A.P. INFORMATION COMMISSION
SEMINAR ON RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT

How We Together Can Work to Achieve the Objective of the RTI Act

Andhra Pradesh Information Commission today organised a Seminar on the Right to Information Act at Ravindra Bharathi, Hyderabad to mark the 11th anniversary of enforcement of the Right to Information Act. This year the theme of the seminar is “How We Together Can Work to Achieve the Objective of the RTI Act”.

The Right to Information Act came fully into force on 12th October 2005. The Right to Information Act has been in force for 11 years. Andhra Pradesh Information Commission every year in October organises a seminar to mark the passage of the RTI Act.

Dr. Varre Venkateswarlu, Chief Information Commissioner (FAC) presided over the seminar. Sri Eatala Rajender, Hon’ble Minister for Finance & Planning, Telangana graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

Sri Anurag Sharma, Director General of Police, Telanagana, Sri Lingaraj Panigrahi, IAS, Special Chief Secretary to Government of A.P., Sri M. Mahendar Reddy, IPS, Commissioner of Police, Hyderabad City, B. Janardhan Reddy, IAS, Commissioner of GHMC have graced the occasion as the guests of honour.

State Information Commissioners Shri C. Madhukar Raj, IFS (Retd.), Smt.Lam Thanthiya Kumari, Dr. S.Imtiyaz Ahmed and Dr. M. Vijaya Nirmala attended the seminar.

RTI activists, representatives of Civil Society Organisations, Public Information Officers, First Appellate Officers, other officers and representatives of print and electronic media from both the states attended the seminar.

Sri Maha Prakash, Secretary (Law) invited the dignitaries onto the dais.
Dr. Varre Venkateswarlu Chief Information Commissioner (FAC), in his presidential address, stated that Information Commissions play key role in implementation of the RTI Act. They are an essential part of the practical regime of right to information envisaged by the RTI Act, to promote transparency and accountability in the working of public authorities.

He further stated that after the new Information Commissioners were appointed in 2012-13, disposal rate improved a lot. Appellants can now expect disposal of their cases within one month in most of the peshis.

Hon’ble Finance Minister Sri Eatala Rajender stated that RTI Act is a tool to empower common people and urged citizens not to be pessimistic and be optimistic about the implementation of the RTI Act. He further stated that Govt. of Telangana is committed for promotion of transparency and accountability in public administration.

State Information Commissioners Sri C. Madhukar Raj, IFS (Retd.), Smt.Lam Thanthiya Kumari, Dr. S.Imtiyaz Ahmed and Dr. M. Vijaya Nirmala spoke about the implementation issues related to RTI Act.

Other guests of honour spoke about the implementation of RTI Act for the benefit of common public.

RTI activists, representatives of Civil Society Organisations, Public Information Officers, other officers and representatives of media participated enthusiastically in the open house discussion and expressed their opinions and shared their experiences with others.

Sri R. Gopala Raju, Secretary (l/c) proposed vote of thanks.

Encl: (3) Photos

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