

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

RED CROSS BUILDING, NEAR ROSE GARDEN,

SECTOR 16, CHANDIGARH.

Ph: 0172-2864115, Email: - psic26@punjabmail.gov.in

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Shri Chetan Goyal, (9541527035)

S/o Shri Narinder Kumar,
Abchal Nagar, House No 45, Street No 1,
Tehsil&District Patiala-147001

.....Appellant

VERSUS

Public Information Officer,

O/o Senior Superintendent of Police,
Patiala.

First Appellate Authority,

O/o Deputy Inspector General of Police.
Patiala Range, Patiala.

....Respondents

APPEAL CASE NO. 0513 OF 2026

PRESENT: None on behalf of the Appellant.
Shri Hakam Singh, ASI on behalf of the Respondents.

ORDER:

This order refers to the Bench's previous order dated 17.03.2026.

2. That the appellant remained absent during the hearing. On the other hand, the respondent submitted before the Bench that the requisite information had already been furnished to the appellant and that, thereafter, no deficiencies in the information supplied had been pointed out by the appellant.

3. That in view of the above, the appellant is again advised to point out the deficiencies, if any, in writing to the PIO. Upon receipt of the same, the PIO shall examine the deficiencies so pointed out and furnish the requisite/rectified information, if required and covered under the provisions of the RTI Act, 2005, failing which appropriate action shall be initiated against the PIO in accordance with law.

4. Adjourned to **22.09.2026 at 11:00 AM.**

14.07.2026

Sd/-
(HARPREET SINGH SANDHU)
State Information Commissioner, Punjab

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Shri Chetan Goyal, (9541527035)

S/o Shri Narinder Kumar,
Abchal Nagar, House No 45, Street No 1,
Tehsil & District Patiala-147001.

.....Appellant

VERSUS

Public Information Officer,

O/o Senior Superintendent of Police,
Patiala.

**Public Information Officer – cum –
Station House Officer (S.H.O.)**

O/o Police Station Tripari,
Patiala.

First Appellate Authority,

O/o Deputy Inspector General of Police.
Patiala Range, Patiala.

....Respondents

APPEAL CASE NO. 0516 OF 2026

PRESENT: None on behalf of the Appellant.
Shri Hakam Singh, ASI on behalf of the Respondents.

ORDER:

This order refers to the Bench's previous order dated 17.03.2026.

2. That the appellant remained absent during the hearing. On the other hand, the respondent submitted before the Bench that the information sought by the appellant pertains to the office of the S.H.O., Police Station Tripari, Patiala, and that a communication has already been sent to the said office for compliance with the directions of the Bench.

3. That upon consideration of the submissions made by the respondent, the Bench observes that the information sought by the appellant is available with the S.H.O., Police Station Tripari, Patiala. Accordingly, the S.H.O., Police Station Tripari, Patiala is hereby impleaded as Respondent No. 2, being the custodian of the information sought.

4. That accordingly, the S.H.O., Police Station Tripari, Patiala (Respondent No. 2) is directed to examine the RTI application and furnish the requisite information to the appellant, if available and covered under the provisions of the RTI Act, 2005, and file a compliance report before the next date of hearing, failing which appropriate action shall be initiated against the concerned PIO in accordance with law.

5. Adjourned to **22.09.2026 at 11:00 AM.**

Sd/-

(HARPREET SINGH SANDHU)

State Information Commissioner, Punjab

14.07.2026

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Shri Chetan Goyal, (9541527035)

S/o Shri Narinder Kumar,
Abchal Nagar, House No 45, Street No 1,
Tehsil & District Patiala-147001

....Appellant

VERSUS

Public Information Officer,

O/o Senior Superintendent of Police,
Patiala.

First Appellate Authority,

O/o Deputy Inspector General of Police.
Patiala Range, Patiala.

....Respondents

APPEAL CASE NO. 0532 OF 2026

PRESENT: None on behalf of the Appellant.
Shri Hakam Singh, ASI on behalf of the Respondents.

ORDER:

This order refers to the Bench's previous order dated 17.03.2026.

2. That the appellant remained absent during the hearing. On the other hand, the respondent submitted before the Bench that the requisite information had already been furnished to the appellant and that, thereafter, no deficiencies in the information supplied had been pointed out by the appellant.

3. That in view of the above, the appellant is again advised to point out the deficiencies, if any, in writing to the PIO. Upon receipt of the same, the PIO shall examine the deficiencies so pointed out and furnish the requisite/rectified information, if required and covered under the provisions of the RTI Act, 2005, failing which appropriate action shall be initiated against the PIO in accordance with law.

4. Adjourned to **22.09.2026 at 11:00 AM.**

14.07.2026

Sd/-
(HARPREET SINGH SANDHU)
State Information Commissioner, Punjab

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Shri Kuldeep Singh, (9872869086)

S/o Shri Sarwan Dass,

R/o Village Rurki Kalan, PO Ghamour,

Tehsil Balachaur, District SBS Nagar.

....Appellant

VERSUS

Public Information Officer,

O/o Block Development and Panchayat Officer,

Block Saroya, District Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar.

First Appellate Authority,

O/o Deputy Commissioner,

Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar.

~Now~

First Appellate Authority,

O/o District Development and Panchayat Officer,

Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar.

....Respondents

APPEAL CASE NO. 1997 OF 2025

PRESENT:

Shri Kuldeep Singh, Appellant.

None on behalf of the Respondents.

ORDER:

This order refers to the Bench's previous order dated 16.03.2026.

2. That the appellant stated that incomplete information has been provided. On the other hand, the PIO remained absent during the hearing. However, an email has been received from the PIO stating that he has been deputed for the SIR work relating to the election and is, therefore, unable to appear in the present appeal. The PIO has requested a short adjournment. A copy of the email is taken on record and placed in the case file.

3. That upon perusal of the case file, the Bench observes that the PIO remained absent for today's hearing and on the past dates of hearing i.e., 02.09.2025, 17.11.2025, 14.01.2026, and 16.03.2026 despite Notices/Orders having been duly issued through registered post. Such continuous absence reflects disregard towards the Commission and has adversely affected the proceedings of the case.

4. That a perusal of the case record reveals that the PIO had been directed on the last date of hearing to provide the remaining information before the next date of hearing. However, till date, complete information has not been provided to the appellant.

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-02-

APPEAL CASE NO. 1997 OF 2025

5. That in view of the above, a **SHOW CAUSE NOTICE** under Section 20(1) of the RTI Act, 2005 is issued to **Shri Ashok Kumar, PIO – cum – BDPO O/o Block Development & Panchayat Office, Block Saroya, District Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar** to explain why penalty should not be imposed upon him for wilful delay/denial in supplying the information to the RTI applicant, and why compensation should not be awarded to the appellant under the provisions of the RTI Act, 2005.

6. That in view of the above, a **SHOW CAUSE NOTICE** under Section 20(1) of the RTI Act, 2005 is issued to **PIO** to explain why penalty should not be imposed upon him for wilful delay in supplying the information to the RTI applicant, and why compensation should not be awarded to the appellant under the provisions of the RTI Act, 2005.

7. That the PIO is directed to file a reply in response to the Show Cause Notice and to appear in person on the next date fixed; otherwise, failing which **Bailable Warrant** shall be issued.

8. Adjourned to **22.09.2026 at 11:00 AM**.

14.07.2026

Sd/-
(HARPREET SINGH SANDHU)
State Information Commissioner, Punjab

Copy of the above is forwarded for compliance: -

Shri Gulpreet Singh Aulakh, I.A.S

Deputy Commissioner,
Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar.

Shri Ashok Kumar,

PIO – cum – BDPO,
O/o Block Development & Panchayat Office,
Block Saroya, District Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar

14.07.2026

Sd/-
(HARPREET SINGH SANDHU)
State Information Commissioner, Punjab

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Shri Harjinder Singh, (9888809833)

Saido Majra, Navi Abadi, Block Khera,
Sirhind, District Fatehgarh Sahib-140406

....Appellant

VERSUS

Public Information Officer,

O/o Block Development and Panchayat Officer,
Block Khera, District Fatehgarh Sahib.

First Appellate Authority,

O/o District Development and Panchayat Officer,
District Fatehgarh Sahib.

....Respondents

APPEAL CASE NO. 2583 OF 2025 **CISCO WEBEX PROCEEDINGS**

PRESENT: Shri Harjinder Singh, Appellant.
None on behalf of the Respondents.

ORDER:

This order refers to the Bench's previous order dated 14.01.2026.

2. That the appellant attended hearing through Cisco Webex and stated before the Bench incomplete information has been provided, whereas the PIO remained absent for today's hearing and on the past dates of hearing i.e., 17.09.2025, 12.11.2025, 14.01.2026 and 16.03.2026, despite Notices/Orders having been duly issued through registered post. Such continuous absence reflects disregard towards the Commission and has adversely affected the proceedings of the case.

3. That a perusal of the case record reveals that the PIO had been directed on the last date of hearing to provide the remaining information before the next date of hearing. However, till date, complete information has not been provided to the appellant.

4. That in view of the above, a **SHOW CAUSE NOTICE** under Section 20(1) of the RTI Act, 2005 is issued to the **PIO Smt. Deepshikha, BDPO O/o Block Development and Panchayat Office, Block Khera, District Fatehgarh Sahib** to explain why penalty should not be imposed upon her for wilful delay/denial in supplying the information to the RTI applicant, and why compensation should not be awarded to the appellant under the provisions of the RTI Act, 2005.

Cont...Pg.02

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-02-

APPEAL CASE NO. 2583 OF 2025

5. That in view of the above, a **SHOW CAUSE NOTICE** under Section 20(1) of the RTI Act, 2005 is issued to **PIO** to explain why penalty should not be imposed upon her for wilful delay/denial in supplying the information to the RTI applicant, and why compensation should not be awarded to the appellant under the provisions of the RTI Act, 2005.

6. That the PIO is directed to file a reply in response to the Show Cause Notice and to appear in person on the next date fixed; otherwise, failing which **Bailable Warrant** shall be issued.

7. Adjourned to **22.09.2026 at 11:00 AM**.

14.07.2026

**Sd/-
(HARPREET SINGH SANDHU)
State Information Commissioner, Punjab**

Copy of the above is forwarded for compliance: -

Dr. Sona Thind, IAS

Deputy Commissioner,
Fatehgarh Sahib.

Smt. Deepshikha,

PIO – cum – BDPO
O/o Block Development and Panchayat Office,
Block Khera, District Fatehgarh Sahib

14.07.2026

**Sd/-
(HARPREET SINGH SANDHU)
State Information Commissioner, Punjab**

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Shri Varinder Singla, (9464202781)

S/o Shri Rameshwar Dass,
R/o H No 82, Ward No 4,
Tehsil Patran, District Patiala-147105

RTI Application No. 162031

....Appellant

VERSUS

Public Information Officer,

O/o Senior Superintendent of Police,
Patiala.

First Appellate Authority,

O/o Deputy Inspector General of Police,
Patiala Range, Patiala.

....Respondents

APPEAL CASE NO. 3432 OF 2025

PRESENT:

None on behalf of the Appellant.

Shri Amarjit Singh, Senior Assistant (9463066588) along with Shri Narinder Singh, ASI (9876445434) on behalf of the Respondents.

ORDER:

This order refers to the Bench's previous order dated 16.03.2026.

2. That the appellant remained absent during the hearing. The respondent O/o Police Station Patran, District Patiala appeared and stated that some more time is given him to provide the remaining information to the appellant and requested a short adjournment.

3. That in view of the above, LAST OPPORTUNITY is given to the PIO to provide the remaining information. In case the remaining information is not available, the PIO shall file an Undertaking to this effect before the next date of hearing, failing which appropriate action shall be initiated against the PIO as per law.

4. Adjourned to **21.08.2026 at 11:00 AM.**

Sd/-

(HARPREET SINGH SANDHU)

State Information Commissioner, Punjab

14.07.2026

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Ms. Jaspal Kaur,

W/o Shri Charandass,

R/o Bamna Patti, Near Govt Sr. Sec School Boys,

Samana, District Patiala-147101

.....Appellant

VERSUS

Public Information Officer,

O/o Senior Superintendent of Police,

Patiala.

First Appellate Authority,

O/o Additional Deputy General of Police,

Patiala Range, Patiala.

....Respondents

APPEAL CASE NO. 3440 OF 2025

PRESENT:

None on behalf of the Appellant.

Shri Hakam Singh, ASI on behalf of the Respondents.

ORDER:

This order refers to the Bench's previous order dated 16.03.2026.

2. That the respondent stated before the Bench that the remaining information has already been sent to the appellant, whereas the appellant remained absent during the hearing.

3. That in view of the above, LAST OPPORTUNITY is given to the appellant appear in person before the Bench failing which decision shall be taken in her absence.

4. Adjourned to **21.08.2026 at 11:00 AM.**

Sd/-

(HARPREET SINGH SANDHU)

State Information Commissioner, Punjab

14.07.2026

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Shri Rajinder Singh, (9815186419)

S/o Late Shri Sohan Singh,
H No 108, Satnam Nagar, Nilpur,
Rajpura, District Patiala-140401

RTI Application No.379

....Appellant

VERSUS

Public Information Officer,

O/o Senior Superintendent of Police,
Patiala.

First Appellate Authority,

O/o Deputy Commissioner,
Patiala.

....Respondents

APPEAL CASE NO. 3959 OF 2025

PRESENT:

None on behalf of the Appellant.

Shri Amarjit Singh, Senior Assistant (9463066588) on behalf of the Respondents.

ORDER:

This order refers to the Bench's previous order dated 16.03.2026.

2. That the appellant remained absent during the hearing. However, an email has been received wherein the appellant specify the exact information what he had asked in RTI application dated 11.04.2025, copy of the same is taken on record and placed in the case file and sent to the respondent along with this order.

3. That in view of the above, the PIO is hereby directed to re-examine the RTI application of the appellant along with the replication filed by the appellant and provide the requisite information to the appellant if covered under the RTI Act, 2005, failing which appropriate proceedings shall be initiated as per law.

4. Adjourned to **22.09.2026 at 11:00 AM.**

Sd/-

(HARPREET SINGH SANDHU)

State Information Commissioner, Punjab

14.07.2026

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

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Shri Darshan Singh, (9988169287)

S/o Shri Amar,

1046, Phase 4,

Tehsil & District SAS Nagar-160059

RTI Application No. 190036

.....Appellant

VERSUS

Public Information Officer,

O/o Deputy Inspector General of Police,

Patiala Range, Patiala.

First Appellate Authority,

O/o Deputy Inspector General of Police,

Patiala Range, Patiala.

....Respondents

APPEAL CASE NO. 4019 OF 2025

PRESENT:

None on behalf of the Appellant.

Shri Jai Singh, Senior Assistant (9463051551) on behalf of the Respondents.

ORDER:

This order refers to the Bench's previous order dated 16.03.2026.

2. That the respondent submitted before the Bench that the requisite information/reply had already been furnished to the appellant. The appellant remained absent during the present hearing and had also remained absent during the previous hearings. Neither the appellant nor any authorised representative appeared before the Bench on any of the three hearings. However, written submissions have been received from the appellant through email as well as by post. A copy of the same is taken on record, placed in the case file, and handed over to the respondent during the hearing.

3. That in view of the above, the PIO is hereby directed to examine the written submissions filed by the appellant and file a specific, point-wise reply thereto, strictly in accordance with the provisions of the RTI Act, 2005, before the next date of hearing, with a copy thereof to the appellant.

4. Adjourned to **07.10.2026 at 11:00 AM.**

Sd/-

(HARPREET SINGH SANDHU)

State Information Commissioner, Punjab

14.07.2026

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

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Shri Darshan Singh Advocate, (9988169287)

1046, Phase 4,

Tehsil & District SAS Nagar-160059

RTI Application No 193738

....Appellant

VERSUS

Public Information Officer,

O Inspector General of Police,

Patiala Range, Patiala.

First Appellate Authority,

O/o Deputy Inspector General of Police,

Patiala Range, Patiala.

....Respondents

APPEAL CASE NO. 5662 OF 2025

PRESENT:

None on behalf of the Appellant.

Shri Jai Singh, Senior Assistant (9463051551) on behalf of the Respondents.

ORDER:

This order refers to the Bench's previous order dated 16.03.2026.

2. That the respondent submitted before the Bench that the requisite information/reply had already been furnished to the appellant. The appellant remained absent during the present hearing and had also remained absent during the previous hearings. Neither the appellant nor any authorised representative appeared before the Bench on any of the three hearings. However, written submissions have been received from the appellant through email as well as by post. A copy of the same is taken on record, placed in the case file, and handed over to the respondent during the hearing.

3. That in view of the above, the PIO is hereby directed to examine the written submissions filed by the appellant and file a specific, point-wise reply thereto, strictly in accordance with the provisions of the RTI Act, 2005, before the next date of hearing, with a copy thereof to the appellant.

4. Adjourned to **07.10.2026 at 11:00 AM.**

14.07.2026

**Sd/-
(HARPREET SINGH SANDHU)
State Information Commissioner, Punjab**

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

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Shri Vikram Vaid (9855032897)

(RTI Activist & Whistle Blower),

H No 1527, Gali No 2,

Bagh Rama Nand, Amritsar

....Appellant

VERSUS

Public Information Officer,

O/o Municipal Corporation,

C Block, Ranjit Avenue, Amritsar.

First Appellate Authority,

O/o Commissioner, Municipal Corporation,

C Block, Ranjit Avenue, Amritsar.

....Respondents

APPEAL CASE NO. 1979 OF 2025

PRESENT: Shri Vikram Vaid, Appellant.
None on behalf of the Respondents.

ORDER:

This order refers to the Bench's previous order dated 16.03.2026.

2. That the appellant attended hearing through Cisco Webex and stated that incomplete information has been provided by the PIO. It is matter of serious concern that the PIO remained absent during the last four Bench Court hearings i.e. 02.09.2025, 17.11.2025, 14.01.2026 and 16.03.2026, despite the PIO being issued orders of the Court through registered post, pertaining to PIO's presence before the Commission Bench. The regular non-presence of the PIOs has reflected not only disregard to the Commission Bench, but set a wrong precedence in the Court working, it has adversely affected the proceedings of the said appeal case.

Cont...Pg.02

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-02-

APPEAL CASE NO. 1979 OF 2025

3. That to take the appeal matter to its logical end the presence of PIOs Sh. Virender Mohan and Sh. Manjit Singh, both Assistant Town Planners O/o Municipal Corporation, Amritsar are essential in this appeal case before the Bench.

4. That the constant intentional absence of the PIO before the Court, inspite specific directions issued by the Commission categorically shows that the PIO has taken the proceedings of this Commission being lightly and has virtually made mockery of the provisions of the RTI Act, 2005. Such conduct demonstrates negligence and disrespect towards the authority of the Commission.

5. That the continuous non-compliance on the part of the PIO has also caused unnecessary delay in the disposal of the present appeal case and is defeating the very purpose of the Right to Information Act, 2005, which has been enacted to promote transparency and accountability in public administration. "Due to the persistent non-appearance of the Public Information Officer (PIO) in the present appeal despite repeated opportunities, the proceedings of the case have been adversely affected, resulting in an avoidable delay in the functioning of the Commission and hindering the expeditious disposal of the matter on merits. The conduct of the PIO reflects disregard for the proceedings of the Commission. Accordingly, bailable warrants have been issued by the Commission Bench to secure the presence of the PIO on the next date of hearing."

Cont...Pg.03

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-03-

APPEAL CASE NO. 1979 OF 2025

GROUND FOR ISSUANCE OF BAILABLE WARRANTS

6. That the bailable warrants are issued under Section 18(3)(a) of the Right to Information Act, 2005, against the both Assistant Town Planners of the Municipal Corporation, Amritsar, on account of their repeated and unexplained non-appearance before the Commission despite due service of notices and multiple opportunities to appear as mentioned below:-

- a. *"That the persistent absence of the concerned officials has obstructed and delayed the proceedings, hampering the Commission's ability to adjudicate the matter effectively and expeditiously. Such conduct reflects disregard for the statutory process and the lawful directions of the Commission.*
- b. *That the repeated non-compliance has not only impeded the administration of justice but has also set an undesirable precedent, undermining the authority of the Commission and the rule of law. In these circumstances, the issuance of bailable warrants is considered necessary to secure the presence of the concerned officers and to ensure that the proceedings are conducted in accordance with law without any further delay."*

7. That it is pertinent to mention here that the Commission Bench had also issued Show Cause Notice to the PIO vide Bench order dated 14.01.2026 under Section 20 (1) of the RTI Act, 2005.

Cont...Pg.04

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-04-

APPEAL CASE NO. 1979 OF 2025

8. That the gross negligence on the part of the Public Information Officer (PIO) in failing to furnish a reply even to the Show Cause Notice issued by the Commission, despite sufficient opportunity, is evident from the record. Such conduct demonstrates a lack of diligence and disregard towards the proceedings of the Commission. The continued non-compliance and absence of any satisfactory explanation from the PIO have not only impeded the adjudication of the present matter but have also caused an unnecessary delay in the effective functioning of the Commission. The conduct of the PIO is viewed seriously by the Bench and warrants appropriate consideration under the provisions of the Right to Information Act.

9. That while exercising the Power conferred under Section 18(3)(a) of the RTI Act, 2005, **Bailable Warrants** are issued against PIOs Sh. Virender Mohan and Sh. Manjit Singh, Assistant Town Planners O/o Municipal Corporation, Amritsar, with a direction to the **Commissioner of Police, Amritsar** to serve the bailable warrants upon the PIO and ensure PIO's presence along with the information in reference to RTI application dated 19.11.2024, before the Bench hearing on the **21.08.2026 at 11:00 A.M.**, so that appropriate proceedings can be initiated in the present appeal case in the interest of justice.

Sd/-

(HARPREET SINGH SANDHU)

State Information Commissioner, Punjab

14.07.2026

Cont...Pg.05

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

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-05-

APPEAL CASE NO. 1979 OF 2025

Copy of the above is forwarded for information and further necessary action:-

- 1) Shri Ghanshyam Thori, IAS**
Secretary to Government of Punjab,
Department of Local Government, Punjab,
Municipal Bhawan, Sector – 35, Chandigarh.
- 2) Shri Dalwinderjit Singh, IAS**
Deputy Commissioner,
Amritsar.
- 3) Shri Gurpreet Singh Bhullar, IPS**
Commissioner of Police,
Near District Court Complex, Amritsar.
- 4) Shri Bikramjit Singh Shergill, IAS**
Commissioner,
Municipal Corporation, Amritsar.
- 5) Shri Virender Mohan,**
Assistant Town Planner,
O/o Municipal Corporation, C Block, Ranjit Avenue, Amritsar.
- 6) Shri Manjit Singh,**
Assistant Town Planner,
O/o Municipal Corporation, C Block, Ranjit Avenue, Amritsar.

Sd/-

(HARPREET SINGH SANDHU)

State Information Commissioner, Punjab

14.07.2026

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Shri Bodh Raj Sikka, (7837577855)

S/o Late Shri Ramji Dass Sikka,

R/o 57 D, Tagore Nagar, Street No 3,

Jalandhar-144001

....Appellant

VERSUS

Public Information Officer,

O/o Executive Officer,

Improvement Trust, Jalandhar.

First Appellate Authority,

O/o Additional Deputy Commissioner,

(Urban Development), Jalandhar.

....Respondents

APPEAL CASE NO. 2606 OF 2025

PRESENT:

None on behalf of the Appellant.

Shri Gursewak Singh, Sr. Assistant on behalf of the Respondents.

ORDER:

This order refers to the Bench's previous order dated 16.03.2026.

2. That the appellant remained absent during the hearing. On the other hand, the respondent submitted before the Bench that the requisite information/reply had already been sent to the appellant and further filed a reply to the Show Cause Notice issued vide order dated 16.03.2026.

3. That upon perusal of the case file, it is observed that the reply filed by the respondent does not correlate with the RTI application filed by the appellant. Accordingly, a copy of the RTI application dated 02.12.2024 is handed over to the respondent.

4. That in view of the above, a LAST OPPORTUNITY is granted to the PIO to re-examine the RTI application and provide the requisite information, if covered under the provisions of the RTI Act, 2005, by furnishing a point-wise reply before the next date of hearing, failing which stringent action shall be initiated against the PIO in accordance with law.

4. Adjourned to **22.09.2026 at 11:00 AM.**

Sd/-

(HARPREET SINGH SANDHU)

State Information Commissioner, Punjab

14.07.2026

Copy of the above is forwarded for compliance: -

Shri Rajesh Chaudhary,

PIO – cum – Executive Officer

O/o Improvement Trust, Jalandhar.

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

RED CROSS BUILDING, NEAR ROSE GARDEN,

SECTOR 16, CHANDIGARH.

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Shri Chaand Singh, (9501600194)

S/o Shri Darshan Singh,
Village Jahangirpur, Tehsil Dinanagar,
District Gurdaspur-143531

RTI Application No. 173043

....Appellant

VERSUS

Public Information Officer,

O/o District Development and Panchayat Officer,
Gurdaspur.

First Appellate Authority,

O/o Director,
Rural Development and Panchayat, Punjab,
Vikas Bhawan, Sarovar Path, Phase 8, Sector 62, Mohali.

....Respondents

APPEAL CASE NO. 2592 OF 2025 **CISCO WEBEX PROCEEDINGS**

PRESENT: Shri Chand Singh, Appellant.
None on behalf of the Respondents.

ORDER:

This order refers to the Bench's previous order dated 16.03.2026.

2. That the appellant attended the hearing through Cisco Webex and submitted before the Bench that the complete information has still not been provided.
3. That despite the specific directions contained in the previous order, the PIO has neither appeared before the Bench nor filed any reply to the Show Cause Notice issued under Section 20(1) of the RTI Act, 2005. The PIO has also failed to comply with the directions of the Commission regarding supply of the complete information.
4. That the Bench notes with serious concern the repeated absence of the PIO despite due service of the notices/orders issued by the Commission. However, in the interest of justice, ONE LAST AND FINAL OPPORTUNITY is granted to the PIO to furnish the complete information, file a reply to the Show Cause Notice and remain personally present before the Commission on the next date of hearing, failing which the Commission shall proceed further in accordance with law.
5. Adjourned to **22.09.2026 at 11:00 AM.**

Sd/-

(HARPREET SINGH SANDHU)

State Information Commissioner, Punjab

14.07.2026

Copy of the above is forwarded for compliance: -

Shri Harpreet Singh,

DDPO – cum – PIO
O/o District Development and Panchayat Office,
Gurdaspur.

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Shri Rajpal, (9417543888)

S/o Shri Darshan Singh,

R/o DAV College Road, Opposite Vishal Tent House,

Jalalabad (W), District Fazilka.

....Appellant

VERSUS

Public Information Officer,

O/o Improvement Trust,

Fazilka.

First Appellate Authority,

O/o Additional Deputy Commissioner,

(Urban Development), Fazilka.

....Respondents

APPEAL CASE NO. 2489 OF 2025

PRESENT: Shri Rajpal, Appellant.
None on behalf of the Respondents

ORDER:

This order refers to the Bench's previous order dated 16.03.2026.

2. That the appellant stated before the Bench regarding furnishing the deficiencies before the respondent PIO vide letter dated 10.06.2026, but till today complete information has not been provided. It is matter of serious concern that the PIO remained absent during the last four Bench hearings i.e. 16.09.2025, 12.11.2025, 14.01.2026 and 16.03.2026, despite the PIO being issued orders of the Court through registered post, pertaining to PIO's presence before the Commission Bench. The regular non-presence of the PIOs has reflected not only disregard to the Commission Bench, but set a wrong precedence in the Court working, it has adversely affected the proceedings of the said appeal case.

Cont...Pg.02

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-02-

APPEAL CASE NO. 2489 OF 2025

3. That to take the appeal matter to its logical end the presence of PIO Sh. Parminder Singh Gill, Executive Officer O/o Improvement Trust, Fazilka is essential in this appeal case before the Bench.

4. That the constant intentional non-presence of the PIO before the Court, inspite specific directions issued by the Commission categorically shows that the PIO has taken the proceedings of this Commission being lightly and has virtually made mockery of the provisions of the RTI Act, 2005. Such conduct demonstrates negligence and disrespect towards the authority of the Commission.

5. That the continuous non-compliance on the part of the PIO has also caused unnecessary delay in the disposal of the present appeal case and is defeating the very purpose of the Right to Information Act, 2005, which has been enacted to promote transparency and accountability in public administration. "Due to the persistent non-appearance of the Public Information Officer (PIO) in the present appeal despite repeated opportunities, the proceedings of the case have been adversely affected, resulting in an avoidable delay in the functioning of the Commission and hindering the expeditious disposal of the matter on merits. The conduct of the PIO reflects disregard for the proceedings of the Commission. Accordingly, bailable warrants have been issued by the Commission Bench to secure the presence of the PIO on the next date of hearing."

Cont...Pg.03

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-03-

APPEAL CASE NO. 2489 OF 2025

GROUND FOR ISSUANCE OF BAILABLE WARRANTS

6. That the bailable warrants are issued under Section 18(3)(a) of the Right to Information Act, 2005, against the Executive Officer of the Improvement Trust, Fazilka, on account of his repeated and unexplained non-appearance before the Commission despite due service of notices and multiple opportunities to appear as mentioned below:-

- a. *"That the persistent absence of the concerned officials has obstructed and delayed the proceedings, hampering the Commission's ability to adjudicate the matter effectively and expeditiously. Such conduct reflects disregard for the statutory process and the lawful directions of the Commission.*
- b. *That the repeated non-compliance has not only impeded the administration of justice but has also set an undesirable precedent, undermining the authority of the Commission and the rule of law. In these circumstances, the issuance of bailable warrants is considered necessary to secure the presence of the concerned officers and to ensure that the proceedings are conducted in accordance with law without any further delay."*

7. That it is pertinent to mention here that the Commission Bench had also issued Show Cause Notice to the PIO vide Bench order dated 14.01.2026 under Section 20 (1) of the RTI Act, 2005.

Cont...Pg.04

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-04-

APPEAL CASE NO. 2489 OF 2025

8. That the gross negligence on the part of the Public Information Officer (PIO) in failing to furnish a reply even to the Show Cause Notice issued by the Commission, despite sufficient opportunity, is evident from the record. Such conduct demonstrates a lack of diligence and disregard towards the proceedings of the Commission. The continued non-compliance and absence of any satisfactory explanation from the PIO have not only impeded the adjudication of the present matter but have also caused an unnecessary delay in the effective functioning of the Commission. The conduct of the PIO is viewed seriously by the Bench and warrants appropriate consideration under the provisions of the Right to Information Act.

9. That while exercising the Power conferred under Section 18(3)(a) of the RTI Act, 2005, **Bailable Warrants** are issued against PIO Sh. Parminder Singh Gill, Executive Officer O/o Improvement Trust, Fazilka, with a direction to the **Senior Superintendent of Police, Fazilka** to serve the bailable warrants upon the PIO and ensure PIO's presence along with the information in reference to RTI application dated 28.01.2025, before the Bench hearing on the **21.08.2026 at 11:00 A.M.**, so that appropriate proceedings can be initiated in the present appeal case in the interest of justice.

Sd/-

(HARPREET SINGH SANDHU)

State Information Commissioner, Punjab

14.07.2026

Cont...Pg.05

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-05-

APPEAL CASE NO. 2489 OF 2025

Copy of the above is forwarded for information and further necessary action:-

- 1) **Shri Ghanshyam Thori, IAS**
Secretary to Government of Punjab,
Department of Local Government, Punjab,
Municipal Bhawan, Sector – 35, Chandigarh.
- 2) **Smt. Amarpreet Kaur Sandhu, IAS,**
Deputy Commissioner,
Fazilka.
- 3) **Sh. Gagan Ajit Singh, PPS**
Senior Superintendent of Police,
Fazilka.
- 4) **Sh. Parminder Singh Gill,**
Executive Officer,
Improvement Trust, Fazilka.

Sd/-

(HARPREET SINGH SANDHU)

State Information Commissioner, Punjab

14.07.2026

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Shri Balkar Singh,

S/o Late Shri Jagdev Singh Sidhu,

R/o Village and Post Office Sidwan Bet,

District Ludhiana-142033

....Appellant

VERSUS

Public Information Officer,

O/o Secretary, Gram Panchayat, Bagga Khurd,

O/o Block Development and Panchayat Officer-1,

Ludhiana.

First Appellate Authority,

O/o Block Development and Panchayat Officer,

Block Ludhiana – I, District Ludhiana.

....Respondents

APPEAL CASE NO. 0999 OF 2024

PRESENT:

None on behalf of the Appellant.

Shri Amit Kumar, Panchayat Secretary – cum – PIO on behalf of the Respondents.

ORDER:

This order refers to the Bench's previous order dated 16.03.2026.

2. That the appellant remained absent during the hearing. On the other hand, the respondent–PIO submitted before the Bench that the information sought for the period from 2014 to 2018 is not available in the official records and has filed a sworn affidavit to this effect. The PIO further submitted that the available information pertaining to the period from 2019 to 2023 has already been furnished to the appellant and that no further information remains to be supplied. The respondent also submitted a written reply to the show cause notice issued vide order dated 12.11.2025. A copy of the same is taken on record and placed in the case file.

3. That the Bench has carefully considered the reply submitted by the respondent–PIO to the show cause notice dated 12.11.2025 along with the sworn affidavit placed on record. Although the respondent has stated on oath that the records pertaining to the period from 2014 to 2018 are not available in his custody and that the available information relating to the period from 2019 to 2023 has already been furnished to the appellant, the Bench finds the said affidavit to be wholly inadequate and unsatisfactory.

Cont...Pg.02

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-02-

APPEAL CASE NO. 0999 OF 2024

The affidavit merely states that the records are not available but fails to disclose the efforts, if any, made to trace the missing records, the circumstances under which the records went missing, whether the matter was reported to the competent authority, whether any inquiry or departmental proceedings were initiated, or whether any complaint/FIR was lodged regarding the missing public records. A bald assertion regarding the non-availability of records cannot be accepted without explaining the action taken to locate or account for such records. Accordingly, the respondent-PIO is directed to file a comprehensive affidavit specifically indicating the efforts made to trace the records, the action taken after the records were found missing, the authorities informed in this regard, and the present status of any inquiry or proceedings, if initiated. The Block Development and Panchayat Officer, Ludhiana-I is also directed to file a detailed reply indicating the action taken regarding the missing records of the concerned Gram Panchayats. The respondent-PIO shall further explain as to why proceedings under Section 20(1) of the Right to Information Act, 2005 should not be initiated against him for filing an incomplete affidavit and for failing to satisfactorily explain the non-availability of the public records.

4. Adjourned to **22.09.2026 at 11:00 AM.**

Sd/-

(HARPREET SINGH SANDHU)

State Information Commissioner, Punjab

14.07.2026

Copy forwarded to the following for information and necessary action:-

- 1. Shri Himanshu Jain, IAS**
Deputy Commissioner,
Ludhiana.
- 2. Ms. Dilawar Kaur,**
District Development and Panchayat Officer,
Ludhiana.
- 3. Shri Amit Kumar,**
Panchayat Secretary – cum PIO,
Gram Panchayat, Bagga Khurd,
O/o Block Development and Panchayat Officer-1, Ludhiana.