



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INFORMATION COMMISSIONS IN INDIA
Minutes of 23rd Board of Governors Meeting held on 03.09.2021 at 1530 hrs
Through Video Conferencing

Participants:

Board of Governors:

- Shri Y.K. Sinha, (President), CCIC, Central Information Commission, New Delhi
- Shri Yash Pal Singal, SCIC Haryana State Information Commission
- Shri Lalduhthlana Ralte, SCIC, Mizoram State Information Commission
- Shri M.K. Raut, SCIC Chhattisgarh State Information Commission
- Shri R. Rajagopal, SCIC Tamil Nadu State Information Commission

Also Present:

- Dr. Ajit Prasad Rout, SCIC Assam State Information Commission
- Shri Narinder Chauhan, SCIC Himachal Pradesh State Information Commission
- Shri Vishwas Mehta, SCIC, & SICs Kerala State Information Commission
- Shri N.C. Srinivasa, SCIC Karnataka State Information Commission
- Shri Suresh Arora, SCIC Punjab State Information Commission
- Shri Narinder Kumar Sinha, SCIC Bihar State Information Commission
- Shri Vishwas R. Satarkar, SCIC, & SIC Goa State Information Commission
- Shri Devendra Bhushan Gupta, SCIC Rajasthan State Information Commission
- Shri P. Ramesh Kumar, SCIC, & SICs Andhra Pradesh State Information Commission
- Shri Rinchen Dorjee, SCIC Arunachal Pradesh State Information Commission
- Shri J.P. Mamgain, SIC (I/c SCIC), Uttarakhand State Information Commission
- Shri Oinam Sunil Singh SIC (I/c SCIC), Manipur State Information Commission
- Shri Amrutbhai Patel, SIC Gujarat State Information Commission
- Shri Balakrishna Mohapatra, SIC Odisha State Information Commission

Special Invitees:

- Shri Heeralal Samariya, Information Commissioners, CIC, New Delhi.
- Shri Uday Mahurkar, Information Commissioner, CIC New Delhi.
- Ms. Saroj Punhani, Information Commissioner, CIC New Delhi.

NFICI's officers:

- Shri Sidh Kumar, Joint Secretary, CIC & Honorary Secretary, NFICI, New Delhi
- Shri Sarvottam Kumar, PS, CIC & Executive Secretary, NFICI, New Delhi.

Shri Sidh Kumar, Joint Secretary, CIC and Hony Secretary, NFICI welcomed and greeted all the members and special invitees of NFICI and requested Shri Yashpal Singal, Chief Information Commissioner, SIC Haryana (Member BOG) to introduce Shri Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha, Chief Information Commissioner, CIC and President, NFICI. Shri Yashpal Singal, while giving a brief profile of Shri Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha, introduced him to all the members and congratulated him on taking over as the Chief Information Commissioner, CIC, New Delhi and President, NFICI. He further informed the Members of Federation that Shri Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha has assumed charge of the post of Chief Information Commissioner, Central Information Commission on 7th November, 2020 vice Shri Bimal Julka, who demitted office of CIC on 26th August, 2020. Shri Y.K. Sinha took over the charge as President, NFICI by virtue of the post as decided in the 11th BOG held on 19th April, 2014 and further in the 13th BOG Meeting held on 18th April, 2015.

Shri Y.K. Sinha thanked Shri Yashpal Singal, SCIC, Haryana for the kind introduction and also thanked all the members for their warm welcome as also for their presence in the meeting through Video Conferencing. Shri Sinha also thanked Dr. Ajit Prasad Rout, SCIC Assam for his personal presence in CIC to attend this meeting and also introduced the special invitees to the members of NFICI. Shri Sinha, Chief Information Commissioner and President, NFICI presided over the meeting. The following agenda points were discussed.

- 1. Confirmation of Minutes of last Meeting:** The last 22nd Board of Governors & 9th Annual General Body Meeting was held on 24-08-2020 through Video Conferencing. This was confirmed by all the members of NFICI.
- 2. Election of Member for Board of Governors in place of SCIC Kerala:** The two year tenure of SCIC Kerala as Member of Board of Governors finished on 14.06.2021. SCIC, Kerala was made a member of BOG in its meeting held on 14.06.2019. Shri R. Rajagopal, State Chief Information Commissioner, Tamil Nadu SIC was unanimously elected as Member of Board of Governors for two years beginning from 03-09-2021 from zone 1 on rotational basis.



- 3. Election of Vice-President of NFICI from present BOG in place of SCIC, Kerala:** Shri Yash Pal Singal, State Chief Information Commissioner, Haryana SIC was unanimously elected as Vice-President of NFICI from existing members of Board of Governors, vice Shri Vinson M. Paul, SCIC Kerala who demitted office in November, 2020.

Members suggested that there should be a minimum of six months remaining in the tenure as SCIC for him/her to be elected as Vice-President, NFICI.

- 4. Ratification appointments of Hony Secretary & Executive Secretary, NFICI:** Shri Sidh Kumar, Joint Secretary, CIC was appointed as Hony Secretary to NFICI w.e.f. 31.12.2020 vice Shri Anil Kumar Gehlot, Joint Secretary, CIC, who has been relieved of his duties from CIC and NFICI on 24.11.2020. Sh. Sidh Kumar, JS, CIC & Hony Secretary, NFICI has also been authorized as 2nd Joint Signatory with the power to sign cheques on behalf of NFICI for any transaction approved by the President, NFICI.

Shri Sarvottam Kumar, PS, CIC was appointed as Executive Secretary to NFICI w.e.f. 01.08.2021 vice Shri Sushil Kumar, Deputy Secretary, CIC, who has been relieved of his duties from CIC on 31.07.2021. Sh. Sarvottam Kumar, PS, CIC and Executive Secretary, NFICI has also been authorized as 1st Signatory along with Sh. Sidh Kumar, JS, CIC and Hony Secretary, NFICI with the power to sign cheques on behalf of NFICI for any transaction approved by the President, NFICI.

All the Members of the Federation ratified the above appointments.

- 5. Status of Appeal, Annual Accounts & ITR e-filing:** All the members of Federation were apprised that the hearing of the appeals was concluded on 10.02.2021 at ITAT, Hyderabad. The Hon'ble Tribunal vide their order dated 29-03-2021 has remitted the file back to CIT (Exemptions) for fresh consideration. The matter has been sent to the CIT (Exemptions) for re-consideration. The Matter is under process and the Advocate is following it with Commissioner of Income Tax (Exemptions) Hyderabad.
- 6. Consideration of Advocate's payment:** The Fee of Advocate of invoice dated 10-02-2021 of Rs. 50,000/- for appearance in the appeal filed before the Hon'ble ITAT, Hyderabad was approved by all members of the Federation.

7. Status of Annual Accounts, ITR and E-filing: Some observations in the Annual Accounts for the year 2018-19 were made by Shri Sunil Kumar Misra, SCIC, Odisha in the last meeting held on 24.08.2020 and he suggested that some points related to the Annual Accounts of NFICI be re-examined by the Chartered Accountant. The Chartered Accountant re-examined the Annual Accounts 2018-19 and submitted a brief reply to the observations. The brief reply of the Chartered Accountant was brought to the knowledge of members of the Federation.

The Annual Accounts comprising of Income & Expenditure Statement, Receipts & Payments Statement, and the Balance Sheet for the year 2018-19 were resubmitted and Annual Accounts for the year 2019-20 along with Auditor Report prepared by M/s Batra Deepak & Associates, Chartered Accountant. Both Annual Accounts have been approved by members of the Federation.

All the members of the Federation were also apprised that the Assessment year 2020-21 (FY 2019-20) ITR of Rs. 1,12,930/- has been received in the NFICI Account.

8. Consideration of payment approval to Chartered Accountant M/s Batra Deepak & Associates: All the members of the Federation approved the payment against invoice dated 19.03.2020 for Rs. 41,300/- for the Chartered Accountant M/s Batra Deepak & Associates towards Audit of NFICI Annual Accounts for the year 2019-20.

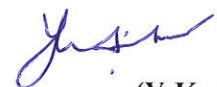
9. Certification of Minutes of Meeting at Registrar of Societies, Hyderabad: It was apprised that the minutes of the meetings of NFICI are to be sent to the Registrar of Societies for certification at regular intervals. As this work requires the signature of all the members of the Board of Governors, hence the work may remain pending till the physical meeting is held.

It was suggested by the President, NFICI that it should be ascertained as to whether the digital signatures of Members of BOG can be accepted by the Registrar of Societies, Hyderabad.

10. Status of NFICI's Grant and Outstanding UC and Vouchers from SICs: The members of the Federation were apprised about the status of NFICI's 1st & 2nd Grant and outstanding UC/Vouchers. Respective State Information Commissions were advised to submit their outstanding Utilization Certificate & supporting vouchers against 1st Grant as well as 2nd Grant. Some members suggested whether the Grants could be utilized for setup of Video Conferencing facility in their respective State Commissions in view of the COVID-19 pandemic situation. The President directed the Executive Secretary, NFICI to examine this suggestion.

- 11. Status of outstanding Annual membership from SICs:** The members of the Federation were apprised about the status of NFICI's outstanding Annual Membership fee from respective State Commissions till F.Y. 2020-21.
All the Members were requested to deposit their outstanding annual membership fee till F.Y. 2021-22 and intimate in the requisite proforma to update the records.
- 12. Status of NFICI's Current Account and FDs:** The members of the Federation were apprised about the status of NFICI's current Account balance in the State Bank of India, Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi. The current account balance as on 02.09.2021 is Rs. 15,46,942/-. In addition, the Federation has the total of 18 Fixed Deposits amounting to Rs. 1,91,43,053/- as on 19-07-2021.
- 13. Important decisions & initiatives by State Commissions:** It was suggested to the members of the Federation to submit their landmark decisions & initiatives in the prescribed proforma (already circulated) by 31st October, 2021 so that it can be placed before the Committee and selected decisions will be circulated and publicized.
- 14. Discussion on State Information Commission U.P., M.P. and Tripura to join as new members of the Federation:** State Information Commission U.P., M.P. and Tripura were invited to join the meeting as Special invitee so that they can be persuaded to join as new members of the Federation. However, they did not attend the meeting.
- 15. Consideration of increase in Remuneration of Data Entry Operator:** The remuneration of Shri Ravi Shankar, Data Entry Operator was discussed and it was decided to increase his Salary to Rs. 30,000/- per month w.e.f. September 01, 2021 with an annual increment of 5% each year.

The President, NFICI concluded the meeting with a vote of thanks to all participants.



(Y.K. Sinha)

President, NFICI