

GOA STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION
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Appeal No.14/2026/SIC

Shri. Bhalchandra G. Amonkar,
H. No. KB-75 (29), B-301,
Phase-1, Mangalam Casa Amora,
Baingunim, Old Goa bypass,
Tiswadi, Goa. 403402

..... Appellant

V/s

1.The First Appellate Authority (FAA),
Goa Staff Selection Commission,
6th Floor, Spaces Building,
Patto, Panaji-Goa.

2.The Public Information Officer (PIO),
Goa Staff Selection Commission,
6th Floor, Spaces Building,
Patto, Panaji-Goa.

.....Respondents

Shri. Atmaram R. Barve

State Information Commissioner

Filed on: 20/01/2026
Disposed on: 10/06/2026

ORDER

1. The present order shall dispose off the second appeal arising out of the Right to Information (RTI) application dated 07/11/2025 made by the Appellant herein, Shri. Bhalchandra G. Amonkar and addressed to the Public Information Officer (PIO) at the Goa Staff Selection Commission, Government of Goa, wherein the Appellant had sought information pertaining to recruitment under the ex-servicemen quota.
2. In response to the said application the APIO vide communication dated 05/12/2025 responded that information with regards to point No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 12 are exempt

from disclosure and information pertaining to point No. 8, 9, and 11 are not available with Goa Staff Selection Commission.

3. Aggrieved by this reply the Appellant herein preferred the First Appeal before the competent authority on 09/12/2025. The First Appellate Authority vide its order dated 05/01/2026 disposed off the First Appeal by upholding contentions of the PIO .
4. Aggrieved by this order the Appellant herein preferred the second appeal before this Commission vide Appeal memo dated 20/01/2026.
5. Notices were issued and the matter came up to be heard from 18/03/2026 onwards.
6. The PIO, Shri. Bhivesh R. Parab Gaonkar vide his reply dated 18/03/2026 reiterated the stand taken before the First Appellate Authority.
7. On the present day both parties argued the matter.
8. Upon perusal of the Appeal memo, reply, arguments led and all the material on record, this Commission is of the considered opinion as under:-
 - a- The Appellant's RTI application has not been dealt with in the right manner which is evident from the fact that firstly reply to the RTI application is not issued by the PIO and is rather issued by the APIO without mentioning reasons thereof.
 - b- The PIO/APIO has taken a blanket cover by invoking non-disclosure under Section 8(1)(e) of the RTI Act, 2005 whereas during the proceedings before the First Appellate

Authority, the said PIO has taken a different stand that some portions of information are already in the public domain. This stance is inconsistent, as if the information is already in public domain then the question of the same being immune to disclosure cannot arise by any stretch of imagination.

c- In the reply conveyed to the information seeker it is not clear whether any part of his application has been transferred to any other authority under Section 6(3) of the RTI Act, 2005.

d- There is no material on record to ascertain whether the said PIO sought any clarification from the Appellant herein so as to determine the aspect of larger public interest. It can be clearly concluded that invoking Section 8(1)(e) is the mischief played by the PIO and secondly the FAA has failed to examine the First Appeal in an unbiased manner and has shown non application of mind while deciding the First Appeal.

e- If the PIO's start invoking this provision at will; then it would become impossible to get access to any information and the very purpose of the RTI Act shall be defeated.

9. Therefore in view of the above the present Second Appeal disposed with following Orders:

a. The present Second Appeal is allowed.

b. The Order of the First Appellate Authority is set aside.

c. The PIO, Shri. Bhivesh R. Parab Gaonkar is hereby directed to re-access the RTI application filed by the Appellant herein in a time bound manner and provide certified true

copies of all the relevant documents free of cost to the Appellant herein and also seek the assistance of any other higher equivalent or sub-ordinate authority in the Goa Staff Selection Commission or any other department of Government of Goa so as to provide response to the Appellant's RTI application in a time bound manner.

- d. This entire exercise to be completed in a time bound manner on or before 10/07/2026 and a compliance report to that effect shall be submitted before his Commission on 16/07/2026.
 - e. Non-compliance to the directions above shall invite action in terms of Section 20(1) and Section 20(2) of the RTI Act and accordingly a Show Cause Notice to be issued to that effect. Reply to the Show Cause Notice shall be submitted by the PIO in person before this Commission on 16/07/2026 at 11.00 a.m. alongwith compliance report in view of directions above failing which necessary proceedings shall be initiated accordingly.
- No order as to cost.
 - Parties to be provided authenticated copies of this order separately under each appeal number.
 - 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/-

(ATMARAM R. BARVE)

State Information Commissioner