

# RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT (RTI)

## **Objective and Purpose:**

The RTI Act, 2005 was enacted with the objective of providing citizens of India access to information held by public authorities. It aims to promote transparency, accountability, and good governance by empowering citizens to obtain information about government activities.

**Public Authorities:** The Act covers all government departments, ministries, and public sector organizations at the central, state, and local levels. It also includes non-governmental organizations receiving government funds. b. Information: "Information" is defined broadly and includes records, documents, memos, emails, opinions, press releases, circulars, orders, contracts, reports, data in electronic form, and information related to private bodies accessible to public authorities under any other law. c. Records: "Records" refer to documents, manuscripts, files, microfilms, facsimile copies, reproductions of images, and material produced by computers or other devices.

**Right to Information:** Every citizen has the right to access information under the control of public authorities. This includes the right to inspect documents, take notes or extracts, obtain certified copies, take samples, and receive information in electronic form.

**Application Process:** To obtain information, a citizen needs to submit a written or electronic application to the designated Public Information Officer (PIO) of the relevant public authority. The application fee is paid in form of Demand Draft, Banker's Cheque, On Demand Pay or Postal Order in favour of Principal, S. Govt. College of Science Education & Research, Jagraon to the tune of Rs. 10/- per application.

**Fees and Costs:** The Act allows for the payment of a nominal fee for processing the request. Apart from the application fee, additional charges may apply for providing the information, such as Rs. 2/- per page or the actual cost of copies, samples, or electronic records.

**Timeframe:** The PIO must respond to the application within 30 days of receiving it. In cases involving the life or liberty of a person, the response time is reduced to 48 hours. If the information requested concerns a third party, the PIO must give written notice to that party and consider their views before disclosing the information.

**Exceptions and Exemptions:** While the Act promotes transparency, it also recognizes certain exemptions to the right to information. Some of the exempted categories include information that may harm national security, breach personal privacy, impede ongoing investigations, or endanger the life or physical safety of any person. However, these exemptions are subject to a public interest test, and information may still be disclosed if it is in the larger public interest.

**Appeals and Complaints:** If an applicant is not satisfied with the response received from the PIO or if the request is denied, they can file an appeal with the designated First Appellate Authority (FAA) within 30 days. The complete applications may be submitted to the office of the Principal, Sanmati Government College of Science Education and Research, Jagraon. The Information Commissions have the power to receive complaints, conduct inquiries, impose penalties, and issue directives.

**Penalties:** The Act includes penalties and disciplinary actions against public officials who fail to provide information or intentionally provide false or misleading information. Penalties may include fines, disciplinary proceedings, or imprisonment in certain cases.

**Whistleblower Protection:** The Act provides protection to whistleblowers that expose corruption or wrongdoing. It prohibits the imposition of any penalty, victimization, or harassment against individuals who file RTI applications or provide information under the Act.

The Right to Information Act, 2005 has significantly contributed to promoting transparency, accountability, and citizen participation in India's governance. It has empowered individuals to access information and hold public authorities accountable for their actions, thereby strengthening democracy and combating corruption.

Name of the College and Address	Sanmati Government. College Of Science Education and Research, Raikot Road Jagraon (Ludhiana)142026
Name of PIO, Full Postal Address, Phone Number and E-mail address	Mrs. Nidhi Mahajan, Assistant Professor  Sanmati Government College of Science Education and Research, Jagraon-142026  Phone No. 94172-65126  Email: gcsciencejagraon@gmail.com
Name of First Appellate Authority, Full Postal Address, Phone Number and E-mail address	Mrs. Kirpal Kaur, Director  Sanmati Government College of Science Education and Research, Jagraon-142026  Phone No. 81465-38061  Email: gcsciencejagraon@gmail.com