Public information more important than ever:

"In a pandemic, information can mean the difference between life and death. Under no circumstances can the pandemic be an excuse for undermining democracy." said Brent Jolly, President of the Canadian Association of Journalists (CAJ). 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. 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. Right to Information (RTI) is a fundamental right of a citizen and they should be given liberty to exercise this right.
Bangladesh
Right to access information
The Daily Star
All individuals as citizens of any country have the right to seek and receive information held by government and private authorities with a view to ensuring transparency….

Pakistan
Does an ordinary citizen enjoy the right to access of information in Pakistan?
The Nation
Democracy cannot flourish in a region where the inhabitants do not know the actual performance of the people they have elected….

India
Information wars are nothing new
Deccan Herald
A citizen’s legal right to information, even in exigent circumstances such as the coronavirus pandemic, is rendered meaningless….

India
PMO says Prime Minister’s National Relief Fund not a ‘public authority’ under RTI Act
National Herald
The PMO had earlier refused to divulge information about the PM Cares Fund by holding that it did not qualify as a “public authority” under the RTI Act….

United kingdom (UK)
Freedom of Information Act and why is it important?
Local London
Though not often advertised through any form of public domain, the Freedom of Information Act is a bill which allows members of the public to request information....

India
Is Right to Information regime losing steam in its 16th year?
The Economic Times
Widely acclaimed as one of the strongest legislations in the world, the RTI Act firmly established India’s democratic credentials in the world….

Pakistan
Govt officials, depts filed most cases against journalists
The News
The government has emerged as “the single largest predator of journalists” when it comes to filing legal cases against them for their journalism….

Pakistan
Disclosing assets of top NAB bosses against public interest, rules PIC
Geo News
The Pakistan Information Commission (PIC) on Tuesday ruled that issuing the details of assets and properties owned by the National Accountability Bureau's (NAB)...
Jamaica
**Access to Information on public investment projects**
Jamaica Information Service
The Ministry of Finance and the Public Service on Wednesday launched the Jamaica Investment Map, a digital platform that will facilitate interactive public access to information….

Canada
**Annual Report to Parliament on the Access to Information Act**
Government of Canada
Over the last few fiscal years, PCO has continued to make progress on complaints by working with the OIC to resolve them….

Canada
**Public's right to know more important than ever during pandemic**
Newswire/CLD
The federal government has maintained a very cavalier approach to meeting its legal obligations under Canada's Access to Information Act….