



One-Day National Seminar

On

THE CHANGING PARADIGM OF RIGHT TO INFORMATION LAW

Organised by

**The Centre for Advanced Studies in Labour Welfare
(CASLW) at the Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law,
Punjab**

In collaboration with

Punjab State Information Commission

1st APRIL 2020



ABOUT THE ORGANISERS

Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law (RGNUL), Punjab, was established by the State Legislature of Punjab by passing the Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab Act, (Punjab Act No. 12 of 2006). The Act incorporated a University of Law of national stature in Punjab, thereby fulfilling the need for a Centre of Excellence in legal education in the modern era of globalization and liberalization.

The Centre for Advanced Studies in Labour Welfare (CASLW) has been established by Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Patiala (Punjab) in association with International Justice Mission (IJM), an International Non-Governmental Organization based in Washington D.C., USA on 1st September 2012. The aim of its establishment is to work for improving Labour Justice System in India. This centre work for spreading awareness and sensitizing labourers about their rights thereby ensuring them a life of human dignity. The centre also undertook work of imparting education to the children of labourers in the college campus itself. In addition to it, the Centre organizes workshops, seminars and essay writing competitions on the problems of labourers. The Centre also aims at advancing research in labour laws, particularly to facilitate the dissemination of research work and to encourage open discussion in this field.

The Punjab Government constituted the State Information Commission on 11th October, 2005 and appointed Shri Rajan Kashyap, IAS (Retd.), a former Chief Secretary to Govt. of Punjab as the Chief Information Commissioner, Punjab under section 15 of the Right to Information Act, 2005 on the same day. Section 15(4) of the Act lays down that the general superintendence, direction and management of the affairs of the State Information Commission shall vest in the State Chief Information Commissioner who shall be assisted by the State Information Commissioners and may exercise all such powers and do all such acts and things which may be exercised or done by the State Information Commission autonomously without being subjected to directions by any other authority under this Act. The State Information Commission is the statutory Commission for fulfilling the mandate assigned in the Right to Information Act, 2005.

THEME OF THE SEMINAR

The Right to Information Act, 2005 aims to ensure appropriate response to requests for information made by citizens with respect to listed public authorities. Before the enactment of RTI, Indian Parliament had enacted the Freedom of Information Act, 2002 in order to promote transparency and accountability in the administration.

Several contemporary developments have led to remarkable changes in the functioning and scope of the Right to Information. The act, enacted in 2005, has been hailed by activists and general citizenry as one of the most indispensable legislations required for access to information regarding the functioning of public authorities. This act has led to increase in transparency and accountability with regards to access to information. However, the act has been plagued by one demand since its inception in 2005; Increasing the scope of the act. 2019 has been an important year marking such developments, such as the promulgation of RTI Amendment Bill 2019, the landmark Supreme Court constitutional bench judgment, which laid down that the office of Chief Justice of India is included within the ambit of the RTI etc. The seminar aims to expound upon the contemporary developments in the decade with emphasis on judicial precedents and contemporary judgments on the same.

SUB-THEMES

- Supreme Court Judgments on Right to Information
- Right to Information Amendment Bill 2019
- Right to Information Act and Citizenship
- Exclusion of authorities under Right to Information
- Study on the successes of Right to Information
- Rethinking Right to Information in Neo-Liberal Era
- Right to Information in Digital Era
- Right to Information and Political Parties
- Right to Information and Protection of Whistle Blower

➤ Conflict between Right to Information and Official Secrets Act 1923

Please note: The themes are merely illustrative and not exhaustive. Any paper written within the broader purview of the theme will be considered.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Seminar papers are invited from the academicians, practitioners, researchers, scholars and students on the issues related to above themes. It is also proposed that the **selected papers by the Committee will be published in a special volume of the seminar in the form of an edited book with an ISBN No.**

Authors of selected abstracts would be required to present their paper during sessions on the day of the seminar. Best presenters (2) will be felicitated with a best presenter award including a cash prize.

GUIDELINES FOR SEMINAR PAPER

An abstract should contain 300 – 350 words accompanied by a brief profile of the author indicating his email ID, contact number and official address. The word range for the seminar paper is 4500-5500 words. It must be typed in Times New Roman, Font Size 12 on A4 size paper with 1” margin on all sides with 1.5 line spacing using MS Word. The Bluebook (19th Ed.) for citations must be strictly adhered to while submitting the full seminar paper.

WEB CONFERENCE

The seminar will have parallel web conference session available to selected presenters on the prior payment of the Registration Fee. The interested participants can avail this by intimating the organisers by sending a mail to caslw@rgnul.ac.in

REGISTRATION FEES

Students: 800 INR

Teachers: 1000 INR

Co-authors*: 1500 INR

*(A maximum of 2 authors are permitted per paper)

All payments to be made through this link:

<https://www.onlinesbi.com/sbicollect/icollecthome.htm>

REGISTRATION

The joint form for registration and submission of abstracts is available at:

<https://forms.gle/aJo7hJTeurGRvzh96>

ACCOMMODATION

The accommodation will be provided as per availability on payment basis.

IMPORTANT DATES

Last date for Submission of the registration form and abstract: 24th February, 2020

Intimation of abstract selection and opening of Payment link: 1st March, 2020

Last date of payment: 10th March, 2020

Full paper submission (Soft copy): 24th March 2020

All the abstracts and full-length papers shall be sent on email: caslw@rgnul.ac.in with the appropriate subject. Participants are requested to adhere to the above-mentioned dates.

PATRON-IN-CHIEF

Prof. (Dr.) Paramjit S. Jaswal
Vice-Chancellor, RGNUL, Punjab

PATRON

Prof. (Dr.) Naresh Kumar Vats
Registrar, RGNUL, Punjab

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