CONSTITUTION OF INDIA AND ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE: ADMINISTRATIVE AND ADJUDICATORY PROCESS

Environmental issues have never been more pressing and challenging as they are in present day and age. Particularly in light of burning environmental crises such as climate change, species extinction, transboundary pollution and natural resource depletion, the importance of legal tools and principles in furthering the need for environmental protection finds relevance. In this backdrop, the present course has been provided to provide a platform for insightful and discursive learning on various enviro-legal issues in India and across the globe.

Designed to provide a holistic and expansive understanding into the environmental legal framework in India, the course offers insights into various aspects of environmental law right from fundamental principles of environmental jurisprudence to the functioning of institutional agencies under environmental statutes. The discussions not only aim to bring to the fore multiple environmental challenges, but also throw light on the complex web of laws available in India, to address these challenges. Commencing from the very basics, this course will delve into the rationale behind the emergence and the growing jurisprudence of environmental law and will further explore varied subject matter of environmental governance and the applicable laws in that regard. As the title of the course suggests, it will shed light on the constitutional underpinnings of environmental governance in India, by delving into the constitutional provisions as well as judicial interpretations of the same. As it focusses on the administrative structure of environmental regulatory institutions, the course also provides learners with a working knowledge of the institutional mechanisms in place, the implementation of legislative policy through administrative agencies such as the pollution control boards, including the role of administrative agencies in the governmental process, rule-making and adjudication.

With a comprehensive course outlay, this course has been designed to introduce learners not only to national and international environmental laws, but also to provide an understanding of the application of these laws in practical scenarios. By looking into various legislations and decisions by courts of law, this course aims to put across the myriad ways in which environmental laws work. As the judiciary has also played a pivotal role by developing and strengthening the environmental jurisprudence in India, the course will also elucidate and discuss important case laws that have shaped environmental law in the country.

The structure and design of the course has been formulated bearing in mind the expertise garnered by CEERA, NLSIU through scholarly research, training and capacity building in the





Area of environmental law and policy. Hailed as one of the leading scholars in the sphere of environmental law and policy, Prof. M K Ramesh has about four decades of teaching and training experience in this area of study. His brainchild, CEERA, which is a benefactor of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has been engaged in building an environmental law database, effectively networking among all stakeholders, building up an environmental law community and policy research in the area of environment for about 3 decades. The Centre has been engaged in offering customised training courses to various departments of the government and private entities and has for the past 11 years been offering training to the Central and State Pollution Control Boards. Besides this, the course has been developed bearing in mind the research undertaken by Prof. Ramesh and

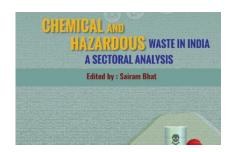
his team under various projects under the aegis of various Government Ministries and



institutions such as the MOEFCC, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Indian Council for Agricultural Research, Karnataka Biodiversity Board and others. The Centre has also completed a two-year Research Project granted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) under the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and as one of the

deliverables, organised, convened and conducted over twenty workshops at Institutions of national repute creating awareness on the Biodiversity Law and Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) in less than 2 years. Furthermore, the team has been regularly engaged in offering the intensive Post Graduate Diploma in Environmental Law, at the National Law School of India University, Bengaluru.





LEARNING OUTCOMES

Through this course, learners will have ample scope to understand the legal dimensions of environmental governance. On completing the course, the learners will be in a position to appreciate the legal nuances of environment management and environmental governance in India. Learners will be equipped with adequate preparation for practicing, teaching, or policy-making in the environmental governance. The learner will have a comprehensive and holistic understanding of the following thematic areas:

- Fundamental principles of environmental governance
- Theoretical underpinnings of environmental law and policy
- Constitutional perspectives of environmental governance in India
- Environmental Jurisprudence: Rights, duties and responsibilities in the environmental framework
- International laws and developments in environmental and natural resource management
- Pollution control and abatement: Legal framework, statutory compliances and institutional mechanism in India
- Procedural compliances under environment legislations
- Biodiversity conservation, climate change, forest protection, waste management, environment impact assessment, coastal zone regulation and conservation
- Role of judiciary and quasi-judicial bodies in environmental governance