

## **Course – V, Hons- III: Media and Law**

### **Objectives:**

Mass Media systems of the world vary from each other according to the economy, polity, religion and culture of different societies. In India, the Press and media are free to express their opinions and publish the information, but subject to certain reasonable restrictions imposed by the Constitution. Before the impact of globalization was felt, the mass media was wholly controlled by the government, which let the media project only what the government wanted the public to see and in a way in which it wanted the public to see it. However, with the onset of globalization and privatization, the situation has undergone a humongous change. The 'transnational media' with the progress of communication technologies like Satellite delivery and ISDN (Integrated Services Digital Network), led to the evolution of global information systems. In this background, the students will be able to understand the legal checks and bounds on transmission and communication.

### **Course Outcomes:**

On successful completion of the course students will be able to:

1. analyse the scope of right to freedom of Speech and expression and the applicability of reasonable restrictions
2. understand the media regulations in India
3. Demonstrate the nature of ethics and morality in journalism and media
4. Determine the ethical issues of media with case studies

### **Contents:**

#### **Unit I**

Mass media- Types

Press- Films, radio, Television;

Ownership patterns- press-private-public; Ownership: Ownership patterns- films-Private;

Ownership pattern- radio& television, public;

Difference between visual and non- visual media-impact on peoples mind

#### **Unit II**

Press-Freedom of speech and expression- Article 19(1)(a) &19(2); includes freedom of Press;

Laws of defamation, obscenity; blasphemy and sedition

Law relating to employees wages and service condition; Price and page schedule regulation;

News print control order; Commercial speech

Advertisement- is it included in the freedom of speech and expression? Press Trust of India, Press council of India, Advertisement council of India

### **Unit III**

Films- how for included in the freedom of speech and expression?

Censorship of motion films- Constitutionality;

The Abbas Case;

Difference between films and press-why pre-censorship valid for films but not for the press

Censorship under the cinematograph Act.

### **Unit IV**

Radio and Television- Government monopoly; why government department? Should there be an autonomous corporation? Prasara Bharathi

Radio and television subject to law of defamation and obscenity Effect of television on people;

Report of Chanda committee; Government policy?

Commercial advertisement, internal scrutiny of serials, etc; Judicial Review of Doordarshan decisions;

Freedom to telecast.

### **Unit V**

Telegraphic Act, Regulation of social media, Internet service provider, Cable TV Network regulations, DTH and content Scrutiny

Salient features of Information Technology Act; Cyber law

Power to legislate- article 246 read with the seventh schedule; power to impose tax- licensing and license fee