

## Bailable warrant out against info official deputed at Fazilka RTO

HT Correspondent

letterschd@hindustantimes.com

**MOHALI:** The Punjab State Information Commission has issued a bailable warrant against the public information officer of the Regional Transport Office in Fazilka, Veerpal Kaur, directing her to appear before the commission on March 18.

The warrant has been issued in the case of complainant Manjinder Singh versus public information officer (PIOs) of Faridkot and Fazilka Regional Transport Offices (RTOs). The commission noted that the respondent PIO of Fazilka had failed to appear despite repeated notices and directions in the above-mentioned appeal case.

As per the warrant, the PIO has been directed to appear before state information com-

**VEERPAL KAUR HAS BEEN DIRECTED HER TO APPEAR BEFORE THE COMMISSION ON MARCH 18**

missioner Pooja Gupta in Chandigarh. She has also been instructed to submit written submissions regarding the commission's earlier orders.

During a recent hearing, the respondent PIO of Faridkot RTO was represented by a data entry operator, who stated that the officer was unable to attend due to medical emergency. The commission granted one final opportunity to the appellant to examine the information and report any deficiencies within 15 days of

receiving the order, with intimation to the commission. The respondent was directed to rectify any shortcomings before the next hearing. The commission took serious note of the absence of Veerpal Kaur, formerly posted at RTO Faridkot and presently serving at RTO Fazilka.

A show-cause notice had been issued to her to appear personally and submit a compliance report in response to the commission's order, dated September 27, 2023. Despite this, she neither appeared before the commission nor submitted any written reply. The commission observed that her continued absence and lack of response reflected a casual approach towards its orders. Taking a serious view of the non-compliance, the commission ordered the issuance of a bailable warrant.

## Info panel issues warrant against PCS officer for non-compliance

**Next Hearing  
On March 18**

Vinod.Kumar3  
@timesofindia.com

**Chandigarh:** In a rare instance of punitive action against a senior official, a Punjab Civil Services (PCS) officer was issued a bailable warrant by the Punjab State Information Commission for failing to comply with its directions in a case related to the Regional Transport Office, Faridkot.

The action was initiated by State Information Commissioner Pooja Gupta who

le hearing an appeal filed by a Mohali resident who sought information from the Regional Transport Office, Faridkot, in 2023.

During the last hearing, the appellant informed the Commission that, despite earlier directions, no reply or information was provided.

The respondent Public Information Officer was represented by a Data Entry Operator, who stated that the PIO authorised him to appear as the officer suffered a fracture in his leg and was advised by a Doctor not to walk, making him unable to attend the hearing.

The Commission gran-

ted 1 more opportunity to the appellant to examine the information and revert to the respondent PIO within 15 days of receipt of the order in case of any deficiency, under intimation to the Commission.

Upon receipt of any rebuttal, the respondent was directed to remove the deficiencies, if any, before the next date of hearing.

During the previous hearing, a show cause notice was issued to Veerpal Kaur, PCS, Secretary-cum-SDM, RTO, Faridkot, now posted at RTO, Fazilka, directing her to appear personally and submit a compliance report in response to the Commis-

sion's order dated September 27, 2023. In that order, the Commission directed the PCS officer, Secretary, RTA, Faridkot, to look into the matter and ensure that an FIR was lodged regarding the missing record.

At the subsequent hearing, the officer did not appear, and no written reply was submitted in response to the show cause notice, which the Commission observed reflected a casual approach towards its orders.

A letter dated January 16, 2026 was also written to the officer by the present respondent PIO, RTO, Faridkot, in response to the Commission's order dated De-

ember 15, 2025. Despite this, no response was received.

At the last hearing, the officer again failed to comply, despite a warning from the Commission that it would ensure her presence through the issuance of a bailable warrant.

The Commission directed the Senior Superintendent of Police, Fazilka, to serve the bailable warrant on the Public Information Officer, Regional Transport Office, Faridkot, directing her to appear before Pooja Gupta, Punjab State Information Commissioner, at the next hearing of the appeal case scheduled for March 18.