



## News Analysis (14 Nov, 2019)

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### CJI under the RTI Act

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#### Why in News

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The **Supreme Court** has ruled that the office of the **Chief Justice of India (CJI) is a public authority** under the **Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005**.

A **five-judge Constitution Bench** headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi gave the ruling.

#### Highlights of the Ruling

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- The Supreme Court is a “public authority” and the office of the CJI is part and parcel of the institution. Hence, if the Supreme Court is a public authority, so is the office of the CJI.
  - The judiciary cannot function in total insulation as judges enjoy a constitutional post and discharge public duty.
- However, **Right to Privacy is an important aspect and has to be balanced with transparency** while deciding to give out information from the office of the Chief Justice of India.
  - RTI cannot be used as a tool of surveillance** and that judicial independence has to be kept in mind while dealing with transparency.
- On the issue related to the appointment of judges, the Supreme Court held that only the **names of the judges recommended by the Collegium for appointment can be disclosed**, not the reasons.

#### Outcome of the Ruling

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- The office of the CJI will **now entertain RTI applications**.

- Under the RTI Act, 2005, every public authority has to provide information to persons requesting for the information under the Act.
  - **Public Authority** includes the body constituted by or under the Constitution. **Article 124** of the Constitution deals with the establishment of the Supreme Court of India.
  - **Information includes** any material in any form, including records, documents, memos, e-mails, etc.
- The Ruling is **an example for other bodies** such as political parties, number of schools, trusts and public-private partnerships who resist categorisation as public authorities under the Act.
- However, it has been seen that **Offices** such as those of the Prime Minister and the President which are public authorities under the RTI Act **have often denied information** quoting separate observations by the Supreme Court.
 

For instance, in 2011, the Supreme Court observed that:

  - Officials need to furnish only such information which already exists and is held by the public authority and not collate or create information, that is
  - The nation does not want a scenario where 75% of the staff of public authorities spends 75% of their time in collecting and furnishing information to applicants instead of discharging their regular duties.

**Note:** The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is **out of the purview of the RTI Act**. It was granted exemption in 2011.

**Source: TH**

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## World Diabetes Day 2019

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### Why in News

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The World Health Organisation (WHO) has launched an initiative to expand access to affordable insulin on the occasion of **World Diabetes Day (14<sup>th</sup> November)**.

- This year's theme for World Diabetes Day is **"Family and Diabetes"**.
- **14<sup>th</sup> November** marks the **birthday of Sir Frederick Banting**, who **co-discovered insulin** along with Charles Best in **1922**.

### Key Points

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- **The burden of disease:**
  - More than **420 million people worldwide** affected **by diabetes**.
  - **China** has the **highest** number of patients (11.43 cr.) followed by **India** (7.29 cr.) in **2017**.
- **Issues related to treatment:**
  - High costs of insulin
  - Insufficient essential medicines and technologies
- **Steps taken by Government of India:**
  - **India's National Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) Target** is to prevent the rise in obesity and diabetes prevalence.
  - **National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancers, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS) in 2010** to provide support for diagnosis and cost-effective treatment at various levels of health care.

## Diabetes

Diabetes is a **Non-Communicable Disease (NCD)** that occurs either when the pancreas does **not produce** enough **insulin** (a hormone that regulates blood sugar, or glucose), or when the body cannot effectively use the insulin it produces.

- Types
  - **Type I diabetes:** It is also known as juvenile diabetes (as it mostly affects children of age 14-16 years), this type occurs when the body fails to produce sufficient insulin. People with type I diabetes are insulin-dependent, which means they must take artificial insulin daily to stay alive.
  - **Type 2 diabetes:** It affects the way the body uses insulin. While the body still makes insulin, unlike in type I, the cells in the body do not respond to it as effectively as they once did.
    - The population with **45 and above age group is the most affected with it.**
    - This is the **most common type of diabetes** and it has strong links with obesity.
  - **Gestational diabetes:** This type occurs in women during pregnancy when the body sometimes becomes less sensitive to insulin. Gestational diabetes does not occur in all women and usually resolves after giving birth.
- Diabetes affects the five major organs namely, **Kidney, Heart, Blood vessels, Nervous System, and Eyes (retina).**
- The **factors** responsible for the **increase in diabetes** are an unhealthy diet, lack of physical activity, harmful use of alcohol, overweight/obesity, tobacco use, etc.

**Source: TH**