

## Central Information Commission

CIC/OK/A/2008/987/AD  
Dated December 22, 2008

**Name of the Appellant :** Mr. Ansari Masud A.K  
192-Kutbi Manzil, Flat No.10  
CST Road, Kurla (W)  
Mumbai 400 070

**Name of Public Authority :** The CPIO  
Ministry of External Affairs  
Regional Passport Office  
Worli  
Mumbai 400 025

### Background

1. The RTI request was filed on 14.3.07. The Appellant requested for information about the passport and other enclosures of passport of one Mr. Janu Pawar besides action taken on his complaint dated 28.4.08. The CPIO replied on 13.5.08 denying the information under Section 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act. Dissatisfied with the reply, the Appellant filed his first appeal on 5.6.08. The Appellate Authority replied on 12.6.08 dismissing the appeal. The Appellant filed his second appeal before the CIC on 24.7.08.
2. The Bench of Mrs. Annapurna Dixit, Information Commissioner, scheduled the hearing on December 22, 2008
3. Mr. B.S. Rokade, Asst. Passport Officer and RPIO represented the Public Authority.
4. The Appellant Mr. Ansari Masud A.K. was represented by Mr. Mohd. Arif Khan during the hearing.

### Decision

5. The Appellant's representative submitted that he is not well versed with the details of the case and was unable to respond to queries from the Commission.
6. The Commission holds that details of a passport are readily made available by any individual in a number of instances, example to travel agents, at airline counters, and whenever proof of residence for telephone connections etc. is required. For this reason, disclosure of details of a passport cannot be considered as causing unwarranted invasion of the privacy of an individual and, therefore, is not exempted from disclosure under Section 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act.
7. After going through the arguments provided by the Appellant in his appeal and convinced that disclosure of details of the passport is in public interest, the Commission

directs the PIO to provide the details of passport of Mr. Janu Pawar to the Appellant as requested in his RTI application within 15 days of receipt of this Order.

8. The appeal is disposed off.  
(Annapurna Information Commissioner) (Dixit)

Authenticated true copy: (K.G.Nair) Designated Officer

1. Mr. Ansari Masud A.K  
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Mumbai 400 070

2. The CPIO  
Ministry of External Affairs  
Regional Passport Office  
Worli  
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3. Officer incharge, NIC

4. Press E Group, CIC