

GOA STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

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

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Appeal No. 81/2026/SCIC

Shri Suvernasangeet S. Vernekar,
r/o. Sy. No. 169/18, Tarchimbhat,
(Ward No. 04), Village Shivoli,
Bardez Goa 403517

-----Appellant

V/s

1. The Public Information Officer, (Suresh Fadte)
Village Panchayat Secretary, Siolim Marna,
Siolim, Bardez Goa.

2. The First Appellate Authority,
(Prathamesh A. Shankardas)
BDO-I of Bardez,
Mapusa, Bardez Goa

-----Respondents

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

Relevant Facts Emerging from the Appeal

RTI application filed on	08/12/2025
PIO replied on	-
First Appeal filed on	14/01/2026
First Appellate order on	12/02/2026
Second appeal received on	11/03/2026
First hearing	22/04/2026
Decided on	22/04/2026

Information sought and Background of the Appeal

- 1.** Shri. Suvernasangeet S. Vernekar filed an application dated 08/12/2025 under RTI Act, 2005 to the PIO, Village Panchayat Siolim-Marna, Bardez Taluka, Goa seeking following information :
- i) *"As per the P. R. Act 1994, the cost/charges are to be imposing on the member of village Panchayat and member of Gram Sabha u/s (7) of 6 for seeking information on A3, A4 and legal size of paper.*
- ii) *As per the PR Act 1994, definition/ term of Member of Village Panchayat and Gram Sabha.*

iii) The Rule framed by Goa Legislature under the overarching State Panchayat's Raj Act with respect on the cost/charges are to be imposing on the member of Village Panchayat".

2. Failing to receive any reply/information to his RTI application from the PIO, Appellant filed first appeal dated 14/01/2026 before the First Appellate Authority stating that Respondent PIO failed to provide information within the statutory period of 30 days and praying for direction to the Respondent PIO to furnish information as sought vide RTI application dated 08/12/2025.
3. Respondent PIO vide letter dated 07/01/2026 replied to the Appellant furnishing information to all 3 RTI queries of the Appellant supported by couple of pages of the Goa Panchayat Raj Act 1994.
4. First Appellate Authority vide order dated 12/02/2026 directed the Respondent PIO to furnish certified copies of the relevant extracts of the Goa Panchayat Act, 1994 specifically covering Section 4 (Definition of Gram Sabha), Section 7 (Right to obtain information) and Section 42 (Term of office) to the Appellant within 10 days. Order further stated that prayer of the Appellant with respect to Point No. 03 is disallowed as the information sought is non-existing in the records.
5. Appellant subsequently preferred second appeal dated 11/03/2026 before the Commission stating that Respondent PIO has not furnished information in respect of RTI query No. 3 and prayed for penal and disciplinary action against the Respondent PIO.

FACTS EMERGING IN COURSE OF HEARING

6. Pursuant to the filing of the present appeal by the Appellant, parties were notified fixing the matter for hearing on 22/04/2026 for which Appellant and Respondent PIO present.

7. Appellant and Respondent PIO placed their arguments before the Presiding Commissioner. Based on the appeal memo and the arguments placed before the Presiding Commissioner, it has come to the conclusion that :

- i) *Appellant's RTI application dated 08/12/2025 was responded by the Respondent PIO and information was furnished vide letter dated 07/01/2026.*
- ii) *With regard to Point No. 03 of the RTI application, First Appellate Authority in his order dated 12/02/2026 made it clear that information sought is non-existent on the records of the public authority.*
- iii) *Information sought by the Appellant is pertaining to Goa Panchayati Raj Act 1994, which is available in public domain.*

DECISION

Since the Respondent PIO furnished information to the Appellant, Commission decided to dispose the matter by issuing following **direction to the Respondent PIO -**

- i) **Henceforth Respondent PIO need to ensure that information to the application of the information seekers is furnished within the stipulated time frame of 30 days.**
- ii) **If sought information is available, furnish the same at the earliest instead of waiting for the time frame of 30 days from the receipt of the RTI application.**
- iii) **If the sought information is furnished by *Dak*, ensure that the information is dispatched by Registered Post with AD.**
- iv) **Since the First Appellate Authority vide order dated 12/02/2026 directed the PIO to furnish relevant extracts of the Sections 4, 7 and 42 of the Goa Panchayat Raj Act 1994, furnish certified pages of section 4, 7 and 42 of the**

Goa Panchayati Raj Act, 1994 to the Appellant within 07 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