

Chapter – 1 Introduction

Democracy requires an informed citizenry and transparency of information which are vital to its functioning and also to restrain corruption and to hold Governments and their instrumentalities accountable to the governed. The revelation of information in actual practice is likely to conflict with other public interests including efficient operations of the Governments, optimum use of limited fiscal resources and the preservation of confidentiality of sensitive information. However, it is necessary to harmonize these conflicting interests while preserving the paramountcy of the democratic ideal. And so it is expedient to provide certain information to citizens who desire to have it.

In view of the above, the Right to Information Act, 2005 (No.22 of 2005) is enacted by the Parliament in the Fifty sixth Year of the Republic of India to provide for setting out the practical regime of right to information for citizens to secure access to information under the control of the public authorities, in order to promote transparency and accountability in the working of every public authority, the constitution of a Central Information Commission and State Information Commissions and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Consequent on the enactment of the Right to Information Act, the Department of Hindu Religious Institutions & Wakf, Puducherry, publishes this Information Handbook to provide information to citizens regarding matters connected with it. The information available in this handbook is being updated every year with adequate information.

The Department of Hindu Religious Institutions & Wakf is now functioning at 3rd Floor, Collectorate complex, Pettaiyanchathiram, Puducherry 605 009. The officers mentioned hereunder shall be contacted for getting more information on topics covered in this book and for other matters connected therewith.

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