

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.00072/2025

IN THE MATTER OF:

Mr. Dinesh Vats
202 Nidhi Plaza-1
LSC Gulabi Bagh, North Delhi,
Delhi – 110052

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: 14th January 2026

ORDER

(1) The Appellant has filed first Appeal- No. ICSOI/A/E/25/00072 on 17.12.2025 under Section 19(1) of the Right to Information Act, 2005 in connection with Response vide letter dated 25.11.2025 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/25/03337 dated 28/10/2025 has requested the following information:

“Kindly provide the following information along with duly authenticated and certified documents in support of each and every information requested to be provided to the undersigned information seeker:

1. The information for the total number and nature of complaints received against CS Gaurav Keswani during the years 2023, 2024 and 2025 whether submitted in writing, by courier, online, or via email.
2. The information and certified copies of all documents including the Status Report and Action Taken Report (ATR) prepared or maintained by ICSI for the action taken on complaints against CS Gaurav Keswani as publicly assured by **President CS Dhananjay Shukla** during the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of NIRC of ICSI held in 2025 regarding the alleged derogatory social media posts said to have tarnished the image and dignity of the Institute.
3. The information for the dates, meeting numbers, names, designations and official titles of members/officers and the venues of all committee meetings convened to deliberate or take action against CS Gaurav Keswani concerning the said derogatory social media content.

4. The information and certified copies of all recommendations, findings, reports or related documents issued by the said committee or its members in the matter.
5. The information for the date, time, mode and year of receipt of the complaint against CS Gaurav Keswani regarding alleged sexual harassment of an ICSI stakeholder within ICSI premises or through electronic/communication media.
6. The information for the names, designations and official contact details of all members of the Internal Committee (IC) constituted to inquire into the sexual harassment complaint filed against CS Gaurav Keswani in the year 2023.
7. The information for the dates of all meetings of the Internal Committee (IC) and certified copies of all recommendations, findings, and reports issued by the IC in relation to the sexual harassment complaint against CS Gaurav Keswani in the year 2023.
8. The information and certified copies of all notices or communications issued to CS Gaurav Keswani calling upon him to appear before the Internal Committee (IC), other committees including Disciplinary Committee and/ or to submit his explanation in respect of the said complaints during the year 2023 to 2025.
9. The information and certified copies of all written replies, explanations or submissions made by CS Gaurav Keswani before the Internal Committee (IC), other committee, Disciplinary Committee concerning the sexual harassment complaint filed in the year 2023 and other complaints during 2023 to 2025.
10. The information and certified copies of the final order(s), recommendations, or directions issued by the Internal Committee (IC), other committee, Disciplinary Committee and/or the ICSI following the inquiry into the said sexual harassment complaint, other complaints during the year 2023 to 2025.
11. The information and certified copies of the Annual Reports submitted by the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) under the provisions of Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 to the concerned District Officer/ Magistrate for the years 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 pertaining to the following offices:
 - i. ICSI Headquarters, Lodi Road, New Delhi
 - ii. NIRC of ICSI, Prasad Nagar, New Delhi
 - iii. Noida Chapter of ICSI
12. The information and certified copies of all orders, findings or records indicating whether CS Gaurav Keswani has been found guilty of professional misconduct, guilty of sexual harassment or whether any complaints filed against him during 2023, 2024, and 2025 remain pending.
13. The information and certified copies relating to the action taken by the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) against the officer(s) and/ or official(s) responsible and failed to take appropriate action against CS Gaurav Keswani as per the governing laws and provisions.
14. The information and certified copies of all minutes, registers, correspondence, reports, FIRs (if any) and other records maintained by ICSI and/ or the Internal Committee regarding all complaints against CS Gaurav Keswani including those related to sexual harassment, promotion of private coaching and other matters referred to in points 1 to 13 above.

15. Please provide a suitable date and time for inspection of the complete records relating to the sexual harassment complaint and other complaints filed against CS Gaurav Keswani during the year 2023 to 2025 and action taken including all files, minutes, correspondence, and documents maintained by ICSI and/or the Internal Committee (IC), in both physical and electronic form.”

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

“First appeal for the RTI ICSOI/R/E/25/03337.”

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

“The written submission of the Respondent is as under: -

Written submission to query numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14 and 15: -“The information/document(s) sought by the Appellant has been provided in RTI Reply dated 25.11.2025.

Written submission to query numbers 6, 7, and 11: - “The requisite information is exempted under The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013.”

Written submission to query number 13: - “Query is not clear and specific.”

Further, it is to inform that the “the public authority under the RTI Act, 2005 is not to create or collate information; or to interpret information. Therefore, the information which is readily available in the format/content can only be provided to the appellant and not as per the choice of the information seeker. The reply(ies) to the query(ies) cannot be created and designed in the manner and wish of the appellant.

Therefore, the contents made in the RTI reply stand 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/-

(Sanjay Kumar Nagar)
First Appellate Authority

Copy to:

1. Mr. Dinesh Vats
202 Nidhi Plaza-1
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Delhi – 110052
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