

GOA STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION
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Appeal No.137/2025/SCIC

Vidyesh Pilgaonkar,
S/o. Vilas Pilgaonkar,
R/o. Bld. A-2, Flat F-4,
Radha Estate Co-op Society,
St. Paul, Taleigao,
Panaji-Goa 403002. -----Appellant
V/s

1.The Public Information Officer,
O/o. Dy. Suptd. of Police,
Coastal Security, Ribandar,
Tiswadi-Goa 403006.
2.The First Appellate Authority,
O/o. Superintendent of Police,
Coastal Security,
Panaji-Goa 403001. -----Respondents

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

Relevant facts Emerging from the Appeal

RTI application filed on	13/01/2025
PIO replied on	07/02/2025
First Appeal filed on	13/03/2025
First Appellate order on	15/03/2025
Second appeal received on	10/06/2025
Decided on	17/09/2025

Information sought and background of the Appeal

1. Shri. Vidyesh Pilgaonkar filed an application dated 13/01/2025 under RTI Act, 2005 to the S.P, Coastal Security, Panaji seeking information at 16 points including CCTV footage of Tiracol Coastal Security Police Station for the dates from October 10 2023 to October 17, 2023, December 5 to 12, 2023, January 20 to 31, 2024 and 08/02/2024 (11 a.m. - 4 p.m.), March 10, 2024 to April 20, 2024 (12 p.m.- 8 p.m).

2. In response to the RTI application, PIO (Dy. S.P Coastal Security, Ribandar) vide letter dated 07/02/2025 furnished information to some of the RTI queries and denied to rest of the RTI queries invoking Section 8(1) (h), Section 8(1) (j) and Section 8(1) (g) of the RTI Act, 2005. With regard to the request to furnish CCTV footage, PIO replied that information sought by the Appellant comes under the purview of u/s 8(1) (g), 8 (1) (h) of the RTI Act, 2005.
3. Being aggrieved by the reply/information received from the PIO, Appellant filed first appeal dated 13/03/2025 before the First Appellate Authority (FAA/S.P Coastal Security) requesting for favour of information and necessary action.
4. After filing the first appeal before the FAA, Applicant vide letter dated 15/03/2025 requested the S.P, Coastal Security to issue necessary directions to preserve the CCTV footage sought in the RTI application until the final disposal of the matter.
5. Failing to decide in the first appeal by the FAA, Appellant preferred Second appeal stating that Appellant had sought CCTV footage of specific dates and time to establish that a complaint allegedly registered against him is false and devoid of any factual foundation. According to the Appellant, the sought information (CCTV footage) is crucial to prove the innocence of the Appellant and is being deliberately withheld under the guise of investigation.

In the present appeal, Appellant further stated that the FAA has failed in its statutory duty to adjudicate the appeal within the time frame prescribed under the RTI Act. Moreover, Appellant has not received any notice of hearing or communication from the FAA leading to a complete denial of remedy at the first appellate stage.

Appellant prayed for direction to the Respondents to furnish the requested information and impose penalty on erring officials for furnishing misleading and evasive replies.

FACTS EMERGING IN COURSE OF HEARING

6. Pursuant to the filing of the present appeal, parties were notified fixing the matter for hearing on 07/07/2025 for which Appellant present. Shri. Elvis Barbosa, P.I present as representative of the present PIO. Then PIO, who is currently posted as SDPO, Pernem was represented by Shri. Ladu Sawant. Both the representative of the present and then PIO filed submission with additional copy to the Appellant.

7. Respondent No.1 submitted that the information sought by the Appellant was obtained from APIO/P.I, Tiracol Coastal Security Police Station and provided to the Appellant. Respondent No.1 further submitted that in his posting as SDPO, Pernem, he has handed over the charge of PIO/Dy. S.P, Coastal Security to Dy. S.P Roy Pereira and presently has no access to the documents/information held by the Dy. S.P, Coastal Security, Ribandar Goa.

8. Material available with the present appeal revealed that the present PIO (Shri. Roy Pereira, Dy. SP, Coastal Security) vide letter dated 19/07/2025 communicated to the Appellant regarding CCTV footage issue as under:-

"Please refer to this office letter No. Dy S.P/ Coastal/SEC/948/2025 dated 11/07/2025 therein you were informed to provide a hard drive of approximately 10 TB in order to arrange/supply information of CCTV footages as requested by you in the first appeal dated 13/03/2025.

The required Hard drive of 10 TB is not received by this office till date.

In view of the above, you are required to provide Hard Drive storage within 2 days in order to provide requisite information".

9. Another letter dated 11/07/2025 addressed by the PIO/Dy. S.P Coastal Security (Shri. Roy Pereira) to the Appellant shows that the Info Tech Corporation of Goa Ltd., Altinho was requested to preserve the CCTV footage as required. Accordingly, Info Tech Corporation of Goa

Ltd. has informed to provide a hard drive of approximately 10 TB to preserve and provide CCTV footages. In this letter, PIO has requested the Appellant to provide a hard drive of approximately 10 TB within 02 days in order to arrange the requisite CCTV footage.

10. Present PIO vide letter dated 23/07/2025 furnished revised reply/information to the Appellant covering all the 16 points in the RTI application.
11. Matter took up for further hearing on 30/07/2025 for which Appellant, Respondent No.1 and Respondent No.2 (FAA) appeared in person. The reply of the PIO dated 29/07/2025 served to the Appellant. During the hearing, Presiding Commissioner sought an explanation from the FAA for his failure to proceed in the first appeal filed by the Appellant and not deciding as well as passing an order in the first appeal. Presiding Commissioner warned him of the consequences of failing to discharge the duties and obligations vested on the FAA by the RTI Act, 2005.
12. During the course of hearing, the Respondent No.1 and 2 submitted that the authority never denied the information (CCTV footage) sought by the Appellant but the issue was the Hard drive of 10 TB costing Rs. 36,000/- and who will bear the cost of Hard drive. If Appellant provided the Hard drive, Authority could have already furnished the information to him. Presiding Commissioner also felt that the CCTV footage sought by the Appellant is voluminous in nature and normally Appellant has to provide floppy/hard drive/pen drive etc. if he/she wants to collect the information like CCTV footage. Considering the amount of Rs. 36,000/- required for the 10 TB hard drive, Presiding Commissioner directed the Appellant to prune the volume and time of the CCTV footage required by him to bring down the cost of the hard drive. Matter fixed for further hearing on 21/08/2025.
13. Appellant and PIO's representative Elvis Barbosa, P.I present for the hearing on 21/08/2025. Complying with the direction, given by the

Presiding Commissioner to prune duration of the CCTV footage sought, Appellant submitted that he has reduced the volume of CCTV footage and filed a written submission dated 21/08/2025 furnishing the revised date and timing of the CCTV footage required.

Appellant further submitted that in view of the delay already caused by the Respondent PIO in furnishing the requested footage, the provision of Section 7(6) of the RTI Act, 2005 is applicable and information is liable to be furnished free of cost.

Respondent No.1 also filed reply dated 21/08/2025 along with revised point-wise reply/information dated 23/07/2025 to the Appellant's 16-point RTI application .

In the meantime, Respondent PIO vide letter dated 23/07/2025 forwarded the RTI application of the Appellant to the PIO, Info Tech Corporation of Goa Ltd., Government of Goa u/s. 6(3) of the RTI Act, 2005 requesting to supply information pertaining to Point No.11, CCTV footage of Tiracol Coastal Security Police Station, directly to the Appellant as information to the rest of the points are already provided to the Appellant.

14. The matter was taken up for final argument on 17/09/2025 for which Respondent PIO and Appellant present. Besides filing the reply of Respondent No.1 (PIO) and Respondent No.2 (FAA), a letter addressed to the Under Secretary (Home-I), Department of Home (General), Government of Goa by the S.P, Coastal Security (Shri. R.V. Raut Dessai) seeking administrative approval to purchase 4 TB Portable Hard Drive amounting to Rs.22,726/- also filed before the Commission by the Respondent PIO.

Respondent No.1 in his written reply dated 16/09/2025 submitted that :

- a. As directed by the Hon'ble Commission on 21/08/2025, M/s. Info Tech Corporation of Goa Ltd. was asked to provide CCTV footage of revised dates.
- b. M/s. Info Tech Goa (ITG) informed to provide 4TB portable Hard Drive to furnish the data. Accordingly, M/s. Info Tech Goa was requested to

supply 4TB Portable Hard Disk through M/s. Nupur Technologies Pvt. Ltd.

c. M/s. Info Tech Goa further informed that the cost of 4 TB Portable Hard Disk amounts to Rs.22726.80 and intimidated to convey acceptance/approval for the payment.

d. Under the provision of the Departmental procedure, Respondent PIO moved a proposal dated 15/09/2025 requesting to accord approval to purchase 4 TB Hard Disk.

e. Upon receipt of the approval, from the Department, Respondent No.1 has obtained a certificate of availability of funds for an amount of Rs. 22,726.80, cost of hard drive, from the Accounts Section of the Department for further process. However, the said certificate is issued by the Accounts Department with the instruction to obtain approval of State Government to initiate further procurement process.

f. Accordingly, the matter is submitted to the Under Secretary (Home-I), Department of Home for administrative approval to purchase 4 TB portable Hard Disk worth Rs. 22,726/-.

g. Since the CCTV footage sought by the Appellant is quite voluminous in nature, if Appellant desires, he may inspect CCTV footages at the Tiracol Coastal Police Station and based on the inspection, the required data can be extracted through Nodal Agency, M/s. Info-Tech Goa and avoid unwarranted data.

15. Respondent No.2 (FAA/S.P Coastal Security) filed a copy of the letter dated 16/09/2025 addressed to the Under Secretary (Home-I), Department of Home, Government of Goa seeking administrative approval to purchase 4 TB portable hard drive to furnish CCTV footage sought by the Appellant.

COMMISSION'S OBSERVATION

- i. It is quite natural that no public authority will accept the request for CCTV footage of such a voluminous in nature.
- ii. Normally, the Appellant has to provide the pen drive, hard disk, floppy or its cost to get information in electronic format from the public authority.
- iii. Respondent PIO's letter dated 19/07/2025 clearly states that vide letter dated 11/07/2025, Appellant was informed to provide a hard drive of approximately 10 TB in order to supply CCTV footage sought by the Appellant.
- iv. Since the Appellant, being a government servant is aware of the administrative procedure as well as requirement of financial approval to purchase any items including hard drive, he could have provided the hard disk to avail the information, which according to him is so vital in connection with a complaint against him.
- v. FAA (S.P Coastal Security) has submitted before the Commission that the Authority did not deny the sought CCTV footage but the obstacle was the voluminous nature of the CCTV footage and cost factor of the hard drive.
- vi. The cost of hard disk is Rs. 22,726.80 and the Respondent PIO and his superior have to strictly follow the government procedure for the procurement of the hard disk at the government expenditure. Accordingly, S.P, Coastal Security has moved a letter dated 16/09/2025 to the Under Secretary, Home-I, seeking administrative approval to purchase 4 TB portable hard drive to furnish sought information to the appellant.

DECISION

Based on the appeal filed by the Appellant, submissions as well as arguments placed by the parties and perusal of the

material available before it, Commission decided to dispose the matter with the **direction to the Respondent PIO-**

- i. **To furnish the CCTV footage as per the revised request of the Appellant (refer Appellant's submission dated 21/08/2025) immediately after getting the administrative approval from the competent authority to purchase 4 TB portable hard drive.**
- ii. **Initiate appropriate measures to ensure that the sought CCTV footages are preserved adequately till furnished the same to the Appellant.**
- iii. **If there is any further delay in getting administrative approval to purchase 4 TB portable drive, initiate adequate follow up action in the matter.**

Direction to the FAA-

Even though, FAA has admitted procedural lapse on his part as far as the first appeal of the Appellant is concerned, **FAA is hereby warned to strictly adhere to the provisions of the RTI Act, 2005 and discharge duties and obligations cast upon him u/s. 19 of the RTI Act, 2005.**

- 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

