

23/6/26



**ANANIRBHAR BHARAT**  
**SWAYAMPURNA GOA**

DIRECTORATE OF PANCHAYATS  
GOVERNMENT OF GOA

5th Floor, Myles High, Corporate Hub, Patto, Panaji- Goa

Phone No: (0832) - 2438863, e-mail: [dir-panc.goa@nic.in](mailto:dir-panc.goa@nic.in) Website:

[www.panchayatsgoa.gov.in](http://www.panchayatsgoa.gov.in)

Handwritten signature and stamp:  
JOB Code Information  
Commissioner  
Panchaj-Goa  
Office No. 1731  
Date 22/06/2026

No. DP/RTI/Memorandum/2026/5438

Date: 19/06/2026

**Memorandum**

Sub: Strict compliance with the provisions of the Right to Information Act, 2005 regarding.....

Ref: Note No. GSIC/Court-Matters/2025-2026/579 dated 12/06/2026 issued by the Hon'ble Goa State Chief Information Commissioner

All Public Information Officers and First Appellate Authorities are informed that a serious view has been taken by Hon'ble Goa State Chief Information Commissioner regarding the functioning of Public Information Officers (PIOs) and First Appellate Authorities (FAAs) under the Directorate of Panchayats. The Goa State Chief Information Commissioner, vide its Note referred above has expressed deep concern regarding indifferent, casual, and lackadaisical approach adopted by several PIOs, particularly the Village Panchayat Secretaries and FAAs towards information seekers and the implementation of the RTI Act, 2005. The Hon'ble State Chief Information Commissioner has specifically noted serious lapses, including PIOs failing to reply or furnish required information within the statutory time frames, PIOs deliberately remaining absent from scheduled appeal hearings before the First Appellate Authorities, PIOs failing to execute valid orders passed by the First Appellate Authorities, thereby forcing information seekers to approach the Goa State Chief Information Commission by filing second appeals. As regards FAAs, it is stated that First Appellate Authorities are not disposing of first appeals or failing to pass timely reasoned orders.

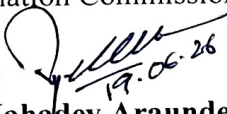
The Commissioner has named about indifferent approach noticed in respect PIOs of some Village Panchayats such as Calangute, Candolim, Aldona, Verla-Canca, and Arpora-Nagoa. Such a lack of discipline on the part of PIOs acts as a major hindrance to the dissemination of information.

Handwritten signature

Therefore, in terms of the directions issued by the Goa State Chief Information Commissioner, all Public Information Officers and First Appellate Authorities under the control of the Directorate of Panchayats are hereby strictly directed to adhere to the following instructions:

- (i) Although duty of PIOs and FAAs under RTI Act 2005 is an additional responsibility, it shall not be used as an excuse to escape legal obligations under the RTI Act, 2005.
- (ii) All RTI applications shall be scrutinized and responded strictly within the prescribed 30 day statutory time period.
- (iii) PIOs shall personally attend all hearings before the First Appellate Authorities without fail. Any unauthorized absence will be viewed as a deliberate insubordination of duty.
- (iv) Orders passed by the First Appellate Authorities shall be complied with immediately by the concerned PIO.
- (v) All First Appellate Authorities shall hear and dispose of first appeals diligently, passing clear orders within the time limit stipulated under Section 19(1) of the RTI Act.

Any continued lackadaisical approach, delay, or failure to comply with these directives will be viewed seriously under the relevant Service Rules, besides the statutory penalties and disciplinary recommendations prescribed under Section 20 of the RTI Act, 2005 by the Hon'ble Goa State Information Commission.

  
(Mahadev Araundekar)  
Director of Panchayats,  
Panaji-Goa.

**To**

1. All Public Information Officers under the Directorate of Panchayats
2. All First Appellate Authorities under the Directorate of Panchayats.

**Copy to:**

1. PA to the Hon'ble State Chief Information Commissioner, Goa State Information Commission, Kamat Towers, Panaji, Goa
2. The P.A. to Chief Secretary, Government of Goa, Secretariat, Porvorim, Goa.
4. Guard File/Office copy.