

GOA STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION
'Kamat Towers', Seventh Floor, Patto, Panaji –Goa
Tel No. 0832-2437880/2437208 email: spio-gsic.goa@nic.in
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Complaint No. 28/2025/SIC

Roy C. D'Souza,
Resident of H.No. 525,
Mesta Bhat, Mercas-Ilhas,
Goa 403005.

.....Complainant

V/S

1. Aniruddha S. Pawar,
Public Information Officer,
Goa College of Architecture,
Altinho, Panaji-Goa. 403001.

2. Leon Angelo Morenas,
First Appellate Authority/ Principal,
Goa College of Architecture,
Altinho, Panaji-Goa. 403001.

.....Opponents

Shri. Atmaram R. Barve

State Information Commissioner

Filed on: 02/04/2025
Decided on: 04/06/2025
Detailed order on: 20/05/2026

ORDER

1. The present complaint arises out of Right to Information (RTI) application dated 11/10/2024 made by the Complainant Roy D'Souza and addressed to Public Information Officer (PIO), College of Architecture, Altinho, Panaji-Goa.
2. The PIO vide reply dated 01/11/2024 informed the Complainant that information related to point No. 7 & 9-22 is in the custody of various sections of Goa College of Architecture and information and point No. 1-6 & 8 is held by the Directorate of Technical Education and the same has been transferred to the concerned PIO's.

3. After receiving information from the other public authority, the PIO vide reply dated 12/11/2024 informed the Complainant to carry out the inspection of the said documents on 13/11/2024 and if certified copies required may pay Rs. 158/- for 79 pages of information.
4. The Complainant vide letter dated 21/11/2024 informed the PIO that his letter dated 12/11/2024 was received by him on 20/11/2024 which is beyond the stipulated time period of 30 days and hence he is entitled for receiving information free of cost.
5. Again the PIO vide reply dated 09/12/2024 informed the Complainant that his request for provision of information free of cost cannot be granted on the ground that as stipulated in Section 11(3), notwithstanding anything contained in Section 7, the time limit of 40 days is granted after receipt of information to make decision as to whether or not disclose the information.
6. Aggrieved, by the replies of the PIO, the Complainant filed first appeal on 27/12/2024 before the Principal being the First Appellate Authority (FAA).
7. In absence of the order from the FAA within stipulated time period, the Complainant preferred a complaint vide complaint memo dated 02/04/2025 before this Commission.
8. Notices were issued and matter came up to be heard from 16/05/2025 onwards.
9. The FAA vide reply date 04/06/2025 has furnished the copy of the Order passed in the first appeal dated 21/05/2025, wherein the information sought by the Complainant may be provided free of charge to the Complainant.

10. Both the parties filed their respective replies and rejoinders and also argued the matter.
11. Upon perusal of the complaint memo and as well as other relevant documents relied upon by both the parties this Commission is of considered opinion as under:-
 - a. The PIO have grossly failed to discharge his duty under the RTI Act by not transferring the RTI application to another public authority of the Complainant within 5 days as mandated under Section 6(3) of the RTI Act. This shows the casual approach of the PIO towards the RTI Act, 2005.
 - b. The FAA has also grossly failed to discharge his duty by not passing the speaking order in the first appeal within the stipulated time period.
12. In view of above, the present complaint is disposed off with following order:-
 - a. The present complaint is upheld.
 - b. The present PIO, College of Architecture is hereby directed to provide the remaining information if available to the Complainant free of cost and submit the compliance report of the same.
 - c. Registry to issue show cause notice to the present PIO seeking response as to why no action should be initiated against him for not providing information within the stipulated time period of 30 days. The present PIO shall remain present in person with reply to show cause notice alongwith compliance report as mentioned herein above on **29/06/2026 at 11.00 am**; failing which necessary

disciplinary action and penalty proceeding shall be initiated accordingly.

- No order as to cost.
- Parties to be provided authenticated copies of the order.
- 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