

D. No. 28193 of 2020

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA  
CIVIL ORIGINAL JURISDICTION  
PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION  
(UNDER ARTICLE 32 OF CONSTITUTION OF INDIA)

W.P.(C) 1461 of 2020

IN THE MATTER OF:

SHAILESH PODDAR

....PETITIONER

VERSUS

STATE OF JHARKHAND

....RESPONDENT

A PETITION UNDER ARTICLE 32 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA, FILED  
IN PUBLIC INTEREST

IA No. \_\_\_\_\_ OF 2020

APPLICATION SEEKING EXEMPTION FROM FILING OFFICIAL TRANSLATION  
ALONG WITH AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF PETITIONER

**PAPER BOOK**

(For index kindly see inside)

Advocate for the Petitioner

RIDDHI SANCHETI

**Diary No. 28193/2020**

**DECLARATION**

All defects have been cured. Whatever has been added / deleted / modified in the petition is the result of curing of defects and nothing else. Except curing the defects nothing has been done. Paper books are complete in all respects.



Signature:-

Advocate -on-Record/

Petitioner(s) in -Person:- Ms. Riddhi Sancheti Adv.

Date: 21/12/2020

Contact No. 9650722789

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**A**

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA  
CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION  
WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) NO.      OF 2020

IN THE MATTER OF:

Shailesh Poddar .....Petitioner

Versus

State of Jharkhand .....Respondent

**OFFICE REPORT ON LIMITATION**

1. The Petition is not filed within time.
2. The Petition is barred by time and there is delay of .....days in filing the same against the impugned final judgment order dated .....petitioner for condonation of .....days delay has been filed.
3. There is delay of .....days in re-filing the petition and petition for condonation of .....days in re-filing has been filed.

New Delhi

Dated : 18.12.2020

BRANCH OFFICER

**PROFORMA FOR FIRST LISTING****SECTION: PIL- W**

**The case pertains to (Please tick/check the correct box):**

Central Act: (Title) : **Constitution of India and  
Right to Information act, 2005**

Section: **N/A**

Central Rule: (Title) **N.A.**

Rule No (s): **N.A.**

State Act (Title): **N.A.**

Section: **N.A.**

State Rule: (Title) **N.A.**

Rule No (s): **N.A.**

Impugned Interim Order: **N. A.1**

Impugned final Order/Decree: **N/A**

High Court: **N/A**

Name s of Judges: **N/A**

- 
1. Nature of matter: **CIVIL**
  2. (a) Petitioner/appellant No. 1: Mr. Shailesh Poddar  
(b) e-mail ID: **N.A.**  
(c) Mobile phone number: **9953608344**
  3. (a) Respondent No.1: State of Jharkhand  
(b) e-mail ID: **NA**  
(c) Mobile phone number: **NA**
  4. (a) Main category classification: **08**  
(b) Sub classification: **0801**
  5. Not to be listed before: **N. A.**



AS

6. a) Similar disposed of matter with citation, if any & case details: No any similar case disposed of.

b) Similar pending matter with case details: No any similar pending case.

**7. Criminal Matters: NO.**

a) Whether accused/convict has surrendered: **N/A**

b) FIR No. – **N/A** Date: **N/A**

c) Police Station: **N/A**

d) Sentence Awarded: **N/A**

e) Sentence Undergone: **N/A**

**8. Land Acquisition Matters: N.A.**

a) Date of Section 4 notification: **N. A.**

b) Date of Section 6 notification: **N. A.**

c) Date of Section 17 notification: **N. A.**

**9. Tax Matters: State the tax effect: N. A.**

**10. Special Category (first petitioner/appellant only): N.A.**

Senior citizen > 65 years : **N.A.**

SC/ST: **N.A.**

WOMAN: **N.A.**

Disabled Legal Aid case: **N.A.**

In custody: **N.A.**

**11. Vehicle Number (in case of Motor Accident Claim matters): N. A.**

Date: 18.12.2020

**RIDDHI SANCHETI**  
Advocate for the Petitioner

SYNOPSIS

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The present petition is filed by the Petitioner in public interest seeking an effective implementation of Right to Information Act, 2005. At present, the posts of Chief State Information Commissioner and State Information Commissioner is lying vacant Since May, 2020 at the Jharkhand State Information Commission which directly affects the spirit of the RTI Act as they are the designated statutory authority to decide appeals and complaints against public authorities for non-compliance with the RTI law. That non-appointment of State Chief Information Commissioner or any information commissioner makes the whole body completely defunct. The last acting chief state information commissioner retired in May 2020 and since then no effective effort has been made by the state government to fill the vacancies. As per the RTI reply received from the SIC in Jharkhand itself, at present there are 7669 appeals and 71 complaints are pending before them. This Hon'ble Court, has time and again passed directions to the State and Central Government to ensure timely appointment of the information commissioner, however the same is not complied in true letter and spirit. Hence, the present petition is made seeking direction to fill the vacancies in the SIC in Jharkhand.

c

LIST OF DATES

12.10.2005	Right to Information Act, 2005 came into force which recognized the citizens fundamental right to know and increase transparency in governance.
12.02.2020	Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms and Rajbhasha of State of Jharkhand, received applications for the post of the Chief State Information Commissioner and State information commissioner. However, till date no appointment has been made.
09.05.2020	The posts of Chief State Information Commissioner and State Information Commissioner became vacant in the State of Jharkhand with its last acting chief state information commissioner retiring from the post.
10.10.2020	The Petitioner wrote an email to the secretary of the Respondent highlighting the vacancy in the SIC, however he has not received any response yet
12.10.2020	Petitioner filed an RTI Application seeking information regarding the vacancy of the post along with pending cases before the Jharkhand SIC.
02.11.2020	As per the reply, it shows that 7669 appeals and 71 complaints are pending with the forum.
10.12.2020	Hence this Petition

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA  
CIVIL ORIGINAL JURISDICTION  
A PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION  
(UNDER ARTICLE 32 OF CONSTITUTION OF INDIA)  
WRIT PETITION (C) NO.                      OF 2020

IN THE MATTER OF :

SHAILESH PODDAR  
S/o Sh. Kishori Lal Poddar  
R/o Shaheed Jaswant Singh Lane  
Near Telephone Exchange Lake Road  
Ranchi, Jharkhand

....PETITIONER

VERSUS

STATE OF JHARKHAND  
*Through Standing Counsel*  
*Secretary, Secretariat*  
*District - Ranchi, Ranchi*  
*Jharkhand*

....RESPONDENT

A PETITION UNDER ARTICLE 32 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA,  
FILED IN PUBLIC INTEREST

To

The Hon'ble Chief Justice of India

And His companion Justices of the

Supreme Court of India

The Humble petition of  
the petitioner above named

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**MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:-**

1. The present petition is filed under Article 32 of the Constitution of India in public interest for the breach of the fundamental right of Right to Information as enshrined under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution of India due to non-appointment of Chief State Information Commissioner and Information Commissioner at the Jharkhand State Information Commission (JSIC), making the right cadaverous.
2. Petitioner is a practicing advocate, presently based out of Ranchi, Jharkhand. The Petitioner along with his regular practice, also takes up pro bono cases and matters of public interest before courts in Jharkhand. A true copy of his bar council identity card has been annexed herewith and marked as Annexure P-1 (Pg. <sup>20-21</sup>).).
3. The Respondent is the State of Jharkhand who is primarily responsible for appointment of the Chief State Information Commissioner and other information commissioners at the JSIC.
4. The petitioner has no personal interest, or private/oblique motive in filing the instant petition. The present petition is made in public interest with the objective of upholding the Right to

Information as guaranteed under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution of India.

### Questions of Law

5. The Petition raises substantial questions of law pertaining to the fundamental right to information of the citizens and fundamental right to speedy disposal of cases. The questions are:
- a. Whether the citizen's fundamental right to information is infringed due to non-appointment of the Chief State Information Commissioner and Information Commissioner at the Jharkhand State Information Commission?
  - b. Whether due to delay in non-appointment of Chief State Information Commissioner and Information Commissioner, the citizens right to speedy disposal of cases is infringed?
  - c. Whether the state government is duty bound under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution to ensure the statutory body of State Information Commission is not made defunct by non-action of appointing the information commissioners?

### Brief Facts

6. The Right to Information Act, 2005 (hereinafter referred to as the "Act") is one of the most significant legislation enacted after years of struggle by social activists to bring transparency and

accountability in governance. Even before the passing of the said legislation, the right has been recognized as a part of fundamental right to speech and expression as held by this Hon'ble Court as early as in the **STATE OF UTTAR PRADESH V. RAJ NARAIN (1975) 3 SCR 333**. In the said case, the Hon'ble Apex Court observed as under

*"In a government of responsibility like ours, where all the agents of the public must be responsible for their conduct, there can be but few secrets. The people of this country have a right to know every public act, everything that is done in a public way, by their public functionaries. They are entitled to know the particulars of every public transaction in all its bearing."*

Further in the case of **PEOPLE'S UNION FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES VS UNION OF INDIA AIR 2004 SC 1442**, this Hon'ble Court has expressly recognized the right to information as a part of fundamental right under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution of India.

7. The Petitioner is approaching this Hon'ble Court seeking an effective implementation of the Act by way of direction to fill the vacancies in the State Information Commission (SIC) for the State

of Jharkhand (hereinafter referred to as "Respondent"). It is not out of place to mention that the SIC can have upto 10 posts for the State Information Commissioner along with a State Chief Information Commissioner. However, at present all the 10 posts for the State information Commissioner and the State Chief Information Commissioner in Jharkhand are lying absolutely vacant since May 2020.

8. The said callousness on the part of the Respondent in not filling the vacancies within appropriate time goes against the order dated 15.02.2019 passed by this Hon'ble Court in **ANJALI BHARDWAJ VS UNION OF INDIA W.P (C) No. 436 of 2018**. In the said case, this Hon'ble Court held as follows:

*"it is essential to have CIC/SCIC as well as adequate number of Information Commissioners. It necessarily follows therefrom that in case CIC does not have Chief Information Commissioner or other Commissioners with required strength, it may badly affect the functioning of the Act which may even amount to negating the very purpose for which this Act came into force. Same applies to SICs as well."*



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This Hon'ble Court in the said case also recognized the time bound manner in which the posts should be filled and further observed as follows:

*"We would also like to impress upon the respondents to fill up vacancies, in future, without any delay. For this purpose, it would be apposite that 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."*

9. When the abovementioned directions were passed by this Hon'ble Court, the Respondent was not a party in the said case, however from the spirit and nature of the order dated 15.02.2019 its clear that this Hon'ble Court meant it to be implemented across the country for all SICs.
10. In this regard, the Petitioner filed a RTI Application dated 12.10.2020 seeking information regarding the vacancy of the post along with pending cases before the Jharkhand SIC. As per the reply dated 02.11.2020, it shows that the post of CSIC and SIC is lying vacant since 09.05.2020. Further, 7669 appeals and 71 complaints are pending with the forum. A true copy of the RTI

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application dated 12.10.2020 sent by the Petitioner is annexed herewith and marked as Annexure P-2 (Pg 22 to ). A true and typed copy of the response letter dated 02.11.2020 issued by the SIC Jharkhand is annexed herewith and marked as Annexure P-3 (Pg 23 to 25).

11. Further, as per the news report dated 07.09.2020 published in Hindustan Times, the SIC continued with acting chief information commissioner and two information commissioners for nearly three years in the past despite huge pendency of cases, as the Respondent was reluctant to fill in the vacancies. As per the report the last acting chief retired in the month of May and since then the SIC is lying vacant without any commissioner to adjudicate the pending appeals and complaints. A true copy of the News Report dated 07.09.2020 is attached herewith and marked as Annexure P-4 (Pg 26 to 28).
  
12. The vacancy in the posts shows the Respondent's unwillingness in fulfilling its commitment towards a transparent government and an indirect method of defeating the purpose of the RTI Act as without any officer, the SIC is as good as a defunct commission. The Petitioner has also written an email dated 10.10.2020 to the secretary of the Respondent highlighting the vacancy in the SIC,

however he has not received any response yet. A true copy of the email dated 10.10.2020 sent by the Petitioner to the Secretary of the Respondent is attached herewith and marked as Annexure P-5 (Pg 21 to 30).

13. That as per the notification dated 12.02.2020 issued by the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms and Rajbhasha of State of Jharkhand, the Respondent received applications for the post of the Chief State Information Commissioner and State information commissioner. However, till date after a lapse of almost 9 months, no affirmative action has been taken by the Respondent to fill the vacancies of the SIC. A true and typed copy of the notification dated 12.02.2020 issued by the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms and Rajbhasha of State of Jharkhand is attached herewith and marked as Annexure P-6 (Pages 31 to 65).

14. It is also pertinent to note that despite there being a vacancy since May 2020, the Respondent is only in discussions to appoint a Chief State Information Commissioner and an Information Commissioner, however no effective decisions in this regard have been taken by the Respondent till date. A true typed and translated copy of the news article dated 28.11.2020 published in

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Dainik Bhaskar is annexed herewith and marked as Annexure P-7 (Pages <sup>66</sup> to <sup>68</sup>).

15. That with the vacancy not being filled till date, the backlog of cases will increase along with increasing the time of disposal of cases negating the entire spirit of the RTI Act.
16. The current state of the Jharkhand SIC is not in a very good shape with huge backlog of cases and with no officer to adjudicate the cases, it is only defeating the purpose of the Act. As per The Report Card on the Performance of Information Commissions in India dated March 2019, estimated time of disposal of cases in Jharkhand SIC is 7 months. As of March 31<sup>st</sup> 2019, there were 1362 cases pending before the SIC.
17. The Report Card on the Performance of Information Commissions in India dated May 2020 further highlights the state of SIC in the Jharkhand. The report states as follows:

*"they were completely defunct as the serving information commissioner in both retired during the period of the lockdown. These were routine and scheduled retirements occurring due to the commissioner either completing the stipulated tenure or attaining the age of 65 years. The*

/0

*acting Chief of the Jharkhand SIC, who was again the lone commissioner in the state, finished his tenure on May 8, 2020 and the latest announcement on the IC website states that on account of posts of the Chief and information commissioners being vacant, all scheduled hearings of appeals and complaints shall remain adjourned till new appointments are made."*

A true copy of the Report is attached herewith and marked as Annexure P-8 (Pg<sup>69</sup> to 91).

18. That this Hon'ble Court in **UNION OF INDIA VS. NAMIT SHARMA (2013) 10 SCC 359**, have highlighted the importance of the office of the information commissioner when it held that *...wherever Chief Information Commissioner is of the opinion that intricate questions of law will have to be decided in a matter coming up before the Information Commission, he will ensure that the matter is heard by an Information Commissioner who has wide knowledge and experience in the field of law.*" Also, the Delhi High Court in **R.K. JAIN & ORS VERSUS UNION OF INDIA in W.P.(C) 3386/2015** had observed that it is an "undisputed fact that the non-appointment of the Chief Information Commissioner has virtually frustrated the very purpose of the Right to Information Act, 2005...".

19. A brief about the constitution of SIC – The constitution of SIC and appointment of its members are governed by the provisions of the Act. Section 15 of the Act provides that – *The State Information Commission*

*“15. (1) Every State Government shall, by notification in the Official Gazette, constitute a body to be known as the ..... (name of the State) Information Commission to exercise the powers conferred on, and to perform the functions assigned to, it under this Act.*

*(2) The State Information Commission shall consist of–  
(a) the State Chief Information Commissioner, and  
(b) such number of State Information Commissioners, not exceeding ten, as may be deemed necessary. Term of office and conditions of service.*

*(3) The State Chief Information Commissioner and the State Information Commissioners shall be appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of a committee consisting of–*

*(i) the Chief Minister, who shall be the Chairperson of the committee; (ii) the Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly; and*

(iii) a Cabinet Minister to be nominated by the Chief Minister

Explanation.—For the purposes of removal of doubts, it is hereby declared that where the Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly has not been recognized as such, the Leader of the single largest group in opposition of the Government in the Legislative Assembly shall be deemed to be the Leader of Opposition”.

20. Importance of SIC – Pursuant to the Act coming in force, an apex body called the Central Information Commission (CIC) along with state bodies called the State information commissions (SICs) were created for each state to have a redressal mechanism along with other powers given to the commission to ensure smooth and effective implementation of the Act. Some of the important functions of the SICs are to adjudicate complaints and appeal in cases where correct information is not supplied, no information is supplied or information is not supplied with the specified time. Along with this, it gives power to the SICs to impose penalty of fine along with recommending disciplinary action against erring officials. Thus, the SICs are an important forum at the state level to ensure that the provisions of the Act are implemented in its full spirit.

21. The importance of the functioning of the SIC with its adequate strength has been recognized by this Hon'ble Court in the case of **Anjali Bhardwaj Vs Union of India** (supra). While giving a general direction for all SICs in the country, this Hon'ble Court observed as follows:

*"We would like to place on record that aforesaid directions are given keeping in view the salient purpose which RTI Act is supposed to serve. This Act is enacted not only to sub-serve and ensure freedom of speech. On proper implementation, it has the potential to bring about good governance which is an integral part of any vibrant democracy. Attaining good governance is also one of the visions of the Constitution. It also has vital connection with the development. All these aspects are highlighted above".*

22. That in the aforesaid case, the Petitioner, Anjali Bhardwaj has moved an application seeking directions from this court for implementation of its earlier order dated 15.02.2019 which is presently pending before this Hon'ble Court. Hence, the petitioner has not approached the Hon'ble Jharkhand High Court as this Hon'ble Court is already seized of the matter with respect



to appointment of Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission and State information commission for the state of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha in *M.A. No. 1979 OF 2019 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 436 Of 2018.*

**GROUND**

- A. Because the Right to Information is a part of fundamental right under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution of India and non-appointment of information commissioner at the JSIC directly violates the said right as it leaves the citizen without any remedy to redress their grievances under the said Act.
- B. Because a delay in appointment of the information commissioners frustrates the purpose of the RTI Act, as it in turn delays the disposal of cases which affects the citizen's right to speedy disposal of cases.
- C. Because delay in appointment violates the citizen's right to information under a time bound manner, thereby defeating the very purpose of RTI Act.
- D. Because the State of Jharkhand is under a statutory duty to appoint the information commissioner in a time bound manner

and such failure of statutory duty directly infringes the citizen's right to information.

23. As per Disclosure requirement under Order XXXVIII of the Supreme Court Rules, 2013 for petitioners in PIL cases, the following are the details of the Petitioners:
- i. A Name of Petitioner: Shailesh Poddar
  - ii. Postal Address of Petitioner: Shaheed Jaswant Singh Lane, Lake Road, Near Telephone Exchange, Ranchi- 834001, Jharkhand;
  - iii. Email ID of Petitioner: shaileshpoddar13@gmail.com
  - iv. Phone Number of Petitioner: 9953608344
  - v. Annual Income of Petitioner: 4 Lakhs approx.
  - vi. PAN details of Petitioner: BKDPP9601E
  - vii. The facts constituting the cause of action: Are elaborated in Paras 1 to 20 of the Petition.
  - viii. The nature of injury caused or likely to be caused to the public: Are elaborated in PARAS 1-20 of the Petition and grounds as mentioned.
  - ix. The nature and extent of personal interest, if any, of the petitioner(s): None
  - x. Details regarding any civil, criminal, or revenue litigation, involving the petitioner or any of the petitioners, which has

or could have a legal nexus with the issue(s) involved in the Public Interest Litigation: No

xi. Whether the concerned government authority was moved for relief sought in the petition and if so, with what result: Yes. The Petitioner wrote a representation which is annexed as P5, however no response has been received till date.

24. The petitioner has not filed any other writ, complaint, suit or claim in any manner regarding the matter of dispute. The petitioners have no other better remedy available.

25. The Petition is made bona-fide for the ends of justice.

#### PRAYER

It is therefore prayed that this Hon'ble Court may be pleased to:

- a) Direct the Respondent to take immediate steps to appoint Chief State Information Commissioners and Information Commissioners at the SIC in a transparent and time bound manner preferably within a period of 2 months;
- b) Direct the Respondent to determine the number of Information Commissioners needed as per the case load with the objective of speedy disposal of cases;

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- c) Direct the Respondent to comply with the direction of this Hon'ble Court in WP(C) 436 of 2018 in full letter and spirit; and
- d) Pass any other or further order(s) as this Hon'ble Court may deem fit and proper in the circumstances of the case.

FOR THIS ACT OF KINDNESS THE PETITIONER HEREIN SHALL EVER PRAY.

PETITIONER

Drawn on: 15.12.2020  
Filed on: 18.12.2020

**RIDDHI SANCHETI**  
Advocate for the Petitioner.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA  
CIVIL ORIGINAL JURISDICTION  
PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION  
(UNDER ARTICLE 32 OF CONSTITUTION OF INDIA)

IN THE MATTER OF:

SHAILESH PODDAR

....PETITIONER



VERSUS

STATE OF JHARKHAND

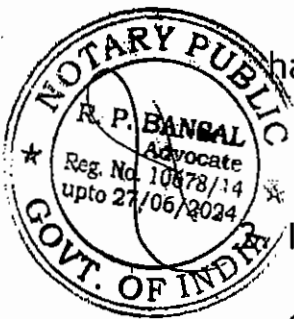
....RESPONDENT

AFFIDAVIT

I, Mr. Shailesh Poddar aged about 28 years S/o Kishori Lal Poddar,  
R/o Shaheed Jaswant Singh Lane Near Telephone Exchange, Lake  
Road, Ranchi do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under:

*Sworn*  
 

1. That I am the Petitioner in the captioned Petition and I am well conversant with the facts and circumstances of the case and I have been duly authorised to swear this affidavit.



I say that the contents of the accompanying Synopsis and List of Dates, Civil Writ Petition and Misc. Applications have been drafted by my counsel under my instructions and I have understood the contents thereof.

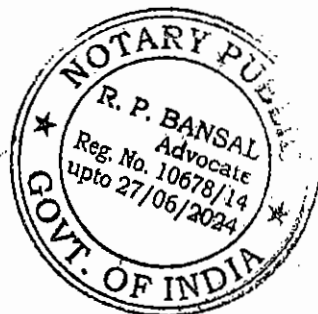
- 3. That the annexures alongwith application are true copies of their respective originals.
- 4. I state that I have no personal interest in the present petition and I am not guided by self-gain or for gain of any other person/ institution/ body and there is no motive other than of public interest in filing this writ petition.
- 5. I am aware that on the basis of my instructions, the Advocate-on-Record has given a certificate in support of the Petition.

*[Signature]*  
 DEPONENT

VERIFICATION

Verified at Delhi on this 21 day of DEC 2020 2020, that the contents of this affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

*[Signature]*  
 Identified by



*[Signature]*  
 ATTESTED  
 Notary Public, Delhi  
 (As Presented)

*[Signature]*  
 DEPONENT

21 DEC 2020



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ANNEXURE P1

# BAR COUNCIL OF DELHI

(Statutory Body Under Advocates Act, 1961)

H.O.: 2/6, Siri Fort Inst. Area, Khel Gaon Marg, New Delhi-49, Ph. : 26498356/5196  
Website : delhibarcouncil.com, E-mail : barcouncilofdelhi@rediffmail.com



**Date of Enrolment**  
**2016**


S.No... **7781/S/1231** ..... Valid Upto... **31/08/2023** .....

**SHAILESH PODDAR**

**ADVOCATE**

Enrolment No ..... **D/2730/2016** .....

  
**D.K. Singh**  
Vice-Chairman

  
**Vishnu Sharma**  
Hony. Secretary

21

Blood Group : B- Heart Patient : No (Yes/No)

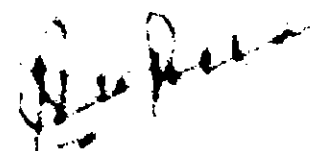
Diabetic : No (Yes/No) Date of Birth : 13/09/1992

Residence : B-153, 1st Flor, Lajpat Nagar-I,  
Delhi.

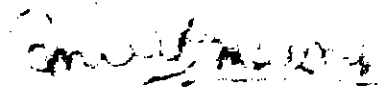
Ph. : 9953608344

Office : A-386, Basement,  
Defence Colony, New Delhi.

Ph. :



Holder's Signature



Checked by

TRUE COPY



## ANNEXURE P2

To,  
The Public Information Officer  
Jharkhand State Information Commission,  
Hall, Engineers Hostel-2,  
H.E.C. Campus, Dhurva, Ranchi - 834004,

### APPLICATION UNDER RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT, 2005

1. (a) Name and Address of the Applicant : Shailesh Poddar, S/o Kishori Lal Poddar  
Shaheed Jaswant Singh Lane, Lake  
Road, Near telephone Exchange, Ranchi-  
834001  
(b) E-mail Address : [shaileshpoddar13@gmail.com](mailto:shaileshpoddar13@gmail.com)  
(c) Phone : 9953608344
2. Date of Submission of Application : 12/10/2020
3. Subject Matter : INFORMATION UNDER RTI ACT.
4. Details of Information requested :
1. Is the position of Chief State Information Commissioner lying vacant?
  2. If answer is yes to question 1, please provide since when is the position lying vacant?
  3. If the answer is no, then please provide the name of the Chief State information commissioner.
  4. How many State Information Commissioner are currently holding office?
  5. If the answer to question no.4 is none, then please provide since when is the position lying vacant.
  6. If answer is yes to question 4, please provide names of the State Information Commissioner.
  7. How many appeals are pending before the State information Commission till date?
  8. How many complaints are pending before the State information Commission till date
6. Fee enclosed : Rs. 10 Postal order 99F 199171

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झारखण्ड राज्य सूचना आयोग  
 अभियंत्रण छात्रावास संख्या-2,  
 एच0 ई0 सी0 परिसर, धुर्वा, राँची-834004  
 दूरभाष संख्या : 0851-2401426  
 वेबसाईट: [onlinejsic.jharkhand.gov.in](http://onlinejsic.jharkhand.gov.in)

23

पत्रांक-रा.सू.आ./सू.अधि.-91/2020

866

राँची/दिनांक: 02/11/2020

प्रेषक,

जनसूचना पदाधिकारी  
 सह प्रशाखा पदाधिकारी  
 झारखण्ड राज्य सूचना आयोग, राँची।

सेवा में,

श्री शैलेश पोद्दार  
 पिता-श्री किशोरी लाल पोद्दार  
 शहीद जसवंत सिंह लेन, लेक रोड  
 नियर टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज,  
 राँची-834001

विषय:- सूचना का अधिकार अधिनियम-2005 के तहत सूचना उपलब्ध कराने के संबंध में।

प्रसंग:- आपका आवेदन प्राप्ति दिनांक 12.10.2020

महाराज,

उपर्युक्त विषयक प्रासंगिक पत्र के आलोक में कहना है कि आपके द्वारा याचित सूचना कंडिकावार इस प्रकार है:-

1. कंडिका 1, 2, 3 एवं 5 - दिनांक 09.05.2020 से मुख्य सूचना आयुक्त/राज्य सूचना आयुक्तों का पद रिक्त है।
2. कंडिका 4 एवं 6 - राज्य सूचना आयुक्त का पद रिक्त है।
3. कंडिका 7 एवं 8 - 1 (एक) पृष्ठ संलग्न है।

विश्वासभाजन

जनसूचना पदाधिकारी  
 सह प्रशाखा पदाधिकारी

झारखण्ड राज्य सूचना आयोग, राँची।

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झारखण्ड राज्य सूचना आयोग

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APPEAL		COMPLAINT	
New Online Appeal Applications With Documents	0	Offline Complaint Applications Entered Today	0
Offline Appeal Applications Entered Today	0	Complaint Applications Edited Today	0
Appeals Edited Today	0	Pending Complaints	71
Pending Appeals	7889	Disposal Complaints	142
Disposal Appeals	10081	Total Complaints	213
Dismissed Appeals	112	Complaint Applications In Process	56
Total Appeals	17832	Complaint Applications For Rectification	30
Appeal Applications In Process	1499	Rejected Complaint Applications	62
Appeal Applications For Rectification	2784	Total Complaint Applications	374
Rejected Appeal Applications	3219	Online Dispatch Letters For Complaint Today	0
Total Appeal Applications	25316	Total Online Dispatch Letters For Complaint	580
Online Request Appeal Applications	943	Total Online Order Uploads For Complaint	556
Offline Request Appeal Applications	24372	Total All Department Annual Report entry 2019	1532
Online Dispatch Letters For Appeal Today	0		
Total Online Dispatch Letters For Appeal	98141		
Total Online Order Uploads For Appeal	82579		

Jharkhand State Information Commission, Ranchi

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TRANSLATED COPY**

Annexure  
P-3

Jharkhand State Information Commission  
Engineers Hostel-2 ,  
H.E.C. Campus, Dhurwa, Ranchi – 834004  
Telephone- 0651-2401426  
Website- onlinejsic.jharkhand.gov.in

25

Letter-SIC/IC- 91/2020 866

Ranchi/date - 2/11/2020

From,  
Public Information Officer  
Asst. Branch Officer  
Jharkhand State Information Commission, Ranchi

To,  
Sh Shailesh Poddar  
Father-Kishori Lal Poddar  
Shaheed Jaswant Singh Lane, Lake Road  
Near Telephone Exchange, Ranchi – 834001

Subject:- Information under Right to Information Act-2005

In Re- Your letter received dated 12.10.2020

Sir,

In relation to the captioned subject, the information sought by you point wise is as follow:-

1. Point 1, 2, 3 and 5 – from date 09.05.2020 the post of Chief information/State information commissioner is vacant
2. Point 4 and 6- The post of State information commissioner is vacant
3. Point 7 and 8 – 1 page is attached.

Yours faithfully,

Public information officer  
Asst. Branch Officer  
Jharkhand State Information Commission, Ranchi

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Home / India News / Congress' RTI in poor shape in Jharkhand where it is a coalition partner

# Congress' RTI in poor shape in Jharkhand where it is a coalition partner

The salary payment of two on contract, four daily wage earners and 10 home guard jawans deputed in JSIC were on hold since June in want of the disbursing officer - the CIC.

INDIA Updated: Sep 07, 2020, 16:34 IST

Gautam Mazumdar  
Hindustan Times, Ranchi



The JSIC continued with acting chief information commissioner (CIC) Himanshu Chaudhary and two ICs for nearly three years in the past, as the previous BJP government was reluctant to fill in the vacancies. (HT File photo)

The Right to Information, the flagship scheme of the UPA government, seems to be in poor shape in Jharkhand as the state information commission remains non-functional for want of commissioners. Interestingly, the Congress is the alliance partner of the JMM-led government in Jharkhand. However, the party that claims Right to Information (RTI) as the brainchild of Manmohan Singh government, appears helpless in the eastern state where it is in power.

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The JSIC continued with acting chief information commissioner (CIC) Himanshu Chaudhary and two ICs for nearly three years in the past, as the previous BJP government was reluctant to fill in the vacancies.

Cases piled up and the purpose of the flagship scheme - to bring in transparency in government functioning - got defeated. About 6,000 appeals were pending, it was learnt.

It became all the more critical in May this year when the state commission became headless after the term of acting chief information commissioner (CIC) Himanshu Chaudhary ended. Interestingly, there was no permanent CIC in Jharkhand after the completion of Aditya Swaroop's term.

Upon completing his term in May, Chaudhary had told chief minister Hemant Soren to fill the vacancies at the earliest. He told the media that he could dispose of 4,414 cases after hearing out a total of 29,832 appeals and fixed penalties in 198 cases.

After Chaudhary's departure, about 30 employees of JSIC are practically without work.

Significantly, it (absence of CIC) impacted the employees who are not regular. The salary payment of two on contract, four daily wage earners and 10 home guard jawans deputed in JSIC were on hold since June in want of the disbursing officer - the CIC.

Personnel department joint secretary Sudhir Kumar Ranjan said the government in January had advertised for the posts. "We have received applications as well but the matter remains pending in want of clear cut directives from the government and the state assembly," he said.

Elaborating, he said the delay was caused as there was no leader of the opposition (LoP) in Jharkhand.

According to the RTI Act 2005, there should be at least five ICs besides the CIC in state information commission. The posts are filled up through a process that includes scrutiny of applications by a committee comprising the chief minister as chairperson, a cabinet rank minister and the LoP. After scrutiny and selection, the list is sent to Raj Bhawan for governor's approval following which appointments are made, he said.

The Hemant Soren government has nominated transport minister Champai Soren as a member but the committee is incomplete without the LoP, said Ranjan. He said the department also approached the state assembly underlining the provision, which has the mention that the leader of the largest group can also be nominated in absence of the LoP. He said the assembly has not replied till date.

BJP state president Deepak Prakash said the JMM-led coalition government was delaying it intentionally. "It's a conspiracy to keep information under the carpet," he said, adding that the government does not want people to know its "misdeeds".



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Congress' RTI in poor shape in Jharkhand where it



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Congress state president and minister in the Hemant Soren cabinet said his party supports the RTI. "It is useful for common people, the pandemic due to the spread of coronavirus might have delayed the process of filling the vacancies," he said.

Whatever might be the reason, the defunct JSIC has brought to fore the debate of transparency, besides the issue of salary due to 16 staff there.



tags

- RTI
- CIC
- Jharkhand
- Congress
- Hemant Soren

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Home / India News / From BRICS to SCO: India, China leaders to have face time at 5 summits in November

# From BRICS to SCO: India, China leaders to have face time at 5 summits in November

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping are expected to join the virtual summits of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) on November 10.

JINDIA Updated: Nov 02, 2020, 21:02 IST



Congress RTI in poor shape in Jharkhand where it is a coalition partner



India-China face-off likely during at least 5 upcoming virtual summits



MCD hospital nurses go on indefinite strike



Hardeep Singh Puri, 9 others elected unopposed to Rajya Sabha



Mumbai man kills elder brother for shouting at their mother

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Abhisree Saujanya &lt;abhisree@trschambers.in&gt;

---

**Fwd: Non-appointment of State Chief Information Commissioner and State Information Commissioners**

---

Shallesh Poddar <shaileshpoddar13@gmail.com>  
To: abhisree@trschambers.in

Thu, Nov 12, 2020 at 7:24 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Shallesh Poddar <shaileshpoddar13@gmail.com>  
Date: Sat, 10 Oct 2020, 12:49  
Subject: Non-appointment of State Chief Information Commissioner and State Information Commissioners  
To: <prsectocm.jhr@gmail.com>, <secretarytocmjharkhand@gmail.com>, <cs-jharkhand@nic.in>

Sir,

This is to draw your attention towards the vacancy lying at the State Information Commission. As per the official website - <http://onlinejsic.jharkhand.gov.in/index.php>, the post of Chief Information Commissioner as well as State Information Commissioner is lying vacant in the State of Jharkhand. The number of posts sanctioned for the State Information Commissioner is 10, however not even one post is filled which is evident from the data available from the official website. A copy of data taken from the official website is attached herewith for your ready reference.

The appointment of the State Chief Information Commissioner and State Information Commissioners are done by the Appointment committee headed by the Hon'ble Chief Minister. The website itself states that - "*The Appointments Committee will be headed by the Chief Minister. Other members include the Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly and one Cabinet Minister nominated by the Chief Minister.*" Hence the present email is being sent to your good office being responsible for the said appointments.

Needless to state, the importance of the office of the State information commission cannot be undermined by non-appointment of its office bearers. It is the body that entertains complaints and appeals against the orders of the Public Information Officer and non-appointment will lead to a backlog of cases defeating the whole purpose of the Right to Information Act, 2005.

It is also brought to your notice that in February 2019, the Supreme Court, in its judgment on a PIL regarding non-appointment of information commissioners, ruled that the proper functioning of commissions with adequate number of commissioners is vital for effective implementation of the RTI Act.

Hence, with utmost respect it is requested to kindly look into the matter urgently and fill the posts so that further delay in disposal of pending cases is stopped and the spirit of the RTI Act is maintained.

--  
Regards  
Shallesh Poddar  
Advocate

---

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# झारखण्ड राज्य सूचना आयोग

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## Introduction

**Name of the Office-** Jharkhand State Information Commission

**Address-** Engineers Hostel No.-2, Near Dhurwa Golf Chakkar, H.E.C.Campus, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004, Jharkhand

**Functions:** Jharkhand State Information Commission has been constituted under Section 15(1) of the Right to Information Act, 2005 (Act of 2005) vide Government Notification No: - 3825 Dated: 24/07/2006. The State Commission's mandate is to exercise the powers conferred on, and to perform the functions assigned to it under the Act.

The Jharkhand State Information Commission consists of- State Chief Information Commissioner (SCIC), Section 15(4) of the RTI Act, 2005 stipulates that the general superintendence, direction and management of the affairs of the Jharkhand State Information Commission shall vest in the State Chief Information Commissioner who shall be assisted by the State Information Commissioner(s) and may exercise all such powers and does all such acts and things which may be exercised or done by the Jharkhand State Information Commission autonomously without being subjected to directions by any other authority under the Act.

The Act enjoins upon the State Government to provide the State Chief Information Commissioner and the State Information Commissioner with such officers and employees as may be necessary for the efficient performance of their functions under this Act and the salaries and allowances payable to and the terms and conditions of service of the officers and other employees appointed for the purpose of this Act shall be such as may be prescribed. The posts so far created by the State Government and filled in are as follows.

Sl.No.	Designation of the posts	No. of the posts sanctioned	No. of the posts filled
1.	State Chief Information Commissioner	01	00
2.	State Information Commissioner	10	00
3.	Joint Secretary	01	01
4.	Under Secretary	01	01
5.	Section Officer	03	01
6.	Assistant Section Officer	06	06
7.	Private Secretary	03	03 (2 Post upgraded)
8.	Personal Assistant	03	00
9.	Stenographer	10	00
10.	Senior Secretariat Assistant	02	01
11.	Junior Secretariat Assistant	02	01

Sl.No.	Designation of the posts	No. of the posts sanctioned	No. of the posts filled
1.	Computer Operator	01	01 (On contract basis)
2.	Bill Clerk	01	01 (On contract basis)
3.	Typist	01	00

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पीत पत्र के बदले में

संचिका सं०-11 / सू०अ०अधि०-03-15 / 2014(खण्ड-1) का०

उप सचिव-सह-नोडल पदाधिकारी (ई-गजट),  
कार्मिक, प्रशासनिक सुधार तथा राजभाषा विभाग,  
झारखण्ड, राँची।

PMU

झारखण्ड राज्य सूचना आयोग में मुख्य सूचना आयुक्त एवं राज्य सूचना आयुक्त के रिक्त पदों पर नियुक्ति हेतु प्रकाशित विज्ञापन संख्या-01/2020 के आलोक में प्राप्त आवेदन से संबंधित आवेदकों कि विवरणी संलग्न करते हुए कहना है कि इसे विभागीय वेबसाईट पर अपलोड करने हेतु आवश्यक कार्रवाई करना चाहेंगे।

अनुलनक:- यथोक्त (22 पृष्ठों में)

*दीनदी*  
12/12/2020  
(राज कुमार)  
अवर सचिव,

प्रभारी प्रशाखा-11,  
कार्मिक, प्रशासनिक सुधार तथा राजभाषा विभाग,  
झारखण्ड, राँची।

27/12/20  
72/2/2020

सूचना आयुक्त के पद पर नियुक्ति हेतु प्राप्त आवेदनों की विवरणी

1.	श्री डॉ० अजय दूबे
2.	श्री विजय शंकर नायक
3.	श्री राज कुमार राज
4.	श्रीमती कबिता
5.	श्री सुरज कुमार भारद्वाज
6.	श्रीमती निशा प्रवीण
7.	श्री सुनील कुमार दास
8.	डॉ० काशी नाथ चटर्जी
9.	डॉ० सुनीता कुमारी
10.	श्रीमती पूनम प्रकाश
11.	श्री अभिषेक कुमार पाण्डेय
12.	डॉ० रवि भूषण साहु
13.	श्री अभय कुमार
14.	श्रीमती ज्योति पाण्डेय
15.	श्री श्रीराम सुतिहार
16.	श्री अमरेन्द्र कुमार
17.	श्री दीपक कुमार

18.	श्रीमती बेबी मुस्ताफी सरकार
19.	श्री सुजीत कुमार
20.	श्रीमती संचिता
21.	श्रीमती शबनम परवीन
22.	मो० हारून रशीद
23.	श्री राकेश मिश्र
24.	श्री सतबीर सिंह
25.	श्रीमती सुचित्रा झा
26.	डॉ० दिलीप कुमार महतो
27.	डॉ० मनोज कुमार
28.	श्रीमती नाज प्रवीण
29.	श्रीमती देवकी रानी
30.	श्री काशमीरी चौधरी
31.	डॉ० सुरेन्द्र नाथ तिवारी
32.	श्री अभिषेक कुमार
33.	श्रीमती प्रीति सिन्हा
34.	डॉ० नीलम मिश्रा
35.	श्री बलराम दास
36.	श्री मुकेश कुमार कंडरवार

37.	श्री दिलीप कुमार साहु
38.	श्री रामाधार पाण्डेय
39.	श्री अफजल हुसैन
40.	श्री प्रवीण प्रभाकर
41.	श्री रणधीर कुमार
42.	श्रीमती फूल कुमारी मिश्रा
43.	डॉ० शालिनी कुमारी
44.	श्रीमती सुस्मिता लाली केरकेट्टा
45.	श्री सुजीत कुमार
46.	श्री शगुफता बानो
47.	मो० कुतुबुद्दीन
48.	डॉ० सर्वेश कुमार पाण्डेय
49.	श्री प्रवीण कुमार ठाकुर
50.	श्रीमती अनुराधा कुमारी
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55.	श्री राज कुमार वर्मा

56.	श्रीमती स्नेहलता कन्दुलना
57.	श्री कार्तिक चन्द्र महतो
58.	श्रीमती पूनम सिंह
59.	श्री प्रतुल शाहदेव
60.	श्रीमती शान्ति कमलेश
61.	श्रीमती भावना
62.-	श्रीमती भारती नयन
63.	श्री अमरेन्द्र कुमार विद्यार्थी
64.	सुश्री निशा गौर
65.	श्री सुरेन्द्र लाल सोरेन
66.	श्री संदीप कुमार
67.-	श्री प्रेम कुमार
68.	श्री गौरी शंकर मिंज
69.	श्री बैजनाथ राम
70.	डॉ० सुदेश्वर प्रसाद सिंह
71.	श्री पाण्डेय रमनी कांत सिन्हा
72.	चन्द्र प्रकाश सिन्हा
73.	श्री दिपांकर पंडा
74.	श्रीमती मनिला पिंगुवा
75.	श्री राजेश ईमानुएल पात्रो

76.	श्री रजनीश कुमार
77.	डॉ० हिमांशु भूषण बरवार
78.	श्री ललन साह
79.	श्री उमेश प्रसाद सिंह
80.	श्री रवीन्द्र प्रसाद सिंह
81.	श्री कुमार विरेन्द्र नारायण सिंह
82.	श्री जीवेन्द्र कुमार
83.	श्री विनोद चन्द्र झा
84.	श्री स्वर्ण शंकर प्रसाद
85.	श्री रवि शंकर वर्मा
86.	श्री बिरसाय उराँव
87.	श्री राम शंकर राय
88.	श्रीमती रंजना बर्मन
89.	श्री मोहन लाल साहू
90.	श्री शिवेन्द्र प्रसाद सिन्हा
91.	श्री अजितेश कुमार
92.	श्री शकील जब्बार
93.	श्री राज कुमार
94.	श्री आनन्द मिश्रा

95.	श्री विनोद किस्पोट्टा
96.	श्री बुद्धदेव ठाकुर
97.	श्री चन्दन कुमार दे
98.	श्री यामिनी मोहन शुक्ला
99.	श्रीमती आशा सिन्हा
100.	श्री शम्भु ठाकुर
101.	श्री परमानन्द प्रसाद
102.	डॉ० गोविन्द प्रसाद
103.	श्री अरुण कुमार मिश्रा
104.	श्री जयमुनि प्रसाद दाश
105.	श्री रामचन्द्र पासवान
106.	श्री विनोद शंकर मिश्र
107.	श्री फिदेलिस टोप्पो
108.	श्रीमती मीना ठाकुर
109.	श्री अशोक कुमार सिंह
110.	श्री सियाशरण पासवान
111.	श्री राज कुमार
112.	श्री जनमेजय ठाकुर
113.	श्री संजीत कुमार
114.	श्री दीपक कुमार विद्यार्थी



115.	डॉ० कुमार विकास
116.	श्री हेमन्त कुमार गुप्ता
117.	डॉ० लाल रत्नाकर सिंह
118.	श्री कीर्ति सिंह
119.	श्री विनोद कुमार
120.	श्री रामाकान्त सिंह
121.	श्री जगजीत सिंह
122.	श्री कौशल किशोर वर्मा
123.	श्री धनंजय कुमार सिंह
124.	श्री रत्नेश नंदन सहाय
125.	श्री भगवान झा,
126.	श्री रमेश कुमार वर्मा
127.	श्री वीरेन्द्र कुमार सिंह
128.	श्री सैयद मो० नैयर रिजवी
129.	डॉ० प्रकाश कुमार वर्मा
130.-	श्री राम भरत
131.	श्री मनोरंजन सिंह
132.	श्री अजय कुमार
133.	श्री सुमन कुमार श्रीवास्तव

134.	डॉ० संतोष कुमार सिंह (संतोष मानव)
135.	श्री धर्मवीर सिन्हा
136.	श्री राजदेव पाण्डेय
137.	श्री नारायण विश्वकर्मा
138.	श्री विनय चतुर्वेदी
139.	श्री संदीप कुमार
140.	श्री श्याम किशोर चौबे
141.	श्री लखन कुमार
142.	श्रीमती रंजीता झा
143.	श्री शफीक अंसारी
144.	श्री संजय कुमार मिश्र
145.	श्री चंदन कुमार मिश्र
146.	श्री राकेश कुमार सिंह
147.	श्री घनंजय भारती
148.	श्री रवि कुमार वर्मा
149.	श्री डॉ० विष्णु राजगढ़िया
150.	श्री प्रभाष चन्द्र झा
151.	श्री ओमप्रकाश अशक
152-	श्री उमापद महतो

153.	श्री पंकज कुमार मिश्र
154.	श्री प्रदुमन सिंह
155.	श्री अभिनन्दन मिश्रा
156.	श्री सुनील कुमार पाण्डेय
157.	श्री शम्भू दत्त पाण्डेय
158.	श्री मनीष कुमार मेहता
159.	श्री संजय कुमार सिंह
160.	श्री आनंद कुमार
161.	श्रीमती लीलावती कुमारी
162.	श्री विनय कुमार
163.	डॉ० सुमन कुमार
164.	श्री अशोक कुमार
165.	श्री अमर कुमार
166.	श्री संजीव कुमार
167.	श्री कृष्ण बिहारी मिश्र
168.	श्री राजेश कुमार सिंह
169.	श्री आशुतोष कुमार
170.	डॉ० शम्भू शरण गुप्त
171.-	श्री सुधीर कुमार सिंह
172.	श्री सत्येन्द्र कुमार सिंह
173.	श्री सब्यसाची दण्डपाट

174.	श्री गौतम घोष
175.	श्री मिथिलेश प्रसाद
176.	श्री इन्दू पराशर
177.	प्रो० (डॉ०) शंकर लाल
178.	श्री अशोक कुमार सिंह
179.	श्री अनिल जोशी
180.	श्री संजय कुमार सुमन
181.	श्री विजय कुमार
182.	श्री ब्रजेन्द्र नाथ पाण्डेय
183.	श्री राजदेव रविदास
184.	श्री राजु कुमार गुप्ता
185.	श्रीमती नीलम तिवारी
186.	श्री महेन्द्र प्रसाद भगत
187.	श्री अशोक नाग
188.	श्री कार्तिक चन्द्र प्रामाणिक
189.	श्री जय प्रकाश साहु
190.	श्री सन्तोष कुमार अग्निहोत्री
191.	श्री सुरेश चन्द्र जायसवाल
192.	श्री चन्द्र प्रकाश अस्थाना
193.	श्री बिरेन्द्र कुमार सिंह
194.	मो० मुस्लिम खाँ

195.	श्री पवन कुमार चौधरी
196.	श्री घर्म कुमार झा
197.	श्री विजय कुमार शर्मा
198.	मो० मोजफ्फर आलम
199.	श्री दिपेशकुमार चंद्रकांत (चंदुलाल) जोशी
200.	श्री रवीन्द्र कुमार गुप्ता
201.	श्री राजीव रंजन मिश्रा
202.	श्री रंजीत कुमार चौधरी
203.	डॉ० मुरारी झा
204.	श्रीमती सबिता कुमारी
205.	श्रीमती शालिनी शाहदेव
206.	श्री संजय कुमार
207.	श्री विनोद कुमार
208.	श्री चन्द्रिका राम
209.	श्री नवल किशोर झा
210.	श्रीमती निकी सिन्हा
211.	श्री गिरीश चन्द्र सिन्हा
212.	श्री संजीव कुमार सहाय
213.	श्री विवेक कुमार पाण्डेय
214.	श्रीमती संगीता चौधरी
215.	श्री आनन्द कुमार पाण्डेय

216.	श्री श्याम नन्दन शील
217.	डॉ० सुखी उरांव
218.	श्रीमती सालेहानाज
219.	श्री राजीव रंजन झा
220.	श्रीमती चन्द्र प्रभा
221.	श्री अनुराग मिश्रा
222.	श्री मृत्युञ्जय नारायण सिंह
223.	श्री सुनील कुमार महतो
224.	श्रीमती स्मिता सिंह
225.	श्री शशि शेखर सहाय
226.	श्री शेखर चन्द्र चौधरी
227.	श्री शिवशरण दूबे
228.	श्री शिव नारायण सिंह
229.	श्रीमती रीता कुमारी
230.	श्री आदित्य गोप उर्फ आदित्य प्रसाद यादव
231.	श्री मनोज कुमार दुबे
232.	श्री श्रीकान्त कुमार
233.	श्री प्रणव कुमार वरेण्यम
234.	श्री रितेश कुमार सिंह
235.	श्रीमती अंजू गुप्ता
236.	श्री धिरेन्द्र किशोर

237.	सुश्री प्रतिभा चौहान
238.	श्री अनिल कुमार श्रीवास्तव
239.	श्री अनिल कुमार उराँव
240.	श्री कौशल किशोर
241.	श्री संजय कुमार
242.	श्री रणजीत कुमार नीरद
243.	श्री जय प्रकाश नारायण पाण्डेय
244.	श्री पीयूष कृष्ण चौधरी
245.	श्री फैज उर रहमान
246.	श्रीमती धर्मशीला कुमारी
247.	सुश्री पूजा शुक्ला
248.	श्रीमती नीलम कुमारी
249.	श्री ध्रुव कुमार सिंह
250.	श्री सूरज कुमार
251.	श्री रमेश कुमार मिश्रा
252.	श्रीमती सोनम कुमारी
253.	श्री संजय कुमार द्विवेदी
254.	श्री विनय कुमार
255.	श्री जगदीश प्रसाद साहु
256.	श्री आदित्य कुमार
257.	श्री ओम प्रकाश प्रसाद

258.	श्री मूपेन्द्र सिंह रावत
259.	श्री रितेश कुमार सिंह
260.	श्री सुनील कुमार महतो
261.	श्री विश्वम्भर महतो
262.-	श्री संजय कुमार मिश्रा
263.	श्री अरुण कुमार,
264.	श्री श्याम नारायण सरस्वती
265.	श्री प्रेम कान्त प्रसाद
266.	श्री आशुतोष कुमार
267.	श्री अभिजीत घोष
268.	श्री कृष्ण कान्त प्रसाद
269.	श्री राजीव कुमार सूरी
270.	श्री उपेन्द्र कुमार कृष्णा
271.	श्री अमित कुमार
272.	श्री बलवन्त कुमार
273.	श्री विशाल मनी पाठक
274.	श्री विपिन बिहारी सिंह
275.	श्रीमती रंजना यादव
276.	श्री डॉ० गंगा प्रसाद सिंह
277.	श्री भानु प्रकाश नंदा
278.	श्री उमा कान्त सिंह



279.	श्रीमती महिमा श्रीवास्तव
280.	डॉ० रश्मि
281.	श्री ज्योतिमय बनर्जी
282.	मो० नसीम अंसारी
283.	मो० अजहरुल इस्लाम
284.	डॉ० रामचन्द्र प्रसाद
285.	श्री हेमन्त कुमार
286.	प्रिया कुमारी गुप्ता
287.	मो० असगर इमाम
288.	प्रवीण कुमार तिकी
289.	श्री विमल
290.	श्रीमती रंगोली वर्मा
291.	सुश्री सलोनी वर्मा
292.	श्री विकास कुमार सिन्हा
293.	डॉ० प्रभाष चन्द्र मिश्र
294.	डॉ० ज्योत्सना तिकी
295.	श्री कलीम उल्लाह कबीर
296.	डॉ० प्रद्योत कुमार मित्र
297.	डॉ० मो० परवेज हसन
298.	श्री मंगलेश्वर तिकी

299.	श्री बृज किशोर चौधरी
300.	श्री दीपक कुमार
301.	सुश्री आभा नूतन कुजूर
302.	श्री गुरुचरण हांसदा
303.	सुश्री सोनी रानी वर्मा
304.	श्री सुशील कुमार राय
305.	श्रीमती शान्ता कुमारी
306.-	श्री दीपक कुमार
307.	श्री अजय कुमार
308.	श्री सुभाष कुमार
309.	मो० शमशेर आलम
310.	डॉ० सब्बीर हुसैन
311.	श्री विक्टर कुमार मालतो
312.	सुश्री कल्पना कुमारी
313.	श्री अक्षय प्रसाद गुप्ता
314.	श्री टीपू सुल्तान
315.	सुश्री बसन्ती तिग्गा
315.	श्री अनिल कुमार सिंह
317.	श्रीमती रिशिका सिन्हा
318.	श्री श्याम कुमार
319.	श्री अजीत कुमार

320.	सुश्री सुमद्रा कुमारी
321.	श्री राजेश कुमार
322.	डॉ० लाल कृष्ण मिश्रा
323.	श्री गजानंद रात्रे
324.	श्री तारक नाथ सिंह
325.	श्री प्रदीप कुमार सागर
326.	श्री अरुण कुमार
327.	श्री राजकिशोर साहु
328.	डॉ० मनोज कुमार वर्मा
329.	सुश्री निशा सोरेन
330.	श्री संतोष कुमार तिवारी
331.	श्री लवजीत सिंह
332.	श्री रामजी पासवान
333.	मो० असलम अंसारी
334.	श्री राजेन्द्र महली
335.	श्रीमती रिंकी साव
336.	श्री धीरेन्द्र त्रिपाठी
337.	मो० राहील
338.	मो० जहाँजेब
339.	मो० साकिब आलम
340.	मो० फैजान

341.	श्री अमय कान्त चौधरी
342.	सुश्री करिश्मा कौशल
343.	श्री कमलेश्वर प्रसाद कमलेश
344.	मो० जिशान
345.	श्री आलोक कुमार गुप्ता
346.	सुश्री शकुन्तला उराँव
347.	श्रीमती पूनम कुमारी
348.	श्री रोहित कुमार सिंह
349.	सुश्री अमृता कुजूर
350.	श्री संतोष कुमार
351.	श्री कला नन्द ठाकुर
352.	श्री सुन्दर लाल बेदिया
353.	सुश्री नेहा पौली मिंज
354.	श्रीमती शुभा ठाकुर

वर्ष- 2020

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मुख्य सूचना आयुक्त के पद पर नियुक्ति हेतु प्राप्त आवेदनों की विवरणी

1.	श्री सत्येन्द्र कुमार सिंह
2.	श्री अनिल जोशी
3.	श्री सन्तोष कुमार अग्निहोत्री
4.	श्री चन्द्र प्रकाश अस्थाना
5.	श्री धर्म कुमार झा
6.	श्री रंजीत कुमार चौधरी
7.	श्री गिरीश चन्द्र सिन्हा
8.	श्री प्रीतम कुमार लाला
9.	श्रीमती चन्द्र प्रभा
10.	श्री शिव नारायण सिंह
11.	श्रीमती शांभवी जयपुरियार
12.	श्री अजय कुमार सिंह
13.	श्री पीयूष कृष्ण चौधरी
14.	श्री जगदीश प्रसाद साहु
15.	श्री विमल कुमार यादव
16.	सुश्री उषा सिन्हा
17.	श्री रमेश कुमार मिश्र
18.	श्री विजय शंकर नायक

19.	श्री अमय कुमार
20.	श्री अनिल कुमार सिंह
21.	श्रीमती बेबी मुस्ताफी सरकार
22.	श्री विशु कुमार
23.	डॉ० दिलीप कुमार महतो
24.	श्री काशमीरी चौधरी
25.	श्री रिचिक सिन्हा
26.	श्री प्रवीण प्रभाकर
27.	श्रीमती सुस्मिता लाली केरकेट्टा
28.	सुश्री आशा कुमारी
29.	श्री इन्द्र चन्द्र कालिन्दी
30.	सुश्री वेला कच्छप
31.	डॉ० सुदेश्वर प्रसाद सिंह
32.	श्री प्रदीप कुमार जाजोरिया
33.	श्री बी० के० त्रिपाठी
34.	डॉ० देवेन्द्र कुमार तिवारी
35.	श्रीमती आशा सिन्हा
36.	श्री अरुण कुमार सिंह
37.	श्री सुधीर त्रिपाठी
38.	श्री कीर्ति सिंह

39.	डॉ० लाल रत्नाकर सिंह
40.	श्री रमेश कुमार वर्मा
41.	श्री रत्नेश नंदन सहाय
42.	श्री लखन कुमार
43.	श्री अभिजीत घोष
44.	श्री उपेन्द्र कुमार कृष्णा
45.	श्री आशुतोष कुमार
46.	मो० नसीम अंसारी
47.	प्रिया कुमारी गुप्ता
48.	श्री रवि कुमार मेहता
49.	सुश्री सोनी रानी वर्मा
50.	मो० अजगर इमाम
51.	श्री राजदेव पाण्डेय
52.	श्री संजय कुमार मिश्र
53.	श्री नेहा कुमारी
54.	श्री अनिल कुमार सिंह
55.	मो० असगर अंसारी
56.	श्री टीपू सुल्तान
57.	सुश्री ललिता कच्छप
58.	सुश्री अनुपमा कौशल

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59.	सुश्री स्वाति कुमारी
60.	मो० जहाँजेब
61.	मो० साकिब आलम
62.	श्री आलोक कुमार गुप्ता
63.	श्री अभय कान्त चौधरी

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Annexure - P-6 54

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File No.11/ RTI Act-03-15/2014 (Section-1) Srl.

Deputy Secretary- Asst.- Nodal officer (E-Gazette),  
Department of Personnel, Administrative Reforms and Rajbhasha,  
Jharkhand, Ranchi.

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Pursuant to the published advertisement number 01/2020 for appointment of Chief State Information Commissioner and State information commissioner at Jharkhand State Information Commission, the applications are received for the same and it is stated that appropriate action be taken after uploading it on the department website.

Annexure:- As above (22 pages)

Raj Kumar  
Additional Secretary  
Incharge Branch-11  
Department of Personnel, Administrative Reforms and Rajbhasha,  
Jharkhand, Ranchi.

Year- 2020List of applications received for appointment of Information Commissioner

1.	Sh. Dr. Ajay Dube
2.	Sh. Vijay Shankar Nayak
3.	Sh. Raj Kumar Raj
4.	Smt. Kabita
5.	Sh. Suraj Kumar Bhardwaj
6.	Smt. Nisha Praveen
7.	Sh. Sunil Kumar Das
8.	Dr. Kashi Nath Chattarjee
9.	Dr. Sunita Kumari
10.	Smt. Poonam Prakash
11.	Sh. Abhishek Kumar Pandey
12.	Dr. Ravi Bhushan Sahu
13.	Dr. Abhay Kumar
14.	Smt. Jyoti Pandey
15.	Sh. Sriram Sutihar
16.	Sh. Amrender Kumar
17.	Sh. Deepak Kumar
18.	Smt. Bebi Mustafi Sarkar
19.	Sh. Sujeet Kumar
20.	Smt. Sanchita
21.	Smt. Shabnam Parveen
22.	Md. Harun Rashid
23.	Sh. Rakesh Mishra
24.	Sh. Satbir Singh
25.	Smt. Suchitra Jha
26.	Dr. Dileep Kumar Mahto
27.	Dr. Manoj Kumar
28.	Smt. Naz Praveen
29.	Smt. Devki Rani
30.	Sh. Kashmiri Chowdhary
31.	Dr. Surendra nath Tiwari
32.	Sh. Abhishek Kumar

33.	Smt. Priti Sinha
34.	Dr. Neelam Mishra
35.	Dr. Balram Das
36.	Sh Mukesh Kumar Kandarwar
37.	Sh. Dilip Kumar Sahu
38.	Sh. Ramdhar Pandey
39.	Sh. Afzal Husain
40.	Sh. Praveen Prabhakar
41.	Sh. Randheer Kumar
42.	Smt. Fool Kumari Mishra
43.	Dr. Shalini Kumari
44.	Smt. Susmita Lali Kerketta
45.	Sh. Sujit Kumar
46.	Sh. Shagufta bano
47.	Md. Kutubuddin
48.	Dr. Sarvesh Kumar Pandey
49.	Sh. Praveen Kumar Thakur
50.	Smt. Anuradha Kumari
51.	Sh. Pashupati Nath Pandey
52.	Sh. Lakshman Kumar Sharma
53.	Sh. Shahbaj Ahmad
54.	Sh. Himanshu Kumar Singh
55.	Sh. Raj Kumar Verma
56.	Smt. Snehlata Kandulna
57.	Sh. Kartik Chandra Mahto
58.	Smt. Poonam Singh
59.	Sh. Pratul Shahdev
60.	Smt. Shanti Kamlesh
61.	Smt. Bhavna
62.	Smt. Bharti nayan
63.	Sh. Amrendra Kumar Vidyarthi
64.	Sushri Nisha gaur
65.	Sh. Surendra Lal Soren
66.	Sh. Sandeep Kumar
67.	Sh. Prem Kumar
68.	Sh. Gauri Shankar Minj
69.	Sh. Baijnath Ram
70.	Dr. Sudeshwar Prasad Singh
71.	Sh. Pandey Ramni Kant Sinha
72.	Chandra Prakash Sinha
73.	Sh. Dipankar Panda
74.	Smt. Manila Pinguva

75.	Sh. Rajesh Emanuel Patro
76.	Sh. Rajnish Kumar
77.	Dr. Himanshu Bhushan Barvar
78.	Sh. Lalan Sah
79.	Sh. Umesh Prasad singh
80.	Sh Ravinder Prasad Singh
81.	Sh Kumar Virendra Narayan Singh
82.	Sh Jeevendra Kumar
83.	Sh Vinod Chandra jha
84.	Sh Swarn Shankar Prasad
85.	Sh Ravi Shankar Verma
86.	Sh Birsay Uraon
87.	Sh Ram Shankar Ray
88.	Smt Ranjna burman
89.	Sh Mohan lal Sahu
90.	Sh Shivender Prasad Sinha
91.	Sh Ajitesh Kumar
92.	Sh Shakeel Jabbar
93.	Sh Raj Kumar
94.	Sh Anand Mishra
95.	Sh Binod Kispotta
96.	Sh Budhev Thakur
97.	Sh Chandan Kumar De
98.	Sh Yamini Mohan Shukla
99.	Smt Asha Sinha
100.	Sh Shambhu Thakur
101.	Sh Parmanand Prasad
102.	Dr Govind Prasad
103.	Sh Arun Kumar Mishra
104.	Sh Jaymuni Prasad Dash
105.	Sh Ramchandra Paswan
106.	Sh Vinod Shankar Mishra
107.	Sh Fidelis Toppo
108.	Smt Meena Thakur
109.	Sh Ashok Kumar Singh
110.	Sh Siyasharan Paswan
111.	Sh Raj Kumar
112.	Sh Janmejay Thakur
113.	Sh Sanjit Kumar
114.	Sh Deepak Kumar Vidyarthi
115.	Dr Kumar Vikas
116.	Sh Hemant Kumar Gupta

117.	Dr Lal Ratnakar Singh
118.	Sh Kirti Singh
119.	Sh Vindo Kumar
120.	Sh Ramakant Singh
121.	Sh Jagjeet Singh
122.	Sh Kaushal Kishore Verma
123.	Sh Dhananjay Kumar Singh
124.	Sh Ratnesh Nandan Sahay
125.	Sh Bhagwan Jha
126.	Sh Ramesh Kumar verma
127.	Sh Virender Kumar Singh
128.	Sh Sayed Md. Nayar Rizwi
129.	Dr Prakash Verma
130.	Sh Ram Bharat
131.	Sh Manoranjan Singh
132.	Sh Ajay Kumar
133.	Sh Suman Kumar Srivastav
134.	Dr Santosh Kumar Singh (Santosh manav)
135.	Sh Dharamvir Sinha
136.	Sh Rajdev Pandey
137.	Sh Narayan vishvakarma
138.	Sh Vinay Chaturvedi
139.	Sh Sandeep Kumar
140.	Sh Shyam Kishore chaubey
141.	Sh lakhan Kumar
142.	Smt Ranjeeta Jha
143.	Sh Shafeek Ansari
144.	Sh Sanjay Kumar Mishra
145.	Sh Chandan Kumar Mishra
146.	Sh Rakesh Kumar Singh
147.	Sh Dhananjay Bharti
148.	Sh Ravi Kumar Verma
149.	Sh Dr Vishnu Rajgharia
150.	Sh Prabhash Chandra Jha
151.	Sh Omprakash Ashak
152.	Sh Umapad Mahto
153.	Sh Pankaj Kumar Mishra
154.	Sh Praduman Singh
155.	Sh Abhinandan Mishra
156.	Sh Sunil Kumar Pandey
157.	Sh Shmbhu Dutt Pandey
158.	Sh Manish Kumar Mehta

159.	Sh Sanjay Kumar Singh
160.	Sh Anand Kumar
161.	Smt Leelavati Kumari
162.	Sh vinay Kumar
163.	Dr Suman Kumar
164.	Sh Ashok Kumar
165.	Sh Amar Kumar
166.	Sh Sanjeev Kumar
167.	Sh Krishna Bihari Mishra
168.	Sh Rajesh Kumar Singh
169.	Sh Ashutosh Kumar
170.	Dr Shambhu Sharan Gupta
171.	Sh Sudhir Kumar Singh
172.	Sh Satyender Kumar Singh
173.	Sh Sabhayasachi Dandpat
174.	Sh Gautam Ghosh
175.	Sh Mithilesh Prasad
176.	Sh Indu Parashar
177.	Prof Dr Shankar Lal
178.	Sh Ashok Kumar Singh
179.	Sh Anil Joshi
180.	Sh Sanjay Kumar Suman
181.	Sh Vinjay Kumar
182.	Sh Bijendra Nath pandey
183.	Sh Rajdev Ravidas
184.	Sh Raju Kumar Gupta
185.	Smt Neelam Tiwari
186.	Sh Mahednra Prasad Bhagat
187.	Sh Ashok Nag
188.	Sh Kartik Chandra Pramanik
189.	Sh Jay Prakash Sahu
190.	Sh Santosh Kumar Agnihotri
191.	Sh Suresh Chandra Jaiswal
192.	Sh Chandra Prakash Asthana
193.	Sh Birendra Kumar Singh
194.	Md. Muslim Khan
195.	Sh. Pawan Kumar Chaudhri
196.	Sh Dharm Kumar Jha
197.	Sh Vijay Kumar Sharma
198.	Md. Muzzafar Alam
199.	Sh Deepesh Kumar Chandrakant(chandulal) Joshi
200.	Sh Ravinder Kumar Gupta

201.	Sh Rajiv Ranjan Mishra
202.	Sh Ranjit kr choudhari
203.	Dr Muraru Jha
204.	Smt Sabita Kumari
205.	Smt Shalini Shahdev
206.	Sh Sanjay Kumar
207.	Sh Vinod Kumar
208.	Sh Chandrika Ram
209.	Sh Naval Kishore Jha
210.	Smt Niki Sinha
211.	Sh Girish Chandra Sinha
212.	Sh Sanjeev Kumar Sahay
213.	Sh Vivek Kr Pandey
214.	Smt Sangeeta Chaudhary
215.	Sh Anand Kumar Pandey
216.	Sh Shyam nandan Sheel
217.	Dr Sukhi Uraon
218.	Smt Salehanaz
219.	Sh Rajeev Ranjan Jha
220.	Smt Chandra Prabha
221.	Sh Anurag Mishra
222.	Sh Mrityunjay Narayan Singh
223.	Sh Sunil Kumar Mahto
224.	Smt Smita Singh
225.	Sh Shashi Shekhar Sahay
226.	Sh Shekhar Chandra Chaudhary
227.	Sh Shivsharan Dubey
228.	Sh Shiv Narayan Singh
229.	Smt Rita Kumari
230.	Sh Aditya Gope urf Aditya Prasad Yadav
231.	Sh Manoj Kumar Dubey
232.	Sh Srikant Kumar
233.	Sh Pranav Kumar Varenayam
234.	Sh Ritesh Kumar Singh
235.	Smt Anju Gupta
236.	Sh Ghirendra Kishore
237.	Sushri Pratibha Chauhan
238.	Sh Anil Kumar Srivastav
239.	Sh Anil Kumar Uraon
240.	Sh Kaushal Kishore
241.	Sh Sanjay Kumar
242.	Sh Ranjeet Kumar Neerad

243.	Sh Jay Prakash Narayan Pandey
244.	Sh Piyush Krishna Chaudhary
245.	Sh Faiz Ur Rehman
246.	Smt Dharamsheel Kumari
247.	Sushri Puja Shukla
248.	Smt Neelam Kumari
249.	Sh Dhruv Kumar Singh
250.	Sh Suraj Kumar
251.	Sh Rmaesh Kumar Mishra
252.	Smt Sonam Kumari
253.	Sh Sanjay Kumar Dwivedi
254.	Sh Vinay Kumar
255.	Sh Jagdish Prasad Sahu
256.	Sh Aditya Kumar
257.	Sh Om Prakash Prasad
258.	Sh Bhupendra Singh Rawat
259.	Sh Ritesh Kumar Singh
260.	Sh Sunil Kumar Mahto
261.	Sh Vishvambhar Mahto
262.	Sh Sanjay Kumar Mishra
263.	Sh Arun Kumar
264.	Sh Shyam Narayan Saraswati
265.	Sh Prem Kant Prasad
266.	Sh Ashutosh Kumar
267.	Sh Abhijit Ghosh
268.	Sh Krishna Kant Prasad
269.	Sh Rajiv Kumar Suri
270.	Sh Upendra Kumar Krishna
271.	Sh Amit Kumar
272.	Sh Balwatn Kumar
273.	Sh Vishal Mani Pathak
274.	Sh Vipin Bihari Singh
275.	Smt Ranjana Yadav
276.	Sh Dr Ganga Prasad Singh
277.	Sh Bhanu Prakash Nanda
278.	Sh Uma Kant Singh
279.	Smt Mahima Srivastava
280.	Dr Rashmi
281.	Sh Jyotirmay Banarjee
282.	Md Naseem Ansari
283.	Md Ajharul Islam
284.	Dr Ramchandra Prasad



285.	Sh Hemant Kumar
286.	Priya Kumari Gupta
287.	Md Asgar Imam
288.	Praveen Kumar Tirki
289.	Sh Vimal
290.	Smt Rangoli Verma
291.	Sushri Saloni Verma
292.	Sh Vikash Kumar Sinha
293.	Dr Prabash Chandra Mishra
294.	Dr Jytosna Tirki
295.	Sh Kalim Ullah Kabir
296.	Dr Pradot Kumar Mishra
297.	Dr Md Parvej Hasan
298.	Sh Mangleshwar Tirki
299.	Sh Brij Kishore Chaudhari
300.	Sh Deepak Kumar
301.	Sushri Abha Nutan Kujur
302.	Sh Gurucharan Hansda
303.	Sushri Soni Rani Verma
304.	Sh Suhsil Kumar Rai
305.	Smt Shanta Kumari
306.	Sh Deepak Kumar
307.	Sh Ajay Kumar
308.	Sh Subhash Kumar
309.	Md Shamsheer Alam
310.	Dr Sabbir Hussain
311.	Sh Victor Kumar Malto
312.	Sushri Kalpana Kumari
313.	Sh Akshay Prasad Gupta
314.	Sh Tipu Sultan
315.	Sushri Basanti Tigga
316.	Sh Anil Kumar Singh
317.	Smt Rishika Sinha
318.	Sh Shyam Kumar
319.	Sh Ajit Kumar
320.	Sushri Subhadra Kumari
321.	Sh Rajesh Kumar
322.	Dr Lal Krishna Mishra
323.	Sh Gajanand Ratre
324.	Sh Tarak Nath Singh
325.	Sh Pradeep Kumar Sagar
326.	Sh Arun Kumar

327.	Sh Rajkishore Sahu
328.	Dr Manoj Kumar Verma
329.	Sushri Nisha Soren
330.	Sh Santosh Kumar Tiwari
331.	Sh Lavjit Singh
332.	Sh Ramji Paswan
333.	Md Aslam Ansari
334.	Sh Rajendra Mahli
335.	Smt Rinki Sav
336.	Sh Dharendra Tripathi
337.	Md Rahil
338.	Md Jahanjeb
339.	Md Sakib Alam
340.	Md Faizan
341.	Sh Abhay Kant Chaudhari
342.	Sushri Karishma Kaushal
343.	Sh Kamleshwar Prasad Kamlesh
344.	Md Jishan
345.	Sh Alok Kumar Gupta
346.	Suhsri Shakuntla Uraon
347.	Smt Punam Kumari
348.	Sh Rohit Kumar Singh
349.	Sushri Amrita Kujur
350.	Sh Santosh Kumar
351.	Sh Kala Nand Thakur
352.	Sh Sundar Lai Bediya
353.	Sushri Neha Paula Minj
354.	Smt Shubhra Thakur

Year-2020

Applications received for appointment at the post of Chief Information  
Commissioner

1.	Sh Satyendra Kumar Singh
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2.	Sh Anil Joshi
3.	Sh Santosh Kumar Agnihotri
4.	Sh Chandra Prakash Asthana
5.	Sh Dharm Kumar Jha
6.	Sh Ranjit Kumar Chaudhari
7.	Sh Girish Chandra Sinha
8.	Sh Preetam Kumar Lala
9.	Smt Chandra Prabha
10.	Sh Shiv Narayan Singh
11.	Smt Shambhavi Jaypuriyar
12.	Sh Ajay Kumar Singh
13.	Sh Piyush Krishna Chaudhari
14.	Sh Jagdish Prasad Sahu
15.	Sh Vimal Kumar Yadav
16.	Sushri Usha Sinha
17.	Sh Ramesh Kumar Mishra
18.	Sh Vijay Shankar Nayak
19.	Sh Abhay Kumar
20.	Sh Anil Kumar Singh
21.	Smt Bebi Mustafi Sarkar
22.	Sh Bishu Kumar
23.	Dr Dilip Kumar Mahto
24.	Sh Kashmiri Chaudhari
25.	Sh Richik Sinha
26.	Sh Praveen Prabhakar
27.	Smt Susmita Lali Karketta
28.	Suhsri Asha Kumari
29.	Sh Indra Chandra Kalindi
30.	Sushri Vela Kashyap
31.	Dr Sudeshvar Prasad Singh
32.	Sh Pradeep Kumar Jajoriya
33.	Sh B.K. Tripathi
34.	Dr Devendra Kumar Tiwari
35.	Smt Asha Sinha
36.	Sh Arun Kumar Singh
37.	Sh Sudhir Tripathi
38.	Sh Kriti Singh
39.	Dr Lal Ratnakar Singh
40.	Sh Ramesh Kumar Verma
41.	Sh Ratnesh Nandan Sahay
42.	Sh Lakhan Kumar
43.	Sh Abhijit Ghosh

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44.	Sh Upender Kumar Krishna
45.	Sh Ashutosh Kumar
46.	Md Naseem Ansari
47.	Priya Kumari Gupta
48.	Sh Ravi Kumar Mehta
49.	Sushri Soni Rani Verma
50.	Md Ajghar Imam
51.	Sh Rajdev Pandey
52.	Sh Sanjay Kumar Mishra
53.	Sh Neha Kumari
54.	Sh Anil Kumar Singh
55.	Md Asgar Ansari
56.	Sh Tipu Sultan
57.	Sushri Lalita Kashyap
58.	Sushri Anupama Kaushal
59.	Sushri Swati Kumari
60.	Md Jahanjeb
61.	Md Sakib Alam
62.	Sh Alok Kumar Gupta
63.	Sh Abhay Kant Chaudhari

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# देश में पहली बार • सूचना आयुक्तों की नियुक्ति का बगैर नेता प्रतिपक्ष के सूचना आयुक्त नियुक्त करेगी सरकार

• ग्यारह कमेटी में सबसे बड़े विपक्षी दल का एक सदस्य होगा जल्दी होगा  
• कार्मिक विभाग ने सर्वोच्च संसदीय निकायों के दल को सूचना आयुक्त नियुक्त करने के लिए सूचना अधिनियम के प्रावधानों के तहत सूचना आयुक्तों की नियुक्ति के लिए सूचना अधिनियम में संशोधन प्रस्ताव पेश किया है।

## 9 मई से सूचना आयुक्त नियुक्ति का प्रारंभ

कार्मिक विभाग सूचना अधिनियम 1987 के प्रावधानों के तहत सूचना आयुक्तों की नियुक्ति के लिए सूचना अधिनियम में संशोधन प्रस्ताव पेश किया है। सूचना अधिनियम के प्रावधानों के तहत सूचना आयुक्तों की नियुक्ति के लिए सूचना अधिनियम में संशोधन प्रस्ताव पेश किया है।

यदि सूचना अधिनियम के प्रावधानों के तहत सूचना आयुक्तों की नियुक्ति के लिए सूचना अधिनियम में संशोधन प्रस्ताव पेश किया है। सूचना अधिनियम के प्रावधानों के तहत सूचना आयुक्तों की नियुक्ति के लिए सूचना अधिनियम में संशोधन प्रस्ताव पेश किया है।

सूचना अधिनियम के प्रावधानों के तहत सूचना आयुक्तों की नियुक्ति के लिए सूचना अधिनियम में संशोधन प्रस्ताव पेश किया है। सूचना अधिनियम के प्रावधानों के तहत सूचना आयुक्तों की नियुक्ति के लिए सूचना अधिनियम में संशोधन प्रस्ताव पेश किया है।

सूचना अधिनियम के प्रावधानों के तहत सूचना आयुक्तों की नियुक्ति के लिए सूचना अधिनियम में संशोधन प्रस्ताव पेश किया है। सूचना अधिनियम के प्रावधानों के तहत सूचना आयुक्तों की नियुक्ति के लिए सूचना अधिनियम में संशोधन प्रस्ताव पेश किया है।

## चार को छोड़ि राज्य सभा पुनरीक्षण कमेटी की बैठक

राज्य सभा पुनरीक्षण कमेटी की बैठक का आयोजन 17 मई को किया जाएगा।

## किसान अपने ही दल में मजदूर बन जाएंगे : मेढता

किसान अपने ही दल में मजदूर बन जाएंगे, मेढता ने कहा है।

## पिता सोवरन सोरेन को श्रद्धांजलि देने के बाद भायुक हुए पूर्व सीएम पिता व मेरे आंदोलन से सुरक्षित है झारखंड : शिबू

शिवू सोरेन

पिता सोवरन सोरेन को श्रद्धांजलि देने के बाद भायुक हुए पूर्व सीएम पिता व मेरे आंदोलन से सुरक्षित है झारखंड : शिबू



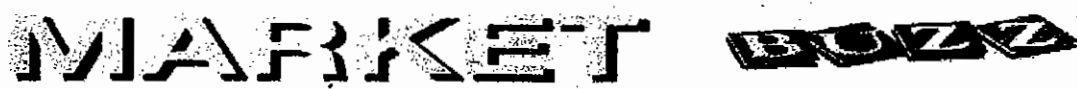
शिवू सोरेन के साथ अन्य लोग

## शिबू ने बांटा कंबल, सीएम ने समझौता सुनी

शिबू ने बांटा कंबल, सीएम ने समझौता सुनी

एक ही-एक ही प्रेरणा में निम्नलिखित कार्यवाही का प्रारंभ

राज्य सभा पुनरीक्षण कमेटी की बैठक का आयोजन 17 मई को किया जाएगा।



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Without any leader of opposition, the government will appoint information commissioner.

Vinay Chaturvedi, Ranchi - Without any leader of opposition, the state government will appoint chief state information commissioner and information commissioner. State government's advocate general, Rajiv Ranjan has given this opinion to the government. In this opinion sent to the Department of Personnel, the Advocate General has said that without any leader of opposition, the appointment at the information commissioner can be done. He has cited a judgment of the Supreme Court in appointment of Lokayukt, in which it was stated that in case the leader of opposition is not declared then or in a fixed time limit the leader of opposition cannot be available, then the minister of the largest party in the opposition will take its place. This minister of the opposition can be made a member of the selection committee. Along with the chief minister and one cabinet minister, this minister of opposition can take part in the selection. If this happens, then this will be the country's first case.

After this opinion of the advocate general, department of personnel has asked the vidhansabha secretary has leader of opposition been declared? If not, then which is the largest opposition party? Who is its leader? After receiving reply from the vidhansabha, the department of personnel will proceed with the selection process. In this case, BJP's chief whip can be asked as to which MLA from BJP will become a part of the selection committee. Significantly, the state information commission is not hearing second appeals since 27<sup>th</sup> March. The commission has 7640 appeals and 70 complaints pending.

The content in the box – Since 9<sup>th</sup> may the commission is without any information commissioner

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After the retirement of Acting Chief State Information Commissioner Himanshu Shekhar Chaudhary on 9<sup>th</sup> May, no chief state information commissioner or information commissioner is appointed. State government called for applications for the appointment in January. For one post of Chief State Information Commissioner and 5 post of information commissioner, almost 400 people applied for. Since no leader of opposition is announced till date, the appointments are pending.

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Right to Know, Right to Live

## Status of Information Commissions in India during Covid-19 Crisis

Satark Nagrik Sangathan & Centre for Equity Studies



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**Previous assessments of the Right to Information Act, 2005:**

'Report Card of Information Commissions in India', SNS & CES, 2019

(<http://snsindia.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Report-Card-2019-FINAL.pdf>)

'Adjudicating the RTI Act: Analysis of orders of the Central Information Commission', SNS & CES, 2019

(<http://snsindia.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Adjudicating-the-RTI-Act-FINAL.pdf>)

'Report Card of Information Commissions in India', SNS & CES, 2018

(<http://snsindia.org/IC2018.pdf>)

'Tilting the Balance of Power - Adjudicating the RTI Act', RaaG, SNS & Rajpal, 2017

(<http://snsindia.org/Adjudicators.pdf>)

'Peoples' Monitoring of the RTI Regime in India', 2011-2013, RaaG & CES, 2014

(<http://x.co/raagces>)

'Safeguarding The Right To Information', RaaG & NCPRI, 2009

(Executive summary at <http://snsindia.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/RAAG-study-executive-summary.pdf>)



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## I. Introduction

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India went into a total lockdown on March 25, 2020 to contain the spread of the COVID 19 pandemic. For millions of workers in the country engaged in the unorganized sector, the lockdown meant an instant cessation of income generating opportunities. Migrant workers walking back to their villages hundreds of kilometres away<sup>1</sup>, carrying their children and belongings on their shoulders, have become the defining images of the humanitarian crisis gripping the country during the lockdown. For the poor and vulnerable living across the country, the sudden loss of livelihood has meant that relief and welfare programs funded through public money are their sole lifeline.

Experience on the ground has shown that without relevant information, it is virtually impossible for people to access their rights and entitlements like rations, pensions and healthcare. In this context, proper implementation of the Right to Information (RTI) Act has assumed paramount importance.

In the fifteen years of its existence, the Indian RTI law has empowered citizens to meaningfully participate in democracy. Every year 4 to 6 million information requests<sup>2</sup> are filed. The legislation has been used extensively to hold local governments and functionaries accountable for lapses in the delivery of essential services and secure access to basic rights and entitlements. It has also been used to question the highest authorities of the country on their performance and decisions.

Under the RTI Act, 2005, information commissions are the final appellate authority and are mandated to safeguard and facilitate people's fundamental right to information. Information commissions (ICs) have been set up at the central level (Central Information Commission) and in the states (state information commissions) to adjudicate on appeals and complaints of citizens who have been denied their right to information under the law.

This report examines the functioning of information commissions during the lockdown. It is part of an effort to undertake ongoing monitoring of the performance of ICs across the country with the objective of improving their functioning and strengthening the RTI regime. In light of the unprecedented crisis gripping the nation, the need to scrutinize the working of information commissions is perhaps greater than ever before.

## II. Methodology

All 29 ICs (information commissions) set up under the RTI Act, 2005, have been covered for the purpose of this assessment. The report is based on an analysis of information accessed from the official websites of ICs. For commissions where relevant information was not available on the website, it was obtained telephonically.

The assessment examines the functioning of ICs from the commencement of the lockdown on March 25, 2020 till May 15, 2020 (phase 3 of the lockdown ended on May 17, 2020). The website analysis was undertaken between May 1 and May 11 and phone calls were made to ICs between May 14 and May 18.

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<sup>1</sup> 'India's Coronavirus Lockdown Leaves Vast Numbers Stranded and Hungry', March 29, 2020  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/29/world/asia/coronavirus-india-migrants.html>

<sup>2</sup> 'Peoples' Monitoring of the RTI Regime in India: 2011-2013' by RaaG & CES, 2014

The lockdown in India has been extended in phases since March 25, 2020. At the time of publication of this report, India is in phase 4 of the lockdown which will carry on till May 31. For each phase, guidelines were issued by the central government<sup>3</sup> regulating different activities. In addition, state governments also issued guidelines. As per the Central government guidelines, in phase 1 of the lockdown (March 25 to April 14) all government offices, autonomous bodies and commercial establishments, other than those involved in essential and emergency services, were to remain closed. During phase 2 (April 15 to May 3), from April 20 onwards, among other relaxations, all government offices, autonomous bodies and public corporations were allowed to open. All officials of the rank of Deputy Secretary and above were to attend office, while below that rank, attendance of upto 33% of staff was allowed.

This report examines whether the information commissions: issued any notification regarding the status of their functioning during the lockdown; made any provision for hearing urgent matters during the time when normal functioning was suspended, and; whether they were hearing appeals/complaints as of May 15, 2020. In addition, information has been collated for each commission on: the number of commissioners; quantum of backlog of appeals/complaints; and whether the website is functional. For ICs where information on the number of pending appeals/complaints could not be located on the website, data published in the 2019 assessment by SNS, has been used.

The key findings of the assessment are presented in section III, followed by a set of recommendations in section IV. A commission-wise snapshot of the performance of ICs is presented in section V and a summary of the notifications issued by ICs in section VI.

### III. Findings

#### 1. Hearing and disposal of appeals and complaints during the COVID 19 lockdown

- **21 commissions, out of a total of 29, were not holding any hearings as of May 15, 2020.** These were the state information commissions of Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.
- **8 commissions were holding hearings and disposing cases as of May 15, 2020.** The Central Information Commission and four state information commissions of Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana and Telangana were holding hearings and disposing appeals/complaints on all matters, though in Haryana only the Chief was working. The SICs of Manipur, Punjab and Rajasthan were available only for urgent matters or those involving life or liberty.
- **The SIC of Andhra Pradesh was only taking up matters in which information had been denied and was deciding these on the basis of available documents, without holding any hearings.**

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<sup>3</sup> All the guidelines can be accessed at- <https://www.mha.gov.in/media/whats-new>

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## 2. Provision for taking up urgent matters during the lockdown

Following the announcement of the lockdown on March 24, 2020, when normal functioning of nearly all institutions was affected, **only 7 commissions, out of a total of 29, issued notifications to make provision for taking up urgent matters** or those related to life and liberty. These were the Central Information Commission and the state information commissions of Arunachal Pradesh, Haryana, Manipur, Punjab and Telangana. The SIC of Rajasthan made provision for hearing such matters, though only from May 4, 2020.

## 3. Availability of lockdown related notifications on IC websites

**Websites of 11 commissions out of 29, had no information/notification about the functioning of the IC during lockdown.** These were the commissions of Assam, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura. However, the SICs of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur and Sikkim informed us telephonically that notifications had been issued (but not uploaded on their websites). Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Manipur ICs shared a copy of their notifications.

18 commissions which had information/notifications on their website regarding their functioning during the lockdown were the Central Information Commission and the state information commissions of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.

## 4. Accessibility of websites

**The websites of 3 ICs - Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Nagaland - were not accessible** during the lockdown even though attempts were made to reach the websites on different days between May 1 and the May 11, 2020, when the web analysis was undertaken.

This is extremely problematic during a time when offices are shut and the primary way for citizens to know about the functioning of commissions and the (re)scheduling of cases is through their websites.

It appears that the website of the Bihar SIC has been inaccessible for more than 28 months. An assessment published in 2018 had also found the website to be non-functional. Even the website of the SIC of Madhya Pradesh has been inaccessible for several months while that of Nagaland appeared to be experiencing technical problems.

## 5. Information commissions without any commissioners during the COVID crisis

Of the 29 ICs, **two commissions - Jharkhand and Tripura - were found to have no commissioners** for varying lengths of time. They were completely defunct as the serving information commissioner in both retired during the period of the lockdown. These were routine and scheduled retirements occurring due to the commissioner either completing the stipulated tenure or attaining the age of 65 years. The Chief of the Tripura SIC, who was appointed in September 2019, retired in April 2020 upon attaining the age of 65. He was the only serving commissioner in the IC. The acting Chief of the Jharkhand SIC, who was again the lone commissioner in the state, finished his tenure on May 8, 2020 and the latest announcement on the IC website states that on account of posts of the Chief and

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information commissioners being vacant, all scheduled hearings of appeals and complaints shall remain adjourned till new appointments are made.

## 6. Headless commissions during the lockdown

Of the 29 ICs, 4 were functioning without a Chief Information Commissioner- Bihar, Goa, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. The SIC of Rajasthan has been functioning without a Chief Information Commissioner for more than 15 months, since December 2018. The Chiefs of the Goa and Uttar Pradesh SICs retired in February 2020, while the Chief of the Bihar SIC retired in July 2019.

## IV. Recommendations

It is behind the cloak of secrecy that the rights of individuals are most frequently abrogated and corruption thrives. The Supreme Court of India has held in several judgments that the right to information is a fundamental right<sup>4</sup> flowing from Article 19 and Article 21 of the Constitution, which guarantee citizens the freedom of speech and expression and the right to life, respectively. In a judgment dated February 15, 2019, the Supreme Court<sup>5</sup> held that information commissions are vital for the smooth working of the transparency law.

During the COVID 19 crisis, the role of information commissions in guaranteeing compliance with the provisions of the transparency law, is more critical than ever before to ensure the RTI Act is not trampled. While in the midst of a pandemic, it is reasonable to expect some delays in processing information requests, commissions must not abdicate their statutory role in ensuring access to information, especially related to delivery of essential commodities and services. In fact, there are adequate provisions in the RTI Act for commissions to accommodate delays due to extenuating circumstances. For instance, if reasonable cause can be shown for providing information after the expiry of the stipulated time-period, the information commission has the discretion to not impose a penalty on the PIO (Public Information Officer). Similarly, appellate authorities can relax the limitation period for filing appeals if the appellant can show sufficient cause for the delay.

The following steps need to be adopted to ensure that information commissions play their role effectively in the midst of the crisis so that people can exercise their democratic right to know and are able to hold the government accountable for delivery of their rights and entitlements.

1. **Effective and timely disposal of cases:** Although challenges thrown up by the crisis are immense, it is absolutely critical that all information commissions conduct hearings and dispose cases to ensure people can exercise their fundamental right to information. Given the nature of the crisis, which could result in frequent lockdowns and disruptions over the next several months, possibly years, information commissions have the obligation to put

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<sup>4</sup> State of UP v. Raj Narain, AIR 1975 SC 865, S.P. Gupta v. President of India and Ors, AIR 1982 SC 149, Reliance Petrochemicals Ltd vs Proprietors Of Indian Express 1989 AIR 190, Union of India v. Association for Democratic Reforms, AIR 2002 SC 2002, Reserve Bank of India Versus Jayantilal N. Mistry (2016) 3 SCC 525, Anjali Bhardwaj and others v. Union of India and others (Writ Petition No. 436 of 2018)

<sup>5</sup> Anjali Bhardwaj and others v. Union of India and others (Writ Petition No. 436 of 2018) [http://judicialreforms.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/15968\\_2018\\_Judgement\\_15-Feb-2019.pdf](http://judicialreforms.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/15968_2018_Judgement_15-Feb-2019.pdf)

in place mechanisms, including people friendly technological solutions, in case physical hearings are not possible.

Commissions like the CIC, have shown that it is possible for commissioners to continue to hear and adjudicate on cases despite a lockdown. Given the high penetration of phones in even remote areas of the country, commissions should hold hearings telephonically to connect with PIOs and appellants/complainants to hear matters. Where possible, video calls can be set up through various commonly used applications or through government facilities including National Informatics Centre (NIC) studios while following necessary precautions like ensuring physical distancing.

Provision of relevant information about relief measures and expenditure of public funds must be deemed essential during the pandemic, since without availability of information these programs will not reach the intended beneficiaries.

The backlog of appeals and complaints was already large in many information commissions even before the current crisis, resulting in inordinate delays in disposal of cases. If commissions are not functional, the backlogs will further increase rendering the law meaningless for many.

- 2. **Prioritization of cases dealing with information related to life and liberty:** Even as commissions become fully functional, cases related to life and liberty - especially matters regarding food distribution, social security, health and COVID 19-related issues – must be prioritized and taken up in a time-bound manner by the ICs for hearing and disposal. This would require the commissions to set up systems to identify and fast track such cases.

Section 7(1) of the RTI Act states that information concerning the life or liberty of a person has to be supplied within 48 hours of the request being received. Research has repeatedly shown that most commissions have not adopted any specific procedures for fast-tracking appeals/complaints for such matters<sup>6</sup>. This effectively incapacitates the provision as these appeals/complaints enter the regular cycle and are disposed after many months or years, depending on the backlogs in the commissions.

Further, given the evolving nature of the crisis, if normal functioning of commissions needs to be suspended in the future for any length of time, provision must be made for atleast taking up urgent matters and those related to life and liberty.

- 3. **Ensuring pro-active disclosure of information under Section 4 of the RTI Act:** To cope with the crisis, it is absolutely crucial that all relevant information related to relief measures announced by governments be widely disseminated. Without transparency, these measures are unlikely to be successful. For instance, for effective delivery of rations under the Public Distribution System, there must be information in the public domain about: the quantity of foodgrains and other commodities people are entitled to get; the list of all ration shops with phone numbers and addresses; shop-wise details of people entitled to get subsidized rations; daily stock position of all shops; and record of distribution. In the absence of this information, ground reports have revealed that ration

<sup>6</sup> Chapter 2, 'Report Card of Information Commissions in India', SNS & CES, 2018, (<http://snsindia.org/IC2018.pdf>)

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shop keepers have been undersupplying to the beneficiaries<sup>7</sup>, and in many cases keeping their shops closed on the pretext that they have no rations, even though ration stocks have been supplied to them<sup>8</sup>. This is equally true for delivery of other social security, health and basic services.

Commissions must direct public authorities to disseminate relevant information under Section 4 of the RTI Act in local languages and in the most accessible manner. While information must be made available on government websites, it must also be widely disseminated through off-line modes like sms, whatsapp, public announcements and prominent poster/boards/wall paintings in villages and slums and at points of disbursal such as ration shops, banks and hospitals to ensure that those without access to the internet are also able to obtain the necessary information.

Commissions must also direct relevant governments to proactively disclose information about money received and disbursed under various relief funds, including the PM CARES Fund and various Chief Minister relief funds, to enable public scrutiny. Transparency is essential to ensure money is spent on the most pressing priority needs during the crisis.

A very large percentage of the population does not have the resources to file an RTI application to ask for information and follow up with appeals/complaints in case of denial. For them, the most effective way to obtain information is through meaningful pro-active disclosures by public authorities. Unfortunately, research has shown that Section 4 of the RTI Act is followed more in the breach. Nearly 70% of RTI requests filed by people seek information that should have been proactively provided by government<sup>9</sup>. Unfortunately, enough has not been done by commissions to ensure compliance with the provisions of section 4. It is therefore imperative that commissions use their powers and make sure that these provisions are strictly complied with.

- 4. Urgent digitization of records and proper record management:** E-governance has been an important agenda of the central and state governments in India and a large amount of public funds have been spent over the years on ensuring that records are digitized. The current crisis has exposed serious gaps in the digitization of public records. Lack of remote access to records in the lockdown has been widely cited as the reason for not being able to conduct hearings of appeals and complaints by commissions.

ICs must undertake an audit of record keeping in each public authority and use their powers under the law including in sections 19(8) and 25(5), to ensure public authorities undertake urgent and appropriate steps for digitization.

- 5. Appointment of information commissioners:** The state information commissions of Jharkhand and Tripura were found to be defunct as they had no information commissioners. In the absence of functional commissions, information seekers have no reprieve under the RTI Act if they are unable to access information as per the provisions of the law. Not appointing information commissioners also results in a huge backlog of

<sup>7</sup> 'Cardholders claim shops 'swindle' extra ration', The Hindu, May 11, 2020 (<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/cardholders-claim-shops-swindle-extra-ration/article31553726.ece>)

<sup>8</sup> 'COVID-19: Delhi PDS Shops Shut, Owners Say Lack of Supplies', April 2, 2020 (<https://www.newsclick.in/COVID-19-delhi-PDS-shops-shut-owners-lack-supplies-owners-state-lack-supplies>)

<sup>9</sup> Chapter 4, 'Peoples' Monitoring of the RTI Regime in India', 2011-2013, RaaG & CES, 2014



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appeals and complaints, and consequent long delays in disposal of cases. This amounts to a violation of peoples' right to information. The Supreme Court, in its February 2019 judgment<sup>10</sup>, directed that governments must appoint adequate number of commissioners based on the workload of each IC. It further directed that the appointments should be made in a transparent manner and the process should be initiated atleast 1-2 months before the date on which the vacancy is likely to occur to prevent any time-lag between the occurrence of a vacancy and the appointment.

The central and all state governments must immediately ensure appointment of adequate number of commissioners in keeping with the Supreme Court's judgment.

6. **Ensuring information access for all:** The notification issued by the information commission of Arunachal Pradesh states that due to the COVID crisis, appeals and complaints will be accepted only via email. This implies that citizens who do not have access to a computer and the internet cannot appeal against the violation of their fundamental right to information. During the crisis, it is important to make sure that the poor and vulnerable, who are most dependent on the government for their survival and need information the most, are not excluded. Commissions must take into account the digital divide in the country while taking decisions about their functioning and while directing information disclosure.
7. **Facility for online filing of RTI applications and appeals:** Governments should put in place a mechanism for online filing of RTI applications. Online portals should also provide facilities for electronic filing of first appeals and second appeals/complaints. This is will facilitate peoples' right to information even during times like the current crisis when physical movement is restricted and will save considerable cost of transportation and postage. However, the online facility must be in addition to physical filing of requests and appeals. At present, only the central government and the governments of Delhi, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh provide a portal for online filing of RTI applications.

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<sup>10</sup> Anjali Bhardwaj and others v. Union of India and others (Writ Petition No. 436 of 2018)  
[http://judicialreforms.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/15968\\_2018\\_Judgement\\_15-Feb-2019.pdf](http://judicialreforms.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/15968_2018_Judgement_15-Feb-2019.pdf)

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V. Snapshot of performance of commissions during the COVID 19 crisis

**Central Information Commission**

<p>Number of Commissioners: 7 Matters pending on 15/5/20: 35,821</p>	<p>Website accessible: Yes</p>	<p>Status on May 15: Holding hearings and disposing cases</p>
<p>Notification issued by IC regarding functioning during lockdown: Yes</p>	<p>Provision for hearing urgent matters during lockdown: Yes</p>	

**Andhra Pradesh**

<p>Number of Commissioners: 4 Matters pending on 31/1/20: 4,464</p>	<p>Website accessible: Yes</p>	<p>Status on May 15: No hearings. Only passing orders in cases where information was denied.</p>
<p>Notification issued by IC regarding functioning during lockdown: Yes</p>	<p>Provision for hearing urgent matters during lockdown: No</p>	

**Arunachal Pradesh**

<p>Number of Commissioners: 3 Matters pending on 31/3/19: 63</p>	<p>Website accessible: Yes</p>	<p>Status on May 15: Holding hearings and disposing cases</p>
<p>Notification issued by IC regarding functioning during lockdown: Yes</p>	<p>Provision for hearing urgent matters during lockdown: Yes</p>	

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## Assam

Number of Commissioners: 3  
Matters pending on 31/3/2019: 727

Website accessible: Yes

Status on  
May 15:  
No hearings  
being held

Notification issued by IC regarding  
functioning during lockdown: No

Provision for hearing  
urgent matters during  
lockdown: No

## Bihar

Number of Commissioners: 3  
Matters pending on 15/5/20: not known

Website accessible: No

Status on  
May 15:  
No hearings  
being held

Notification issued by IC regarding  
functioning during lockdown: Yes

Provision for hearing  
urgent matters during  
lockdown: No

## Chhattisgarh

Number of Commissioners: 3  
Matters pending on 1/1/19: 9,137

Website accessible: Yes

Status on  
May 15:  
Holding  
hearings and  
disposing  
cases

Notification issued by IC regarding  
functioning during lockdown: Yes

Provision for hearing  
urgent matters during  
lockdown: No

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## Goa

Number of Commissioners: 2  
Matters pending on 31/3/19: 170

Website accessible: Yes

Status on  
May 15:  
No hearings  
being held

Notification issued by IC regarding  
functioning during lockdown: Yes

Provision for hearing  
urgent matters during  
lockdown: No

## Gujarat

Number of Commissioners: 5  
Matters pending on 30/4/20: 4,888

Website accessible: Yes

Status on  
May 15:  
No hearings  
being held

Notification issued by IC regarding  
functioning during lockdown: Yes

Provision for hearing  
urgent matters during  
lockdown: No

## Haryana

Number of Commissioners: 8  
Matters pending on 29/2/20: 3,518

Website accessible: Yes

Status on  
May 15:  
Only Chief  
holding  
hearings and  
disposing  
cases

Notification issued by IC regarding  
functioning during lockdown: Yes

Provision for hearing  
urgent matters during  
lockdown: Yes

## Himachal Pradesh

Number of Commissioners: 2  
Matters pending on 31/3/19: 285

Website accessible: Yes

Status on  
May 15:

No hearings  
being held

Notification issued by IC regarding  
functioning during lockdown: Could not be  
located on website

Provision for hearing  
urgent matters during  
lockdown: Not known

## Jharkhand

Number of Commissioners: 0  
Matters pending on 31/3/19: 1,362

Website accessible: Yes

Status on  
May 15:

Defunct, as  
sole  
commissioner  
retired on  
8/5/20

Notification issued by IC regarding  
functioning during lockdown: Yes

Provision for hearing  
urgent matters during  
lockdown: No

## Karnataka

Number of Commissioners: 10  
Matters pending on 31/3/17: 41,800

Website accessible: Yes

Status on  
May 15:

No hearings  
being held

Notification issued by IC regarding  
functioning during lockdown: Yes

Provision for hearing  
urgent matters during  
lockdown: No

## Kerala

Number of Commissioners: 5  
Matters pending on 31/1/20: 9,948

Website accessible: Yes

Status on  
May 15:  
No hearings  
being held

Notification issued by IC regarding  
functioning during lockdown: No

Provision for hearing  
urgent matters during  
lockdown: No

## Madhya Pradesh

Number of Commissioners: 8  
Matters pending on 31/3/19: 6,069

Website accessible: No

Status on  
May 15:  
No hearings  
being held

Notification issued by IC regarding  
functioning during lockdown: Yes

Provision for hearing  
urgent matters during  
lockdown: No

## Maharashtra

Number of Commissioners: 5  
Matters pending on 29/2/20: 58,185

Website accessible: Yes

Status on  
May 15:  
No hearings  
being held

Notification issued by IC regarding  
functioning during lockdown: Yes

Provision for hearing  
urgent matters during  
lockdown: No

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## Manipur

Number of Commissioners: 1  
Matters pending on 31/3/19: 140

Website accessible: Yes

Status on  
May 15:  
Provision for  
hearing only  
matters  
related to  
life or liberty

Notification issued by IC regarding  
functioning during lockdown: Yes

Provision for hearing  
urgent matters during  
lockdown: Yes

## Meghalaya

Number of Commissioners: 1  
Matters pending on 31/3/19: 0

Website accessible: Yes

Status on  
May 15:  
No hearings  
being held

Notification issued by IC regarding  
functioning during lockdown: Could not be  
located on website

Provision for hearing  
urgent matters during  
lockdown: Not known

## Mizoram

Number of Commissioners: 3  
Matters pending on 31/3/19: 0

Website accessible: Yes

Status on  
May 15:  
No hearings  
being held

Notification issued by IC regarding  
functioning during lockdown: No

Provision for hearing  
urgent matters during  
lockdown: No

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## Nagaland

Number of Commissioners: 3

Matters pending on 1/3/19: 5

Website accessible: No

Status on  
May 15:

No hearings  
being held

Notification issued by IC regarding  
functioning during lockdown: No

Provision for hearing  
urgent matters during  
lockdown: No

## Odisha

Number of Commissioners: 3

Matters pending on 1/1/20: 14,689

Website accessible: Yes

Status on  
May 15:

Not  
disposing  
cases

Notification issued by IC regarding  
functioning during lockdown: Yes

Provision for hearing  
urgent matters during  
lockdown: No

## Punjab

Number of Commissioners: 9

Matters pending on 29/2/20: 2,258

Website accessible: Yes

Status on  
May 15:

Provision for  
hearing only  
matters  
related to  
life or liberty

Notification issued by IC regarding  
functioning during lockdown: Yes

Provision for hearing  
urgent matters during  
lockdown: Yes



## Rajasthan

Number of Commissioners: 3  
Matters pending on 28/2/19: 7,372

Website accessible: Yes

Status on May 15:  
Provision for hearing only matters related to life or liberty

Notification issued by IC regarding functioning during lockdown: Yes

Provision for hearing urgent matters during lockdown: Yes, May 4 onwards

## Sikkim

Number of Commissioners: 2  
Matters pending on 31/3/19: 0

Website accessible: Yes

Status on May 15:

No hearings being held

Notification issued by IC regarding functioning during lockdown: Could not be located on the website

Provision for hearing urgent matters during lockdown: No

## Tamil Nadu

Number of Commissioners: 7  
Matters pending on 1/1/19: 8,756

Website accessible: Yes

Status on May 15:  
No hearings being held

Notification issued by IC regarding functioning during lockdown: Yes

Provision for hearing urgent matters during lockdown: No

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## Telangana

Number of Commissioners: 7  
Matters pending on 31/3/19: 8,829

Website accessible: Yes

Status on  
May 15:

Holding  
hearings and  
disposing  
cases

Notification issued by IC regarding  
functioning during lockdown: Yes

Provision for hearing  
urgent matters during  
lockdown: Yes

## Tripura

Number of Commissioners: 0  
Matters pending on 31/3/19: 0

Website accessible: Yes

Status on  
May 15:

Defunct, as  
sole  
commissioner  
retired in  
April 2020

Notification issued by IC regarding  
functioning during lockdown: No

Provision for hearing  
urgent matters during  
lockdown: No

## Uttar Pradesh

Number of Commissioners: 10  
Matters pending on 1/1/20: 46,284

Website accessible: Yes

Status on  
May 15:

No hearings  
being held

Notification issued by IC regarding  
functioning during lockdown: Yes

Provision for hearing  
urgent matters during  
lockdown: No

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## Uttarakhand

Number of Commissioners: 3  
Matters pending on 31/3/20: 473

Website accessible: Yes

Status on  
May 15:  
No hearings  
being held

Notification issued by IC regarding  
functioning during lockdown: Yes

Provision for hearing  
urgent matters during  
lockdown: No

## West Bengal

Number of Commissioners: 3  
Matters pending on 31/3/19: 7,754

Website accessible: Yes

Status on  
May 15:  
No hearings  
being held

Notification issued by IC regarding  
functioning during lockdown: Yes

Provision for hearing  
urgent matters during  
lockdown: No

VI. Summary of notifications issued by ICs regarding their functioning during the lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic

**Central Information Commission:** As per order dated March 25, 2020, the office of Central Information Commission was closed for a period of 21 days with effect from 25.03.2020 and all cases scheduled for hearing were deferred. Provision was made for hearing matters of urgency through audio conference. For such matters, people were asked to contact the deputy registrars of information commissioners, and their phone numbers were published on the website.

**Andhra Pradesh:** As per the notifications issued by the SIC, all hearings scheduled between March 25 to May 3 were cancelled. From May 4 onwards, the notification stated that all information commissioners will take up only those cases where no reply or decision has been furnished to the applicant by the PIO/FAA or both and will dispose matters based on available records. The notification stated that cases where decision/reply was furnished to the applicant, would be heard after the lockdown is removed.

**Arunachal Pradesh:** As per notice dated March 20, 2020 all hearings from March 23 to April 5, 2020 were suspended. The notice stated that urgent cases shall be heard as required. As per press release dated April 20, provisions were made to hold hearings via video conference through an app. The commission suspended receipt of appeals/complaints in physical form and required these to be filed only via email. As per notification dated May 4, 2020, all pending hearings were resumed through video/audio conferencing.

**Bihar:** Vide notice dated March 26, 2020 all hearings scheduled till April 14, 2020 were adjourned. The notice stated that the SIC would not accept any new appeals/complaints during this period. Further, it clarified that the notice would stand automatically modified in light of any follow-up orders/instructions issued by the National Disaster Management Authority, Ministry of Home Affairs, Health Ministry or the Government of Bihar.

**Chhattisgarh:** As per information on the homepage of the SIC, all hearing from March 23 till May 3, 2020 were suspended. The SIC resumed hearing matter from May 4, onwards.

**Goa:** As per the latest order dated April 20, 2020 on the website of the SIC, all hearings have been suspended until further notice.

**Gujarat:** All hearings during the period March 20 to 27, 2020 were adjourned other than the hearing through video conference at Bhavnagar on March 23. No further information could be located on the website.

**Haryana:** All appeals/complaints scheduled for hearing upto May 1, 2020 were adjourned. Provision was made bring to the notice of the SIC any matter of urgency or related to life and liberty by contacting the Deputy Registrar whose contact details were provided on the website. Further, matters listed before commissioners other than the Chief, were adjourned for varying periods of time. Three commissioners adjourned matters till May 15, one till May 28, two till May 31 and one till July 1, 2020.

**Jharkhand:** The initial notice on the SIC website postponed all hearings between March 18, 2020 and May 17, 2020. However, as the acting Chief, who was the lone commissioner,

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finished his tenure on May 8, 2020, the notice was changed and now states that all scheduled hearings of appeals and complaints shall remain adjourned till the appointment of the Chief or an information commissioner.

**Karnataka:** As per the notifications on the SIC website, all hearings scheduled till May 16, 2020 were postponed.

**Madhya Pradesh:** An order of the SIC dated May 1, 2020 was accessed off line, since the commission's website is non-functional. It laid down the procedure for staggered working of the staff of the commission but contained no details regarding hearing and disposal of appeals/complaints by the SIC.

**Maharashtra:** A document named 'Sunavani Cancel' available under the link 'Important Letters' on the SIC website states that hearings scheduled for March 17 and 18, 2020 were cancelled due to the Covid-19 virus. In addition, notices regarding suspension of hearings are available on the link to the cause lists for the Aurangabad and Nasik benches. The notice for the Aurangabad bench states that hearings for March 23, 24 and 26 were adjourned and the next date of hearing would be informed in due course. The notice for the Nasik bench states that hearings scheduled for April 20, 2020 stand postponed. No further information/notification could be located on the website.

**Manipur:** As per notification dated March 16, 2020, all proceedings regarding appeals/complaints till March 31 were adjourned. Provision was made to look into matters related to life or liberty as per the proviso to section 7(1). As per notification dated May 4, the SIC will resume all hearings from May 18 through audio/video conferencing.

**Odisha:** As per the notices available on the SIC website, all matters posted for hearings till May 16, 2020 were adjourned.

**Punjab:** As per information on the homepage of the SIC, while appeals/complaints pending in the commission stand adjourned until the duration of the ongoing curfew/lockdown, provision has been made to hear matters of utmost urgency pertaining to 'Life and Liberty' by a bench comprising the Chief and an information commissioner.

**Rajasthan:** As per notifications all matters posted for hearings between March 18 and May 3, 2020 were adjourned. Subsequently, an order dated May 4, 2020 stated that the SIC would hear only extremely urgent matters. The order also states that if after filing an RTI application under the life and liberty clause and the first appeal, information is not provided or the applicant is dissatisfied, she/he can send the second appeal and all the relevant documents to SIC on a designated mobile number. If the appeal is deemed to be urgent, the SIC will proceed in the matter. No such mechanism for urgent matters was available prior to May 4, 2020.

**Tamil Nadu:** As per notice dated March 23, 2020 all cases posted for enquiry upto March 31, 2020 were adjourned. No further information could be located on the website.

**Telangana:** As per information on the homepage of the SIC, while all hearings posted till April 30 were postponed due to the lockdown, in case of urgency, the deputy secretary/secretary

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(law) could be contacted on the numbers listed. Subsequently, the commission decided to hear cases telephonically dispensing with personal appearance of parties.

**Uttar Pradesh:** As per orders on the website, all hearings scheduled between March 18, 2020 and May 17, 2020 stand adjourned.

**Uttarakhand:** As per notifications on the website, all hearings of second appeals and complaints from March 19, 2020 onwards stand adjourned until further notice. Notification dated May 4, 2020 states that while the SIC has re-opened, it will carry out only administrative work and all hearings will remain adjourned until further notice.

**West Bengal:** Initially, as per the notice available on the website, the commission decided that between March 16 and March 31, 2020 only urgent cases which have already been scheduled for this period would be heard and all others would be rescheduled. However from March 23 onwards, the commission decided that the office of the SIC would be closed and all hearings would be rescheduled. The notification did not make any provision for urgent matters or those related to life and liberty. The latest order states that in view of the extension of nation-wide lockdown for 2 weeks beyond May 3, 2020, the office of the West Bengal Information Commission will resume its functions after lifting of the restrictive orders, as decided by the Full Bench of the Commission.

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TRUE COPY

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA  
CIVIL ORIGINAL JURISDICTION  
PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION  
(UNDER ARTICLE 32 OF CONSTITUTION OF INDIA)

IN THE MATTER OF :

SHAILESH PODDAR  
S/o Sh. Kishori Lal Poddar  
R/o Shaheed Jaswant Singh Lane  
Near Telephone exchange Lake Road  
Ranchi, Jharkhand

....PETITIONER

VERSUS

STATE OF JHARKHAND  
*Through Standing Counsel*

....RESPONDENT

APPLICATION SEEKING EXEMPTION FROM FILING OFFICIAL  
TRANSLATION ALONG WITH AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF PETITIONER

To  
The Hon'ble Chief Justice of India  
And His companion Justices of the  
Supreme Court of India

The Humble petition of  
the petitioner above named

Most Respectfully Showeth:

1. That the Petitioner has preferred the accompanying petition as a  
Petitioner in the captioned matter.
2. The facts and circumstances giving rise to the instant case have  
already been stated in detail in the accompanying Petition and

the Petitioner craves leave of this Hon'ble Court to refer and rely upon the same as a part of the instant Petition.

3. The Petitioner has filed Annexure P3, Annexure P6 and Annexure P7 duly translated from Hindi to English. Further the said documents are relevant and material for the proper adjudication of the present application and forms part of the record. The said translation has been done by an advocate who knows both the languages well. The said translation may be taken on record as true and authentic.
4. The Petitioner further undertakes before this Hon'ble Court to file official translated copies of the said documents, if so, directed by this Hon'ble Court.
5. This Petition is being filed in urgency and hence the Petitioner is seeking exemption from filing official translation of the abovementioned documents. It is most respectfully submitted that the Petitioner has a good case on merits and therefore, the present application is being filed seeking exemption from filing official translation.



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6. No prejudice would be caused to the Respondents/Non-Petitioners if the filing of the official translation is exempted and the Petition is heard on merits.

**PRAYER**

It is therefore most respectfully prayed that this Hon'ble Court may be pleased to

- a) Exempt the Petitioner from filing official translation of the documents at Annexure P3, P6 and P7 to the application and the same may be taken on record as true and authentic; and
- b) Pass such order and directions as this Hon'ble Court may deem fit and proper

**PETITIONER**

Drawn on: 05.12.2020  
Filed on: 18.12.2020

**RIDDHI SANCHETI**  
Advocate for the Petitioner

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IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA  
CIVIL ORIGINAL JURISDICTION  
PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION  
(UNDER ARTICLE 32 OF CONSTITUTION OF INDIA)

IN THE MATTER OF:

SHAILESH PODDAR .....APPLICANT

VERSUS

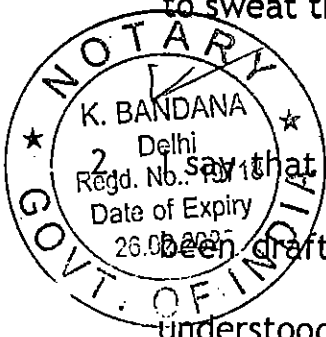
STATE OF JHARKHAND .....RESPONDENT

AFFIDAVIT

I, Mr. Shailesh Poddar aged about 28 years S/o Kishori Lal Poddar,  
R/o Shaheed Jaswant Singh Lane, Near Telephone Exchange, Lake  
Road, Ranchi do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under:

PRESENTLY AT DELHI

1. That I am the Petitioner/Applicant in the captioned  
petition/application and I am well conversant with the facts  
and circumstances of the case and I have been duly authorised  
to swear this affidavit.



I say that the contents of the accompanying application have  
been drafted by my counsel under my instructions and I have  
understood the contents thereof.

- 3. That the annexures along with application are true copies of their respective originals.
- 4. I am aware that on the basis of my instructions, the Advocate-on-Record has given a certificate in support of the application.

*[Signature]*  
 DEPONENT

VERIFICATION

8 DEC 2020

Verified at \_\_\_\_\_ on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2020, that the contents of this affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

*[Signature]*  
 DEPONENT

Identify the deponent exeputant/who has signed in my Presence



**ATTESTED**  
*[Signature]*  
 NOTARY PUBLIC, DELHI  
 GOVT. OF INDIA