

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION
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Sector 16, Chandigarh.
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Sh. Sanjeev Thakur (journalist),
S/o Sh. Baldev Singh, R/o Village Gurha Khurd,
Post Office Madhopur, Tehsil and Distt Pathankot.
(M.9814289764)

....Appellant

V/s

Public Information Officer,
O/o XEN,
Mandi Board, Pathankot.

First Appellate Authority,
O/o Secretary/Director,
Punjab Mandi Board, Mohali.

...Respondents

Appeal Case No.979 of 2025

Present: (i) Sh. Rahul Dev Singh, Advocate on behalf of the appellant.
(ii) Sh. Akshay Sharma, Jr. Assistant on behalf of the respondent PIO.

ORDER:

This Order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 27.04.2026 passed by the Commission.

2. The respondent PIO, represented by Sh. Akshay Sharma, Junior Assistant, submits that, despite the directions issued by the Commission, the appellant has not deposited the requisite amount/documentation fee till date. Consequently, no further compliance has been made by the respondent in the matter.

3. Sh. Rahul Dev Singh, Advocate is appearing on behalf of the appellant requests that some short adjournment may please be granted.

4. On the request of the counsel of the appellant **a last and final opportunity** to deposit the copying charges amounting to Rs. 10,080/- as demanded by the respondent PIO vide letter dated 12.11.2024. The appellant shall ensure compliance within the stipulated period. It is made clear that no further adjournment shall be granted in this matter, and in the event of non-compliance, the case shall be decided on merits on the basis of the material available on record.

5. Both the parties are also directed to remain present for deliberations to take the matter to its logical end, failing which the case will be decided on merit, ex-parte.

6. With this, the case is **adjourned to 16th September, 2026 at 12.00 Noon for hearing at Chandigarh.** Copies of the order be sent to the parties.

Dated: 15th July, 2026

Sd/-
(Pooja Gupta)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab



Sh. Yogesh Mahajan, S/o Late Sh. Kuldip Raj Mahajan,
President Anti Corruption Council, Opp: Water Tank,
Municipal Council Market, Mission Road, Pathankot.
(M.9814354649).

....Appellant

V/s

Public Information Officer,
O/o The Executive Engineer (C),
Mandi Board Division, Faridkot.

First Appellate Authority,
O/o The Chief Engineer (South),
Punjab Mandi Board, Sector:65/A,
Mandi Bhawan, Mohali.

...Respondents

Appeal Case No. 3261 of 2025

Present:

- (i) The appellant is absent.
- (ii) Adv. Deepak Rana along with Sh. Bikramjeet Singh, XEN on behalf of the respondent PIO.

ORDER:

This Order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 19.05.2026 passed by the Commission.

2. At today's hearing, the appellant is absent.
3. The respondent PIO, represented by Adv. Deepak Rana along with Sh. Bikramjeet Singh, XEN submit that in compliance with the directions of the Commission, they have brought the information to deliver it personally to the appellant.
4. In view of the respondent PIO is directed to furnish the requisite information to the appellant by Registered Post within two days, under intimation to the Commission. The respondent PIO is further directed to file a written reply in response to the show cause notice issued to him during the previous hearing.
5. Accordingly, **one more opportunity** is awarded to go through the information whenever, he receives and revert back to the respondent PIO in writing, within fifteen days, from the receipt of this order, under intimation to the Commission. On receipt of the rebuttal, the respondent is also directed to remove the deficiencies, if any, before the next date of hearing. Both the parties are also directed to remain present for deliberations to take the matter to its logical end, failing which the case will be decided on merits ex-parte.

Contd..p-2

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Appeal Case No. 3261 of 2025

6. With this, the case is **adjourned to 15th September, 2026 at 12:00 noon for hearing at Chandigarh.** Copies of the order be sent to the parties.

Sd/-

(Pooja Gupta)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab

Dated: 15th July, 2026

Ps:

The appellant, Sh. Yogesh Mahajan, appeared after the conclusion of the hearing and submitted that he could not attend the proceedings in time as he was attending another matter listed before the Hon'ble State Information Commissioner, Sh. Bhupinder Singh Batth. He was apprised of the proceedings conducted during the hearing. In view of the above, the case is adjourned.

Sd/-

(Pooja Gupta)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab

Dated: 15th July, 2026

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Sh. Yogesh Mahajan, S/o Late Sh. Kuldip Raj Mahajan,
President Anti Corruption Council, Opp: Water Tank,
Municipal Council Market, Mission Road, Pathankot.
(M.9814354649).

....Appellant

V/s

Public Information Officer,
O/o The Executive Engineer (C),
Mandi Board Division, Faridkot.

First Appellate Authority,
O/o The Chief Engineer (South),
Punjab Mandi Board, Sector:65/A,
Mandi Bhawan, Mohali.

...Respondents

Appeal Case No. 3262 of 2025

Present: (i) The appellant is absent.
(ii) Adv. Deepak Rana along with Sh. Bikramjeet Singh, XEN on behalf of the respondent PIO.

ORDER:

This Order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 19.05.2026 passed by the Commission.

2. At today's hearing, the appellant is absent.
3. The respondent PIO, represented by Adv. Deepak Rana along with Sh. Bikramjeet Singh, XEN submit that in compliance with the directions of the Commission, they have brought the information to deliver it personally to the appellant.
4. In view of the respondent PIO is directed to furnish the requisite information to the appellant by Registered Post within two days, under intimation to the Commission. The respondent PIO is further directed to file a written reply in response to the show cause notice issued to him during the previous hearing.
5. Accordingly, **one more opportunity** is awarded to go through the information whenever, he receives and revert back to the respondent PIO in writing, within fifteen days, from the receipt of his order, under intimation to the Commission. On receipt of the rebuttal, the respondent is also directed to remove the deficiencies, if any, before the next date of hearing. Both the parties are also directed to remain present for deliberations to take the matter to its logical end, failing which the case will be decided on merits ex-parte.

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Appeal Case No. 3262 of 2025

6. With this, the case is **adjourned to 15th September, 2026 at 12:00 noon for hearing at Chandigarh.** Copies of the order be sent to the parties.

Sd/-

(Pooja Gupta)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab

Dated: 15th July, 2026

Ps:

The appellant, Sh. Yogesh Mahajan, appeared after the conclusion of the hearing and submitted that he could not attend the proceedings in time as he was attending another matter listed before the Hon'ble State Information Commissioner, Sh. Bhupinder Singh Batth. He was apprised of the proceedings conducted during the hearing. In view of the above, the case is adjourned.

Sd/-

(Pooja Gupta)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab

Dated: 15th July, 2026

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Sh. Yogesh Mahajan, S/o Late Sh. Kuldip Raj Mahajan,
President Anti Corruption Council, Opp: Water Tank,
Municipal Council Market, Mission Road, Pathankot.
(M.9814354649).

....Appellant

V/s

Public Information Officer,
O/o The Executive Engineer (C),
Mandi Board Division, Faridkot.

First Appellate Authority,
O/o The Chief Engineer (South),
Punjab Mandi Board, Sector:65/A,
Mandi Bhawan, Mohali.

...Respondents

Appeal Case No. 2807 of 2025

Present: (i) The appellant is absent.
(ii) Adv. Deepak Rana along with Sh. Bikramjeet Singh, XEN on behalf of the respondent PIO.

ORDER:

This Order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 19.05.2026 passed by the Commission.

2. At today's hearing, the appellant is absent.
3. The respondent PIO, represented by Adv. Deepak Rana along with Sh. Bikramjeet Singh, XEN submit that in compliance with the directions of the Commission, they have brought the information to deliver it personally to the appellant.
4. In view of the respondent PIO is directed to furnish the requisite information to the appellant by Registered Post within two days, under intimation to the Commission. The respondent PIO is further directed to file a written reply in response to the show cause notice issued to him during the previous hearing.
5. Accordingly, **one more opportunity** is awarded to go through the information whenever, he receives and revert back to the respondent PIO in writing, within fifteen days, from the receipt of this order, under intimation to the Commission. On receipt of the rebuttal, the respondent is also directed to remove the deficiencies, if any, before the next date of hearing. Both the parties are also directed to remain present for deliberations to take the matter to its logical end, failing which the case will be decided on merits ex-parte.

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Appeal Case No. 2807 of 2025

6. With this, the case is **adjourned to 15th September, 2026 at 12:00 noon for hearing at Chandigarh.** Copies of the order be sent to the parties.

Sd/-

(Pooja Gupta)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab

Dated: 15th July, 2026

Ps:

The appellant, Sh. Yogesh Mahajan, appeared after the conclusion of the hearing and submitted that he could not attend the proceedings in time as he was attending another matter listed before the Hon'ble State Information Commissioner, Sh. Bhupinder Singh Batth. He was apprised of the proceedings conducted during the hearing. In view of the above, the case is adjourned.

Sd/-

(Pooja Gupta)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab

Dated: 15th July, 2026

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Sh. Ravi Kumar, Secretary Bahujan Samaj Party Circle,
Nakodar, O/o Bablo Studio, Near Post Office Nakodar,
District Jalandhar. (M.9855791905).

....Appellant

V/s

Public Information Officer,
O/o Executive Office,
Nagar Council, Nakodar,
District Jalandhar.

First Appellate Authority,
O/o Additional Deputy Commissioner (UD).
Jalandhar.

...Respondents

Appeal Case No.1590 of 2025

Present: (i) Sh. Ravi Kumar, the appellant.
(ii) Sh. Yograj, Inspector on behalf of the respondent PIO.

ORDER:

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 30.04.2026 passed by the Commission.

2. At today's hearing, the appellant submits that he had filed the RTI application on 14.10.2024. However, despite the lapse of nearly two years, no satisfactory reply has been furnished to him by the respondent PIO. He, therefore, prays that appropriate directions be issued to the respondent PIO to furnish the information sought under the RTI application in accordance with the provisions of the RTI Act, 2005.

3. The respondent PIO, represented by Sh. Yograj, Inspector, submitted that the information sought by the appellant pertains to records that are more than one hundred years old. It has been submitted that no such information is presently available in the official records of the public authority. The respondent further stated that, in an effort to trace the requested information, a letter was also issued to the concerned Trust seeking the relevant record. However, no response has been received from the said Trust till date.

4. In view of the above, **one more opportunity is granted to the respondent PIO Sh. Randhir Singh, Executive Officer, O/o Municipal Council, Jalandhar** to be personally appeared along with the written reply in response to the RTI application of the appellant on the next date of hearing. Both the parties are also directed to remain present for deliberations to take the matter to its logical end. It is also clarified that in case of defiance of this order, the case will be decided on merit, ex-parte.

Contd..p-2

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Appeal Case No.1590 of 2025

5. With this, the case is **adjourned to 23rd September, 2026 at 12:00 noon for hearing at Chandigarh.** Copies of the order be sent to the parties.

Sd/-

(Pooja Gupta)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab

Dated: 15th July, 2026

Cc:

Sh. Randhir Singh, Executive Officer-cum-PIO
O/o Municipal Council, Nakodar, District Jalandhar

(For compliance)



Sh. Anubhav Khanna, S/o Sh. Maharaj Saran Khanna,
653, Sector:05, Thanesar, District Kurukshetra,
(M.7404981653) RTI application No.162015.

....Appellant

V/s

Public Information Officer,
O/o Executive Officer,
Municipal Council,
Fazilka.

First Appellate Authority,
O/o Additional Deputy Commissioner (UD),
Fazilka.

...Respondents

Appeal Case No.2267 of 2025

Present: (i) Sh. Anubhav Khanna, the appellant (through cisco webex).
(ii) None on behalf of the respondent PIO.

ORDER:

This Order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 01.06.2026 passed by the Commission.

2. At today's hearing, the appellant submits that he had filed the RTI application on 10.01.2025. However, despite the lapse of more than a year no satisfactory reply has been furnished to him by the respondent PIO. He, therefore, prays that appropriate directions be issued to the respondent PIO to furnish the information sought under the RTI application in accordance with the provisions of the RTI Act, 2005.

3. Neither the respondent PIO nor any authorized representative has appeared before the Commission despite due notice of hearing. However, an email dated 11.06.2026 has been received from the respondent PIO, wherein it has been submitted that a copy of the Fire NOC has already been furnished to the appellant. It has further been stated that no subsequent Fire NOC has been issued in favour of the appellant after the one already supplied.

4. The Commission notes that although the respondent PIO has failed to appear before the Commission, the written submissions placed on record indicate that the information available with the public authority has already been supplied to the appellant. It has also been categorically stated that no further Fire NOC has been issued subsequent to the one already provided.

5. In view of the above submissions, the respondent PIO is, however, directed to furnish a copy of the written submission/email dated 11.06.2026 to the appellant, if not already supplied, within seven days from the receipt of this order. **A copy of the reply dated 11.06.2026 is also being sent to the appellant along with the orders of the Commission.**

Contd..p-2

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Appeal Case No.2267 of 2025

6. The appellant is also advised to go through the information/reply and file rebuttal if any in the supplied information, before the next date of hearing.

7. With this, the case is **adjourned to 24th September, 2026 at 12.00 Noon for hearing at Chandigarh.** Copies of the order be sent to the parties.

Sd/-

(Pooja Gupta)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab

Dated: 15th July, 2026

Enclosed: A reply dated 11.06.2026



Sh. Vikram Vaid, (M.9855032897)
H.No.1527, Gali No.2 Bagh Rama Nand,
Amritsar.

....Appellant

V/s

Public Information Officer,
O/o Executive Officer,
Nagar Panchayat, Mehatpur,
District Jalandhar.

First Appellate Authority,
O/o Additional Deputy Commissioner(Urban Development),
Jalandhar.

...Respondents

Appeal Case No.1980 of 2025

Present: (i) The appellant is absent.
(ii) Sh. Nirdosh Kumar, Inspector along with Sh. Satnam Lal, Clerk on behalf of the respondent PIO.

ORDER:

This Order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 01.06.2026 passed by the Commission

2. The respondent PIO represented by Sh. Nirdosh Kumar, Inspector along with Sh. Satnam Lal, Clerk submit that in compliance with the directions of the Commission, point wise written reply dated 13.07.2026 has been furnished to the appellant by registered post as well as on his email address.

3. On the asking of the Bench, the appellant admits that he has received the information but seeks some more time to go through the information and point out the deficiencies, if any.

4. Accordingly, **one more opportunity** is awarded to go through the information and revert back to the respondent PIO in writing, if any, within fifteen days, from the receipt of this order, under intimation to the Commission. On receipt of the rebuttal, the respondent is also directed to remove the deficiencies, if any, before the next date of hearing. Both the parties are also directed to remain present for deliberations to take the matter to its logical end, failing which the case will be decided on merits ex-parte.

5. With this, the case is **adjourned to 24th September, 2026 at 12.00 Noon for hearing at Chandigarh.** Copies of the order be sent to the parties.

Sd/-

Dated: 15th July, 2026

(Pooja Gupta)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab



Sh. Sukhwinder Jeet Sohi,
S/o Sh. Charan Dass, R/o Mohalla Salwara,
Post Office Bharwahi Ratta, Hoshiarpur,
(M.6238377535).

....Appellant

V/s

Public Information Officer,
O/o District Social Welfare Officer,
Hoshiarpur.

First Appellate Authority,
O/o District Social Welfare Officer,
Hoshiarpur.

...Respondents

Appeal Case No.2141 of 2025

Present: (i) Sh. Sukhwinder Jeet Sohi, the appellant.
(ii) None on behalf of the respondent PIO.

ORDER

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 01.06.2026 passed by the Commission.

2. At today's hearing, the appellant submits that he had filed the RTI application dated 09.07.2024 seeking certain information from the respondent public authority. It is contended that despite the lapse of nearly three years from the date of filing of the RTI application, a reply dated 25.05.2026 has been furnished to him, which means nothing to him. The appellant has, therefore, requested the Commission to issue appropriate directions to the respondent PIO for compliance with the provisions of the Right to Information Act, 2005.

3. Neither the respondent PIO nor any authorized representative is present at today's hearing. It is pertinent to note that the respondent PIO had also remained absent during the previous hearing. However, an email dated 14.07.2026 has been received from the respondent PIO, wherein it has been stated that Sh. Naresh Kumar, Superintendent, and Sh. Mandeep Singh, Senior Assistant, were deputed to appear before the Commission on his behalf for today's hearing. Despite such deputation, neither of the said officials has appeared before the Commission. A reply dated 26.06.2026 has also been received from the respondent vide which he has mentioned that information has been furnished to the appellant vide letter dated 25.05.2026. Copy of the same is taken on record.

4. The Commission takes a serious view of the repeated non-appearance of the respondent PIO and the officials deputed by him. Their conduct reflects a casual and negligent approach not only towards the directions issued by the Commission but also towards the instructions of their superior officer. Such indifference undermines the quasi-judicial proceedings before the Commission and cannot be appreciated.

Contd..p-2



Appeal Case No.2141 of 2025

5. From the perusal of the case file, it is also ascertained that the respondent PIO has not addressed the RTI application within the stipulated time, as prescribed under the RTI Act, 2005. Accordingly, the Commission deems it fit to issue this Show Cause Notice.

6 The **respondent PIO O/o District Social Welfare Officer, Hoshiarpur** is herewith ordered to **SHOW CAUSE** as to why a penalty should not be imposed upon him under Section 20 (1) of RTI Act, 2005, for causing willful delay/denial of the information requested by the appellant. He/she should file a written reply in response to the show cause notice as to why the appellant should not be compensated for the mental harassment suffered by him for not getting the information. **If there is / are other PIO / PIOs responsible for the delay in providing the information, the incumbent PIO is directed to inform such PIO(s) of the Show Cause and direct them to appear before the Commission along with written replies.**

“In addition to the written reply, the respondent PIO is also given an opportunity under Section 20 (1) provision there to, for a personal hearing before the imposition of such penalty on the next date of hearing. He may take note that in case he does not file his written reply and does not avail himself of the opportunity of personal hearing on the date fixed, it will be presumed that he has nothing to say and the Commission shall proceed to take further proceedings against him *ex parte*.”

7. The respondent PIO, **O/o District Social Welfare Officer, Hoshiarpur**, is hereby directed to remain present in person at the next hearing of the present appeal case before the Commission at Chandigarh. The respondent PIO shall also file a detailed written explanation stating the reasons as to why the RTI application was not dealt with within the stipulated period prescribed under the Right to Information Act, 2005. The explanation shall specifically identify the officer(s)/official(s), if any, responsible for the delay in furnishing the requested information and the circumstances leading to such delay. The respondent PIO is further directed to ensure strict compliance with the provisions of the RTI Act, 2005, and to produce all relevant records, if required, at the time of the next hearing. Failure to attend the Hearing will compel the Commission to ensure his presence through service of a **Bailable Warrant**.

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Appeal Case No.2141 of 2025

8. With this, the case is **adjourned to 24th September, 2026 at 12.00 Noon for hearing at Chandigarh.** Copies of the order be sent to the parties.

Sd/-

(Pooja Gupta)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab

Dated: 15th July, 2026

Cc:

Public Information Officer,
O/o District Social Welfare Officer,
Hoshiarpur.

(By name) (For compliance)



Sh. Anil Bhatia, (M.9017397100)
H-3, PH-1203, Emaar, The Views,
Sector:105, SAS Nagar. Mohali.

....Appellant

V/s

Public Information Officer,
O/o The Principal,
DAV College, Jalandhar.

First Appellate Authority,
O/o The Principal,
DAV College, Jalandhar.

...Respondents

Appeal Case No. 772 of 2025

Present: (i) Sh. Anil Bhatia, the appellant.
(ii) None on behalf of the respondent PIO.

ORDER

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 30.06.2026 passed by the Commission.

2. At today's hearing, the appellant submits that he had filed the RTI application dated 08.05.2024 seeking certain information from the respondent public authority. It is contended that despite the lapse of more than two years from the date of filing of the RTI application, no reply has been furnished to him. The appellant has, therefore, requested the Commission to issue appropriate directions to the respondent PIO for compliance with the provisions of the Right to Information Act, 2005.

3. Neither the respondent PIO nor any authorized representative is present at today's hearing. They have also not intimated the Commission about their non-appearances for today's hearing.

4. From the perusal of the case file, it is also ascertained that the respondent PIO has not addressed the RTI application within the stipulated time, as prescribed under the RTI Act, 2005. Accordingly, the Commission deems it fit to issue this Show Cause Notice.

5. The **respondent PIO O/o Principal, DAV College, Jalandhar** is herewith ordered to **SHOW CAUSE** as to why a penalty should not be imposed upon him under Section 20 (1) of RTI Act, 2005, for causing willful delay/denial of the information requested by the appellant. He/she should file a written reply in response to the show cause notice as to why the appellant should not be compensated for the mental harassment suffered by him for not getting the information. **If there is / are other PIO / PIOs responsible for the delay in providing the information, the incumbent PIO is directed to inform such PIO(s) of the Show Cause and direct them to appear before the Commission along with written replies.**



Appeal Case No. 772 of 2025

“In addition to the written reply, the respondent PIO is also given an opportunity under Section 20 (1) provision there to, for a personal hearing before the imposition of such penalty on the next date of hearing. He may take note that in case he does not file his written reply and does not avail himself of the opportunity of personal hearing on the date fixed, it will be presumed that he has nothing to say and the Commission shall proceed to take further proceedings against him *ex parte*.”

6. The respondent PIO, **O/o Principal, DAV College, Jalandhar**, is further directed to attend the next Hearing of this Appeal Case in person at the Commission in Chandigarh, along with a written, point wise reply to the RTI application and duly attested copies of all the information requested. Failure to attend the Hearing will compel the Commission to ensure his presence through service of a **Bailable Warrant**.

7. It is pertinent to observe that a large number of public authorities are still not complying with the mandatory requirements of proactive disclosure under Section 4 of the Right to Information Act, 2005. In several cases coming before this Commission, it has been noticed that the basic information required to be proactively disclosed under Section 4 of the Act has either not been uploaded on the official websites of the respective public authorities or has not been updated from time to time. Such non-compliance defeats the very object of the Right to Information Act, 2005, which seeks to promote transparency and accountability in the functioning of public authorities and to minimize the need for citizens to seek information through individual RTI applications. It is further observed that the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, in Contempt Petition (Civil) Diary No. 36812 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 1040 of 2019, has emphasized the importance of strict compliance with the provisions of Section 4 of the Right to Information Act, 2005 and has directed the State Information Commissions to ensure effective implementation of the said provision by all public authorities.

8. In view of the above, this Commission reiterates that every public authority is under a statutory obligation to ensure complete and updated proactive disclosure of information as mandated under Section 4 of the Right to Information Act, 2005. Accordingly, a copy of this order is being forwarded to the Administrative Secretary/Head of the Department concerned with a direction to ensure strict compliance

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Appeal Case No. 772 of 2025

with the provisions of Section 4 of the Right to Information Act, 2005, in letter and spirit. The Department shall ensure that all mandatory disclosures, including particulars of the Public Information Officer, First Appellate Authority, organizational structure, functions, duties, powers, norms, manuals, records, and other information prescribed under Section 4 of the Act, are prominently displayed and regularly updated on the official website as well as at conspicuous places in the office premises. Necessary instructions shall also be issued to all subordinate offices under its administrative control to ensure uniform compliance with the statutory mandate.

9. With this, the case is **adjourned to 12th August, 2026 at 12.00 Noon for hearing at Chandigarh.** Copies of the order be sent to the parties.

Sd/-

(Pooja Gupta)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab

Dated: 15th July, 2026

Cc:

- | | | |
|------|---|-----------------------------------|
| (i) | The Director Public Instructions (Secondary Education),
Punjab, Mohali. | (For compliance) |
| (ii) | Public Information Officer,
O/o The Principal,
DAV College, Jalandhar. | (By name) (For compliance) |

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Sh. Ramandeep Singh Ahluwalia,
S/o Sh. Gurcharan Singh, H.No.458,
Street No.2, Adjoining Steet No.15/2 L,
Krishna Nagar, Khanna, District Ludhiana.
(M.9464500405) RTI application No.140377.

..Appellant

V/s

Public Information Officer,
O/o Municipal Council,
Khanna, District Ludhiana.

First Appellate Authority,
O/o Municipal Council,
Khanna, District Ludhiana.

Respondents

Appeal Case No.1003 of 2025

Present: (i) The appellant is absent.
(ii) Sh. Gulshan Mehta, Advocate on behalf of the respondent PIO.

ORDER

This Order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 27.04.2026 passed by the Commission.

2. At today's hearing, the appellant is absent. However, an email dated 15.07.2026 has been received from the appellant wherein he has mentioned that due to medical grounds, he is unable to attend today's hearing.

3. The respondent PIO represented by Sh. Gulshan Mehta, Advocate is appearing on behalf of the respondent PIO submits that a written reply dated 14.07.2026 has been furnished to the appellant wherein, he has denied the information being third party information. The respondent PIO has also stated that this information are demanded only due to the articulation of personal grievances and grudge only to harass the contractors and as well as public authority with malafide intention and oblique motive for extorting the money from them under the grab of information obtained under the RTI Act, 2005 for this reason, he has already been found guilty and convicted with 04 years of RI and fine of Rs. 20,000/- by the Hon'ble Court of Ms.Neetika Verma, Special Judge, Vigilance, Punjab, Mohali vide judgment dated 20.01.2026.

4. In view of the above, the appellant is directed to file his rebuttal, if any, to the written submissions furnished by the respondent PIO before the next date of hearing, with an advance copy thereof to the respondent PIO. He is further directed to place on record a written submission demonstrating the larger public interest involved in seeking the information under the Right to Information Act, 2005, on or before the next date of hearing.

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5. Both the parties are also directed to remain present for deliberations to take the matter to its logical end, failing which the case will be decided on merit, ex-parte.

6. With this, the case is **adjourned to 24th September, 2026 at 12.00 Noon for hearing at Chandigarh.** Copies of the order be sent to the parties.

Sd/-

(Pooja Gupta)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab

Dated: 15th July, 2026

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