

**SWAMI KESHVANAND INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT &  
GRAMOTHAN**

**DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT STUDIES**

*Seminar on Right To Information (RTI)*

October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**Report and Outcome of the Conference**

The Right to Information Act, 2005 was enacted with the avowed objective of providing an effective framework for effectuating the Right of Information recognized under Article 19 of the Constitution of India and to provide for setting the practical regime of RTI for citizens to secure access to information under the control of public authorities in order to promote transparency and accountability in the working of every public authority.

With the expansion of economy, people's quest for right to information has increased and so has the demand for the inspection of record held by the Government departments and various public authorities. Perhaps, because of the apprehensions that the masses may not get alienated, the Government thought it imperative to initiate steps to bridge the gap with the people through the Right to Information Act and ultimately diminish the aura of mystery around the decision-making and functioning of the Government

To make people feel that they are an integral part of the Government system or governance, the Indian democracy through the Right to Information Act, 2005, has made governance citizen-centric or people-participative. Since transparency and accountability enhance the trust of the people in the functioning of the Government, the RTI Act ensures this happens effectively.

- Constitutional Perspective of Right to Know
- RTI and Good Governance
- Right to Information and Media Law
- Right to Information Advocacy
- Social Science Perspective of RTI

- Technicalities in RTI
- Regulatory Mechanism and RTI

Keeping the same imprints in mind on Wednesday, 05/10/2016 Department of Management Studies, SKIT organized as seminar on “Right To Information Act”. Starting from the Initial Remarks by Prof. Dr.Vikas Shrotriya Professor, DMS welcomed the audience with his speech on why RTI is relevant today. He said that many consider democracy as the best form of governance. However, in that context, he said that there needs to be a rethinking on whether India's democracy really belongs to its people. Followed to this session Prof. S.P. Garg Dean-DMS, said that accountability is only at the level of the legislature and Parliament. However, as past experience clearly demonstrates, it has not delivered the right result. He said that the bureaucratic system in the country must be made germ free and the disinfectant is transparency. The tool to bring about such transparency is an act like the Right to Information Act.

Shri.Alok Kulshreshtha, TII discussed the functional autonomy of SKIT. The central theme of Kulshreshtha presentation was the government's agenda with regard to good governance and transparency. The bureaucracy exists not merely to run the country. Bureaucrats have to ensure that promises made in the Constitution to the poorest of the poor are implemented. The government has, as part of its agenda, linked RTI to good governance in the 10th five year plan. Further he stressed that youngsters should be aware of their right and duties so that they could contribute maximum in the development process of the country.

Shri. I.C Shrivastava, National Chairman, TII focused on working of TII. Talking about transparency he emphasized on several acts based on transparency. HE explained the roles and responsibilities of information officers in the three tiers of the information access regime. At the first level are the officers who have been designated to receive applications or information requests from people. The second level is the senior officers who have been designated to look into those cases where citizens’ requests for information have been denied. At the third level is the independent state Information Commission set up to look into those cases where citizens are unsatisfied with the decision made at the second level (i.e. the departmental appellate authority).

Shri. J.K.Sachdeva, Executive Member, TII discussed about the management’s major challenges in RTI act. Further he emphasised on RTI Assessments for the participants and made them

understand the rules and procedure to seek RTI. He explained the details of the Act pertaining to what is the right of a citizen, what are the types of information s he can obtain under this Act, what are the types of records that can be obtained, what are the obligations of public authorities the roles and responsibilities of Public Information Officers (PIO) and Assistant Public Information Officers (APIO), Central and State Information Commissioners, exemptions, the time period for providing information, rejection of information request, the fees applicable etc.

Shri. G.S.Hora, Chairman, TII shared his thoughts and vision on the evolution of corruption starting from the days before independence to the point where we are now. He also showed a different aspect of RTI where he highlighted about the actual working of RTI and the matters that are still pending. Further he led stressed on Constitutional Perspective of Right to Know. He focused on the areas like RTI and good governance, social science perspective of RTI.

Followed to this session Mr.Atul Gupta, Asst. Professor, DMS briefed about the Upcoming two day National Conference on Strengthening Indian Economy and Business which is to be held on Nov 18-19, 2016. This briefing was followed by the Unveiling of the Brochure of the two day conference by the dignitaries. In the prize distribution ceremony based on the quiz on RTI, the hard work of the participants was acknowledged in the form of cash prize. A vote of thanks by Prof. Dr. S.K. Calla, Director (D&W) ended the seminar on a good note.

### **Some of the lessons learned from the Seminar are the following:**

- All the participants consensually and strongly advocated that the recommendations emerged out as a result of this seminar should be accepted and implemented as soon as possible so that implementation of this Act could be made effective and goals its enactment could be achieved.
- Right to information covers inspection of work, document, record and its certified copy and information in any other electronic mode. Applicant can obtain information within 30 days from the date of request in a normal case.
- Information can be obtained within 48 hours from time of filing the request if it is a matter of life or liberty of a person. Every public authority is under obligation to provide information on written request or request by electronic means.
- Certain information is prohibited for security reasons.
- Penalty for not providing information is Rs. 250/ per day but the total amount of penalty should not exceed Rs. 25,000.
- Central Information Commission and State Information Commission are to be constituted by the Central Government and the respective State Governments.
- No Court can entertain any suit, application or other proceedings in respect of any order made under the Act.
- There is an urgent need to protect the whistle blowers who are targeted or attacked so easily. The impending bill should be passed or else an ancillary strict measure should be taken in this regard.
- The disposal rate of RTI application is quite low. Unless and until the pendency rate is curtailed, the objective of the Act would not be met. Thus, the Information Commission needs to be more active in their functioning.

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J. C. Bose Hall

- Initial Remarks by Dr. Vikas Shrotriya, Professor, DMS
- Brief about Developmental Activities of DMS by Prof. S. P. Garg, Dean-DMS
- Welcome Address by Shri Surja Ram Meel, Chairman, SKIT
- Brief about SKIT by Prof. (Dr.) S. L. Surana, Director (Academics), SKIT
- Theme Presentation by Shri Alok Kulshreshtha, TII
- Address by Shri I. C. Srivastava, National Chairman, TII
- Presentation on RTI by Shri J. K. Sachdeva, Executive Member, TII and Shri Alok Kulshreshtha, Member, TII
- Address by Shri G. S. Hora, Chairman, TII Rajasthan Chapter
- Unveiling of the Brochure of Two – Day National Conference on Strengthening Indian Economy and Business: Nurturing the Present, Innovating the future (Nov 18 – 19, 2016)
- Prize Distribution to Winners of Quiz on RTI
- Vote of Thanks by Prof. (Dr.) S.K. Calla, Director (D&W), SKIT
- High Tea

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**List of Experts**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Name of Expert</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
1	Shri.Alok Kulshreshtha	Executive Member, TII
2	Shri. I.C Shrivastava	National Chairman, TII
3	Shri J. K. Sachdeva	Executive Member, TII
4	Shri G. S. Hora	Chairman, TII Rajasthan Chapter



RAJASTHAN CHAPTER OF TRANSPERENCY INTERNATIONAL INDIA  
&  
DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT STUDIES



SWAMI KESHVANAND INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & GRAMOTHAN

# ORGANIZE SEMINAR

ON

## RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT

Your Gracious Presence Is Solicited.

OCTOBER 5<sup>TH</sup>, 2016, 1.00 PM

AT **SKIT**

S. P. Garg  
Dean, DMS

Vikas Shrotriya  
Professor, DMS

G.S. Hora  
Chairman  
Rajasthan Chapter, TII

J.K. Sachdeva  
Executive Member  
TII

**Swami Keshvanand Institute of Technology Management and Gramothan, Jaipur**

Swami Keshvanand Institute of Technology, Management and Gramothan, Jaipur, was established in the year 2000 by a team of committed professionals and academicians. SKIT enjoys the reputation of being one of the premier institute in northern India, possessing qualified and experienced faculty along with well-developed infrastructure. A great sense of discipline, sincerity and an environment conducive to learning makes SKIT an educational paradise. All the Courses are duly approved by AICTE and affiliated to Rajasthan Technical University, Kota. B.Tech courses are accredited by the National Board of Accreditation (NBA, New Delhi).

**Department of Management Studies**

In its endeavor to strengthen the philosophy of Swami Keshvanand Ji and achieve excellence in Techno-managerial environment, the institute established Department of Management Studies in the academic year 2006-2007. The Department of Management Studies offers an AICTE approved Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree course, affiliated to Rajasthan Technical University, Kota. The Department aims at developing future managers equipped with curricular & co-curricular skills, which will help them to make a mark in the industry. To achieve its vision the Department uses a blend of well-qualified and experienced core faculty and renowned visiting faculty members from other institutes. To enhance the horizon of knowledge, various Seminars, Workshops, and Entrepreneurial Activities are organized regularly. The Department is an active member of All India Management Association (AIMA).

**PATRON**

Shri Surja Ram Meel  
Chairman

**MENTOR**

Prof. S. P. Garg  
Dean-DMS

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Shri Anil Bafna- Vice Chairman  
Shri Jaipal Meel- Director  
Mrs. Rachna Meel- Registrar  
Prof. (Dr.) S. L. Surana- Director (Acad)  
Prof. (Dr.) S. K. Calla- Director (D&W)  
Prof. (Dr.) R. K. Pachar- Principal  
Prof. M. L. Bhargava- Advisor  
Mrs. Abha Meel- Advisor

**ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**

Prof. (Dr.) Vikas Shrotriya  
Dr. Ona Ladiwal  
Dr. Savita Choudhary  
Mr. Atul Gupta  
Ms. Maneesha Kaushik  
CS. Pallavi Biyani

**National Seminar**  
On  
**“Right to Information Act”**

**5<sup>th</sup> October, 2016 (Wednesday)**



in collaboration with



Rajasthan Chapter of Transparency International India



Organized by:

Department of Management Studies  
Swami Keshvanand Institute of Technology,  
Management & Gramothan, Jaipur, India



## About the Seminar

It has taken India 82 years to transition from an opaque system of governance, legitimized by the colonial Official Secrets Act, to one where citizens can demand the right to information. The recent enactment of the Right to Information Act 2005 marks a significant shift for Indian democracy, for the greater the access of citizens to information, the greater will be the responsiveness of government to community needs. Right To Information is derived from our fundamental right of freedom of speech and expression under Article 19 of the Constitution. The Act and its rules define a format for requisitioning information, a time period within which information must be provided, a method of giving the information, some charges for applying and some exemptions of information which will not be given. The free flow of information in India remains severely restricted by three factors: a) The legislative framework includes several pieces of restrictive legislation, such as the Official Secrets Act, 1923; b) The pervasive culture of secrecy and arrogance within the bureaucracy; and c) The low levels of literacy and rights awareness amongst India's people. The primary power of RTI is the fact that it empowers individual Citizens to requisition information. Hence without necessarily forming pressure groups or associations, it puts power directly into the hands of the foundation of democracy- the Citizen.

Therefore the citizen should have the knowledge of right to information forms the crucial underpinning of participatory democracy - it is essential to ensure accountability and good governance. The greater the access of the citizen to information, the greater the responsiveness of government to community needs. Alternatively, the more restrictions that are placed on access, greater will be the feelings of 'powerlessness' and 'alienation'. Without information, people cannot adequately exercise their rights as citizens or make informed choices.

### RTI - Essentials of right to information

- Basic Information, Time limit, Access of the Right
- Fees and Cost for Application
- Penalties
- Independent Appeals.

### RTI Act Highlights:

- The President will appoint the Chief Information Commissioner, and Governors of States will appoint State Information Commissioners to implement the Act. They will be autonomous functionaries with five-year terms.
- The chief information commissioner and state information commissioners will publish their annual reports on the implementation of the Act.
- The annual reports will be tabled before Parliament/state legislatures.
- 'Information' about events that took place 10 years before the date of request can be provided.
- Process of applying RTI application in the institutions.
- Government bodies have to publish details of staff payments and budgets.

### Target Group:

- Policy makers, Regulators & Government officials.
- Corporate officers & Administrators
- Faculty and Research Scholars of all streams/ Developmental Institutes.
- All Students of Management, Economics, Commerce, Engineering, CA/CS/ICWA/CFA/MCA/other Professional Courses

### Date and Venue:

5<sup>th</sup> October, 2016 (Wednesday)

J.C. Bose Seminar Hall,

Swami Keshvanand Institute of Technology, Management & Gramothan, Jaipur -302017 (Rajasthan)

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**List of Participants**

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>List of Participants</b>	<b>S.No.</b>	<b>List of Participants</b>
1	Abhimanyu Arya	49	AAYUSHI RAMDEO
2	Abhishek Chaturvedi	50	ABHISHEK SAINI
3	Abhishek Jangir	51	AJAY MEHTA
4	Aishwarya jain	52	ANIL POONIA
5	Anita Kumari	53	ANURAG SINGH
6	Ankita Sharma	54	APPALI MATHUR
7	Ankush Choudhary	55	ARTI GPTA
8	Atul Kumar Bhargav	56	ASHRAF ALI
9	Barkha Jain	57	DEEPALI JAIN
10	Bhumika Sharma	58	DIKSHA SHARMA
11	Chitra Sharma	59	GORISHA SONI
12	Daljeet Kaur Saluja	60	HARSHVARDHAN SHARMA
13	Deepak Kumar	61	HRICHA SHARMA
14	Dinesh Saran	62	KARAN BHATLA
15	Divya Nahar	63	KHUSHBOO AGARWAL
16	Divya Saraf	64	MADHAVI RATHORE
17	Divyanshu Sharma	65	MANSHA PARMAR
18	Geeta Minocha	66	NEHA IDNANI
19	Hansraj Choudhary	67	NISHA SAINI
20	Harish Kumar	68	PAYAL GUPTA
21	Indu Kumari	69	PRATHVI SINGH RAJAWAT
22	Jyoti Jain	70	PRATIKSHA MITTAL
23	Kapil Kumar Jangid	71	PRAVEEN PAREVA
24	Keshav Mishra	72	PREMANAND
25	Khushboo Jain	73	PRIYANKA KUMARI
26	Lorin Jhala	74	
27	Madhusudan Nimbark	75	RADHA GAUTAM
28	Manish Kumar	76	RAMAN TAILOR
29	Manpreet Kaur	77	RISHABH GUPTA
30	Monalisa Sharma	78	RIYA MALVIYA
31	Neha Nidhi	79	RUKMANI JANGID
32	Nikita Rathore	80	SALONI VYAS
33	Payal Vijayvargiya	81	SHAFaq ARIF ANSARI
34	Pranchal Mittal	82	SHASHANK VASHISTHA
35	Praveen Manak	83	SHIKHA VIJAY

36	Pritam Kumar
37	Rahul Nitharwal
38	Sakshi
39	Sebiya Mareja
40	Shiv Charan Sharma
41	Shubham Choudhary
42	Shubham Varshney
43	Siji Rachel Mathew
44	Somiya Gaur
45	Surendra Jat
46	Surendra Singh
47	Tuba Rafiq
48	Uma Sharma

84	SHIVANI DANGAYACH
85	SHOBHIT SETHI
86	SONAKSHI DADHICH
87	SOURABH KHATRI
88	SWATI KHANDELWAL
89	TRAPTI MADATWAL
90	VAIBHAV JAIN
91	VARSHA AGARWAL
92	VIKAS HIRANI
93	VINAY SHARMA
94	VIPUL SHARMA
95	VIVEK SHARMA

