

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INFORMATION COMMISSIONS IN INDIA

Minutes of 32nd Board of Governors Meeting held on April 8th, 2025

At Guwahati (Assam)

Participants:

Board of Governors:

- Shri Heeralal Samariya, President NFICI & Chief Information Commissioner, CIC New Delhi.
- Shri Tripurari Sharan, Vice President, NFICI & Chief Information Commissioner, SIC Bihar.
- Shri R. Mahaboob Basha, Chief Information Commissioner, SIC Andhra Pradesh.
- Smt. Ripnar Lyngdoh, Chief Information Commissioner (I/c), SIC Meghalaya
- Shri Mahendra Kumar Parakh, Information Commissioner, SIC Rajasthan.
- Shri Kuber Bhandari, Information Commissioner, SIC Sikkim
- Shri Virendra, Chief Information Commissioner, SIC West Bengal

NFICI's officers:

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

At the beginning of the 32nd BOG Meeting, Shri Sarvottam Rana, Executive Secretary, on behalf of the NFICI President, welcomed all the Hon'ble members present for the meeting. He also congratulated newly elected members of the Board of Governors viz. Punjab, Rajasthan, Meghalaya and West Bengal.

A special acknowledgment was also expressed to Hon'ble Shri Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta, Chief Information Commissioner, SIC Assam and team of Assam State Information Commission for graciously hosting the NFICI's meetings 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 31st Board of Governors meeting was held on 4-5 Dec, 2024 at Gangtok (Sikkim). The members were asked to confirm the minutes of the meeting. The members of Board of Governors unanimously confirmed the minutes of the meeting.

2. Approval for Services of Chartered Accountant for the FY 2024-25.

Board of Governors approved the services of CA firm, M/s Ankit Malik & Associates for audit and accounting services for the financial year 2023-24. CA Firm M/s Ankit Malik & Associates has rendered its satisfactory services for the year 2023-24.

The CA firm M/s Ankit Malik & Associates has submitted two quotations of Rs. 15,000/- & Rs. 21,500/- (exclusive of GST, if applicable) for audit and accounting services for the financial year 2024-25. This includes preparation and maintenance of book of accounts of the Federation, preparation and filing of Income Tax Return for AY 2025-26. Other than this, Statutory Audit of the accounts of the Federation and preparation and filing of Report on Audit of the Society.

The Executive Secretary requested to the members of Board of Governors to consider approving the services of M/s Ankit Malik & Associates, Chartered Accountants for the FY 2024-25 as per their quoted rates. The members of BOG unanimously approved the same.

3. Status of NFICI's Current Accounts and Fixed Deposits.

The Executive Secretary informed the members of the Federation that the NFICI's current account and fixed deposits are being maintained at State Bank of India, NIHFW Munirka Branch New Delhi. A sum of Rs. 8,64,301/- was existing balance in the current account as on 31.03.2025.

In addition to this, the Federation had 12 Fixed Deposits also which were amounting to Rs. 1,77,58,278/- (principal amount) as on 31.03.2025. These are also being maintained in the same branch.

4. Status of Annual membership fee for the FY 2024-25.

The members were apprised about the status of NFICI's Annual Membership Fee up to the financial year 2024-25. It was informed that in the 13th Annual General Body meeting held on 02 Aug, 2024 at New Delhi, all the member Information Commissions were requested to deposit the Annual Membership Fee for the financial year 2024-25. All the member Information

Commissions except Karnataka and Telangana have deposited Annual Membership Fee for the FY 2024-25. The Board of Governors directed to request State Information Commissions Karnataka and Telangana to deposit outstanding Annual Membership Fee for the financial year 2024-25.

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

It was informed to the members that in the 13th Annual General Body meeting held on 02 Aug, 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 State 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

6. Consideration on release of the 4th grant to reaming eligible member Information Commissions:

Member of the Federation were informed that the following Member Commissions have submitted the Utilisation Certificates and supporting vouchers for all the First, Second and the Third Grants. Now, the Fourth Grant can be released to the following State Information Commissions.

S.No.	State Information Commission	Eligible for grant	Remarks
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	4 th	
2.	Assam	4 th	
3.	Himachal Pradesh	4 th	

4.	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.
5.	Meghalaya	4 th	
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.	Uttarakhand	4 th	

The proposal to release 4th grant of Rs. 4.00 lac was discussed in detail. The Board of Governors decided to release the 4th grant to those member Information Commissions who are eligible for it and express their willingness for its utilisation.

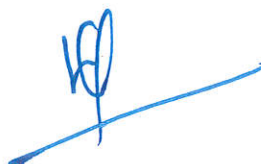
The members had a deliberated discussion and decided that the Federation should increase the Annual Membership Fee from Rs. 1 lac to Rs. 1.5 lac and grants being released by the NFICI should be increased from Rs. 4 lac to Rs. 5 lac. All the members agreed to this proposal unanimously, and it was decided that Annual Membership Fee to be increased from the FY 2025-26 and increased rate of release of grant should be applicable from the 5th grant. Members also agreed to amend the By-laws accordingly.

7. Raising of demand for Annual Membership Fee for the FY 2025-26.

The Executive Secretary apprised the members that Annual Membership fee for the FY 2025-26 has become due. All the members present decided unanimously that all the members be requested to deposit Annual Membership fee @ Rs 1.5 lac for the FY 2025-26 at the earliest.

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

The Executive Secretary apprised that the Federation releases grants to its Member Information Commissions to undertake schemes 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. The details of release of grants, receipt of utilization certificates and supporting vouchers from member Information Commissions was apprised to members of the Federation as under :-



S.No.	State Information Commission	1 st Grant	2 nd Grant	3 rd Grant	4 th Grant	Remarks
		Status of UC & Vouchers	Status of UC & Vouchers	Status of UC & Vouchers	Status of UC & Vouchers	
1	Andhra Pradesh	Received	Received	Pending		
2	Arunachal Pradesh	Received	Received	Received		
3	Assam	Received	Received	Received		
4	Bihar	Pending	-	-		
5	Chhattisgarh	Received	UC & Vouchers of Rs. 3,62,890/- have been received in r/o 2 nd Grant.	Pending		
6	CIC, Delhi	-	-	-		CIC Delhi has not availed any Grant.
7	Gujarat	Received	Received	Received	Received	UC & Vouchers for Rs. 4.00 lakh received by mail on 28.03.2025
8	Goa	NA	Received	Pending		
9	Himachal Pradesh	Received	Received	Received		
10	Haryana	Received	Pending	-		
11	Jharkhand	UC and voucher of Rs. 1,95,390/- have been received in r/o 1 st grant.	-	-		Jharkhand SIC has refunded the unutilized balance of Rs 4,610/- from the first grant.
12	Kerala	Received	Received	Pending		
13	Karnataka	Received	Received	UC & Vhrs of Rs. 3,98,132/- have been received.		

14	Maharashtra	Received	Received	Pending		
15	Meghalaya	Received	Received	Received		
16	Manipur	Received	Received	Received		
17	Mizoram	Received	Received	Received	Pending	
18	Nagaland	Received	Received	Received	Pending	
19	Odisha	Received	Received	Received	Pending	
20	Punjab	Received	Received	Pending		
21	Rajasthan	Received	Received	Received	Pending	
22	Sikkim	Received	Received	Received	Pending	
23	Tamil Nadu	Received	Rs. 3,94,935/- UC & Vouchers have been submitted in r/o 2 nd Grant	Received Rs. 3,95,293/- UC & Voucher have been received by letter dt. 07.08.2024		
24	Telangana	-	-	-		
25	Uttarakhand	Received	Received	Received		
26	West Bengal	Received	Received	Pending		

The Executive Secretary proposed that we may approach those Member Information Commissions who have not yet submitted their outstanding Utilization Certificates and Supporting Vouchers for the grants released to them. All the members agreed to this unanimously.

9. Status of receipt of important and landmark decisions from member Information Commissions.

The Executive Secretary informed that an Editorial Board was constituted for selection of landmark and important decisions issued by the members Information Commissions to be notified through Annual Journal. The following are the members of the Editorial Board:-

- 1) Shri Virendra, Chief Information Commissioner, West Bengal; **Chief Editor**
- 2) Shri M.L. Lather, Chief Information Commissioner, Rajasthan;
- 3) Shri V Hari Nair, Chief Information Commissioner, Kerala;
- 4) Dr. Pradeep Vyas, Chief Information Commissioner, Maharashtra;
- 5) Shri K. Radhashyam Singh, Chief Information Commissioner, Manipur;
- 6) Dr. Subhashchandra Soni, Chief Information Commissioner, Gujarat.

In pursuance of the above decision, the Federation had requested all the Member Information Commissions to submit their important and landmark decision upto the year of 2024.

It was apprised that the Federation has received 167 decisions for 13 Member Information Commissions. 6 Members Commissions have submitted 'Nil' report.

The members present in the meeting directed the Executive Secretary to approach all the Member Commissions once again to submit their decisions on Priority so that the journal can be published.

10. Agenda points received from following State Information Commissions:

(1) Goa State Information Commission.

- (i) Mechanism to ensure compliance of FAA's order.
- (ii) Engagement of Advocates from Government panel.

(2) Andhra Pradesh State Information Commission

- (i) Implementation of directions of Hon'ble Supreme court of India in its order dated 09.01.2023 on the W.P. (C) No. 360 of 2021 titled Kishan Chand Jain Vs UOI case.
- (ii) Welfare of the out-sourcing employees working in the Information Commissions.
- (iii) Assigning a regular employee in each office to handle applications appeals and complaints related to RTI Act 2005.
- (iv) Proposal of Pension to the State Chief Information Commissioners and Information Commissioners.




The detailed deliberation was made on the above agenda points by all the members of the Federation.

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

- (i) The Executive Secretary apprised the members that the Federation releases a sum of Rs. 8 lac or total expenditure whichever is less, for hosting the Special/Annual General Meeting of NFICI outside Delhi. However, the State Information Commissions hosting the meetings find it difficult to organize as Rs 8 lac is inadequate. Hon'ble CIC Assam also repeated the same and requested the members to consider increasing the amount suitably. Members had a detailed discussion on this issue and finally decided that a sum of Rs 10 lac or the actual expenditure, whichever is less, should be released to the member Information Commissions hosting the meeting. It was also discussed and decided that the increased amount should be applicable from the 14th Annual General Body Meetings organized by the State Information Commission, Assam.

There being no other point, Brig. Vipin Chakrawarti, Honorary Secretary, NFICI, delivered a vote of thanks, and the meeting was concluded.


(Heeralal Samriya)
President, NFICI