

## **PREFACE**

The enactment of the Right to Information Act, 2005 has been a revolutionary step in Indian jurisprudence. It has direct relevance with all other contemporary legislations and has the potential to change the way the government functions. With the universalisation of the right to freedom of expression, various international and domestic legislations have embraced access to information as a fundamental human right making transparency and openness a globally accepted norm.

In India, the Act has emerged as an important tool in the hands of the citizens making the public functionaries directly accountable to public. The Act has been there for more than thirteen years and is considered one of the greatest achievements so far in bringing transparency and accountability in public administration. It has enabled the citizens to voice their opinion and directly engage themselves with the state.

However, various factors have surfaced over the years that has deprived the citizens from its use and left ample scope for the public functionaries to misinterpret the Act. Lack of awareness about the Act among the citizens, resistance towards pro active disclosure by the public authorities, inadequate Information Commissioners and repeated attempts to weaken the law are common problems associated with the Act.

In the backdrop of the above, this thesis is a modest effort to bring forth the efficacy of the Act and present a comprehensive approach towards the various constraints that hinder its successful implementation.

This work is more like a journey towards sunlight from darkness and the primary source of my inspiration is Almighty for His unconditional love and blessings.

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