



Right To Information Act

The Sunshine of Democracy

INDEX

Goals of RTI Act

Right to Know

Evolution of RTI act

Freedom of Information Act

Predecessor of RTI Act

Supreme court verdicts

RTI Act 2005

Structure

Schedules

Chapters

Definition of Information

Public Authority

RTI & Obligations on Authorities

Information to be Published

Public Information Officer

Request for Information

Exception from Disclosure

Reason for Rejection

Third party information

Central Information Commission

Chief information Commissioners

State information Commission

Powers & Functions

Exemption from RTI

Annual report

Programs by Government

RTI amendment 2019

Limitations of RTI

Important Sources used

Pyqs

"The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now."

- First Country to Pass RTI Law : Sweden
- Known As : "Sunshine of Democracy"

Goals of RTI Act

- Citizen Empowerment
- Allows citizens to question and review government actions.
- Empowers individuals to influence government policies and programs.
- Enhances transparency and accountability.

Information Access

- Ensures proactive disclosure and reporting.
- Improves record-keeping in government offices.
- Ensures the appointment of Public Information Officers (PIOs) in all government departments where feasible.

Promoting Good Governance

- Used for women's rights, youth development, democratic rights, and rights of marginalized communities.
- Addresses misuse of executive power and strengthens participatory governance.
- Helps expose corruption.

Right to Know

- RTI serves as a critical tool to promote, protect, and defend citizens' right to know,

Evolution of the RTI Act in India

Mr. Kulwal vs Jaipur Municipal Corporation (1986)

- The court ruled that the right to information is implied under Article 19 of the Constitution, which protects freedom of speech and expression.
- Stated that citizens cannot fully exercise freedom of speech and expression without access to information.
- Laid the foundation for the RTI law.

Emphasis by Prime Minister V.P. Singh (1990)

- Highlighted the importance of the RTI Act as a legislative right but could not implement it due to political instability.

MKSS Grassroots Campaign (1994)

- Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS) began advocating for transparency in rural development in Rajasthan.

MKSS

- Formed: May 1, 1990
- Founders: Aruna Roy, Nikhil Dey, Shankar Singh

Drafting of RTI Act (1995)

- Social activists drafted the RTI Act during a meeting at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA).

Founding of NCPRI (1996)

- National Campaign for People's Right to Information (NCPRI): **Tamil Nadu's RTI Law (1997)**
- Drafted a law under the guidance of Justice P.B. Sawant, Chairman of the Press Council of India.
- Freedom of Information Act, The Press Council-NIRD 1997 (NIRD: National Informatics Research and Development).

Freedom of Information Bill (1997)

- The central government formed the H.D. Shourie Committee to draft legislation on freedom of information.

Tamil Nadu's RTI Law (1997)

- First state to pass an RTI law.

Freedom of Information Act (2002)

- Purpose: Access information held by public authorities.
- Passed: 2002
- President's Assent: 2003

Predecessor to RTI Act:

- Did not recognize many aspects of citizens' right to information.
- Allowed appeals only within government institutions.
- Did not permit appeals to independent bodies.
- Excluded private institutions from coverage.
- Had broad exemptions.
- Lacked provisions for public education and monitoring.

Supreme Court on Right to Information

Bennett Coleman and Co. v. Union of India (1973):

- Declared that the right to information is included under Article 19(1)(a), which guarantees freedom of speech and expression.

Indira Gandhi v. Raj Narain (1975):

- Emphasized that secrecy in public affairs is against public interest, and officials must explain and justify measures to prevent suppression and corruption.

SP Gupta v. Union of India (1981):

- Affirmed the public's right to know about every public act and transaction of public officials.

People's Union for Civil Liberties v. Union of India (1996):

- Stated that public scrutiny is essential for ensuring clean and transparent governance.

RTI Act 2005

- Passed by Lok Sabha: May 11, 2005
- Passed by Rajya Sabha: May 12, 2005
- President's Assent: June 15, 2005
- Came into Force: October 12, 2005
- Prime Minister at the Time: Dr. Manmohan Singh
- President at the Time: Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam

Structure

- Chapters: 6
- Sections: 31
- Schedules: 2

Chapters

- Chapter 1: Preliminary
- Chapter 2: Right to Information and Obligations of Public Authorities
- Chapter 3: Central Information Commission
- Chapter 4: State Information Commission
- Chapter 5: Powers and Functions of Information Commissions, Appeals, and Penalties
- Chapter 6: Miscellaneous

Schedules

- **First Schedule: Oath of office for Central/State Chief Information Commissioners and Information Commissioners.**
- **Second Schedule: Institutions exempted from disclosing information.**
- **Time-Bound Nature of RTI : RTI is time-bound.**

Chapters

- **Chapter 1: Basic Information**
- **Chapter 2: Right to Information and Obligations of Public Authorities**
- **Chapter 3: Central Information Commission**
- **Chapter 4: State Information Commission**
- **Chapter 5: Powers and Functions of Information Commissions, Appeals and Penalties**
- **Chapter 6: Miscellaneous Matters**

Definition of Information (Section 2(f))

Information available under any law, in any form, including:

- **Records**
- **Documents**
- **Memos**
- **Circulars**
- **Orders**
- **Logbooks**
- **Contracts**

- Papers
- Reports
- Emails
- Opinions
- Advice
- Press Releases
- Samples, Models
- Data stored in electronic form.

Public authority (Section 2(h))

- All institutions established under the Constitution, by an Act of Parliament/State Legislature or by notification of the Government.
- And private institutions owned, controlled or substantially financed by the Government.

Right to Know (Section 2(j))

- The right to access information held by a public authority, including:
 - Inspection of documents and records.
 - Taking notes, certified copies, or extracts of documents.
 - Taking certified samples of materials.
 - Information stored in electronic form (disks, floppies, tapes, video cassettes) or printouts.

Third party (Section 2(n))

- Includes any person or public authority other than the citizen requesting the information.

Chapter 2: Right to Information and Obligations of Public Authorities

Right to Information (Section 3)

- All citizens have the right to information subject to the provisions of the RTI Act.

Obligations of Public Authorities (Section 4)

- All records shall be properly catalogued and indexed.
- Wherever possible, records shall be computerised and linked through a national network.
- Policies and decisions affecting the public shall be published.
- Reasons for administrative or quasi-judicial decisions shall be given to the persons affected.

Information to be published (voluntary)

- Structure, duties and responsibilities of public institutions.
- Powers and duties of officers and employees.
- Decision-making process, supervision and accountability.
- Standards for the performance of duties.
- Rules, regulations, instructions and manuals used by employees.

- Categories of records held or controlled.
- Directory of officers and employees.
- Budget details, planned and actual expenditure, project details.
- Details of subsidy programmes, beneficiaries and amount allocated.
- Details of information converted to electronic form.
- Name, designation and other details of Public Information Officers.

Public Information Officer (PIO) (Section 5)

- The Public Information Officer can be divided into two.
 - 1- Central Public Information Officer (CPIO)
 - 2-State Public Information Officer (SPIO)
- Central Public Information Officer (CPIO): For Central Government Departments/Public Sector Undertakings Working under .
- State Public Information Officer (SPIO): Works under state government departments/public sector undertakings.
- PIOs are the primary liaison between the public authority and the applicant.
- The effectiveness of the RTI Act depends on the efficiency of PIOs.
- PIOs are authorized to provide information related to their office.
- PIOs are legally obligated to provide information to applicants under the RTI Act.

The main responsibilities of PIOs are;

- Process and provide information held by the public authority upon payment of the prescribed fee.
- If the information cannot be provided, inform the applicant in writing of the reasons.
- Provide assistance to applicants seeking information.
- Seek assistance from other officials to process applications.
- If an officer refuses to assist despite the request of the PIO, the Commission may consider that officer as the PIO and take further action.

Responsibilities of Assistant Public Information Officers (APIO);

- Right to Information by accepting applications from citizens Hand it over to the officers.
- Right to Information Appeals against decisions of officers or appeal officers shall be forwarded to the Appellate Officer or the State Right to Information Commission.
- Application submission - to the Public Information Officer.
- The first appeal is submitted to an officer above the Public Information Officer.
- The second appeal is submitted to the Right to Information Commissioner.
- Keep a register of details of handling RTI applications.

- APIOs do not have the authority to make decisions on applications.
- Only one Assistant State Public Information Officer will be appointed in each office.
- If the application or appeal is filed with the Central/State Assistant Public Information Officer, an additional 5 days will be added to the response time (Section 5(2)).

Request for information (Section 6)

- Applications may be submitted in written or electronic form in English, Hindi, or the official language of the region, along with the prescribed fee.
- To be submitted:
 1. Central Public Information Officer (CPIO)
 2. State Public Information Officer (SPIO)
 3. Assistant Central Public Information Officer (ACPIO)
 4. Assistant State Public Information Officer (ASPIO)
- If the applicant is unable to submit the application in writing, the CPIO/SPIO shall provide reasonable assistance in converting the oral request into writing.
- Applicants are not required to provide reasons for seeking information or personal details (except contact information).

Application Fee

- Fees: 10

SPIO Payment Methods:

- Court Fee Stamp
- Treasury Challan
- Demand Draft
- Banker's Cheque
- Pay Order
- Direct Payment
- (Some universities, public sector, or autonomous institutions do not accept court fee stamps.)

CPIO Payment Methods:

- Demand Draft
- Banker's Cheque
- Indian Postal Order
- Direct Payment (Online)
- (Treasury Challan and Court Fee Stamp will not be accepted.)

Exemptions: There is no fee for Below Poverty Line (BPL) applicants if they submit a certificate from the Grama/Block Panchayat Secretary or Municipal Secretary.

Applications should not be rejected solely on the grounds of non-payment of fees;

The applicant should be notified in writing to pay the fees.

Applications related to another public authority must be received and forwarded to the relevant authority within 5 days and the applicant must be informed.

Information provision fee

- A4 size pages: 23 (previously 2)
- A3 or larger pages: actual cost
- Electronic format: ₹75 (previously ₹50)
- Live inspection: First hour free;
- 10 for every 30 minutes thereafter.
- BPL applicants: Free copies up to 20 pages.

Processing of applications (Section 7)

Time limit:

- If submitted to CPIO/SPIO: Information to be provided within 30 days.
- If submitted to ACPIO/ASPIO: Information to be provided within 35 days.
- Information relating to the life or liberty of a person: Information to be provided within 48 hours.

If the CPIO/SPIO fails to take a decision within the prescribed period, the application will be deemed to be rejected.

If the public authority fails to meet the specified deadline, the information must be provided free of charge.

Exceptions from Disclosure (Section 8)

Information:

- India's sovereignty, integrity, security, strategic, scientific, economic interests, relations with foreign countries, or which incite crime.
- Which is prohibited by a court or tribunal or which constitutes contempt of court.
- Which infringes the privileges of Parliament or a State Legislature.
- Commercial or trade secrets or intellectual property rights that adversely affect the competitive position of a third party.
- Those received in a fiduciary relationship and those not in the public interest.
- Confidential information received from a foreign government.
- Those that endanger the life or physical safety of a person or identify a confidential source that assists law enforcement or security.
- Obstructing the investigation, apprehension of criminals, or prosecution.

Cabinet papers, discussions, records of ministers, secretaries and other officials (decisions, reasons and supporting facts to be published when completed).

Personal information that is not of public interest or unnecessarily violates an individual's privacy.

Reasons for rejection (Section 9)

- Unless contrary to section 8, an application may be refused if the provision of the information would infringe the copyright of a person other than the State.
- Rejection of application (Section 7(8))

If an application is denied, the order must include:

- Reasons for denial.
- Deadline for filing an appeal.
- Address, phone number, and email of the appeal authority.

Exclusion (Section 10)

If the requested information is partially omitted, the non-excluded portions may be provided.

When only part of a document is provided, the PIO shall inform the applicant:

- Only non-exempt information is provided.
- Reasons and factual basis for the decision.
- Name and designation of the person making the decision
- Details of the fee payable by the applicant.

Third Party Information (Section 11)

For applications seeking confidential third-party information in the public interest:

- The PIO must notify the third party in writing within 5 days.
- The third party must raise objections within 10 days, otherwise the information will be provided.

Even if objections are raised, information can be provided in the public interest.

- Up to 40 days are allowed to process the application, including a 10-day objection period.
- The third party must be informed in writing of their right to appeal, and the information will only be provided after the appeal proceedings have been completed.

Chapter III: Central Information Commission (Section 12)

- **Composition:** One Chief Information Commissioner and up to 10 Information Commissioners.
- **Appointment Committee:**
 1. Prime Minister (Chairperson)
 2. Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha
 3. A Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the Prime Minister

- **Appointing Authority: President**
- **The Chief Information Commissioner oversees and directs the Commission's activities, assisted by Information Commissioners.**
- **Commissioners must have extensive knowledge and experience in law, science, technology, social service, management, journalism, mass media, administration, or governance, and eminence in public life.**
- **Commissioners must not:**
 1. **Be a Member of Parliament or State Legislature.**
 2. **Hold any office of profit.**
 3. **Be connected with any political party.**
 4. **Carry on any business or profession.**

Tenure and Service Conditions (Section 13)

- **As per the RTI Amendment Act 2019, the tenure is determined by the Central Government.**
- **Commissioners cannot continue in office after attaining 65 years of age.**
- **Information Commissioners are not eligible for reappointment.**
- **The Chief Information Commissioner is not eligible for reappointment but may be appointed as Chief Information Commissioner if previously an Information Commissioner.**

- Total tenure as Information Commissioner and Chief Information Commissioner cannot exceed 5 years.
- Oath and Resignation: Administered by and submitted to the President.
- Salaries, allowances, and other service conditions are determined by the Central Government.
- The Central Government provides necessary officers and employees.
- Headquarters: CIC Bhawan, Delhi (additional offices may be established elsewhere with prior Central Government approval).

Chief Information Commissioners

1. Wajahat Habibullah (Longest-serving)
2. A.N. Tiwari (Shortest-serving)
3. Satyananda Mishra
4. Deepak Sandhu (First woman)
5. Sushma Singh (Second woman)
6. Rajiv Mathur
7. Vijay Sharma
8. Radhakrishna Mathur
9. Sudhir Bhargava
10. Bimal Julka
11. Yash Vardhan Kumar Sinha
12. Heeralal Samaria (November 6, 2023 - 14 September 2025)

Removal of Commissioners (Section 14)

- The President refers the matter to the Supreme Court for inquiry.
- The Supreme Court submits an inquiry report.
- If removal is recommended due to proven misbehavior or incapacity, the President removes the Commissioner by order.
- The President may suspend or prohibit Commissioners from official duties.

Grounds for Removal:

- Adjudged insolvent.
- Convicted of an offense involving moral turpitude in the President's opinion.
- Engages in paid employment outside official duties.
- Becomes unfit due to mental or physical infirmity in the President's opinion.
- Acquires financial or other interests that may prejudicially affect their role.

Chapter IV: State Information Commission (Section 15)

- Formation: Kerala
- Came into existence - December 19, 2005
- Composition: One Chief Information Commissioner and up to 10 Information Commissioners.

- **Appointing Authority: Governor**
- **Appointment Committee:**
 1. **Chief Minister (Chairperson)**
 2. **Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly**
 3. **A Cabinet Minister nominated by the Chief Minister**
- **Headquarters: Thiruvananthapuram (additional offices may be established with prior State Government approval).**
- **Salaries, allowances, and service conditions are determined by the Central Government.**
- **The State Government provides necessary officers and employees.**

Tenure and Service Conditions (Section 13)

As per the RTI Amendment Act 2019

- **tenure is determined by the Central Government.**
- **Commissioners cannot continue in office after attaining 65 years of age.**
- **Commissioners are not eligible for reappointment.**
- **Oath and Resignation: Administered by and submitted to the Governor.**

Chapter V: Powers and Functions of Information Commissions, Appeals, and Penalties

Duties of Central/State Information Commission

- **Accepting and Inquiring into Complaints:**
 1. When an application cannot be submitted due to the absence of a CPIO/SPIO.
 2. When an ACPIO/ASPIO refuses to accept an application or appeal or forward it to the CPIO/SPIO or senior officer.
 3. When access to requested information is denied.
 4. When no response is received within the specified time.
 5. When the requested fee is deemed unreasonable.
 6. When the provided information is incomplete, misleading, or false.
 7. The Commission may initiate an inquiry if there are reasonable grounds.

Powers of the Commission (Section 18(3))

- **The Commission has the powers of a civil court, including:**
 1. Summoning and enforcing attendance of persons.
 2. Receiving evidence orally or in writing.
 3. Requiring production of documents or items.
 4. Requiring discovery and inspection of documents.

5. Receiving evidence on affidavit.
6. Requisitioning public records or copies from any court or office.
7. Issuing summons for examining witnesses or documents.

Appeals (Section 19)

- If no decision is received within the specified time or if dissatisfied with the CPIO/SPIO's decision, an appeal must be filed within 30 days to an officer senior to the PIO.
- If the appellate authority is satisfied with the reason for delay, the appeal may be accepted after the specified period.
- The appellate authority must dispose of the appeal within 30 days (or 45 days with recorded reasons).
- A second appeal lies with the Central/State Information Commission within 90 days of the decision or the expiry of the response period.

Timelines

- PIO: 30 days
- APIO: 35 days
- Life or Liberty Matters: 48 hours
- Third Party Information: 40 days
- Third Party Objection Period: 5 days

- **First Appeal: Within 30 days of response or expiry of response period (extendable to 45 days with reasons)**
- **Second Appeal: Within 90 days**
- **No specified timeline for the Commission to dispose of second appeals.**

Powers of the Commission

- **Require public authorities to:**
 1. **Provide information in a specific manner.**
 2. **Appoint CPIO/SPIO.**
 3. **Publish certain information or categories of information.**
 4. **Make necessary changes to record-keeping, preservation, or destruction practices.**
 5. **Enhance training on RTI for officers.**
 6. **Submit an annual report.**
- **Require public authorities to compensate complainants for losses or harm.**
- **Impose penalties.**
- **Reject applications.**

Penalties (Section 20)

- **The CPIO/SPIO may be penalized for:**
 1. **Refusing an application without reasonable cause.**
 2. **Not providing information within the specified time.**
 3. **Denying an application in bad faith.**

4. Knowingly providing incorrect or incomplete information.

5. Obstructing the provision of information.

- Penalty: ₹250 per day of delay until the application is received or information is provided (maximum ₹25,000).
- The CPIO/SPIO must be given a reasonable opportunity to be heard before a penalty is imposed.
- The burden of proof lies with the CPIO/SPIO to show they acted reasonably and diligently.
- The Commission may recommend disciplinary action against officers for persistent violations

Organizations Exempt from RTI (Section 24)

Central Government Institutions (Second Schedule):

1. Intelligence Bureau
2. Research and Analysis Wing
3. Directorate of Revenue Intelligence
4. Central Economic Intelligence Bureau
5. Directorate of Enforcement
6. Narcotics Control Bureau
7. Aviation Research Centre
8. Special Frontier Force
9. Border Security Force
10. Central Reserve Police Force
11. Indo-Tibetan Border Police
12. Central Industrial Security Force
13. National Security Guards

14. Assam Rifles
15. Special Service Bureau
16. Special Branch (CID), Andaman and Nicobar
17. Crime Branch-CID-CB, Dadra and Nagar Haveli
18. Special Branch, Lakshadweep Police

Kerala Government Institutions:

1. Special Branch CID
2. Crime Branch CID
3. District Special Branches of all Districts/Cities
4. District & Crime Records Bureaus
5. Police Telecommunication Units
6. Confidential Branch in Police Headquarters
7. Kerala & Confidential Sections in all Police Offices
8. State & Regional Forensic Laboratories
9. State & District Fingerprint Bureaus
 - Information related to allegations of corruption or human rights violations is not exempt but requires approval from the Central Information Commission and must be provided within 45 days.

Annual Report

Contents:

- Number of applications submitted to each public authority.
- Number of decisions denying access to documents.

- Provisions of the Act used for denials and frequency of use.
- Number, nature, and outcome of appeals filed with the Commission.
- Details of disciplinary actions taken against officers.
- Amount of penalties collected.

Programs by Government:

- Organize educational programs to enhance understanding of RTI rights, especially for disadvantaged communities.
- Encourage public authorities to organize and participate in such programs.
- Promote timely and effective dissemination of information by public authorities.
- Provide training to CPIOs, SPIOs, and public authorities, and ensure access to relevant training materials.
- Compile a user-friendly guide explaining the Act in the official language.

Rule-Making Powers

- **Appropriate Government:** May make rules via notification in the Official Gazette (Section 27).
- **Competent Authority:** Authorized to make rules (Section 28).

RTI Amendment Act 2019

- Bill Introduced in Lok Sabha: July 19, 2019, by Jitendra Singh (Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions).
- Passed by Lok Sabha: July 22, 2019
- Passed by Rajya Sabha: July 25, 2019
- President's Assent: August 1, 2019
- Came into Force: October 24, 2019.

Supreme Court's Office under RTI: Subhash Chandra Agarwal vs. CPIO Supreme Court, November 13, 2019.

LIMITATIONS OF RTI 2005

1.Exemptions Under Section 8

- Broad Exemptions
- Vague Wording
- Personal Information

2.Exclusions Under Section 24

- Intelligence and Security Organizations
- Limited Oversight:

3.Non-Applicability to Private Entities

4.Implementation Challenges

- Delayed Responses
- Inadequate Training:
- Poor Record-Keeping

5. Penalties and Enforcement Issues

- **Weak Penalty Enforcement**
- **Understaffed Commissions**
- **Lack of Prosecution**

6. Limited Proactive Disclosure

- **Section 4 Compliance**
- **Accessibility Issues**

7. Misuse and Frivolous Applications

- **Overburdening System**
- **Harassment of Officials**

8. Threats to RTI Applicants

- **Safety Concerns**
- **No Whistleblower Protection**

9. Restricted Scope of Information

- **File Noting's**
- **Cabinet Papers**
- **Third-Party Information**

10. Fee Structure and Accessibility

- **Cost Barriers**
- **Digital Divide**

11. Judiciary and Political Parties

- **Outside Scope**
- **Judiciary**
- **Political Parties**

12.Lack of Awareness

Low Public Awareness

Language Barriers

13.Amendments and Dilution

2019 Amendment

Potential for Further Dilution

IMPORTANT SOURCES USED

- Class 10 – Democratic Politics II
- Class 11 – Indian Constitution at Work (Political Science)
- Class 12 – Politics in India Since Independence
- Class 12 – Indian Polity (Contemporary World Politics/Polity Supplement)

PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTION RELATED TO THIS TOPIC

1.Consider the following statements:

1.The Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005, prohibits inspection of government records by citizens.

2.The Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005, is applicable only to the Central Government and not to the State Governments.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct? (UPSC PRELIMS 2011)

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (d) Neither 1 nor 2

2. Consider the following statements:

1.The Right to Information Act, 2005, provides that all information held by the government is public and can be accessed by citizens.

2.The Right to Information Act, 2005, empowers citizens to question the government and its working. Which of the statements given above is/are correct? (UPSC PRELIMS 2013)

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (c) Both 1 and 2

3.What is/are the most likely advantages of implementing 'the Right of Citizens to Information Act'?(UPSC PRELIMS 2015)

1.It helps to promote transparency.

2.It empowers the citizens.

3.It provides a powerful tool in the hands of the citizens to ensure accountability of the government. Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3

4. With reference to the Right to Information Act, 2005, which of the following is/are exempted from providing information under the Act?

1.Information that affects the sovereignty and integrity of India.

2.Information that relates to cabinet papers regarding various matters.

3.Information whose disclosure would constitute a breach of privilege of Parliament or the State Legislature.

Select the correct answer using the code given below: (UPSC PRELIMS 2020)

- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 1 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
- Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. Which country was the first to pass the Right to Information Act (RTI) and what is the name by which this Act is commonly known?

- A. India; "Instrument for Accountability"
- B. United States; "Freedom Act"
- C. Sweden; "Sunshine of Democracy"
- D. United Kingdom; "People's Right to Know"

Answer: C

Explanation: Sweden was the first country to pass the Right to Information Act. This Act is known as the "Sunshine of Democracy"

2. Consider the following statements about the evolution and objectives of the Right to Information Act:

1. The foundation of the Right to Information Act was laid in the case of *Mr. Kulwal v. Jaipur Municipal Corporation* (1986), which held that Article 19 of the Constitution includes the right to information.

2. The National People's Movement for Right to Information (NCPRI) was founded in 1996.

3. The primary objective of the Right to Information Act is to empower citizens to question and review government actions, thereby increasing transparency and accountability.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. All 1, 2 and 3

Answer: D

Explanation: All three statements are correct. The 1986 case declared that Right to Information is a part of Article 19. NCPRI was set up in 1996. Empowering citizens and increasing transparency and accountability are the main objectives of the RTI Act

3. Which section of the Right to Information Act, 2005 mainly deals with matters related to Public Information Officer (PIO), i.e. Central Public Information Officer (CPIO) / State Public Information Officer (SPIO)?

- A. Section 2(j)
- B. Section 4
- C. Section 5
- D. Section 6

Answer: C

4. Consider the following with regard to the voluntary publication of information by public authorities (Section 4):

1. Public authorities are obliged to publish details of subsidy schemes, beneficiaries and amount sanctioned.

2. All documents should be properly catalogued and indexed.

3. Administrative or quasi-judicial decisions should be given reasons to those affected.

4. Public authorities should publish a directory of their officers and employees.

Which of the statements given above are included in the obligations of public authorities (Section 4)?

A. 1 and 4 only

B. 2 and 3 only

C. 1, 2 and 3 only

D. All 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: D

Explanation: All these four statements are included in the obligations of public authorities under Section 4. Cataloguing documents, giving reasons for decisions, publishing subsidy information and a directory of officials are all included in the list of information that must be voluntarily published in the notes.



