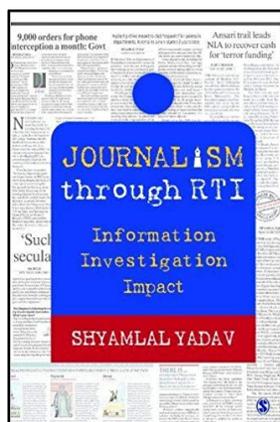


BOOK REVIEW

Journalism through RTI: Information, Investigation, Impact

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Right to information (RTI) is emerging as a new tool for journalistic and investigative writings. RTI came into effect on 12 October 2005 in India in the regime of former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh after the pressure and movements by many activists. It is an act through which any

citizen of India can ask information from the Government of India, State Government or local administrators and Government is bound to provide the information through the appointed information officers in the time as mentioned in the act. There are provisions of the fine also for non-compliance. This book **Journalism through RTI: Information, Investigation, Impact** is a pioneering effort of **Shyamlal Yadav, Senior Editor of 'The Indian Express'**. He also conferred prestigious **Ramnath Goenka Award for his Journalistic Contributions**. This book provides the historical shreds of evidence about the RTI and also tells that many countries of the world are having similar Act. Sweden was the first country adopted this type of act in 1766. This book explains the potential of the RTI in India: to connect investigative journalism with critical issues of transparency and accountability in democratic governance.

Through his own experiences the author unravels how news was collected through persistent efforts using RTI, this book offers answers to the challenges people face, as the author has been reporting stories using RTI over a decade. He wrote how Indian Journalists are using RTI as a

source of investigative stories. He tried to tell readers about the power of RTI by discussing some case studies in which he succeeded in exposing the corruption among ministers, bureaucrats, and other officials. He explained how he filed 59 RTI applications to know about the power of RTI Provisions.

This book is divided into 11 chapters, in which author explained the stories based on the information that within a span of two years after 2009, the ministers of the UPA government had made more than 600 trips abroad. This story made a great impact and government brought significant changes in the system. After exposing the ministers, he filed RTI applications against civil servants, which revealed that the bureaucrats were misusing the trips that were allocated to the persons concerned. In addition, it also revealed the fact that a significant number of ministers did not declare their assets in public domain. Another big story which came to the light was that there were administrative officers who had been on leave for more than five years but had not been suspended or dismissed. Yadav also succeeded in revealing the corruption among the ministers responsible for cleaning rivers as well as among the NGOs that used to take grants from government and fill their own pockets. This book has all the facts that a person might want to know about RTI (Right to Information).

This book a complete work for those who want to understand the journalistic attribute of the RTI, it will certainly help the reader to know the bottom of the law and it must be used as a reference book for the investigative journalism, RTI and data journalism in all the media schools-institutes of India. This book is now available in three languages English, Hindi, and Marathi and published by SAGE Publications Pvt. Ltd.
