

Governor inaugurates 32nd Board of Governors and 14th Annual General Body Meeting of NFICI in Guwahati

Governor advocates for making RTI Act more accessible, user-friendly, and transparent through digital means

Guwahati, April 8: Assam Governor Shri Lakshman Prasad Acharya today inaugurated the 32nd Board of Governors and 14th Annual General Body meeting of the National Federation of Information Commissions in India (NFICI) at a city hotel here today.

In his inaugural address, Shri Acharya said that the event, held in the state is not only a formal gathering of the federation but also a significant celebration of the ‘culture of transparency’ within Indian democracy. He said that the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005, has been a groundbreaking tool that has revolutionized India's democratic framework. He noted, "The RTI Act symbolizes a transformative change, acting as a bridge that narrows the gap between the common citizen and the government, allowing for greater participation in governance. This Act empowers every citizen to question and obtain information, reinforcing the principle that the people are the true rulers."

Shri Acharya highlighted the substantial impact the RTI Act has had in promoting transparency, reducing corruption, improving service delivery, and fostering accountability within the administration. He also recognized the positive effects of the Act on rural and marginalized communities, which have gained a greater voice through the law.

The Governor lauded the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, acknowledging his vision for transparent and citizen-centric governance. He affirmed that India's governance model, built on the foundation of transparency, simplicity, and public participation, has significantly contributed to the success of numerous public initiatives, such as Digital India, Jan Dhan Yojana, PM Awas Yojana, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, and Ayushman Bharat.

Shri Acharya said, "Under the Prime Minister's guidance, we are moving towards 'Minimum Government, Maximum Governance,' making the administration more efficient and responsive. Through technology and citizen-focused policies, the trust between the government and its people has strengthened". The Governor also expressed his satisfaction in RTI Act's sustenance, noting that it has inspired other nations globally to adopt similar transparency frameworks, sparking a worldwide movement towards openness and accountability in governance.

Shri Acharya also stressed the importance of adapting the RTI Act to the current digital era. "As information flows rapidly in today's world, it is essential to make the RTI Act more accessible, user-friendly, and transparent through digital means. We must ensure that RTI is not just about paperwork but part of public behavior. Widespread awareness and innovation, including the use of AI and data analytics, will help keep the Act relevant and effective," the Governor added.

Shri Acharya encouraged further engagement with the RTI Act at the grassroots level through workshops, training programs, etc initiatives aimed at empowering citizens—especially in rural areas, self-help groups, women, youth, and students—to better utilize this tool for governance.

It may be noted that the National Federation of Information Commissions in India (NFICI) continues to play a vital role in advancing the RTI movement across the country, uniting Information Commissions from all states and union territories. This year's gathering serves as a reaffirmation of the Federation's commitment to transforming RTI into a powerful public movement.

CIC, Central Information Commission and President of NFICI Heeralal Samariya, CIC Bihar and Vice Chairman of National Federation Tripurari Saran, SCIC, Assam Sjt. Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta along with the delegates from different states were present in the meeting.

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