



Report

The Right to Information (RTI) Act 2005 is an act to provide for setting out the practical regime of right to information for citizens to secure access to information under the control of public authorities, in order to promote transparency and accountability in the working of every public authority. The RTI is an act of the Parliament of India which sets out the rules and procedures regarding citizens' right to information. It replaced the earlier Freedom of Information Act, 2002. A citizen who desires to obtain any information under the Act, should make an application to the Public Information Officer of the concerned public authority in writing in English or Hindi or in the official language of the area in which the application is made. The application should be precise and specific. All Universities and Colleges established by law made by Parliament or by State Legislature or by notification by the appropriate Government or owned, controlled or substantially financed directly or indirectly by funds provided by the Government shall come within the meaning of a Public Authority under this Act. Being the Public Authority, Netaji Subhas Open University has to comply with the provisions of the RTI Act.

The webinar was conducted to give an overview of the RTI Act for the HEI like NSOU and to discuss the importance of the provisions and responsibilities of the functionaries at Headquarters and study centres. The coordinators of the study centres were invited to attend the seminar. The office staff of the headquarters also attended the webinar.

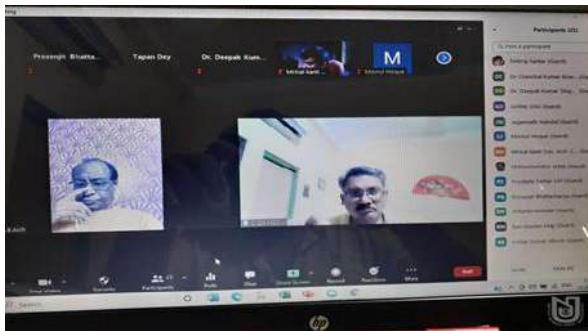
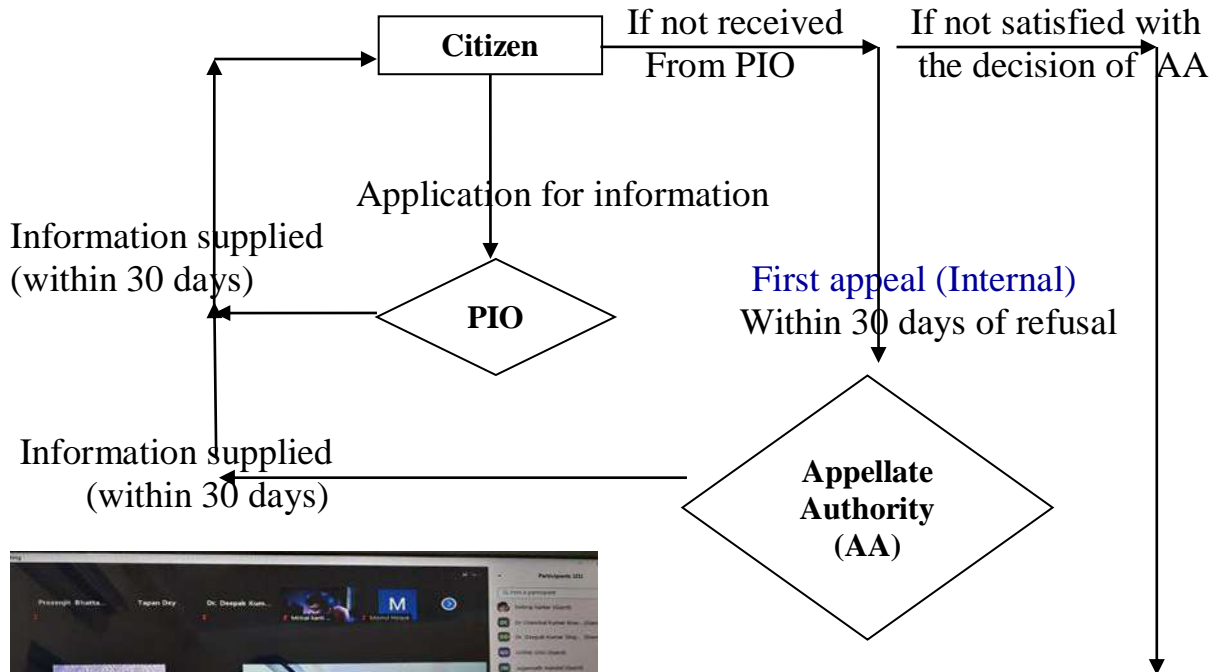
Speakers: Dr. Ashit Baran Aich, Director, Study Centres, NSOU
Dr. Anirban Ghosh, Director, CIQA, NSOU and former PIO, NSOU
Smt. Nilanjana Chatterjee, Asst. Director, SC & PIO

Participants: NSOU staff and Coordinators (47) of the of the Learners Support Centres were present in the webinar.

All the speakers discussed in detail the operational procedure of the RTI Act at the University level. The redressal mechanism under Act has also been presented through a flow chart. (Annexure -I). In light of the RTI Act, the Citizen's Charter was also shared with the participants (Annexure II).

Annexure I

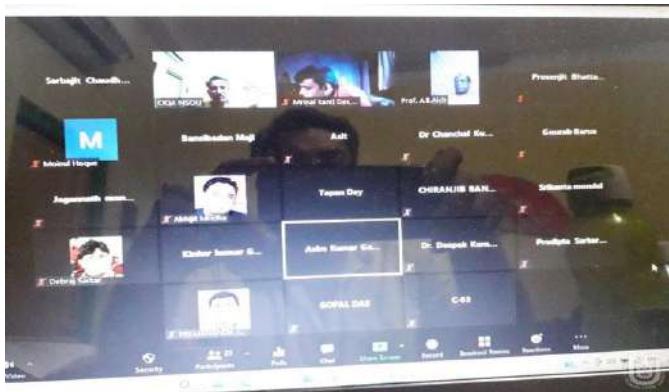
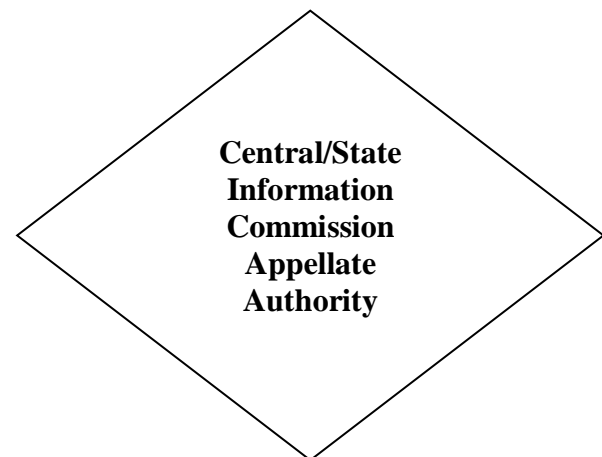
Flow Chart for Seeking information



Second appeal (External)

within 90 days from the date of decision of AA

- ✚ Burden of proof lies on PIO for justifying denial of information
- ✚ Decision of CIC/SIC is binding
- ✚ Appeal against CIC/SIC's decision can be filed in High Courts/Supreme Court, not lower courts





Annexure-II

CITIZENS' CHARTER

Netaji Subhas Open University

This charter seeks to provide a frame work which enables our stakeholders to know: What services are available in this University, the quality of services they are entitled to, the means through which complaints regarding denial or poor quality of service will be redresses.

Location: Address of the Headquarters

Netaji Subhas Open University,
DD-26, Sector-I, Salt Lake, Kolkata-64
Ph-033 4066 3220, website: www.wbnsou.ac.in

Recognition of the University:

Established by WB Act (XIX) of 1997 and Recognized by UGC & RCI

Academic session: July-June (Under Graduate Degree);
Jan-Dec.(Post Graduate Degree)

Admission time: May-June; Nov-Dec.

Courses offered by the University :

Under Graduate-BA/ B.Sc./B.Com/ BLIS/ B.Ed(Spl.Ed) (15)
Post Graduate –MA/ MSc./M.Com/ MSW/ MLIS (18)
Vocational Courses-Certificate/ Diploma / Advanced Diploma

Working hours:

Monday - Friday

Public Information Officer (PIO):

The general public has the facility to obtain information from the Public Information Officer (PIO), NSOU.

(Prepared by Dr. Anirban Ghosh, Director, CIQA, NSOU)