

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. 273/2025/SCIC

Mr. Andre Caetano Jose D.C. Cordeiro,
 R/o H.No.4/90,
 Mollem Bhat, Saligao,
 Bardez-Goa 403511.

-----Appellant

V/s

The Public Information Officer,
 The Secretary,
 Village Panchayat of Saligao,
 Bardez-Goa 403511.

-----Respondent

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

Relevant Facts Emerging from the Appeal

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| RTI application filed on | 05/08/2025 |
| PIO replied on | NIL |
| First Appeal filed on | 11/09/2025 |
| First Appellate order on | 29/09/2025 |
| Second appeal received on | 05/11/2025 |
| First hearing held on | 17/12/2025 |
| Decided on | 05/01/2026 |

Information sought and background of the Appeal

1. Shri. Andre Caetano Jose D.C. Cordeiro filed an application dated 05/08/2025 under RTI Act, 2025 to the PIO, V.P. Saligao seeking “*Certified copies of all the documents of entire file based on which Divergence Certificate Reference No. VP/SAL/LER/1515 dated 24/01/2008 issued to Santana Estevao Lino Cordeiro with respect to the divergence certificate of his late father Benedicto Cordeiro*”.
2. Failing to receive any reply/information from the PIO to his RTI application, Appellant filed first appeal dated 11/09/2025 before the First Appellate Authority.

3. After hearing parties to the first appeal, FAA (Block Development Officer, Bardez) vide order dated 29/09/2025 directed the Respondent PIO to furnish information as per records available to the Appellant within 15 days from the date of receipt of the order.

4. Subsequently, Appellant preferred Second appeal dated 05/11/2025 before the Commission stating that Respondent PIO has not furnished information to his RTI application and later failed to comply with the order passed by the FAA. Appellant prayed that Respondents be directed to furnish sought information and impose penalty on Respondents.

FACTS EMERGING IN COURSE OF HEARING

5. Pursuant to the filing of the present appeal, parties were notified fixing the matter for hearing on 17/12/2025 for which Appellant present but none present for Respondents. Issued notice for physical presence of the Respondent PIO for the next date of hearing slated for 05/01/2026.

6. When matter took up for hearing on 05/01/2026, Appellant and Respondent PIO present. Respondent PIO orally submitted before the Presiding Commissioner that despite all efforts, her office could not trace the concerned file pertaining to the information sought by the Appellant in the office records.

Appellant submitted that there is ample ground to believe that fraud and manipulation took place in connection with the above said Divergence Certificate dated 24/01/2008 issued by the Sarpanch, Village Panchayat, Saligao and the certified copies of the documents based on which said 'Divergence Certificate' is issued is highly essential for him to present before the authorities/courts in property related matters.

Respondent PIO however submitted that the sought information (file related to the issues of Divergence Certificate dated 24/01/2008) is not available in the office of V.P Saligao.

DECISION

Since the 'concerned file' pertaining to the Divergence Certificate dated 24/01/2008 issued by the Sarpanch, V.P. Saligao to Shri. Santana Estevao Lino Cordeiro has been found missing, Respondent PIO is hereby directed -

- i) To file a Police Complaint with the local police within seven days from the receipt of this order to register an FIR into the missing of the file in question.**
- ii) Furnish copy of the Police Complaint to the Appellant followed by copy of the FIR to the Appellant.**
- iii) File compliance report to the Commission within 15 days from the receipt of this order.**

With the above directions to the Respondent PIO, present appeal 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