

GOA STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

"Kamat Towers" 7th Floor, Patto Plaza, Panaji, Goa – 403 001

E-mail: spio-gsic.goa@nic.in Website: www.scic.goa.gov.in

**Appeal No. 229/2025/SCIC
&
Appeal No. 231/2025/SCIC**

Adv. Atish P. Mandrekar,
"SWAYAMBHOO",
H. No. 549/C,
Vodlem Bhat, Taleigao,
Panaji-Goa.

----Appellant

V/s

1. The Public Information Officer,
Deputy Director,
Art and Culture Department,
Patto, Panaji-Goa.

2. The First Appellate Authority,
Director,
Art and Culture Department,
Patto, Panaji-Goa.

-----Respondents

Shri. ARAVIND KUMAR H. NAIR - State Chief Information Commissioner, GSIC

Relevant Facts Emerging from the Appeals

	A/229/2025/ SCIC	A/231/2025/SCIC
RTI application filed on	11/02/2025	16/01/2025
PIO replied on	10/03/2025	14/02/2025
First Appeal filed on	27/03/2025	07/03/2025
First Appellate order on	25/04/2025	27/03/2025
Second appeal received on	17/09/2025	17/09/2025
Decided on	12/02/2026	12/02/2026

Information sought and background of the Appeal

1. Adv. Atish P. Mandrekar filed an application dated 11/02/2025 under RTI Act, 2005 to the PIO, Art and Culture Department, Panaji seeking information at 05 points including certified copies of all CCTV footage of Lokotsav 2025 held at Daryasangam, Kala Academy, Panaji from 15/01/2025 to 28/01/2025 and inspection of documents/files/registers etc.

2. In response to the RTI application, PIO/ Dy. Director of Art and Culture vide letter dated 10/03/2025 requested the Appellant to make a payment of Rs. 2/- for necessary information.
3. Being aggrieved by the information furnished by the PIO, Appellant filed first appeal dated 27/03/2025 before the First Appellate Authority praying for direction to the Respondent PIO to furnish information sought vide application dated 11/02/2025.
4. First Appellate Authority (Director, Directorate of Art and Culture, Panaji) vide order dated 25/04/2025 disposed the matter as the Appellant agreed for inspection of records on 29/04/2025 and Respondent PIO assured the same.
5. *Appellant filed another application dated 16/01/2025 to the PIO/Art and Culture Department seeking information at 09 points including certified copies of all applications submitted for allotment of stalls for handicrafts and food stalls for Lokostav 2025.*
6. *In his reply dated 14/02/2025, PIO/Dy. Director of Art and Culture requested the Appellant to visit the office of the Director of Art and Culture, Sanskruti Bhavan, Panaji on 25/02/2025 for identification of relevant documents and further clarification regarding Appellant's RTI application.*
7. *Subsequently, Appellant filed first appeal dated 07/03/2025 before the First Appellate Authority.*
8. *First Appellate Authority (Director, Directorate of Art and Culture) vide order dated 27/03/2025 directed the Respondent PIO to allow inspection of records by the Appellant and provide information free of cost.*
9. Thereafter, Appellant approached the Commission by filing second appeals dated 17/09/2025 in connection with the above cited two RTI

applications dated 16/01/2025 (Appeal No. 231/2025/SCIC) and 11/02/2025 (Appeal No. 229/2025/SCIC).

FACTS EMERGING IN COURSE OF HEARING

10. Pursuant to the filing of the two appeals dated 17/09/2025, parties were notified fixing the matter for hearing on 28/10/2025 for which Appellant and Respondent PIO present. Presiding Commissioner directed the Respondent PIO to file reply on the next date of hearing, 11/11/2025.
11. Appellant and Respondent PIO present for the hearing on 11/11/2025 wherein Presiding Commissioner directed the Respondent PIO to allow the Appellant to physically inspect the records/file as sought and accordingly Respondent PIO fixed inspection at 11.00 a.m. on November 28, 2025.
12. Matter further fixed for hearing on 09/12/2025 for which Respondent PIO present but Registry of the Commission received an e-mail from the Appellant informing his inability to attend the hearing. Respondent PIO submitted that the scheduled inspection of the records/files by the Appellant did not materialise on 28/11/2025 owing to the visit of the Hon'ble PM to Goa on that day. He submitted that inspection will be rescheduled to December 26, 2025 and the date will be intimated to the Appellant. Matter posted to 27/01/2026 and subsequently re-scheduled to 12/02/2026.
13. When matter called for final hearing on 12/02/2026, Appellant and Respondent PIO's representative (APIO) present. Respondent PIO's representative orally submitted that Appellant will be allowed to inspect the records/files as sought vide his RTI application dated 16/01/2025 and 11/02/2025 and the desired information will be furnished after inspection.
14. Appellant submitted that necessary directions be given to the Respondent PIO to comply with the order passed by the FAA in the first appeals dated 27/03/2025 and 25/04/2025.

DECISION

- i. Accepting the oral submission of both the parties to the present appeal (Appeal Nos. 229/2025/SCIC and 231/2025/SCIC), Commission decided to dispose the matter by directing the Respondent PIO to comply with the order dated 25/04/2025 and 27/03/2025 respectively passed by the First Appellate Authority directing the Respondent PIO to allow the Appellant to inspect the records/files in accordance to his RTI applications and furnish sought information free of cost, after inspection of files/records.**

- ii. Respondent PIO should comply with the order of the First Appellate Authority within 15 days from the receipt of this order and file compliance report to the Commission within 21 days of the receipt of this order.**
 - Proceeding stands closed.
 - Pronounced in Open Court.
 - Notify the parties.

Aggrieved party if any, may move against this order by way of a Writ Petition as no further Appeal is provided against this order under the Right to Information Act, 2005.

Sd/-

(ARAVIND KUMAR H. NAIR)
State Chief Information Commissioner, GSIC

