

Government of India  
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions  
(Department of Personnel and Training)  
IR Division

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**Subject: - Appointment of Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission**

This is regarding appointment of Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission. Hon'ble Supreme Court's in its order in WP No.436 of 2018 dated 15.02.2019, directed to fill up vacancies, in future, without any delay; and that for this purpose, the process for filling up of a particular vacancy is initiated 1 to 2 months before the date on which the vacancy is likely to occur so that there is not much time lag between the occurrence of vacancy and filling up of the said vacancy.

**Rule Position**

2. As per section 12 (2) of the Act, the Central Information Commission shall consist of the Chief Information Commissioner and such number of Central Information Commissioners, **not exceeding ten**, as may be deemed necessary.

3. Section 12 (3) of the Act stipulates that - *The Chief Information Commissioner and the Information Commissioners shall be appointed by the President on the recommendation of a Committee consisting of the following:-*

- (i) *the Prime Minister who shall be the Chairman of the Committee,*
- (ii) *the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, and*
- (iii) *a Union Cabinet Minister to be nominated by the Prime Minister.*

The Act further explains that for the purpose of removal of doubts, it is hereby declared that where the Leader of the Opposition in the House of the People has not been recognized as such, the Leader of the single largest group in opposition of the Government in the House of the People shall be deemed to be the Leader of Opposition.

4. As per Section 12(5) of the RTI Act, *The Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners shall be persons of eminence in public life with wide knowledge and experience in law, science and technology, social service, management, journalism, mass media or administration and governance.*

5. Section 12(6) of the RTI Act, 2005 mandates that *"The Chief Information Commissioner or an Information Commissioner shall not be a Member of Parliament or Member of the Legislature of any State or Union territory, as the case may be, or hold any other office of profit or connected with any political party or carrying on any business or pursuing any profession."*

6. At present, the Central Information Commission has a Chief Information Commissioner and six Information Commissioners. Incumbency Statement of Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners is placed at **Flag 'A'**. Further, Shri Divya Prakash Sinha, Information Commissioner is going to complete his tenure on 25.09.2020. Moreover, the appointment process of Chief Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission is also going on and if the Chief Information Commissioner gets appointed from among incumbent Information Commissioners, the Information Commissioners left in position may be reduced to four consequently.



From prepage

**Process**

7. As per past practice, the process of selection of Information Commissioners involves following steps:-

- (i) Particulars of interested persons are invited through advertisements in newspapers (two English and two Hindi) and through DoPT's Website. A copy of last advertisement issued is at **Flag 'B'**.
- (ii) Particulars of applicants are tabulated by DoPT and sent to a Search Committee (constituted by PM) chaired by Cabinet Secretary.
- (iii) Shortlisted names are sent to a Committee constituted under Section 12(3) headed by the Hon'ble Prime Minister.
- (iv) Persons recommended by the Committee under Section 12(3) are appointed by the Hon'ble President.

8. Hon'ble Supreme Court in its Judgement dated 15.02.2019 in WP No.436 of 2018: Ms Anjali Bhardwaj & others Vs. Union of India and others pertaining to fill up the vacancies in CIC, has disposed of the WP, inter-alia holding that-

- (i) The procedure is now adequately transparent, one cannot find fault in the process of appointment;
- (ii) There have been undue delay in filling up these vacancies; and that vacancies shall be filled up, in future well in time.
- (iii) The terms and conditions on which such appointments are to be made, be specifically stipulated in the advertisement and put on the website as well;
- (iv) The Search Committee ought to make criteria for shortlisting the candidates so that it is ensured that shortlisting is done on the basis of objective and rational criteria;
- (v) Information Commissioners are appointed from other streams/categories as well;
- (vi) Vacancies be filled up in future without any delay by initiating the process for filling up the vacancies one or two months before.

9. In view of the above, Hon'ble Prime Minister's approval may be solicited on the following :-

- (i) To start process of appointment of Information Commissioners in the CIC as per past practice of publication by advertisement, shortlisting by Search Committee and Selection by Committee under Section 12(3).
- (ii) Constitution of Search Committee for shortlisting of candidates. A copy of the composition of Search Committee for the last occasion is placed at **Flag 'C'**.

- (iii) To nominate one Union Cabinet Minister as member of the Committee, headed by Hon'ble PM, to be constituted under Section 12(3) of RTI Act. [During the last round of Selection of CIC/IC, Shri Amit Shah, Minister of Home, was nominated as member of the Committee.]
- (iv) Draft advertisement inviting applications for appointment of Information Commissioners in the CIC is placed at :-
- To be published in newspapers.
  - To be placed on DoPT's website.

Submitted please.

Manoj Kumar  
8/6/2020  
(Manoj Kumar)  
ASO (IR-2)

SO (IR-2)

US (IR-2)

Director (IR)

Bikesh  
08/6/2020

Sanyal Kumar  
08/06/2020

AS (IR)

Secy (P)

Manoj Kumar

08/06/2020

V. Sankar  
08/6/2020

M. N. N. 08/06/2020

Mo (P)  
12/9.6.2020

PM



Government of India  
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions  
(Department of Personnel and Training)

IR Division

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**Subject:- Appointment of Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission**

This is regarding appointment of Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission.

2. In this regard, vide the main file which is under submission, approval of the Prime Minister has been sought for the following:

(i) To start process of appointment of Information Commissioner in the CIC as per past practice by publication of advertisement, shortlisting by Search Committee and Selection by Committee under Section 12(3).

(ii) Constitution of Search Committee for shortlisting of candidates.

(iii) To nominate one Union Cabinet Minister as member of the Committee, headed by Hon'ble PM, to be constituted under Section 12(3) of RTI Act.

(iv) Draft advertisement inviting applications for appointment of Information Commissioner in the CIC :-

- a) To be placed on DoPT's website
- b) To be published in newspapers

3. As per past practices, advertisements in newspapers (two English and two Hindi) and through DoPT's Website may be issued followed by constitution of Search Committee, shortlisting of candidates by Search Committee and further final recommendations made by Selection Committee to be constituted under section 12(3) of RTI Act, 2005.

4. As desired, in anticipation of the approval of the Prime Minister for initiating the process of appointment of Information Commissioner in CIC, we may issue advertisement with the last date for receiving applications after 3 weeks from the date of issue of advertisement, as per past practice. 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2020 may be the last date for receipt of applications, as per DFA.

5. Submitted for consideration and approval please.

Manoj  
7/7/2020

SO(R II)

US (IR-II)

DR (IR)

Bikeab  
07/7/2020

Pawan Kumar  
7/7/20

It has been indicated that we AS (RC) may issue the advertisement calling for applications for the post of Information Commissioners. For kind approval pl

V. Srinivas  
07/7/2020

Secy (P)

AS (RC)

7/7/2020  
08/07/2020

W DFA



**PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE**

[Human Resources Cell]

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**South Block,  
New Delhi - 110 011**

**Subject: Appointment of Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission- reg.**

Reference is invited to DoPT's note dated 9.06.2020 at pages 01-03/N of file No. 4/3/2020-IRII, on the subject cited above.


2. Prime Minister has approved the following proposals of DoPT:-


- (i) To start process of appointment of Information Commissioner in the CIC, as per past practice by publication of advertisement, shortlisting by Search Committee and Selection by Committee under Section 12(3).
- (ii) Constitution of Search Committee for shortlisting of candidates for the post of Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission with the following composition:-

1.	Cabinet Secretary	Chairman
2.	Secretary (Expenditure)	Member
3.	Secretary (I&B)	Member
4.	Secretary (DPIIT)	Member
5.	Dr. Manoj Panda, RBI Chair Professor, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi University	Member

- (iii) To nominate Shri Amit Shah, Union Home Minister, as member of the Committee, headed by Hon'ble PM, to be constituted under Section 12(3) of RTI Act.
- (iv) Draft advertisement inviting applications for appointment of Information Commissioners in the CIC:
  - (a) To be published in newspapers.
  - (b) To be placed on DoPT's website.

3. DoPT's file/folder No. 4/3/2020-IRII, is returned herewith.

  
(Meera Mohanty)  
Director  
Tel. No. 2301 3132

  
Secretary, Department of Personnel & Training

PMO ID no. 5250815/PMO/2020-HR Cell

Dated 10 .07.2020

I/3721680

AS(RC)

Dir/IR

R  
14/7

Vs  
14/7/20  
USC/R-2

Law  
15/7/20  
SO (R-2)

-6- PMO-1427759/81/ACG/P/17/8/20  
**CONFIDENTIAL**

**PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE**

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**South Block,  
New Delhi - 110 011**

**Subject: Meeting of the Selection Committee for appointment of Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners in CIC- Regarding.**

Reference is invited to DoPT's notes on the subject cited above.

2. The undersigned is directed to convey that Prime Minister has agreed to chair the meeting of the Selection Committee for appointment to the posts of Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners in Central Information Commission (CIC), **on 24.08.2020 at 6:30 PM at 7 LKM, New Delhi.**

3. DoPT is further requested to inform all the Hon'ble Members of the Selection Committee accordingly.

*M. Mohanty*  
(Meera Mohanty)

**Director**

**Tel. No. 2301 3132**

**Secretary, Department of Personnel & Training**

PMO ID No.: 600/52/C/03/2020-HR.

Dated 14.08.2020

*M. 14/8*  
*Sent - Copy Sent.*

*AS(IR/RC) 17/08/2020*

*AS(RC) - For you, pl.*

*Sir/R 17/8*

*USCIR-2) 18/8/20*

*18/8/20*

*SO (IR-2)*

*I/3724464*



-6-

Government of India  
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions  
(Department of Personnel and Training)  
IR Division

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**Subject:** Appointment of Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission

**Reference Notes 1-4/ante.**

2. The issue on this file relates to appointment of Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission.

**Rule Position**

3. As per section 12 (2) of the RTI Act, the Information Commission shall consist of the Chief Information Commissioner and such number of Central Information Commissioners, **not exceeding ten**, as may be deemed necessary.

4. As per Section 12(5) of the RTI Act, 2005, the Information Commissioner shall be person of eminence in public life with wide knowledge and experience in "law, science and technology, social service, management, journalism, mass media or administration and governance."

5. PMO vide ID No. **5250815/PMO/2020-HR Cell dated 10.07.2020** has conveyed the approval of the Prime Minister to start the process of appointment of Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission, as per past practice by publication of advertisement, shortlisting by Search Committee and Selection by Committee under Section 12(3) of the RTI Act, 2005. They have also conveyed the approval for (i) the constitution of Search Committee for short-listing of candidate for appointment as Information Commissioners with the following composition :-

a.	Cabinet Secretary	Chairman
b.	Secretary (Expenditure)	Member
c.	Secretary (I&B)	Member
d.	Secretary (DPIIT)	Member
e.	Dr. Manoj Panda, RBI Chair Professor, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi University	Member

- (ii) Nominating Shri Amit Shah, Union Home Minister as member of the Committee, headed by Hon'ble PM, to be constituted under Section 12(3) of RTI Act.

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from pre page:-

-8-  
7-

6. Accordingly, an advertisement inviting particulars of interested persons for the post of Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission was published on the website of this Department on 09.07.2020 and also in leading newspapers on 11.07.2020. The last date for receipt of applications was 31.07.2020.

7. A total no. of **355** applications for the post of Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission have been received by the due date/time i.e. 31.07.2020 (5:00PM). Advance copy of applications received before due date have also been included. 09 applications have been received after the due date/time.

8. Hon'ble Supreme Court in its Judgement dated 15.02.2019 in WP No.436 of 2018: Ms Anjali Bhardwaj & others Vs. Union of India and others pertaining to fill up the vacancies in CIC, has disposed of the WP, inter-alia holding that-

- i. The procedure is now adequately transparent, one cannot find fault in the process of appointment;
- ii. There have been undue delay in filling up these vacancies; and that vacancies shall be filled up, in future well in time.
- iii. The terms and conditions on which such appointments are to be made be specifically stipulated in the advertisement and put on the website as well;
- iv. The Search Committee ought to make criteria for short-listing the candidates public so that it is ensured that short-listing is done on the basis of objective and rational criteria
- v. Information Commissioners are appointed from other streams/categories as well;
- vi. Vacancies be filled up in future without any delay by initiating the process for filling up the vacancies one or two months before.

9. In MA No.1979/2019 in WP No.436/2018, Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order dated 16.12.2019 directed the UoI to comply with the directions given in para 32 of the Judgement dated 15.02.2019 in the said WP and complete the appointment process in respect of Information Commissioners in CIC within a period of three months from date of order i.e. 16.12.2019. In compliance of the directions, the appointments of Chief Information Commissioner and an Information Commissioner were completed within the deadline and notified on 06.03.2020. Subsequently, a Compliance Affidavit dated 24.04.2020 has been sent to Advocate-on-Record for filing before the Hon'ble Court. The final/next hearing in the matter is yet to be held.

@ F/x

# F/y

10. One of six incumbent Information Commissioners viz. Shri Divya Prakash Sinha is going to complete his tenure on **25.09.2020**.





from pre page:-

-9-  
~~8-~~

2 p 5/N

11. In this regard it is submitted that Prime Minister's Office vide their ID No.600/52/C/03/2020-HR dated 14.08.2020 has conveyed that Prime Minister has agreed to chair the meeting of the Selection Committee for appointment to the posts of Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners in the CIC on 24.08.2020 at 6:30 PM at 7 LKM, New Delhi. It is further submitted that Cabinet Secretariat vide their ID No.08/03/2019-CS(A) dated 07.08.2020 conveyed that meeting of the Search Committee for shortlisting candidates for the post of Chief Information Commissioner in CIC is scheduled to be held at 5.00 PM on 19.08.2020 in the Committee Room, Cabinet Secretariat, Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi.

12. In view of the above, convenience of the Cabinet Secretary as Chairman of Search Committee may be solicited to convene a meeting for short-listing of the candidates for the post of Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission at the earliest.

Manoj Kumar  
17.08.2019

SO (R-II)

US (R-I)

Dir (FR)

Bikesh  
17/8/2020

Pawan Kumar  
17/8/2020

AS (RC)

Para 12 for Consideration Pl

L20  
17/8/2020

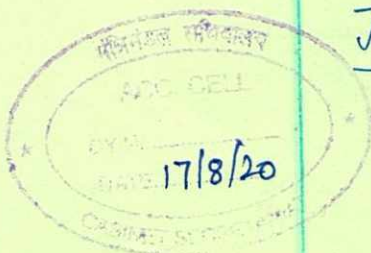
V Sinder  
17/8/2020

Secy (P) [on leave]

(Rashmi Chowdhary)  
Additional Secretary

JS (Cabin Sectt)

Sh. Amandeep Garg



9-T.O



F.No: 4/3/2020-IR-II(Pt-II)  
C. No.3154458

Department of Personnel and Training  
IR Division

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Subject: Appointment of Information Commissioner in Central Information Commission- reg.

PMO vide ID no. 5250815/PMO/2020-HR Cell dated 10.07.2020 has conveyed the approval of the Prime Minister to initiate the process of appointment of Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission as per practice of publication of advertisement in leading newspapers and constitution of Search Committee.

2. Accordingly, an advertisement inviting particulars of interested persons for the post of Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission was published on the website of this Department on 09.07.2020 and also in leading newspapers on 11.07.2020. The last date for receipt of applications was 31.07.2020. A total no. of 355 applications for the post of Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission have been received by the due date/time i.e. 31.07.2020 (5:00PM). Advance copy of applications received before due date have also been included. In addition to 355 applications received within time, 09 more applications have been received after due date.

3. Prime Minister's Office vide their ID No.600/52/C/03/2020-HR dated 14.08.2020 has conveyed that Prime Minister has agreed to chair the meeting of the Selection Committee for appointment to the posts of Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners in the CIC on 24.08.2020 at 6:30 PM at 7 LKM, New Delhi

4. The main file seeking convenience of Cabinet Secretary as the chairman of the Search Committee for convening meeting for shortlisting candidates for appointment to the post of Information Commissioner in CIC is already under submission to Cabinet Secretariat.

5. In this regard, Draft Agenda Note for Search Committee for shortlisting candidates for appointment to the post of Information Commissioner in CIC is submitted for consideration please.

Manoj  
17.08.2020

SO (IR-II)  
OS (IR-II)

Dir (IR)

Bikash  
17/8/2020

Pawan Kumar  
17/8/2020

V. S. S. S.  
17/8/2020

17/8/2020

(Rashmi Chowdhary)  
Addition

18/8/2020

USCIR-2)  
V. S. S. S.  
17/8/2020  
Dir (IR-II)

ASCR

Secy (P)

AS (RC) - In a meeting



F.No: 4/3/2020-IR-II(Pt-III)  
C. No.3154464

Department of Personnel and Training  
IR Division

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**Subject: Appointment of Information Commissioner in Central Information Commission- reg.**

PMO vide ID no. 5250815/PMO/2020-HR Cell dated 10.07.2020 has conveyed the approval of the Prime Minister to initiate the process of appointment of Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission as per practice of publication of advertisement in leading newspapers and constitution of Search Committee.

2. Accordingly, an advertisement inviting particulars of interested persons for the post of Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission was published on the website of this Department on 09.07.2020 and also in leading newspapers on 11.07.2020. The last date for receipt of applications was 31.07.2020. A total no. of 355 applications for the post of Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission have been received by the due date/time i.e. 31.07.2020 (5:00PM). Advance copy of applications received before due date have also been included. In addition to 355 applications received within time, 09 more applications have been received after due date.

3. Prime Minister's Office vide their ID No.600/52/C/03/2020-HR dated 14.08.2020 has conveyed that Prime Minister has agreed to chair the meeting of the Selection Committee for appointment to the posts of Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners in the CIC on 24.08.2020 at 6:30 PM at 7 LKM, New Delhi

4. The main file seeking convenience of Cabinet Secretary as the chairman of the Search Committee for convening its meeting for shortlisting candidates for appointment to the post of Information Commissioner in CIC is under submission to Cabinet Secretariat.

5. It has been learnt that the meeting of the Search Committee is scheduled to be held on 19.08.2020 at 5:15 P.M in the Committee Room, Cabinet Secretariat, Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi. Accordingly, draft Meeting Notice for meeting of Search Committee for shortlisting candidates for appointment to the post of Information Commissioner in CIC is placed below.

Submitted for consideration and approval please.

Manoj  
18.08.2020  
SO (IR-II)  
US (IR-I)

Dir (IR)

ASCRE

Dir (IR)

JS (Cabinet Secy) has

Confirmed over

Phone about

5.15 PM for IC meeting.

Pl. immed. issued.  
US (IR-2)

V. S. S. S.  
18/8/2020

Bikesh  
18/08/2020  
Pawankumar  
18/8/20

V. S. S. S.  
18/8/2020

AS (IR) / hys  
Secy (P)  
18/8/2020  
Dir (IR)



#

Reference note at pre page :-

As discussed and decided, a revised Meeting notice for the meeting of Search Committee is placed below for approval and signature please.

US (IR-1)

Bikash  
19/08/2020

Revised schedule received from Cab. Sectt. is at PR. Revised meeting notice placed below pl. (DFA)

Dir (IR)

Pawar  
19/08/20

May pl see before me

~~ASCR~~

V Sinha  
19/8/2020

date & time may be made hold

~~Dir/IR~~

~~Dir~~  
19/8

~~USC (IR-2)~~

V Sinha  
19/8/2020

Has been done hold, as desired.

Dir (IR)

Pl in me

Pawar  
19/8/20

~~USC (IR-2)~~

V Sinha  
19/8/2020

Pawar  
19/8/20  
So (IR-2)



Reference note at the page:-

It has been ~~learned~~ that the meeting rescheduled on 21.08.2020 at 10.30 AM has been postponed. Accordingly a draft MN to intimate the members of Search Committee is placed below for approval/sign please

~~US (IR-II)~~

~~Dir (IR)~~

~~ASCRG~~

~~Bikeg~~  
~~80 (IR-II)~~  
~~20/8/2020~~

~~Pawar~~  
~~20/8/20~~

Vsinh  
20/8/2020

IS/Cah Secth - Ananddeep  
Garg, has conveyed verbally.  
Written note will follow. May pl  
to come, meanwhile

~~Lib~~  
~~20/8~~

~~Dir/IR~~

USC (IR-2)

PI informed

Vsinh  
20/8/2020



**Cabinet Secretariat  
Rashtrapati Bhawan**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Subject: Appointment of Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission-regarding**

The undersigned is directed to inform that the meeting of the Search Committee for shortlisting candidates for the post of Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission is scheduled to be held **at 5.15 PM on 19.08.2020**, in the Committee Room, Cabinet Secretariat, Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi.

2. Department of Personnel and Training is requested to suitably inform the members of the Search Committee to attend the meeting, under intimation to this Secretariat. It is also requested that all the members of the Search Committee may be requested to attend the meeting through **Video-Conferencing**. Further, the contact details of the Search Committee members may kindly be furnished to this Secretariat to make necessary arrangements for the meeting through Video-Conferencing.

3. The DoPT's File No. 4/3/2020-IR-II is returned herewith.

  
(Smita Sarangi)  
Deputy Secretary (ACC)  
Tel. No.: 23016130  
Email ID: [smita.sarangi@nic.in](mailto:smita.sarangi@nic.in)

*M. 8/8/2020.*

**Department of Personnel and Training [Dr. C. Chandramouli, Secretary]**

**Cabinet Secretariat I.D. No. 08/03/2019-CS(A) dated the 18<sup>th</sup> August, 2020**

*AS(RC)*  
*Dir/TR*  
*45(R-2)*  
*Pan*  
*18/8/20*  
*So (TR-2)*  
*18/8*  
*18/8/2020*



-15-

174  
48

Confidential

**Cabinet Secretariat  
Rashtrapati Bhawan**

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**Subject: Appointment of Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission-regarding**

The undersigned is directed to refer to this Secretariat's I.D. of even number dated 18.08.2020 on the subject mentioned above and to inform that the meeting of the Search Committee for shortlisting candidates for the post of Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission is rescheduled to be held **at 10.30 AM on 21.08.2020**, in the Committee Room, Cabinet Secretariat, Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi.

2. Department of Personnel and Training is requested to suitably inform the members of the Search Committee to attend the meeting accordingly through **Video-Conferencing**, under intimation to this Secretariat

*Smita Sarangi*  
19/8/20

(Smita Sarangi)

Deputy Secretary (ACC)

Tel. No.: 23016130

Email ID: [smita.sarangi@nic.in](mailto:smita.sarangi@nic.in)

**Department of Personnel and Training [Dr. C. Chandramouli, Secretary]**

**Cabinet Secretariat I.D. No. 08/03/2019-CS(A) dated the 19<sup>th</sup> August, 2020**



M-1428279/20/Soy(1) -15-

21/8/2020

Cabinet Secretariat  
Rashtrapati Bhawan

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Confidential

**Subject: Appointment of Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission-regarding**

The undersigned is directed to refer to this Secretariat's I.D. of even number dated 19.08.2020 on the subject mentioned above and to inform that the meeting of the Search Committee for shortlisting candidates for the post of Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission, scheduled to be held at 10.30 AM on 21.08.2020, in the Committee Room, Cabinet Secretariat, Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi **stands postponed**. The fresh date and time for the meeting will be communicated in due course.

2. Department of Personnel and Training is requested to suitably inform the members of the Search Committee accordingly, under intimation to this Secretariat.

*Smita*  
20/8/20

(Smita Sarangi)

Deputy Secretary (ACC)

Tel. No.: 23016130

Email ID: [smitta.sarangi@nic.in](mailto:smitta.sarangi@nic.in)

Department of Personnel and Training [Dr. C. Chandramouli, Secretary]

Cabinet Secretariat I.D. No. 08/03/2019-CS(A) dated the 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2020

*Secy (Genl Secy)*

*ASCRG*

*R. 27/8*

*V. S. 27/8/20*

*Dir (CR)*

*USCIR-27*

*Pam 27/8/20*

*SC (CR-2)*

*21/8/20*  
*ASO (M)*



Government of India  
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions  
(Department of Personnel and Training)  
IR Division

\*\*\*\*\*

**Subject:- Appointment of Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission -reg.**

The issue on this file relates to appointment of Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission.

2. As desired, draft letter to Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Hon'ble Member of Parliament and Leader of Indian National Congress (the single Largest Group in Opposition) in the Lok sabha, forwarding the details/Bio-Data in respect of the candidates shortlisted by the Search Committee, in its meeting held under the chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary on 06.10.2020, for appointment to the posts of Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission, has been attempted and placed below for approval pls.

Manoj  
8/10/2020  
SO(IR-11) Away  
US(IR-11)

Dir (IR)

ASCRG)

Pawan Kumar  
8/10/20

V Sinha  
08/10/2020



**CONFIDENTIAL**

**PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE**

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South Block,  
New Delhi - 110 011

**Subject: Meeting of the Selection Committee for appointment of Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners in CIC- Regarding.**

Reference is invited to PMO ID of even number dated 05.10.2020 on the subject cited above.

2. The undersigned is directed to convey that meeting of Selection Committee for the subject post, scheduled on 07.10.2020 was not held and now, Prime Minister has agreed to chair the meeting of the Selection Committee for appointment to the posts of Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners in Central Information Commission (CIC), on **24.10.2020 at 5.00 PM at 7 LKM, New Delhi.**

3. DoPT is further requested that other members of the Selection Committee may be informed accordingly.

(Rajender Kumar)  
Director

Tel. No. 2301 3024

**Secretary, Department of Personnel & Training**

PMO ID No.: 600/52/C/03/2020-HR.

Dated 19.10.2020

Secy  
AS(Rt)  
Dir(R)  
20/10  
USG(R-2)  
27/10/20  
Tan  
24/10/20  
SO(IR-2)



Government of India  
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions  
(Department of Personnel & Training)

**Subject : Appointment of Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission.**

This proposal is regarding appointment of 3 Information Commissioners (ICs) in the Central Information Commission against existing vacancies.

2. In exercise of the powers conferred by Section-12(1) of Right to Information Act, 2005, the Central Government has constituted the Central Information Commission. As per Section-12(2) of the Act, the Commission shall consist of the Chief Information Commissioner and such number of Central Information Commissioners not exceeding ten, as may be deemed necessary.

3. As per Section-12(5) of the RTI Act, 2005, the CIC and ICs shall be persons of eminence in public life, with wide knowledge and experience in "law, science and technology, social service, management, journalism, mass media or administration and governance".

4. According to Section-12(3) of the Act, the CIC and the ICs shall be appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Committee consisting of:

- (i) The Prime Minister who shall be the Chairperson of the Committee ;
- (ii) the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha ; and
- (iii) A Union Cabinet Minister to be nominated by the Prime Minister.

And where the Leader of opposition in the House of the People has not been recognised as such, the leader of the single largest group in opposition of the Government in the House of the People shall be deemed to be the Leader of Opposition.

5. As per Section 13(2) of the Right to Information Act, 2005, every Information Commissioner shall hold office for such term as may be prescribed by the Central Government or till he attains the age of sixty five years, whichever is earlier, and shall not be eligible for reappointment as Information Commissioner. Further provided that every Information Commissioner shall, on vacating his office under this sub-section be eligible for appointment as the Chief Information Commissioner in the manner specified in sub-section (3) of section 12.

PRESIDENT'S SECRETARIAT

Dy. No. F. 845099/2020/IR-I

Date: 28/10/2020

✓ a/p 10/a

ⓐ a/p 11/a

ⓑ a/p 10/a

Ⓐ a/p 11/a



✓ w/p 19/12

① APP 23-29  
cu

6. As per Section 27 (1), "the appropriate Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules to carry out the provisions of this Act. Accordingly, The Right to Information (Terms of Office, Salaries, Allowances and other Terms and Conditions of Service of Chief Information Commissioner, Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission, State Chief Information Commissioner and State Information Commissioners in the State Information Commission) Rules, 2019 have been framed and published in the Gazette vide Notification dated 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2019.

7. As per these Rules, the Information Commissioner shall hold office for a period of three years from the date on which he enters upon his office. The other terms and conditions of appointment have also been laid out in these Rules.

8. Anticipating that by September 2020, upto six posts of IC in the Central Information Commission may be required to be filled up, a proposal to fill up the vacancies was initiated by Department of Personnel & Training. The approval of Hon'ble Prime Minister was obtained for initiating the process of selection of suitable persons for the posts of IC and for the constitution of Search Committee.

9. Accordingly, the Committee as per Section 12(3) of the RTI Act, 2005, was constituted with the Prime Minister as Chairperson; and Shri Amit Shah, Union Home Minister and Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Leader of the single largest Party in Opposition of the Government in the Lok Sabha, as Members.

10. The Prime Minister on 10.07.2020 had approved constitution of a Search Committee for the present round of selection process (page 83/cor), as given below:-

i.	Cabinet Secretary	Chairman
ii.	Secretary (Expenditure)	Member
iii.	Secretary (I&B)	Member
iv.	Secretary (DPIIT)	Member
v.	Dr. Manoj Panda, RBI Chair Professor Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi University	Member

X APP 30-32  
cu

11. An advertisement inviting particulars of interested persons for upto six posts of IC in the Central Information Commission was published on the website of this Department on 09.07.2020 and also in the leading newspapers, on 11.07.2020, through the Bureau of Outreach and Communication (BoOC). The last date for receipt of applications was



31.07.2020. A total of 355 applications had been received till the last date prescribed for receipt of applications (list is at pp. 33-82/cor.).

12. The Search Committee met under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary on 06.10.2020 to shortlist the candidates for the posts of ICs in the Central Information Commission. Minutes of the Search Committee are placed hereunder (pages 85-89/cor.).

13. The meeting of the Committee constituted under Section 12(3) of the Right to Information Act, was held at 5:00 PM on 24.10.2020 under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister. Agenda note of the meeting is also placed hereunder (pages 90-92/cor.).

14. The Committee was apprised that as per Section 12(2) of the Right to Information Act, 2005, the Central Information Commission shall consist of the CIC and such number of ICs, not exceeding ten, as may be deemed necessary. At present there are five incumbent ICs in the Central Information Commission. The Committee was also apprised that there would be four ICs pursuant to appointment of Shri Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha, currently IC in Central Information Commission as CIC.

15. The Committee perused the Agenda note, including the details of the applicants along with their profile. In addition to the candidates shortlisted by the Search Committee headed by Cabinet Secretary, the Committee considered all eligible applicants who had applied in response to advertisement issued on 09.07.2020 for the post of IC in the Central Information Commission.

16. After due consideration, the majority of the Committee recommended
- (1) Sh. Heeralal Samariya, IAS (TG:1985) Retd.,
  - (2) Ms. Saroj Punhani, IA&AS (1984), and
  - (3) Sh. Uday Mahurkar, Senior Journalist

for appointment as Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission, with Sh. Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury recording that he has submitted his dissent note (pages 96-101/cor.). The Minutes of the meeting dated 24.10.2020 are also placed (pages 93-95/cor.). The profile of Sh. Heeralal Samariya, Ms. Saroj Punhani and Sh. Uday Mahurkar are also placed at page 95/cor.

17. Sh. Heeralal Samariya, Ms. Saroj Punhani and Sh. Uday Mahurkar will be eligible to be appointed as Information Commissioner for a period of three years from the date they enter office. Further, the salaries and other conditions of service will be as per The Right to Information (Terms of Office, Salaries, Allowances and other Terms and Conditions of Service of Chief Information Commissioner, Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission, State Chief Information Commissioner and State



Information Commissioners in the State Information Commission) Rules, 2019.

18. On receipt of approval of the Hon'ble President of India, a letter of offer stating the terms of office and other conditions of service will be made to Sh. Heeralal Samariya, Ms. Saroj Punhani and Sh. Uday Mahurkar. A draft of the offer of appointment is at Flag 'X'.

19. On acceptance of the offer of appointment by Sh. Heeralal Samariya, Ms. Saroj Punhani and Sh. Uday Mahurkar, the convenience of the Hon'ble President of India will be sought for administering an oath or affirmation according to the form set out for the purpose in the first schedule as per Section 13 (3) of the Right to Information Act, 2005. Once the oath of affirmation is administered, the appointment will be notified in the Gazette of India as per draft at Flag 'Y'.

20. In view of the foregoing, the Prime Minister may like to recommend to the Hon'ble President of India, the following:-

- (i) to appoint
  - (a) Sh. Heeralal Samariya,
  - (b) Ms. Saroj Punhani and
  - (c) Sh. Uday Mahurkar

as Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission as per Section 12(3) of the Right to Information Act for a period of three years from the date they enter office.

(ii) The terms and conditions of appointment of the Information Commissioner will be as contained in The Right to Information (Terms of Office, Salaries, Allowances and other Terms and Conditions of Service of Chief Information Commissioner, Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission, State Chief Information Commissioner and State Information Commissioners in the State Information Commission) Rules, 2019.

अजय कुमार भल्ला

(Ajay Kumar Bhalla)

Secretary (P)

25.10.2020

MOS (PP)

Prime Minister

President of India

R/K/COULD  
28-10-2020

Minister of State (PP) [Dr. Jitendra Singh]  
President's Secretariat, ID No. 53/CA-(I)/2018 dt. 28.10.2020.



-5-23-  
-98-

F.No: 4/3/2020-IR II

Department of Personnel & Training  
IR Division

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**Sub: Appointment of Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission.**

This is regarding appointment of Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission.

2. In its meeting held on 24.10.2020, the Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister of India under Section 12(3) of the Right to Information Act 2005 recommended the names of Sh. Heeralal Samariya, Ms. Saroj Punhani and Sh. Uday Mahurkar to the President of India for appointment to the post of Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission.

3. The President has given his assent to the appointment of Sh. Heeralal Samariya, Ms. Saroj Punhani and Sh. Uday Mahurkar as Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission. Sh. Heeralal Samariya, Ms. Saroj Punhani and Sh. Uday Mahurkar have informed this department about their acceptance of the offer of appointment as Information Commissioner. Sh. Heeralal Samariya has indicated that he will take oath in Hindi whereas Ms. Saroj Punhani and Sh. Uday Mahurkar have indicated that they will take oath in English.

4. In view of the above, President Secretariat may be requested to inform the date and time at which Hon'ble President would be pleased to administer Oath to the new Information Commissioners. In this regard, draft letter has been attempted and is placed for kind consideration. (List of invitees also enclosed)

Manoj  
29/10/2020

SO (IR II)  
US (IR II)

Dir (IR)

Pawan Kumar  
29/10/20

ASCRETS

V Sunkar  
29/10/2020

May kindly see before  
us

2/11/2020

HS as Secy (CP)

AS (RC)

(Rashmi Chowdhary)  
Additional Secretary

21/11/20

✓ att. 4  
Notes sent

@ att. 108, 111, 114  
Cor.

① att. 109/a

② att. 112, 115  
Cor.



-24-

**Subject: Appointment of Chief Information commissioner and Information Commissioners in Central Information Commission**

This Department has received a Letter No. 53-CA(I)/2018 dated 04.11.2020 from Shri Ajay Bhadoo, IAS, Joint Secretary to the President of India informing that The President will be pleased to administer Oath of office to Shri Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha, Chief Information commissioner-designate on 07.11.2020 at 10:00 a.m in the Ashok Hall of Rashtrapati Bhavan. We may inform Central Information Commission in this regard as per DFA I please.

2. The President has further desired that the newly appointed Information Commissioners namely Shri Heeralal Samariya, Ms. Saroj Punhani and Shri Uday Mahurkar may make and subscribe oath before the Chief Information Commissioner as provided under Section 13(3) of the RTI Act, 2005.

3. Accordingly, we may inform the Central Information Commission to take necessary action for conducting oath taking ceremony in respect of the newly appointed Information commissioners Shri Heeralal Samariya, Ms. Saroj Punhani and Shri Uday Mahurkar in Central Information Commission, as per DFA II please.

Manoj  
5/11/2020

SO (IR II) Away

VS (IR II)

Dir (IR)

Pawan Kumar  
5/11/20

ASCRCS

Dir/IR

USCIR-2)

5/11/2020

V Sinha  
05/11/2020

V Sinha  
05/11/2020

✓ Pg 79/C

✓ DFA I

✓ DFA II



-25-  
-25-

F.No: 4/3/2020-IR II

Department of Personnel & Training  
IR Division

\*\*\*\*

**Subject: Appointment of Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission.**

In exercise of the powers conferred by sub section (1) of Section 12 of the Right to Information Act 2005, the Central Government has constituted the Central Information Commission. As per sub section (2) of Section 12 of the Act, the Commission shall consist of the Chief Information Commissioner and such number of Central Information Commissioners, not exceeding ten, as may be deemed necessary.

2. The President has approved the appointment of Shri Heerala Samariya, Ms. Saroj Punhani and Shri Uday Mahurkar as Information Commissioners in Central Information Commission. The Chief Information Commissioner will administer the oath of office to the Information Commissioners-designate on 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2020 (afternoon). This has to be **published in Part-II Section 3, sub-section (ii) of the Gazette of India, Extraordinary**. Accordingly, ~~Accordingly~~ Draft notifications both in Hindi and English are placed at Flag 'A' and Flag 'B' and Flag 'C' for approval and signature please. We may request the Manager, Government of India Press, Mayapuri to publish the Appointment Notifications in Part-II Section 3, subsection (ii) of the Gazette of India, Extraordinary on 7th November, 2020 after 1600 hrs as per Flag 'D'.

Tinder  
06-11-2020

SO(IRA II)

Bireesh  
06/11/2020

US(IR-I)

Pawan Kumar  
06/11/20

Dir(IR)

AS(CRC)

May kindly see  
before sending to the govt printing  
press, for publication

V Sindh  
06/11/2020

Shr  
6/11/2020

V Sindh  
06/11/2020  
USC(IR-2)

H/S as Secy(CP)

Dir(IR)

AS(IR) - Away

(Rashmi Chowdhary)  
Additional Secretary

6/11/20



Department of Personnel & Training  
IR Division

\*\*\*\*

Sub: Appointment of Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission.

CIC vide DO NO. 2/14/2018/CIC/Admn dated 07.11.2020 have informed Oath of Office of the Information Commissioners was administered by Shri Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha, Chief Information Commissioner to Sh. Heeralal Samariya, Ms. Saroj Punhani and Sh. Uday Mahurkar on 07.11.2020 at 12:30 hrs.

2. <sup>above three</sup> CIC has further requested to send a copy of notification of the appointment of the Information Commissioners to the Commission. We may forward the copy of Gazette Notification to Central Information Commission for information and further necessary action. DFA pls.

Manoj  
9/11/2020  
SO (IR II)  
US (R-1)  
Dir (CFR)

AS (RC)

Dir (IR)

US (R-2)

GO (IR-2)

ASo (Manoj)

Bikeet  
9/11/2020  
Pamane  
9/11/20

V Sinha  
9/11/2020

2/10  
9/11

V Sinha  
10/11/2020

Pr. Issue.

Pam  
10/11/20

Pg 124/C

DFA



Government of India  
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions  
(Department of Personnel and Training)  
IR Division  
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**Subject:- Appointment of Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission -reg.**

FR is an email communication dated 06.11.2020 from DG(HQs), O/o Comptroller and Auditor General of India forwarding the following documents in connection with the appointment of Ms. Saroj Punhani, IA&AS(1984) as Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission-

- Letter dated 3.11.2020*
- i. Request received from Ms. Saroj Punhani, IA&AS (1984) for Voluntary Retirement *dated 5.11.2020*
  - ii. Office Order relieving Ms. Saroj Punhani, IA&AS (1984) from this office w.e.f. 06.11.2020 for joining as Information Commissioner in Central Information Commission. *dated 5.11.2020*
  - iii. Letter to Ministry of Finance for acceptance of Voluntary Retirement of Ms. Saroj Punhani, IA&AS (1984)

2. Submitted for information/ perusal pls.

*Manoj*  
19/11/2020

*SO (IR II)*  
*US (IR-II)*

*AS (IR)*

*AS (RC) O.L.*

*AS (SC) as L.O.*

*Dir (IR)*

*US (IR-2)*

*SO (IR-2)*

*23/11/2020* *AS (IR)*

*Bireah*  
19/11/2020

*Panwar*  
19/11/20

*V Sankar*  
20/11/20

*Mu*  
23.11

*V Sankar*

*23/11/2020*

*Panwar*  
23/11/20



F.No: 4/3/2020-IR II

Department of Personnel & Training  
IR Division

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**Subject: Appointment of Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission- Uploading of file reg.**

With the issuing/publishing of Notification for appointment of Shri Heeralal Samariya, Ms. Saroj Punhani and Shri Uday Mahurkar as Information Commissioners in CIC on 07.11.2020, the appointment process has now got completed.

2. In this regard, it is worth mentioning that a number of RTI applications are being received by IR Division seeking information on the matters relating to appointment of Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission i.e. notings, correspondence, Minutes of Meetings of Search Committee, MoM of Selection Committee, Copy of Dissent Notes etc. Uploading of the concerned file (No.4/3/2020-IR-II) related to appointment of Information Commissioner in CIC will facilitate the information seekers to get the desired information which will also obviate the need to file RTI applications any further by the applicants.

3. The file has been prepared for uploading on the website of DoPT on the lines of the file of last appointment process [F.No 4/14/2019-IR]. The earlier uploaded file may be seen at <https://dopt.gov.in> > RTI > Important Files of RTI Division.

4. In view of the above, if approved, we may upload the concerned file No.4/3/2020-IR-II related to appointment of Information Commissioner in CIC on DoPT's website.

Submitted for consideration and approval please.

Tinder  
27-11-2020  
(Inder Pal)  
ASO (IR-II)

SO (IR-II)  
US (IR-II)

Bikash  
3/12/2020

Pawan Kumar  
8/12/2020

Pl clarify which pages are not being uploaded on the RTI portal, with the noting  
Dis/IR  
8/12/2020  
USC (IR-2)  
V Sinha  
10/12/20  
10/12/20  
SO (IR-II)

Approval of Secy (P) is solicited at

V Sinha  
08/12/2020

10/12/20  
ASO (M)



F.No: 4/3/2020-IR II

Department of Personnel & Training  
IR Division

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**Subject: Appointment of Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission- Uploading of file reg.**

Reference remarks of AS (RC) at pre page:

2. With the issuing/publishing of Notification for appointment of Shri Heeralal Samariya, Ms. Saroj Punhani and Shri Uday Mahurkar as Information Commissioners in CIC on 07.11.2020, the appointment process has now got completed.

3. In this regard, it is worth mentioning that a number of RTI applications are being received by IR Division seeking information on the matters relating to appointment of Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission i.e. notings, correspondence, Minutes of Meetings of Search Committee, MoM of Selection Committee, Copy of Dissent Notes etc. Uploading of the concerned file (No.4/3/2020-IR-II) related to appointment of Information Commissioners in CIC will facilitate the information seekers to get the desired information which will also obviate the need to file RTI applications any further by the applicants.

4. The file has been prepared for uploading on the website of DoPT on the lines of the file of last appointment process [F.No 4/14/2019-IR]. The earlier uploaded file may be seen at <https://dopt.gov.in> > RTI > Important Files of RTI Division.

5. In view of the above, if approved, we may upload the concerned file No.4/3/2020-IR-II related to appointment of Information Commissioners in CIC except the pages 54-103, pages 115-177, pages 207(A-TT) and pages 212-257 of correspondence portion having personal details of the applicants which are exempted from disclosure under Section 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act, 2005, on DoPT's website.

Submitted for consideration and approval please.

*Mamta*  
ASO (IR-II)

SO (IR-II)

US (IR-II) - *anaya*

*US (IR-II) as L.O.*

*Di. (IR)*

*AS (RC)*

*उह सचिव (सचिव कार्यालय)*

*AS (RC)*

*Birendra*  
14/12/2020

*Rashmi*  
14/12/2020

*N Singh*  
15/12/2020

*15/12/2020*

(Rashmi Chowdhary)  
Additional Secretary

a Pg 54-103/C  
b Pg 115-177/C  
c Pg 207(A-TT)/C  
d Pg 212-257/C

*आस 24 वक ऑफिसर 15/12/20*

*सो.स. (आई.आर. - 2)  
11/11/20  
17/11/20*

*18/12*

*अतिरिक्त सचिव (सचिव कार्यालय)*