

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

- Over 90 countries around the world have implemented some form of freedom of information legislation.
- **Sweden's** Freedom of the Press Act of **1766** : oldest in the world, and has become part of its constitution.

- **ATI : ACCESS TO INFORMATION**
- **RTI: RIGHT TO INFORMATION, India** - **2005**
- **FOIA: FREEDOM of INFORMATION Act, USA** - **1966**

RTI Act 2005

(Right to Information)

- Tabled in Parliament on 15-06-2005
(Central Act 22 of 2005)
- Came into force on 12-10-2005
- 56th country in the world to
have such an Act



Official logo of the Govt of India ,
for RTI Act 2005

Objectives

- Transparency in activities of govt. machinery
- Accountability in the working of public authority
- Provide information to the public
- To combat corruption(also)



Applicable to

- Applicable to all states and Union Territories except J&K
- All government departments (State, Central & UT)
- Departments, Colleges, Schools funded by the government
- Must be Indian citizen



Info Exempted from RTI

Sub-sections in section 8 & 9 of RTI Act, 2005:

- If info affects sovereignty & integrity of India
- Security, scientific secrets
- Forbidden by court of law
- Trade secrets, Intellectual property
- Confidential information from foreign governments



Some Excluded Departments

- IB, RAW, BSF, CRPF, ITBP, NSG, CBCID
- Directorate of Revenue Intelligence.
- Central Economic Intelligence Bureau.
- Directorate of Enforcement.
- Narcotics Control Bureau.

However information related
to allegations of corruption,
human rights violations of above depts
shall not be excluded



To remember..

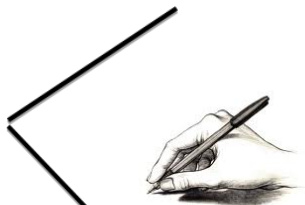
No prescribed format - Beware of touts!

- Can be written, typed or printed
- In any official language
- Reason of RTI need not be given 6(2)

(Recent Madras High court judgement reversal)

- Can be handed over to PIO in person, against acknowledgement

- **By RPAD or Speed post(Recommended)**



Application under RTI

Who to apply to?

The Act mandates **every Central and State Govt Dept** to appoint **2 officers within 120 days of 25 Oct 2005** for implementing RTI Act



- Public information officer (PIO)
- Appellate Authority (AA)



5th Pillar
Corruption Killer

Fee Structure

(Fees vary from state to state)

- **No fee** for citizens below poverty line(**BPL**)



- **Rs.10/-** in Tamil Nadu for state & central govt. departments



- **Rs.2/-** per page

- **Rs. 50/-** for CD



Mode of Payment

(Fees vary from state to state)

- **Court Fee Stamp**

(Most recommended for State Govt Depts)

- Treasury



- **Postal orders**

(Most recommended for Central Govt Depts)



- Demand draft

- State bank of India



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Time limit- PIO

- PIO to reply within 30 days
- 5 days extra for forwarding to other PIO's
(in case applicant sends to wrong department unknowingly)
- 10 days extra for 3rd party information
(in case private person or entity connected to public info sought)
- Within 48 hour's
(when life or liberty of person is at stake)



Time limit- Appeal

If reply not received from PIO in 30 days or
if reply is not satisfactory:



- Appeal to Appellate Authority, same dept at same address
- Appellate authority to reply within 30 days
- 2nd appeal (within 90 days of 1st Appeal order)
to State Info Commission(SIC) or Central IC.

Information



Commission

Central Information Commission

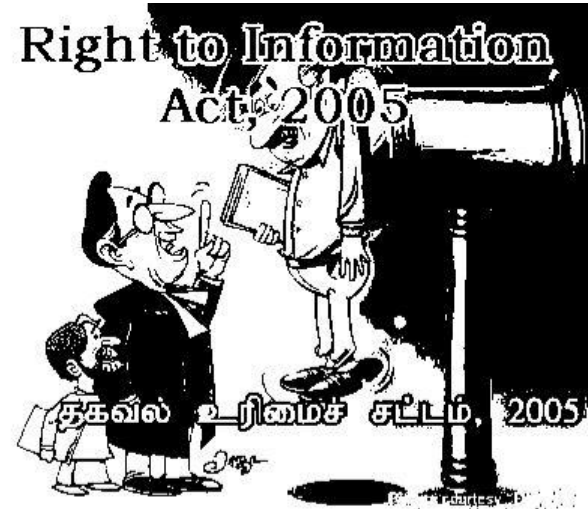
- 1 Chief information commissioner (CIC), and 9 commissioners
- Appointed by President of India
- Selected by 3 member panel- PM, Opp Party Leader, Cabinet Minister

State Information Commission

- State information commissioner (SIC), and 9 commissioners
- Appointed by Governor
- Selected by 3 member panel- CM, Opp. Party Leader, Cabinet Minister

Penalty -by Information Commission

- **Rs.250/-** per day of delay
- Maximum for 100 days- **Rs.25000/-**
- Departmental action can be taken
- Compensation for the income loss
- Applicants not responsible for omissions or errors while applying





RTI Act - Power of the common man

Ensures:

- **Transparency**
- **Accountability**
- **Democracy**

The ultimate tragedy is not the oppression and cruelty by the bad people but the silence over that by the good people.



5th Pillar
Corruption Killer

SUCCESS STORIES

We have had 100s of success stories using

*Zero Rupee Note,
Direct intervention,
RTI petitions and
mere empowerment training programs.*

1 RTI - more than 500 ration cards

Sathiq Basha, from Paliambattu village, senji Taluk of **vizhupuram** district brought his long pending case of **Ration card** issue to 5th Pillar.

He complained that the official demanded a **bribe** of Rs.1000/-

RTI sent for him brought Ration card not just to Sathiq Basha but to **500 families in Senji Taluk.**



How? Simply by asking the right questions

SUCCESS STORIES from student Outreach

Saravanan's testimonial - Volunteer, 5th Pillar, 2013:

"I was just another student angry about the system, dirty roads and unavailable civic amenities. 'Freedom from Corruption' workshop evoked all our senses, to experiment if a massive change can happen with a lay man's initiative.

We tried RTI to address the issue of improper bus service at a friends' village (Vilakam) in Tamil Nadu. To our surprise, the bus services was regulated, road for bus was laid and our efforts opened a closed library in that very vilage.

We couldn't contain this success with just that village, 5th Pillar's Project AGNI (Action on the Ground for New India) was thus hatched and we began the project in Nelvoy, a village in Tiruvallur district in Tamil Nadu and trained villagers on importance of Gram Sabha meetings, conducted RTI Trainings and helped them draft RTIs too.

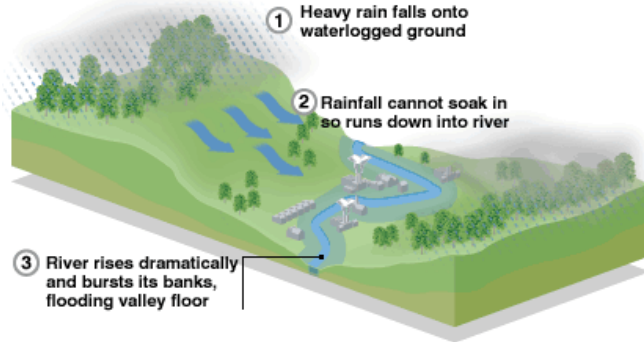
villagers started experimenting it and also saw success in the case of frequency of bus trips and street lights! "



SAVED FLASH FLOOD

RTI Activist Sarang Yadwadkar : Noticed flaws in a river embankment project in Pune which could have led to flash floods. Info procured through RTI showed that the project would have led to destabilization of many bridges, which were more than 100 years old. The proposed project - building of malls, establishments would have reduced the width of the river leading to flash floods . The documents sought was submitted to Green tribunal and the project was put to a stop!

HOW FLASH FLOODS OCCUR



KID USED RTI: TRACE LOST CYCLE

9 year old Pranav questioned commissioner of police as to why FIR was not registered and about his missing cycle



Result - Commissioner brings home new cycle, warns officials at police station!

SOME MORE EXAMPLES



SOME MORE EXAMPLES

BEFORE



AFTER

