

PRELUDE

The introduction of Right to Information Act in the middle part of the year 2005 necessitated many changes in the system of governance. The rights of the citizens to get the information under the control of public authorities were ensured with the emergence of this path-breaking legislation. The Right to Information Act, 2005 essentially targeted transparency and accountability in the functioning of the government inducing thereby a paradigm shift in administration. The transition experienced was quite interesting in many ways. It was not so easy for backward states of the country to implement this Act in true letter and spirit as many inherent angularities were stumbling blocks. The process of implementation of the Right to Information Act, 2005 in Orissa was initiated in a planned manner. The Government of Orissa assigned the responsibility of implementation of this Act to the State Information & Public Relations as the nodal department. A multi-pronged strategy was drawn up to implement this Act within a specific time frame. Keeping 12th October, 2005 in view, the State Information & Public Relations Department evolved a pragmatic plan for execution of many programmes targeting the smooth implementation. In identifying Public Authorities, designating Public Information Officers and First Appellate Authorities, organizing training programmes for master trainers and resource persons, arranging orientation programmes for Hon'ble Members of Orissa Legislative Assembly, formulating Orissa Right to Information Rules, 2005 and consequent amendment in 2006, accelerating the process of proactive disclosure, putting in place Orissa Information Commission, defining appeal procedure for the State Information Commission, issuing operational guidelines, applying print media for awareness generation and above all devising appropriate formats for monitoring and report as required under the Act, the State Information & Public Relations Department has made sincere efforts for effective implementation of the Right to Information Act in Orissa. To add speed and accuracy into the whole process of implementation, the information technology has been applied as a useful tool.

While focusing this Act in this November issue of Orissa Review, we have tried our utmost to present independent, unbiased and frank views of many experienced authorities though necessarily these are not views of the government. We hope, our esteemed readers will possibly understand these dynamics as the precursor to an informative piece of publication.



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