

Right to Information

From

Around the World

Issue: 206

June 17, 2020

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Information under siege during current crisis:

During times like these when state authorities take important decisions on health, freedom and rights, it is the duty of the state to share information based on facts and true figures. States cannot undermine the importance of social work being done by civic societies and independent organizations to combat the on-going crisis. Then why are we seeing multiple bans on press freedom and access to information? RTI Activists and journalists all over the world have reported long delayed response of freedom of information requests by the government departments. Media and Journalism has been a crucial companion of public authorities in informing public about social scenarios so that they could make informed decisions and build opinions. If public departments are hampering the public information that is vital to individuals for making well informed decisions then state should take immediate steps to remove those barriers in the way of information dissemination. Information gathering should be made easy and available so that public can exercise their rights and perform their duties independently.

Canada

[Freedom of information rights give newspapers access to public-sector records, but at a cost](#)

Brampton Guardian

The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act chisels into legislation the right to access records held by public institutions

India

[PMO rejects application seeking fund details](#)

Firstpost

Harsha Kandukuri, a law student at Azim Premji University in Bengaluru, filed an RTI application on 1 April, asking for the fund's trust deed

India

[Has RTI become football for different departments of government?](#)

India Today

We asked the government to provide a copy of the first and last page of the file through which this extension was granted....

Philippines

[Independent journalism and access to information threatened in the Philippines](#)

Ifex

Advocates of free press and expression call on the Philippines government to respect the public's right to know and denounce the stifling

Namibia

[Mushelenga to table access to information bill](#)

Namibia.com

The bill will encourage public entities to proactively make public information available to enhance transparency, accountability and good governance....

India

[During lockdown, Modi govt is disclosing info only on need-to-know basis](#)

Huffpost

The recent directive by the Central Information Commission to the Modi government to release data about migrant workers online is a timely push in right direction, said Nayak in an interview....

Ghana

[The RTI Law, A tool to combat corruption or otherwise?](#)

GhanaWeb

Even though the right to information is a basic right enshrined in the 1992 Constitution of Ghana, it took decades for the country to promulgate the RTI to provide a legal framework....

Philippines

[Quarantine curbs access to information](#)

Philippines Centre for Investigative Journalism

The Philippines is among many governments in the world that had to suspend the processing of freedom-of-information or FOI requests because of the pandemic....

Pakistan

[AJK High Court accepts writ petition seeking immediate legislation, implementation of right to information](#)

Urdu Point

The learned court has fixed June 25, the next date of hearing and ordered for issuance of notices to all the respondents made party in to the case.....

Indonesia

[People with disabilities demand access to information, basic rights during pandemic](#)

The Jakarta Post

In March, a group of deaf people sent an open letter to President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo, calling on him to uphold the rights of people with hearing.....