

National Federation of Information Commissions in India
(N.F.I.C.I)

1. The Central Chief Information Commissioner through notification F.No.10/12/2009 Admn/CIC, dt. 12-01-2009 constituted a Sub-Committee to undertake an in-depth study and analysis of the problems and issues raised during the Annual Convention 2008, and to explore ways and measures for strengthening the information regime and to suggest an action plan for effective implementation of the RTI Act, 2005.

2. Sri C.D.Arha, IAS (Retd), Chief Information Commissioner of APIC was appointed as its **Convener**. In addition to Prof. M.M. Ansari, Central Information Commissioner, the following were members on the Sub-Committee from each of the four zones.

North Zone

Sri P.S. Rana, State Chief Information Commissioner, Himachal Pradesh

Dr.Mohd. Shakeel Ahmmed, State Information Commissioner, Bihar

East Zone

Sri Dhirendra Nath Padhi, State Chief Information Commissioner, Orissa

Sri Nyodek Yongam, State Chief Information Commissioner, Arunachal Pradesh,

West Zone

Sri S.V. Joshi, State Chief Information Commissioner, Maharastra,

Sri M.D. Kaurani, State Chief Information Commissioner, Rajasthan

South Zone

Sri S. Ramakrishnan, State Chief Information Commissioner, Tamilnadu,

Sri K.K. Mishra, State Chief Information Commissioner, Karnataka,

3. Ms. Anita Gupta, Additional Secretary, Central Information Commission was the Nodal Officer of the Sub-Committee. Sri Rajiv Sharma, IAS, Director General, Centre for Good Governance, Hyderabad and his team of experts assisted the Sub-Committee in finalizing its report.

4. The Sub-Committee held meetings on 28-02-2009, 18-04-2009, 20-06-2009, 22-08-2009 and 17-09-2009 and after extensive and detailed discussions finalized its Report and presented the Sub-Committee's final report to Sri Wajahat Habibullah the Central Chief Information Commissioner on 25-9-2009 in New Delhi.

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5. One of the concrete achievements that emanated from the recommendations of the Sub-Committee was formation of a Federation of Central Information Commission and all the State Information Commissions. It was registered as “National Federation of Information Commissions in India” (NFICI) in Hyderabad on 01-10-2009 with Registration No.479 of 2009. For want of suitable accommodation for the NFICI in Delhi, its headquarters is registered as the office premises of the Andhra Pradesh Information Commission. It is the ultimate aim of the NFICI to shift its headquarters to New Delhi after the Central Information Commission gets its own office building.

6. The following was the composition of Board of Governors (Executive Committee) of the NFICI.

SL. No.	Name of the Office Bearers & S/o, W/o, D/o	Age	Designation	Occupation	Address
1	Shri Wajahat Habibullah	63	President	Chief Information Commissioner	Central Information Commission, 2 nd Floor, August Kranti Bhavan, Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi – 110066
2	Shri C.D. Arha	63	Vice President	Andhra Pradesh State Chief Information Commissioner	Andhra Pradesh Information Commission, Ground Floor, HACA Bhavan, Opp. Public Gardens, Hyderabad – 500 004 Andhra Pradesh

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3	Shri K. K. Mishra		Executive Committee Member Zone 1	Karnataka State Chief Information Commissioner	Karnataka Information Commission, 3 rd Floor, 3 rd Stage, Multistoried Buildings, Dr. Ambedkar Road, Bangaluru - 560001.
4	Shri P. S. Rana		Executive Committee Member Zone 2	Himachal Pradesh State Chief Information Commissioner	State Information Commission, Himachal Pradesh H.P. Secretariat, Shimla – 171002
5	Shri Nyodek Yongamm		Executive Committee Member Zone 3	Arunachal Pradesh State Chief Information Commissioner	Arunachal Pradesh State Chief Information Commission, Arunachal Pradesh
6	Shri Suresh Vinayakrao Joshi		Executive Committee Member Zone 4	Maharashtra State Chief Information Commissioner	Maharashtra State Chief Information Commission, Mumbai
7	Dr. Mohd. Shakeel Ahmed		Executive Committee Member Zone 5	Bihar State Information Commissioner	Bihar State Information Commission Fourth Floor, Soochna Bhawan Bailey Road, Patna - 800021 Bihar (India)
8	Prof. M. M. Ansari		Executive Committee Member	Central Information Commissioner	Central Information Commission 2nd Floor, August Kranti Bhavan Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi-110066

7. Although Sri P.S.Rana, CIC of Himachal Pradesh was shown as a member of the Executive Committee from Zone-II against Sl.No.4, he did not sign in the document before its registration. His main objection was that the headquarters of the NFICI must be in Delhi but not in Hyderabad. As the minimum number required for registration was only 7, the NFICI was registered with the remaining 7 members.

8. The Executive Committee had so far conducted (3) meetings on the following dates at the places noted against each;

S.No.	Date	Place of meeting
1	14-10-2009	Gurajada Hall, A.P. Bhavan, New Delhi
2	20-02-2010	Gurajada Hall, A.P. Bhavan, New Delhi
3	28-06-2010	APIC Office, HACA Bhavan, Hyderabad

9. The minutes of the 3 meetings of the Executive Committee are placed below at flags -M1, M2 and M3.

10. Most of the members of the Executive Committee retired / demitted office after completing the age of 65 years or five years of service.

11. According to Rule 10 of By Laws of the NFICI (flag D2) and Rule 4 of the Rules and Regulations, every member Commission has to pay Rs.6 lakhs (admission fee of Rs.5 lakhs and annual membership fee of Rs.1 lakh). Accordingly the following five State Information Commissions have paid admission fee and annual membership fee to the NFICI: -

1. Sikkim Information Commission	-	Rs. 6.00 lakhs
2. Andhra Pradesh Information Commission	-	Rs. 6.00 lakhs
3. Bihar Information Commission	-	Rs. 6.00 lakhs
4. Haryana Information Commission	-	Rs. 6.00 lakhs
5. Uttarakhand Information Commission	-	Rs. 6.00 lakhs
6. Meghalaya Information Commission	-	Rs. 6.00 lakhs

Total	-	Rs. 36.00 lakhs

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12. The amounts have been kept in long term deposits and current account in the State Bank of India, Saifabad Branch, Hyderabad as shown below: -

Long term deposit - 1.Rs.20.00 lakhs (A/c No.31498601301 dated 12-11-2010)
2.Rs.02.00 lakhs (A/c No.31498602350 dated 12-11-2010)
3.Rs.06.00 lakhs (A/c No.31615261091 dated 04-02-2011)

Current Account - Rs.08.00 lakhs (A/c No.31090170883 dated 12-11-2010)

13. The Current account was initially opened with an amount of Rs.10,000/- taken as loan from the CGG. This amount has to be refunded to the CGG by the NFICI.

14. The relevant documents – Document-1 (Memorandum of Association) and Document-II (By Laws) are placed at flag-D1 and D2.

15. According to Rule 11 of the By Laws, the Annual General Body has to meet once in a year. Under Rule 11, all the Chief / Information Commissioners may be invited to the Annual General Body meeting – cum – conference and each Member Commission will have one vote in such meeting.

16. According to Rule 8 of the Rules and Regulations the Annual General Body meeting shall be held within 12 months of registration of the society, giving 15 days notice. The date has to be determined by the President. Though this could not be done, it has to be convened now.

17. The quorum for Annual General Body meeting is $1/3^{\text{rd}}$ of the total membership. President may invite special invitees but they cannot vote.

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18. The quorum for Executive Committee meeting is 1/4th of the total members of the Executive Committee.
19. Sri Vardhaman Vaidya, Knowledge Manager, CGG is the Executive Secretary of the NFICI.
20. A date convenient to the Central Chief Information Commissioner may be fixed for the conduct of next meeting of General Body – cum – Conference to elect new members to the Board of Governors, NFICI in place of the members who are already retired / demitted the office and encourage the other State Commissions to enroll as members and fulfill the objects for which the NFICI is formed.