

Minutes of the 2nd General Body of NFICI
held on 21-04-2012 @ 4.00 pm
Venue: Civil Services Officers' Institute (CSOI),
Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi-110001

List of Participants:

Board of Governors:

- Shri **Jannat Husain**, IAS (Retd.), CIC, Andhra Pradesh & Vice President, NFICI;
- Shri **A.K. Choudhary**, IAS (Retd.), CIC, Bihar & Member, NFICI;
- Shri **Tarun Kanti Misra**, IAS (Retd.), CIC, Orissa & Member, NFICI;
- Shri **R.I.Singh**, IAS (Retd.), CIC, Punjab & Member, NFICI;
- Shri **N.S.Napalchyal**, IAS (Retd.), CIC, Uttarakhand & Member NFICI;

Members:

- Shri Satyananda Mishra, IAS (Retd.), Central CIC, New Delhi,
- Shri Thiru K.Sripathi, IAS (Retd.), CIC, Tamil Nadu & Member, NFICI
- Shri S.Minj, CIC, Chattisgarh & Member NFICI
- Shri Bhimsen, IAS (Retd.), CIC, Himachal Pradesh & Member, NFICI
- Shri D.Tangaraj, IAS(Retd), I.C. Karnataka & Member, NFICI
- Shri T. Srinivasan, IAS (Retd.), CIC, Rajasthan & Member, NFICI

Special Invitees:

- Shri Sujit Kumar Sarkar, IPS (Retd), CIC West Bengal,
- Prof. M.M.Ansari, Former CIC, Central Information Commission, New Delhi,
- Shri Deepak Sandhu, CIC, New Delhi.

Also Present:

- Shri Mohd. Taquiuddin, Deputy Executive Director (F, P &G), CGG.
- Shri Tarun Kumar, Joint Secretary (Admin) CIC, New Delhi;
- Shri Akashdeep Chakravarthy, Joint Secretary (Law), CIC, New Delhi;
- Shri Subramanyan, Deputy Secretary, CIC New Delhi &
- Shri A.V. Prakash, Executive Secretary, NFICI, Hyderabad.

The meeting started with a welcome by **Shri Jannat Husain**, Chief Information Commissioner, A.P. Information Commission & Vice-President (NFICI). Thereafter, **Shri Husain** informed that NFICI was formed in 2009 by the then Central Chief Information Commissioner., and so many State Information Commissioners and

Information Commissioners with objectives of proper implementation of this great Act. **Shri Habeebullah**, former Central Chief Information Commissioner, **Shri C.D. Arha**, former Chief Information Commissioner, Andhra Pradesh Information Commission and Prof. M.M.Ansari were also invited as special invitees. But only Sri Ansari is able to attend while the other two are unable to attend in view of some other important preoccupations. He also informed the members that a good number of Information Commissions have become the members of the NFICI. The total number is now 18 and it may rise to 19 as the Mizoram Information Commission has sent the amount to become Member of NFICI. **Shri Jannat Husain** informed that Sikkim, Haryana & Andhra Pradesh Information Commissions have already paid their 2nd year Annual Membership fee. It is also informed that 2nd year annual membership fee from Bihar and Orissa Information Commissions are on the way.

Money is available with the NFICI to take up the programmes. He also informed that they have applied for Income Tax Exemption and the matter is under process. He then requested **Shri Satyananda Mishra** to address the members.

Shri Satyananda Mishra, Central Information Commissioner welcomed all the members. He especially thanked **Mr. A.K. Choudhary**, CIC, Bihar for organizing a meeting in Patna, Bihar. The event organized by the Bihar Govt. was very successful and fruitful. **Shri Satyananda Mishra** informed the Members that the Central Information Commission has now been allocated a piece of land in Old JNU Campus where further action viz. layout plan approval and construction of building plan etc. is being taken up expeditiously.

Shri Satyananda Mishra informed that it is a good sign that the membership of NFICI is going to increase to 19 and hoped that the other member commissions may join to strengthen the NFICI to achieve its objectives.

Report of Programme Committee:

Shri A.K. Choudhary, CIC, Bihar and Chairperson, Programme Committee informed that they have submitted a report of the Programme Committee to the NFICI.

Finance Committee:

The Finance Committee headed by **Sri Tarun Kanti Mishra**, CIC, Orissa informed that finance will be provided to implement the decisions made in the Programme Committee from the available resource, as and when required.

Confirmation of last minutes of General Body & Board of Governors:

The members present confirmed the Minutes of the last General Body meeting held on 20-04-2011 and the Minutes of Board of Governors Meeting held on 13.10.2011. There was a discussion about Warrant of Precedence for Chief Information Commissioners and Information Commissioners. **Shri Satyananda Mishra, Cental Chief Information Commissioner informed that State Chief Information Commissioners are equivalent to Election Commissioner or Supreme Court Judge Cadre and Information Commissioners are equivalent to Chief Secretary Cadre. It is decided to write to all the Chief Ministers and the Chief Secretaries of all the States in this regard. A point was also raised to impart Orientation Programme for the newly**

inducted Chief Information Commissioners and other Information Commissioners, and this should be arranged twice in a year for a week or so. **Shri Satyananda Mishra** informed that DOPT is considering seriously about the orientation programme.

It was also mentioned that there should be separate fund for Foreign Travel. Sri **Tarun Kumar**, JS (Admn.) Central Information Commission told the members that the Central Information Commission has a separate head for foreign travel since its inception. All the members Commissions have been requested to try for the same.

Shri Jannat Husain, CIC, Andhra Pradesh then welcomed **Prof. M.M. Ansari**, former Central Information Commissioner and founder member of the NFICI and requested him to say a few words.

Prof. M.M. Ansari thanked all the members for doing a very good job and hoped that the NFICI will continue to do the excellent job in furtherance of aims and objectives of NFICI. He was very happy that so far 19 State Information Commissions have become the members of the NFICI. He also hoped that in a year or so all the State Information Commissions will join the NFICI. So far NFICI has done huge contribution towards strengthening the RTI regime which may reduce the corruption in Government functioning and promote transparency. He suggested that something should be done to reduce the pendency of cases. Suggestions should be included in the Annual Reports of the Commissions to impress upon the respective Governments to improve the RTI regime in the respective States / Centre.

Shri N.S.Napalchyal, CIC, Uttarakhand suggested that a newsletter may also be started by the NFICI and some suitable person can take up this job. **Shri Satyananda Mishra**, Central Chief Information Commissioner welcomed this idea and suggested that this should be put forth by the Programme Committee.

Presentation of Financial report by the Executive Secretary:

Sri A.Vijaya Prakash, The Executive Secretary, NFICI appraised that the following are the amounts received by the NFICI as on date.

No. of Commissions enrolled as members	Amounts received towards Admission fee @ Rs.5.00 lakhs each	Amounts received towards Annual Membership fee @ Rs.1.00 lakh each	Amounts received towards 2 nd Annual Membership fee @ Rs.1.00 lakh each	Total Amount
18	Rs.90.00 lakhs	Rs.18.00 lakhs	Rs.3.00 lakhs	Rs.111.00 lakhs

Details of State Information Commissions enrolled as Members during the Financial year 2010-2011

1.Sikkim , 2. Andhra Pradesh, 3. Haryana, 4. Bihar, 5.. Uttarakhand , 6.Meghalaya.

Details of State Information Commissions enrolled as Members during the Financial year 2011-2012

7. Orissa, 8. Punjab, 9. Goa, 10. Karnataka, 11. Himachal Pradesh. 12. Manipur, 13.Nagaland, 14. Delhi CIC, 15. Tamilnadu, 16. Kerala, 17. Rajasthan 18. Chattisgarh

Details of 2nd Annual Membership fee paid by State Information Commissions for the Financial year 2011-2012:

1. Sikkim, 2. Andhra Pradesh, 3. Haryana

Amounts received above were kept with State Bank of India, Saifabad Branch, Hyderabad under short term and long term fixed deposits and in current account. The details are as follows:

Amounts kept with F.Ds	Rs.1,08,86,134.00
Cash on hand in current account No. 31090170883	Rs. 2,27,945.00

It is informed by the Executive Secretary that the accounts of NFICI are under audit by the Auditor concerned. That the Annual financial statements for 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 will be furnished to all the Member Commissions immediately on completion of the said Audit.

The General body resolved that till all the Commissions enrolled themselves as members to the NFICI the amounts received towards Admission fee, Annual membership fee including the interest derived on F.Ds be treated as Corpus Fund.

However it is clarified that the Federation is at liberty to utilise the funds towards meeting Expenses, payment of salaries / Honorarium to the staff engaged, purchases of furniture, computers and other essential items including expenditure which is part of the objectives of the Society not exceeding 10% of the Corpus fund every year with retrospective effect.

Fixing of remuneration to the Auditor:

The Vice-President **Shri Jannat Husain** informed to the members that though fixing of remuneration to the Auditor appointed Sri **Vidya Sagar Babu** was discussed during the last Board of Governors Meeting held on 13.10.2011, the same could not be finalized and could not be incorporated in the minutes of the meeting. However it is

proposed to fix up the remuneration payable to the auditor as Rs.10,000/- (Rupees ten thousand only) per annum. The members agreed for the proposal.

Election of 3rd Board of Governors:

The members present in the meeting unanimously elected **Shri Satyananda Mishra**, Central Chief Information Commissioner as President of NFICI. **Shri Jannat Husain**, CIC, Andhra Pradesh Information Commission re-elected as Vice-President of NFICI **duly relaxing the Bye-Law No.12**. It is further resolved that he will continue as Vice-President till the NFICI headquarters are shifted to New Delhi. The Chief Information Commissioners of Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Rajasthan and Chattisgarh are elected as New Board of Governors of NFICI.

Enrollement of membership by non-member commissions:

The Committee noticed that only (9) State Commissions viz., Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Gujrat, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Tripura, Madya Pradesh & West Bengal are left.

The Chief Information Commission, West Bengal who was present in the meeting informed that they are likely to become a member of NFICI very soon. It is felt that letters may be addressed to all other Information Commissions to enroll themselves as members of NFICI at the earliest.

It is proposed to hold the next General Body meeting on 20.04.2013 at New Delhi.

Amendment to the rules to facilitate inclusion of Jammu & Kashmir as member of NFICI.

Shri Satyanada Mishra, Chief Information Commissioner verified the bye-laws of NFICI and put-forth that the membership is open to all Information Commissions in India namely The Central Information Commission constituted under sub-sec (1) of Sec 12 and State Information Commissions under sub-section (1) of Sec.15 of RTI Act, 2005. **The sub-section 2 of Section 1 of the RTI Act reads: “The Act extends to whole of India except the State of Jammu & Kashmir” Hence it is resolved to amend the Bye Law No.10 (Doct.No.II) as “Membership is open to all Information Commissions in India” deleting the words namely “The Central Information Commission constituted under sub-section (1) of Section 12 of the Right to Information Act, 2005 and the State Information Commissions constituted under sub-section (1) of section 15 of the Right to Information Act, 2005.”**

Thus the amendment paves the way to Jammu & Kashmir Information Commission to become a Member of NFICI.

INVESTMENTS: All the Investments of the society shall be made in the “Nationalised Banks” only.

IRREVOCABLE: This Society is Irrevocable.

Further it is resolved to add to the item 6 Amendments connected with FUNCTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BODY AND OFFICE BEARERS “Any amendments or alterations hereafter shall be made with prior permission of the Commissioner of Income Tax (Exemptions), Hyd.”

The meeting was concluded by greeting the newly elected members as 3rd Board of Governors with vote of thanks to the participants.

Jannat Husain
Vice-President, NFICI

//Attested//


Executive Secretary