

**Complaint No. 22/2025/SIC**

Sushant P. Nagvenkar,  
H.No. C-312, Fonduvem,  
Ribandar-Goa.

..... Complainant

V/s

1. Public Information Officer (PIO),  
Office of the District Magistrate,  
North Goa, Panaji-Goa

2. First Appellate Authority,  
Office of the District Magistrate,  
North Goa, Panaji-Goa

..... Opponents

**Shri. Atmaram R. Barve**

State Information Commissioner

**Filed on: 06/03/2025**  
**Disposed on: 20/01/2026**

**ORDER**

1. The present complaint arises out of the Right to Information (RTI) application dated 07/06/2024 made by the Complainant herein, Shri. Sushant P. Nagvenkar and addressed to the Public Information Officer (PIO) at Office of the District Magistrate North Goa, Panaji-Goa.
2. Citing the grounds that no response was issued by the PIO within stipulated time of 30 days, the Complainant herein preferred a First Appeal before the Competent Authority vide his Appeal memo dated 07/08/2024.
3. Thereafter citing the grounds that the PIO has denied information and that the FAA has failed to decide First Appeal within time frame the Complainant herein preferred the present Complaint vide memo dated 06/03/2025 thereafter notices were issued and matter came up to be heard on 05/05/2025 onwards.

4. The FAA vide reply dated 05/06/2025, has brought on record the reply of the PIO to the RTI application, as well as judgement and order passed by the FAA.
5. However, name of the Officer discharging duties of FAA does not reflect in the said reply and as such the said name cannot be taken on record.
6. Thereafter the PIO Shri. Rajesh Raikar filed his reply dated 05/06/2025 thereby reiterating the reply filed by the FAA. This reply too appears to be ambiguous as the same is not sign by PIO himself.
7. Vide counter to reply dated 15/07/2025 the Complainant herein brought on record his strong objection to the replies filed by FAA as well as PIO and contended that the said reply to RTI application as well as order of the FAA were never received by him either by register AD or ordinary post.
8. On the present day of hearing both parties argued the matter.
9. The present PIO contended that at the time when this cause of action arose the Dy. Collector (DRO) was the relevant PIO. The PIO also agreed that the reply to the RTI application was sent through normal post towards which no proof of service is placed on record thus far.
10. Upon perusal of Complaint memo replies, all the material on record as well as arguments led by both parties, this Commission is of considered opinion as under:
  - a. The overall conduct of the PIOs, FAAs discharging duties at various times leaves scope for suspicion and ambiguity and the same can be construed to be aimed at defeating the purpose of the RTI Act and causing denial of information to the information seeker.

- b. The level of lethargy, oversight and disregard is so much that the PIO has even failed to read the notices issued by this Commission in toto and has not bothered to bring the relevant PIO on record.
  - c. Although the relevant PIO could have been brought on record at this stage, however allowing the same would only complement the administrative negligence and reinforce a spirit of disregard towards the RTI ACT and the authorities constituted thereunder.
  - d. The perusal of records reveals that there has been constant change in hands in so far as the officials discharging duties as PIO or FAA are concerned, thereby making it obviously difficult to fix the responsibility on to a single person.
11. Therefore, in view of the above the present Complaint is disposed with following orders:-
- a. The present Complaint is allowed.
  - b. The present PIO, Shri. Rajesh Raikar, is hereby directed to take up the application under the RTI application afresh and provide the necessary response or certified true copies, as the case may be, by way of registered postal service on or before 10/02/2026 and submit a compliance report to this effect on 26/02/2026.
  - c. The Registry is directed to issue a Show Cause Notice to the present PIO seeking clarification as to why action should not be initiated under Section 20(1) and Section 20(2) of the RTI Act and the reply to the same shall be submitted to this Commission by remaining present in person on 26/02/2026, failing which necessary penalty and further proceedings shall be initiated.

- d. The Secretary, Revenue Department, Government of Goa is hereby directed to conduct an inquiry into this matter against all such PIOs and FAAs as the case may be who have caused denial of information to the information seeker, have failed to issue their responses within the stipulated time period and have failed to serve copies of the reply as well as copies of the order of FAA by way of registered Post on service or Speed Post as the case may be. The said inquiry shall be concluded on or before 20/02/2026 and the report along with actions recommended shall be submitted to this Commission through any Authority Representative on 26/02/2026 at 11.00 a.m.
- e. The Secretary, Revenue Department, Government of Goa is hereby directed to communicate directions to all PIOs and FAAs under ambit to ensure disposal of RTI application and First Appeal within prescribed time period and to lay special emphasis on the adherence on the PIO in terms of Section 4 of RTI Act. The copy of said communication/directions shall be submitted to this Commission on 26/02/2026 at 11.00 a.m.
- 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