**PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION (PIL)**

* ***Purpose* :**

Through PIL or *Public Interest Litigation*, Citizens can use to raise their voice in interest of general public.

* ***Area of Application of Law* :**
* *Article 32  of the Constitution of India*, empowers every citizen to approach the Supreme Court .
* *Article 228 of the Constitution of India*, empowers every citizen to approach the High Court.
* *Section 133 of the Code of Criminal Procedure,1973* also provide provisions for filing PIL against criminal violation of someone’s rights as per Jurisdiction of Competent Court.
* ***Legal Procedure* :**

PIL stands for *Public Interest Litigation*.

PIL is an important & powerful Legal Remedy in the hands of Citizens to seek remedy from the Court for the benefit of public.

PIL can be filed by anyone i.e. Any person who may or may not be affected by some action of an authority, industry or person that causes public distress.

It can be filed in any High Court or the Supreme Court directly.

**It can be filed on the following grounds to seek remedy ;**

* *Violation of fundamental rights*- Whenever the fundamental rights of people are affected or violated, a PIL can be filed. Fundamental rights include- right to a clean and safe environment, right to a dignified life, freedom of religion, profession and speech, right to wages, and other human rights that ensure liberty and sanctity of an individual.
* *Violation of public interest*- Any activity that affects the public interest, like construction hazards or displacement, terrorism, pollution, industrial-activities, etc., are grounds for filing a PIL.
* ***Documents Required to be Submitted in the Court* :**

**When a PIL is filed in High Court -**

* *Two copies* of the petition are filed.
* A proof of the copy is served to the opposite party.
* A prescribed court fee should be paid.

**When a PIL is filed in Supreme Court -**

* *Five copies* of the petition are filed.
* The copy to the opposite party is sent only after the court’s notice.
* A prescribed court fee should be paid.
* ***Punishment*/ Expected Relief :**

A PIL can be accepted or rejected or Fine can be imposed.

* ***Landmark Judgement* :**

The landmark judgment :

*Hussainara Khatun vs. Home Secretary, State of Bihar*

*M.C. Mehta vs. Union of India (1988)*