

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. 000023/2026

IN THE MATTER OF:

Lakshya Kumar Agarwal
B-19, Mahesh Marg, Modinagar,
Uttar Pradesh – 201 204

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: 4th June, 2026

ORDER

- (1) The Appellant has filed first Appeal No. ICSOI/A/E/26/00023 on 06/05/2026 under Section 19(1) of the Right to Information Act, 2005 in connection with Response vide letter dated 06/05/2026 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/26/01333 dated 08/04/2026 has requested the following information:

"With reference to the recruitment advertisement dated 31 January 2024 for the post of IT Security Manager, for which I had applied and appeared in the interview please provide the following information:

1. The noting/remarks of the Selection Panel on my candidature (Mr. Lakshya Kumar).

The names of the panel members may be masked, if required.

2. The minimum qualifying marks/criteria fixed by the Selection Board for inclusion in the merit list.

3. The highest and lowest marks obtained by candidates in the final merit list.

(3) The Appellant has submitted in his instant appeal regarding the reply provided by the Respondent to the RTI queries as under:

"I, Lakshya Kumar, hereby file the present First Appeal under Section 19(1) of the Right to Information Act, 2005 against the reply dated 06.05.2026 provided by the CPIO in response to my RTI application. In my RTI application, I had sought the noting/remarks of the Selection Panel on my candidature for the post of IT Security Manager pursuant to the recruitment advertisement dated 31 January 2024. However, the CPIO denied the information by invoking Section 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act, 2005 stating that the information is personal in nature. The reply is incorrect and legally unsustainable for the following reasons: The information sought pertains to my own candidature and evaluation in a recruitment process in which I participated. The requested information does not relate to any third-party personal information. The disclosure of assessment remarks/notations regarding my candidature cannot be treated as an invasion of privacy under Section 8(1)(j), especially when the information directly concerns the appellant himself. The Hon'ble Central Information Commission and various judicial pronouncements have consistently held that recruitment-related evaluation records, cut-offs, and assessment details may be disclosed where the applicant seeks information pertaining to his/her own candidature. The CPIO has failed to establish how disclosure of the requested information would harm any protected interest under the RTI Act. The CPIO has also incorrectly invoked Section 8(1)(g) of the RTI Act, 2005. I am not seeking the names, signatures, or identities of the Selection Panel members. The information sought is limited only to the noting/remarks recorded only candidature, and the identity of the concerned officials may be suitably masked/redacted, if required. Further, the CPIO has neither established nor justified how disclosure of the requested information would endanger the life or physical safety of any person or identify any confidential source of information as contemplated under Section 8(1)(g) of the RTI Act. Therefore, denial of the requested information under Section 8(1)(g) is unjustified and contrary to the provisions of the RTI Act, 2005. In view of the above, it is requested that: a) The reply of the CPIO denying information under Section 8(1)(j) and 8(1)(g) may kindly be set aside b) The CPIO may kindly be directed to provide the noting/remarks of

the Selection Panel on my candidature, with names/signatures of panel members masked, if required.”

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

“It is necessary to mention that with reference to the recruitment advertisement dated 31 January 2024 for the post of IT Security Manager, the noting/remarks of the Selection Panel has already been provided in the RTI Number 6510 on 12.06.2025 to RTI Applicant (Appellant herein).

Further, 8(1)(j) and 8(1)(g) have been mentioned in the RTI reply No. 7228 dated 06.05.2026 w.r.t. ‘the names of the panel members’ only.

Therefore, we reiterate our earlier reply.”

(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. Lakshya Kumar Agarwal
B-19, Mahesh Marg, Modinagar,
Uttar Pradesh – 201 204
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