

Minutes of the meeting held on 10th April, 2020 at 1100 hrs.

Present

1. Shri Bimal Julka, Chief Information Commissioner
2. Shri Wajahat Habibullah, Former Chief Information Commissioner
3. Shri A.N. Tiwari, Former Chief Information Commissioner
4. Shri Satyananda Mishra, Former Chief Information Commissioner
5. Ms. Deepak Sandhu, Former Chief Information Commissioner
6. Ms. Sushma Singh, Former Chief Information Commissioner
7. Shri Rajiv Mathur, Former Chief Information Commissioner
8. Shri Vijai Sharma, Former Chief Information Commissioner
9. Shri Radha Krishna Mathur, Former Chief Information Commissioner
10. Shri Sudhir Bhargava, Former Chief Information Commissioner
11. Shri D.P. Sinha, Information Commissioner
12. Shri Y. K. Sinha, Information Commissioner
13. Smt. Vanaja N Sarna, Information Commissioner
14. Shri Neeraj Kumar Gupta, Information Commissioner
15. Shri Suresh Chandra, Information Commissioner
16. Dr. Amita Pandove, Information Commissioner
17. Secretary to the Commission, assisted by other officers

A meeting of the Commission was held on 10.04.2020 at 1100 AM through video conferencing with former Chief Information Commissioners to invite their suggestions to create an enabling environment for the people to overcome the hardships in securing information so that the Commission may undertake them, in wake of COVID – 19 pandemic.

The Chief Information Commissioner welcomed all the former Chief Information Commissioners, participating in meeting through video conferencing and briefed them regarding the decisions taken by the Commission recently in wake of COVID-19 pandemic, so far.

The Secretary, CIC briefed former Chief Information Commissioners on the steps taken by the Commission to function in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic and the lockdown period, regarding issue of notices and listing of cases for disposal of RTI second appeals, arrangements for cleaning and sanitation in the CIC building, Operation of e – office, settlement of pending claims, etc..

It was explained that the Commission had decided to conduct its hearings through Audio / Video conferencing and to minimize physical interface with the parties. Wherever written submissions were available, it could decide matters exercising due diligence. It was also resolved that the Commission may use innovative technological tools for the conduct of its functioning. A video conferencing meeting was also held with some of the civil society representatives on 7th April, 2020 to seek their views on effective dissemination of information in the emerging scenario. In the meanwhile, the Commission had drawn up a

plan of action to commence its hearings in urgent matters through Audio / Video conferencing wherever the telephone nos. of the parties were available. It was collectively decided to institutionalize this arrangement keeping in view the success of this experiment, even after the lockdown period is over, for the ease and convenience of public at large.

Former Chief Information Commissioners expressed their satisfaction on the steps taken by the Commission at this critical time. It was suggested that the Commission may evaluate its processes and reengineer them with the help of technology during this trying period so that RTI can be used effectively by the public. Automation may be explored for sanitization of premises.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.



(Rahul Rastogi)
Joint Secretary (Admn.)

To

1. PPS to Chief Information Commissioner (BJ)
2. PPS to Information Commissioner (DP)
3. PPS to Information Commissioner (YS)
4. PPS to Information Commissioner (VN)
5. PPS to Information Commissioner (NG)
6. PPS to Information Commissioner (SC)
7. PPS to Information Commissioner (AP)
8. PPS to Secretary/PS to Additional Secretary

Copy also to:

1. JS (P&B)/ JS (MR) / JS (Law)/Registrar (Consultant)
2. Shri Sushil Kumar, DS (Admn)
3. Shri S.K. Rabbani, DS (Gen. Admn)
4. Shri K.A. Talwar, DS (CR-I)
5. Shri U.C. Joshi, DS (Law)
6. Shri R.S. Murthy, Consultant
7. Shri S.C. Sharma, Consultant
8. Shri R.P. Grover, Consultant
9. Shri Baljit Singh Kasana, Consultant
10. Shri H.P. Sen, Consultant
11. Shri K.L. Das, Consultant
12. Shri A.K. Assija, Consultant



(Rahul Rastogi)
Joint Secretary (Admn.)