

**YASHADA' INITIATIVES
TOWARDS
RIGHT TO INFORMATION**

Yashada is the apex training institute of Maharashtra Government. Human resource development has traditionally been one of Maharashtra's major strengths. The importance of evolving sound and responsive administrative systems was realised as far back as 1963 when the Administrative Staff College (ASC) was established in Mumbai. The ASC was relocated at Pune in 1984 and renamed "Maharashtra Institute of Development Administration" (MIDA). MIDA, constituted as an autonomous society under the Societies Registrations Act, 1860, was to serve as the apex body for promoting and developing modern management practices and was to function as the nodal state level training institute in the field of development administration. Aptly enough, it was renamed, "Yashwantrao Chavan Academy of Development Administration" (YASHADA) in 1990, as a tribute to the pioneering spirit of the late Shri Y. B. Chavan, former Chief Minister of Maharashtra & Deputy Prime Minister of India, who had inspired the setting up of the ASC.

Our mission is to enable equitable and sustainable development by promoting people-centered good governance. We achieve this by bringing together practical knowledge, applied research, appropriate technology and innovative training of public administrators, community-based organizations and people's representatives.

Right to Information Act is major initiative and paradigm shift in Public Policy. Yashada became an active partner and catalyst in this major initiative after the Government of Maharashtra promulgated Maharashtra Right to Information Act 2002. Yashada has established a cell for Right to Information. The cell believes in the value -

“आ नो भद्राः कृतवो यन्तु विश्वतः”

ऋग्वेद

“Let noble thoughts come to us from all directions”- Rigveda

The vision of the Cell is

CREATING THRIVING INFORMED CIVIL SOCIETY

The mission of the cell is

The Right to Information Cell at YASHADA shall facilitate the process of dissemination of information under the Right to Information Act, by propagating and providing solutions to make all the institutes covered under the Act more transparent and accountable for the ultimate public good.

The Cell shall also provide a common platform for information givers and seekers, as well as offering action research and consultancy back up to Government and other organizations on a continual basis.

OBJECTIVES

- To conduct training programmes.
- To undertake Action Research and utilize the research findings for strengthening the legal and operational framework for the Right to Information
- To design and produce booklets, videos, television programmes for public sensitization and awareness building.
- To hold workshops, seminars, conferences, etc., at the local, regional, national and international levels
- To facilitate a process of meaningful dialogue and negotiations among various stakeholders
- To document and build up a collection of the representative and generic case studies.
- To create a repository of all available knowledge on the Right to Information, with specific focus on Maharashtra.
- To explore the ways of utilizing information communication technology
- To identify problem areas and find out solutions

For better implementation of Right to Information

Achievements of the cell

- Constituted a **Peer Group** to guide the Cell. It consists of experts like , Shri. Satyaranjan Sathe, Shri. U. C. Sarangi IAS and Shri. Prakash Kardale.
- Up to 4000 officers trained in training programmes conducted specially for Right to Information Act
- Published a handbook under Maharashtra Right to Information Act 2002
- Prepared and disseminated templates under section 4 of the Right To Information Act 2005
- Prepared a user's Guide under Right To Information Act 2005
- Facilitated the preparedness for RTI in Government of India and in many other states like Gujarat, Uttaranchal, Meghalaya and Central Government organizations.

Proactive Publication of Information under section 4 of Right to Information Act 2005

The cell in Yashada believes that the citizen must get as much information as possible without asking for it. A common man will certainly get all the information about the working of any organization if it has been elaborately published under section 4 of the Act. Yashada is pleased to publish this information on the stipulated date on its website. This information is also available for inspection in the office of Assistant Registrar and Public Information officer Yashada.

YASHADA

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