

## **Press Release -:- 30-Aug-2013**

The President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee, will inaugurate the two day 8th Annual Convention of the Central Information Commission on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2013 at DRDO Bhawan, New Delhi. Shri Omar Abdullah, the Chief Minister, Jammu & Kashmir will address the valedictory session on the following day. Central and State Information Commissioners and representatives of NGO/CSO, Central Public Information Officers/Appellate Authorities and many other stakeholders from across the country will deliberate on **RTI and inclusive growth, RTI, an anti-corruption tool and Media and RTI** within the broad theme of **Eight Years of RTI : A Retrospective.**

Dr Ramachandra Guha, noted historian, author and columnist will deliver the keynote address on **Democracy in India : Mid-life Crisis.**

The panelists for the session on **RTI and inclusive growth** are Professor Abhijit Sen, Member, Planning Commission, Professor M M Ansari, Member, UGC, Smt Sushma Singh, IC, CIC, Shri C D Arha, former Chief IC, AP and Shri Harsh Mander, former Member, NAC. The panelists for the session on **RTI, an anti-corruption tool** are Shri J M Lyngdoh, former Chief Election Commissioner, Shri Pratyush Sinha, former Chief Vigilance Commissioner, Shri ML Sharma, IC, CIC, Shri Shailesh Gandhi, former, IC, CIC, Shri Subhash C Agrawal, RTI activist and Shri Nikhil De, Member, MKSS. The panelists for the session on **Media and RTI** are Shri Siddharth Varadarajan, Editor-in-Chief, The Hindu, Ms Sonia Singh, Editorial Director, NDTV, Shri Rajkumar Keswani, former Editor, Dainik Bhaskar, and Smt Deepak Sandhu, IC, CIC.

For the first time the Convention will discuss the causal relationship between the 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. The other panels will deliberate on how to make RTI more effective for the

containment of corruption. 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.