

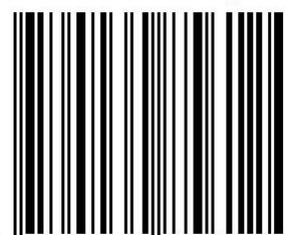


## Study of The Right to Information Act 2005 (RTI) and challenges faced by the RTI Act

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**Abstract :** RTI act 2005 is a law enacted by the parliament of India, giving citizens of India access to records of the central government and state governments. The Act applies to all States and Union Territories of India, except the state of Jammu and Kashmir – which is covered under a State-level law. Under the provisions of the Act, any citizen (including the citizens within

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J&K) may request information from a “public authority” (a body of government) which is required to reply within thirty days. The Act also requires every public authority to computerise their records for wide dissemination and to proactively publish certain categories of information so that the citizens need minimum recourse to request for information formally. Thus, the Right to Information Act is a codification of the important fundamental right (Article 19) of citizens. The Act and its rules define a format for requisitioning information, a time period within which information must be provided, method of giving the information, some charges for applying, and list of organizations exempted from giving information.

The Right to Information Act 2005 (RTI) is applicable to all constitutional authorities, including the executive, legislature and judiciary; any institution or body established or constituted by an act of Parliament or a state legislature.

It is an Act of the Parliament of India “to provide for setting out the practical regime of right to information for citizens.” Jammu and Kashmir has its own act called Jammu & Kashmir Right to Information Act, 2009.

### Role of the government in RTI –

Section 26 of the Act enjoins the central government, as also the state governments of the Union of India (excluding J&K), to initiate necessary steps to:

Develop educational programs for the public especially disadvantaged communities on RTI.