

One Day Awareness Workshop on RTI Act-2005

Conducted by

RTI Cell, NIT Hamirpur (HP)

on

24th April, 2026

Right to Information is a fundamental right under Article 19(1)(a) of our constitution ushered on every Citizen of India. Right To Information (RTI) Act 2005 was passed on June 15, 2005. It envisaged to be an effective tool designed to enhance transparency and accountability in all operations of all public authorities by allowing citizens to obtain information that is held by or under the control of these public authorities.

To raise awareness, familiarize, educate and share various objectives and provisions under the RTI 2005 Act for all categories of stakeholders, **a one Day Workshop on “Right to Information Act-2005 Awareness”** was organized at NIT Hamirpur on 24/4/2026. The pertinent perspective of the same has been spreading key information amongst all the interested officials i.e. Faculty, Staff, & UG, PG and PhD Scholars of NIT Hamirpur by inviting Experts from outside and within NIT Hamirpur.



Chief Guest Prof. H.M. Suryawansi-Director NIT Hamirpur, Dignitaries, Organizers and Participants during lamp lighting marking inauguration of the RTI Workshop.



Prof. H.M. Suryawanshi-Director NIT Hamirpur, Dignitaries, Organizers and Participants during lamp lighting in inaugural session of the RTI Workshop.

The Central Public Information Officer (CPIO) Dr. R. K. Jarial, welcomed all the participants and the dignitaries namely, Prof. H M Suryawanshi, Hon'ble Director NIT Hamirpur – The Chief Guest, Prof. Anoop Kumar – the First Appellate Authority, Prof. Rajeevan Chandel – Transparency Officer, Deans & Heads for their kind support in organising the Workshop. He initiated the workshop with brief introductory remarks and highlighted the main aim of the event.

Prof. Rajeevan Chandel, Transparency Officer, NIT Hamirpur, welcomed everyone present and initiated the inaugural session with Lamp - lighting proceedings, amidst chanting of Saraswati Vandana by NIT Hamirpur students.



CPIO - Dr. R.K. Jarial addressing the RTI Workshop Guests, participants and Attendees.

Prof. H M Suryawanshi, Hon'ble Director NIT Hamirpur, the Chief Guest of the One Day workshop, stressed RTI Act 2005 as an important act synergising key pivotal roles amongst Public Authorities and other local Bodies for empowering Citizens and stakeholders while ensuring sincerity, honesty and integrity. It has proved beyond doubt that this ACT promotes Transparency and Accountability in the working of every Public Authority, ensuring access to information to citizens. It is imperative to make government agencies accountable for preventing corruption and focus on national endeavour within the constitutional framework.



Prof. H.M. Suryawanshi, Chief Guest, addressing the RTI Workshop Guests, Faculty, Staff, Students, Delegates, Participants and the organizers.

Prof. Anoop Kumar - the First Appellate Authority delivered the Inaugural Talk and apprised workshop delegates about the broader perspective of RTI Act-2005. He emphasized on the roles and responsibilities of an RTI Appellate Authority.

Prof. Anoop very aptly covered the gist of the various aspects of First Appellate Authority along with several suggestions to everyone associated with RTI Cell and its constitutional responsibility in national interest.



Prof. Anoop Kumar, FAA, delivering his talk to the RTI Workshop Guests, participants and Attendees.

Prof. Rajeevan Chandel introduced the Expert Speaker Sh. Ravinder Kumar, Joint Registrar, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Ropar (Rupnagar), Punjab to the delegates and participants of the Workshop.



Dr. R.K. Jarial felicitating Sh. Ravinder Kumar from IIT Ropar - the Expert for the RTI Workshop.



Participants during the session in the RTI Workshop by Expert Sh. Ravinder Kumar, IIT Rupnagar Pb.

Sh. Ravinder Kumar, Joint Registrar, IIT Ropar, shared a very detailed operational view of RTI Act 2005 starting from its inception. He supported the very cause of promoting transparency and accountability in right spirit and proactiveness tool for discharging honest governance to stakeholders with positive attitude and willingness to encourage information seeker.

He talked about RTI Act 2005 and deliberated in depth on the following aspects namely, Objectives, Coverage, Access to Information, Exemptions, Response Timelines and Penal Provisions.



Sh. Ravinder Kumar, Joint Registrar, IIT Ropar, during his session on RTI Act 2005.

He further discussed, the RTI Process, the important Exemptions – Section 8(1), and the Significance of RTI Act 2005. The various Amendments and issues with Recent Amendment Section 44(3) of DPDP Act, 2023 were also taken up. The current challenges to the RTI Framework were pointed out as follows:

Challenge	Details
Backlog	Over 3 lakh appeals pending
Dilution of Autonomy	RTI (Amendment) Act 2019 gave the Centre power to decide tenure and salaries of CIC/SICs.
Opaque Governance	Officers' transfers, disciplinary records, assets can now be withheld
Threat to Activists	No functional whistleblower protection
Non-compliance	45% of public authorities failed Section 4 disclosures
Low Awareness	Especially among rural ,
Misuse and Vagueness	Vague RTIs or misuse by vested interests increases administrative burden.

He concluded his session with the remarks that,

- RTI is a powerful accountability mechanism.
- Recent amendments shift focus toward privacy.
- Future depends on balancing transparency and data protection.



Memento being given to Sh. Ravinder Kumar, Joint Registrar, IIT Ropar, for conducting his session on RTI Act 2005.

Prof. Rajeevan Chandel – The Transparency Officer took up the afternoon session. She delivered a very enlightening and thought-provoking Expert Lecture concerning another important pillar of Institutional Transparent Governance segment of RTI Act 2005 concerning Section 4(1) on mandate of voluntary Suo-Moto disclosure of the information by each public entity.



Prof. Rajeevan Chandel- Transparency Officer NIT Hamirpur (HP), taking the Session in the RTI Workshop.

The expert lecture cum session by Prof. Chandel was quite participatory, interactive and lively. The participants contributed and shared their views concerning doubts as well as impressions of having received glimpses of several attributes in a very convincing and satisfactory manner. The participants responded proactively to the Quiz and Brain-storming Sessions on RTI conducted by Prof. Rajeevan Chandel.



Session conducted by the Transparency Officer NIT Hamirpur in the RTI Workshop.



A glimpse of the session contents, delivered by Prof. Rajeevan Chandel, Transparency Officer (TO), NIT Hamirpur.



Participants attending the RTI Workshop Session.

All the participants enjoyed the details of RTI Act 2005 and raised several queries which made the session very interesting and lively. Several real time situations were cited wherein response of RTI cell authorities including CPIO, APIO, Appellate Authority and Central Information Commission were discussed. The participants were given an opportunity to give their honest feedback at the end of session.

Participation certificates were provided in the concluding valedictory session. The participants were much satisfied.

RTI Cell NIT Hamirpur shall continue its efforts in the national endeavour, contributing sincerely and honestly in the best possible manner for VIKSIT BHARAT@2047 for achieving National Integration Goal.



Feedback by Prof. Ashwani Kumar Dean cum Participant of the RTI Workshop



Glimpses of the Participants and Organizers after the Feedback Session on 24/4/2026 of the Workshop on RTI Act 2005 Awareness at NIT Hamirpur