



## NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INFORMATION COMMISSIONS IN INDIA

Minutes of 33<sup>rd</sup> Board of Governors Meeting held on July 25-27, 2025

At Trivandrum (Kerala)

### 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.
- Shri Inderpal Singh, Chief Information Commissioner, SIC Punjab
- Shri Y.P. Gurung, Chief Information Commissioner, SIC Sikkim
- Shri Virendra, Chief Information Commissioner, SIC West Bengal

#### Also Present:

- Shri Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta, Chief Information Commissioner, SIC Assam
- Shri Md. Shakeel Akhter, Chief Information Commissioner, SIC Tamil Nadu
- Shri Arvind Kumar H. Nair, Chief Information Commissioner, SIC Goa
- Shri V. Hari Nair, Chief Information Commissioner, SIC Kerala
- Shri Kuber Bhandari, Information Commissioner, SIC Sikkim
- Dr. K.M. Dileep, Information Commissioner, SIC Kerala
- Adv. Ramakrishnan T.K., Information Commissioner, SIC Kerala
- Dr. Sreekumar M., Information Commissioner, SIC Kerala
- Dr. Sonichan P Joseph, Information Commissioner, SIC Kerala

#### NFICI's officers:

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

Shri V. Hari Nair, Chief Information Commissioner, Kerala, commenced the proceedings with a warm welcome to all the dignitaries present at the meeting. He expressed his gratitude to Shri Heeralal Samariya, Hon'ble Chief Information Commissioner and President, NFICI, for giving the State of Kerala the opportunity to host such an important meeting of the NFICI. Shri Nair then invited the President of NFICI to address the participants.

Shri Heeralal Samariya welcomed all the dignitaries and members of the Board of Governors to the 33rd Board of Governors Meeting. He conveyed his thanks and appreciation to Shri V. Hari Nair, Chief Information Commissioner, Kerala, and his entire team of Commissioners, officers, and staff of the State Information Commission, Kerala, for their meticulous planning, exceptional hospitality, and seamless organisation of the meeting. He also thanked all the participants for their valuable contributions to this important platform, which promotes transparency and strengthens the citizen-centric essence of the RTI Act.

He noted that the insights and experiences shared by participants through this platform are extremely enriching and inspiring. He expressed hope that the leadership, camaraderie, and shared vision demonstrated during the event would further strengthen the collective resolve to advance transparent and accountable governance across the States.

Shri Samariya affirmed that the NFICI meetings provide an important platform for exchanging and adopting best practices followed by various Information Commissions. These meetings enable members to deliberate, interact, and share views and opinions for the more effective implementation of the "sunshine legislation." He emphasised that the RTI Act is a powerful instrument for fostering participatory democracy, promoting an informed citizenry, and ensuring good governance, and that all Information Commissioners have a vital role to play in this regard.

The Executive Secretary, Shri Sarvottam Rana was invited to proceed with the agenda points of the meeting.

The Executive Secretary proceeded with the agenda items, with the permission of the President and members:



### 1. Confirmation of Minutes of the Last Meeting

The 32nd meeting of the Board of Governors was held on 8 April 2025 at Guwahati, Assam. The members were requested to confirm the minutes. The Board of Governors unanimously confirmed the minutes of the meeting.

### 2. Publication of Annual Journal

The members were apprised that Annual Journal of RTI is in final shape and due to be published soon. He further apprised the members that the office of NFICI had got quotations from various firms for the publication of the Annual Journal. A total of approximately 80,000/- expenditure will take place for publication of 250 copies of the Journal. The members unanimously approved the proposal.

### 3. Reduction of Tenure of Members of the Board of Governors

The Executive Secretary apprised the members that a point had been received from some members regarding the tenure of the BOG members. He informed that the tenure of BOG members was originally fixed at two years when the Chief Information Commissioners were appointed for a term of five years. However, post-2019, owing to the amendment to the **RTI Act**, the tenure of the Chief Information Commissioner has been reduced to three years. In view of this change, it was suggested that the tenure of the BOG members should also be reduced from two years to one year.

The members deliberated and discussed this matter in detail, and it was unanimously decided that the tenure of the BOG members will henceforth be **one year**.

### 4. Status of Annual Membership Fee (up to FY 2025-26)

Members were apprised that in the 14th Annual General Body Meeting held on 8 April 2025 at Guwahati; all Information Commissions were requested to deposit the annual membership fee for FY 2025-26. The updated status of NFICI's annual membership fee collections for the financial year 2025-26 was presented.

The following Member Information Commissions have deposited the annual membership fees for the financial year 2025-26:

S.No.	Information Commission	For financial year(s)	Amt. (in Lakhs)
1)	CIC Delhi	2025-26	1.5
2)	Arunachal Pradesh	2025-26	1.5
3)	Chhattisgarh	2025-26	1.5
4)	Gujarat	2025-26	1.5



5)	Haryana	2025-26	1.5
6)	Madhya Pradesh	2025-26	1.00
7)	Maharashtra	2025-26	1.5
8)	Manipur*	2025-26	1.5
9)	Mizoram	2025-26	1.5
10)	Nagaland	2025-26	1.5
11)	Odisha	2025-26	1.5
12)	Rajasthan	2025-26	1.5
13)	Sikkim	2025-26	1.5
14)	Uttarakhand	2025-26	1.5
15)	West Bengal	2025-26	1.5

(b) The annual membership fees from the following Member Information Commissions are outstanding:

S.No.	Information Commission	Outstanding for FY(s)	Outstanding Amt. (in Lakhs)
1)	Andhra Pradesh	2025-26	1.5
2)	Assam	2025-26	1.5
3)	Bihar	2025-26	1.5
4)	Goa	2025-26	1.5
5)	Himachal Pradesh	2025-26	1.5
6)	Jharkhand	2025-26	1.5
7)	Kerala	2025-26	1.5
8)	Karnataka	2025-26	1.5
9)	Meghalaya	2025-26	1.5
10)	Punjab	2025-26	1.5
11)	Tamil Nadu	2025-26	1.5
12)	Telangana	2024-25 & 2025-26	2.5 (1.00 + 1.5)



**5. Approval of Amendment in Memorandum of Association (MoA), Bye-laws, and Rules & Regulations**

The members of the Board of Governors were informed that, during the 14th Annual General Body Meeting held on 8 April, 2025 at Guwahati, it was decided to increase the existing rate of Annual Membership Fee from ₹1.00 lakh to ₹1.50 lakh with effect from the financial year 2025-26. Accordingly, an amendment to the MoA is required.

The proposal was placed before the Hon'ble Board of Governors for approval, and the members unanimously approved the amendment.

**6. Status of NFICI's Current Accounts and Fixed Deposits**

The Executive Secretary informed the members that NFICI's current account and fixed deposits are maintained with State Bank of India, NIHFV Munirka Branch, New Delhi. As on 23 July 2025, the balance in the current account stands at ₹13,68,691/-.

In addition, the Federation also holds 10 Fixed Deposits, amounting to a principal sum of ₹1,61,48,499/- as on 23 July 2025.

**7. Status of Utilization Certificates (UC) and Vouchers from Member Commissions**

The Executive Secretary apprised the members regarding the status of grants released, and the receipt of Utilization Certificates along with supporting vouchers from member Information Commissions. It was proposed that the NFICI Secretariat may approach those Member Information Commissions who have not yet submitted their outstanding UCs and supporting vouchers for the grants released to them. The Board unanimously agreed to this proposal.

**8. Status of Release of 4th Grant of ₹4.00 Lakh to Member Commissions**

The members were informed that the 4th grant of ₹4.00 lakh has been released to the following eligible Member Information Commissions:

S.No.	State Information Commission	Amt. released (in lakhs)	Cheque No. & Date
1)	Arunachal Pradesh	4.00	357314 12.06.2025
2)	Assam	4.00	357315 12.06.2025
3)	Gujarat	4.00	094473 27.09.2024
4)	Meghalaya	4.00	357316 12.06.2025
5)	Manipur	4.00	357317 12.06.2025
6)	Mizoram	4.00	094471 27.09.2024
7)	Nagaland	4.00	094472 27.09.2024

8)	Odisha	4.00	094470 27.09.2024
9)	Rajasthan	4.00	094468 27.09.2024
10)	Sikkim	4.00	094479 27.09.2024
11)	Tamil Nadu	4.00	357318 12.06.2025
12)	West Bengal	4.00	357319 12.06.2025

**9. Consideration for Issue of 4th Grant to Additional Eligible Member Commissions**

The members were apprised that the following Member Information Commissions have submitted their Utilization Certificates and supporting vouchers and have now become eligible for the release of the 4th Grant:

S.No.	State Information Commission	Amount (in lakhs)	Remarks
1.	Himachal Pradesh	4.00	
2.	Karnataka	4.00	Rs.3,98,132/-UC & Voucher are received from 3rd grant. Balance Rs. 1,868/- to be carried forward with 4 <sup>th</sup> grant.
3.	Maharashtra	4.00	
4.	Uttarakhand	4.00	

The BOG members approved the release of the 4th Grant to the above-mentioned Member Commissions.

**10. Any Other Item with the Permission of the Chair**

The Executive secretary informed the members that a sum of Rs. 4 lacs is released by the NFICI to the member State Information Commission for hosting the meeting. He informed the members that owing to increase of fiscal rates, it becomes very difficult to manage and organise the meetings in this amount. He requested the members to reconsider the amount fixed earlier. The members had a detailed deliberation and unanimously decided to increase the grant from 4 lac to 5 lac.

There being no other items for discussion, Shri Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta, Chief Information Commissioner, SIC Assam, delivered the Vote of Thanks, and the meeting was concluded.

(Heeralal Samariya)  
President, NFICI