



Centre for Peace and  
Development Initiatives

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## CPDI Right to Information Watch

### Editorial:

Pakistan Tahreek-e-Insaf, torchbearer of enacting effective right to information legislation back in 2013 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has won the 2018 general elections. PTI has emerged as a ruling party in Federal, KP, Sindh (coalition) and Balochistan (coalition). [PTI has always raised sky high claims to eradicate corruption and bring transparency.](#) Now, People of Pakistan are anticipating drastic changes regarding maximum public participation in government matters and superlative public access to information held by government departments. Democratically elected Prime Minister Imran Khan mentioned in his inaugural speech about the protection of Whistle blowers in Pakistan. PTI should maintain its reputation by enacting robust right to information law in Balochistan. Not only this, the government should also take measures for the better implementation of right to information laws in Federal, Punjab, KP and Sindh. Newly appointed Federal Minister for Information, Fawad Chaudhary is proactive in substantial matters and is expected to appoint establish information Commission at the federal level.

### RTI Legislative Landscape

#### Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013

Punjab Information Commission has become functional with the appointment of three commissioners in the institution. [Complaint redressal mechanism](#) is becoming efficient and robust. Not only is this, the commission is also holding several events to spread awareness about people's fundamental right to know. Fayaz ul Hassan Chohan, Provincial minister for information and culture has indicated that reforms will be brought in the Punjab T& RTI Act 2013. [It is yet to be seen that the reforms will be progressive or restrictive.](#)

#### Sindh Transparency and Right to Information Act 2016

Sindh Transparency and Right to Information Act 2016 was enacted in April 2017 which awaits proper implementation till date. Governor Sindh Imran Ismail and Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah shall take immediate measures to establish Sindh Information Commission. The ruling party shall stick to its claims and work for the promotion of people's fundamental right to know. CPDI is also planning to reach the provincial minister for information and archives department for raising this demand.

### **Establishment of Pakistan Commission on Access to Information**

Fawad Chaudhary is the newly appointed Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National and Literary Heritage. Before coming to power, the party claimed to ensure public access to information at all levels. Right to Information is the basic, fundamental human right. The claims made by PTI will stand hollow if the implementation of Right of Access to Information Act 2017 remains in question. CPDI is also planning to reach the federal minister to raise demand.

### **Balochistan Lagging Far Behind In the Race of RTI**

The Balochistan Right to Information Act 2018 awaits approval of the provincial cabinet of previous government. Newly appointed Chief Minister of Balochistan, [Jam Kamal Khan](#) shall look into the matter as a priority and continue with the undone agenda of previous government. It is hoped that the provincial government will pay attention to the effective legislation on RTI in the province. Freedom of information Ordinance 2005 is a weak RTI law which does not ensure the free flow of information. CPDI is also planning to reach the provincial minister for Information Zahoor Ahmed to raise demand.

## **RTI in Action**

The newly appointed government is taking a hawkish approach towards corruption and mal administration. The government has also devised whistleblower policy. While talking about anti-corruption and transparency in government affairs, the ruling party shall not forget the essentiality of right to information laws. RTI shall be brought in action in KP, Punjab, Sindh and Federal.

### **Transparency and Right to Information Program**

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