



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INFORMATION COMMISSIONS IN INDIA

Minutes of 31st Board of Governors Meeting held on December 4-5, 2024

At Gangtok, Sikkim

Participants:

Board of Governors:

- Shri Heeralal Samariya, President, NFICI & Chief Information Commissioner, CIC New Delhi.
- Shri Tripurari Sharan, Vice President & Chief Information Commissioner, SIC Bihar.
- Shri Y.P. Gurung, Chief Information Commissioner, SIC Sikkim.
- Shri R. Mahaboob Basha, Chief Information Commissioner, SIC Andhra Pradesh.
- Shri Koijam Radhashyam Singh, Chief Information Commissioner, SIC Manipur.
- Shri Vivek Sharma, Chief Information Commissioner (I/c), SIC Uttarakhand.
- Dr. Pradeep Vyas, Chief Information Commissioner (I/c), SIC Maharashtra.
- Shri Susanta Kumar Mohanty, Chief Information Commissioner (I/c), SIC Odisha.

NFICI's officers:

- Brig Vipin Chakrawarti, Honorary Secretary, NFICI, New Delhi
- Shri Sarvottam Kumar Rana, Executive Secretary, NFICI, New Delhi.

Also Present:

- Shri Kuber Bhandari, Information Commissioner, SIC Sikkim.
- Ms. Roshni Rai, Secretary, State Information Commission Sikkim.

At the beginning of the 31st BOG Meeting, Shri Sarvottam Kumar Rana, Executive Secretary, on behalf of the NFICI President, welcomed all the Hon'ble members present for the meeting. He also conveyed special thanks to Dr. Pradeep Vyas, Chief Information Commissioner (I/c), SIC Maharashtra and Shri Susanta Kumar Mohanty, Chief Information Commissioner (I/c), SIC Odisha as they were attending BOG meeting for the first time.

A special acknowledgment was also depicted to Hon'ble Shri Y.P. Gurung, Hon'ble Chief Information Commissioner, SIC Sikkim and team of Sikkim State Information Commission for graciously hosting the meeting at such a delightful venue.

The Executive Secretary then proceeded with the following agenda items with the permission of the President and members:-

1. Confirmation of Minutes of last Meeting:

The 30th meeting of the Board of Governors was held on 01.08.2024 at CIC Bhawan, New Delhi. Minutes of the meeting were confirmed by the members of the Board of Governors.

2. Status of annual membership fee for the FY 2024-25.

The BOG members were apprised about the status of NFICI's Annual Membership upto financial years 2024-25. It was informed to BOG that as on 30.11.2024, 18 member Information Commissions have deposited their annual membership fees for the financial year 2024-25 while the annual membership fees of 8 members is still awaited.

The matter was discussed and it was decided that reminders be sent to those Member Information Commissions whose annual membership fees for the financial year 2024-25 is still pending.

3. Status of NFICI's Current Accounts and FDs:

The Executive Secretary informed the BOG that the current account and fixed deposits of NFICI are maintained with State Bank of India, NIHFV Munrika Branch New Delhi. The current account has a balance of Rs. 3,97,459/- as on 30.11.2024.

In addition to the current account as mentioned above, the Federation has 13 fixed deposits (FDs). As on 30.11.2024, an amounting of Rs. 1,84,43,048/- (principal amount) existed.

4. Releasing of grants to those member Commissions where CIC/ICs is/are not in positions.

The BOG was informed that at present there is no CIC/ICs in position in the Telangana and Jharkhand Information Commissions. The Secretaries of Telangana and Jharkhand State Information Commissions had requested the Federation to release grants due to them as they have paid annual membership fee in the absence of CICs/ICs.

The matter was discussed in detail, and it was noted that the grants released by the NFICI can only be used under the supervision of the CICs. As the Secretaries have no authority, it is not expedient to release the grants to them and park the funds in their accounts. The BOG unanimously decided to release the grants where the CIC is position.

5. Status of release of 4th Grant of Rs. 4.00 Lakhs to member information Commissions:

The BOG was informed that in the 13th Annual General Body meeting held on 02 August 2024 at New Delhi, it was decided that 4th Grant of NFICI for Rs. 4.00 lakh should be released to the eligible member Information Commissions. Accordingly, 4th grant has been released to the following member Information Commissions:-

S.No.	State Information Commission	Amt. Released (in Lakhs)	Cheque No. & Date
1.	Gujarat	4.00	094473 27.09.2024
2.	Mizoram	4.00	094471 27.09.2024
3.	Nagaland	4.00	094472 27.09.2024
4.	Odisha	4.00	094470 27.09.2024
5.	Rajasthan	4.00	094468 27.09.2024
6.	Sikkim	4.00	094479 27.09.2024



- Following member Commissions have also become eligible to avail grants as mentioned against their names:-

S.No.	State Information Commission	Eligible for grant	Remarks
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	4 th	
2.	Assam	4 th	
3.	Himachal Pradesh	4 th	
4.	Jharkhand	2 nd	<i>Defunct</i>
5.	Karnataka	4 th	Rs.3,98,132/- UC & Voucher are received from 3rd grant. Balance Rs. 1,868/- to be carried forward with 4 th grant.
6.	Manipur	4 th	
7.	Tamil Nadu	4 th	Rs.3,95,293/- UC & Voucher are received from 3rd grant. Balance Rs. 4,707/- to be carried forward with 4 th grant.
8.	Telangana	1 st	<i>Defunct</i>
9.	Uttarakhand	4 th	

The members of the Board of Governors expressed happiness that the release of the fourth grant of Rs. 4.00 lakh has been started to the Member Information Commissions by Federation. The BOG members also approved grants of Rs. 4.00 lakh each of the above mentioned eligible Member Information Commissions.

6. Status of UC and vouchers from members Information Commissions.

The Executive Secretary submitted before the BOG that the Federation releases grants to its Member Information Commissions to undertake schemes for the aims and objectives of the Federation, as per the guidelines for utilization of funds/grants. Member Information Commissions are required to submit verified utilization certificates and supporting vouchers to the office of NFICI after its utilisation.

The status of outstanding utilization certificates and supporting vouchers against the 1st, 2nd & 3rd grants were apprised to all the members of the Board of Governors.

The BOG advised the Executive Secretary to approach the concerned member Information Commissions for submission of their outstanding utilization certificates and supporting vouchers in respect of the grants released to them by NFICI so that they can be eligible to get the next grant.

7. Status of receipt of important and landmark decisions from member Information Commissions. It was apprised that in the 13th Annual General Body meeting held on 02 August, 2024 at New Delhi, an Editorial Board was constituted for selection of landmark and important decisions to be notified through Annual Journal. The following are the members of Editorial Board:-

- 1) Shri Virendra, Chief Information Commissioner, West Bengal;
- 2) Shri M.L. Lather, Chief Information Commissioner, Rajasthan;
- 3) Shri V Hari Nair, Chief Information Commissioner, Kerala;
- 4) Shri Samir Sahai, Chief Information Commissioner, Maharashtra (*Since Sh. Samir Sahai has retired, we may consider appointing new member at his place*).
- 5) Shri K. Radhashyam Singh, Chief Information Commissioner, Manipur and
- 6) Dr. Subhashchandra Soni, Chief Information Commissioner, Gujarat

Executive Secretary intimated the BOG that only 8 State Information Commissions have forwarded their Important and landmark decisions and 3 State Information Commissions have submitted 'Nil' report.

The matter was discussed and it was decided that reminders should be sent to those Member Information Commissions who have not yet submitted copies of their important and landmark judgments upto the year of 2023 including any orders passed by the Hon'ble High Courts of their respective States, to the NFICI office by 2023 for selection by the Editorial Board to be notified through the Annual Journal.

BOG members nominated Shri Virendra, Chief Information Commissioner, West Bengal to be the Chief Editor of the Editorial Board of NFICI.

Further since Shri Samir Sahai, has demitted his office Dr. Pradeep Vyas, Chief Information Commissioner (I/c) was also nominated as member of the Editorial Board in place of Shri Samir Sahai.

8. Certification of Minutes of Meeting.

Executive Secretary apprised the BOG that the minutes of the meetings of NFICI are sent to the Registrar of Societies, Hyderabad for certification at regular intervals. In this process the Federation had sent the minutes of the meetings for the period 16.11.2022 to 02.08.2024 to the Registrar of Societies, Hyderabad through Telangana Information Commission for certification.

9. Status of filing of ITR.

NFICI's Annual Accounts for the year 2023-24 had been prepared by M/s Ankit Malik & Associates, Chartered Accountant. The audited annual accounts for the financial year 2023-24 were approved by the members in the 30 BOG Meeting. The BOG was apprised that the Auditor has filled the Income Tax Return (ITR) for the financial year 2023-24 on 09.11.2024. BOG expressed their happiness.

10. Acknowledgment by the President NFICI

Before to conclude, The President of NFICI, Shri Heeralal Samariya expressed his happiness that all the members of the BOG were available for the meeting by sparing their precious time. He also conveyed thanks to the Shri Y.P. Gurung, CIC, Sikkim and his team for organising the meeting at a beautiful place and for looking after the BOG during their stay at Gangtok.

11. Any other item with the permission of the Chair.

There being no other point, Dr. Pradeep Vyas, Hon'ble Chief Information Commissioner Maharashtra delivered a vote of thanks, and the meeting was concluded.


(Heeralal Samariya)
President, NFICI