



Date: 07.08.2025

The Chief Secretary
Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh
Itanagar.

Sub: Initiation of disciplinary action against the PIO-cum-District Horticulture Officer (DHO), Raga, Kamle District, Govt. of A.P.

Ref: Section 18(3) and Section 25(5) of RTI, Act, 2005.

Sir,

Whereas, it has come to the attention of this court, that the Public Information Officer (PIO) of the office of the District Horticulture Office, Raga, Kamle District, has failed to comply with the notice, order and summons issued by the court of the Arunachal Pradesh Information Commission (APIC) on 07.11.2024, 19.12.2024, 06.03.2025 and 07.08.2025 concerning an appeal filed under Section 19(3) of the RTI, Act, 2005 against their office.

And whereas, on 19.12.2024 under the provisions of Section 25(5), the Secretary Horticulture, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh was directed to initiate disciplinary action against the said DHO, as per the Service Rules applicable to him to secure the presence of the PIO in the next hearing and to submit the copy of the action taken report to the Arunachal Pradesh Information Commission (APIC) but sadly, the Secretary Horticulture, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh has failed to comply with the orders and therefore, the errant PIO still remain to disobey the order of the court of the Arunachal Pradesh Information Commission and thereby compromising the functioning of the court of the Commission.

And whereas, the PIO's disobedience to the duly issued directives of the Information Commission undermines the authority of the Commission and hinders the transparent flow of information(s) as mandated by the RTI, Act, 2005.

Therefore, it is hereby directed that the Chief Secretary of the Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh initiate appropriate disciplinary action against the PIO-cum-DHO, Raga, Kamle District, for his failure to comply with the Commission's notice issued on 12.09.2024, summons issued on 07.11.2024 and bailable warrant of arrest issued on 06.03.2025.

It is further ordered that a report on the action taken in this regard be submitted to this court within 30 days from the date of this order.

Issued under the seal of this court.

Vijay Taram
State Information Commissioner
APIC, Itanagar.

ORDER

The 4th hearing held on **5th August, 2025** related to the **APIC-No-1002/2023**. The Appellant Shri Palen Laa is present.

The PIO-cum-District Horticulture Officer (DHO), Raga, Kamle District, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh, found absent during the hearing without intimating to the Commission, the reason for his inability to attend the hearing, which is unbecoming on the part of the PIO, who has to be reminded that, the PIO also has a mandatory duty to attend to statutory duties besides public duties, when an appeal is preferred against him/her.

The Commission observes:

The PIO absent for the 4th consecutive time despite summons issued on 07.11.2024, 19.12.2024 and 06.03.2025 to be present in the next date of hearing which was on 19.12.2024, 06.03.2025 and 05.08.2025 respectively. The Commission issued Bailable Warrant of Arrest against the PIO-cum-District Horticulture Officer (DHO), Raga, Kamle District, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh, to be executed and returned by the Officer-In-Charge, Raga Police Station to secure the presence of the PIO on 05.08.2025 but, despite Bailable Warrant of Arrest order issued against the PIO (DHO) is absent today for the 4th consecutive time.

It is to be mentioned that on 19.12.2024 under provisions of Section 25(5) of RTI, Act, 2005. The Secretary, Department of Horticulture, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh was ordered to initiate disciplinary action against the PIO-cum-DHO, Raga, Kamle District, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh, as per the Service Rules applicable to the PIO to secure the attendance of the PIO in the next hearing of the appeal in the court of the Arunachal Pradesh Information Commission (APIC) and the copy/report or of the disciplinary action taken report initiated against the PIO-cum-DHO, Raga, Kamle District, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh, be sent to this Commission but, sadly it has not been sent to the Commission and under such circumstances it is disheartening that the Government officials are not providing assistance to the court of the Arunachal Pradesh Information Commission (APIC), despite request made to ensure the attendance of the Public Information Officer (PIO) in the court.

And under these circumstances, the functioning of the Information Commission's court is severely compromised.

In the absence of the PIO in the 4th hearing despite the above orders issued, **the Commission hereby observes that:**

1. The Officer-In-Charge Raga Police Station has not executed the Bailable Warrant of Arrest, as he has not returned the arrest memo before the court of the Commission on or before the hearing date.
2. The copy of the Bailable Warrant of Arrest was also served upon the Superintendent of Police (SP) Kamle District for compliance, and the same copy was also served upon the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kamle District for information and even after all these neither the PIO has turned up nor the execution of the Bailable Warrant of Arrest has been returned to this Commission.

And, therefore, observing the above circumstances the Commission hereby orders as follows;

1. By the provisions of Section 25(5) of RTI, Act, 2005, the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh is hereby ordered to initiate disciplinary action as per the Service Rules applicable against the PIO-cum-DHO, Raga, Kamle District, for disobeying the orders of the court of Arunachal Pradesh Information Commission (APIC).
2. By the same provisions under Section 25(5) of RTI, Act, 2005 the Commission finds that the practice of the Officer-Incharge, Raga Police Station and the PIO-cum-DHO, Raga, Kamle District does not confirm with the provisions of the spirit of the RTI, Act, 2005, and therefore, the Commission recommends to the Director General of Police (DGP) to initiate disciplinary action against the Officer-In-Charge, Raga Police Station, Kamle District, as per the Service Rules applicable to the particular police personnel.
3. The Chief Secretary (CS) Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh is hereby ordered to return the copy of action taken report against the PIO-cum-DHO, Raga, Kamle District, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh, before the next date of hearing.
4. The Director General of Police (DGP) is hereby ordered to return a copy of the action taken report against the Officer-In-Charge, Raga Police Station, Kamle District, to the APIC, as early as before the next date of hearing.
5. Send summons to the Appellant Shri Palen Laa to be present in the next date of hearing without fail, failing which this instant appeal will be heard and determined ex-parte.

The Commission ordered;

The next date of hearing be fixed on 13th November' 2025 at 10:30 AM (Morning)

N.B:- To avail online hearing please at least notify or get in touch one day prior to the hearing, download **"WEBEX MEETING APP"** from Google Play store. For further technical assistance may contact Shri Himanshu Verma, IT Consultant (Mobile no. 8319014957).

It is so ordered this 5th day of August' 2025 at 4:00 PM.

Sd/-

Vijay Taram
State Information Commissioner
APIC, Itanagar.

Memo. No: APIC-1002/A/2023 *1882* **Dated Itanagar the ...13 August 2025**

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1. The Computer Operator APIC for uploading on the website of APIC.
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Pragati
Registrar/ Dy. Registrar
APIC, Itanagar
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Arunachal Pradesh Information Commission
Itanagar