



RTI WEEK CELEBRATIONS

**Right to
Information Act,
2005**

*H.P. Institute of Public Administration,
Fairlawns, Shimla-171012*



Right to Information Week

Celebrations



6-12 October, 2009

REPORT

**Himachal Pradesh Institute of Public Administration
Government of Himachal Pradesh,
Fairlawns, Shimla-171012**

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Foreword

The aim of the RTI Week Celebration was to evolve a strategy to do the advocacy and disseminate the message of transparency and accountability and to keep the citizenry informed by exchange of ideas and spread of information. Sharing is one of the easiest and surest means by which new perspectives can be gained; conversely, sharing and exchange is possible through on the spot discussions and deliberations. The coming together of the officers, stakeholders and young generation paved the way for building a vision for the future.

The Himachal Pradesh Institute of Public Administration (HIPA) a premier institute in the Pradesh devoted to training personnel from various administrative departments, feels privileged to have been instrumental in planning and organizing the week long celebration from 6th to 12th October, 2009 not only at the HIPA complex, but also moved to different locations viz. Rajkiya Kanya Maha Vidhyalaya and Municipal Corporation, Shimla. The onus of documenting and preparing the report of the proceedings has also been on HIPA and it has taken due steps to prepare this compendium for the benefit of the different stakeholders.

The event was visualized by Sh. T. G. Negi, Principal Secretary (AR & Training) to the Government of Himachal Pradesh with an objective to give a common platform to various stakeholders to come together, exchange ideas, communicate their experiences and deliberate on issues of concern to all. Our thanks to Sh. T. G. Negi, Principal Secretary (AR & Training) to the Government of Himachal Pradesh for suggesting the change of approach, guiding us throughout in the planning and organization, and for encouraging free discussion during the course of the week.

This event could not have been possible without the close involvement and hard work on the part of a team of officers and officials of HP Institute of Public Administration. I wish to place on record my appreciation of the efforts made by all concerned and particularly Dr. Shrikant Baldi, Director, HIPA; Dr. K.K. Handa, Core Faculty, HIPA ; Sh. Rajeev Bansal, Research Officer, HIPA to make this event such a grand success and their tireless hard work to put together all the proceedings, compiling the report and printing this document.

However, the main credit for the success of this RTI Week should go to all the participants for their positive, purposeful and enthusiastic participation in different events.

In brief, this documentation can serve as a synopsis of the week celebration discussions which may be consulted as a ready-reckoner for Capacity Building on Right to Information.

**Dr. Shrikant Baldi, IAS,
Director,
HP Institute of Public Administration,
Shimla.**

Right to Information Week Celebrations

1. **Background:**

Right to Information is the hallmark of democracy and development. It is a powerful tool and a basic human right to promote good governance. Right to Information enables public participation in decision making in government. It permits requestors to seek information about the activities of public authorities, bodies and institutions. Citizens require information held by the government in trust for the people, in order to realize their full social, political and economic potential. In this regard, the H.P. Institute of Public Administration, Shimla celebrated the Right to Information Week from 6 to 12 October, 2009 by organizing various events within and outside the Institute to highlight the importance of RTI in bringing about good governance besides enabling empowerment of citizens to participate in governance process in the country.

Following events were organized to mark the completion of four years of the existence of Right to Information act, 2005:

2. Poster and Slogan Writing Competition on Right to Information:

A Poster Making and Slogan Writing Competition was organized at the Rajkiya Kanya Mahavidyalaya, Shimla on 12th October, 2009 with the purpose to apprise young generation of their rights as citizen of India so that their capabilities to contribute towards the development of our country are enhanced.



Sh. T.G. Negi, IAS, Principal Secretary, Administrative Reforms & Training to the government of H.P., addressing students and staff of Rajkiya Kanya Mahavidyalaya, Shimla

An overwhelming response was received from the students of the College and 84 students participated in the event. Their work was evaluated by a panel of judges and accordingly prizes were awarded to the girl students. The chief guest, Sh.T.G.Negi, IAS, Principal Secretary, AR

and Training to the government of Himachal Pradesh., keenly took note of the views of students on Right to Information and added new details on the Right to Information for their knowledge.



Students at work in Slogan writing on RTI



Students at work in Poster making on RTI

He also applauded the efforts of the students for their keen response to the event. Sh. Negi also highlighted the role of RTI to a gathering of nearly 300 students and staff members of the College.



Students and staff members of RKMV, Shimla keenly listening to the speakers on the occasion.

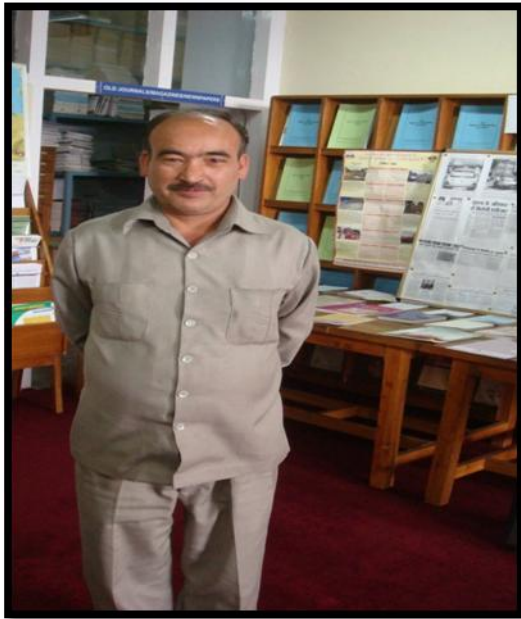
Smt. Manjusha Pathania, Principal, RKMV, Shimla, thanked the chief guest for gracing the occasion with his presence and in the same breath also thanked the H.P.Institute of Public Administration in organizing the event at RKMV for RTI Week celebrations.

3. Exhibition of Right to Information Material :

A week-long exhibition from 6th to 12th October, 2009 was organized in the Institute in which reading material, RTI Act, RTI Rules and news clippings depicting success stories and other resource material on RTI including commentaries and books on RTI, brochures and other related



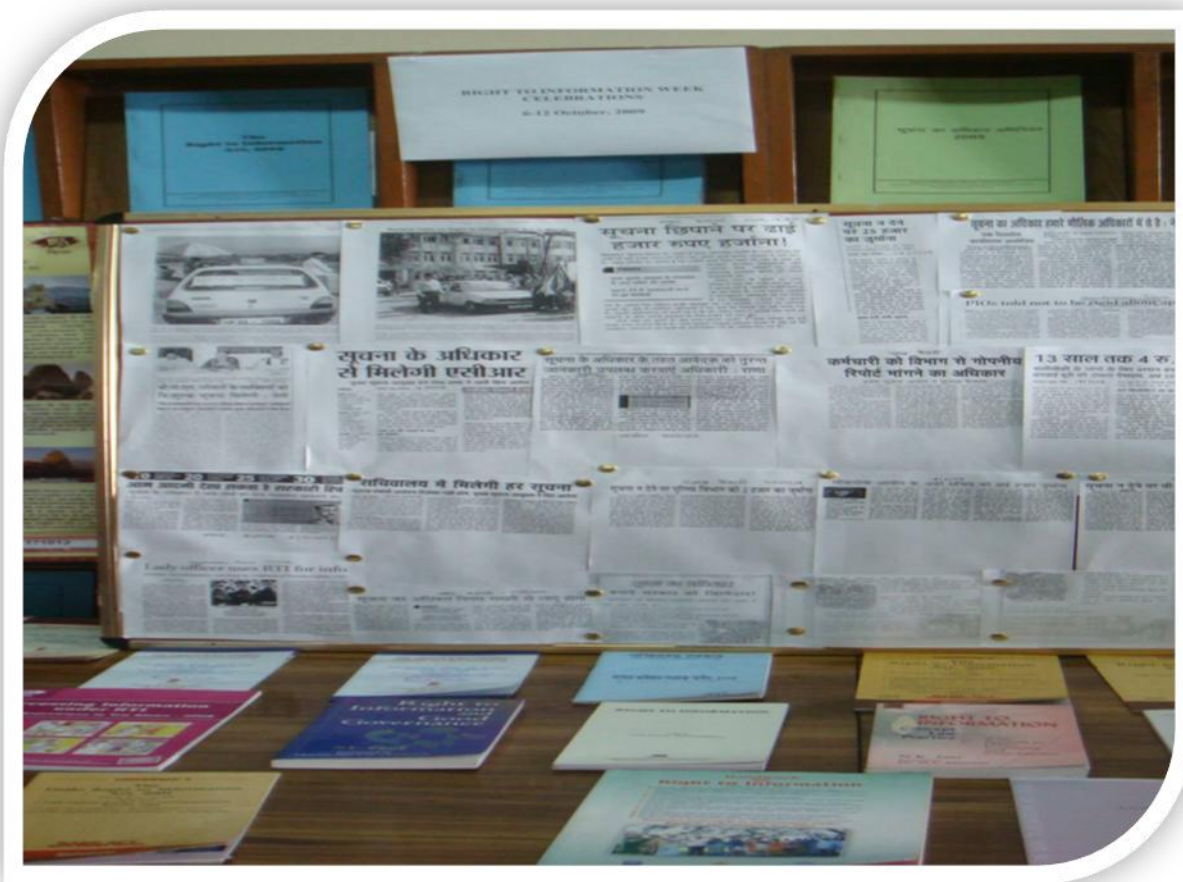
Exhibition of news clippings on RTI



A visitor to the Exhibition

material were put on display in the Institute library to disseminate the general awareness among the participants of various training courses organized in the Institute.

It evinced keen interest in Right to Information among participants of training courses and other visitors to the Institute.



Display of Books and Brochures on RTI

Sh. T.G.Negi, IAS, Principal Secretary, Administrative Reforms and Training, to the government of Himachal Pradesh also visited the exhibition and appreciated the efforts of the Institute in arranging the display of books, manuals and other material.

The Institute also made available the copies of RTI Act, 2005 and RTI rules of the H.P. government, free of charge, to the visitors in this exhibition. Nearly 200 copies were distributed during the exhibition.

4. RTI Workshop for Municipal Corporation, Shimla :

A day-long RTI workshop was organized for the Municipal Corporation, Shimla in the Rotary Town Hall on 6th October, 2009 with the objective to generate awareness on RTI among elected Municipal Councillors, PIOs/APIOs, officers and other staff of the Municipal Corporation, Shimla.



Dr. K.K.Handa, Core Faculty, HIPA, addressing the participants of the Workshop

Dr. K.K.Handa, Core Faculty and Sh. Rajeev Bansal, Research Officer of this Institute explained the provisions of the RTI Act 2005 and the RTI rules of the State government to the participants. Their queries relating to the subject were also answered to in the Workshop.



Municipal Councillors and Officers engrossed in the Workshop deliberations

Emphasis was laid on the practical application of the RTI Act 2005 and the august gathering was advised to effect changes in the colonial mindset which hinders the smooth operation of RTI Act.



Sh. Rajeev Bansal , Research Officer, HIPA addressing the participants

The workshop was attended by 4 Public Information Officers, 6 Assistant Public Information Officers and 37 other stakeholders including Municipal Councilors.

5. Training Programme on RTI in the Institute:

A two-day Right to Information training course was organized in the Institute on 8th and 9th October, 2009 for Public Information Officers and Assistant Public Information Officers of different departments of the State government. 20 PIOs and APIOs attended the training programme where they were imparted training on RTI which they must possess for the speedy and efficient disposal of requests for information received by them. The emphasis was laid on the case discussions for their better understanding of the subject.



Participants in the training programme

Sh. T.G. Negi, IAS, Principal Secretary, Administrative Reforms and Training to the government of H.P. also addressed the trainees on various issues of the RTI Act and Rules. He assured the participants of full support of the State government in smooth implementation of the RTI Act, 2005.