All Public Universities and bodies owned and controlled and substantially financed by the Government. All non-governmental organisations substantially financed by the Government.

**COURSE OUTLINE :**

The course shall explore various dimensions of the right to information, from its origin to the current day application under the RTI Act 2005. The students will be able to comprehend the nature, scope and application of the right from a Constitutional and a legal right perspective. By the end of this course students should be able to synthesize with the concept of 'right' with 'reasonable restriction' and appreciate the various aspect of development of law and policy in this area.

**ABOUT INSTRUCTOR :**

Prof. Sairam Bhat did his LL.M, and Ph.D from the Department of Law, University of Mysore. He was awarded the Young India Environmental Law Fellowship and served as Adjunct Faculty at Golden Gate University, California, USA, during the fall, 2003. He is a Fulbright-Nehru Fellow, 2010. He was a Visiting Researcher at the Georgetown University, Law Centre Washington DC, during Aug-Dec. 2010. He was also a Linnaeus Palme Academic Exchange Fellow at the Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden, 2012-13.

**COURSE PLAN :**

- Week 1:** Transparency and Information: Legislative and Policy history and background
- Week 2:** Constitution of India and the Right to Know
- Week 3:** Legislating the Right to Information Act: History
- Week 4:** Salient Features of Right to Information Act 2005
- Week 5:** Accountability under the RTI Act, 2005: Public Authorities & State under Article 12
- Week 6:** Information: Available, Denied and Exempted
- Week 7:** Implementing RTI Act: Information Commission's Judgments on RTI
- Week 8:** Powers and Functions of the Information Commission under RTI Act
- Week 9:** Ecological Perspective of Right to Information
- Week 10:** Comparative Analysis on Right to Information
- Week 11:** Judiciary and the Right to Information
- Week 12:** Drafting RTI Applications and Appeals