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Current Affairs Questions for CLAT Exam

Current Affairs Quiz 29

Directions: study the following information carefully and answer the question given besides.

In the lethal jaws of a pandemic, when lives and livelihoods are at stake, the information law of a democracy is expected to live up to its responsibilities — to empower the citizens and to ensure transparency and accountability. Free flow of information is an essential component of crisis management. And this is a crisis like no other.

However, during these trying times, instead of proving its rigour and tenacity, the Right to Information (RTI) regime failed to deliver. People merely turned into passive consumers of media reports, TV debates, advertisements, and press releases churned out by various departments which cannot replace the regime of transparency upheld by the RTI Act. The need of the hour in such adversity is to share data nationwide and reply to RTI queries to clarify doubts, dissipate insecurity, and bolster people's faith in the information system.

After the lockdown was imposed on March 25, the Central Information Commission (CIC) was perhaps the only one out of the total 29 commissions in the country to start work on April 20. As per a telephonic survey conducted by the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI), during the first and second phase of the lockdown, the State Information Commissions (SICs) just remained dormant.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from: The RTI regime failed India during Covid-19,

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/analysis/the-rti-regime-failed-india-during-covid-19/story-B1zj5939aPd1Z5MwA1AoK.html>]

1. Which of the following was the first state to pass the RTI law in the year 1997?

- A. Madhya Pradesh B. Tamil Nadu C. Kerala D. Assam

2. Which of the following act restricts the free flow of information under the RTI act, 2005?

- A. Capital issues control act 1947 B. Official Secrets Act, 1923
C. Government of India Act, 1919 D. Government of India Act, 1935

3. What is the tenure of the Chief Information Commissioner according to the new RTI rules notified by the government?

- A. 6 years B. 5 years C. 4 years D. 3 years

4. Which of the following act provides every individual with the right to privacy?

- A. Article 21 B. Article 14 C. Article 13 D. Article 15

5. Who among the following was appointed as the first Lokpal of India?

- A. Ranjan Gogoi B. AK Sikri C. Dipak Misra D. Pinaki Chandra Ghose



Correct answer:

1	2	3	4	5
B	B	D	A	D

Explanation:

1. Tamil Nadu became the first Indian State to pass RTI law in 1997. Tamil Nadu was the first state in India to enact an access law, namely the Tamil Nadu Right to Information Act 1997. The Act was passed by the Legislative Assembly in the first half of 1997, received the assent of the Governor on 4 May 1997 and was notified the following day.

Hence, option B is correct.

2. The free flow of information in India remains severely restricted by the legislative framework including several pieces of restrictive legislation, such as the Official Secrets Act, 1923.

The Official Secrets Act 1923 is India's anti-espionage act held over from the British colonial period. According to this Act, helping the enemy state can be in the form of communicating a sketch, plan, model of an official secret, or of official codes or passwords, to the enemy.

Hence, option B is correct.

3. The Centre has curtailed the tenure of information commissioners in transparency panels across the country to three years in new RTI rules notified. The Centre had amended the Right to Information Act, 2005 in July ending the parity enjoyed by Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners with Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners on terms and conditions of their service and tenure.

Hence, option D is correct.

4. The right of a citizen is protected under the Constitution is the right to privacy. This right is enshrined within the spirit of Article 21 of the Constitution. The overall package consists of three primary components – a set of measures taken by the government before Modi's speech on May 12, the Reserve Bank of India's liquidity measures over the last two months and the five tranches announced by Nirmala Sitharaman over the last few days.

Hence, option A is correct.

5. Retired Supreme Court judge Pinaki Chandra Ghose is appointed as the first Lokpal of India by a committee consisting of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi and Lok Sabha speaker Sumitra Mahajan on 23 March 2019 whereas the members are appointed w.e.f 27 March 2019.

Hence, option D is correct.



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