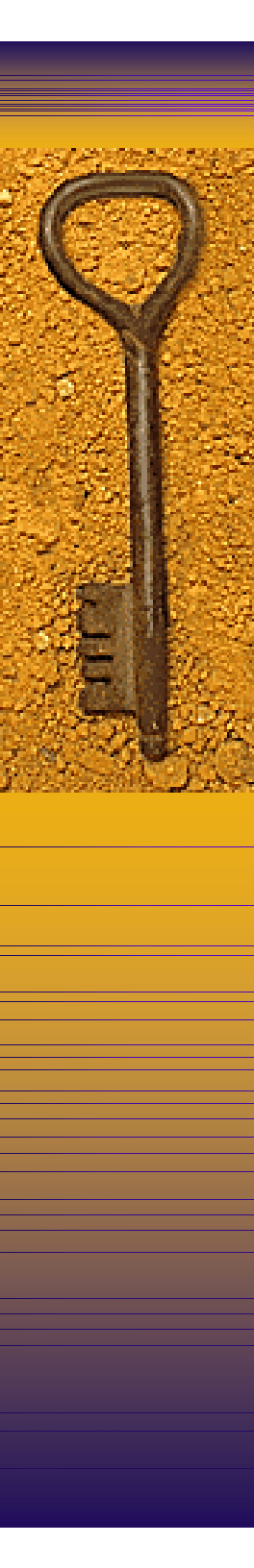


Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative

The Right to Information Act 2005 E-Governance as an Implementation Tool

Prepared by
Mandakini Devasher
Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative



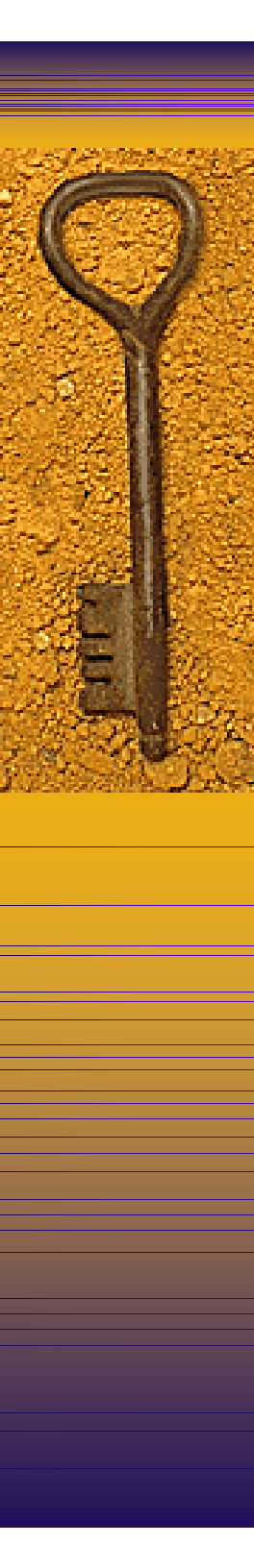
Session Objectives

- ◆ Understand key provisions of the RTI Act 2005.
- ◆ Identify areas where E-Governance technologies can be applied to implement the RTI Act effectively.



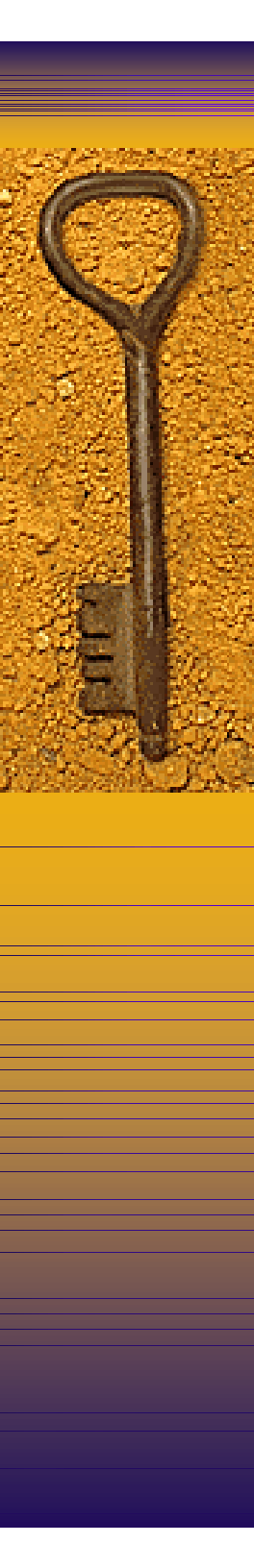
Right to Information Act 2005

- ◆ Passed by Parliament in May 2005
- ◆ Formally came into force on 12 October 2005
- ◆ Covers all of India with the exception of Jammu and Kashmir
- ◆ Covers all Central, State and local government bodies including any body owned or substantially financed by govt. funds (directly or indirectly) includes NGOs



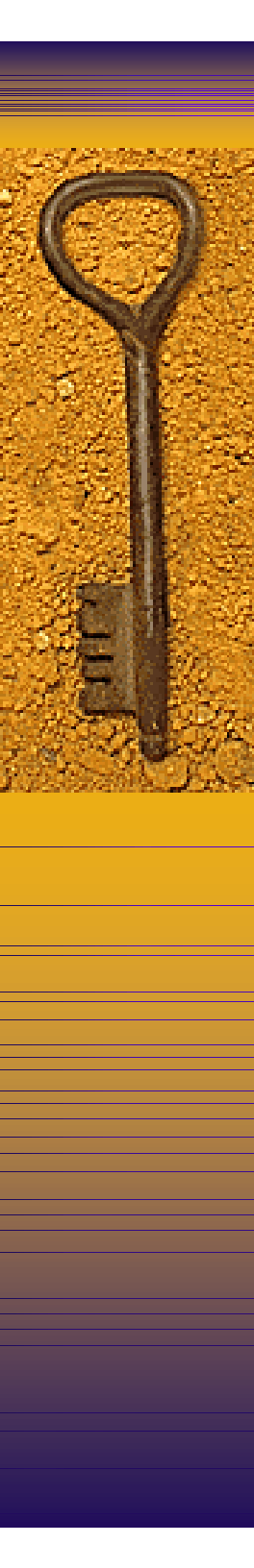
‘Rights and Duties’

- ◆ Provides citizens with the ‘**right**’ to ‘**information**’ as defined under the Act.
- ◆ Public Authorities covered under the Act have a ‘**duty**’ to provide information to the public
 - Proactively
 - On Request



Key Provisions

- Proactively publish information held by public authorities
- Appoint PIOs, APIOs, AAs
- Set up Information Commissions, appoint Information Commissioners
- Develop internal systems and procedures to process applications and appeals
- Impart training to officers, monitor overall implementation of the Act
- Raise Public Awareness and Education on the Act



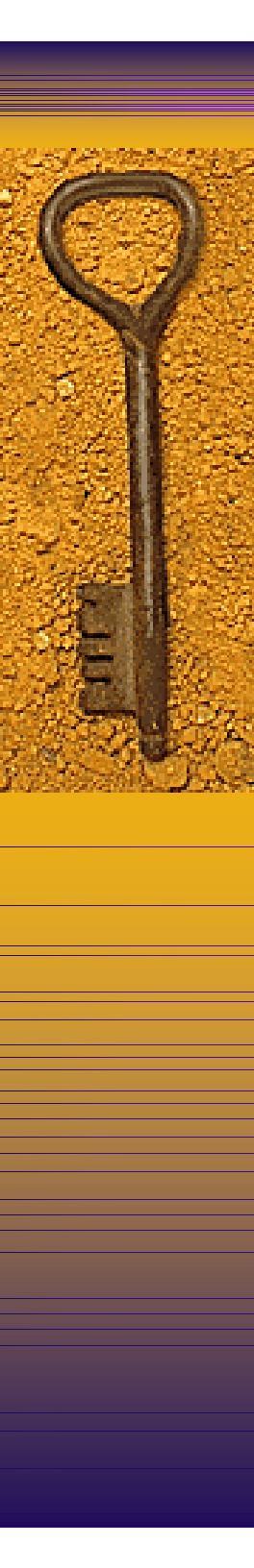
Proactive Disclosure

- ◆ Public Authorities are required to provide 17 categories of information proactively to the public.
- ◆ E-Governance as an implementation tool
 - Internet & Departmental websites
 - International best practice: Mexico & UK
 - India: Internet users less than 2% total population
 - Community Information Centres as hubs?



Processing Information Requests

- ◆ Processing information requests
 - PIOs, APIOs
 - Making requests for information
- ◆ E-Governance to develop online information systems
 - India, CIMS
 - Mexican ‘SISI’ System



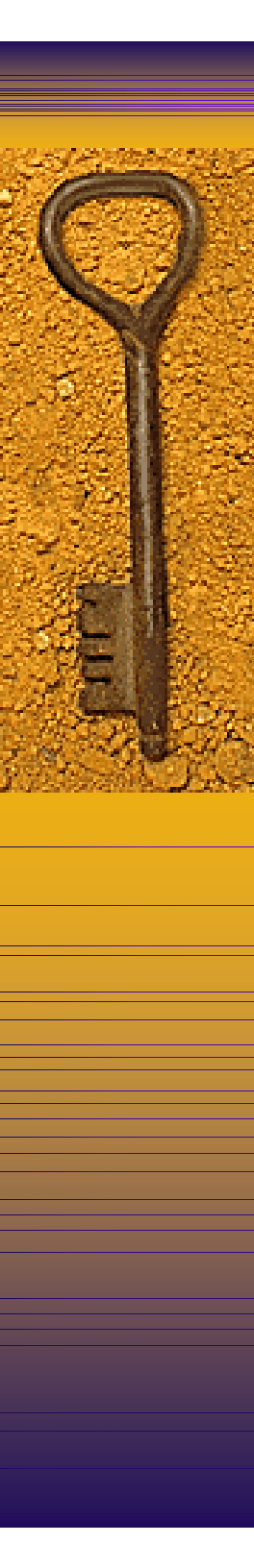
Processing Appeals

- ◆ Two stage appeals process
 - First Appeal: Appellate Authority
 - Second Appeal: Information Commission
- ◆ E-Governance systems to track and monitor appeals
 - CIMS
 - Mexican ‘SISI’ System



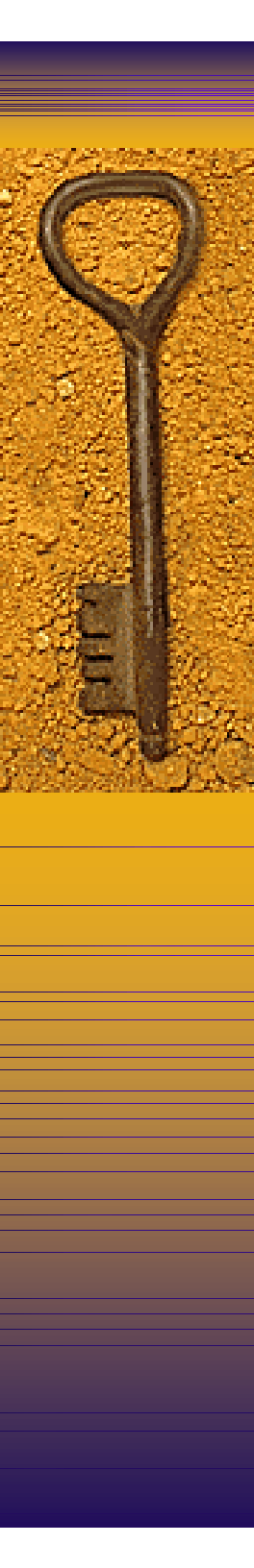
Records Management

- ◆ Reviewing existing practices
 - Public Records Act 1993 & RTI Act 2005
- ◆ E - Governance as a tool
 - Digitizing Records
 - Uttar Pradesh, “E – File System”
 - Developing E- Records Management Systems
 - International Records Management Trust
 - UK National Archives



Training

- ◆ Training officers to ensure compliance with the Act
- ◆ E-Governance to facilitate;
 - Developing distance learning modules for public officials
 - Online users guides and manuals.
 - UNDP and TERI Training CD



Monitoring

- ◆ Duty to report and monitor implementation of the Act
- ◆ Developing e- systems to facilitate reporting and monitoring
 - UK Government Actuary Department – MS Access Freedom of Information Monitor.
 - India – Electronic and paper based systems?



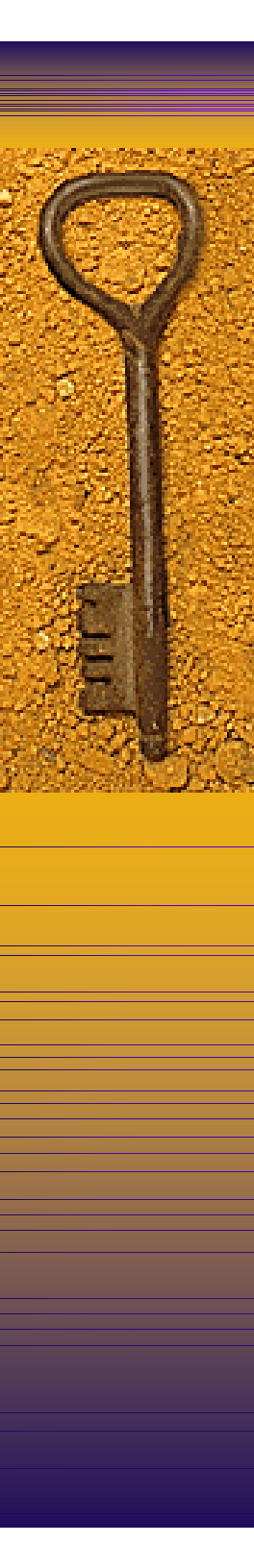
Improving Public Service Delivery

- ◆ E-Governance can facilitate citizens access to information by providing:
 - Easy access to basic information online
 - Computerizing records, accounts, office orders, documents etc
 - Developing online grievance redressal systems
 - Public education and awareness



Developing an E-Governance RTI Regime

- ◆ Developing robust and efficient systems
- ◆ User friendly and accessible systems
- ◆ Uniformity and consistency across systems, departments and agencies
- ◆ E-Governance as only one tool to facilitate implementation



Thank You

CHRI Contact Details

- ◆ Ph: 91+11+ 2652-8152, 2685-0523
- ◆ Fax: 91+11+ 2686-4688
- ◆ Email: chriall@nda.vsnl.net.in or mandakini@humanrightsinitiative.org
- ◆ Website: www.humanrightsinitiative.org