

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INFORMATION COMMISSIONS IN INDIA
Minutes of the 7th Annual General Body Meeting held on 01-04-2017, @ 11:30 A.M.
at CSOI, Vinay Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi.

Participants:

Board of Governors:

- Shri R K Mathur, IAS (Retd.), CIC, Central Information Commission, New Delhi & President.
- Shri M. Ratan, IPS (Retd.), SCIC, Andhra Pradesh Information Commission & Vice President.
- Dr. Joram Begi, SCIC, Arunachal Pradesh Information Commission.
- Shri Thounaojam Ibobi Singh, IFS (Retd.) SCIC, Manipur Information Commission.
- Shri Sunil Kumar Misra, IRS (Retd) SCIC, Odisha Information Commission.
- Shri Suresh Chowdhary, IPS (Retd.)SCIC, Rajasthan Information Commission.
- Shri S.S. Channy, IAS, (Retd) SCIC, Punjab Information Commission
- Dr. Joram Begi, SCIC, Arunachal Pradesh Information Commission

Members :

- Shri Himangshu Sekhar Das, IAS (Retd.), SCIC, Assam Information Commission
- Shri L. Krishnamurthy, SCIC, Karnataka Information Commission.
- Shri Prashant Sadashiv Prabhu Tendolkar, SCIC, Goa Information Commission
- Shri V.S. Gadhavi, SCIC, Gujarat Information Commission
- Shri Kurshid Ahmed Ganai, IAS (Retd.), SCIC, Jammu & Kashmir Information Commission
- Shri Jawahar Shrivastav, IAS (Retd.), SCIC, Chhattisgarh State Information Commission
- Shri Jagbir Singh Kundu, Maj. Gen. AVSM (Retd.),SCIC, Haryana Information Commission
- Shri Lal Duhthlana ralte, IFS (Retd) SCIC, Mizoram Information Commission
- Shri Shatrughna Singh, SCIC, Uttarakhand Information Commission.

Special Invitees:

- Shri D. P. Thaker, SIC, Gujarat Information Commission
- Shri Amitava Bhattacharaya, Information Commissioner, Central Information Commission, New Delhi.
- Smt. Anjali Anand Srivastava, Secretary, Central Information Commission
- Shri R.K.Singh, Additional Secretary, Central Information Commission, New Delhi.

Also Present:

- Shri.S.P.Beck, J.S. [Admn.], Central Information Commission, New Delhi
- Shri A.Vijaya Prakash, Executive Secretary, NFICI., Hyderabad

The meeting commenced with warm welcome of Shri M. Ratan, Vice-President, NFICI informed that the NFICI had taken initiative to distribute Rs. 4.00 Lakhs to each Member Commission as per their eligibility, to take up a project with reference to the Aims & Objects of the Federation as per the decision taken in the Special General Body meeting held on 08.11.2016 at New Delhi. Accordingly an amount totalling to Rs. 87.00 lakhs was released by the Federation.

2. Shri R. K. Mathur, President, NFICI reiterated the decisions taken in the last Special General meeting held on 08.11.2016 at New Delhi. Viz. 1. Releasing of funds to various State member Commissions, 2. To Amend the Bye laws at item No.12 (ii) which reads: that “the members of Executive Committee (Board of Governors) shall be duty bound to attest the signatures of all the members of newly elected Executive Committee and to see that the said signatures of the outgoing Governing Body tally with the annual list as filed with Registrar of societies before 15 days of the succeeding month in which elections were held”.

Since it is not possible to get attest the signatures of newly elected Executive Committee members by the previous Executive Committee members, as there is uncertainty of the previous Executive Committee members attending to the meeting. “It was resolved that the newly elected Board of Governors signatures taken in the attendance sheet along with other members be submitted to the Registrar concerned for the purpose of record”. The decision taken was confirmed.

3. The Hon'ble President then took up the agenda item No. 2 i.e. Measures for increasing activities of NFICI including transfer of NFICI Hq. from Hyderabad to New Delhi. The members agreed that there is need to shift the NFICI Headquarters to New Delhi, in order to increase activities of NFICI in the public Interest.

a) With regard to shifting of NFICI head quarters from Hyderabad to New Delhi. Executive Secretary stated that said that he has discussed the matter with the Registrar of Societies at Hyderabad, who have informed that, the NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INFORMATION COMMISSIONS IN INDIA (NFICI) has been registered under AP Societies Act 2001 with registration No. 479/2009 having jurisdiction to function within A.P. (presently in Telangana),

b) The President responding to the shifting of NFICI Headquarters to New Delhi informed to the members present that, a decision was already taken in the matter during the 2nd Annual General Body Meeting held on 21.04.2012 at New Delhi. Shri M. Ratan, Vice-President informed that as per the decision taken already, he shall shift the NFICI entire account including the existing fixed deposits to a selected branch of State Bank of India, at New Delhi, while retaining an amount of Rs. 2.00 lakhs at Hyderabad for future expenses purpose towards payment of Salaries to Staff and clearing the pending bills. That the said Rs. 2.00 lakhs will be transferred to APIC Current A/c No. 36286085460 held with the same SBI, Saifabad Branch, Hyderabad. The same was agreed to. It is further clarified by the Vice-President that the Cheque power hither to was jointly held by the Vice-President and Executive Secretary, this will now be exercised by the President, NFICI or his authorised persons after shifting of the funds to New Delhi.

c) The proposal of shifting the office of NFICI to Delhi and the change in cheque signing powers was approved.

d) The President Sri R. K. Mathur, said that he will depute a two member committee headed by Mr. S. P. Beck, Joint Secretary (Admn), Central Information Commission to Hyderabad to initiate action for shifting of the NFICI Headquarters to New Delhi and transfer of cheque powers.

4. Sri A.V. Prakash, Executive Secretary read out his report. He informed about the funds available with State Bank of India, Saifabad Branch, Hyderabad as an on 27.03.2017 which are as follows:

1. In Fixed Deposits	:	Rs. 1,50,95,703.00
2. In Current Account	:	Rs. 8,50,867.20

.....4/-

He stated that during the financial year 2016-17 an amount of Rs 17.00 lakhs received towards annual membership fee from various State Information Commissions as detailed at page No. 18 of the notes. Subsequently a cheque for Rs. 1.00 lakh received from Arunachal Pradesh State Information Commission and another Rs. 1.00 lakh was received from Jammu & Kashmir State Information Commission which are to be credited to the NFICI A/c. He informed that an amount of Rs. 34.00 lakhs were outstanding against various State Commissions, as shown at page No. 11 of the notes. The names of Arunachal Pradesh and J&K Commissions may be removed from the statement, after the amount is credited to the Bank.

The Executive Secretary furnished a detailed statement showing the amounts released by the Federation to each State Information Commission ranging from Rs.1.00 lakh to Rs. 4.00 lakhs. It is said that utilisation of amounts are received only from the following member Commissions.

1. Andhra Pradesh
2. Meghalaya
3. Nagaland
4. Rajasthan
5. Sikkim

The Executive Secretary informed that the audit of the NFICI funds for the financial year 2016-17 will be taken up by the auditors viz., M/s Sagar & Associates, Hyderabad during the last week of April, 2017 or 2nd week of May, 2017. Hence he requested the member Commissions to see that necessary vouchers along with utilization certificates be sent to the federation at the earliest duly vetted by the local auditors. He that YASHADA, Pune, published NFICI Online Newsletter for the quarter ending December, 2016. Which can be viewed on NFICI Website: www.nfici.org. That the Newsletter quarter ending March, 2017 expected to be published in the 2nd week of April, 2017. With regard to printing & supply of NFICI Quarterly Magazine around Rs.7.00 lakhs were paid during July, 2016 to YASHADA.

5. The following further items of the agenda were discussed in the meeting
- i) Preparation of PIOs/FAAs/PAs Hand book
 - ii) Setting up of Legal Support Cell for all Commissions in NFICI to keep them updated on developments in Supreme Court / High Courts regarding RTI cases.
 - iii) RTI Lecture series
 - iv) Framing of Model RTI Rules.

Regarding item Nos. 1 to 4 action plan was sought from the respective member Commissions for discussion in the next meeting going to be called in third week of May, 2017.

The Vice-President Sri M. Ratan, informed that he has got prepared a user's guide for Public Information Officers by one Mr. Srinivas Madhav, Judicial Officer working with A.P. Information Commission and also got printed 20,000 RTI Act Booklets in English and Telugu versions for distribution among the Public Authorities in Andhra and Telangana States. He stated that (5) copies of RTI Act booklets (English version) each will be sent to all other State Commissions for reference.

6. Sri R. K. Mathur, CIC, & President, NFICI has informed the members present in the meeting that 100 copies Compendium of Supreme Court and High Court Judgements on Right to Information Act, 2005 published by LexisNexis have been procured at a cost of Rs.34,000/- (Rs. Thirty Four Thousand Only) for distribution each among members present and all State Information Commissions as this will help in discharge of the Commission's functions.

7. Sri M. Ratan, Vice President also informed the gathering that he is going to demit office on 22nd April, 2017 and conveyed his gratitude to all the members of NFICI for their cooperation. NFICI placed on record its appreciation for services rendered by Sri Ratan.

8. The meeting concluded with the vote of thanks to all by Sri M. Ratan, CIC, Andhra Pradesh Information Commission, and Vice-President, NFICI.

/F.B.O./



Executive Secretary,
NFICI

R. K. Mathur,
President, NFICI.