



# Pending Cases at Haryana State Information Commission

## Why in News?

According to a [Right to Information \(RTI\)](#) reply, the Haryana State Information Commission is handling a **backlog of over 7,000 appeal cases**. Authorities have yet to recover Rs 2.84 crore, as the penalty imposed on State Public Information Officers (SPIOs) for **delays in providing information**.

## Key Points

- **Pending Appeal Cases:**
  - It was revealed that **8,340 appeal cases were pending** before the Chief Information Commissioner and seven State Information Commissioners in January 2024.
  - **By December 2024**, the number decreased to 7,216, with **only around 1,000 cases resolved in a year**.
- **Limited Awareness Campaigns:**
  - According to the RTI reply, **only five workshops have been conducted since 2005**, with 896 participants, the last of which was held in Panchkula in 2011.
- **Penalty and Recovery Details:**
  - Over the last 20 years, the Commission imposed Rs 5.86 crore in penalties across 3,611 cases for delays in providing information.
    - However, only Rs 2.84 crore has been recovered so far.
  - The Commission has awarded Rs 92 lakh in compensation across 1,974 cases for the failure to provide information in a timely manner.

## The Right to Information (RTI) Act

- **About:**
  - The Right to Information Act 2005 mandates timely response to citizen requests for government information.
  - The basic object of the Right to Information Act is to empower the citizens, **promote transparency and accountability** in the working of the Government, contain corruption, and make our democracy work for the people in a real sense.
- **Right to Information (Amendment) Act, 2019:**
  - It provided that the **Chief Information Commissioner and an Information Commissioner** (of Centre as well as States) shall hold office for such term as prescribed by the Central Government. Before this amendment, their term was fixed for 5 years.
  - It provided that the **salary, allowances and other service conditions of the Chief Information Commissioner and an Information Commissioner** (of Centre as well as States) shall be such as prescribed by the Central Government.
  - It removed the provisions regarding deductions in salary of the Chief Information Commissioner, an Information Commissioner, the State Chief Information Commissioner and a State Information Commissioner due to pension or any other retirement benefits received by them for their previous government service.
  - The [RTI \(Amendment\) Act, 2019](#) was **criticized on grounds of diluting the law** and giving more powers to the central government.

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