

GOA STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION
"Kamat Towers" 7th Floor, Patto Plaza, Panaji, Goa – 403 001
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Appeal No.129/2026/SCIC

Mr. Colvyn James Harris,
R/o. H. No. Casa Brilhante Villa A,
H. No. 65 A, Freitas Waddo,
Verla Canca, Bardez North Goa 403510.**Appellant**

V/s
1)The Public Information Officer,
The Secretary,
Village Panchayat of Verla-Canca,
Bardez Goa, 403510.

2. The First Appellate Authority,
The Block Development Officer,
Office at Government Complex,
Mapusa, Bardez Goa. **Respondents**

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

Relevant Facts Emerging from the Appeal

RTI application filed on	11/08/2025
PIO replied on	-
First Appeal filed on	31/10/2025
First Appellate order on	15/12/2025
Second appeal received on	31/03/2026
First Hearing	11/05/2026
Decided on	29/06/2026

Information sought and Background of the Appeal

1. Mr. Colvyn J. Harris filed an application dated 11/08/2025 under RTI Act, 2005 before the PIO, Village Panchayat, Verla-Canca seeking information at ten (10) points with regard to the property bearing Survey No. 52/24-A, 52/26, 52/28, 52/29 and 52/30.
2. Failing to receive any reply/information from the PIO, Appellant filed first appeal dated 31/10/2025 before the First Appellate Authority stating that Respondent PIO failed to provide information sought and prayed for direction to the Respondent PIO to furnish complete information within a time bound manner.

3. First Appellate Authority (B.D.O-I, Bardez) vide order dated 15/12/2025 directed the Respondent PIO to forthwith furnish complete information to the Appellant as per the available records of the Village Panchayat. First Appellate Authority further directed the Respondent PIO to grant an opportunity to the Appellant to physically inspect the relevant records pertaining to the 10-point RTI application on a mutually convenient time and date.
4. Subsequently, Appellant preferred second appeal dated 31/03/2026 before the Commission praying for direction to the Respondent PIO to furnish complete information sought vide RTI application dated 11/08/2025, initiate penal action against the PIO u/s 20(1) of the RTI Act, 2005 recommend disciplinary proceedings against the Respondent PIO u/s 20(2) of the RTI Act, 2005 and to award cost of the present appeal.

FACTS EMERGING IN COURSE OF HEARING

5. Pursuant to the filing of the present appeal, matter was taken up for hearing on 11/05/2026 for which Adv. S. Machado present for the Appellant but none present for the Respondents.
6. When matter took up again on 17/06/2026, Adv. Dhruv Dhawan present for Appellant but none present for Respondent PIO. Since the Respondent PIO remained absent for the two consecutive hearings, issued notice for PIO's invariable presence on the next date of hearing along with submissions failing which matter will be decided ex-parte. Matter fixed for further hearing on 29/06/2026.
7. Respondent PIO and Appellant's lawyer Adv. Dhruv Dhawan present for the hearing held on 29/06/2026. Respondent PIO (Shri. Akhil L. Mahalkar, Secretary, Village Panchayat Verla-Canca) produced before the Presiding Commissioner two files containing information/documents sought by the Appellant vide RTI application dated 11/08/2025.

Presiding Commissioner instructed Appellant's Counsel to peruse the files in the presence of the Respondent PIO at the Commission's office. Upon perusal of the files, Counsel orally submitted before the Presiding Commissioner that the files produced before the Presiding Commissioner by the Respondent PIO does not contain the information sought at RTI Point No. 07, 08, 09 and 10.

Accordingly, Presiding Commissioner directed the Respondent PIO to furnish information in writing in respect of the above cited RTI queries immediately.

Respondent PIO orally submitted as under :-

- i. With regards to Point No. 07 - Respondent PIO submitted that only one House Tax receipt is issued*
- ii. With regards to Point No. 08 - Respondent PIO submitted that minutes are available.*
- iii. With regards to Point No. 09 - PIO submitted barring site inspection no other action taken by the Panchayat authority and regarding demolition*
- iv. With regards to Point No. 10 - PIO submitted that since there is no show cause notice or no demolition notice have been served to the party, no demolition is carried out, till date.*

DECISION

After going through the present appeal and oral submission placed before the Presiding Commissioner by Appellant's lawyer and Respondent PIO, Commission decided to dispose the matter with the following **directions to the Respondent PIO:**

- i) Furnish certified copies of the information/documents sought by the Appellant at Point No. 01 to 06 of the RTI application dated 11/08/2025 and produced before the Commission on 29/06/2026.***
- ii) During the course of scrutiny of the information produced before the Presiding Commissioner, Appellant's lawyer could not find information pertaining to Point No. 07 to 10 particularly of action taken against illegal***

construction (Point No. 09) and action taken to demolish illegal construction in Survey Number referred in the RTI application (Point No. 10), furnish appropriate information/reply to Point No. 07 to 10 of the RTI application dated 11/08/2025.

As Respondent PIO assured before the Commission to provide the information on 06/07/2026, Appellant or his authorised representative shall collect the information from the office of the Respondent PIO (Village Panchayat Verla-Canca) on 06/07/2026.

- ii. Respondent PIO should file compliance report to the Commission within 15 days from the receipt of this order.
- Matter disposed.
 - 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