

OFFICE OF THE FIRST APPELLATE AUTHORITY
(Appointed under the Right to Information Act, 2005)
The Institute of Company Secretaries of India ICSI House
C-36, Sector-62, Institutional Area
Noida - 201 309 (U.P.)

Appeal No. 00007/2026

IN THE MATTER OF:

Mr. Shrish Kumar
144/6, RTM Nagpur University,
Boys Hostel, Law College Square,
Nagpur, Maharashtra – 440001

Appellant

Vs.

Central Public Information Officer
The Institute of Company Secretaries of India
'ICSI House', 22, Institutional Area, Lodi Road,
New Delhi – 110003

Respondent

Date of Order: 12th March, 2026

ORDER

- (1) The Appellant has filed First Appeal No. ICSOI/A/E/26/00007 on 11/02/2026 under Section 19(1) of the Right to Information Act, 2005 in connection with Response vide letter dated 11/02/2026 against the Central Public Information Officer (hereinafter referred to as Respondent) of the Institute of Company Secretaries of India.
- (2) The Appellant vide his RTI Application No. ICSOI/R/E/26/00019 dated 21/01/2026 has requested the following information:

This RTI application is regarding ICSI All India Current Affairs and GK Quiz Competition-2025

1. Kindly furnish the information of score obtained in the Final Round of the above-mentioned competition of c
2. Kindly provide the information of number of questions committed wrong by

the above participant i.e. ICSICO500014 and what was the right answer according to the Institute.

3. Kindly provide the scores of all the participants declared as winner under various categories.
 4. Provide information of any other method of declaring winners of the above competition if any.
 5. Also provide information of any other means of non-declaration of winner of the above application number if any.
- (3) The Appellant has submitted in his instant appeal regarding the reply provided by the Respondent to the RTI queries as under:

"I Shrish Kumar hereby prefer the present First Appeal under Section 19(1) of the Right to Information Act, 2005 against the reply furnished by the CPIO in response to my RTI application concerning the ICSI All India Current Affairs & GK Quiz Competition 2025. While the information relating to Query No. 1 (score obtained: 23 out of 25) has been provided, the replies to Query Nos. 2, 3, 4 and 5 are incomplete and legally unsustainable. With respect to Query No. 2, I had sought details regarding the number of questions answered incorrectly and the correct answers as per the Institute. The CPIO has stated that since questions were randomly allocated automatically, the information is not available. It is respectfully submitted that once a final score has been computed, the evaluation must necessarily be based on question wise assessment. Such evaluation would inherently involve electronic records reflecting the questions attempted, responses marked incorrect and the corresponding correct answers. Under Section 2(f) of the RTI Act, information includes material held in electronic form. In *CBSE v. Aditya Bandopadhyay* (2011) 8 SCC 497, the Apex Court affirmed that evaluated answer sheets constitute information and are disclosable under the RTI Act. Random allocation of questions does not imply nonexistence of records. If such data exists in backend systems or logs, it is disclosable. Regarding Query No. 3, I had sought the scores of participants declared as winners under various categories. The CPIO has replied that the

data is not maintained in the format as required. It is submitted that while the RTI Act does not require creation of new information, it mandates disclosure of information as it exists in material form. Denial on the ground that data is not maintained in a particular format is not a valid exemption under the Act. If winner scores exist individually or collectively in any record, certified copies of such existing records ought to be furnished. In *Khanapuram Gandaiah v. Administrative Officer* (2010) 2 SCC 1, Apex Court clarifies that existing records must be disclosed. With respect to Query Nos. 4 and 5, the CPIO has stated that the query is not specific. It is respectfully submitted that the queries sought disclosure of any recorded rule, guideline, evaluation criteria, moderation policy or documented method relating to declaration of winners or non-declaration. Under Section 5(3) of the RTI Act, the CPIO is under a duty to provide reasonable assistance to the applicant. In *J.P. Agrawal v. Union of India* (W.P.(C) 7232/2009), the Delhi High Court held that the PIO must deal with RTI applications in a fair and responsible manner and cannot adopt a hyper technical approach to deny it. In view of the above, I respectfully request that the FAA to direct the CPIO to furnish complete information of my RTI."

(4) The reply of the Respondent against the instant appeal is as under: -

"Since the RTI application pertains to Dte. of Student Services of the ICSI, therefore, the CPIO has asked for written submission from concerned Directorate for the same. Their submission is mentioned below:

Written submission to query number 2: - "It is reiterated that the online quiz system computes and transmits only the **final aggregate score**. The system **does not generate or retain question-wise response details, incorrect answers, correct answers, or evaluated answer sheets**. As such, the information sought under Query No. 2 is **not available in material form** and cannot be provided under the RTI Act."

Written submission to query number 3: - "It is clarified that while winners are declared based on automated scoring, **no consolidated or separate record containing category-wise winner scores is maintained**. The RTI Act does not

mandate creation or compilation of information not already available on record.”

Written submission to query numbers 4 and 5: - “It is clarified that no rules, guidelines, evaluation criteria, moderation policies, or alternative methods exist for the declaration or non-declaration of winners other than those specified in the publicly notified instructions for the competition. No additional internal documents or records are available in this context.

For your information, the All India Current Affairs & GK Quiz – 2025 Brochure and the Salient Features – Online GK & Current Affairs Quiz – 2025 are attached as Annexure I and Annexure II respectively for reference. These documents were removed from the Institute’s website following the conclusion of the competition.”

Therefore, the contents made in the RTI Reply stands as it is and the appeal deserves to be dismissed.”

- (5) This Office has carefully considered the application, the response, the appeal and the records made available and finds that the matter can be decided based on the material available on record.

This office concurs with the submissions of the Respondent in his reply to the instant appeal.

The appeal is accordingly disposed of.

Sd/-

(Ashvini Kumar Srivastava)
First Appellate Authority

Copy to:

1. Mr. Shrish Kumar
144/6, RTM Nagpur University,
Boys Hostel, Law College Square,
Nagpur, Maharashtra – 440001

2. Central Public Information Officer
The Institute of Company Secretaries of India
'ICSI House', 22, Institutional Area, Lodi Road,
New Delhi – 110003
3. Directorate of IT – For publishing on the website