

## PRESS NOTE

### **Punjab Information Commission launches Online Course on RTI Act**

*Certificate course is the first of its kind initiative in the Country*

CHANDIGARH, September 11:

The Punjab State Information Commission (PSIC) in association with the Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Patiala have launched a one-of-a-kind initiative in the form of an Online Certificate Course on the Right to Information Act, 2005. Steered under the guidance of the Chief Information Commissioner, all State Information Commissioners and the Vice Chancellor, RGNUL, the new course offers prospective candidates three, successively advanced modules to earn Digital Certificates, jointly conferred by PSIC and RGNUL.

The unique online course, which is available to prospective users in Punjabi, Hindi and English, is based on software specially developed by Veritos Infosolutions Pvt. Ltd, a Mohali-based infotech company, which has also been retained post-launch technical operations including tech-support. The course is free of cost and can be publicly accessed on [www.punjabrticertification.com](http://www.punjabrticertification.com).

The objective of the Online Certificate Course is to create awareness about the provisions of RTI Act and better equip users with the processes of seeking information from public authorities, while also enabling the public authorities achieve more efficient and timely disbursement of information sought by citizens.

This Online Certificate Course also aims at explaining the strategy for operationalising the Right to Information Act. The course further aims to sensitize the Public Information Officers as well as First Appellate Authorities. A recommendation will also be made to the Government to ensure all the existing and future Public Information Officers as well as First Appellate Authorities, be asked to take this course.

The Right to Information Act, which was enacted in 2005, allows individuals to access information held by public authorities. Therefore, learning about RTI Act, is essential for fostering an informed and accountable society and thereby contributes to more just and effective governance. The course is being launched keeping this perspective in mind. The course is free of cost and an online certificate would be issued to all candidates who successfully complete all the three modules of the new course.

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