

Information Sought:

(A) FORENSIC ANALYSIS AND NETWORK MAPPING OF THE CONSPIRACY

1. Comprehensive Digital and Financial Forensics of the Accused Officers:

a) Provide certified copies of the Complete Call Detail Records (CDR) and Chat Detail Records (including WhatsApp, Signal, or any other social media platform Metadata) for Shri Somnath Dattu Page and Shri Machhindra Vitthal Donde for a Period of 24 months preceding the date of the trap (09.03.2023 to 08.03.2025) .

The analysis must specifically provide the frequency, duration, and location tower Details of calls and messages exchanged with:

- i. Any other officers of the rank of Inspector, Superintendent, Assistant Commissioner, or Deputy Commissioner serving in the Nashik Zone or any other Zone in Maharashtra.
 - ii. Known or suspected tax consultants, intermediaries, or touts.
 - iii. Directors, partners, or authorized signatories of companies that were under Investigation or scrutiny by their office during this period.
- b) Provide a complete financial forensic audit trail of all bank accounts (savings, Current, fixed deposits, demat), mutual fund investments, and insurance policies Held in the name of the two accused officers, their spouses, dependent children, And any other benami entities identified during the ACB or departmental Investigation for the last 10 years. This must include all cash deposit transactions Above Rs. 50,000.
- c) Disclose the details of any common financial beneficiaries, property Transactions, or layered investments involving shell companies, traced between The accused officers and any other serving or retired officers of the GST Department in the last decade.

2. Decoding the Criminal Conspiracy and Modus Operandi:

- a) Provide the complete Case Diary or the First Information Report (FIR) summary Filed by the ACB, detailing the exact sequence of events, the number of meetings, The identity of the intermediary (Shri Amit Jadhav), and the precise role played by Each accused in the conspiracy.
- b) Disclose the names and designations of any other departmental officers who Were in contact with the intermediary or the complainant prior to the trap, as Revealed in the investigation.
- c) Provide details of any encrypted communication platforms or code words used By the accused officers to discuss bribe negotiations, as unearthed during the Forensic analysis of their digital devices.
- d) Information on whether this particular modus operandi—using a specific Intermediary for a high-value settlement—has been documented in any other Vigilance or ACB case in the last five years in Maharashtra or elsewhere, indicating A repeatable pattern.

(B) INSTITUTIONAL FAILURE AND COLLAPSE OF THE VIGILANCE MECHANISM

3. Unaccounted Wealth and Disproportionate Assets:

It is impossible to amass the wealth required to negotiate a settlement of Rs. 1.25 Crores without systemic failure in the asset declaration and verification process.

- a) Provide the complete Immovable Property Returns and Annual Assets & Liabilities Returns filed by Shri Somnath Page and Shri Machhindra Donde with The department for each of the last 10 financial years (2015-2025).
- b) Provide a certified copy of the disproportionate assets (DA) calculation Prepared by the investigating agency (ACB), detailing their known sources of Income versus the assets and cash seized or traced.
- c) Disclose the complete Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), circulars, and Manuals that detail the mechanism for conducting discreet surveillance, surprise Checks, or third-party verification of assets declared by officers. Provide the Specific reasons why this mechanism failed to detect the alleged wealth Accumulation by these two senior officers.

4. Failure of the Complaints Mechanism and Prior Intelligence:

- a) Provide a complete list of all complaints, anonymous or otherwise, received by The Vigilance Wing of the Nashik Zone or the Maharashtra State GST against Shri Somnath Page and Shri Machhindra Donde in the last 5 years. For each complaint, Provide the file notings detailing the action taken, the reasons for closure (if Closed), and the names of the officers who disposed of the complaint.
- b) Disclose the details of any "integrity doubts" recorded in their Annual Confidential Reports (ACRs) or Performance Appraisal Reports by any reporting or Reviewing officer in the last 10 years.
- c) Provide the names, designations, and tenure of all officers posted in the Vigilance wing of the Nashik Zone for the last 5 years, along with the number of Trap cases, corruption complaints, and departmental actions they have initiated And successfully prosecuted.

(C) PAN-INDIA DATA ON SYSTEMIC CORRUPTION IN TAX ADMINISTRATION

5. Comprehensive Pan-India Data on Corrupt Officers (Last 10 Years):

- a) Provide a zone-wise, year-wise, and rank-wise disaggregated data set of all CGST and Central Excise officers (across India) against whom corruption cases (criminal or departmental) were registered in the last 10 years (2015-2025). The Data must be provided in a comma-separated values (CSV) or Excel format and Include the following fields:
 - i. Name of the officer, designation, and zone/commissionnerate at the time of the offense.
 - ii. Nature of the corruption allegation (categorized as: Bribery, Disproportionate Assets, ITC Fraud Collusion, Criminal Conspiracy, or Others).
 - iii. Current status of the case (Under Investigation, Charge-sheet filed, Convicted, Acquitted, Departmental Penalty Imposed, Pending).
- b) Out of the data set in Point 5(a), provide the specific list of officers against Whom prosecution sanction was granted by the Competent Authority and the list Where it was denied, along with the detailed reasons recorded in writing for such Denial.
- c) Provide a zone-wise list of officers against whom Disproportionates Assets (DA) Cases were registered in the last 10 years, along with the quantum of assets Allegedly disproportionate and the final outcome of each case.

6. Pan-India Data on ITC Fraud and Officer Complicity:

- a) Provide the total number of ITC fraud cases involving an amount of Rs. 1 Crore And above detected across India in the last five years (2020-2025), with zone-wise Break-up.
- b) From the cases in Point 6(a), provide a separate data set of cases where there Was conclusive evidence or a prima facie allegation of officer complicity (i.e., Collusion between the taxpayer and the departmental officer). Provide the details Of the disciplinary or criminal action taken against such complicit officers.
- c) Provide the total amount of revenue (in Rs. Crores) involved in ITC fraud cases Where the investigation or scrutiny was handled by an officer who was later Arrested or charge-sheeted for corruption. Specify the current status of recovery Of this revenue.

7. Pan-India Data on Fake Invoices and Modus Operandi:

- a) Provide a zone-wise and year-wise break-up of all fake invoice cases detected Across India in the last five years (2020-2025). For each zone, provide:
 - i. Total number of fake invoices detected.
 - ii. Total amount of fraudulent Input Tax Credit (ITC) involved.
 - iii. Number of arrests made in connection with these rackets.
- b) From the data in Point 7(a), provide the list of cases where departmental Officers were found to be protecting, aiding, or abetting the fake invoice Operators. Provide the details of action taken against such officers.
- c) Provide a list of all "masterminds" or key operators of fake invoice rackets Arrested in the last five years, along with details of any departmental officers who Were found to be in regular contact with such operators (based on CDR or Surveillance reports).

8. Pan-India Data on Transfer Policy and Shielding of Corrupt Officers:

- a) Provide a certified copy of the central policy, circular, or standing order Governing the transfer and posting of officers against whom corruption Complaints are pending or who are under vigilance inquiry.
- b) Provide a zone-wise list of all officers in the last five years who were Transferred from a sensitive posting (Preventive Wing, Audit, Investigation, Anti-Evasion) to a non-sensitive or staff posting immediately after a corruption Complaint was filed against them. Include the reasons recorded for such transfer.

Information Provided:

In this regard, it is submitted that the point wise reply of requisite information of RTI is as under:

1 to 4. Does not pertain to this office.

5. Pan-India Data on All Corrupt Officers for the last 10 years: The information sought in Point 6 of the RTI application qualifies as personal information as defined under clause (j) of Section 8(1) of the RTI Act, 2005, the disclosure of which has no relationship to any public activity or public interest. This position has been explicitly upheld in Special Leave Petition (Civil) No. 27734 of 2012, Girish Ramchandra Deshpande vs. Central Information Commission (copy enclosed).

6 to 8. Does not pertain to this office.