

REPORT

Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law has always envisioned serving the society through spreading legal awareness about the rights, remedies provided to every individual and the way of their execution for strengthening the very foundations and smooth functioning of the democracy in the country. The One Day National Conference on Right to Information: Law, Policy and Governance was organized in continuance to fulfil this vision and keep the essence of learnings in RGNUL alive.

The Right to Information as a fundamental right was provided to every citizen of the country by RTI Act 2005 considering several necessities of the hour: to ensure transparency, accountability and openness from the public authorities; to prevent misuse of power and corruption; establishing a healthy democracy and to bring about a responsive, healthy and corruption free government. To further spread the awareness of the Act and to provide the participants with a platform to showcase their presentation and research skills, the University organized a 'One Day National Conference on Right to Information: Law, Policy and Governance' in association with 'Punjab State Information Commission (PSIC).' Hon'ble Prof. (Dr) G.S Bajpai (Vice Chancellor, RGNUL, Punjab) in his opening remarks of the conference shared his views and suggestions on the RTI Act and welcomed all the chief guests, participants, resource persons and everyone present there to the conference.

The chief guest for the conference was **Mr. Shailesh Gandhi**, Former Central Information Commissioner, RTI Activist. Mr Shailesh Gandhi inaugurated the conference and addressed the participants with his insightful thoughts and view-points on the topic. He emphasized on the practical applications of the Right to Information Act so to fulfil the real intent behind introducing this act. Around 70 authors/co-authors contributed to the conference, which featured paper presentations in both offline and online mode. There were about 50 presentations in total. Resource persons from various universities were invited to act as chairpersons in these presentation sessions. The conference also included a workshop on the same topic. The conference sought to test not only the research and presentation skills of the participants but also to provide them a platform to put forward their suggestions for further reformations in the Act.

Hon'ble Prof. (Dr) G.S Bajpai (Vice Chancellor, RGNUL), Prof. (Dr) Anand Pawar (Registrar, RGNUL), Dr Varun Chhachhar, (Associate Professor, Lucknow University), Prof

(Dr) Naresh Vats (Dean Students Welfare, RGNUL) and Dr Niraj Pasricha (Finance Officer, RGNUL) released the book titled 'Changing Paradigm of Right to Information Law'. Dr Varun Chhachhar talked of the lacunas of the act and suggested some possible reformations that could be done in the act so to make the implementation of the act more fruitful.

In the end Prof (Dr) Anand Pawar (Registrar) delivered the vote of thanks to all the dignitaries and participants of the conference and highlighted the importance of the awareness about the RTI and mentioned that steps like CASLW booklet on RTI are necessary in order to achieve the aims of the act.

It can be concluded with no shade of doubt that it was the enthusiasm, hard work, and perseverance of the young participants which motivated us to conduct the conference. The conference has been conducted under the able guidance of our Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Prof (Dr) G. S. Bajpai, our Hon'ble Registrar Prof. (Dr) Anand Pawar and the Faculty Coordinator of the Centre for Advance Studies in Labour Welfare (CASLW), Dr Geetika Walia, Dr Shruti Goyal and Dr Rachna Sharma and other faculty members. We also extend our heartiest gratitude to our hon'ble chief guest **Mr. Shailesh Gandhi**, Former Central Information Commissioner, RTI Activist and Dr Varun Chhachhar, Associate Professor, Lucknow University.