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Lt. Gen. J. S. Dhillon, B-22/207, Tagore Nagar, P.O. – Model Town, Hoshiarpur - 146001(Punjab) (M.-9876117621)

.....Appellant

Vs

Public Information Officer, O/o The Regsitrar, Sant Baba Bhag Singh University, Jalandhar (Punjab)

First Appellate Authority O/o The Vice Chancellor, Sant Baba Bhag Singh University, Jalandhar (Punjab)

.....Respondents

Appeal Case No. 4795 of 2023

Present: Sh. Rahul, Advocate on behalf of the appellant.

- i) Sh. (Dr.) Vikas Sharma(M.-8219913958), Registrar;
- ii) Sh. (Dr.) Aneet Kumar (M.-9417351662) Former Registrar;
- iii) Sh. Shiv Kumar Sonik (M.-9417304034), Advocate, on behalf of the respondent.

ORDER

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 24.10.2024.

- 2. Both the parties have requested to provide the submissions made by the opposite parties and accordingly 132 pages were handed over to the Counsel of the appellant and 12 pages were handed over to the Counsel of the respondent during the course of hearing. Accordingly, the appellant is directed to make the final submissions in this case within 15 days from today to the Commission, which will be transmitted to the Counsel of the respondent through his e-mail ID i. shivkumarsonik@gmail.com, who will file his final submissions within10 days after receipt of an email from the Commission. In case, non-receipt of the written submissions from any party, it will be presumed that the said party has nothing to say in the case and the decision will be taken ex-parte on merit.
- 3. Accordingly, the order in this case is '<u>reserved'</u> and would be pronounced later on.

Date :15th January, 2025

(Inderpal Singh)
Chief Information Commissioner
Punjab

Sector 16, Chandigarh.

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Sh. Jasbir Singh, Guru Nanak Nagar, Village –Bholapur, P.O. -Ramgarh, Chandigarh Road, District – Ludhiana - 141123(Punjab) (98882-96107)

.....Appellant

Vs

- i) Public Information Officer,
 O/o The Additional Chief Secretary
 to Governent of Punjab,
 Deptt. of Revenue Rehabilitation &
 Disaster Management, Pb.,
 Pb. Civil Secretariat, Chandigarh
- ii) Public Information Officer,O/o The DeputyCommisisoner,Ludhiana (Punjab)
- iii) Sh. Rajesh Kumar,Superintendent-cum-Public Information Officer,O/o The Sub Divisional Magistrate (East)Ludhiana (Punjab)

First Appellate Authority
O/o The Additional Chief Secretary
to Governent of Punjab,
Deptt. of Revenue Rehabilitation &
Disaster Management, Pb., Pb. Civil Secretariat, Chandigarh

.....Respondents

Appeal Case No. 5068 of 2023

Present: Sh. Jasbir Singh, the appellant in person.

Sh. Himanshu (M.-9814808343), Senior Assistant, on behalf of the respondent.

ORDER

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 23.10.2024.

2. The respondent submits that an enquiry is still pending and no submissions have been received from the PIO O/o S. D. M. (East), Ludhiana. It is also a fact that the representative of the respondent O/o S. D. M. (East), Ludhiana appeared during the last hearing i. e. 23.10.2024 and assured to file the status of the enquiry related to compliant no. 12/2021 of the Vigilance Bureau, Punjab, Mohali, information related to which has been sought by the appellant. In the interest of natural justice, one opportunity is granted to the respondent PIO O/o

Contd...2/-

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Appeal Case No. 5068 of 2023

-2-

S. D. M. (East), Ludhiana to remain present on the next date of hearing alongwith the present status of the said enquiry, action taken on which has been sought by the appellant otherwise disciplinary action may be recommended in this case to the competent authority. A copy of this order is **being sent** to S. D. M. (East), Ludhiana to ensure the presence of the PIO, Sh. Rajesh Kumar, Superintendent-cum-PIO O/o S. D. M. (East), Ludhiana.

3. With this, the case is <u>adjourned to 30th July, 2025 at 11:30 A. M. for hearing at Chandigarh.</u>

Date :15th January, 2025

R

(Inderpal Singh)
Chief Information Commissioner
Punjab

CC:

The Sub Divisional Magistrate (East) Ludhiana (Punjab)

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Sh. Amandeep Singh S/o Sh. Bhag Singh, C – 119, Flower Enclave, Near Dugri By Pass, Ludhiana - 141013 (Punjab) (M.-98148020281)

.....Appellant

Public Information Officer, O/o The District Education Officer(Sec.), Moga (Punjab)

First Appellate Authority O/o The District Education Officer(Sec.), Moga (Punjab)

.....Respondents

Appeal Case No. 4992 of 2023

Present: Sh. Amandeep Singh, the appellant in person.

Sh. Paramjit Singh(M.-8968300260), Senior Assistant, for the respondent.

Vs

<u>ORDER</u>

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 05.09.2024.

- 2. The respondent made the submission that the sought information as available on record has already been supplied to the appellant. However, the appellant made the submissions that he is not satisfied with the information pertaining point no. 01 to 04. After detailed deliberations with both parties, the respondent handed over ten pages alongwith one forwarding letter to the appellant, duly certified during the course of hearing. After receipt of the information the appellant submits that he is not satisfied with the information so supplied by the respondent and would like to make the written submissions. Accordingly, the request of the appellant is accepted and he is directed to file his point wise submissions, if any, within thirty days to the respondent PIO with a copy to the Commission.
- 3. With this, the case is <u>adjourned to 6th March, 2025 at 11:30 A. M. for hearing at</u>
 Chandigarh.

Date :15th January, 2025

(Inderpal Singh)
Chief Information Commissioner
Punjab

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Gurmukh Singh S/o Sh. Jang Singh, Village – Pandrali, Teh. & Distt.- SriFatehgarh Sahib (Punjab) (M.9417017523)

.... Complainant

V/s

Public Information Officer, O/o The Block Development and Panchayat Officer, Sirhind, Distt. – SriFatehgarh Sahib (Punjab)

...Respondents

Complaint Case No. 280 of 2023

Present: None on behalf of the complainant.

Ms. Gurpreet Kaur(M.-8437715508), Superintendent, for the respondent.

<u>ORDER</u>

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 07.11.2024.

- 2. The representative of the respondent submits that sought information has already been supplied to the appellant. With regard to the penalty imposed upon the PIO amounting to Rs. 10000/-, the respondent requested for an adjournment in this case to deposit the penalty amount in the Treasury as she has recently joined. She further assured that a copy of the necessary challan will be submitted before the next date of hearing.
- 3. Accordingly, the request of the respondent is accepted and the case is <u>adjourned</u> to 30th July, 2025 at 11:30 A. M. for hearing at Chandigarh.

Date :15th January, 2025

(Inderpal Singh)
Chief Information Commissioner
Punjab

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Sh. Avtar Singh, Ex-Sarpanch

Village Bhagowal, Hoshiarpur, Presently R/o White House-1, Street No. 7, West Enclave, Hoshiarpur (M: 9855890595)

....Appellant

V/s

Public Information Officer, O/o BDPO,

Hoshiarpur-1,

First Appellate Authority,

O/o DDPO, Hoshiarpur

...Respondents

Appeal Case No. 5934 of 2024

Present: None on behalf of the parties.

ORDER

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 07.11.2024.

- 2. Both the parties are absent. Accordingly, <u>a last opportunity</u> is given to the parties to remain present on the next date of hearing, failing which the case will be decided on merit, exparte.
- 3. To come up on 30.07.2025 at 11:30 A. M. at Chandigarh.

(Inderpal Singh)
Chief Information Commissioner
Punjab

Date:15.01.2025

G

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Sh. Jasbir Singh,

Guru Nanak Nagar, Village Bholapur, PO, Ramgarh Chandigarh Road, Distt. Ludhiana-141123

.....Appellant

Vs

Public Information Officer,

O/o Financial Commissioner, Department of Revenue, Rehabilitaion and Disaster Management Department, Punjab, Chandigarh

First Appellate Authority

O/o Financial Commissioner, Department of Revenue, Rehabilitaion and Disaster Management Department, Punjab, Chandigarh

.....Respondents

Appeal Case No. 5067 of 2023

Present: Sh. Jasbir Singh, the appellant.

Sh. Himanshu, Senior Assistant (9814808343) on behalf of the respondent.

<u>ORDER</u>

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 23.10.2024.

2. The appellant submits that he has filed a complaint to the Vigilance Bureau, Punjab to investigate the matter pertaining to the sale deeds which were registered without NOC of houses/plots by Sh. Palwinder Singh, Naib Tehsildar, Sahnewal and also no fee has been charged by him in number of cases related to CLU, which is a huge loss to the State Exchequer. Further, he submits that the said complaint was registered at the Vigilance Bureau vide Complaint No. 251 of 2021 but the said complaint was sent to the Financial Commissioner (Revenue) vide no. 3406/VB/S-12 dated 21.10.2021 to investigate the matter at their own level, as the Vigilance Bureau did not conduct any investigation. Further, he submits that he has sought the information from the Financial Commissioner (Revenue) that what action has been taken in this regard but till date he has not received any information.

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Appeal Case No. 5067 of 2023

However, the representative of the respondent submits that the matter is pending with Naib Tehsildar, Sahnewal, Ludhiana and a letter received from the said office is taken on record and the relevant portion of the same is reproduced below:

ਉਪਰੋਕਤ ਕੇਸ ਦੇ ਸਬੰਧ ਵਿੱਚ ਆਪ ਜੀ ਪਾਸ ਬੇਨਤੀ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਪ੍ਰਾਰਥੀ ਸ਼੍ਰੀ ਜਸਬੀਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਨੇ ਆਰ.ਟੀ.ਆਈ ਐਕਟ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਵਸੀਕੇ ਬਿਨਾਂ ਐਨ.ਓ.ਸੀ ਤੋਂ ਰਜਿਸਟਰਡ ਹੋਣ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਪੁੱਛਿਆ ਸੀ ਜਿਸ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਇਨਕੁਆਰੀ ਪੈਡਿੰਗ ਹੈ ਕਿਉਂਕਿ ਸਬੰਧਤ ਅਫਸਰ ਰਿਟਾਇਰਡ ਨਾਇਬ ਤਹਿਸੀਲਦਾਰ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਪਲਵਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਵਿਦੇਸ਼ ਗਏ ਹੋਏ ਹਨ। ਇਥੇ ਆਪ ਜੀ ਪਾਸ ਬੇਨਤੀ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਂਦੀ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਸਬੰਧਤ ਨਾਇਬ ਤਹਿਸੀਲਦਾਰ ਦੇ ਵਾਪਸ ਆਉਣ ਤੇ ਅਤੇ ਉਹਨਾਂ ਦੇ ਤੱਥਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਮੁੱਦੇ ਨਜਰ ਰੱਖਦੇ ਹੋਏ ਉਹਨਾਂ ਦੇ ਬਿਆਨ ਦਰਜ ਕੀਤੇ ਜਾਣੇ ਹਨ ਤਾਂ ਜੇ ਇਸ ਇਨਕੁਆਰੀ ਦਾ ਨਿਪਟਾਰੀ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਂ ਸਕੇ। ਇਹ ਆਪ ਜੀ ਦੀ ਸੂਚਨਾ ਹਿੱਤ ਪੇਸ਼ ਹੈ ਜੀ।

- 3. The mandate of the RTI Act is transparency and accountability in the functioning of the Public Authorities but after going through the submissions made by the parties, it is ascertained that the inquiry is being dilly delaying and in case there is a loss to the State Exchequer then an action should have been taken as per the procedure established by Law without delay. Thereafter the respondent requested for an adjournment of this case to expedite the matter. It is also a fact that the Vigilance Bureau forwarded the complaint to the Vigilance Bureau on 21.10.2021 and no action appears to be taken by the said office. The appellant also requested to implead the Naib Tehsildar, Sahnewal as necessary party in this case.
- 4. Accordingly, the Naib Tehsildar, Sahnewal, Ludhiana is impleaded as necessary party in this case as an inquiry is going on, in the said office, who is also directed to remain present, in person, on the next date of hearing along with the original inquiry file for the perusal of the Commission. It is also clarified that in case of absence of the Naib Tehsildar, Sahnewal, Ludhiana, his presence will be procured by issuing **BAILABLE WARRANTS** and/or disciplinary action may be recommended in this case to the competent authority.

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Appeal Case No. 5067 of 2023

- 5. Keeping in view the above, a copy of this order is **being sent** to the Financial Commissioner Revenue, Punjab to look into the matter as an inquiry is pending since long.
- 6. To come up on **27.08.2025 at 11:30 A. M. at Chandigarh.**

Date:15.01.2025

G

(Inderpal Singh)
Chief Information Commissioner
Punjab

CC:

Sh. Anurag Verma, IAS

Financial Commissioner (Revenue), Punjab Punjab Civil Secretariat-1, Chandigarh

Public Information Officer, O/o Naib Tehsildar, Sahnewal Ludhiana

Encl. RTI Application

(for the compliance of this order)

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Sh. Jasbir Singh,

Guru Nanak Nagar, Village Bholapur, PO, Ramgarh Chandigarh Road, Distt. Ludhiana-141123

.....Appellant

Public Information Officer,

O/o Minister. Local Govt... Punjab Civil Secretariat-1 Chandigarh

Sh. Rajiv Saggar

Chief Vigilance Officer-cum Public Information Officer, O/o Local Govt., Vigilnace cell Punjab MC Bhawan, Plot No. 3, Sector-35, Chandigarh

First Appellate Authority

O/o Minister, Local Govt., Punjab Civil Secretariat-1 Chandigarh

.....Respondents

Appeal Case No. 4918 of 2023

Present: Sh. Jasbir Singh, the appellant.

Sh. Rajiv Saggar, APIO (9815315500) on behalf of the respondent.

ORDER

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 23.10.2024.

Vs

2. The respondent submits that the complaint of the appellant has already been forwarded to the Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana for comments but no such report has been received from the said office. Also, the respondent APIO submits that the appellant also filed the CWP (PIL) No. 74 of 2023 with regard to the issue raised by the appellant in the titled case. The respondent further clarified that the next date of hearing in the said CWP is 18.02.2025 and in which the reply is yet to be filed by the respondent/department. However, the appellant submits that he has filed the complaint against M/s Vardhman Polytex Limited. Ludhiana situated at the Chandigarh Road, Ludhiana to change the CLU from Industrial to Residential and Commercial etc. but department has not initiated any action on the matter as he

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Appeal Case No. 4918 of 2023

has filed the complaint on 18.07.2022 and also requested that the Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana may be impleaded as a necessary party in this case. Accordingly, the PIO, O/o Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana is impleaded as necessary party in this case to file the reply/supply the information before the next date of hearing. Also, a copy of the RTI application along with the complaint of the appellant is **being sent** to the said PIO. Also, the respondent PIO-cum-Chief Vigilance Officer as well as PIO, O/o Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana are directed to bring their original files related to the complaint of the appellant for the perusal of the Commission. It is also clarified that in case of defiance of this order a stringent action will be initiated as per the provisions of the RTI Act, 2005.

3. To come up on **30.07.2025 at 11:30 A. M. at Chandigarh.**

Date:15.01.2025

G

(Inderpal Singh)
Chief Information Commissioner
Punjab

CC:

Public Information Officer, O/o Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana

Encl. RTI application

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Sh. Jasbir Singh,

Guru Nanak Nagar, Village Bholapur, PO, Ramgarh Chandigarh Road, Distt. Ludhiana-141123

.....Appellant

Sh. Parampal Singh
Public Information Officer,
O/o Tehsildar (East), Ludhiana

Ms. Manveer Kaur
Public Information Officer,
O/o Naib Tehsildar

First Appellate Authority O/o Deputy Commissioner, Ludhiana

Sahnewal, District Ludhiana

.....Respondents

Appeal Case No. 5065 of 2023

Vs

Present: Sh. Jasbir Singh, the appellant.

None on behalf of the respondent.

<u>ORDER</u>

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 23.10.2024.

- 2. The appellant submits that the directions may be issued to the respondent PIO to supply the complete information. However, the respondent are absent without intimation. It is also a fact that show cause notices was issued to the respondent PIO i.e. Sh. Parampal Singh, Tehsildar East, Ludhiana-cum-PIO and Ms. Manveer Kaur, Naib Tehsildar-cum-PIO Sahnewal. In spite of the fact neither the respondent PIOs are present nor any reply has been received from the said officers.
- 3. The RTI application of the appellant is dated 20.06.2022, which was filed to the Tehsildar (East), Ludhiana but a letter was received from the Tehsildar (East), which was written to Naib Tehsildar, Sahnewal bearing no. 38 dated 12.06.2024 mentioning therein that the matter relates to the said office. It is also a fact that Deputy Commissioner vide endorsement no. 1085 dated 18.04.2024 and letter no. 2049 dated 25.07.2024 written to the Tehsildar-cum-PIO, Ludhiana (East) to take appropriate action with regard to the Notice dated 09.04.2024 issued by

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Appeal Case No. 5065 of 2023

the Commission but no action appears to have been taken in this regard and also the respondent is absent from the said office. Also, according to the letter written by the Tehsildar, Ludhiana (East), Naib Tehsildar, Sahnewal was impleaded as a necessary party in this case. It is also a fact on record, a show cause notice was issued to both the PIOs i.e. Sh. Parampal, Singh, Tehsildar, Ludhiana (East), Ms. Manveer Kaur, Naib Tehsildar, Sahnewal, vide order dated 23.10.2024 but even though the respondents are absent and no written reply has been received with regard to the show cause notice issued to them.

4. Viewing the attitude in dealing with the RTI application of the appellant in a casual manner, the respondent PIOs are held guilty for non-appearance as well as non-submission of response in this case. Therefore, a penalty amounting to Rs. 10,000/- is imposed upon the each officer i.e. the then Public Information Officer, Sh. Parampal Singh, Tehsildar East, Ludhiana and Ms. Manveer Kaur, Naib Tehsildar-cum-PIO, Sahnewal. Accordingly, a copy of this order is being sent to the Drawing & Disbursing Officer, O/o Deputy Commissioner, Ludhiana to deduct the penalty amount from the salary of the said officers and necessary challan be submitted before the next date of hearing. The amount of penalty so recovered from the officers be deposited in the State Treasury of Punjab Government under the following head:

Major Head .. 0070 -Other Administrative Services

Sub-Major Head .. 60 - Other Services Minor Head .. 800 - Other Receipts

Sub-Head .. 86 - Fee under the Right to Information Act, 2005

- 5. Also, a copy of this order is **being sent** to the Financial Commissioner Revenue and Deputy Commissioner, Ludhiana for information and further necessary action.
- 6. To come up on **30.07.2025 at 11:30 A. M. at Chandigarh.**

Date:15.01.2025 G (Inderpal Singh)
Chief Information Commissioner
PunjabCC:

Sh. Anurag Verma, IAS

(to ensure the compliance of this order)

Financial Commissioner (Revenue), Punjab Punjab Civil Secretariat-1, Chandigarh

Sh. Jitendra Jorwal, IAS.

Deputy Commissioner, Ludhiana

Drawing & Disbursing Officer (DDO)

O/o Deputy Commissioner, Ludhiana

a 2/2

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Sh. Ramesh Kumar Saini

#163, Urban Estate, Phase-3, Patiala-147002 (M:9815415163)

.....Appellant

Vs

Public Information Officer,

O/o Registrar, Birth & Death, Adjoining Fire Service Station, Jagraon Bridge, Near Local Bus Stand, Ludhiana

First Appellate Authority

O/o Registrar, Birth & Death, Adjoining Fire Service Station, Jagraon Bridge, Near Local Bus Stand, Ludhiana

.....Respondents

Appeal Case No. 5824 of 2023

Present: Sh. Ramesh Kumar Saini, the appellant.

None on behalf of the respondent.

ORDER

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 07.11.2024.

2. The appellant has sought the following information:

"An application was made through Sewa Kendra, Village Chaura, District Patiala on 14.01.2022 vide application ID no. 31367149, (copy enclosed) for inclusion of name of my son, Deep Saini, in the birth certificate. Original Aadhaar card and original birth certificate (GREEN COLOUR) was submitted before the officials of Sewa Kendra, who further submitted on line for inclusion of name in the birth certificate. But the officials at EOMC, MC, Ludhiana office returned the application with the remarks to send some other proof. Accordingly, copy of passport was submitted on line through Sewa Kendra on 28.04.2022 but again I was advised to send some other document. Accordingly, on 08.06.2022, copy of Voter Card was sent on line through Sewa Kendra, Village Chaura, Patiala, with the hope that needful will now be done by the EOMC, MC, Ludhiana. But to my utter surprise, my application for Inclusion of name in the birth certificate of my son was rejected by the Department without assigning any reason for rejection (Copy Enclosed).

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Appeal Case No. 5824 of 2023

Now, I seek the following information under the provisions of Right to Information Act-2005,

- 1. Cause for rejection of my application despite submission of valid documentary proof.
- 2. Copy of file noting's/minute sheet leading to rejection of my request.
- 3. List of documents required for getting the name included in the birth certificate as required vide Rule 7 of Punjab Transparency & Accountability in Delivery of Public Service Rules-2021."
- 3. The appellant submits that the directions may be issued to the respondent PIO to supply the complete information and to impose the penalty due to delay occurred in this case. It is also a fact that a copy of the previous order was sent to Sh. Gulshan Kumar, Executive Officer-cum-PIO, O/o Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana as his assistance was required to resolve the matter. Also, the respondent, Sh. Ravi Kumar, Health worker (7986873881) was directed to communicate regarding the proceedings of the last hearing to the Executive Officer concern but neither the PIO nor his representative is present.
- 4. Viewing the attitude in dealing with the RTI application by the respondent casually, **Sh. Gulshan Kumar-Executive Officer-cum-Public Information Officer, is, thus, issued a show cause notice, by name,** to explain in a self-attested affidavit as to why a penalty @ Rs.250/-per day of delay subject to a maximum of Rs.25000/- till the complete information is furnished, be not imposed under Section 20(1) of RTI Act, 2005 on him for causing willful delay/denial of the information to the RTI applicant and to show cause why a compensation under section 19(8) of the RTI Act,2005, may not be paid to the appellant for causing willful delay/denial of the information for detriment suffered by him.

In addition to the written reply, the Public Information Officer is also given an opportunity under Section 20(1) proviso thereto, for a personal hearing before the imposition of such penalty on the next date of hearing. He may take a note that in case he does not file his written reply and does not avail himself of the opportunity of personal hearing on the next date, it will be presumed that he has nothing to say and the Commission will proceed ex-parte.

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Appeal Case No. 5824 of 2023

- 5. A copy of this order is **being sent** to the Additional Chief Secretary, Local Government, Punjab and Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana to ensure the presence of the respondent PIO.
- 6. In the interest of natural justice, one opportunity is granted to the PIO to remain present on the next date of hearing along with the original record, failing which, his presence will be procured by issuing **BAILABLE WARRANTS** and/or disciplinary action may be recommended in this case to the competent authority.
- 7. To come up on **02.07.2025 at 11:30 A. M. at Chandigarh.**

Date:15.01.2025

G

(Inderpal Singh)
Chief Information Commissioner
Punjab

CC:

Sh. Tejveer Singh, IAS
Additional Chief Secretary,
Local Government, Punjab
Municipal Bhawan,
Plot No. 3, Dakshin Marg,
Sector 35-A, Chandigarh-160022

Sh.Aaditya Dachalwal, IAS Commissioner, Municipal Corporation

Ludhiana

Sh. Gulshan Kumar, EO-cum-PIO, O/o MC, Ludhiana