



## **Programme**

THE STATESMAN PRINT JOURNALISM SCHOOL (SPJS)  
In association with KONRAD ADENAUER STIFTUNG (KAS)

## **SEMINAR: RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT**

*A Tool for Working Journalists, March 17-18, 2010, New Delhi*

German House  
Seminar Room  
2, Nyaya Marg  
Chanakyapuri  
New Delhi 110 021  
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### **17<sup>th</sup> March 2010**

*Arrival of participants*

**1900 – Welcome dinner** (German House lawn, Chanakyapuri)

### **18<sup>th</sup> March 2010**

**0900-0915 – Registration**

**0915-0945 – Inaugural session**

**0915-0920 – Welcome address** by Dr. Beatrice Gorawantschy, Resident Representative, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, New Delhi

**0920-0930 – Conference overview** by Mr. Sam Rajappa, Director, SPJS

**0930-0945 – Tea break**

**0945-12.30 – Session I**

Evolution of India's Right to Information Act, 2005. Did it really empower the citizens? Has it made governance more transparent and accountable? Is the right to know basic to citizens in a free, democratic country like India? The role of bureaucracy in implementing the RTI Act. The role of the Supreme Court in facilitating access to information. What the RTI can achieve and what are its limitations. Should the private sector be brought under its scope?

Speakers:

- Mr Sankar Sen, Senior Fellow, Institute of Social Sciences, former Director-General of National Human Rights Commission and former Director of National Police Academy,
- Mr. Bharat Dogra of the National Campaign for People's Right to Information
- Mr. Keith Flory, Senior Editor, The Statesman, and
- Mr. R. Venkataraman, Reuters Legal Correspondent and a practicing lawyer and a former member of the Press Council of India.

*Moderator: Martin-Maurice Böhme, KAS New Delhi*

**1230-1330 – Lunch**

**1330- 1600 – Session II** (With a tea break between 1430 and 1445)

How to use the RTI to obtain information? What if the information is not given within the stipulated time? Is the Centre trying to shackle the RTIA? Has the Act substantially helped the media expose corruption in public life? Can the government take shelter under the cloak of secrecy when the information sought under the Act has no repercussion on public safety? Whether RTIA is a mere slogan as several offices and departments are left out in the name of national security and fiduciary functions? Whether the judiciary should be exempt in view of the Prime Minister's recent statement that the office of the Chief Justice of India and the CJI himself should be left out of the ambit of the RTIA?

Speakers:

- Dr. NR Madhava Menon, founder of the National Law Centre, Bangalore, and member of the Centre-State Relations Commission,
- Mr. R. Venkataraman,
- Mr. Keith Flory,
- Mr. Bharat Dogra,
- Mr. Sankar Sen

*Moderator: Mr. Ravindra Kumar, Editor, The Statesman*

**1555-1600 Vote of Thanks:** Ms Shukti Sarma, Student SPJS Kolkata

*Departure of guests*