

New Chief Information Commissioner of India

November 16, 2020

Government appoints Yashvardhan K Sinha as new Chief Information Commissioner(CIC)

About Central Information Commission

- **It was constituted on 12-10-2005 under the Right to Information Act, 2005.**
- The **jurisdiction** of the Commission extends over all **Central Public Authorities.**
- The Commission has certain powers and **functions mentioned in sections 18, 19, 20 and 25 of the RTI Act, 2005. These broadly relate to:**
 - adjudication in second appeal for giving information
 - direction for record keeping
 - suo motu disclosures receiving and enquiring into a complaint on inability to file RTI
 - imposition of penalties and Monitoring and Reporting including preparation of an Annual Report.
- The decisions of the Commission are final and binding.

Composition of Central Information Commission(CIC)

It consists of 1 Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) and not more than 10 Information Commissioners (IC) who are appointed by the President of India on the recommendations of a Committee

What is the eligibility criteria?

- Section 12(5) of the RTI Act 2005 provides that the **Chief Information Commissioner and Information**

Commissioners shall be persons of eminence in public life with wide knowledge and experience in law, science and technology, social service, management, journalism, mass media or administration and governance.

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

What is the process of appointment of CIC/IC?

- Section 12(3) of the RTI Act 2005 provides as follows.
 - (i) The **Prime Minister**, who shall be the Chairperson of the committee
 - (ii) The **Leader of Opposition** in the Lok Sabha; and
 - (iii). A **Union Cabinet Minister** to be nominated by the Prime Minister.

Term of office and other service conditions of CIC

- Section 13 of the RTI Act 2005 provides that the Chief Information Commissioner shall hold office for a term of **five years from** the date on which he enters upon his office and **shall not be eligible for reappointment**
- Section 13(5)(a) of the RTI Act 2005 provides that the **salaries and allowances** payable to and other terms and conditions of service of the Chief Information Commissioner shall be the **same as that of the Chief Election Commissioner.**

The term of office and other service conditions of IC

- Section 13(2) of the RTI Act 2005 provides that the **Information Commissioner shall hold office for a term of five years** from the date on which he enters upon his office and **shall not be eligible for reappointment as**

such Information Commissioners.

- Provided that every Information Commissioner shall on vacating his office under this sub-section be eligible for appointment as the Chief Information Commissioner
- The **salaries and allowances** payable to and other terms and conditions of service of an Information Commissioner shall be the **same as that of an Election Commissioner.**