

Chapter 1

Proactive Disclosure under Section 4 (1) (b) (i) (3) of the Right to Information Act, 2005

Brief History and Context of Formation of the of the Department of Information and Publicity

History of Department of Information and Publicity

About Department of Information and Publicity:

The Department of Information and Publicity is nodal agency of the State Government to disseminate information to the print, electronic, social media and other media channels regarding various Government policies, programmes, schemes, initiatives and achievements.

It acts as an interface between Government and the media and also serves to provide feedback to the Government on citizen reactions as reflected in the media.

The Department disseminates information through different modes of communication such as press releases, feature articles, social media post, backgrounders, photographs, traditional media etc and organises on behalf of the Government press conferences, press briefings, interviews of the Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister, Ministers, Secretaries and other senior officers for sensitizing media persons on important policy initiatives of the Government.

The Department plays a pivotal role in the promotion of schemes and policies that lead to a greater and better understanding between the Government and the people. It also works as communication medium between Government and media and initiates measures to take welfare schemes to the doorsteps of the people and facilitate them to reap its benefits.

The Department has been designated/nominated as the Nodal Department for conducting programmes / activities for the commemoration of 60th year of Goa Liberation and ongoing Azadika Amrut Mahotsav of India's Independence.

HISTORY:

A Central Office of Statistics and Information was established by the end of the year 1945. Its Statistics section focused on compiling data and analyzing the economic and cooperative issues of the territory, while the Information section managed publications such as Noticias de Estado da India (a Portuguese fortnightly bulletin of information), the Portuguese India News Bulletin (a monthly publication in English), and Collecção de Divulgação (an occasional propaganda bulletin).

In 1958, the Information section was separated but continued operating under the

Directorate of Economy for two years. It was only in 1960 that a dedicated Directorate for Information and Tourism, known as the Centre of Information and Tourism, was formally established.

The Centre of Information and Tourism comprised two divisions-Information and Tourism-along with an Administration unit. However, it effectively operated three sections: Information, Tourism, and Popular Culture. The Section of Popular Culture for the purpose of Legislative Diploma was a part of the Tourism division.

The Information section was responsible for press publicity, producing literature, and organizing exhibitions on various topics. The Tourism section focused on catering to tourists, creating facilities, and promoting tourism. Initiatives such as conducted tours, beach beautification, and enhancing tourist attractions were introduced for the first time on western lines.

Simultaneously with the Information and Statistics Office, a separate unit known as the Press Section of the Cabinet operated within the Secretariat under the direct supervision of the Chief of the Cabinet of the Governor General. This section played a significant role in managing press news and press relations, especially in the period leading up to Liberation.

After Liberation, the Press Section of the Cabinet was upgraded to a full- fledged Directorate of Information and Publicity. Consequently, the functions of the former Centre of Information and Tourism were limited exclusively to tourism.

Press releases, press and photo coverage, news bulletins, literature production, and the organization of entertainment and other programs were integrated into the district's development plans.

Similarly, the Directorate of Tourism was aligned with tourist offices across the country. Special initiatives were implemented to address the acute accommodation shortage, including the construction of hotels, procurement of buses for conducted sightseeing tours, beautification of beaches and other tourist destinations, acquisition of boats and dinghies for pleasure cruises, provision of recreational facilities at beaches, and improvement of roads significant to tourism.

To streamline government operations and enhance coordination among various agencies, the Departments of Tourism and Information and Publicity were merged on March 1, 1966.

The reorganized department's core functions include issuing press releases and advertisements, providing press and photo coverage for significant official events, coordinating the programs of the Lieutenant Governor and Ministers, and managing publicity for visiting dignitaries. It also organizes press conferences and journalist

tours, maintains liaison with the press, arranges audio-visual publicity, oversees regional information centers, and publishes the monthly magazine "Nave Parva." Additionally, it handles the production and distribution of official publicity materials such as brochures and pamphlets, organizes exhibitions, manages the research and reference section, and supervises the sale and distribution of promotional materials. The department is also responsible for providing tourist facilities and amenities

Beyond these regular duties, the department took on additional responsibilities to ensure the systematic and planned development of information and tourism in the district.

The department, in the field of information and publicity, has distributed radio sets to various village panchayats under the Community Listening Scheme. This initiative aims to disseminate information about the government's developmental activities at different levels, fostering emotional integration and economic progress. Notable progress has also been made in establishing the Radio Rural Forum.

Additionally, the Directorate operates a Tourist Hostel in Panaji, a Tourist Resort in Calangute, and tourist cottages in Colva and Ponda, along with a dormitory in Calangute, to enhance tourist convenience. It also manages popular picnic spots such as Dona Paula, Maem Lake, and the Bondla Forest Complex.

It provides luxury buses for guided sightseeing tours, as well as speed boats and dinghies for pleasure cruises.

Several roads of touristic significance have been upgraded, and major beaches such as Gaspar Dias, Calangute, Colva, and Baina have undergone beautification. Additionally, the beautification of the Miramar-Campal zone and the Children's Park has been successfully completed.

The department operates its own Film Unit, which screens films across the territory to widely publicize the country's development and achievements, with a particular focus on the region. To promote the territory, literature highlighting various development initiatives is produced, and prestige, advertisements are released. To preserve and celebrate Goan culture, the department organizes cultural programs and ensures prominent festivities like Shigmo and Carnival receive due recognition and grand celebrations.

Recently, the department was divided into two distinct wings:

1. Department of Information and Publicity and
2. Department of Tourism