

MINUTES OF 92ND GOVERNING BODY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD AT 11.00 A.M. ON MONDAY, 4TH MARCH, 2024 AT CONFERENCE ROOM (ICSSR),
NEW DELHI- 110 001, THROUGH HYBRID MODE

The 92nd Governing Body meeting of the Council held at 11.00 A.M. on Monday, 4th March, 2024 at Conference Room of ICSSR, New Delhi - 110001, through hybrid Mode.

The following members were present:

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|---|--------------------------|
| 1. Prof. Deepak Kumar Srivastava | Chairman |
| 2. Prof. S.K. Singh | Member |
| 3. Prof. N.N. Chakraborty | Member |
| 4. Prof. Ashish Pandey | Member |
| 5. Prof. Bindu Puri | Member |
| 6. Prof. K. Sambathkumar | Member |
| 7. Shri Ambrish Kumar Sharma, US (ICR) | (Rep. of Secretary, MoE) |
| 8. Shri Vivek Kumar, US IFD (online mode) | (Rep. of FA, MoE) |
| 9. Prof. Sachchidanand Mishra | Member-Secretary |

From the ICPR Secretariat, Dr. Pooja Vyas, Director (A&F i/c) was also present during the meeting.

Prof. Shrinivasa Varakhedi had informed the Member Secretary that due to his other commitment he would try to attend the meeting in online mode. However, he could not attend the meeting.

At the outset, the Chairman of the Governing Body welcomed the members and with the permission of the chair the Member-Secretary took up the agenda items one by one for consideration.

Item No.1 To confirm the minutes of the Governing Body meeting held on September 21, 2023

IFD Comments: Subject to strict compliance of the relevant Statutory provisions and also strict compliance of the related Government of India instructions and guidelines including those issued by the Central Vigilance Commission, the minutes may be confirmed.

The GB confirmed the minutes.

Item No.2 To report about the Action Taken on the minutes of the Governing Body meeting held on September 21, 2023

IFD Comments: Subject to strict compliance of the relevant Statutory provisions and also strict compliance of the related Government of India instructions and guidelines including those issued by the Central Vigilance Commission, the minutes may be confirmed.

The Governing Body members discussed in detail the Action Taken Report against Governing Body meeting held on September 21, 2023 and noted it.

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In respect of **Item No.8** the Member Secretary updated that following the direction of GB ICPR has just (24th February 2024) advertised five posts –one post of Director (Project and Research), two posts of Superintendents and two posts of Assistants. He also updated that the post of Director, Project and Research was advertised many times beginning from 2018 but thrice the committee found no one suitable and now the post is again advertised. The GB advised that the selection/promotion be completed on priority basis without further delay against the posts which are alive.

As many posts are vacant for a long time, the Chairman directed to prepare a detailed proposal as to how the abolished posts are to be revived for the smooth functioning of council. To carry out this work, a committee has been constituted consisting the following members:

1. Prof. Bindu Puri, (Chairperson)
2. Prof. Ashish Pandey, (Member)
3. Dr. Pooja Vyas, Director (A&F i/c) will be the member coordinator.

Dr. Pooja Vyas will provide all type of administrative assistance like Government rule positions etc. to the Committee members. The Committee should positively submit its report before the Governing Body/competent authority by 15th April, 2024.

Item No.3 To consider the adoption of medical reimbursement policy for ICPR Staff

IFD Comments: Detailed proposal may be sent to Ministry of Education for consideration.

The GB advised that a detailed proposal be sent to the ministry following the comments of IFD section. The GB also advised that keeping into consideration that the same practice is being followed by ICSSR and ICHR Central Service (Medical Attendance) Rules, 1944 should be continued till the approval/direction from the Administrative Ministry is received.

Item No.4 To consider the minutes of the Finance Committee of the Council held on January 3, 2024

IFD Comments: Subject to strict compliance of the relevant Statutory provisions and also strict compliance of the related Government of India instructions and guidelines including those issued by the Central Vigilance Commission, the minutes may be confirmed.

The Governing Body members discussed the Minutes of Finance Committee meeting held on January 03, 2024 and approved the minutes.

However, against **Item No.10** it was advised that a decision be taken in this matter strictly following the Office Memorandum No.19024/03/2021-E.IV Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure dated 16.06.2022 at Para No.10.

Item No.5 To purchase the capital assets for ICPR Office, New Delhi

IFD Comments: May be considered for approval after detailed discussion in the meeting as per GFRs, 2017 and other relevant GoI instruction. The purchase should strictly be done through GeM only.

The matter was placed in the Finance Committee of the Council held on January 03, 2024 under Item No.4 and FC approved the purchase of following capital

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assets for ICPR office, New Delhi:

Sr. No.	Particulars of Item	Number
1.	Air Conditioners	04
2.	Chairs: Visitors Staff	06 06
3.	Photocopier	01
4.	Almirah	04
5.	Fridge	01
7.	Steel Racks	08
8.	Lap Top	01

The GB approved the agenda item. The GB also advised that while purchasing the laptop the laptop purchasing guidelines be strictly adhered.

Item No.6 To repair ICPR Building, Darshan Bhawan, New Delhi

The Council as per decision of the last Governing Body meeting held on September 21, 2023, to prepare a comprehensive note with Detailed Project Report has requested CPWD for the same. On the basis of our request, the CPWD representatives inspected ICPR Office and submitted a detailed project plan and an estimate of Rs.70,25,400/= (Rupees Seventy Lakh Twenty Five Thousand and Four Hundred only) including 5% contingencies for the repair of ICPR building (Annexure-VI). The Council is having a balance budget of Rs.55.00 lakhs under Capital Head in the budget of Financial Year 2023-24. The Governing Body is requested to allow re-appropriation of funds, if required to give necessary advance to CPWD to carry out work considering the deterioration condition of the building.

IFD Comments: May be considered for approval after detailed discussion in the meeting as per GFRs, 2017 and other relevant GoI instructions. Re-appropriation of funds, if required, may be done with the prior approval of MoE.

The representative of MoE opined that the Governing Body of ICPR is not the competent authority for approving the Re-appropriation of funds, as the same can be allowed by D/o Expenditure, M/o Finance only.

As per Rule 172 (1)(ii)(b)&(c) of GFR, 2017, advance payments should not exceed the following limits:

Forty per cent of the contract value to a State or Central Government agency or a Public Sector Undertaking;

OR

In case of maintenance contract, the amount should not exceed the amount payable for six months under the contract.

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Since, CPWD in its DPR submitted to ICPR has provided an estimate of Rs.70,25,400/- for the repair of the ICPR, Delhi building, for which ICPR already have Rs.55.00 Lakh under Capital Head available with it. Therefore, 40% of Project Estimate i.e. Rs.28.10 Lakh can be considered to be utilized from the available budget under Capital Head for the purpose of payment of advance to CPWD. Governing Body may consider the matter under the rules.

The Governing Body considered the agenda item and agreed with the comments of MoE representative. The GB decided that in the light of the comments of MoE representative there is no need of any reappropriation. ICPR is directed to carry out the repair of ICPR building with the available funds this year and the rest of the amount can be paid from the budget of the next year.

Item No.7 To report installation of video-audio system at ICPR Conference Hall, Darshan Bhawan, New Delhi

IFD Comments: May be considered for approval after detailed discussion in the meeting as per GFRs, 2017 and other relevant GoI instruction. The purchase should strictly be done through GeM only.

As there is the approval of the Finance Committee and purchase is made through GeM, GB approved the agenda item.

Item No.8 To report about the Budget Estimate for the year 2024-25

IFD Comments: Subject to the condition that the estimates are based on a realistic assessment of requirement of funds for the Council and also subject to availability of funds with MoE, the proposal may be recommended for approval.

The representative of MoE explained that the Budget estimate for the financial year 2024-25 has been sent to the IFD section keeping into consideration the expenditure incurred in the year 2022-23 and 2023-24. If additional fund is required a concrete proposal with a proper justification be sent to the Ministry. The Governing Body noted.

Item No.9 To report about the expenditure incurred up to February 29, 2024 for the year 2023-24

IFD Comments: May be noted after detailed discussion in the meeting as per GFRs, 2017 and other relevant GoI instructions.

The Governing Body noted the expenditure.

Item No.10 To report about the action taken against the Transaction Audit Report

IFD Comments: Each para may be discussed in detail. Pending audit paras may be

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settled as per GoI rules, in consultations with the office of DGACE.

The Governing Body advised that there are many unsettled paras for a long time therefore, these are to be settled on the priority basis. Representative of Ministry commented that para wise proper replies be sent to the office of DGACE and progress be updated in the next GB meeting.

The GB also advised to take Legal opinion in respect of para item No.11.01, 11.02 & 11.03 respectively regarding Srikumar S. The GB also noted that show cause notices have been sent to Smt. Beena Jain & Superintendent (A&F) i/c. Smt. Neeta Verma, Ex-Superintendent (Establishment).

The GB has expressed displeasure knowing that many files are not traceable. The GB advised that an agency be hired for a comprehensive documentation. The GB also advised to implement E-office. The GB also advised that any request for waiver should be made only after consulting the rule positions and sighting them.

Item No.11 To report about action taken the SAR 2022-23 of CAG Report

IFD Comments: It is seen that some of the observations are being pointed out by audit since 2016-17. However, ICPR has not taken any action. This may be clarified/explained in the meeting.

2. As per guidelines, every institution should complete its accounts within a period of 3 months after the close of accounting year and make them available for auditing. Auditing of the account and furnishing of replies to the audits objections, if any, together with the translation and printing of reports should be complete within the next 6 months so that the reports and audit account are laid before the Parliament within 9 months after closure of account year.

There is considerable delay in submission of account 2022-23. Hence, ICPR may clarify the same.

3. All other observations of the audit may be complied with at the earliest.

Action taken on the SAR 2022-23 of CAG Report has been noted by the GB members and they desired that a detailed action taken report be placed in the forthcoming Governing Body meeting.

Item No.12 To nominate member for Finance Committee of the Council

IFD Comments: May be considered as MoA & Rules of ICPR.

The Governing Body nominated Prof. Nirmalya Narayan Chakraborty.

Item No.13 To report about the joining of Dr. Devender Kumar Jatav as Programme Officer

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IFD Comments: May be noted

The GB Noted the joining of Dr Devendra Kumar Jatav.

Item No.14 To report about the advertisement for the post of Director (P&R), Superintendent and Assistant

IFD Comments: May be noted

The GB Noted.

Item No.15 To nominate member of the Governing Body for the selection process of Member-Secretary, ICPR

IFD Comments: May be considered as per the Rules of ICPR.

Representative of Ministry of Education stated that as the proposal for extension of the term of present Member Secretary is under consideration in the Ministry. Therefore, this agenda item may be deferred till a decision is taken in this regard by the Hon'ble Education Minister.

The GB authorized the Chairman to nominate one member from GB in case the administrative ministry advises to fill up the post of Member Secretary through advertisement.

Item No.16 To nominate a member of the Governing Body for the selection process of Director (Planning and Research)

IFD Comments: May be considered as Rules of ICPR.

The Governing Body nominated Prof. K Sambathkumar for the same.

Item No.17 To consider taking membership of India Habitat Centre, New Delhi

IFD Comments: May be considered for approval.

The GB Approved the proposal.

Item No.18 To constitute a Committee to modify in the object/thrust areas of seminar, conference, Research activities etc.

The Chairman briefed in the beginning that the object/thrust areas cannot be modified as the council has to follow the MoA and in the MoA these are well defined. However, a committee may be constituted which will give a proper direction to the activities of the council in the light of NEP 2020 and Indian Knowledge Systems.

The Governing Body constituted a committee with the following members—

1. Prof Shrinivasa Varakhedi (Chairman)
2. Prof. Gauri Mahulikar (Member)
3. Prof. Bindu Puri (Member)
4. Prof. Ashish Pandey (Member)
5. Prof. Sachchidanand Mishra, MS, (Member Coordinator)

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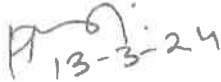
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Item No.19: Implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee on Petitions (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) in their Sixty-Third report on the representation of Shri Rajesh Sharma on alleged criminal conspiracy and plagiarism in respect of illegal and unauthorized publication and selling the book "The Cosmic Infinity-A Vedic Perspective-regarding

The Member Secretary updated the GB regarding this agenda item. The process was initiated in 2017 during the tenure of Prof S R Bhatt as the Chairman the book was published in 2021 itself. The book was published by DK Print world without signing an agreement with the ICPR and the author. Therefore, there was this complaint with the parliamentary committee on petitions. The Member Secretary brought to the notice of the Governing Body that there was a need of an SOP (Standard Operating Procedure) so that such unfortunate incidents could be avoided. The GB members agreed on the issue.

The GB authorized the Member Secretary to form a committee which would give its suggestions in the light of the recommendations made by the Committee on Petitions (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) in their Sixty-Third report positively within a month. The report be submitted to the GB/Chairman for approval.

The committee meeting ended with the thanks to the Chair.


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(Sachchidanand Mishra)
Member-Secretary

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