INDIAN POLITY 29 September 2026

TN G.O. Exempting Public Department from RTI Purview Sparks Controversy

The Tamil Nadu government issued a Government Order exempting the Public (Law and Order) Department from the purview of the RTI Act, 2005.

An administrative order invoking Section 24(4) of the RTI Act to classify the Public (Law and Order) Department as an exempted security organisation.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- On **September 21, 2026**, the Tamil Nadu government issued a Government Order (G.O.) to exempt the Public (Law and Order) Department from the **RTI Act**.
- The state government exercised its powers under **Section 24(4)** of the **Right to Information Act, 2005**.
- Under this G.O., the Public Department was notified as an "**intelligence and security organisation**" to which the Act shall not apply.
- The G.O. surfaced in the public domain on **September 27, 2026**, leading to widespread protests by transparency activists.

DID YOU KNOW..!?

The Right to Information (**RTI**) Act, 2005 was enacted by the Indian Parliament and came into force on **October 12, 2005**.

Section 24 of the RTI Act, 2005 provides exemptions to certain intelligence and security organisations established by the Central and State governments.

Section 24(4) specifically empowers State Governments to exclude state-level intelligence and security agencies from the purview of the Act.

Even exempted organisations under Section 24 must provide information if the query relates to allegations of **corruption** and **human rights violations**.

In cases of human rights violations, information can be disclosed only after the approval of the **State Information Commission** within **45 days**.

The Tamil Nadu State Information Commission (**TNSIC**) was established in **October 2005** under **Section 15** of the RTI Act, 2005.

REVISION FLASHCARD

Section 24(4) of the RTI Act, 2005 empowers State Governments to exempt intelligence and security organisations from disclosures.

Syllabus Relevance: High relevance for Unit 5 (Polity - RTI Act) and Unit 9 (Tamil Nadu Administration).

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