



## CONFERENCE ON

### ONE DECADE OF RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT IN INDIA: EXPECTATIONS, FAILURES AND ROADMAP FOR FUTURE

CENTRE FOR REGULATORY STUDIES, GOVERNANCE  
AND PUBLIC POLICY,  
WEST BENGAL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF JURIDICAL  
SCIENCES

DATE: JULY 22, 2017

## BACKGROUND

Right to Information Act, 2005 since its enactment has set a new standard of life in strengthening the very institution of democracy in the country. It gave citizens the power of information and right to access information held by or in the custody of public authorities. Public Authorities were held responsible and accountable to the public at large to provide information in the manner sought and in the nature available. Transparency and accountability in governance could be attained by the implementation of the Act in letter and spirit. The mandate of legal institutional framework as per the Act for the establishment of a practical regime for the realisation of the Right to Information and easy access to information otherwise in the exclusive control of the public authorities is the cornerstone. The disclosure of information is mandatory and not optional. The law brought uniformity in access to information and its effectiveness has since enhanced. Advocates of the Act believed that the statute could help purge inefficiency and corruption from the government.

The primary aim of this right is to promote transparency and accountability in the functioning of all the public authorities. India recognised the Freedom of Expression with the grant of Right to Information for the citizens and left no scope of secrecy in the government affairs with exceptions in matters of defence, atomic energy and matters concerning the security of a country. Every citizen as a matter of right can seek information subject to certain "*reasonable restrictions*" as laid down in The Constitution of India (Article 19 (Part III) of the Constitution of India).

This year i.e. in 2017, the law completes its 12 years of enactment & implementation in the country. The Centre for Regulatory Studies, Governance and Public Policy at West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences Kolkata has already conducted a study on *"Trend Analysis of Right to Information Applications in the State of West Bengal"* in collaboration with the Administrative Training Institute, West Bengal in the year 2016 and one workshop for the PIOs of Educational Institutions in the State of West Bengal. The Centre in furtherance of these initiatives will be conducting a National Conference on Right to Information to celebrate the 12 years of enactment of the Right to Information Act, 2005 on July 22, 2017.

## **OBJECTIVES**

The Centre through the Conference intends to indulge in discussions with regulatory authorities, ngos, activists, academicians, legal practitioners and officials of the Government and students about their experiences in the last 12 years with the right to access to information and the loopholes of the statute, if any, which they have noticed or consider as a bar to effective implementation of the statute in the country. At the same time the influence of the Right to Information Act, 2005 on other South Asian jurisdictions and its effectiveness in their jurisdiction will also be examined.

## **CALL FOR PAPERS**

**Those who are interested in presenting a paper on any area of Right to Information must send an abstract of one page along with a biographical note on or before 15 June, 2017.** Preference will be given to detailed papers with analysis of law, good practices and good governance through Right to Information and the content must be supported and analyzed by empirical method of research. **Acceptance of abstract will be informed by 19 June, 2017. A full length paper of 6,000 – 7,000 words must be sent by 16 July, 2017.** No paper presentation will be allowed unless full paper is submitted by or before the last date. Submission of full length paper would be presumed to be unconditional consent of the author/s for its possible use by the Centre for future publications. Not more than two co-authors are allowed for submissions. Each co-author shall submit a separate registration form. All submissions should be made in Microsoft Word (Garamond, 12 Font, double spacing) following OSCOLA 4<sup>th</sup> Edition of Footnotes and containing four to five key words.

Participants and paper presenters, if not present for all the sessions, will not be awarded the certificates by the Organizing team. Each Co-author will get a separate certificate.

## **THEMES**

1. Right to Information and Protection of Whistle Blower
2. Right to Information and Political Parties
3. Right to Information and Role of Ombudsman
4. Exceptions under Right to Information Act
5. Impact of Right to Information Act in Justice Delivery System
6. Right to Information Act and Right to Public Services
7. Right to Information Act as an Anti-corruption Tool
8. Right to Information Act and Right to Privacy
9. Future Road-map of Right to Information Act
10. Right to Information Act, 2005 and Lawmaking in South Asia

## **REGISTRATION AND FEES**

Registration fee for the Conference is category wise:

**Category A (Paper Presentation):** Rs. 1500/- INR for single author. For Co-authorship Rs. 2500/-.

**Category B (Participation):** Rs. 750/- INR

Registration fee can be paid by a Demand Draft drawn in favour of "THE WBNUJS, CRSGPP A/C." payable at "Kolkata" or NEFT.

The Bank Account Details for NEFT are as follows:

1. Name of the Account: "THE W.B.NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF JURIDICAL SCIENCES, CRSGPP"
2. Account No: 066300101009449
3. Bank: Corporation Bank
4. Branch: NUJS Campus

5. IFSC Code: CORP0000663

Original demand draft or receipt of NEFT payment must be duly sent to the Centre Coordinator along with the filled in registration form. Participation is limited to 30 participants (excluding paper presenters). All Interested participants may register by sending in a filled in registration form through email at [intrticonf@gmail.com](mailto:intrticonf@gmail.com). Registration would be done on first-come-first-serve basis until the seats are filled. No spot registration will take place for the conference. Subject line of the email should specify the Category of participants.

### **IMPORTANT DETAILS**

Last Date of Submission of Abstract: 15 June, 2017

Intimation of Acceptance of Abstract: 19 June, 2017

Last Date of Registration for Participation or Paper Presentation: 07 July, 2017

Last Date of Submission of Full Paper: 16 July, 2017

Conference Date: 22 July, 2017.

Email id for Registration, Paper Presentation/Abstract Submission/Full Paper submission and for queries: [intrticonf@gmail.com](mailto:intrticonf@gmail.com), Contact Number: +91-33-2335-7379/0765 (Extn. 7210). Address for written communication is as follows:

Prof. Dr. T.R. Subramanya

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Centre for Regulatory Studies, Governance and Public Policy

West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences

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**DATE: JULY 22, 2017**

- 1. Name of the Participant:**
  
- 2. Designation/ Affiliation:**
  
- 3. Name of the Institution (Postal Address, Phone and E-mail):**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 4. Contact Details of Participant (Postal Address, Phone and E-mail):**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 5. Category of Participant:**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 6. DD/ NEFT Details (No, Bank, Date):**

**I declare that all the information provided above is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.**

Signature of the Candidate

Date: