



# Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative

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Date: 24/06/2016

**Sri K Chandrashekar Rao**

Hon'ble Chief Minister

State Government of Telangana

Central Secretariat

Khairatabad

Hyderabad, Telangana – 500 022

*Dear Mr. Chief Minister,*

I am writing as Chairperson of CHRI an international, independent, non-partisan non-government organisation headquartered in India. We have worked closely with public authorities in the erstwhile undivided State of Andhra Pradesh (AP) to support their efforts to implement the *Right to Information Act* (RTI Act). Soon after the enactment of this seminal law, we worked closely with the Centre for Good Governance, Hyderabad to roll out the plan for developing the capacity of public information officers to implement its provisions in an effective manner. You will recall that the erstwhile State of Andhra Pradesh had become a role model in implementation of this law.

I am writing to urge you to constitute the State Information Commission for Telangana which is a statutory requirement under Section 15 of the RTI Act. Two years have passed since the State of Telangana officially came into existence, thanks to the people's movement under your able leadership. While the administration of the erstwhile undivided State of Andhra Pradesh has been bifurcated, the State Information Commission of Andhra Pradesh continues to hear appeals and complaints from people living in Telangana regarding access to information from public authorities under your government. I believe the bifurcation of the administration will not be complete until the Telangana State

Information Commission is formally constituted by your government. It is noteworthy that your Government has already opened up a page for the State Information Commission on the Telangana State Portal (<http://www.telangana.gov.in/rti/information-commission>). This page requires to be populated with relevant information directed specifically to the people of Telangana by setting up the Commission. As it stands at present Telangana is the only State in India without its own Information Commission.

I urge that as Chairperson of the committee for the selection of suitable candidates for appointment to the State Information Commission, you might adopt a transparent and participatory process. This entails deciding the strength of the proposed State Information Commission based on a scientific assessment of the workload relating to appeals and complaints arising from public authorities in Telangana. The AP State Information Commission will have this data. I suggest that your government advertise vacancies in the Telangana State Information Commission soon after its constitution and invite applications from citizens who possess the eminence and qualifications for appointment as specified in Section 15(5) of the RTI Act. Establishing a robust State Information Commission will consolidate your commitment to transparent and accountable government in Telangana.

Should you wish to discuss the issues raised in this letter in detail, CHRI would be honoured to assist. Please feel free to contact me ([whabibullah@gmail.com](mailto:whabibullah@gmail.com)) or my colleague Mr. Venkatesh Nayak, Programme Coordinator, Access to Information Programme, CHRI ([venkatesh@humanrightsinitiative.org](mailto:venkatesh@humanrightsinitiative.org); 011-43180215) in the matter.

*With good wishes,*  
Yours sincerely,



*(Wajahat Habibullah)*  
Chairperson, CHRI &  
Former Chief Information Commissioner  
Central Information Commission