

National Convention on
“Right to Information: The Road Ahead”

Organised by

Media Information and Communication Centre of India (MICCI)

and

Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES),

In collaboration with

The International Centre, Goa (ICG)

SPEAKERS' PROFILE

Anshika Mishra, Senior Correspondent, DNA – Mumbai.

Prof. Abdur Rahim is one of the senior-most journalism and mass communication educationists in India. Having retired from India's prestigious journalism school at Osmania University, Hyderabad after 35 years of service as Chairman and Dean, he is presently serving as Visiting Professor at the Moulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad. He is a Visiting Faculty for many Journalism and Mass Communication Departments all over the country. Widely traveled, he has lectured at the famous Columbia School of Journalism, at Harvard School of Government and Oxford University. He has participated in many international media conferences and addressed Seminars. An author of several books on media, he has contributed hundreds of articles in research journals, newspapers, both in India and abroad, and magazines. His areas of specialization are media theory and research, media ethics, and development communication. He is presently the Vice-President of the Commonwealth Association for Education in Communication and Journalism (CAEJAC) and the Secretary of the South Asian Media Association (SAMA) and Chairman of Bharat Samachar. He is also Chapter Head of MICCI (Andhra Pradesh).
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Dr. I. Arul Aram, PhD, is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Media Sciences, Anna University, Chennai, India. He is formerly a Chief Sub-Editor with *The Hindu* newspaper. He had also served as the President of the Madras Press Club.

He has been a resource person for UNESCO training programmes on Media. He had presented papers in several national and international conferences. He has published three books *Television in Education* (Orient Longman 1993) and *Understanding News Media* (Vijay Nicole 2006) and *Understanding Development Communication* (Media House 2007). He is an Associate Editor in *The Journal of International Communication* published from Sydney. He is a post-doctoral fellow from the London School of Economics. He specialises in the areas of science communication and conflict & media. He has done peacebuilding courses from Transcend Peace University, Romania, and Eastern Mennonite University, US.

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Aruna Roy is a recipient of Magsaysay award - valued as the Asian Nobel prize - for community leadership and international understanding. Aruna Roy was an IAS officer until 1974. She resigned from the IAS to join the Social Work and Research Center in Tilonia, Rajasthan. She worked at the SWRC until 1983, then moved to Devdoondri in 1990 and set up the Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathana, a group which is a working example of a transparent organization. She is a strong supporter of the movement for Right to Information, which succeeded in getting the Rajasthan Right to Information Bill passed.

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Charanjit Singh is the Founder Director and Principal Consultant of northern region's first public relations agency, CorePR, that he established in 1987. He started his career as a journalist with a daily newspaper in New Delhi, and later moved to Chandigarh as Assistant Editor of a monthly magazine published by the state Government. Later he served as public relations manager of a German company for six years, before founding his own public relations consultancy firm. Masters in English Literature, he topped the Panjab University in postgraduate degree programme in Journalism, and is one of the select few in the country who holds the certification as Accredited Public Relations Professional, having again topped in the all-India examination. He also co-founded a radio production house, RadioBuzz, and the TakeOne Academy of Broadcasting, in the city in 2004 when the private FM station was not heard of. He had been the past president of Chandigarh Management Association, national vice president of Public Relations Society of India, and is the member of Asian Mass Communication Research Centre, Singapore, and is currently the Chandigarh Chapter head of the Media Information & Communication Centre of India. He is a visiting faculty to the Departments of Mass Communication and is on the Board of Studies of Panjab University; Panjabi University, Patiala; Guru Jambheshwar University, Hissar; Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla; and Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan. An active Rotarian, he is recipient of several awards for public relations, and past president of Rotary Club of Chandigarh. He has recently been nominated Assistant Governor of Rotary International District 3080 for 2009-10.

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Collin Curry is a Trustee of Media Information & Communication Centre of India (MICCI) and Managing Director, CDC Management Services Pvt. Ltd.
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Frederich Noronha, is an independent journalist based in Saligao, Goa, India. He is active in cyberspace and involved with e-ventures involving Goa, developmental concerns and free software. He writes mostly on free software / open source issues, technology, and computing issues in India. He is co-founder of BytesForAll.

Frederick Noronha received a B.Com. degree from Dempo College of Commerce and Economics, Panjim, and M.A. (English Literature) degrees from Goa University and University of Bombay. He is also an alumnus of the Internationales Institut für Journalismus (G57 course, 1990), He also received a scholarship from the Institute for Further Education of Journalists (Fojo), Sweden (1998) and was a Sarai Print Media Fellow (2001). He was a Panos Fellow in 2001 (reproductive health and gender issues).

He has been a full-time journalist since 1983. From November 1987 to December 1994, Noronha was staff correspondent for Deccan Herald. From 1994 onwards, he turned a freelancer, and has written for India Abroad News Service (now Indo-Asian News Service), on news related to Goa and, more recently, Information Technology. He also worked as an editorial consultant with Herald (Goa) from October 2003 to April 2004.

He has written articles on Goa, Goan books, media, environment, development, and information technology. From 1996 to 2006, he has been part of the Admin Team of Goanet, a volunteer and not-for-profit network that links the Goa] diaspora community. Publications that have featured Noronha's works include Economic Times, Financial Express, Spide Internet Magazine (Pakistan), Associated Press (photographs), Dawn, BBC website and Outlook.

Together with Partha Pratim Sarkar of Bangladesh, Noronha co-founded BytesForAll, and started IndiaLists.org, an initiative to promote content-relevant mailing lists in India. He moderates the Goan journalists list goajourno.

He is also involved in running the Docuwallahs2 mailing list, a network that connects a number of Indian alternative documentary film-makers. He is a supporter of copyleft-based models for sharing digital information and resources, with some 6000+ photographs, mainly related available to Goa, available on his flickr page.

Noronha is a supporter of free software, and is actively involved in chronicling its growth in India and other Asian countries. His articles on Free Software have been published in Linux Journal and Free Software Magazine.

He has also participated in a study on FOSS in the 'developing' countries (2003-04) in Finland, and has been a member of the panel deciding on the FSF Award for the

Advancement of Free Software and The Manthan-AIF Award 2006.[He has also spoken at many FOSS conferences, including FOSS.IN.

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Ishwar Daitota, Presently the Editor of Times of India- Kannada. He is a well-known TV Anchor and Visiting Professor to various Universities and Media Institutions on Media, Culture and Development. He was an Editor of Udayavani, Manipal (7 years) Founder Chief Editor of Multi-edition Vijay Karnataka Daily (2 years) and Chief Editor of Samyukta Karnataka (2 years) based in Bangalore. He also worked as a News Presenter and Current Event Anchor in Doordarshan for 8 years. Mr Daitota accompanied 3 PMs of India (late Rajiv Gandhi, VP Singh and PV Narasimha Rao to Sweden, USSR and Brazil during their official visits as member of Media team in 1988, 91 and 1992. He is a Collector of Pens and has nearly 15,000 pens in his collection and BBC, Voice of America, Australian Broadcasting Corporation, DD, ETV, ANI have covered his works in their special programs

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Jamshed Mistry is a Commerce Graduate of the University of Mumbai. He completed his LL.B. Degree Course from the Government Law College in the year 1996. He obtained his DLL (Diploma in Labour Law) from Ambedkar College. He is practicing as a counsel in the High Courts and the Supreme Court. He appeared as a Counsel in several public sector and private sector undertaking such as Reserve Bank of India, BEST, etc. He is currently the Senior Counsel of the Central Govt. Panel for Advocates of the High Court of Bombay. He regularly appears in the Supreme Court. He has been appearing in commercial and probono litigations in the High Court and Supreme Court. He is currently appointed in the Legal Committee of the Goa Chamber Of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI). He is also in the committee of JN Pettit Library (one of the oldest in Asia). He is appointed in the sub group of Planning Commission for suggesting review of disability legislation in India. He has argued for the rights of PIO (Card).

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K. N. Krishnan Namboodira, Convenor, State RTI Forum, Kerala

Meena Anil Jagtap is the Founder Trustee and Executive Secretary of DASTAK since April 2003. She has worked with VIKAS Centre for Development-Ahmedabad as Programme Coordinator from November 1989 to March 2003. She is a social activist and actively involved in Women's Empowerment and Right to Information.

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Nandini Sahai is presently the Director, Media Information and Communication Centre of India (MICCI). She has been the Country Manager, AMIC (Asian Media Information and Communication Centre) India; Associate Editor for 10 years of *Vidura* (a quarterly journal of Press Institute of India dealing with Media and Communications issues) , and *Grassroots* (a monthly newspaper of Press Institute of India on Development issues). Work involved writing, editing, identifying themes/issues, commissioning articles from senior journalists /subject specialists, finalizing layout and design; Assistant Editor, *Swagat and South Asia Travel Review*) Assistant Editor, *Himachal Times*, Editorial Assistant, *Depth News India*, brought out by Press Institute of India covering Development issues. Since 1996, she has been actively involved in the *Right to Information* movement. Worked closely with Aruna Roy, Magasasay Award winner in creating awareness among people about their rights. Organised public hearings, seminars, workshops etc. Also participated in formulation of the Right to Information Bill which has now been passed by the Parliament to become an Act; Member, Select Committee representing the media in formulating the *Right to Information Act* of the Delhi Government; She has also been a Visiting Faculty, *Indian Institute of Mass Communication*, New Delhi. Her published work includes Journalists' Handbook on Right to Information, Media and Public Interest in South Asia: Some Priority Areas, Media and Law: A Journalists' Handbook, Practical Guide for Journalists (Hindi). She was also awarded the prestigious 'Woman of Substance Award 2006' by Ryan Foundation for outstanding contribution towards women's development and bringing awareness in the society about their strength and power.

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Nikhil Dey, works with the Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS) and the National Campaign for Peoples Right to Information (NCPRI). He has been working with the MKSS since its inception in 1990, along with Shankar Singh and Aruna Roy. Nikhil Day was born in Bangalore in 1963. He was educated in India and the USA, and got his degree in law from the University of Delhi. After working briefly with the Khedath Mazdoor Sangathan in Madhya Pradesh, he joined Aruna Roy and Shankar Singh in 1987 to go to Devdungri, in Rajsamand District in Rajasthan. He works now as a non party socio-political activist. Nikhil Dey has also been actively involved with the Campaign on Right to Food and other Human Rights organizations.

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Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat is a Dental Surgeon / Social Activist. He completed is BDS,PG Diploma Hospital & Health Management,PG Diploma Journalism & Mass

Communication. He is an RTI Activist, Convener Jammu and Kashmir RTI Movement, a External Collaborator RTI, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative; and a Member South Asians for Human Rights (SAFHR) Chapter Head J&K Media Information and Communication Centre of India (MICCI).

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Rajeshwar Dyal, Senior Media Advisor, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) India, is an alumni from the Delhi School of Economics. He taught Development Communication for 16 years at the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), New Delhi. He left this to join FES, with whom he has now been associated for the last 16 years.

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Dr. Sanjeev Bhanawat, an academician of repute, is working as Head, Center for Mass Communication, in the University of Rajasthan. He has more than 25 years of experience in media teaching and training. Dr. Bhanawat, a prolific writer, has written and edited 30 books on various aspects of Journalism and Mass Communication. He has been the editor of 'Communication Today-a media quarterly journal' since last 12 years. Dr. Bhanawat has participated and organized more than 150 national/international seminars/conferences/workshops. He has also been invited in various capacities to deliver lectures in various universities and educational institutions of higher education. He presented a paper in the World Hindi Congress held in New York in July, 2007. He participated as media expert in various programmes on Doordarshan, All India Radio and various other television Channels. Dr. Bhanawat is associated with leading professional and social organizations. He is the recipient of many awards including 'Sumnesh joshi award' of Rajasthan Sahitya Academy, Udaipur and 'Baburao Vishnu Paradkar award of U.P. Hindi Sansthan, Lucknow.

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Snehasis Sur is a Senior TV Journalist, working in Kolkata station of 'Doordarshan' since 1988. Before that he worked in a Bengali Newspaper. He also has experience of Radio Journalism in All India Radio.

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Vinita Deshmukh is an Editor of Pune's most well-respected and powerful weekly tabloid, Intelligent Pune, published from the city every Friday. The only weekly which is into pro-active/public journalism as it believes in the philosophy of 'going beyond the news columns' as it believes these are the times of media activism on the backdrop of the executive and the legislature having strangulated and looted the common man. She has been a *Senior Journalist*, having worked in this field for the past 22 years. *She has worked as a Senior Editor- The Indian Express Pune, a Deputy Resident Editor-*

The Indian Express Pune, a Features Editor- The Indian Express Pune and as a Freelancer with Local English Daily Maharashtra Herald and e-newspapers like www.indiatogether.com, e-news feature services like Women's Features Service, magazines like Discover India, local newspapers like the Maharashtra Herald. She worked as an Editor of Intelligent Pune, a weekly tabloid from Nov 1 2006 and as a Guest faculty in reputed mass communication institutes like University of Pune's Department of Journalism, Symbiosis Institute of Mass Communication and Indira Institute of Mass Communication. She has Written exhaustively on environment, rural development, heritage, social issues, civic issues pertaining to urban areas, Right To Information and human interest.

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Vishnu Rajgadia is presently associated with CINI (Child in Need Institute, NGO) as Communication Consultant, MICCI as Jharkhand State Chapter Head and Jharkhand RTI Forum as Secretary. Vishnu Rajgadia worked as Resident Editor of Prabhat Khabar (Dhanbad) and as a Full-Time Lecturer in Mass Communication and Journalism at Makhan Lal Chaturvedi National University of Journalism at Bhopal. Vishnu Rajgadia has published "A Practical Handbook on Right to Information" (Book in English) Co-author Ms. Nandini Sahai, Published by MICCI, FES-India and UNESCO; "Suchana ka Adhikar : Vyawaharik Margdarshika" (Book in Hindi) Co-author Mr. Arvind Kejriwal and "Jansanchar" (Mass Communication : Theory and Practice) in Hindi, Published by Radhakrishna Prakashan, New Delhi.

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Arjun Halarnkar

Arjun Halarnkar is the Programme Manager, The International Centre, Goa. He is holding a Masters Degree in Political Science from Goa University. He has a rich and varied experience in managing projects and was associated with institutions such as Centre for the Studies of Developing Societies (CSDS) – New Delhi and The Energy and Research Institute (TERI) – Goa, in various capacities. He was appointed as a Research Associate at 'South Asia Together', at ICG in March 2004 and was appointed Programme Manager at ICG in December 2005.

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