

**GOA STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION**  
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**Appeal No.129/2025/SCIC**

Ms. Siddhi Naik,  
CS 1, Mystical Rose Apartment,  
Davorlim Dicarpali, Salcete-Goa.  
V/s  
-----Appellant

1.The Public Information Officer, Kala Academy,  
Dayanand Bandodkar Marg,  
Campal, Panaji-Goa 403001.

2.The First Appellate Authority,Kala Academy,  
Dayanand Bandodkar Marg,  
Campal, Panaji-Goa 403001.  
-----Respondents

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

**Relevant Facts Emerging from the Appeal**

<b>RTI application filed on</b>	- 24/02/2025
<b>PIO replied on</b>	- 18/03/2025
<b>First Appeal filed on</b>	- 31/03/2025
<b>First Appellate order on</b>	- 16/04/2025
<b>Second appeal received on</b>	- 02/06/2025
<b>First hearing held on</b>	- 01/07/2025
<b>Decision of the Second Appeal on</b>	- 17/07/2025

**Information sought and background of the Appeal**

1. Ms. Siddhi Naik filed an application dated 24/02/2025 under RTI Act, 2005 to the PIO, Kala Academy seeking following information :

*"Is the Madhyama III course from Kala Academy equivalent to the Madhyamapurna course from Gandharva Mahavidyalaya."*

2. In response to the RTI application, PIO, Kala Academy vide letter dated 18/03/2025 replied to the Appellant as under :

*"With reference to your application dated 24/02/2025, please find enclosed herewith available one document (certified photo copy)under RTI Act, as requested by you. The available and existing information and certified photocopy of the document with the Faculty of Indian Music and Dance of Kala Academy is furnished to you in response to your RTI application."*

*The photocopy provided herein under RTI Act, 2005 has been authenticated by the concerned official as to its authenticity and genuineness."*

3. The certified copy of the document is a letter dated 15/04/2024 (Reference No. 476) issued by the Registrar, Akhil Bharatiya Gandharva Mahavidyalaya Mandal, Mumbai to the Director(Admn.), Kala Academy, Goa, Old Secretariat Building, Adil Shah Palace, Panaji, Goa intimating the details of the courses of Akhil Bharatiya Gandharva Mahavidyalaya Mandal, Mumbai which are equivalent to the courses conducted by the Kala Academy, Goa. The letter clearly stated that Madhyama-III course of Kala Academy, Goa is equivalent to the Madhyama Poorna Course of Akhil Bharatiya Gandharva Vidhyalaya Mandal, Mumbai.
4. Being aggrieved by the reply furnished by the PIO, Kala Academy, Appellant filed first appeal dated 31/03/2025 before the First Appellate Authority stating that Respondent PIO has furnished incomplete information and prayed for a direction to the PIO to provide specific information/response including rules, guidelines etc. showing equivalency of Madhyama-III course of Kala Academy to Madhyama Poorna of Akhil Bharatiya Gandharva Mahavidyalaya Mandal, Mumbai.
5. FAA (Member Secretary, Kala Academy) after hearing both the parties passed an order dated 16/04/2025 'dismissing' the first appeal filed by the Appellant on the ground that 'FAA is satisfied that the Respondent PIO has rendered his duties in providing the information sought by the Appellant vide his RTI application dated 24/02/2025 under the provision of RTI Act, 2005'.
6. Being aggrieved by the FAA's order, Appellant preferred Second appeal dated 02/06/2025 before the Commission stating that Respondent PIO has not given clear and specific reply/information to his RTI application. Appellant submitted that the PIO and FAA here avoided Appellant's core query by relying on third party document.

**Facts Emerging in Course of Hearing**

7. Pursuant to the filing of the present appeal by the Appellant, parties were notified fixing the matter for hearing on 01/07/2025 for which then PIO Shri. Rupesh K. Gawas and present PIO Dr. Sapna A. Naik appeared in person but none present for Appellant. Directed the present PIO to file reply to the appeal memo before the next date of hearing slated for 16/07/2025.
8. Matter called out for hearing on 16/07/2025 for which present PIO and Appellant's husband Shri. Navin Shirodkar appeared. Present PIO filed written reply dated 09/07/2025 with a copy to the Appellant.
9. In the written reply, present PIO, Dr. Sapna Naik submitted that the required information was furnished to the Appellant vide letter dated 18/03/2025 by the then PIO and it was duly acknowledged by the Appellant.
10. Appellant's authorised person and husband Shri. Navin Shirodkar submitted that Appellant had sought specific information from the PIO, Kala Academy, Goa regarding equivalency of Madhyama-III course of Kala Academy with Madhyama Poorna Course of Gandharva Mahavidyalaya. He further submitted that instead of furnishing any document/circular/notification/guidelines issued by the Kala Academy granting equivalency to Kala Academy Madhyama-III to the Madhyama Poorna course of Gandharva Mahavidyalaya, then PIO had furnished copy of a letter dated 15/04/2024 addressed to the Director (Admn) Kala Academy, Goa by the Registrar Akhil Bhartiya Gandharva Mahavidyalaya Mandal, Gandharva Niketan, Plot No. 5, Sector-9 A, Vashi, Navi Mumbai agreeing to grant equivalency to 07 courses including Madhyama-III of Kala Academy Goa with the corresponding 07 course of Akhil Bhartiya Gandharva Mahavidyalaya Mandal.
11. Appellant insisted that instead of relying on Akhil Bhartiya Gandharva Mahavidyalaya Mandal's letter conveying equivalency of Kala Academy's courses with the courses of Gandharva Mahavidyalaya

Mandal, Kala Academy should have issued letter/memo/order/circular/notification disclosing equivalency granted by Kala Academy Goa to the courses offered by Gandharva Mahavidyalaya Mandal.

12. Commission has come to the conclusion that Appellant's only query is whether the Madhyama-III course of Kala Academy is equivalent to the Madhyama Poorna Course of Akhil Bhartiya Gandharva Mahavidyalaya Mandal, Vashi, Navi Mumbai and the letter dated 15/04/2024 addressed to the Director (Admn), Kala Academy, Goa by the Registrar, Akhil Bhartiya Gandharva Mahavidyalaya Mandal clearly establish that Madhyama –III course of Kala Academy is equivalent to the Madhyama Poorna course of Akhil Bhartiya Gandharva Mahavidyalaya Mandal.
13. The only issue raised by the Appellant is that Kala Academy Goa has not issued any specific Order, Circular or Notification declaring that their course including Madhyama-III is equivalent to the courses including Madhyama Poorna course offered by Akhil Bhartiya Gandharva Mahavidyalaya Mandal. However absence of such a circular, order or notification does not make any ambiguity as the letter dated 15/04/2024 issued by the Registrar of Akhil Bhartiya Gandharva Mahavidyalaya Mandal, Navi Mumbai to the Director (Admn.) of Kala Academy Goa conveying equivalency of their courses with the courses of Kala Academy Goa.

### **DECISION**

Since the above said letter undoubtedly established the equivalency of Madhyama Poorna of Akhil Bhartiya Gandharva Mahavidyalaya Mandal and the then PIO of Kala Academy has already provided certified copy of the above said letter to the Appellant, nothing more lies in the present Appeal No. 129/2025/SCIC.

**Proceedings in the present appeal stands closed.**

**Matter disposed as 'Dismissed'.**

*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.*

- Pronounced in Open Court.
- Notify the parties.

Sd/-

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