



# Chhattisgarh HC Rules Against Exemption of Economic Offenses Bureau

## Why in News?

Recently, in a significant judgment, the Chhattisgarh high court has ruled that the notification dated **7<sup>th</sup> November, 2006**, exempting the **Chhattisgarh State Economic Offenses Investigation Bureau** from the provisions of the [Right to Information \(RTI\) Act, 2005](#) contradicts the first proviso to **Section 24(4)** of the said Act.

## Key Points

- According to the judgment, the impugned notification issued by the **General Administration Department of the Government of Chhattisgarh** cannot allow the government to withhold information pertaining to allegations of corruption involving the Bureau, except for information relating to sensitive and confidential activities undertaken by the said Bureau.
- In light of this ruling, the court directed the state government to issue a clarificatory notification within three weeks.
- On 15 November, 2016, the RTI activist and the petitioner had filed an application seeking information from the Economic Offenses Investigation Bureau.
  - In response, the Economic Offenses refused to provide information, stating that the state government had exempted the agency from providing information under the Right to Information Act through the notification issued on 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2006.
  - Challenging this notification, the RTI activist filed a petition before the division bench of the Chhattisgarh High Court, stating that **Section 24(4) of the Right to Information Act, 2005 mentions that no institution can be exempted from providing information** related to corruption and violations of human rights.

## Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005

- It is a legislative framework that empowers Indian citizens to **access information held by public authorities**. Enacted in 2005, the act aims to promote **transparency, accountability, and participation in government processes**.
- It replaced the **Freedom of Information Act 2002**.
- According to Section 22 of RTI Act, the provisions of this Act will be **effective regardless of any contradictions with the Official Secrets Act of 1923**, existing laws, or any agreements established through laws other than this Act