



**O.P. Jindal Global University**  
*A Private University Promoting Public Service*  
NAAC Accreditation - 'A' Grade



**Jindal School of Government  
and Public Policy**  
*India's First Public Policy School*

## **Jindal School of Government and Public Policy**

*cordially invites you to an*

# *Open Lecture*

*on*

## **"State Processes, Ideas and Institutional Change: Case of Right of Information Act in India"**



### **Dr. Himanshu Jha**

Lecturer and Research Fellow  
Department of Political Science, South Asia Institute  
Heidelberg University, Germany

Dr. Himanshu Jha is a Lecturer and Research Fellow at the Department of political science, South Asia Institute, Heidelberg University, Germany. Jha's most recent research is to explore the processes of institutional change where he examined the evolution of Right to Information Act in India. He broadly engages with institutions, institutional change, the Indian State, Indian politics and bureaucracy. He holds a PhD in Political Science (South Asian Studies) from National University of Singapore (NUS), an M. Phil in Public Policy from the Australian National University, Masters in Political Science from Jawaharlal Nehru University and Bachelor with Honors in History from University of Delhi. While at the NUS he held distinguished research awards such as the president's fellowship and his doctoral thesis has recently won the prestigious Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI) award for the best PhD dissertation at the National University of Singapore. He has published widely in academic journals, edited books and contributed his views in the popular media. Prior to his academic engagement, he was working in developmental sector in, where he served as the national coordinator of a policy think tank called Social Watch and published numerous policy relevant papers.

#### **Abstract**

Historically, in India, the norm of secrecy has been entrenched within the state. Yet, in 2005, India enacted the Right to Information Act (RTIA). What explains this institutional change? Based on historical evidence overlooked in the mainstream literature on the institutional change in information regime, I show that the RTIA was path-dependent on ideas of openness that emerged within the state since independence. Initially, these ideas emerged gradually and incrementally as part of opposition politics, but eventually became part of mainstream politics. I seek to nuance the perspective on the evolution of the RTIA and contribute conceptually to the literature on institutional change.

**Wednesday, 30 August 2017, 2:00 pm**

**T2, 60 Seater Auditorium**

**O.P. Jindal Global University**

**Sonipat Narela Road, Sonipat - 131001, Haryana (NCR of Delhi)**

**RSVP: Ms. Mani Mala, Deputy Manager, JSGP, mmala@jgu.edu.in, +91-8396907364**