



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

**INAUGURATION OF THE CENTRE AND WORKSHOP ON
RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT, 2005**

10.00 am, Tuesday 23rd. February 2016

At **WBNUJS, SALT LAKE, KOLKATA**

CONCEPT NOTE FOR WORKSHOP ON

RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT, 2005

The Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005 is a benchmark development in the process of creating transparency and accountability in the administrative system. Before the enactment of the RTI Act, the Indian Parliament had enacted the Freedom of Information Act in 2002 that also conferred the right on citizens of India to seek information on any matter relating to public policy. However, the precursor to the RTI did not make as great an impact as the RTI did. Today, after 10 years of implementation, the legislation still ensures transparency, freedom of speech and expression, accountability and regulation.

This legislation is a lethal weapon, which can help divulge important pieces of information with immense ease and precision. The Act confers on all the citizens the right to access information and, correspondingly, makes the dissemination of such information an obligation of the public authority. The state, autonomous bodies and certain statutory bodies are empowered to make rules about the payment of charges etcetera in accordance with the statute to provide information. Nevertheless, the changes in the legislation over the years have been overhauling with tremendous impact on the level of prevalence and outcome which the statute could have attained.

To understand the effectiveness of RTI Act both as a tool of public policy and as a progressive legislative experiment, a workshop will be organised by the Centre of Regulatory Studies, Governance and Public Policy (CRSGPP) at WBNUJS on 23rd of February, 2016. It shall focus on the objectives of Right to Information Act, 2005 whose aim is to provide for setting out a viable regime of right to information for citizens and to secure access to such information under the control of various public authorities.

Participants (tentative):

College students (20), participants from Non-Governmental Organisations and Press (5), government officials (5). Please send in your statement of purpose with your CV at crsgpp@nujs.edu by 20.02.2016.

Registration Fee: Nil

Sl. No.	TOPIC OF DISCUSSION	TIME ALLOTMENT
1.	<p>Introduction: RTI as a tool for good governance and as a means of achieving social justice in India; Indian and international history of the RTI movement; changes over the last 10 years.</p> <p>Dias: Prof. Ishwara Bhat, Vice Chancellor, WBNUJS; Dr. Subesh Das; Director General of Administrative Training Institute, Kolkata Ms. Gargi Ghosh; Associate Professor, Natural Disaster Management, Administrative Training Institute; Mr. Nandan Roy; Ex- Secretary Information Commissioner</p>	10.00 am -10.30 am
2.	<p>Overview of the RTI Act- basic legal provisions; (applicability, who do you file it to, identification of institutions envisaged under the statute etc)</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Gargi Ghosh Associate Professor, Natural Disaster Management, Administrative Training Institute</p>	10.30 am- 11.30am
	Refreshment	11.30am -11.40pm
3.	<p>How to file the actual RTI application -how to frame good questions -what to attach as fee</p>	11.40am-12.40pm

	<p>-how to fill up the form -which kind of questions to ask (to avoid “why” question etc); What to do if the application is rejected –how to file appeal -discuss what to write in two factual scenarios)</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Nandan Roy Ex- Secretary Information Commissioner</p>	
	Lunch	12.40pm-1.30 pm
4	<p>Practical Session: Training the participants on writing an RTI application for a few hypothetical problem; Eminent invitees to the workshop are request to point out common errors and list out important pointers for the participants; and clear doubts.</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Nandan Roy Ex- Secretary Information Commissioner</p>	1.30pm- 3.30pm
	Refreshment	3.30pm-3.40pm
5	<p>Interactive Session: Participants sharing of their RTI experience</p> <p>Success Stories of RTI applications in Bengal.</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Saurabh Bhattacharjee Assistant Professor of Law The West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences (NUJS)</p>	3.40pm-4.50pm
7.	Vote of Thanks	4.50pm-5.00pm