

Right to Information

From

Around the World

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Access to information is critical during crisis:

More and more of the world governments are shifting their data online. The use of technology is helping in reducing resistance to big data obscurity disasters. States have realized that giving information to the citizens is vital in times like these so, states' institutions are accelerating the steps to move online. The United Nations (UN) has also emphasized on the use of technology to help citizens access information. Recently, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs Economic Analysis (UN DESA) said, "It is vital for governments to provide accurate, useful and up-to-date information to people, particularly during times of crisis." Despite all, many states have failed the practices to implement the freedom of information laws. In Pakistan, information commissions have closed their businesses amid the coronavirus crisis. Indian RTI activists are also complaining about the obscurity of information by state departments and many African countries are lacking in the best practices of RTI. Governments of the world need to realize that access to information is not a choice rather a basic right of the citizens. During major crisis, risks of corruption and mismanagement are high so, in times like these, accountability and transparency mechanisms need to be assured. There is no denying that this is an age of misinformation. To tackle this disinformation problems, states need to realize this urge and ought to take steps to ensure the best practices of RTI.

Jammu and Kashmir (J&K)

[Access to internet is not a fundamental right but an enabler of rights, J&K govt tells SC](#)

The Print

The Jammu and Kashmir government Wednesday told the Supreme Court that the right to access the internet is not a fundamental right.....

Malawi

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Nyasa Times

Mark Botomani, government spokesman said the meeting on the operationalization of the law was put on hold due to coronavirus outbreak

Canada

[Federal government eyes new tools to help Access to Information system recover after COVID-19](#)

CBC

The federal government says the novel coronavirus is hindering its ability to answer requests in a timely way.....

Nepal

[RTI shall not be infringed, assures PM Oli](#)

Khabarhub

PM Oli Stating that dissemination of right information was an important aspect for consolidation of good governance.....

USA

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GIZMODO

Federal lawmakers say that in response to the pandemic, the FBI and other executive agencies may have placed unnecessary restrictions on Americans.....

Gambia

[UDP implores government to ratify Freedom of Information Act](#)

Voice Gambia

The United Democratic Party (UDP) has urged The Gambia government to enact a freedom of information Act in order to enable journalists to keep public offices accountable and transparent....

Namibia

[Media want enactment of Access to Information Law](#)

All Africa

We are impelled to put such a law in place. Again, the law is specifically for the media. It's for the people, that they may access the information that they need....

India

[RTI in Lock-down? Make disclosure of COVID expenses](#)

Daily Excelsior

As all Government institutions are almost shut, the role of online citizen services has gained momentum across the world....

USA

[Coronavirus testing is a freedom of information issue](#)

CJR

Trump's press conferences are commonly overshadowed by ugly moments, even when the substance of what he said is alarming too....

Hungary

[Freedom of information curbs alarm rights activists in Hungary](#)

Balkan Insight

Government has also additionally limited information access by extending the deadline for public institutions to provide requested data.....