

GOA STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

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

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Appeal No.235/2025/SCIC

Mrs. Siona Maria Dias,
H. No. 1088, Tollecanto,
Velim, Salcete - Goa 403723.
V/s

----Appellant

1. Headmistress/Public Information Officer,
St. Rock's High School,
Tollecanto, Velim,
Salcete-Goa.

2. Deputy Director of Education,
First Appellate Authority,
South Educational Zone,
Margao-Goa.

-----Respondents

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

Relevant Facts Emerging from the Appeal

RTI application filed on	21/02/2025
PIO replied on	20/03/2025
First Appeal filed on	17/04/2025
First Appellate order on	19/05/2025
Second appeal received on	01/10/2025
Decided on	21/01/2026

Information sought and background of the Appeal

1. Mrs. Siona Maria Dias filed an application dated 21/02/2025 under RTI Act, 2005 to the Headmistress, St. Rock's High School, Tollecanto, Velim, South Goa seeking following information :
 - i. *"Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and Executive Members of St. Rock's High School for the academic year 2014-15 to 2024-25.*
 - ii. *Accounts books of PTA for the academic year 2022-23 and 2023-24.*
 - iii. *Minutes books of PTA from the academic year 2022-23 and 2023-24.*
 - iv. *Passbook statement of PTA for the academic year 2022-23 and 2023-24.*
 - v. *Constitution of the PTA of St. Rock's High School, Tollecanto, Velim "*

2. In response to the RTI application, Headmistress St. Rock's High School, Tollecanto, Velim vide letter dated 20/03/2025 furnished information with Annexure A, B, C and D to the RTI query at Point No.1,2,4 and 5 and with regard to RTI Query No.3 replied as "information sought is vague".
3. Being aggrieved over the information furnished by the PIO, Appellant filed first appeal dated 17/04/2025 before the First Appellate Authority.
4. After hearing the first appeal on 09/05/2025, First Appellate Authority (Dy. Director of Education, South Educational Zone, Margao) vide order dated 19/05/2025 disposed off the matter with the following judgement.

"I have carefully examined the material placed along with the first appeal and heard oral arguments of the respondent and the FAA agreed there to that the information sought by the Appellant is already provided to the Appellant and I am satisfied with the reply given by the Respondent PIO/Headmistress, St. Rock's High School, Tollecanto, Velim, Goa".

5. Thereafter, Appellant preferred Second appeal dated 01/10/2025 before the Commission stating that Respondent PIO has not furnished complete information in accordance to the RTI application.

Appellant prayed before the Commission to call for the first Appeal No.11/2025 from the FAA, impose Rs.25,000/- as penalty on Respondent for furnishing incorrect and misleading information and recommend disciplinary action against Respondent No.2 for favouring Respondent No.1.

FACTS EMERGING IN COURSE OF HEARING

6. Pursuant to the filing of the present appeal, parties were notified fixing the matter for hearing on 03/11/2025 for which Appellant present and Adv. Siddhant Karpe present for Respondent PIO. Requesting for a

longer date, Respondent PIO's lawyer submitted that reply to the appeal memo will be filed on the next date of hearing.

7. When matter took up for hearing on 08/12/2025, Appellant present along with Adv. Reagan A. Pinto and Adv. Vilas Pavithran present for Respondent PIO. Since Respondent PIO did not file reply to the appeal memo matter posted to 12/01/2026.

8. On 12/01/2026, Appellant present along with Adv. Reagan Pinto and Adv. Sagar Rivankar present for Respondent. Both the parties placed their oral submissions before the Commission. Since there is a delay of 39 days in filing the present appeal by the Appellant on account of the hospitalisation of Appellant's minor daughter and mother in law, Appellant prayed before the Commission to condone the delay in filing the present appeal.

Respondent PIO's lawyer submitted that he would file reply to the present appeal as well as Appellant's plea for condonation of delay. Matter fixed for final hearing on 21/01/2026

9. When matter called out for final hearing on 21/01/2026, Appellant present along with Adv. Reagan Pinto and Adv. Sagar Rivankar present for Respondent PIO and filed Respondent PIO's reply dated 21/01/2026 to the appeal memo. Raising objection to the delay of 39 days in filing the present appeal Respondent PIO submitted that the appeal filed by the Appellant deserved to be dismissed for want of sufficient cause to entitle the Appellant to condone the delay.

After hearing arguments of both the parties, Commission decided to allow the present appeal by granting condonation of the delay.

10. During the course of hearing on 21/01/2026, Appellant submitted that at Point No.1, information in respect of Academic Year 2014-15 to 2024-25 has sought vide application dated 21/01/2025 but no information has been furnished by the Respondent in respect of academic year 2014-15 and 2015-16. Similarly, no information was provided to the information sought at Point No.3 (minutes books of PTA for the academic year 2022-23 and 2023-24) and

information provided to Point No.5 (institution of the PTA of St. Rocks High School) is incomplete.

Adv. Sagar Rivankar appeared for Respondent clarified that the Respondent in her reply dated 20/03/2025 made it clear that information in respect of the academic year 2014-15 cannot be located. However Appellant's lawyer submitted that information cannot be located is not a satisfactory reply and Respondent's reply dated 20/03/2025 is totally silent on the information sought in respect of Academic Year 2015-16.

11. When Appellant pointed out that no information has been provided in respect of RTI query No. 3 (Minutes Book of PTA for the Academic year 2022-23 and 2023-24). Respondent's lawyer submitted that the RTI query is not specific.

Presiding Commissioner clarified that the query is not vague or unclear. Respondent has to furnish whatever meetings held by the school PTA in the calendar years 2022-23 and 2023-24 to the Appellant.

With regard to the 04-page copy of the Constitution of the PTA under Chapter 07 of Parent Teacher Association, Respondent's lawyer submitted that the 04 page (Page No.50 to 53) information furnished by the Respondent is the complete information to Point No.5 of the RTI application.

COMMISSION'S OBSERVATION

- (i) Barring information pertaining to RTI Query No.3, Respondent has furnished information to the Appellant.
- (ii) Not a single reply/information/document furnished by the Headmistress, St. Rock's High School, Tollecanto, Velim contains the mentioning of PIO or the stamping of "Issued under RTI Act, 2005".**
- (iii) If Headmistress, St. Rock's High School is the PIO of the School, all letters issued under RTI Act should invariably contain the name of PIO and RTI stamping. Same should be complied with by the School/Headmistress**

immediately failing which Headmistress is liable for action under Section 20 (2) of the RTI Act, 2005.

DECISION

Based on the grounds mentioned in the appeal memo and the arguments placed before the Commission by the lawyers of the Appellant and Respondent, Commission has come to the conclusion that-

- (1) *With regard to the information sought at Point No.1 for the academic year 2014-15 and 2015-16, Respondent PIO in her reply dated 20/03/2025 stated that information for the academic year 2014-15 cannot be located but silent on 2015-16.***

Appellant deserves information for both the academic years i.e. 2014-15 and 2015-16. 'Information cannot be located' is not an appropriate reply on the part of PIO. If information is not available with the PIO, give in writing that "sought information in respect of academic years 2014-15 & 2015 -16 is not available".

- (2) Information pertaining to Point No. 3 has not furnished citing information sought by the Appellant is vague. RTI query is clear and hence information need to be furnished to the Appellant.**
- (3) Appellant is of the view that 04-page copy of the document containing Constitution of the PTA is incomplete. Since lawyer for Respondent confirmed that 04-page document (information) furnished by the Respondent PIO is complete, Appellant has to accept the same as complete information.**

Commission decided to dispose the matter with the following directions to the Respondent PIO :

- (i) Furnish information sought in respect of the academic years 2014-15 and 2015-16, as sought at Point No.1 of the RTI application, if it is available with the Respondent PIO. On the contrary, if information for the said two academic years is not available, furnish revised reply to the effect that "*sought information in respect of the academic years 2014-15 and 2015-16 is not available in the office of the PIO*".**
- (ii) With regard to information sought at Point No.3, furnish Minutes of meetings (monthly, quarterly, half yearly or annually) held by the PTA of St. Rock's High School Tollecanto, Velim during the academic years 2022-23 and 2023-24 to the Appellant.**

Comply with the above cited directions within 10 days from the receipt of this order and file compliance report to the Commission within 15 days.

- 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

