

## Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005 — Brief Note

The Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005 was enacted by the Government of India to promote transparency and accountability in public offices. It empowers Indian citizens to request information from any public authority, which is required to respond within a fixed time frame.

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### Key Features:

**Objective:** Promote transparency and accountability in the functioning of public authorities.

**Coverage:** Applies to all public authorities including government departments, public sector units, and bodies substantially funded by the government.

**Information Access:** Citizens can seek any information related to governance, decision-making, administration, and public funds (with exceptions like national security and personal privacy under Section 8).

**Time Limit:** Information must be provided within 30 days; in cases concerning life and liberty, within 48 hours.

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### RTI in Technical Education Department, Haryana:

The Technical Education Department, Haryana is also covered under the RTI Act, 2005. Citizens can seek information regarding policies, recruitment, tenders, budgets, and administrative decisions relating to polytechnics, engineering colleges, and technical institutes in the state.

### Key Officers under RTI:

#### 1. Public Information Officer (PIO):

Responsible for receiving RTI applications and providing information.

Typically, this role is held by a designated officer in each technical institute or the Directorate.

#### 2. Assistant Public Information Officer (APIO):

Assists the PIO in forwarding applications and appeals to the concerned officer.

### 3. First Appellate Authority (FAA):

Generally, the Head of the Institution (Principal/Director) or a Senior Officer in the Directorate.

Handles appeals if an applicant is unsatisfied with the PIO's reply or if no reply is received.

### 4. State Information Commission (SIC), Haryana:

If the applicant is still not satisfied, a second appeal can be made to the Haryana State Information Commission, which is the final appellate body at the state level.

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### How to Apply:

Submit a written application (or online where available) along with the prescribed fee to the PIO of the concerned institution or office.

The application should be clear and specific regarding the information sought.