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TODAY'S IMPORTANT CURRENT AFFAIRS

UPSC PRELIMS

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TODAY'S DROPS OF NEWS:

<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>IN NEWS</u>
POLITY	Despite issues, online RTI queries may cross one million in 2025.
ECONOMY	---
GEOGRAPHY	---
HISTORY AND ART & CULTURE	---
ENVIRONMENT	---
SCIENCE & TECH	---
MISCELLANEOUS	---

POLITY

In news: Despite issues, online RTI queries may cross one million in 2025.

RTI Act, 2005:

- The Right to Information (RTI) Act of 2005 is a crucial mechanism for ensuring transparency and accountability in governance.

- It empowers the citizens of India to seek information from public authorities and strengthens the foundational principles of democracy to ensuring transparency, accountability, and good governance in public administration. Right To Information is derived from the fundamental right of freedom of speech and expression under Article 19 of the Constitution.
- If we do not have information on how our Government and Public Institutions function, we cannot express any informed opinion on it.

Exempted Information:

Sections 8(1) and 9 outline the types of information that cannot be disclosed.

However, Sub-section 8(2) permits disclosure if the public interest outweighs the harm to protected interests.

Sub-section 8(3) indicates that most exemptions cease to exist 20 years after the incident occurs, except in specific cases.

- **National Security and Sovereignty Concerns:** Information that affects India's sovereignty, security, strategic interests, and relations with foreign countries.
- **Parliamentary and Legislative Privilege:** Information that breaches the privilege of Parliament or State Legislature.
- **Cabinet Papers:** Cabinet deliberations, including discussions of the Council of Ministers, Secretaries, and senior officers, remain protected under the RTI provisions.

Section 8 (1) mentions exemptions against furnishing information under RTI Act.

Section 8 (2) provides for disclosure of information exempted under Official Secrets Act, 1923 if larger public interest is served.

MENTOR

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