

July 30

① Plight of RTI and threat to democracy.

Information is the currency of Democracy
the RTI Act 2005 empowers citizens
in participatory democracy by providing
access to information on functioning of all
Public Authorities.

Threat

But since the inception of Act,
Some 100 RTI activists were killed and several

harrassed. This raises some serious concerns.

Its only through RTI that people
get to know how their tax money

is being spent, whether there's any

irregularities or corruption involved in the
system. If such info is not disclosed

it might erode the trust on government

leading to tax evasion, to some extent.

→ Only if such information is provided it will keep a check and improve the efficiency of public authorities.

Besides the government failing to take action on those involved in killing of activists, erodes the confidence and prevents many from participating in democracy especially marginalized sections, taking us back to the days of British colonialism.

→ Transparency and accountability are the two key elements in a democracy and public vigilance and strong legal and institutional mechanisms are the way forward.

→ State governments should come forward to disclose information on day to day activities and instill confidence among people, and provide compensation and dignified justice for those murdered. Enacting a legislation for protection of whistle blowers is right step in this direction.