

TRAINING, COMPUTERISATION, MEDIA, AND NEW SCHEMES.

4.1. TRAINING NEEDS :

A need was felt by the Chief Information Commissioner for imparting training to the PIOs, FAAs, and at the grass root level on two important aspects namely (i) when dealing with a RTI application, one should ensure that the information provided is proper and correct, and (ii) secondly when reading the RTI application, the office is required to read between lines and understand the administrative action required by the office, in order to bring in improvement in the system.

4.1.1. DETAILS OF TRAINING PROGRAMME CONDUCTED:

I. Training programme held on 21/02/2014 by Department of Information and Publicity :

Encouraged by GSIC, the Department of Information and Publicity in association with Goa State Information Commission organized a one day training programme on 21/02/2014 at Seminar Hall, Secretariat, Porvorim on the topic "Right to Information Act, 2005, and Section 4 and its implementation by Public Authorities under the RTI Act". The aim of this programme was to acquaint the HODs with Section 4 of The Right to Information Act, 2005 and the obligations of public authorities in order to disseminate information suo-moto to enable the citizens to have minimum resort to the use of this Act to obtain information.

In all 90 participants attended the above training programme and the Resource persons alongwith the Goa State Chief Information Commissioner, Smt. Leena Mehendale were Secretary (Art and Culture) Shri. Faizi Hashmi and Secretary (Archives) Dr. Jayadev Sarangi.

The Hon'ble Goa State Chief Information Commissioner, Smt. Leena Mehendale also interacted with the participants and highlighted the provisions of the RTI Act with proper guidance.

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A minutes of the Seminar prepared by the Director of Information and Publicity is reproduced below :

“ Minutes of the Seminar held on February 21, 2014 on Right to Information Act 2005 for HODs by Department of Information and Publicity in collaboration with Goa State Information Commission.

1. *A Seminar on the Right to Information Act was held on February 21, 2014 at Seminar Hall, Secretariat for all Heads of Government Departments. The Seminar organized by the Department of Information and Publicity in association with Goa State Information Commission was attended by around 90 HODs/representatives.*
2. *The objective of the Seminar was to acquaint the HODs with Section 4 of the Right to Information Act and the obligations of public authorities in order to disseminate information suo-moto to enable the citizens to have minimum resort to the use of this act to obtain information.*
3. *The inaugural session held at Seminar Hall, Secretariat, Porvorim was attended by following:*
 1. *Minister for Information and Publicity ShriMilindNaik, Chief Guest.*
 2. *Secretary (Information & Publicity) ShriPawan K. Sain, Guest of Honour.*
 3. *Smt. LeenaMehendele, Goa State Information Commissioner-Resource person.*
 4. *Secretary(Art & Culture) ShriFaizal O Hashmi-Resource person.*
 5. *Secretary(Archives) ShriJayadevSarangi-Resource person.*
4. *While inaugurating the Seminar the Minister appealed to the HODs to follow the instructions/obligations provided on them under Section 4 of the RTI Act 2005 to make it more accessible to public.*

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5. *Secretary(Information & Publicity) ShriPawan Kumar Sain in his welcome address said the response has been tremendous and it appears that the HODs are taking keen interest to get acquainted with the Section 4 of the RTI Act.*
6. *ShriSain further said such seminars should be held at regular intervals so that there is interaction and also share the experiences and to know further course of action.*
7. *CIC Smt. LeenaMehandale said that the RTI Act should help motivate officers to improve office system. She explained the relevance of the Act in obtaining accurate information from various Government Departments.*
8. *Secretary(Art & Culture) ShriHashmi during his talk as resource person focused on The Constitutional and Legal Framework of RTI- a perspective.*
9. *Secretary(Archives) Dr. JayadevSarangi spoke on the importance of the RTI Act and said such interaction with HODs is interesting. More such workshops should be held for more interaction for senior officers.*
10. *Smt. LeenaMehandale explained why the HODs are responsible for the organized systematic rules and regulations to be followed in the offices. She explained the importance of Section 4 and said each HOD must work to his/her ability to give correct information to the public.*
11. *Interaction and questions on various issues were posed by the HODs and the resource persons gave solutions/clarifications to these problems.*
12. *Director of Information and Publicity ShriSwapnilNaik said that the seminar has got a good response and in future it will be seen that such seminars are regularly held for HODs as well as PIOs to get acquainted with various aspects of the Right to Information Act 2005."*

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II. Training programme held by NGO :

An NGO in collaboration with GSIC on 23/01/2014 conducted training programme for NGOs during which demand was placed by various NGOs for conduct of more RTI related programmes and for budget provision for the same.

In the past, the Government of India in the year 2008 had allotted an amount of Rs.350555/- under a centrally sponsored scheme on strengthening, capacity building, and awareness generation for effective implementation of the RTI Act. Thereafter in the year 2010 the Government of India had allotted an amount of Rs.1690000/- under a centrally sponsored scheme on strengthening, capacity building, and awareness generation for effective implementation of the RTI Act. However, only an amount of Rs.150000/- was utilized and the balance amount of Rs.1540000/- was refunded back. Then, in the year 2011 the Government of India had allotted an amount of Rs.330000/- solely for the purpose of RTI week celebration, 2011.

III. Training programme held by GIRDA :

At the instance of this Commission, GIRDA, Ela, Old Goa had organized various training programmes on “Right to Information Act, 2005” for the PIOs and APIOs.” Nationally reputed Trainers were made available for the purpose of imparting the training.

The aim of these programmes were to enable the PIOs and the APIOs to know their role, to help disposal of requests, exemptions, importance of proactive disclosures, and update Section 4.

The Hon’ble Goa State Chief Information Commissioner could be present to guide and also interact with the participants and highlight the provisions of the RTI Act on following occasions :

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- (a) A two days training programme held on 30/01/2014 and 31/01/2014 for PIOs and APIOs of PWD attended by 36 participants.
- (b) A two days training programme held on 20/02/2014 and 21/02/2014 for PIOs and APIOs of PWD attended by 35 participants.
- (c) A one day training programme held on 04/07/2014 for PIOs and APIOs of GMC attended by 57 participants.
- (d) A one day training programme held on 05/07/2014 for Heads of Departments in the State of Goa attended by 49 participants.
- (e) A one day training programme held on 05/07/2014 for the School Principals in the State of Goa attended by 49 participants.

IV. Training for INSCRIPT (Local language tying for websites) :

The Commission vide two letters of even No. GSIC/GIRDA-TP/2013/755, dated 20/11/2013 and dated 02/12/2013 requested GIRDA to conduct training for “ INSCRIPT key board training on MS Word” in order to facilitate direct typing in Devnagri for Konkani and Marathi which in turn facilitates creation of website in local languages and giving information in Konkani and Marathi. Following these GIRDA included ‘MS Word for INSCRIPT’ in two training sessions, and has now decided to make it a permanent feature for clerical level training programmes.

The Department of Information and Technology had issued a Circular dated 27/11/2013 stating that the State Portal is available in Konkani language and requested the Departments to provide their documents for the purpose of uploading in English as well as in Konkani languages.

The Commission informed DoIT vide Letter No. 4-1-2014/GSIC, dated 08/01/2014 that they should contact GIRDA for the purpose of enhancing and

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improving the State Portal and making it more accessible and beneficial for the government authorities. The task of uploading documents in regional languages would be easier and faster as INSCRIPT keyboard follows Unicode standard and is internet compatible. To ensure adequate inputs in INSCRIPT method of Devnagri typing the same should be introduced and accepted in all government departments.

V. Training programme for the staff of GSIC :

(a) An internal training programme was conducted by the Secretary, GSIC for the staff of the Goa State Information Commission on the various aspects of the Right to Information Act, 2005 and the necessity to abide by the rules and regulations.

(b) The computerization of inward register, case register, and outward register were undertaken for easy facilitation of records.

(c) Training on uploading of Judgments was given by the officials of Infotech Corporation of Goa Ltd. to the staff of GSIC.

4.2. COMPUTERISATION NEEDS :

The present website of the Commission is available at www.goasic.gov.in. This was developed by NIC way back in May, 2006 and badly needed changes to be carried out. There was an urgent need for uploading of Judgments in serial order and for uploading of notice board on day to day basis. The existing website of this Commission does not provide for these and many other features that the Commission would like to introduce from time to time. Hence the first need was to modify the present website to suit the above two requirements.

The present website is available only in English language, however, as per the RTI Act, 2005 the website requires to be in English and regional languages viz., Konkani and Marathi in our case.

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For the above modifications cum revamping, NIC suggested that we approach DoIT. The DoIT gave NOC to develop a new website. The designing and developing of new website for this Commission is undertaken by Info Tech Corporation of Goa Ltd. (ITC) as per the direction of DoIT. ITC of Goa is a government agency and also on the empanelled list of DoIT. They were found capable to carry out the work of website as per our requirements.

The ITC of Goa has agreed to design a new website for this Commission by parts and designed some trial pages which suit the working requirements of the Commission. Thereafter they have also submitted a proposal for development of new website of the Commission in parts. The ITC has also completed the task of security audit and has hosted the new website on trial basis with domain name www.scic.goa.gov.in on State Data Centre (SDC).

Now the Commission is in process of getting necessary budget and NOC to appoint the ITC of Goa for the work of development of the Commission's website.

4.3. MEDIA :

The Chief Information Commissioner, Smt. Leena Mehendale has on some occasions met Press and Media and has given a talk on RTI implementation in the State of Goa which has been broadcasted on AIR (All India Radio) as well as TV channels.

The Goa State Information Commission has also organized a series of RTI programme which is aired twice a month on the first and third Friday of a month wherein the disposed RTI matters are discussed alongwith the various provisions of the RTI Act and their implications from the public point of view. The discussion of the Judgments helps the common man to know how, small but significant changes have been attempted to be carried out, in the various Government Departments by way of directions given through the Judgments.

The said programme is conducted as a discussion between an anchor and one or two Key Speakers such as the Hon'ble Chief Information

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Commissioner(GSIC), past GSIC Commissioners, and other Experts, who shares their views, experiences, and decisions.

The citizens are invited to pose their RTI related questions by way of a letter addressed to the “Goa State Information Commission, Panaji, Goa” which are taken up during the series of the RTI episodes.

4.4. NEWSCHMES :

A. Scheme for Comparative Case Study of RTI by the college students : During the last 8 years of the working of the Commission starting from 22/03/2006, a treasure of case-laws is generated. These cases decided by the Information Commission impart wealth of knowledge, logic, guidance to the Citizen as well as to Public authorities to promote transparency, accountability in functioning of every Public Departments and offices. Considering above, a scheme for comparative case study is devised for the Post Graduate and Under Graduate students. The main objective of this comparative study of the various RTI cases is to enable the researchers/students to develop the talent in research as well as to increase their knowledge and awareness in RTI matters. For the Commission, it is hoped to lead to identifying patterns which in turn allows the possibility of group disposal.

The beneficiaries of the Scheme are students, citizens, government, and the office of GSIC. The students will benefit from the scheme by way of acquiring knowledge of the provisions of the RTI Act, 2005 thereby creating awareness of the same. The analysis of the cases will help them to recommend measures for effective implementation of the RTI Act, 2005. The public will benefit as they will know how to use the RTI Act more effectively and the case study undertaken by the students will help them know the details about various cases and the analysis done. At the government level, the view point and the measures recommended by the students could be effectively implemented to improve transparency and accountability. The Commission will

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be able to compile landmark and salient Judgments for future guidance and will be able to identify areas which require more inputs.

The budget for the said scheme is three lakhs and Honorarium of Rs. 5000 per group per short study will be paid alongwithCerDuring the present year however, the Commission will not undertake the full scheme but only a few pilot “short studies.”

B.Scheme for conducting survey to explore RTI as a tool to good Governance

:The research study is an effort to throw light on various levels of satisfactory areas involving Urban, Rural population, Government, and Autonomous Organisations, NGOs, etc. in connection with the implementation of Right to information Act in the State of Goa as a sponsored research project so that the desired study can be undertaken in a systematic way. The scheme will be beneficial to the students of Goa University, Public, Public Authorities, and GSIC. The Commission has initiated a dialogue with the Goa University to take up such a scheme for their students . Necessary guidance can be provided by the Commission.



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