

<u>Third Party RTI Audit Summary Report of</u> <u>Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU)</u>

As per the direction of Central Information Commissioner (CIC) and DoPT OM No 1/6/2011-IR dated 15.04.2013 and OM No. 1/34/2013-IR dated 30.06.2016, each Public Authority should get its proactive disclosure package audited by a third party every year from the respective training Institutes under each Public Authority and submit to the Central Information Commission.

Indian Rubber Manufacturers Research Association conducted Third-Party Audit of the Proactive Disclosure of <u>Indira</u> <u>Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU)</u> under the RTI Act, 2005 from 12 to 18 Oct, 2023 in accordance with Guidelines on suo motu disclosure under Section 4 of the RTI Act issued by Government of India, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Department of Personnel & Training. The audit was conducted in accordance with the standard operating procedure for the Third-party audit on suo motu disclosures (As per Para 4.4 & 4.5 of DOPT's OM No. /6/2011-IR dated 15.04.2013 & Para 6 of DOPT's OM No. 1/34/2013-IR dated 30.06.2016).

The audit was aimed to assess adherence to Guidelines on suo motu disclosure under Section 4 of the RTI and the implementation of and compliance with its control system. Specifically, the audit assessed <u>Indira Gandhi National</u> <u>Open University (IGNOU)</u> Self appraisal report for Year (2022-23) and its website http://www.ignou.ac.in/ in order to ensure these are well understood and Guidelines for Central Government Ministries / Departments are followed on:

- a) Suo motu disclosure of more items under Section 4.
- b) Guidelines for digital publication of proactive disclosure under Section
- c) Detailing of Section 4(1)(b)(iii), 4(1)(b)(iv), 4(1)(b)(xi) and 4(1)(b)(xiv)
- d) Compliance mechanism for suo motu disclosure (proactive disclosure) under the RTI Act, 2005

Third-Party Audit focused on the following Parameters:

- i. Organisation and Functions
- ii. Budget and Programme
- iii. Publicity and Public Interface
- iv. E-Governance
- v. Information as may be Prescribed
- vi. Information disclosed on own initiative

Key Findings and High Priority Recommendations

We appreciate the sincere efforts of Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) as Public Authority for sharing required information on website to maintain the transparency. It has been observed during the Audit that the information relates to few areas has to be shared on website with more clarity like;

- 1. Information on few sub-paras of Section 4(b) placed under RTI Act seems has not been given adequate prominence.
- 2. Programmes to advance understanding of RTI Act –<u>to be conducted on regular intervals.</u>
- 3. Sub-clauses which have been met partially met / not met, may be looked into for compliance at the earliest.

4. A re-look may be given to the clauses which have been marked as not applicable.

IRMRA would like to share positive feedback that in future all the required information/urls/links may be posted on website to meet the Transparency Audit Metrix.

Date: 18 Oct, 2023

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