

**PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION**  
Red Cross Building, Near Rose Garden, Sector 16, Chandigarh.  
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**Sh. Bhupinder Singh, (9814073663)**

S/o Sh. Sulakhan Singh,  
R/o Dera Baba Nanak,  
Distt Gurdaspur.

.....Appellant/Complainant

**Versus**

**Public Information Officer**

O/o SDM, Dera Baba Nanak,  
Distt Gurdaspur.

.....Respondent

**First Appellate Authority**

O/o Deputy Commissioner,  
Gurdaspur.

**Appeal Case No. 64 of 2021**

Present: Appellant: Sh. Bhupinder Singh

Respondent: Absent

**(To be read in the continuity with earlier order dated 15.02.2021)**

**ORDER: Today's (second) Hearing**

1. Appellant, Sh. Bhupinder Singh referred to his RTI application dated 13.08.2020 and stated that no information has been provided to him by the respondent till date.
2. **The respondent PIO is absent without any intimation for the second time in succession.**
3. **Viewing the absence and non-implementation of the order of the commission O/o, SDM, Dera Baba Nanak, Distt. Gurdaspur, seriously, the PIO(by name) is thus issued a SHOW CAUSE NOTICE (u/s 20 of the RTI Act 2005) in writing the reason for not appearing before the Commission and for not furnishing information to the appellant, within the stipulated time period from the date of receipt of this order. A final opportunity is given to respondent PIO to submit a written reply and to be present the case **IN PERSON on next date of hearing**, before initiation of penal proceedings against him/her.**
4. To come up on **05.05.2021** through personal hearing at PSIC Chandigarh, **11:30 AM**

**Chandigarh**  
**Dated: 17.03.2021**  
**Commissioner**

**Sd/-**  
**(Maninder Singh Patti)**  
**State Information**



**Sh. Akash Verma, (9501125474)**

# 80, New Officer Colony,  
Stadium Road, Patiala-147001.

.....Appellant/Complainant

**Versus**

**Public Information Officer**

O/o Thapar Institute of Engineering & Technology,  
Patiala.

.....Respondent

**First Appellate Authority**

O/o Thapar Institute of Engineering & Technology,  
Patiala.

**Appeal Case No. 129 of 2021**

Present: Appellant: Sh. Akash Verma

Respondent: Ld. Adv. Rajat Khanna, (counsel for the respondent) 9855555154

**ORDER**

**1. This order may read with reference to previous order dated 15.02.2021 vide which the respondent authority was directed to provide a clear and specific information to the Appellant. The appellant had filed RTI application 22.10.2020 seeking information pertaining to availability of infrastructure and other related information to it. Accordingly, the case is fixed for today.**

**2. Today's (Second) Hearing:** Both parties are present. The respondent made a written submission in the Commission dated 25.02.2021 vide diary no.4381. The appellant on the other hand submitted a rejoinder to the stand taken by the respondents. A copy was also handed to respondents.

**3. As regards the question as to whether the denial of information could be held to be justified, it would be important to refer to the grounds taken by the respondent authority in this case, which may be summarised as under:**

- that due to Covid 19 pandemic the delay has been occurred.  
(supported his stand with annexure of press cuttings reporting on Thapar University turns into Covid hotspot, 38 infected in three days)

**4. As regards, the ground taken by the respondent authority, the Commission expressed its displeasure on the casual and callous approach adopted by the respondent in responding to the RTI application. It was felt that the conduct of respondent was against the spirit of the RTI Act, 2005 which was enacted to ensure greater transparency and effective access to the information on time.**

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**Appeal Case No. 129 of 2021**

- 5. Post Deliberation:** Based on above, Ld. Adv. Rajat Khanna, pleaded for adjournment in Appeal case to consult the client (i.e. Thapar Institute of Engineering & Technology) before providing the information and submitting a considered response.
- 6. In view of the respondent arguments and plea for the short adjournment, the Commission grants another opportunity** to respondent authority to present the case on next date of hearing positively with the direction to supply the clear and specific information/reply to the appellant, falling to which the penalty provisions will be invoked **under Section 20(1) of the RTI Act, 2005.**
- 7. To come up on 06.04.2021** through personal hearing at PSIC Chandigarh, **11:30 AM**

Chandigarh  
Dated: 17.03.2021  
Commissioner

Sd/-  
(Maninder Singh Patti)  
State Information