

GOA STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

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

E-mail: spio-gsic.goa@nic.in Website: www.scic.goa.gov.in

Appeal No.53/2026/SCIC

Shri. Ritesh Narayan Naik,
H. No. 108, Dhamse,
Valpoi, Sattari Goa 403506

-----Appellant

V/s

1. The Public Information Officer,
Office of Mamlatdar,
Valpoi, Sattari, Goa 403506.

2. The First Appellate Authority,
Office of Deputy Collector,
Valpoi, Sattari, Goa 403506.

-----Respondents

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

Relevant Facts Emerging from the Appeal

RTI application filed on	04/08/2025
PIO replied on	21/08/2025
First Appeal filed on	03/10/2025
First Appellate order on	13/11/2025
Second appeal received on	13/02/2026
First Hearing	06/04/2026
Decided on	27/04/2026

Information sought and Background of the Appeal

- Shri. Ritesh Narayan Naik filed an application dated 04/08/2025 under RTI Act, 2005 to the PIO, O/o. Mamlatdar, Sattari, Goa seeking following information

"Kindly allow the inspection of Service Book of Mr. Milind Ram Mhalshekar."

- On receipt of the RTI application PIO (Mamlatdar, Sattari Taluka) vide letter dated 07/08/2025 informed Shri. Milind Ram Mhalshekar about Applicant's request to inspect service book of Shri. Mhalshekar and also directed Shri Mhalshekar to give his say within two days.

- 3.** In response to the letter dated 07/08/2025 of the PIO (Mamlatdar/Sattari Taluka), Shri. Milind Ram Mhalsekar vide letter dated 11/08/2025 conveyed objection in furnishing information as it will cause unwarranted invasion to his privacy. Shri. Mhalshekar further conveyed that Applicant Ritesh Naik has personal enmity with him and his family and hence information sought has nothing to do with the public activity or public interest.
- 4.** In response to the RTI application, PIO, Mamlatdar, Sattari vide letter dated 21/08/2025 replied to the Appellant that *"information sought cannot be given u/s 8(i)(j) as the information pertains to 'third party' and the said information is not sought in larger public interest"*.
- 5.** Being aggrieved by the reply furnished by the PIO, Appellant filed first appeal dated 03/10/2025 before the First Appellate Authority praying for direction to the Respondent PIO to allow inspection of the service book of Mr. Milind Ram Mhalshekar or provide certified copies of the relevant portions of the service book after redacting any personal information not related to public duty.
- 6.** First Appellate Authority (Dy. Collector and SDO, Sattari) vide order dated 13/11/2025 closed the matter on the ground that Respondent PIO has furnished information.
- 7.** Subsequently, Appellant preferred second appeal dated 13/02/2026 before the Commission stating that both the PIO and FAA mechanically invoked section 8(1)(j) without applying the balancing act. Respondent PIO has not furnished any information but First Appellate Authority in the Roznama sheet mentioned that Respondent has furnished the information and hence the matter is closed. In this appeal, Appellant prayed to quash and set aside the impugned order of the First Appellate Authority, direct the Respondent PIO to furnish complete information and impose penalty on Respondent PIO.

FACTS EMERGING IN COURSE OF HEARING

8. Pursuant to the filing of the present appeal by the Appellant, parties were notified fixing the matter for hearing on 06/04/2026 for which Appellant and Respondent PIO present.

Ruling out the scope for the disclosure of information in the service book of a third party or allowing the Appellant to inspect the service book of a third party, Presiding Commissioner directed the Appellant to specify the particular information he is looking for from the service book. Accordingly, Appellant has come down from seeking the inspection of the service book to the joining report, transfer orders, relieving orders etc. of the third party, Shri. Milind Ram Mhalsekar, Talathi, Sattari, Goa.

9. Presiding Commissioner directed the Respondent PIO (Mamlatdar, Sattari Taluka) to furnish joining report, transfer order and relieving order in respect of Milind R. Mhalshekar available at the office of the PIO (Mamlatdar, Sattari) to the Appellant. Respondent PIO assured to produce the said documents before the Presiding Commissioner on the next date of hearing slated for 27/04/2026.

10. Matter called out for further hearing on 27/04/2026 for which Appellant present and Shri Pandurang R. Gawas, Head Clerk present for Respondent PIO. Complying with the direction dated 06/04/2026 of the Presiding Commissioner, Respondent PIO's representative produced a bunch of documents including -

- i. Copies of order dated 12/02/2007 regarding appointment of 46 Talathis on temporary basis.*
- ii. Joining report dated 14/02/2007 submitted by Shri. Milind Ram Mhalshekar as Talathi to the Mamlatdar, Sattari.*
- iii. Order dated 09/03/2010.*
- iv. Relieving order dated 18/03/2010.*
- v. Office order dated 15/06/2010.*
- vi. Relieving order dated 09/06/2010.*
- vii. Order dated 31/03/2011.*

- viii. *Order dated 19/04/2013.*
- ix. *Relieving order dated 09/05/2013.*
- x. *Order dated 16/06/2013.*
- xi. *Order dated 18/06/2020.*
- xii. *Relieving order dated 29/06/2020.*
- xiii. *Order dated 01/06/2022.*
- xiv. *Order dated 08/06/2022.*
- xv. *Office order dated 13/10/2022.*
- xvi. *Order dated 02/02/2023.*

11. With regard to the query of the Appellant about the relieving of Shri. Milind Ram Mhalshekar, from the Sattari Taluka, Respondent PIO's representative orally submitted that Shri. Milind Ram Mhalshekar, Talathi is still attached to the office of Mamlatdar, Sattari Taluka, Goa and also holds additional charge of Guleli Saza.

A set of copies of documents produced before the Presiding Commissioner is furnished to the Appellant, who duly acknowledged the receipt of the same.

DECISION

- i. Since the Respondent PIO has furnished information to the Appellant following the intervention by the Presiding Commissioner, Matter is disposed.
 - Proceeding stands closed.
 - Pronounced in Open Court.
 - Notify the parties.
- ii. **Taking a serious note on the casual and mechanical approach adopted by the First Appellate Authority while passing the order in first appeal, Commission hereby warned the First Appellate Authority, Dy. Collector & SDO, Sattari, to pass speaking orders judiciously instead of**

simply pronouncing that "*furnished information to the Appellant, hence matter is closed*" especially when no information has been furnished to the Appellant by the Respondent PIO.

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