

# Right to Information and Viksit Bharat @2047: Reimagining the Future of Legal Transparency and Digital Democracy

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## Abstract

*The creation of Right to Information Act, 2005 (RTI Act, 2005) was a milestone in the strengthening of the democracy in India. The movements led by NGOs and civil society paved the way for its creation and granting citizens for the first time the access to information from public authorities which was a distant dream in the prevalent bureaucratic setup in the country. In the last two decades of the creation of the RTI Act, the common mass have got their many works done and information accessed from various public authorities be it universities, government departments, public service commissions or any public authority. In the same period the human civilization has also witnessed the huge developments in the field of information technology, cyber challenges, artificial intelligence and so on. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted in 2015 by the UN Member States rely under Goal 16 about access to public information. Goal 16.10 provides for Ensuring public access to information and protecting fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements. So access to information will form a solid base for making India a developed nation (viksit Bharat) by people's empowerment through access to information bringing transparency in functioning of public authorities. In India RTI applications are filed in millions. Government has initiated Samarth module in education department and included RTI in it as a module. It has to be in online mode where each step of RTI application movement is tracked making it more transparent. In these background the present paper will try to analyze how RTI will cope up with the pros and cones of technological developments, Artificial intelligence and improve its effects, threats to RTI activists, challenges faced by technology and its*

*implementation by government etc.. The future of RTI Act, it's strengthening and developments will be studied keeping in mind the legislative changes through DPDP Act 2023 and vision of making India a prosperous and viksit Bharat till 2047.*

**Keywords:** RTI, RTI Act, 2005, Sustainable Development Goal, information, viksit Bharat, technological development, DPDP Act, 2023 etc.

## Introduction

Transparency is one of the pillars of good governance in any democratic set up. (See, Key Attributes of Good Governance, 2026) Right to information provides transparency by providing information from public authorities. Therefore right to information given to public forms the core of good governance in any democratic set up. The objects and reasons of the Right to Information Act, 2005 in India states that our constitution provides for a democratic republic and the main facets of democracy is "informed citizenery and transparency of information which are vital to its functioning and also to contain corruption and to hold Governments and their instrumentality accountable to the governed". (Objects and reasons of Right to Information Act, 2005) It also says that this is an Act for "setting out the practical regime of right to information for citizens to secure access to information under the control of public authorities, in order to promote transparency and accountability in the working of every public authority....". (Objects and reasons of Right to Information Act, 2005) Thus from the objects and reasons it is clear that right to information is within the preview of our constitution. In **Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting v. Cricket Association of Bengal** ((1995) 2 SCC 161, 1995), the apex court had held way back in 1995 that the tenets of democracy requires that for a better and functional democracy providing

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information to its citizens is very necessary so that the informed citizens can put a check on the functioning on their government. ((1995) 2 SCC 161, 1995) Even prior to this judgment, the apex court had already emphasized in 1975 in *State of U.P. v. Raj Narain* ((1975) 4 SCC 428, 1975) that citizens have the right to know how their governments are functioning. This judgment opened the door for further discussion on transparency and right to information to the public for a better democracy.

The Right to Information (RTI) and Viksit Bharat are two significant pillars that embody the essence and future trajectory of India's democratic governance. RTI reinforces the values of transparency, accountability, and participatory democracy by empowering citizens to seek information and engage with public institutions. The objective of the theme of Viksit Bharat reflects the nation's aspirational vision of transforming India into a developed and self-reliant country by 2047, the centenary year of independence. This emphasizes that to achieve the target of becoming viksit Bharat by 2047, right to information can become an important tool in achieving this goal.

The Right to Information Act, 2005 empowers citizens to seek information from public authorities. It enables individuals to access government records, decisions, and policies, thereby reducing secrecy in governance and strengthening democratic participation. RTI has emerged as an effective instrument for combating corruption, improving administrative efficiency, and ensuring that public authorities remain answerable to the people.

On the other hand, the concept of Viksit Bharat represents a broader and forward-looking vision for India's future. It aspires to build a nation that is economically strong, socially inclusive, technologically advanced, environmentally sustainable, and self-reliant. It emphasizes the creation of a governance system that is transparent, efficient, citizen-centric, and committed to equitable development. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that 'Ease of Living is the right of every citizen' (<https://x.com/narendramodi/status/1286304042671472641>, 1286). RTI plays a crucial role in

realizing the objectives of Viksit Bharat. RTI supports Viksit Bharat by promoting transparency, accountability, and public participation through access to information on government schemes, expenditure, and administrative decision-making.

The relationship between RTI and Viksit Bharat demonstrates that true national development is not measured solely by economic indicators, but also by the strength of democratic institutions and governance mechanisms. A truly developed India must be one where governance is transparent, institutions are accountable, and citizens are informed and empowered participants in decision-making processes. RTI supports this transformative vision by fostering openness, strengthening democratic values, and making governance more responsive to public needs.

However because of the fast developments in the fields of science, digital technologies and Artificial intelligence, the RTI laws and related stakeholders are bound to be affected. The future of RTI Act and its implementation may see developments in the directions of (i) use of digital technology in RTI, (ii) balancing transparency v. privacy debate after DPDP Act, 2023, (iii) institutional reforms, and (iv) accepting RTI as a tool for participatory democracy. The future of RTI in India may face challenges such as (i) diluting the effects of RTI Act through future laws and amendments, (ii) pendency and delays in information commissions, (iii) poor record management and (iv) unequal digital access in rural areas.

In these backgrounds this paper will try to analyze in second part the historical development of RTI. The third part will deal with RTI, governance and transparency. In fourth part focus will be on emerging issues and digital challenges to RTI. The fifth part will analyze RTI and the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047. In sixth part the discussion will revolve around reforms and future directions in RTI laws and implementation. At the end conclusion will be drawn in seventh part of the paper.

## II. Historical Development of RTI

### ● RTI movement at the world level:

The enactment of Right to Information Act in 2005 was not a sudden phenomenon. It has along history before it was given the shape of law through parliament. Anders Chydenius (1729--1803) is considered the first person in the world in modern times to champion the cause for freedom of press and right to information to the public. (Freedom of the Press Act, 1766) He played a key role in the enactment of Freedom of the Press Act, 1766 of the Sweden which is the first Act in the world talking about freedom of press and right to information. UN General Assembly in its 65th plenary session (Calling of an international conference on, 1946) in 1946 had recognized freedom of information as fundamental human rights which is essential for the peace and progress of the world. (Calling of an international conference on, 1946) In 1948 the UDHR under its Article 19 provided everyone their right to freedom of opinion and expression. (Article 19, 1948) USA enacted Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) in 1966 (With seven amendments till now with, 2016) that is two hundred year after the Swedish law. However it was the US Supreme Court which gave strength to this Act when executives tried to strangle the essence of this Act. Two leading examples can be found in *New York Times Co. v. United States* (403 U.S. 713, 1971) (1971) and *United States v. The Progressive, Inc.* (476 F. Supp 990 (W.D. Wis, 1979) (1979). The Supreme Court in New York Times case stopped Nixon administration from stopping this newspaper from publishing classified information from Vietnamese war. In the Progressive Inc. case this magazine had prepared to publish an article titled "H- Bomb Secret" which the federal government stopped from publication by getting injunction from court on the ground of national security. This case was dropped as some other magazine had published the same on future date. This episode established that secrecy can be temporary but public scrutiny of government is permanent. Since USA enacted FOIA in 1966, many countries around the world came out with similar laws such as Canada in 1983 (Access to Information Act, 1983), The United Kingdom in 2000 (Freedom of Information Act, 2000) and South Africa in 2000 (Promotion of Access to Information Act, 2000). At present there are about 120 countries with similar laws. (Global Transparency: How Many Nations Have, 2026)

### ● The Indian scenario:

India adopted its Constitution in 1950 and in Article 19 (1) it provided freedom of speech and expression as fundamental right. However its impact could not reach to the rural areas and a large mass of people could not utilize it. The colonial Official Secrets Act, 1923 was still in force and government was heavily inclined to keep all the files in secrecy. Therefore there was a hidden requirement of a law which empowers its citizens to get information secretly kept with the public authorities. The entire movement for right to information is found in the constitutionally guaranteed fundamental right, judicial decision in *State of U.P. v. Raj Narayan* ((1975) 4 SCC 428, 1975, Since] then the apex court upheld this objective in *S.P.Gupta v. Union of India*, AIR 1982 SC 149. It also said that the citizens have the right to know about election expenditure and assets of candidates in election in *PUCL v. UOI*, AIR 1997 SC 568) and the civil society movements especially in Rajasthan. The MazdoorKisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS) (See, Nirmal Jovial, "How a grassroots, 2025)and The National Campaign for People's Right to Information (NCPRI) played crucial role in mobilizing the public for the demand of right to information laws. (See, The Movement for Transparency Leading, 2026) NCPRI was formed in 1996 by ex-civil servants, lawyers, jurists and activists for the sole purpose of creating legally enforceable right to information. It drafted model right to information law, lobbied in power corridors and strengthened the MKSS agitation in legal languages. Their efforts were recognized by several states and they brought their state right to information laws. Tamil Nadu (Tamil Nadu Right to Information Act, 1997) and Goa (The Goa Right to Information Act, 1997) were the first to enact RTI law in 1997 followed by Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra in 2000.

### ● National Legislation for RTI:

The NDA government came out with Freedom of Information Act, 2002 which was never notified by the government. Activists were very critical about this law as it was very weak in its implementation with a very wide exemptions. Then came UPA government in 2004 and the National Advisory Council headed by Smt. Sonia Gandhi. It had

members from NCPRI which drafted a better, strong and effective Right to Information Draft Bill which later became Right to Information Act, 2005.

### III. RTI, Governance and Transparency

"Right to information is a basic necessity of good governance". (See, Introduction, para 1.1.1, First Report, 2006) Good governance is a step ahead from governance as it has an adjective to it. It requires efficiency and effectiveness in governance. (Srivastava, 2009)"The citizens' right to know the facts, the true facts, about the administration of the country is thus one of the pillars of a democratic State". (See, S.P.Gupta v. Union of India, 1982) This is true for all nations and are accepted by all. (O'Regan, 2001) Access to information is considered not merely a human right but a democratic right necessary for good governance. (See, Access to Information -- Democratic, 2288)

- **RTI and Good Governance:**

RTI is regarded as a core instrument for enhancing government accountability and effectiveness by allowing scrutiny of decisions and performance. (See, Bansal, M, 2025) This has improved efficiency and transparency in rural areas also where panchayat system is functioning. (See, Amit Kumar, "Impact of RTI, 2026) The RTI Act empowers citizens to request information, inspect documents, and obtain certified copies from public authorities. It also enables rural residents to monitor the allocation and use of funds for schemes such as MGNREGA, PMAY, and the Public Distribution System (PDS). (See, Amit Kumar, "Impact of RTI, 2026) This in turn gave confidence and a sense of empowerment among rural people to effectively monitor all the activities and spending at the panchayat level. (See, Reddy, B., & Rajagopal, R, 2016) Studies shows that RTI has tremendously reduced corruption and improved transparency and good governance. (Untitled source) RTI Act 2005 has shaped the form of journalism practiced earlier. Some of the journalists have used RTI as a tool very extensively for their reporting especially in exposing corruptions and bringing transparency. There are books to guide journalists and its students as to how they can use RTI or Freedom of Information

laws as a tool for impressive and authentic reporting and writing. (See, Shyamlal Yadav, Journalism Through RTI, 2024) Even general public has become vigilant and know how to use RTI Act, 2005, that is why it is noted that around fifty five lakh RTI applications are filed every year in India. (See, How RTI built an informed, 2026) The impact of RTI in bringing transparency and good governance can be visualized from two leading scams exposed through RTI by common activists. They are Crawford Market case and The Adarsh Housing Society scam both in Mumbai. (See, How RTI built an informed, 2026) There is many other cases where RTI was instrumental in bringing transparency and improving good governance in the country.

### IV. Emerging Issues and Digital Challenges

Right to Information Act, 2005 is one of the most reformative laws in terms of making common people empowered through access to information. The democratic principles of transparency, accountability, and informed governance got effective meaning after its enactment. However, the rapid development in science and technology especially digitalization of public administration has fundamentally transformed both the operational scope and the jurisprudential understanding of this right. The present system heavily relies on electronic databases, automated decision-making systems, artificial intelligence, cloud-based infrastructure, and digital administrative platforms for the generation, processing, storage, and dissemination of information. One of the examples is a special module for RTI on Samarth e-Governance platform, an ERP system scheme implemented for the universities. Every step is digitally monitored. However there are many emerging issues and challenges associated with this development. Some of the main issues and challenges are:

i) **Ongoing tussle between transparency and privacy:** Right to Information Act, 2005, is enacted to ensure governmental accountability, administrative transparency, and democratic participation by conferring upon citizens a legally enforceable right to access information held by public authorities. In contrast, privacy and data

protection frameworks under Article 21 and newly enacted DPDP Act, 2023 have restricted the disclosure of data under the garb of personal information even if the disclosure is in public interest. However the provisions of DPDP Act 2023 has been challenged in the apex court and outcome is still awaited which will shape the future of transparency laws such as Right to Information Act 2005. The balance of two competing interests of right to privacy and right to transparency and information has had their problems and still have the problems.

**ii) Dilution of laws through amendments and DPDP (Digital Data Protection Act, 2023) related changes** Recently Indian Parliament enacted a legislation called Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023. The Digital Personal Data Protection Rules 2025 came in to force on 14 November 2025. The constitutionality of the above Act got challenged in *Venkatesh Nayak v Union of India*. (VenkateshNayak v Union of India, W.P. (C) No. 177/, 2026) The main contention of the petitioner is that the amended section 8(1)j has taken away the right to provide information if "three pronged testes (They are (I) test of public)" are satisfied in larger public interest. The original provision before amendment under RTI Act, 2005 reads:

### **Sec. 8. Exemption from disclosure of information.**

1. Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, there shall be no obligation to give any citizen, (j) *information which relates to personal information the disclosure of which has no relationship to any public activity or interest, or which would cause unwarranted invasion of the privacy of the individual unless the Central Public Information Officer or the State Public Information Officer or the appellate authority, as the case may be, is satisfied that the larger public interest justifies the disclosure of such information:* The new amended provision reads: (The Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023) (j) "information which relates to personal information;" Thus, the new provision has put a blanket ban on disclosure of personal information which is violation of right to know under Article 19 (1) a. This has diluted the effects of right to information Act, 2005 to a great extent.

There are other provisions of DPDP Act, 2023 and DPDP Rules 2025 as well. Rules 17 and 23(2) of The Digital Personal Data Protection Rules, 2025 are also criticized for being *ultra vires* to the constitution.

**iii) Pendency of cases and delays in disposal:** As per the report card issued by Satark Nagrik Sangathan a civil society which keeps track of RTI related matters in India, the report of 2024-25 reveal that there are more than four lakh cases pending in appeal in different state information commissions and central information commission. (Available at <<https://www.snsindia.org/rti-assessments/#IC2025> (last accessed 18, 2025) It says that in Bihar only three RTI Commissioners work including chief information commissioner in spite of more than 30,000 pending appeals. There is no mechanism of filtration if the same case is filed again with the state information commission. Commission as matter of routine calls the public authorities to provide information which is misuse of limited resources available and time. As per the report at least six state information commissions were not working for considerable period of time out of the total 29 state commissions. (See, Ambika Pandit, "Over four lakh, 2025) These facts and figures are alarming and goes against the objects of providing transparency in public works and administration. Delays in disposing the cases are another matter of concern.

**iv) Threat and Harassment to RTI activists:** Since the implementation of RTI Act, 2005 the RTI activists have faced different kind of threats including death from those who didn't want their corruption to be exposed. The research finds that activists have different kinds of real threats of assault, harassment and even murder. (See, C. Jaffrelot, Basim U Nissa, 2018) Nothing has changed from early period of RTI implementation (See, Alasdair Roberts (<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/author-deby/Roberts/Alasdair>), "A Great, 2010) to present days (See, "Targeted attacks against Right to, 2022). Recently an activist was brutally murdered in Nagpur for exposing a land scam. (See, "RTI Activist and BJP leader, 2025) There is no effective mechanism for follow up and

institutional support to protect activists. The implementation of Whistle Blowers Protection Act, 2014 which was enacted to protect activists has not been that effective. (Nigam, 2019) Therefore there is a greater need to bring or strengthen the protection laws for activists. The strengthening of it will strengthen information laws or transparency laws which will help achieving viksit Bharat till 2027.

v) **Cyber security and personal data protection as a challenge:** Personal data in this digital age is an asset as well as a prime target for cyber criminals. There is enormous pressure on states to protect privacy, enable secure data flows, and keep pace with evolving technologies and threats. (Nafi'ah, 5881) In India due to rapid digitization, online transactions of money, growth of fintech and e-commerce, have made cyber security and data protection as one of the core legal issues. In spite of having IT Act 2000 complemented with the Digital Personal Data Protection, Act (DPDP) Act, 2023 there are still certain core issues and challenges to be addressed. (Mahajan, 2026) vi) **Unequal Digital access and right to information:** Unequal digital access means the gap between those who have access to digital services and internet and those who don't have. This also include those who don't have digital literacy and infrastructure. In India there is huge gap of this as we have all welfare measures, court hearings, RTI case hearings etc. everything in online mode which matters a lot. (See, Laskar MH (2023)" Examining the, 2023) In European and American (C. Sander & Edward Scanlon, 1007) context there are arguments for safeguarding and strengthening digital minorities considering it as their human right issue. (Petković, A, 2025) The effective realization of the benefits of Digital India initiatives such as digital grievance redressal mechanisms, aadhar linked services remains unequal, as rural and marginalized populations continue to experience both first-level digital divides relating to access and connectivity, and second-level digital divides concerning digital literacy, capacity, and meaningful use of technology. (See, Ajit Murmu, "Unequal Access and, 2025) Due to this divide, the facilities of online RTI portals in India are not effectively used by large mass of people and are away from

participating in the transparency movement and peoples participation in good governance. If this can be improved, transparency, accountability and good governance will improve which will pave the way for viksit Bharat as envisaged.

vii) **Institutional incapacity and RTI:** It has proved to be a major challenge in effective implementation of the Right to Information Act, 2005 in India. Due to poor management, shortage of skilled staffs, lack of adequate infrastructure and shortage of Commissioners in state information commission there are delays and pending of cases and appeals in these institutions. This is a major challenge which needs to be redressed to give the effect to this Act.

## V. RTI and Viksit Bharat \@2047 :

Viksit Bharat is a vision where by India plans to be a developed country on all the parameters and not only in economic strength. The vision of Viksit Bharat till 2047 is of a developed, transparent, inclusive and rights-oriented Republic. Some of the key attributes of a developed country are high GDP per capita i.e. strong economy, low unemployment rates i.e. universal healthcare and education systems, strong rule of law and human rights protections and the good governance. (See, Key Features of Developed Countries, 2026) These are all what we need in India to make it viksit till 2027. To implement this vision, the RTI Act, 2005 is functioning as one of the core legal instrument to operationalize transparent, accountable and participatory governance, which are indispensable attributes of a developed constitutional democracy. (See, Nitin Siwach, "Implementation of RTI, 2025) By strengthening the hands of public through legal right to inspect and obtain information held by public authorities, the RTI Act has upheld transparency as a legal norm giving them the status of empowered stakeholders in the governance of the country. Some of the key developments through RTI Act in the area of good governance has been of promoting transparency, fighting corruption, improvement in public service delivery and huge public participation in good governance. (See, Jayashree Pantawane & Abhay Butle, 2024) The statutory regime of disclosure and citizen access established

under the RTI Act 2005 enhances institutional accountability, serves as an effective check against maladministration and corruption, and promotes improved transparency and efficiency in the delivery of public services. It makes public authorities accountable for every penny government has sanctioned to them for honest utilization. These outcomes contribute materially to inclusive socio-economic development and the advancement of good governance, consistent with constitutional values and statutory obligations leading country's path to a developed nation. If RTI Act is made to cope up with pace of technological developments, data creation in cyber space and the influence of artificial intelligence in our life in a positive manner, then certainly RTI Act will help achieving the vision of viksit Bharat with a greater pace. The converse to this is also true as restricting transparency through diluting RTI Laws, the vision of achieving viksit Bharat might get hampered.

## VI. Future of RTI Laws in India and Viksit Bharat @2047:

There is a growing debate about future of RTI laws in India due to changes in laws, government policies, technological advancements and other hurdles making transparency and good governance ineffective. (See, Insha Hamid, "Shielding Power: India's, 2025) The leader of opposition in Lok Sabha Sri Mallikarjun Kharge accused the government of weakening the RTI Act 2005 after the 'economic survey' called for re-examination of it. (See, The Hindu Bureau, "Is it RTI's, 2026) It talked of exempting confidential service records and draft policy discussions from the scope of disclosure of information under the Act. (See, The Hindu Bureau, "Is it RTI's, 2026) The future of Right to Information is now a policy fault line. RTI remains a cornerstone for realising Viksit Bharat till 2047, but inconsistent enforcement, institutional constraints, and new digital and security challenges threaten its utility. Proactive, calibrated reform is essential to safeguard transparency while adapting the law to contemporary governance realities.

The future of RTI laws in India can move in five major directions such as:

### (i) Digital and Technology-Driven

**RTI:** In today's time we find that in India the government is heavily focusing for digital transactions and providing all the schemes and services in digital form. Be it Jan Dhan yojna, aadhar, e-commerce or online hearing in courts and tribunals including information commissions, every where we find the foot prints of digital technology and artificial intelligence. The initiative of Samarth e-governance in Bihar has RTI module as one of the modules to be implemented where every step of RTI application filing to disposal of it is digitally marked. Any one can see where the application is pending and for how many days. Automatically it will generate data as to how many applications were made and how many disposed. Thus in future we can see fully digital RTI filing, hearing and disposal systems in all states. It can also take help of artificial intelligence so that there is transparency in e-governance and real time RTI applications are tracked and defaulters penalized timely.

### (ii) Greater Conflict Between Transparency and Privacy leading to restrictive reform:

The future course of RTI is bound to face the right to information verses right to information and transparency debate. The DPDP Act 2023 has already brought amendments in section 8(1)j of RTI Act, 2005 where by personal information can't be disclosed even if it is of public importance. Some of the provisions are already challenged in the apex court which will give shape to the future of RTI laws in India.

### (iii) Expansion of Proactive mandatory

**Disclosure:** It is another aspect which we can envisage in future RTI laws. The government may order public authorities to put most of the information in public domain which a person may demand in RTI application so that transparency is increased and RTI application is reduced. If this is done under section 4 of the RTI Act, 2005 and properly implemented then corruption will get reduced so as the RTI applications.

### (iv) Reforms in State Information

**Commissions:** It is one of the core area which is bound to be addressed in future if India wants good governance and transparency in administration to achieve the vision of viksit

Bharat till 2047. Increasing the number of information commissioners, proper training of human resources associated with the commission and infrastructure improvements will help achieve speedy disposal of RTI cases and improve transparency.

**(v) Encouraging RTI as a Tool of Participatory Democracy:** The central theme of RTI Act, 2005 is to improve transparency and good governance which is very much required to achieve the vision of Viksit Bharat till 2047. It is also true that government alone can't bring transparency until the public is vigilant of doings of public authorities and governments. Therefore if public is made more aware, activists are protected and encouraged to put a check on corruption through RTI then we are more likely to achieve good governance. There are chances that future of RTI will move in this direction. The future of effective RTI will depend upon judicial protection, political commitment, administrative reforms, and active citizen participation. This in turn will help achieving India its vision of Viksit Bharat till 2047.

## VII. Conclusion:

The above discussion finds that transparency and access to information are essential pillars of democratic governance and constitutional accountability. As envisaged in our constitution under Articles 19 and 21, judicial decisions such as in *State of U.P. v. Raj Narain* ((1975) 4 SCC 428, 1975) and *Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting v. Cricket Association of Bengal* ((1995) 2 SCC 161, 1995), and global developments in freedom of information laws it can be said that transparency and good governance is the need of every state and people themselves have struggled against their respective governments to provide them such laws. RTI in last two decades has strengthened good governance by promoting transparency, reducing corruption, improving public service delivery, empowering rural citizens, and encouraging participatory democracy. RTI has also transformed journalism and public accountability by enabling citizens and activists to expose corruption and administrative irregularities. At the same time there are major contemporary challenges

confronting RTI, including the conflict between transparency and privacy principles after the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, which dilutes the disclosure obligations under section 8 (1) (j) of RTI Act, 2005. other challenges include pendency of cases in information commissions, threats and harassment faced by RTI activists, cyber security concerns, unequal digital access, and institutional incapacity. These issues weaken the effective realization of the right to information which might become an hurdle in realizing the vision of Viksit Bharat till 2047. In spite of that RTI remains a crucial instrument for achieving the objectives of Viksit Bharat @2047 because transparent, accountable, and participatory governance are indispensable features of a developed constitutional democracy. It is also to be noted that national development must be measured not only through economic growth but also through strong democratic institutions and informed citizen participation. Finally, on the issue of future direction of RTI laws in India it is suggested that reforms such as digital and technology-driven RTI systems, expansion of proactive disclosure, strengthening of information commissions, balancing transparency with privacy rights, and encouraging RTI as a tool of participatory democracy will be crucial in achieving the objective. To conclude it can be said that despite legislative and institutional challenges, RTI continues to remain a cornerstone of democratic accountability, and its effective implementation will play a significant role in realizing the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047.

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