

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

Complaint No.16/2026/SCIC

Shri Vijaykumar Verlekar,
H. No. 1028/D, Radhika Anant Niwas
Escrivao Vaddo, Candolim,
Bardez Goa 403507. -----Complainant
V/s
The Public Information Officer,
Candolim Village Panchayat,
Candolim, Bardez Goa 403515. -----Opponent

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

Relevant Facts Emerging from the Complaint

Complaint received on	12/03/2026
First hearing held on	29/04/2026
Decided on	09/06/2026

Information sought and Background of the Complaint

1. Shri. Vijaykumar Verlekar filed an RTI application dated 10/11/2025 to the PIO, Village Panchayat Candolim, North Goa seeking information at 07 points with regards to the installation of 'No Parking' Boards and related permission along NH66 (Candolim-Calangute road) and nearby areas under the jurisdiction of Village Panchayat Candolim.
2. Failing to receive any reply or information to his RTI application, Appellant filed first appeal dated 11/12/2025 before the First Appellate Authority (FAA).
3. First Appellate Authority (BDO-I, Bardez, Goa) vide order dated 15/01/2026 directed the Opponent PIO to furnish point-wise information as sought by the Appellant within 15 days and cautioned that failure to adhere to the timeline to furnish the information will be viewed as a serious lapse.

4. Following the order dated 15/01/2026 passed by the First Appellate Authority, Opponent PIO vide letter dated 23/01/2026 replied to the Appellant's 7-point RTI application furnishing copy of resolution as information to point No. 1, 2 & 6 of the RTI application and replied as '*Not available*' to Point No. 3, 4 and 5 and '*Not Applicable*' to Point No. 7.
5. Being aggrieved by the reply/information furnished by the PIO after the First Appellate Authority's order, Appellant filed complaint dated 12/03/2026 before the Commission stating that the Opponent PIO has furnished irrelevant and misleading information. Complainant prayed for direction to the Opponent PIO to furnish complete and point-wise information and initiate penal action against the Opponent PIO besides recommending disciplinary proceedings against him.

FACTS EMERGING IN COURSE OF HEARING

6. Pursuant to the filing of the present complaint, matter took up for hearing on 29/04/2026 for which Complainant present but none present for Opponent PIO. Matter adjourned to 11/05/2026.
7. When the matter called for hearing on 11/05/2026, Complainant present and Adv. Swati Verlekar present for Opponent PIO. Adv. Swati Verlekar filed Opponent PIO's written submission dated 11/05/2026 stating that:
 - i. *In compliance with First Appellate Authority's order, Opponent PIO furnished all available information and also explicitly stating 'Not Available' where the information sought was not held by the Panchayat.*
 - ii. *The Village Panchayat Candolim in its meeting held on 18/12/2020 vide Resolution No. 11 (17) herein unanimously resolved to send a proposal to the Collector, North Goa District for proposed new 2 & 4 wheeler parking/No Parking stands in Village Panchayat, Candolim area and copy of this resolution was duly provided to the Complainant.*

- iii. *The said resolution is the only official record available with Panchayat concerning the subject matter sought by the Appellant.*
- iv. *No separate or independent resolution pertaining to only Candolim-Calangute road is passed by the Panchayat Body. Moreover, Panchayat does not possess any separate order, approval or permission from traffic cell of Police, Directorate of Transport in relation to the installation of the said 'No Parking' boards.*
- v. *There is no evidence of malafide intent or wilful disobedience on the part of the Opponent PIO and the burden of proving malafide intent lies squarely on the Complainant.*

8. Matter took up again for hearing on 09/06/2026 for which Complainant and Opponent PIO's lawyer present.

9. Complainant in his rejoinder/written submission dated 09/06/2026 stated that :

- i. *Under Motor Vehicle Act 1988, regulation of traffic parking restrictions, road sign etc. falls under the jurisdiction of Traffic Police, Directorate of Transport, Collector and National Highway Authority.*
- ii. *'No parking' boards and declaration of 'No Parking Zones' are beyond Panchayat jurisdiction and legally questionable.*
- iii. *Opponent cannot legally impose or support parking restrictions affecting general public.*
- iv. *Opponent failed to provide clear, complete and proper information.*
- v. *Consider appropriate proceedings under Section 20 of the RTI Act, 2005.*

10. Opponent PIO's lawyer filed a memo dated 09/06/2026 stating that :

- a) Pursuant to the direction of the Hon'ble State Chief Information Commissioner, Opponent PIO furnished detailed point-wise reply/information to the Complainant vide letter dated 13/05/2026.*
- b) Present point-wise reply/information has been furnished in compliance with the direction of the Hon'ble Commission as the Complainant was not satisfied with the earlier reply/information furnished by the Opponent PIO.*

DECISION

- i. Complying with oral direction dated 11/05/2026 of the State Chief Information Commissioner, Opponent PIO vide letter dated 13/05/2026 furnished point-wise comprehensive reply/information to the 7- point RTI application of the Complainant.**
- ii. Even though the Complainant sought information in respect of 'No Parking' areas along the Candolim-Calangute road on NH 66, Opponent PIO furnished copy of the Resolution No. 11 (17) adopted by the Village Panchayat, Candolim in the Panchayat body meeting dated 18/12/2020 unanimously resolving proposed parking/No Parking stands at various locations along Candolim-Calangute road which is not at all NH 66, as claimed by the Complainant but a coastal road (MDR-10) connecting Sinquerim and Calangute.**
- iii. Commission could not find the matter fit for imposing penalty against the Opponent PIO, u/s 20(1) of the RTI Act, 2005.**
- iv. If the Complainant has the opinion (as claimed in his rejoinder dated 09/06/2026), that the 2 & 4 wheeler parking/No Parking stands in the jurisdiction of Village**

Panchayat, Candolim based on Panchayat Resolution No. 11(17) dated 18/12/2020 is legally questionable and beyond Panchayat jurisdiction, Complainant is at liberty to challenge the same before the appropriate authority.

- 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