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Prelims PYQ, Mains model answers, and copy evaluation. Write to the desk for this paper, a doubt, or the AI waitlist.

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Q12

Case study. You are a Public Information Officer (PIO) in a government department. You are aware that the RTI Act 2005 envisages transparency and accountability in administration. The act has functioned as a check on the supposedly arbitrarily administrative behaviour and actions. However, as a PIO you have observed that there are citizens who filed RTI applications not for themselves but on behalf of such stakeholders who purportedly want to have access to information to further their own interests. At the same time there are these RTI activists who routinely file RTI applications and attempt to extort money from the decision makers. This type of RTI activism has affected the functioning of the administration adversely and also possibly jeopardises the genuineness of the applications which are essentially aimed at getting justice. What measures would you suggest to separate genuine and non-genuine applications? Give merits and demerits of your suggestions.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2017 · GS IV · 20 marks · Ethics Case Studies

Case Studies on above issues.

Facts & figures for this PYQ only.

Numbers move. Confirm the latest Budget, Economic Survey or census round. This sheet is for revision, not a substitute for the model answer.

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Right to Information Act, 2005

Gives a right to information without requiring the applicant to state a reason, subject to listed exemptions and procedure.

Section 4, RTI Act

Suo motu disclosure duties that shrink both genuine repeat asking and the tout's photocopy market.

Section 8, RTI Act

Exemptions including sovereignty, commercial confidence and privacy; the lawful filter, if not stretched into a blanket no.

Section 11, RTI Act

Third-party notice when disclosure may affect that party's interests, useful in commercially motivated asks.

Extortion under criminal law

A demand for money under threat is a crime whether or not an RTI application was the theatre; it is not a special RTI offence that the PIO 'rejects'.

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