

**GOA STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION**  
'Kamat Towers', Seventh Floor, Patto, Panaji –Goa

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**Appeal No. 25/2024/SCIC**

Shri. Rajkumar Raju Gadge,  
Office No. 301,302 & 306,  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Commerce Centre Building,  
Opp. Old Mapusa Municipal Building,  
Mapusa, Bardez-Goa 403507.

.....Appellant

V/S

1.The Public Information Officer,  
Keshav Bhagat, Awal Karkun,  
Dy. Collector & SDO,  
Mapusa, Bardez-Goa.

2.The First Appellate Authority,  
Dy. Collector & SDO,  
Mapusa, Bardez-Goa.

.....Respondents

**Shri. Aravind Kumar H. Nair**     State Chief Information Commissioner

**RELEVANT FACTS**

<b>RTI application filed on</b>	<b>- 17/07/2023</b>
<b>Respondent PIO reply</b>	<b>- 16/08/2022</b>
<b>First Appeal filed on</b>	<b>- 06/09/2023</b>
<b>First Appellate order on</b>	<b>- 07/11/2023</b>
<b>Second appeal received on</b>	<b>- 19/01/2024</b>
<b>Decision of the Second Appeal on</b>	<b>- 12/02/2025</b>

**Information sought and background of the Appeal.**

1. Shri. Rajkumar Raju Gadge filed an RTI application dated 17/07/2023 to the PIO, Office of the Dy. Collector & SDO, Bardez seeking inspection of file bearing Court Order No. 15/209/96/Part/Land dated 18/08/2023 of property Uddenticho Matho surveyed under Survey No. 103/1 of Village Assnora and attested photocopies of documents after inspection of files.

2. In response to the RTI application, PIO vide letter dated 16/08/2022 replied that "*the file is not traceable and the same will be provided once the file is traced out.*"
3. Aggrieved by the reply of the PIO, Appellant filed first appeal dated 06/09/2023 to the First Appellate Authority praying for direction to the Respondent PIO to provide the information sought vide RTI application dated 17/07/2023 and to initiate appropriate action against the Respondent PIO for not providing information, which is within the ambit of RTI and in possession of the Office of the Deputy Collector & SDO, Bardez-Goa.
4. The FAA vide order dated 07/11/2023 directed the Respondent PIO to carry out a thorough search to trace the file to furnish the information to the Appellant.
5. Thereafter PIO vide letter dated 30/10/2023 replied to the Appellant that "*upon the direction of the First Appellate Authority to conduct a thorough search of the file, a memorandum was issued to the dealing clerk to conduct a thorough search. However, the said file was not traced.*"
6. Subsequently, Appellant filed Second appeal dated 19/01/2024 before the Commission praying for direction to the Respondents to provide information sought vide RTI application and to recommend appropriate action against the Respondents for failure to provide information.

**Facts Emerging in course of Hearing.**

7. Pursuant to the second appeal, parties were notified fixing the matter for first hearing on 19/02/2024. Since the SCIC demitted the office on 01/03/2024 and no new appointment was held till September 2024, matter was not taken for hearing.
8. The incumbent SCIC called out the matter for hearing on 23/10/2024 for which Appellant was present but Respondents were

absent. In the subsequent hearing also, Respondent remained absent.

9. When the matter taken up today i.e. 12/02/2025, Appellant, Rajkumar Raju Gadge and the Respondent PIO, Shri. Keshav Bhagat appeared in person. When SCIC sought Respondent PIO's say in the matter and the latest status of the file, which has been untraceable, PIO submitted that the file sought by the Appellant is traced out and he is willing to provide physical inspection of the said file by the Appellant and then copies of the documents will be provided as per the request by the Appellant.

### **ORDER**

**Accepting the PIO's willingness to facilitate inspection of the file as sought by the Appellant and to provide copies of the documents after inspection, Commission disposed the present Appeal No. 25/2024/SCIC today i.e. 12/02/2025 with the following directions to the PIO.**

**Allow the Appellant Shri. Rajkumar Raju Gadge to inspect the concerned file referred in his RTI application dated 30/11/2023 at the office of the Respondent PIO on 28/02/2025 and accordingly provide copies of documents sought by the Appellant, free of cost, within two weeks from the date of this Order.**

- **Proceeding stands closed.**
- **Pronounced in open court.**
- **Notify the parties.**

**Sd/-**

**(Aravind Kumar H. Nair)**

**State Chief Information Commissioner**