



ACCOUNTABILITY INITIATIVE

research and innovation for governance accountability

Accountable Government: Policy Research Series

Resources on the CIC- Right to Information (RTI) Judgment

I. RTI Judgment

Central Information Commission
June 2013

The report details out the arguments by the CIC that supports the final judgment on bringing six political parties under the ambit of the RTI.

URL: [http://www.rti.india.gov.in/cic_decisions/CIC SM C 2011 001386 M 1112 22.pdf](http://www.rti.india.gov.in/cic_decisions/CIC_SM_C_2011_001386_M_1112_22.pdf)

II. Main Indian Parties to Come Under RTI

Joanna Sugden | The Wall Street Journal
June 03, 2013

This piece presents excerpts from an interview with the National Election Watch members, Anil Bairwal and Trilochan Sastry, on why the judgment is historic, and how this ruling will make the political environment more transparent.

URL: <http://blogs.wsj.com/indiarealtime/2013/06/03/main-indian-parties-to-come-under-rti/>

III. आरटीआई के दायरे में आईं राजनीतिक पार्टियां

Jagran Post
June 04 2013

This piece looks at the CIC judgment and gives a preliminary look into why political parties have been brought under the 'public authority' tag.

URL: <http://www.jagran.com/news/national-political-parties-are-under-the-rti-act-cic-10447177.html>

IV. If you think RTI will destroy political system, your understanding is limited

Danish Raza | First Post
June 04, 2013

An interview with Jagdeep Chhokar, founder member of Association for Democratic Reforms, on the implications of the CIC ruling

URL: <http://www.firstpost.com/india/if-you-think-rti-will-destroy-political-system-your-understanding-is-limited-841391.html>

V. CIC judgement will have long-term impact on country's politics: RTI activists

Danish Raza | First Post
June 04, 2013

This post looks at the salient points made by RTI activists, which gives justification for why the political parties should be brought under the RTI.

URL: <http://www.firstpost.com/politics/cic-judgement-will-have-long-term-impact-on-countrys-politics-rti-activists-837981.html>

VI. Party police

The Indian Express
June 05, 2013

Is the imposition of 'accountability' upon political parties through the RTI a wise decision? This author ponders over this question and asks whether bringing political parties under the RTI would mean a further extension of control of the information commissioners and bureaucrats over politicians.

URL: <http://www.indianexpress.com/news/party-police/1125096/>

VII. Open up the accounts

Business Standard
June 05, 2013

This article highlights whether there is really a need for an extension to political parties under the RTI, looking at institutions that already exist for the same end, and the scope of such a judgment.

URL: http://www.business-standard.com/article/opinion/open-up-the-accounts-113060501151_1.html

VIII. Politics under RTI: World over there are problems with this process

Apoorva Dutt | First Post
June 05, 2013

The author brings a comparative view to the debate by looking at legislations in the United Kingdom, the United States and some in Africa.

URL: <http://www.firstpost.com/world/politics-under-rti-world-over-there-are-problems-with-this-process-843171.html>

IX. Party fixing

Pratap Bhanu Mehta | The Indian Express
June 06, 2013

The author discusses the pertinent issues surrounding the CIC order with a focus on three problems: Who are the political parties accountable to? What is the approach to such a regulation? And what is the scope of the order?

URL: <http://www.indianexpress.com/news/party-fixing/1125619/>

X. Political parties under RTI: Welcome move or terrible idea?

Danish Raza | First Post
June 06, 2013

The author pulls together various views that have come to the fore regarding the debate on the CIC judgment.

URL: <http://www.firstpost.com/politics/political-parties-under-rti-welcome-move-or-terrible-idea-846859.html>

XI. Political parties under RTI: Why the CIC's decision doesn't do much

Arun George | First Post
June 06, 2013

The piece looks at how the creation of another power centre may watch over political parties and the disclosure of funding options, but may not be able to change their decision making or functioning.

URL:<http://www.firstpost.com/politics/political-parties-under-rti-why-the-cics-decision-doesnt-do-much-846651.html>

XII. Politics in the time of sunshine

Ruchi Gupta | The Hindu
June 07, 2013

The author differentiates between political and legal accountability, mechanisms to achieve both, the reasons why CIC has proclaimed political parties to be public authorities and why accountability of political parties through RTI may not be ideal outside financial transparency.

URL:<http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/politics-in-the-time-of-sunshine/article4788480.ece>

XIII. RTI is the biggest threat to democracy

G. Sampath | Live mint
June 07, 2013

In this sarcastic piece, the author quotes various politicians and their responses to the CIC judgment, finally claiming that in a democracy like ours, 'transparency and accountability are strictly for the common man, just as privacy and secrecy are strictly for the state, corporate's, and allied public and private institutions'.

URL:<http://www.livemint.com/Opinion/jmFZRpwL5seSDs1GPx8qHO/RTI-is-the-biggest-threat-to-democracy.html>

XIV. Where parties get their money from

Samuel Issacharoff | The Indian Express
June 07, 2013

This piece looks at how the two models of political parties are in tension. On the one hand, they are part of the state administrative process, and on the other, they claim privileged autonomy from the state. What reasons lead to such a situation? And does the CIC judgment absolve this tension?

URL:<http://www.indianexpress.com/news/where-parties-get-their-money-from/1126071/1>

XV. For more aware citizens, more accountable parties

Shailesh Gandhi | The Indian Express
June 08, 2013

The former Central Information Commissioner clarifies that the RTI judgment will not give the Information Commission more power over political parties and will only be involved when and if there is a dispute between the PIO and the citizen on information provision. This is based on the recent CIC order that brought six political parties under the RTI Act and expressed that these political parties will now be accountable to the commission as public authorities.

URL:<http://www.indianexpress.com/news/for-more-aware-citizens-more-accountable-parties/1126494/>

XVI. A flawed order, difficult to implement

M.M Ansari | The Indian Express
June 08, 2013

The author focuses on reasons that negate the argument brought out by the CIC order.

URL:<http://www.indianexpress.com/news/a-flawed-order-difficult-to-implement/1126496/>

XVII. Exaggerated fear and expectations: Jayaprakash Narayan

Veenu Sandhu | Business Standard
June 08, 2013

The author speaks with Jayaprakash Narayan, founder of Lok Satta party and a member of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly, on the ramifications of the CIC decision.

URL: http://www.business-standard.com/article/politics/exaggerated-fear-and-expectations-jayaprakash-narayan-113060800577_1.html

XVIII. Politics under RTI spells chaos

Ashish Tripathi | Deccan Herald,

The author focuses on specific tenets of the CIC judgment and the arguments that are glaringly against it. Would extending this type of transparency law dilute the accountability process?

URL: <http://www.deccanherald.com/content/337543/politics-rti-spells-chaos.html>

XIX. पार्टियों को छूट के लिए नहीं बदलेगा सूचना का अधिकार कानून

Jagran Post
June 09, 2013

On the bringing in of political parties into the RTI fold.

URL: <http://www.jagran.com/news/national-no-change-in-right-of-information-act-for-political-parties-10463671.html>

XX. Who is afraid of RTI?

Kuruvilla John | Deccan Chronicle
June 10, 2013

The author provides a personal opinion on the right of the public to know who gives what to whom, for what reason, and how it is spent.

URL: <http://www.deccanchronicle.com/130610/commentary-op-ed/article/who-afraid-rti>

XXI. No RTI please, we are political parties

S. Murlidharan | Business Line
June 11, 2013

This article looks at the problems of definition inherent in the RTI judgment. Additionally, it asks whether RTI is the solution for the disclosure of funding sources within political parties.

URL: <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/columns/s-murlidharan/no-rti-please-we-are-political-parties/article4804273.ece?homepage=true>