

30/7/22

12

① Ignoring the plight of RTI users facing death of keeping our democracy alive is a threat to democracy itself. Analyze?

Introduction - Whistleblowers is defined as an act of disclosing public information (or) a person who informs abt a person (or) organization engaged in any illicit activities.

RTI -

① RTI act was passed in 2005 replacing the information freedom of information act, 2002.

② This RTI act empowers us to participate in policymaking process, by providing access to information relating to functions of all public dept.

③ The widespread use of RTI act results in strengthening of participatory democracy.

④ But the worst thing behind this is RTI activist who seeks information abt this public importance are murdered.

Plight state of RTI users - Bihar ranking first as it is one of the dangerous state for RTI activist.

(2) In [2018] alone six RTI activist were killed by unknown individuals in Bihar.

(3) In this tough situation of RTI activist, state should come forward to provide protection, time bound grievance redressal, compensation to those families those who got killed.

(4) The RTI activist are the one who seeks information, which should be mandatorily disclosed in public rather they ~~got to~~ are murdered for their <sup>public</sup> work.

(5) This incidents reflects that the lack of action by govt is nexus b/w police & powerful interest vested people.

(6) There is a need for socio-legal framework to RTI activist who are under threat.

Way forward ① State govt should direct law enforcement agencies to complete investigation expeditiously in cases related RTI activists.

② States like [RJ, KA] have frameworks ~~at~~ [Jan sochna & Mahiti Kanga] are examples ~~for~~ of public disclosure of information.

③ The SC already called upon Central govt to set up ~~what~~ ~~protection~~ institutions for protecting whistleblowers.

④ But the Central govt not get taken action, it should speed up the estb of institutions.

⑤ The each state govt should enact legislation in their terms to strength whistleblower protection law.

Conclusion - To ensure our integrity of democracy is protected, upheld & cherished, the govt should address this issue through strong legal & institutional safeguards.