

Right To Information (RTI) CELL

The Right to Information Act, 2005 is probably one of the most important laws to be passed since Independence. Its successful implementation can be directly co-related to the level of commitment within the Government-both the political bosses as well as the Bureaucracy. It is, therefore, imperative that immediate and wide scale dissemination of the contents of the Act as well as all possible assistance is provided to all concerned. The Act creates many obligations on the State as well as Central Government for its implementation and monitoring mechanism. It is, therefore, essential to maximize as much uniformity as possible in the way in which the Act is implemented. There is no denying the fact that informed citizenry and transparency in governance are vital for the functioning of a vibrant Democracy where corruption is minimal and the Government and their instrumentalities are accountable to the people. The Act also lays great emphasis on “proactive disclosure” so as to minimize the queries or request for access to information.

The RTI Cell is opened in Assam Administrative Staff College with the following objectives :

- Development of the capacity of government officials to meet citizen’s information requirements.
- Establishment of an institutional mechanism for improvement of government-citizen interface.
- Development of awareness and capacity in citizens with regard to their right to seek information, and
- Conducting research documentation communication and advocacy.

The Cell is implementing a Govt. of India-UNDP Project on capacity building for “Access to Information”. The project profile is as follows :

Name of the Project :-	Capacity Building for “Access to Information” (a GOI Project under UNDP assistance.)
Project Area :-	North Lakhimpur & Karbianglong districts.
Project Period :-	30 months,
Project Cost :	34.74 lakh.

Activities under the project :

- Training & Capacity Building
- Training of Trainers : Resource Persons at State/District and Block Levels.
- Training of Key Stakeholders
 - PIOs, APIOs, Govt. Officials
 - CSOs, CBO, NGOs
 - Media Representatives.
 - People’s groups, SHGs, Social Activities, Elected Representative etc.
- Research & Documentation
 - Assist in the conduct of studies by the NIA by collating necessary data and information.
- Mass Awareness campaign.

- Distribution of pamphlets and publicity materials at State/District level
- Clearing House at State/District Level.
- Dissemination & Advocacy.
 - Translation, printing and distribution of RTI Act, RTI Manuals and User Guides at State/District level.
 - Seminars/Advocacy Workshops at State/District levels.
- Multi-Stakeholders workshops.