Implementation gaps and rising pendency in the RTI Act

The Right to Information Act completed 21 years, highlighting ongoing implementation gaps, poor voluntary disclosures across department websites, and rising Central Information Commission pendency.

The Right to Information (RTI) Act is a landmark legislation enacted in 2005 to empower Indian citizens, promote transparency, and ensure accountability in the working of public authorities.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- The **Right to Information Act** completed 21 years on **October 13, 2026**.
- **Section 4** of the RTI Act mandates public authorities to make voluntary disclosures across **16** specified categories of information.
- An assessment of **94** department websites revealed uneven transparency and inadequate compliance with **suo motu disclosure** norms.
- Assessments of audit compliance and public access highlighted a significant rise in **Central Information Commission** (CIC) **pendency**.

DID YOU KNOW..!?

The **Right to Information Act** was enacted by Parliament and came into force fully on **October 12, 2005**.

The **Central Information Commission** (CIC) is established under **Section 12** of the RTI Act as the highest appellate body.

The **Chief Information Commissioner** and Information Commissioners are appointed by the President on the recommendation of a committee headed by the **Prime Minister**.

Section 8 of the RTI Act outlines exemptions from disclosure of information, including matters affecting **national security** and sovereignty.

The **Tamil Nadu Information Commission** functions under the corresponding provisions of the State RTI Rules framed pursuant to the Central Act.

The standard time limit prescribed under **Section 7** of the RTI Act for providing ordinary information to an applicant is **30 days**.

REVISION FLASHCARD

The Right to Information Act was enacted in 2005, with Section 4 mandating voluntary disclosures by public authorities.

Syllabus Relevance: Crucial for Group 1 and Group 2 questions on statutory bodies, fundamental rights, transparency, and governance.

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