

Right to Information

From

Around the World

Issue: 208

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The struggle for transparency:

'People under Article 19-A of the Constitution have the right to access information held by government institutions but they often violated this law and deny the citizens their right,' said Balochistan Finance Minister Mir Zahoor Ahmed Buledi. As compared to the Federal RAI Act 2017 and other provincial RTI laws, Balochistan Freedom of Information Act 2005 has many shortcomings and is considered as the weakest law. Without any doubt, Balochistan province pioneered in the enactment of freedom of information law, yet it failed to bring reforms in the already existing freedom of information law. Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI), Media Matters for Democracy (MMFD) and Pakistan Press Foundation (PPF) have taken steps to advocate for bringing reforms in the existing FOI act. Right to Information (RTI) is a vital element of democracy. It gives right to public to request public information from state departments, which can lead to rule of law, transparency and accountability and creates a sense of responsibility and citizenship in citizens. People of Balochistan should also be given this fundamental right. Provincial authorities should recognize the efforts of advocacy groups and social welfare organizations and should bring reforms in Balochistan Freedom of Information Act.

India

[PM CARES Fund not a public authority under RTI Act](#)

National Herald India

Activist Saket Gokhale had sought copy of the trust deed and trustees of the Fund through RTI. He filed an appeal when this was turned down on the grounds that the Fund was not a 'public authority'....

Zimbabwe

[New Freedom of Information Bill signed into law](#)

The Herald Zimbabwe

The new Act, a giant step forward in the reform agenda, repeals the long-criticised Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (AIPPA)....

Pakistan

[Law Ministry ordered to provide lists of lawyers, law firms it engaged](#)

The News

In a historic verdict, Pakistan Information Commission (PIC) has directed the Law Ministry to provide the details of the lawyers and the law firms engaged by the governments of Pakistan....

USA

[Let's celebrate Freedom of Information Act](#)

Journal Review

The Freedom of Information Act was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson on July 4, 1966. This legislation gives citizens the right to request and obtain documents....

Ghana

[Lack of funds hindering implementation of Right to Information law](#)

My Joy Online

The reality was, we had a plan but lack of funding more or less affected a great part of this implementation process....

India

[The reality was, we had a plan but lack of funding more or less affected a great part of this implementation process](#)

Nagpur Today

A unique book on Right to Information (RTI) is going to be released soon. It contains all the landmark decisions given by various High Courts and Supreme Court of India....

Pakistan

[Balochistan information law is the weakest](#)

The Express Tribune

This was concluded during an online consultative session between stakeholders for bringing reforms in the law. The session had been organised by the Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI) on Sunday....

New Zealand

[Government to rewrite Official Information Act](#)

Stuff

Public consultation about the law's effectiveness revealed an apparently broken process, with OIA users complaining of excessive delays and deletions,

Mozambique

[Culture of secrecy frustrating Freedom of Information](#)

All Africa

Mozambican civil society organisations have warned that a pervasive culture of secrecy in the Mozambican state is frustrating compliance with the law on freedom of information....

Gambia

[The Gambia embarks on journey to adopt ATI law](#)

Ifex

Access to Information is one of the pillars of a strong democratic government. The legal right to request information from government can lead to transparency, accountability and encourages citizens to participate in public life....