



# GOOD GOVERNANCE



## **RTI Central Monitoring Mechanism: An innovative IT intervention for Right to Information**

*(An endeavour by Department of Information and Public Relations, Govt. of Odisha towards transparency and accountability in Governance)*

In its bid to ease mounting pressure on its officials for furnishing information under the RTI Act, the Central Monitoring Mechanism implemented by the Information and Public Relations Department, Govt. of Odisha is an example of how IT can be used for information management and meeting greater need of governance and citizen service.



Coupled with its seek and search

option, the solution serves as a one point information base for all public authorities in Odisha, providing information to everybody at the click of a button. The project also aims to ensure maximum dissemination and use of information under the Act by all target users- Public Authorities, Public Information Officers (PIO), First Appellate Authorities (FAA), APIOs and citizens. It is a Government to Citizen (G2C) as well as Government to Government (G2G) service web portal. This ICT tool is a web based centralized system to monitor Right to Information (RTI) implementation in the entire State.

In this system all the Departments and sub-ordinate Offices are given with an user ID and password to manage their proactive disclosure, RTI applications and 1st appeals under the act. Citizen will be able to make online RTI applications and appeals to any public authority in the State through this system. The Information Seeker (Citizen) can check his/her online RTI application and appeal status.

Moreover, this mechanism of RTI implementation is in conformity with the Right to Information Act, 2005, Odisha Right to Information Rules, 2005 and Odisha Right to Information (Amendment) Rules, 2006. This is an example of how an Act and Rule can be implemented and monitored by using ICT.

RTI CMM has acclaimed many awards and recognitions; including appreciation from the sitting Judge of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. Recently this initiative has secured the medal in 'Best Government Portal' category in the National Awards on e-Governance for 2011-12 instituted by DAR and PG, Govt. of India. While studying this initiative, the World Bank has also termed it as 'truly impressive'.

The portal also conforms to the compliance Matrix of Guidelines for Indian Government Websites, Cyber Security Guidelines and latest features of eGov 2.0. Further, this RTI portal was also adjudged the Best User Friendly Website in the country and bagged India eGov 2.0 Awards 2010. In the year 2010, this mechanism also has been awarded with eINDIA Citizen Choice Award 2010 in the International IT Convention held at Hyderabad. Simultaneously, it also bagged 1st prize during the competition organised by Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) and Govt. of Odisha at Bhubaneswar in the year 2010.

The features of this mechanism basically conforms to major recommendations made by Administrative Reforms Commission in their 1st Report titled 'Right to Information- Master Key to Good Governance' on June 2006. This portal is unique in character to fully comply with mandatory provisions as contained in the sections-4, 6, 7, 19 and 25 of the RTI Act, 2005. In assessment of compliance to recommendations of 2nd Administrative Reforms Commission, Odisha has also acquired a leading position. Odisha is the first state to have implemented all its recommendations with regard developing a single portal for disclosure of all public authorities, appropriate access to State Information Commission.

This IT intervention has also been able to trigger the need for information management system and e-Records. This is driving the paperless office concept in the state machinery. Taking the initiative further the state government is looking at connecting all offices of the State into a single network, including 40 Departmental Public Authorities, 30 districts, 314 blocks and 316 Tahasils level PIOs etc. This portal is available at the URL; [www.rti.odisha.gov.in](http://www.rti.odisha.gov.in) from the year 2009.

This project, therefore, seeks to facilitate the citizens on the process of applying the RTI tool to exercise their rights and carries all possibilities for effective implementation of the RTI Act, 2005 in any State Government, therefore, claims to be a Best Practice in-front of RTI Implementation and an efficient tool to effect transparency and accountability in the system of governance. Therefore, RTI Central Monitoring Mechanism (RTI-CMM) carries vital features of good governance initiatives.

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