

Pranab to open CIC convention today

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The President, Mr Pranab Mukherjee, will inaugurate the 8th Annual Convention of Central Information Commission here tomorrow. The theme of the convention is "Eight years of RTI: A Retrospective."

The two-day convention will have three technical sessions on RTI and inclusive growth; RTI - an anti-corruption tool; and Media and RTI. The Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Mr V. Narayanasamy, will address the convention, while noted historian, Mr Ramachandra Guha, will deliver the keynote address on "Democracy in India: Mid-life Crisis."

Eminent panelists to participate in the convention include Planning Commission Member, Prof. Abhijit Sen, social worker, Mr Harsh Mander, the former Chief Election Commissioner, Mr J. M. Lyngdoh, RTI activist, Mr Subash C. Agrawal, the Hindu Ed-

itor-in-Chief, Mr Siddharth Varadarajan and the Information Commissioner, Mrs Deepak Sandhu. The Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister, Mr Omar Abdullah, will deliver the valedictory address on 3rd September.

For the first time, the convention will discuss the causal relationship between inclusive economic growth and RTI, if any.

Various views regarding the assertion that an effective access to information regime can be a vital tool in promoting more participatory development will be discussed. Other panels will deliberate on how to make RTI more effective for the containment of corruption.

The panelists will share their experiences on using RTI and curbing of corruption. The panel on media and RTI will discuss the role of media in the governance process by catalyzing effective implementation of the Act, providing information to the citizens and building awareness of the Act while giving a voice to the citizens and acting as a watchdog on behalf of the citizens.