

The right to be forgotten proposed in the Data Protection Bill poses a severe threat to Right to Information (RTI) & freedom of press. [Discuss.]

The right to be forgotten under the proposed Data Protection Bill allows an individual to prevent continuous disclosure of personal data under certain conditions.

This right has ~~been~~ come as an addition to Article 21 of Indian Constitution expressing personal liberty. It shall give more teeth to IT Act which enables removal of revenge obscene content. It will help false convicts remove ~~their~~ any misinformation regarding themselves.

But in the garb of a good move, it can pose a threat to RTI & freedom of press. RTI which has been a sacrosanct regime so far, can now deny any citizen of information regarding any corrupt public servant who invoked right to be forgotten.

Constitutionally under Article 19 where freedom of press is guaranteed, the right to be forgotten clause will bring pre-publication censure which was absent earlier, barring the grounds of defamation.

In the present age where more & more data are stored digitally than manually, the role of internet archives websites is unclear with this right to ^{be forgotten} ~~privacy~~. These websites can undo the threat to RTI & freedom of press as believed.

The right to be forgotten under European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is stricter yet citizen friendly as it doesn't involve a separate ~~Data~~ bureaucratic authority to regulate the provisions, unlike in India ~~where~~ ~~the~~ where the ~~the~~ adjudicating as well as the appellate authority is a bureaucrat. This may arise a threat to RTI & freedom of press.

In a country like India where information is the key to hold government accountable, we need to strike a ~~the~~ balance between right to be forgotten, right to information, freedom of press.